

THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH WALES PHILATELIC SOCIETIES



Newsletter



ISSUE No. 70. DECEMBER 2013.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2013.

The Annual General Meeting this year was held on **Saturday 26 October** at the **Public Hall, Heol Las, North Cornelly**. There were **17 members** present, representing **9 societies**, apologies having been received from **Brian Jones (Llanelli)**, and **Reg. Lyon (Bridgend)**. Members stood for a moments silence in memory of **Gwen Hussey (Newport)**, and **"Buster" Shimmen (Swansea)**.

The Federation Chairman, **Geoff. Cooper (Swansea)**, thanked those members who had been involved in the organisation of both the annual convention and the "Autumn Day" events, the latter having been hosted by his own **Swansea** society.

Federation Treasurer, **Colin Lewis (Swansea)**, presented the accounts for the year, which showed an overall loss of **£165**, adding that the Federation was, in effect, being run by the Convention surplus.

Exchange Packet Organiser **Reg. Lyon (Bridgend)**, having submitted a written report, commented on the problem of blank spaces in some books, the receiving club not being aware whether there should be a stamp in that space on some occasions. Also, stamps should **not** be removed by the club owning a box before it goes on circuit, and clubs were reminded that **one month** was the time limit any club could retain a box.

The following members were elected to serve as Officers of the Federation for the coming year: President, **Charlie Williams (Carmarthen)**; Chairman, (**Geoff. Cooper (Swansea)**); Vice-Chairman, **John Perry (Newport)**; Secretary, **Neil Prior (Port Talbot)**; Treasurer, **Colin Lewis (Swansea)**; Accounts Examiner, **Charlie Williams (Carmarthen)**; Exchange Packet Organiser, **Reg. Lyon (Bridgend)**, and Youth Officer, **Erene Grieve (Haverfordwest)**.

In his first address as President, **Charlie Williams**, on behalf of all members, also thanked all those involved in the organisation of the Annual Convention and the "Autumn Day" Stamp & Postcard Fair. He added that the weather & the winter months might prevent him visiting the clubs further east. Finally, he congratulated our Youth Officer, **Erene Grieve (Haverfordwest)** on her receiving the **British Museum & Archive Trust's National Volunteer Award for Museum Learning for 2012**.

Neil Prior, in presenting the final report on the **2013 Convention**, advised that the attendance was down from **156** to **128**, and that some dealers were unhappy with their day, adding that if the trend continued, there was a danger to the event itself. He mentioned that it had cost over **£870** to run the convention this year.

Colin Lewis confirmed that the **2014 Convention** would be held on **Saturday 17 May 2014**, in the **Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot**.

John Perry (Newport) confirmed that the **2014 "Autumn Day" Stamp & Postcard Fair** would be held on **Saturday 20 September** at the **Graig Community Centre, Newport**.

Roger Williams (Cardiff) commented on the Exchange Packet Circuits of **7 months (too long)** and **5 months (too short)**, and wanted a return to the two circuits of **6 months**. After some discussion, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration.

GREAT BRITAIN STAMP PROGRAMME – 2014.

For those members who are still interest (and rich enough!), the Royal Mail stamp issues planned for 2014 have been announced, and these are:

7 January	Classic Children's Television.
4 February	Working Horses.
20 February	Classic Locomotives of Wales.
25 March	Remarkable Lives.
21 April	Buckingham Palace.
13 May	Great British Film.
5 June	Sustainable Fish.
7 July	Commonwealth Games.
4 August	The Great War.
18 September	Piers, Proms & Pavilions.
14 October	Prime Ministers.
4 November	Christmas.



If you still collect the current outflow of Great Britain new issues, and if you bought 1 of everything available eg. a set of stamps, Presentation Pack, First Day Cover, PHQ cards, etc., in 2013, you will have spent **£508** on the commemorative issues alone, and this does not include any new Machin definitives, "Post & Go" items, "Smilers Sheets", etc. Bearing in mind that you are extremely unlikely to recoup more than 75% of your outlay when the time comes to sell.

Another interesting fact relates to the top value commemorative issued each year since decimalisation. A sample of the year's since shows that in 1971, this was 9p, in 1980 it was 50p, in 2000 this was 65p, in 2004 it had risen to **£1.12**, in 2010 it was **£1.46**, and in 2012 the top value was **£1.90**.

BRIAN CRIPPS.

Members will be saddened to learn that **Brian Cripps** of the **Llanelli** society passed away last month after a long illness. Brian, a native of Portsmouth, was a long-time member of Llanelli, holding most offices in that club, and had been **Vice-Chairman** of this Federation from 1979-1981, served as **Chairman** from 1981 to 1984, and was Federation President from 1986 until 2003, when a severe stroke curtailed his philatelic interests. He was also the author of several books on the postcards of **Llanelli**.

"POST & GO".

The final 2013 set of six "Post & Go" pictorial stamps were issued on **20 September**, and was entitled "**Freshwater Life**".

For 2014, the theme will be Flora, with a seasonal twist. On **20 February**, they will feature "**Spring Blooms**", and "**Symbolic Flowers**" will appear on **18 September**, with "**Winter Greenery**" following on **13 November**.

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE.

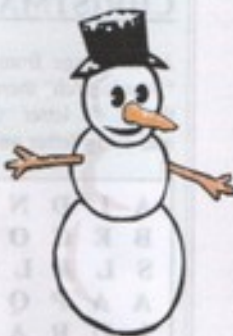
The BPMA's plans for a new postal museum are well developed, and are on target to open **Calthorpe House** in **2016**. Incorporated in the plans will be permanent and temporary exhibition space, state-of-the-art research facilities, and an all-new purpose-built repository for the museum's collections.

There are also plans to open up parts of the old **Post Office Underground Railway – Mail Rail**, as an additional visitor experience. This will allow public access to the **Mount Pleasant depot**, and part of the original tunnels for the first time in the railway's 100-year history. The plan at the moment is for this to become fully operational by **2019**.

Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas.

SOCIETY NIGHTS.

7 Jan.	Tuesday	Cardiff	Roger Gilbert, "K. U. T. Varieties".
7 Jan.	Tuesday	Llanelli	Brian Jones, "Winston Churchill".
13 Jan.	Monday	Barry	Colin Lewis, "Philately of Newfoundland".
22 Jan.	Wednesday	Newport	Alistair MacKinnon, "Chairman's Night".
23 Jan.	Thursday	Bridgend	Nigel McGaw Entertains.
4 Feb.	Tuesday	Llanelli	David Hughes Entertains.
5 Feb.	Wednesday	Newport	Visit from Barry.
10 Feb.	Monday	Barry	John Waud Entertains.
12 Feb.	Wednesday	Carmarthen	Ieuan Lewis, "First World War Postcards of Llandeilo, 1912-1920".
18 Feb.	Tuesday	Port Talbot	Roy Evans Entertains.
4 March	Tuesday	Cardiff	Visit from Newport.
10 March	Monday	Barry	Dave Salter, "A walk around Cardiff in Old Postcards".
12 March	Wednesday	Carmarthen	Howard Jones, "Pre - Decimal Machins".
13 March	Thursday	Bridgend	Visit from Barry.
13 March	Thursday	Haverfordwest	Visit from Carmarthen.
27 March	Thursday	Bridgend	Brian Brandon Entertains.



DRAGON COLLECTORS FAIRS.

8 January	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall, SA11 3LL.	FREE ADMISSION TO ALL DRAGON FAIRS.
9 January	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St., CF5 1JP.	
5 February	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall, SA11 3L.	
6 February	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St., CF5 1JP.	
5 March	Wednesday	NEATH	The Old Town Hall, SA11 3LL.	
6 March	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St., CF5 1JP.	

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

M J PROMOTIONS.

The dates for these Collectors Fairs, held in the City Hall, Cardiff, during 2014, are:

Saturday 8 February, 5 April, 5 July, 11 October and 13 December.

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



CHELTENHAM COLLECTORS FAIRS.

The dates for these Fairs, held on alternate months on a Wednesday (United Reform Church, Montpellier Street), and Sunday (Regency Hotel, Gloucester Road) are:

Wednesday 15 January, Sunday 2 February, Wednesday 12 March, and Sunday 13 April.

For further information on these and other Cheltenham Collectors Fairs, contact Mark Grimsley on 0117 9623203; mobile 07773566994, or Email: mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

As a change from the Crossword Competition of the past few years, this year's competition is a variation on the "Wordsearch" theme. Hidden in the grid are the names of 20 stamp issuing countries, past and present. Beginning with the BLUE letter "G" in the third row, follow a continuous path to find these countries. The trail passes through each and every letter **once**, and may twist up, down, or sideways, but **never** diagonally. Have fun over the Christmas period !!

A	L	D	N	A	C	I	O	P	N	I
B	E	C	O	L	E	E	R	A	G	S
S	L	A	L	O	M	G	E	N	Y	A
A	A	P	Q	I	B	E	K	A	D	A
L	U	R	A	A	M	R	T	C	A	N
A	N	I	Y	C	A	R	A	R	O	N
R	U	R	P	Y	N	R	E	W	A	N
I	S	U	I	N	N	T	S	S	Y	E
A	O	E	F	R	O	I	R	Y	A	D
H	R	C	N	A	M	A	P	I	I	N
H	C	E	E	T	H	I	O	A	I	F

When you have completed the grid, please list the countries you have passed through in the spaces below, in order:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please return your completed entry to Neil Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, BRIDGEND, CF33 4EY, no later than 31 January 2014, remembering to add your name and society on the reverse of your entry.

ABPS NEWS.

The Association of British Philatelic Societies have available a number of stamp and postal history related topics, many with colour illustrations. These are obtainable by society secretaries from Chris Oliver at communication@abps.org.uk. The leaflets available are: "What is Stamp Collecting?"; "What is Postal History?"; "What is Social Philately?"; "What is Postal Stationery?"; "What is Thematic Collecting?"; "What the ABPS does for you"; "Stamps Facts Sheet"; "The Visiting Speaker"; "A Model Constitution for Philatelic Societies", and "ABPS Awards - Congress Medal and Award of Merit".

There are a further two leaflets in the pipeline, "Open Class Philately", which will eventually supersede "What is Social Philately", and "Organising a Philatelic Weekend".

WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY
AND PROSPEROUS 2014. ON
BEHALF OF ALL THE OFFICERS
OF THE FEDERATION