

THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH WALES PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Newsletter

ISSUE No. 69. SEPTEMBER 2013.

CONVENTION 2013.

Now some three months ago, the attendance at our 44th Annual Convention at the Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot was a very disappointing **128** paying customers, compared with **156** last year. Most of the dealers reported on a successful day, although some were very disappointed, and have confirmed that they will not be returning in 2014.

Income from the dealer's tables came to **£774**, plus the **£280** included as deposits in the Final Accounts for the year ended 2012. Programme adverts were down by £25 from 2012 at **£145**, sale of donated material was **£48.30**, and raffle ticket sales amounted to **£236.53**. Ten of our twelve affiliated societies supported the Federation by buying tickets, and the winner of the first prize was **Reg. Lyon** of the **Bridgend** club, **£33** having been spent on buying in prizes, with the remainder having been donated by officers and members, together with some "better" items of donated material. Following the losses experienced in 2011 and 2012, there was no Souvenir Card on sale.

In the Annual Competition, there was an extremely disappointing **five** entries, **three** being in the **Aerophilatelic Class**, with **one** General Philatelic and **one** Postal History. The winners were: **Philatelic** – **Neil Jones** (Newport); **Postal History** – **David Toft** (Swansea); and **Aerophilatelic** – **Rolf Scharning** (Swansea), the letter also winning the Dr. Mary Lennox Trophy for the best overall entry with his 16 sheets of "**Glider Mail in Germany, 1923-1930**".

A much greater effort is required by members in 2014, at the very least make it more of a competition, rather than only one entry taking away a trophy

In the Junior classes, there was a much better response with a total of **13** entries, **10** competing for the Primary Schools Cup, and **3** for the Secondary Schools trophy. The winners were **Chloe Emery-Davies** in the Primary Schools section, and **Rhys Evans** in the Secondary Schools class, both representing the **Haverfordwest** society. Our thanks go to **Erene Grieve** in Haverfordwest and **Bev. Davies** in Newport for all the work they do in encouraging the children in their area to take up the hobby and enter the competitions. Our thanks also go to **Colin Lewis** and **Neil Prior** who acted as competition judges this year.

As far as the expenditure on the Convention was concerned, printing of the Programmes and Publicity Leaflets came to **£95**, judging expenses totalled **£34**, the greatest single item of expenditure being **£525** on the hire of the Theatre, an increase of £75 from 2012. Other miscellaneous expenditure totalled **£223**, the event costing over **£877** to stage this year.

Please note and advise your members that the **Princess Royal Theatre** has been booked for **SATURDAY 17 May 2014** for our **45th Annual Convention**.

The Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies

WORKING FOR THE COLLECTORS OF SOUTH WALES

"AUTUMN DAY" STAMP & POSTCARD FAIR.

Our 35th Annual "Autumn Day" Stamp & Postcard Fair will be hosted this year by the Swansea society, and will be held on **SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER** in the **NEW LODGE, ALEXANDRA ROAD, GORSEINON, SWANSEA, SA4 1PE**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**, admission being **50p**.

The dealers booked to attend are **Chris Doble, Coverlove (Roy Holliss), Phil Smith, Minster Stamps (Trevor King), Malcolm Harrington, Dave Salter, and David & Christine Williamson**, whilst it is understood that **8 societies have reserved tables**.

There is ample car parking at the Lodge, and lunches and light refreshments will be available. This is always an enjoyable day, meeting up with friends old and new, so please support the Swansea society, by turning up on **21st September**, even if it's only for an hour or two.

THE WELSH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Welsh Philatelic Society held their 42nd Annual General Meeting, combined with a residential weekend, at the **Snowdonia National Park Study Centre (Plas Tan y Bwlch)**, near Porthmadog, in June. In addition to the Annual General Meeting, there was a live/postal auction of Welsh postal history and postcards.

The guest speaker this year was **Chris Jackson**, who enthralled members with a fascinating talk on "**The Needle-makers of the Arrow Valley**". Located south of Birmingham, the Arrow Valley became the centre for needle making from the early 1800's, and by the end of the 19th century over 20 million needles of various types were being made and exported all over the world. Chris. also included specimens of sewing, surgical, gramophone and other types in his enjoyable and knowledgeable presentation.

Other displays during the weekend were from **Peter Brindley**, with a power-point presentation on Welsh comic postcards **Cedric Prys-Roberts** gave an updated video film on the hummingbirds of Colombia following his visit there, and **John Perry** showed a miscellany from his collection of **Monmouthshire Postal History**.

The next meeting of the society in South Wales will be held on **SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER** in the **Lliedi Suite, The Selwyn Samuel Bowls Centre, LLANELLI**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**. At present, the Programme for the day has yet to be finalised.

F W "BUSTER" SHIMMEN.

Members will be saddened to hear that "Buster" Shimmen passed away in July after a long illness/disability that had prevented him in taking part in both Swansea society and Federation events for some time.

"Buster" had been Vice-Chairman, Chairman and Secretary of the Swansea society and was Chairman of this Federation from 2003 – 2006, and was a regular entrant in our Federation competitions.

ABPS NEWS.

The Association of British Philatelic Societies, the Umbrella organisation to which this Federation, and a number of member clubs are affiliated, has recently published a pamphlet entitled "**A Model Constitution for Philatelic Societies**", taking the number of published leaflets up to nine, **What is Stamp Collecting; What is Postal History; What is Postal Stationery; What is Thematic Collecting; What is Social Philately; What the ABPS Does for You; Stamps Facts Sheet; The Visiting Speaker**, and **ABPS Awards: Congress Medal and Award of Merit**. If your club requires copies of any or all of these, contact **Chris Oliver** on communications@abps.org.uk.

One of the responsibilities of the ABPS is the training and accreditation of competition judges, and this Federation is now down to **5 or 6** accredited judges, **John Perry** having attempted a few years ago, with much success, to arrange a Judging Seminar in the south Wales area. Apparently, the minimum number required is **15**, including existing judges for a refresher course. So, if **you** think you might be interested, I am sure that John would be pleased to hear from you. One point that the ABPS make is that Judges should also be current exhibitors, or have exhibited in the recent past.

SOCIETY NIGHTS.

Sept. 17	Monday	Port Talbot	Ralph Evans, "Chairman's Night".
Sept. 19	Wednesday	Swansea	Ken Reeves, "Chairman's Night".
Sept. 23	Monday	Barry	Visit from Bridgend.
Sept. 25	Wednesday	Newport	Visit from Cardiff.
Oct. 9	Wednesday	Carmarthen	Colin Lewis, "Newfoundland & Zanzibar Postcards". (Joint Meeting with Haverfordwest & Llanelli).
Oct. 10	Thursday	Bridgend	Visit from Cardiff.
Oct. 15	Tuesday	Cardiff	Austin Meares, "Napoleon & the French Revolution".
Oct. 23	Wednesday	Newport	Visit from Bath.
Oct. 24	Thursday	Bridgend	Maureen Phillips Entertains.
Nov. 12.	Tuesday	Cardiff	Visit from Barry.
Nov. 12	Tuesday	Port Talbot	Neil Prior Entertains.
Nov. 13	Wednesday	Carmarthen	Chris Ozzard, "Plating Shades of the Downey Heads".
Nov. 14	Thursday	Swansea	David Toft, "Postage Dues".
Nov. 20	Wednesday	Newport	Visit from Bridgend.
Nov. 28	Thursday	Haverfordwest	Erene Grieve, "Chairperson's Night".
Nov. 28	Thursday	Bridgend	Reg. Lyon Entertains.
Dec. 11	Wednesday	Carmarthen	Santa Williams Christmas Show.

If any club has yet to send me a copy of their Programme for the 2013 - 2014 season, I shall be pleased to receive a copy, and don't forget to forward a copy to **John Perry** for inclusion on the Federation's website.

DRAGON FAIRS.

2 October	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall, SA11 3LL.	FREE ADMISSION TO ALL DRAGON FAIRS
3 October	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.	
6 November	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall, SA11 3LL.	
7 November	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP	
4 December	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall, SA11 3LL.	
5 December	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.	

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 5th OCTOBER and **SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER**.

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

"LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX".

This major international Stamp Exhibition, to be held at the **Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 0QH**, will take place from **Wednesday 13 - Saturday 16 MAY 2015**. For further information visit www.london2015.net.

It is anticipated that there will **1400 frames of competitive exhibits**, plus a **20 frame "Court of Honour"**, plus a number of dealer's stands.

PRIVATISATION OF ROYAL MAIL.

The Government has announced preliminary details of its plan to float Royal Mail on the Stock Exchange, which is scheduled to take place before the end of the Financial Year in 2014. The sale is likely to value the organisation between £2 billion and £3 billion, although the Communication Workers' Union has stated that it will continue to fight the proposed sale.

It remains to be seen what affect, if any, this will have on the availability of postage stamps.

PORTISHEAD STAMP & POSTCARD FAIR.

This fair, popular for many years with collectors from South Wales, was held on **Saturday 17th August**, did not appear to attract quite so many members from this side of the Severn Bridge as in previous years. Those who did attend seemed to enjoy the day out, and there were undoubtedly some bargains to be had from the dealers.

BIRMINGHAM STAMP AUCTIONS.

At his last sale in Leominster in August, **Barry Faulkner** announced that his next and future sales will be held in **Ross on Wye**. This should make it easier for members in South Wales to attend, especially in the winter months when the Brecon Beacons will not have to be crossed.

Further details of the new location will follow when known

THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH WALES PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

35th ANNUAL "AUTUMN DAY"

STAMP & POSTCARD FAIR

WILL BE HOSTED BY

SWANSEA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

ON

SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

AT THE

**NEW LODGE, ALEXANDRA ROAD, GORSEINON,
SWANSEA, SA4 4PE**

FROM 10.00am to 4.30pm

ADMISSION 50p