

The Basildon Philatelist.

The Journal of Basildon Philatelic Society

Editor: L.C. Stanway FRPSL.

Vol. 28 No. 1 – July 2023

Editorial:

Member attendance is still way below our pre-Covid levels. Please come back! We have had some wonderful and unusual speakers - Please make their trips worthwhile by being there.

Basildon Society News

VENUE & FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Basildon meetings are held at Pitsea Leisure Centre (The Place) Northlands Pavement, Pitsea SS13 3DU from 7.30 to 9.30pm on the first Monday and Third Tuesday of each month.

Forthcoming meetings are:

- 3 July: Letters G, H, I (Members). Bring as many sheets as you want - Anything beginning with one or more of those letters. The more the merrier! We want to see your collections!
- 18 July: Grenada (Andy Soutar). Andy is coming all the way from Suffolk. Please try to come and give him your support.
- 7 August: German Occupation of the Channel Islands (Alan Moorcroft). Alan is a Post President of the RPSL and a good friend of the Society - Please come and give him an audience to match the quality of his presentation.
- 22 August: My Favourite Theme (Members). Bring as few or as many sheets as you want - any thematic subject. The more the merrier!
- 4 September: British Honduras (Andrew Skilling). Another speaker from distant parts, Andrew will give us insights into a rarely seen (at this society) country's issues.
- 19 September: Railway Art and Railways (Colin Evans).

MEETING REPORTS by "Fly On The Wall"

3 April: Aspects of Collecting Local Postal History by Alan Moorcroft.

Alan travelled from Colchester to give us a fascinating hybrid display, partly on PowerPoint and partly on the display frames, showing how collecting postal history can take you into other complementary fields of study. He opened with the 18th Century first postmarks of Colchester, explaining that this was not the first mail, as shown by mid-16th Century items from Colchester in the

Corsini Correspondence. The Corsini Brothers were Italian merchants who had an office in London and were buying fine quality weaving from Flemish weavers who arrived in Colchester as refugees from religious persecution and established the "Dutch Quarter" in that town. Alan's study eventually took him to Italy for a meeting with the Countess Corsini and her Archivist.

Similar diversions took us into topics such as the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post, Winch Brothers stamp dealership and military mail (leading to the infamous "Colchester Glasshouse" (military prison) and the Polish Hostel settlement at Rivenhall that accommodated Polish servicemen and their families that declined to go home after World War Two).

18 April: Iceland by David Church.

David is both one of our earliest members, but also one of our youngest, having joined as a Junior Member! His Iceland collection was started by his late father, who was Treasurer of the society for many years. David gave us a fascinating display of Iceland's issues from its earliest independent issues to the late 20th Century.

16 May: Danzig in World War II by Giles du Boulay.

Today known as Gdansk, a city in Poland, Danzig was a crucial port city and transport hub for eastern Germany. Under the Versailles Treaty and the League of Nations, after World War I, Danzig was set up as an independent city state. Inevitably, Germany wanted it back, and Giles took us through the complex political and philatelic history of the inter-war and wartime issues, its absorption into the Third Reich and its role in the war. A fascinating evening!

5 June: Annual General Meeting & President's Display.

The AGM had to be held in a different room following the failure of the centre's only lift. In the Chairman's absence, the President took the chair for the AGM. This has been a difficult year for many reasons, including the change of venue and financial pressure. The 2021-22 accounts were approved, but the 2022-23 accounts had been omitted from the meeting pack in error so that item

was adjourned until the next meeting. A discussion was held on the level of fees for the new year and it was agreed to raise the annual subscription from £13 to £17 (some local societies change up to £30). The officers were re-elected. The Secretary read a letter just received from the Council regarding redevelopment of the present venue which puts its continued availability in question. He will take up the matter with the Council (the Council has since indicated that it wishes to keep facilities available during redevelopment, but it has not said how it expects to be able to achieve this!).

After the AGM, Len Stanway displayed Part 1 of his Mails Under London collection, including the Pneumatic Despatch Company, Post Office Railway, plus the stamps of the Metropolitan Railway and the Metropolitan & Great Central Joint Committee, with some exceptional new discoveries including the first known issued stamps from the Metropolitan precursor parcels service operated by Mr. Flack and a parcel stamp from the Metropolitan & LNER Joint Committee (which operated only the Watford branch).

20 June: Reconvened AGM and Sudan by Mick Carter.

The AGM was briefly reconvened by the President to approve the 2022-2023 accounts, which was done *nemo contrare*. The next AGM will be held on 3 June 2024.

Mick Carter and his wife Gill came down from Clacton and Mick gave us an entertaining display of his collection of Sudan from the original overprints on Egypt, through the iconic Camel Postman and Air Mail issues through to the 1950s. His second half showed a very wide variety of postal history from the same period, including early air mails, Paquebot, military mil, etc.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Len Stanway has had two new books published by the Malaya Study Group. "Malaya Postal Stationery to 1936", which also contains a supplement to the Group's earlier book covering King George VI, was published as a physical book, and can be purchased from the Group.

The other book, a 1400-page updated Second Edition of his "Malaysia and Federation of Malaya - Their Stamps and Postal Stationery" (originally published in three hefty volumes), has been published as a series of free downloads for MSG members on the Group's website.

Taken together, the three publications cover all postal stationery issued by Malaysia from East India Company days to 2021.

FACEBOOK

The Basildon Philatelic Society Facebook group provides an on-line form for club members and others. This is where members are kept up to date with what's going on and where members can participate in discussions about the club. It does not replace the Society's website which contains our on-line resources including downloads. To participate, please apply on the Facebook page or contact Charlie for assistance.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now due and should be paid to Len Stanway by post, bank transfer or at meetings. **The annual fee is now £17** for full Membership, £2 for Juniors and 50p for Associate Members (exchange packet and auction vendors). In a normal year, this covers overheads, plus a small part of our hall hire costs. Members attending meetings also pay £1 attendance fee at the door to cover refreshments and assist with hall hire. Participation in the exchange packet is conditional on payment of the subscription for insurance reasons.

FROM THE EXCHANGE PACKET SECRETARY

The packet is new fully functioning and gets some excellent material, but needs more members to take part. If you are not taking part, however "complete" you think your collection is, you may be missing out on a hitherto undiscovered variety at a bargain price (as I have done frequently!). Ask Len how to join today!

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.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

The Society's **Library** is run by Ian McElwain. It contains catalogues and reference books that members can borrow for one month from the date of issue to research their collections and to find out how to get more from our hobby. Thanks to our new storage facility, it is available in our Tuesday meeting room. If you are disposing of redundant catalogues or books, the society would welcome donations, which may update items in the library or, if surplus, sold to raise society funds. The library also contains philatelic aids, such as the Signoscope watermark detector and ultra-violet lamps. The full list is available at every meeting. Please make good use of this free (but expensive to maintain) resource.

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

Do you want details of other societies in Essex, Suffolk, Hertfordshire or East London? If so, look at **Philately in Essex** or, for further afield, the **ABPS Website**.

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 or deletion from the distribution list, please contact the Editor.

WANTED - YOU!

We require the help of all members. If you see or hear about anything that you feel should be mentioned in the journal, tell the Editor.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

The Society does not obtain or retain personal data of members or correspondents with the exception of (i) current contact data for distribution of news, etc., appropriate to the society's normal activities and administration, (ii) historical record of competition winners, officers, etc., as published in *Philately in Basildon*. With the exception of essential officers listed below, contact information

is never divulged to third parties without their specific consent.

Essex News

AEPS BOXES

Ray How has found a new supplier for large storage boxes. The new box is the same size as the old ones, but comes flat-packed for self-assembly. Please contact Ray How to place orders (ray.how@btinternet.com). Basildon members may obtain theirs from Alan Taylor, who has 7 in stock at £6 each.

PHILATELY IN ESSEX HANDBOOK

The book is published in three volumes: Vol.1: Essex Present; Vol.2: Essex Past; Vol.3: Catalogue of Essex Philatelic Souvenirs. The 2023 edition of Vol.1 was published in December 2022. New editions of Vol.2 and Vol.3 were not published. This free digital handbook is sent by e-mail to AEPS e-News subscribers. Len Stanway continuously updates the master record and will be glad to receive details of any other new or updated information for inclusion in the 2024 issue and any interim publicity. Please send amendments to Len Stanway a.s.a.p. Copies of all three volumes are available free by e-mail on request.

AEPS e-NEWS

This free e-mail service may be received by any philatelist, publicity or press organisation. It provides a monthly list of events in the AEPS area, plus press releases on selected AEPS or society events. To subscribe, or to request publicity for an event, contact Len Stanway.

AEPS WEBSITE

Please use www.stampessex.org.uk, the AEPS website, that gives details of member societies and other useful information. Send any corrections and amendments to the Editor.



Philatelic Events at AEPS Societies

July 2023

1 - ABPS - MIDPEX, Warwickshire Event Centre, CV31 1XN.

3 - Basildon - Letters G, H, I (Members).

- 3 - Frinton - Incoming Mail to Sarawak (S. Martin-Redman).
- 4 - Sudbury - To be advised.
- 5 - Benfleet - Malta (I. McElwain).
- 5 - Clacton - Bourse and Seychelles (M. Chittock).
- 5 - Goodmayes - Annual General Meeting (Members).
- 6 - Witham - Letters Y, Z, A, B (Members) (afternoon).
- 10 - Rayleigh - Christmas Charity Post, Part 2 (A. Howson).
- 13 - Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 17 - Cheshunt - (Provisional date) (afternoon).
- 18 - Basildon - Grenada (A. Soutar).
- 18 - Sudbury - (Provisional date).
- 19 - Bishop's Stortford - (Provisional date) (afternoon).
- 20 - Colchester - Annual General Meeting and Chairmans Cup
- 24 - Rayleigh - Acquired in 2022 (Members).
- 27 - Harlow - (Provisional date).

August 2023

- 2 - Benfleet - Sarawak (S. Martin-Redman).
- 2 - Clacton - Bourse and Member's displays.
- 3 - Witham - Anything from the Americas (Members) (afternoon).
- 7 - Basildon - German Occupation of the Channel Islands (A.N. Moorcroft).
- 10 - Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 14 - Rayleigh - Bourse.
- 15 - Sudbury - (Provisional date).
- 16 - Bishop's Stortford - (Provisional date) (afternoon).
- 21 - Cheshunt - (Provisional date) (afternoon).
- 22 - Basildon - My Favourite Theme (Members).
- 24 - Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 28 - SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY

September 2023

- 4 - Basildon - British Honduras (A. Skilling).
- 4 - Frinton - Display by Sudbury P.S.
- 5 - Sudbury - Enrolment, informal evening, members' bourse.
- 6 - Benfleet - Falkland Islands (G.E. Miller).
- 6 - Clacton - Display by G. Oliver.
- 6 - Goodmayes - (Provisional date).
- 6 - Ipswich - (Provisional date).
- 7 - Witham - Sudan (M. Carter) (afternoon).
- 9 - Leytonstone & Wanstead - (Provisional date) (afternoon).
- 11 - Rayleigh - International Travel (Members).
- 12 - Chelmsford - New Acquisitions (Members).
- 12 - Epping Forest - (Provisional date).
- 14 - Harlow - (Provisional date).
- 18 - Cheshunt - (Provisional date) (afternoon).
- 18 - Frinton - Covers (R. Peters).
- 19 - Basildon - Railway Art and Railways (C. Evans).
- 19 - Sudbury - Display by Ely P.S.
- 20 - Bishop's Stortford - (Provisional date) (afternoon).
- 20 - Ipswich - (Provisional date).
- 21 - Colchester - (Provisional date).
- 25 - Rayleigh - Austria (C. Gardner).
- 26 - Chelmsford - African Airmails (J. Rawlins).
- 27 - Leytonstone & Wanstead - (Provisional date).
- 27-30 - London - Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington.
- 28 - Harlow - (Provisional date).

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

National News

CONGRESS 2023

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 2023 was held in Torquay in June. Your Editor was able to go for the first time in four years and received a very warm welcome. The theme of event was the different ways to collect as reflected in the competitive categories. A clear distinction was made between what you need to do if you want to compete and the freedom you have if you are collecting solely for your own pleasure. All the speakers were entertaining, with some excellent talks and displays. The hotel, while not cheap, was very comfortable with excellent views over Torbay, although catering left a little to be desired. The local society also entertained participants with their collections. The ABPS Annual General Meeting was held during the Congress. The annual Signing of the Role of Distinguished Philatelists was held abroad (at the Essen exhibition) this year and Congress participants were vocal in deploring the apparent failure of some people in charge of the Roll to recognise it was founded by, and is an integral part of, Congress, and the Signing should not be held elsewhere except in the most extraordinary circumstances.

MIDPEX

The 2023 Midpex exhibition and fair will be held at the Warwickshire Event Centre, Leamington Spa CV31 1XN on 1 July 2023.

STAMPEX 2023

Stampex national exhibition, organised by the Philatelic Traders Society (PTS), will take place at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London, from 27-30 September

ABPS AWARDS

Nominations for the ABPS Award of Merit and Congress Medal are always welcome. Full details and nomination forms can be found on the ABPS website.

Each year, the ABPS honours up to 15 grass roots philatelists that have made an outstanding contribution to a local or specialised society. Nominations can be submitted by an ABPS member society or by a federation. The closing

date for the next round of awards is 1 March 2023. Nomination forms can be obtained from Yvonne Wheatley, ABPS Awards Committee Chairman, Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW, 0113-2601978 awards@abps.org.uk.

ABPS NEWS

The closing date for copy for the next issue is 15 July, followed by 15 October. Articles and enquiries relating the ABPS News can be submitted via the website or you can write direct by email at editor@abps.org.uk. This is an opportunity for you to promote your Society. Do not forget to tell me if you are intending to send something, to avoid "mixed messages" or duplication of effort.

STAMP ACTIVE NETWORK

Can you donate any material suitable for child collectors to Stamp Active?

Kidstamps is a free postal club for children. Donations of stamps, etc. would be welcomed by Peter Barham, Hon. Secretary, Stamp Active Network, 2E Broomwood Road, Orpington, Kent, BR5 2JH. (stampactive@btinternet.com)

STAMP FAIR & AUCTION DAIRY

Steve Reeves advises that the updated list of 2023 stamp fairs and auctions is available at https://stampfairsdiary.co.uk/index_files/StampFairAuctionDiaryStampPostcardfairs2022.htm

CALLING ALL SPEAKERS

If you are prepared to give displays to Societies, either in person or by Zoom, please pass your details to the Secretary of ABPS or input your information on to ABPS website. We will be updating the site with additional information about speakers relating to Powerpoint presentations as this has become a popular development resulting from the pandemic.

If you are sending new or amended information to ABPS, do not forget to send the same information to the Editor of "Philately In Essex" so local societies (whether members of ABPS or not) have access to the same information.

ABPS WEBSITE (<http://www.abps.org.uk>)

As we re-emerge from the pandemic, events are now being re-organised and new ones planned. The ABPS website provides the opportunity for organisers of philatelic events such as Stamp Fairs, Philatelic Exhibitions, Society Weekends and Regional Society Meetings, to promote their events free of charge. It is also a chance, if you are planning an event, to check that it does not clash with anything else. You can request an event to be added to the ABPS Events Calendar directly on the website. Entries will then be checked by the administrator and approved. Go to:

<https://www.abps.org.uk/request-event-addition/>

ENTRY FOR NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

The ABPS has introduced on-line entry for exhibitors at the York and London national exhibitions. Details are on the ABPS website.

STUART ROSSITER TRUST

The trust publishes and sells Postal History books, and sponsors authors and research. To date, it has published many books and helped a number of individuals and specialist societies with research and production costs for their books. It can help societies or individuals with research costs, publication costs or publishing books. When it publishes or supports books, the trust promotes them through our its website and e-newsletters. The full list of its publications currently available is on www.rossitertrust.com. To discuss how it could help your Society or members with their Postal History book, or monograph, contact our Corresponding Trustee Andy Gould at srtcorr@gmail.com.

International News

OVERSEAS EXHIBITING

More-advanced collectors (some of whom are members of this society) enjoy exhibiting items from their collections abroad. International exhibitions are once again in full swing. Overseas exhibitions fall into three categories:

1. National and private exhibitions that choose to invite overseas entrants. These set their own entry and judging criteria.
2. Continental federation exhibitions are organised by the international federation responsible for that region. In Europe, that is

FEPA (European Federation of Philatelic Associations), in Asia-Pacific, FIAP, etc. These set their own entry criteria, but generally judge to FIP rules.

3. Full international and world exhibitions that invite entries world-wide, organised by a national organising committee under the auspices of the International Philatelic Federation (FIP).

Unless otherwise decided by the organisers, to be eligible for five frames at a FIP, FEPA or other overseas Federation competition, UK collectors must first reach qualifying standard (75 points and vermeil medal) in an ABPS national exhibition.

Entries must be made through the UK Commissioner for the event, appointed by ABPS.

Potential exhibitors should consult the ABPS website for details of forthcoming national and international exhibitions that they might enter.

WORLD POST DAY

Can YOU think of a way to get the hobby noticed in the UK on World Post Day 9 October, which marks the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union? Tell us now!

BPS Contact information

Chairman & Library:

Ian McElwain, 18 Cormorant Walk, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8BG. 01245-456910.
ianmcelwain@hotmail.com

Secretary & Webmaster:

Charlie Mead, 70 Gernons, Basildon, Essex SS16 5TN. 01268-522052.
charlie.mead@mail.com

Archives:

Alan Taylor, 5 Easton End, Laindon, Essex SS15 6QB. 07899-822881.
alantaylor60@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer, Membership, Exchange Packet & Newsletter items:

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

Auction:

Vacancy for an Auction Secretary/Auctioneer!

www.basildon-philatelic.org.uk

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 15 September.



Published by Basildon Philatelic Society, 25 Clay Hill Road, Basildon, Essex SS16 5DD.
Founded 1968 - Non-Profit-Making - Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies and the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies.



Serving the stamp collectors and postal historians of Basildon.