

THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH WALES PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Newsletter

ISSUE No. 65. APRIL 2012.

CONVENTION 2012.

The 43rd Annual Convention of this Federation is coming up fast, and will be held on **SATURDAY 19 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. Jell Dinham, 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 in the hall.

To date, **16 dealers** have reserved tables, and these are, subject to any late change: **Carmichael & Todd**, (Lymington); **Chris Doble**, (Barry); **Roy Evans**, (Neath); **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); **David Mouser**, (Wareham); **Chris Proctor**, (Winchcombe); **Brian Purcell**, (Worcester); **Phil Smith**, (Saundersfoot); **David & Christine Williamson**, (Swansea), and **David Winstone** (Bristol).

The **Souvenir Card** this year, No. 20 in the series, features some of the early postmarks of Cowbridge and Bridgend. 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, and **£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 19 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 boxes or stockbooks, 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 kind in Wales.

SEE YOU THERE !!!

"AUTUMN DAY" 2012.

Our 34th annual "Autumn Day" Stamp & Postcard Fair will be hosted this year by the **Bridgend** society, and will be held on **SATURDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER** in the **YMCA, Angel Street, Bridgend**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**, with admission being **50p**.

Further details, including the booking forms for society tables, should be sent to affiliated clubs in the very near future.

WELSH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The annual residential weekend at the Snowdonia National Park Study Centre (Plas Tan y Bwch, near Porthmadog) will be held on **21 – 24 June**. The guest speaker this year will be **Edward Klemka**, who will display part of his collection of "**The Postal History of Great Britain in the 1840's**", (which should include complete sheets of 12 of the Mulready's !!), the member's contributions coming from **Peter Chadwick**, "Some Aspects of Great Britain Post History", **Cedric Prys-Roberts**, "Chairman's Display", and **Gerald Marriner** with his "Antique Writing Implements".

In addition to the displays, there will be a live/postal auction of Welsh postcards and postal history, the society's annual general meeting, a light-hearted "Egg Cup" competition, and several late evening "study circles" in the bar.

PORTISHEAD STAMP & POSTCARD FAIR.

This is a popular destination for collectors in south Wales, being held this year on **Saturday 18 August** in the **Gordano Comprehensive School, Portishead** from **10.00am to 4.30pm**, admission being **50p**. There will also be a number of Specialist Society group meetings arranged.

As last year, this will again be a **one-day** fair, with **Portishead Stamp Auctions** holding one of their regular sales the following day at the same venue.

BARRY SPRING FAIR.

The Barry society will be holding their Annual "Spring Stamp & Postcard Fair" on **SATURDAY 28 APRIL**, in the **HIGHLIGHT COMMUNITY CENTRE, Port Road West, Barry**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**, admission being **50p**.

The Community Centre is located next to Tesco's store on Port Road West, opposite Barry Comprehensive School.

INCREASE IN POSTAL CHARGES.

You will, presumably, read much in the newspapers, and seen much on television regarding the increase in postal charges to be introduced on **30 April**. The second and first class stamps go up from **36p and 46p to 50p and 60p** respectively, an increase of up to **39%**. In addition, the first class Large increases from **75p to 90p**, and the second class Large from **58p to 69p**, and there will be commensurate increase across the board for all other postage rates.

The industry regulator, "Ofcom", removed completely any price controls on the 1st class rates, and the controls are much less stringent on 2nd class charges. As a result of these increases, three new Machin values will be introduced, **87p** orange, **£1.28** in emerald green, and **£1.90** in rhododendron (purple to you and me).

As a concession, people who receive Pension Credit or Employment & Support Allowance will be able to buy up to 36 first or second class stamps at 2011 prices at Christmas.

*Don't Forget our Annual Convention
on Saturday 19 May*

SOCIETY NIGHTS.

23 April	Monday	Barry	Visit from Cardiff .
26 April	Thursday	Bridgend	George Jeffrey Entertains.
1 May	Tuesday	Cardiff	Jon Peters & Peter Halford, "Indian States".
1 May	Tuesday	Llanelli	Duncan Weakes, "Surprise".
10 May	Thursday	Bridgend	Visit from Newport .
15 May	Tuesday	Cardiff	Visit from Bridgend .
16 May	Wednesday	Newport	Visit from Barry .
31 May	Thursday	Haverfordwest	Dane Garrod, "Your Very Loving Madelaine".
25 June	Monday	Barry	Neil Prior, "The South Wales Post Road".
28 June	Thursday	Bridgend	Reg Lyon Entertains.
23 July	Monday	Barry	Alan Rosser, "Chairman's Night".

DRAGON COLLECTORS FAIRS.

2 May	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall, SA11 3LL.	
3 May	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.	
6 June	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall.	
7 June	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St.	Admission FREE
4 July	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall.	To All Fairs.
5 July	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St.	
1 August	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall.	
2 August	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St.	
5 September	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall.	
6 September	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St.	

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 7 July, Saturday 6 October, and Saturday 8 December.

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

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

The winner of the Christmas Competition in the December Newsletter was **Roger Gilbert**, a member of the **Cardiff Society**. The answers I was looking for were: **1.** South Africa. **2.** Jamaica. **3.** New Hebrides. **4.** Antigua. **5.** Ascension Island. **6.** Australia. **7.** Norfolk Islands. **8.** Bahamas. **9.** Barbados. **10.** Bermuda. **11.** Newfoundland. **12.** Cyprus. **13.** Egypt. **14.** Falkland Islands. **15.** Malta. **16.** Mauritius. **17.** Fiji. **18.** Gold Coast. **19.** New Zealand. **20.** Pitcairn Islands. **21.** Twenty seven (25 on postage stamps, plus 2 on fiscal stamps which can be found postally used). **22.** GB Paintings set, 1973. **23.** USA. **24.** Venezuela. **25.** The designer, M Goaman. **26.** Mozambique. **27.** Gambia. **28.** Nyasaland. **29.** Gilbert & Ellice Islands. **30.** British Guiana.

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NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM.

Following the scrapping of the plans to create a National Postal Museum & Archive in Swindon last year when Royal Mail withdrew funding from the project, the organisation has announced plans for a new home in central London (why does it always have to be in London??).

The proposed new site will be at **Calthorpe House**, adjacent to the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office, and a few hundred yards from the current home of the archive. The building is owned by Royal Mail, who will, apparently, grant a 999-year lease. Some renovation will be required to the 1,800m², and there are plans to extend it further.

The previous National Postal Museum closed in 1998, and this is the latest of a number of potential sites to have been investigated.

2012 OLYMPICS.

I understand that Royal Mail plan to issue a stamp/stamps to celebrate the winning of each **Gold Medal** by a British athlete or team on the **day following** their achievement. Yet another hole in their long-standing idea that no living person, Royal Family apart, will be commemorated on a stamp, and a further descent into the realms of a philatelic Banana Republic

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 holiday 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 12 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** are usually present, together with a number of specialist society group meetings.

"SWINPEX"

Yet another popular and well-attended show, to be held this year on **SATURDAY 9 JUNE**, in the **St. Joseph's School, Ocotal Way, SWINDON, SN3 3LR**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**. There are around **48 dealers** usually present, together with about **20 specialist society group meetings**, a lucky dip, a raffle, and a table-top sale. Again, ample free parking is available on site.

YORK

Maybe the largest and best Stamp & Postcard Fair outside London, and will be held on **Friday & Saturday, 20 and 21 July**, at the **York Racecourse** (in the Grandstand, not on the course!), with free admission. Approximately **100 dealers** (plus 50 coin dealers) are usually present for the two days. In addition, of course, there is the historic city of **York**, with its many attractions, making this the ideal place to spend 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, WC1H 0DG**, the 2012 dates being **9 May, 13 June, 4 July, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November, and 12 December**, with **20 - 30 dealers** usually present. Note that there is no fair in August, thus avoiding the Olympic Games congestion.

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