

THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH WALES PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Newsletter

ISSUE No. 62. APRIL 2011.

ANNUAL CONVENTION 2011.

This Federation's 42nd Annual Convention is just around the corner (and coming up fast) on **SATURDAY 21 MAY** in the **PRINCESS ROYAL THEATRE, CIVIC CENTRE, PORT TALBOT, SA13 1PJ**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**, admission being **50p**.

The Official Opening Ceremony will be performed by the Mayor of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Cllr. Harry Bebell, who also officiated last year as Deputy Mayor, at **12.00 noon**, and this will be followed by the Presentation of Awards, and the Raffle Prize draw. There is free parking outside the Theatre, and light refreshments will be available inside. For those requiring something more substantial, there are a number of cafes, restaurants and pubs within a short walk. For more detailed information, check at the Federation Table.

To date, **15 dealers** have reserved tables, and these are, subject to any late change: **Chris Doble** (Barry); **Gower Philatelics** (Pontarddulais); **Mark Grimsley** (Westbury on Trym); **Malcolm Harrington** (Swansea); **Roy Hollis - Coverlove** (Chepstow); **Michael Laight** (Cirencester); **Tony & Rosa Lawrence** (Reading); **Maggie - Bill Pipe** (Poole); **Minster Stamps** (Lincoln); **Chris Proctor** (Winchcombe); **Brian Purcell** (Worcester); **Phil Smith** (Saundersfoot); **Thames Themes** (Reading); **Bill Toye** (Ystradgynlais), and **David & Christine Williamson** (Swansea).

The Souvenir Card this year, No. 19 in the series, illustrates some of the rare or scarce Barred Numeral cancellation of South Wales. These will be available at the Federation Table in the hall, together with most of the previous cards in the series. All are priced at **40p** unserviced, or **£1.00** serviced with an appropriate operational datestamp.

The Convention Programme, free on admission, contains all you need to know about the various attractions inside the hall, as well as information on the South Wales Federation and the affiliated societies. The Annual Competition entries are listed, and will be displayed on the stage. Raffle tickets will be on sale during the morning, the draw being held at around 12.30pm.

The Annual Convention is one of only **two** days in the year (the "Autumn Day" being the other) when the Federation needs the active support and physical presence of its members. **THIS MEANS YOU!!** So please, make every effort to come along to **The Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot on Saturday 21 May**, even if it's only for an hour or so. You never know, that elusive stamp, cover or postcard you've been searching years for might be lurking in one of the dealers stockbooks or boxes, just waiting for **YOU** to come along and find it. Don't forget, the Federation needs the support of **ALL** its members at this, the only event of its type in Wales.

SEE YOU THERE !!!

SWANSEA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The recently held Spring Stamp & Postcard Fair at the Glamorgan Arms Hotel in Pontlliw near Swansea proved to be a successful day for the Society, the dealers in attendance, and the majority of the 80 or so paying their 50p entrance fee.

Held at the same venue as last September's Federation "Autumn Day", although in a different part of the complex, the success of the day seems likely to have gone some way into making this an annual event, but it is unlikely that we would get the same warm sunny day every March! Forthcoming changes at the Glamorgan Arms might mean that the Swansea club will have to look for another venue for future years. More news on this front in due course.

WELSH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The society held a very successful Saturday meeting in the Village Hall in Llangynidr recently, when four members, **John Perry, Martin Britton, Peter Coldrey and Stuart Geddes** combined to present quite a comprehensive display of "**Monmouthshire Postal History**" during the morning session. After a home-cooked lunch, **Michael Scott Archer**, a Fellow of the Society, presented a display of "**The Archer Letters**", an accumulation of family correspondence that left many members wishing our ancestors had kept much paper ephemera instead to consigning it to the rubbish bin.

The annual residential weekend at the Snowdonia National Park Study Centre (Plas Tan y Bwlch, near Porthmadog) will soon be with us again, **16 - 19 June**, the guest speaker this year is **Mike Roberts**, President of the Society of Postal Historians, with a display entitled "**Philately will get you nowhere - the Pitiful and Wasted Life of a Chronic Stampaholic**". Other displays will be by **Neil Prior**, "A Welsh Postal History & Postcard Miscellany", and **Rev. Roger Antell** with "The South Wales to Ireland Post Road".

This latter display will be preview of his forthcoming **100+ page** book entitled "**The Mails between South Wales & Southern Ireland - The Milford to Waterford Packet, 1600 - 1850**", further details of which will be sent to all societies nearer the publication date, which, it is anticipated, will be sometime in June.

Aside from the displays, there will be a live/postal auction of Welsh postcards and postal history, the society's Annual General Meeting, and several late evening "Study Circles".

"MIDPEX" 2011.

Details have now been received regarding this popular and very well attended Fair, held every two years, this year from **10.00am to 4.30pm** on **SATURDAY 2 JULY** at a new venue, **The Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, LEAMINGTON SPA, CV31 1XN**. Following the complaints of overcrowding two years ago, this new venue will have more than twice the floor space, all on one level, together with free car parking for 2000 cars. **Admission is FREE.**

Aimed at a gathering for Specialist Societies, the event will have **50+ local, national and international dealers** in attendance, **Friends of Thematica** competition entries, restaurant facilities, together with **40+ specialist societies**, ranging from the Bird Stamp Society, The Canadian P. S., The Scandinavian P.S., to our own **Welsh Philatelic Society** (Stand 19).

A copy of the publicity leaflet is enclosed with this Newsletter, if any of your members would like to attend. Why not organise a bus trip?? You can be assured of a good day out.

PORTISHEAD STAMP FAIR.

This is another popular destination for collectors from this side of the Severn Bridge, being held this year on **SATURDAY 13 AUGUST** in **The Gordano Comprehensive School**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**. Admission is **50p**.

For the first time, this will be a **one-day** fair, not a Saturday & Sunday show as in the past. Normally there are in the region of **20 dealers** present, and there are some Specialist Society group meetings arranged, and at the same venue on **Sunday 14th**, **Portishead Stamp Auctions** will be holding one of their regular sales.

DON'T FORGET OUR ANNUAL CONVENTION ON SATURDAY 21 MAY

"AUTUMN DAY" 2011.

The 33rd annual "Autumn Day" Stamp and Postcard Fair will be hosted this year by the **Port Talbot** society, and will be held on **SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER** in the **TAIBACH COMMUNITY CENTRE, DUKE STREET, MARGAM, PORT TALBOT, SA13 1NA**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**. Admission will be **50p**.

To date, **six dealers** have reserved tables but, to date, only two societies have responded from the affiliated clubs. To ensure that **your society** will be represented on the day, book your tables as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

There is limited car parking at the Community Centre, but plenty of on-street parking in the surrounding area. Light refreshments will be available – tea/coffee, together with rolls & sandwiches, but for those requiring something more substantial, there is a pub/restaurant and a chippy within around 100 yards.

Further details, together with directions will be forwarded to societies nearer the date.

STAMP & POSTCARD FAIRS.

During the spring and summer months, there are a number of Stamp and Postcard Fairs around the country, and some of you taking holidays might be able to visit one or more of these during your breaks. The main fairs to consider, apart from those mentioned in other parts of this Newsletter are:

"WORPEX"

This is a popular and well-attended event, to be held this year on **SATURDAY 14 MAY** in the **Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Road, St. Johns, WORCESTER, WR2 6AA**, from **10.00am to 4.00pm**. There is a large free car parking facility, and around **30 dealers** will be present, together with a number of specialist society meetings.

"SWINPEX"

Yet another popular and well-attended show, to be held this year on **SATURDAY 11 JUNE**, in the **ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, OCOTAL WAY, SWINDON, SN3 3LR**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**, admission being **50p**. Around **45 dealers** are usually present, together with about **20** specialist society meetings, a lucky dip, a raffle, and a table-top sale. Again, ample free car parking is available on site.

YORK.

Maybe the largest and best Stamp & Postcard Fair outside London, this will be held on **FRIDAY/SATURDAY 15 & 16 JULY** at the **YORK RACECOURSE** (in the Grandstand, not on the course!), **YORK**, with free admission. Approximately **100 dealers** (+50 coin dealers) are usually present for the two days. In addition, of course, there is the historic city of York and its many attractions, making this the ideal place for a long weekend or more, there's so much to see in York and the surrounding area.

LONDON.

For those of you visiting our capital city, there are the monthly **Strand Stamp Fairs**, held in the **Royal National Hotel, Russell Square** on **11 MAY, 8 JUNE, 5 JULY, 3 AUGUST, and 7 SEPTEMBER**.

SHEFFIELD.

This biennial ABPS organised National Exhibition will be held this year at the **Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, SHEFFIELD S1 2BP**, on **Friday & Saturday 6 & 7 May**, and will be hosted by the **Sheffield Philatelic Society**. In addition, there will be a Multi-frame Picture Postcard Exhibition, and a special display of philatelic material related to summer Olympic Games, with particular emphasis on Great Britain's involvement. For those requiring more information try www.sheffield2011.org.uk.

NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM.

It has been announced that The British Postal Museum & Archive's proposed creation of a museum in Swindon in 2014 has had to be scrapped after **Royal Mail** withdrew funding from the project. Full public access to the national philatelic collections has not been possible since 1998 when the National Postal Museum closed. Whilst the present search room at Mount Pleasant provides researchers access to philatelic documents, it is too small for large exhibitions, and items such as postboxes and postal vehicles are housed in a storage area in Essex, and is open to public access only on an irregular basis.

Does the Royal Mail really deserve the support of those of us collecting the current issues of Great Britain?

SOCIETY NIGHTS.

April 27	Wednesday	Newport	Visit from Cardiff .
May 3	Tuesday	Llanelli	Stan Platt Entertains.
May 11	Wednesday	Newport	John Baron , "Banking & Lotteries".
May 17	Tuesday	Cardiff	Visit from Barry .
May 26	Thursday	Bridgend	Visit from Newport .
June 8	Wednesday	Newport	Visit from Barry .
June 23	Thursday	Bridgend	Brian Brandon Entertains.
June 27	Monday	Barry	Neil Prior , "Aspects of Austrian Stamps & Postal History".
July 25	Monday	Barry	Alan Rosser , "Chairman's Night".

DRAGON COLLECTORS FAIRS.

1 June	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall.	FREE ADMISSION TO ALL FAIRS.
2 June	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street.	
6 July	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall.	
7 July	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street.	
3 August	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall.	
4 August	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street.	
7 September	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall.	
8 September	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street.	

For further information on these and other **Dragon Fairs**, contact **Chris Doble** on **01446 741026**.

M J PROMOTIONS.

The dates for these Collectors Fairs, held in **The City Hall, Cardiff**, for the remainder of the year, are:

Saturday 9 July, Saturday 8 October, and Saturday 10 December.

For further information on these and other **M J Promotions**, contact **Malcolm Harrington** on **01792 415293**.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD COMPETITION.

The winner of the Crossword Competition in the December Newsletter was **Geoff. Cooper** of the **Swansea** society. The correct answers were:

ACROSS. 1. Reading Spoon. 7. Commonwealth. 8. SG1. 10. Iranian. 12. Memphis. 14. Orb.
17. Annunciation. 19. Twopenny Blue.

DOWN. 1. Rock. 2. Arm. 3. 1908. 4. Stewart. 5. Oil River. 6. No Hands. 9. German P O.
10. Ifni. 11. Rampant. 13. Hinge. 15. Navy. 16. Inde. 18. Ill.

The Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies
WORKING FOR THE COLLECTORS
OF SOUTH WALES