

# THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH WALES PHILATELIC SOCIETIES



## Newsletter



ISSUE No. 76 DECEMBER 2015.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2015.

In the morning session prior to the afternoon's Annual General Meeting, the twelve members present were entertained by a series of 12 mini displays of Danish Postage Dues; British Forces in Egypt; Monmouthshire Post Offices; Gliding Events 1923-1937; Great Britain Royalty; Gibraltar Zeppelin Mail 1933/1934; Advertising Envelopes for writing implements; Leipzig Fairs, Montenegro, and GB Paquebots on Swedish ships. With such diverse and interesting philatelic offerings, it is a great shame that more members don't attend these morning sessions.

After lunch, the Annual General Meeting commenced with 19 members representing 9 affiliated societies. As the Minutes of the Meeting have already been distributed to all secretaries, the information following is just a précis of those minutes. The Chairman John Perry (Newport) commented on the declining attendances, and urged all clubs to make every attempt to recruit new members. He thanked the Barry club for hosting a successful "Autumn Day" Stamp & Postcard Fair at a new venue.

The Secretary, Neil Prior (Port Talbot) confirmed that three issues of the "Newsletter" had been circulated as usual, and that a large number of amendments to the Federation Handbook had also been distributed.

Treasurer Colin Lewis (Swansea), presented the accounts for the year, which showed a surplus of £550. adding that £359 was the result of the sale, by auction, of philatelic material donated by various Philatelic Bureaux. In view of this, he added that the suggested levy of £10.00 per club to cover the Exchange Packet Insurance should be deferred. Paul Clarke (Cardiff) suggested that a per capita subscription form societies should replace the £5.00 affiliation fee, but this was rejected.

Exchange Packet Organiser Reg. Lyon (Bridgend) confirmed that the Aberystwyth club were rejoining the packet circuit, and that the problems with regard to missing and substituted stamps seemed to have been overcome. He reminded members that no new books going on circuit should have stamps removed by the contributing club before the start of the circuit.

Youth Officer Erene Grieve (Haverfordwest) advised that the "Stamps in Schools" project was still running after 18 years, although most of the schools she visited were over the border, and that an introduction was required from Federation members before going into schools in Wales. She added that two juniors had entered competitions with 32 pages in Malaysia this year, and would be exhibiting in New York in 2016.

The following were elected to serve as Officers of the Federation for the coming year: President, Charles Williams (Carmarthen); Chairman, John Perry (Newport); Secretary, Neil Prior (Port Talbot); Treasurer, Colin Lewis (Swansea). Accounts Examiner, Charles Williams, (Carmarthen); Exchange Packet Organiser, Reg. Lyon (Bridgend), and Youth Officer, Bev. Davies (Newport). Following the resignation of Graham Bean (Cardiff) as Vice-Chairman, Paul Clarke (Cardiff) was nominated from the floor, and was co-opted onto the committee in that office.

Reporting on the 2015 Convention, Neil Prior advised that the attendance was marginally down on 2014, and that some dealers would not be returning in 2016, the result of a poor day. Colin Lewis added that more assistance was required on the Friday prior to the convention to help in setting up the room, as only a few members from the Port Talbot and Swansea clubs regularly attended, and that it could take up to 4 hours to get the tables and chairs where required.

## **A. G. M. CONTINUED.**

**Colin Lewis** confirmed that the 47<sup>th</sup> **Annual Convention** would be held on **SATURDAY 21 MAY 2016** at the **Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot**, from **10.00am to 4.30pm**, admission being **50p**, and added that, to date, three new dealers had reserved table space, **Rex Eccott, Barrie Rollinson, and West Country Stamps**.

**Neil Prior** advised that the Theatre might be closing after next year, the facility moving the old Plaza Cinema near the railway station, and, depending on the facilities provided at this facility, a new venue might be required for our convention in 2017. **Alan Rosser** (Barry) commented that there was a larger hall at the school in Barry where the Autumn Day was held that might be suitable, but **Colin Lewis** thought that any new venue, if it was needed, should be as near as possible to the centre of the South Wales area, and that **70+ tables** would be required.

**Neil Prior** stated that the **Port Talbot** society were prepared to host the Federation's 38<sup>th</sup> "**Autumn Day**" **Stamp and Postcard Fair**, the date and venue to be advised in due course.

**John Perry** confirmed that, following the Executive Committee meeting in January, it was proposed to discontinue the provision of replica trophies to the competition winners in the senior classes only, and that these would be replaced by certificates, and that the marking system in the Junior classes would be amended to fall in line with the "Stamp Active" national competitions. He added that future "Newsletters" would be sent by email to the nominated representative from each society.

**Neil Prior** advised that the **Welsh Postal History Society** were holding their annual South Wales meeting on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November** in Llanelli, there being displays by **Colin Lewis** "Transported Down Under", **Cedric Prys-Roberts** "A Letter to America", and **Neil Prior** "Swansea Town Sub Post Offices".

## **GREAT BRITAIN STAMPS.**

Whilst I have seen nothing in the philatelic press regarding the stamps issues for 2016 (maybe Royal Mail have taken pity on us and will have no new stamps new year!), a quick check of the 2015 issues shows that if you bought one of everything available, you will have spent in excess of **£470**, a sizeable increase on the previous years **£335**. This doesn't include the **£800** on offer for Silver and Gold coin covers commemorating the Great War, nor any of the "Smiler" Sheets and the various "Post & Go" issues.

## **THE WELSH POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY.**

At the recent South Wales annual meeting in Llanelli, the 20 members and guests present were treated to three displays, the first by society archivist **Cedric Prys-Roberts**, who gave a power-point exposition on his investigations into a letter sent to a family who had emigrated to The United States of America in the 1830's from the area around Carmarthen and the Swansea Valley. This was followed by a talk by guest speaker **Colin Lewis**, who spoke regarding his investigations into the correspondence concerning a farmer from Gelligaer who had been given a death sentence for attempted murder, but was subsequently transported for life to the penal colony of Australia, his later bigamous marriage there after being pardoned, and his ex-wife's bigamous marriage back in Gelligaer.

After a break for lunch, **Neil Prior** showed a selection of covers, cards and parcel post labels illustrating the postal history of **51** of the **81** sub post offices that have opened, and some later closed, in the "town" area of Swansea, as distinct from the Gower, Gorseinon, and Swansea Valley areas. This was followed by mini-displays by several members.

# **THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH WALES PHILATELIC SOCIETIES**

**Working for the collectors of South Wales.**

## **SOCIETY NIGHTS.**

19 Jan.	Cardiff	Tuesday	Chairman & Committee Entertain.
27 Jan.	Newport	Wednesday	Alistair MacKinnon "Chairman's Night".
28 Jan.	Bridgend	Thursday	Nigel McGaw, "Pembroke Dock at War".
10 Feb.	Carmarthen	Wednesday	Howard Jones, "A Postal History of South West Wales".
10 Feb.	Newport	Wednesday	Martyn Britton, "Holiday in Fiji".
22 Feb.	Swansea	Monday	David Toft, "Postage Dues".
25 Feb.	Bridgend	Thursday	Maureen Phillips Entertains.
1 Mar.	Cardiff	Tuesday	Visit from Newport.
10 Mar.	Bridgend	Thursday	Visit from Barry.
16 Mar.	Haverfordwest	Wednesday	Visit from Carmarthen.
24 Mar.	Bridgend	Thursday	Reg. Lyon Entertains.
29 Mar.	Cardiff	Tuesday	Brian Brandon Entertains.
4 Apr.	Swansea	Monday	Dan Jones, "Fahrt, Gas & Donkey".
14 Apr.	Bridgend	Thursday	Visit from Newport.
25 Apr.	Barry	Monday	Visit from Cardiff.



## **DRAGON COLLECTORS FAIRS.**

2 December	NEATH	Wednesday	The Old Town Hall, SA11 3LL.	<b>FREE ADMISSION TO ALL DRAGON COLLECTORS FAIRS.</b>
3 December	CARDIFF	Thursday	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.	
6 January	NEATH	Wednesday	Castle Hotel, The Parade, SA11 1RB.	
7 January	CARDIFF	Thursday	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.	
3 February	NEATH	Wednesday	Castle Hotel, The Parade, SA11 1RB.	
4 February	CARDIFF	Thursday	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.	
2 March	NEATH	Wednesday	Castle Hotel, The Parade, SA11 1RB.	
3 March	CARDIFF	Thursday	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.	
6 April	NEATH	Wednesday	Castle Hotel, The Parade, SA11 1RB.	
7 April	CARDIFF	Thursday	Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.	

Please note the **change of venue** for the **Wednesday** Fairs in **Neath** from the **January** event. The **Castle Hotel** is located on **The Parade**, in the pedestrianised centre of Neath..

For further information on these and other **Dragon Collectors Fairs**, contact **Trevor King** on **01522 857343**, mobile **07949 605594**, or email [minsterstamps@ntlworld.com](mailto:minsterstamps@ntlworld.com)

## **M J PROMOTIONS.**

The dates for these Collectors Fairs, held in the **City Hall, Cardiff**, for the remainder of 2015, and during 2016, are:

**Saturday 12 December 2015, and 6 February, 9 April, 9 July, 8 October and 10 December 2016.**

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



# Merry Christmas



## **CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.**

A straight-forward (it is if you know the answers!) quiz this time, with **25** questions on stamps, stamp issuing countries, postcards and postal history to be answered, and **33** points available.

1. What does “**PF**” handstamped on a cover mean? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In which ocean is the island of **Mayotte**? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In 1925, GB gave part of **Kenya** to **Italy**. What was this area called? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In which year did **Ceylon** become **Sri Lanka**? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name **3 Antarctic Territories** administered by **New Zealand**? \_\_\_\_\_
6. With which other state was **Nejd** merged to form **Saudi Arabia**? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the composite name of the Eastern Mediterranean area in the 19th century? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What would Europeans call “**Double Registered**”? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Name the **Bridgend** publisher of much sought after real photo postcards? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What does “**Ultramar**” inscribed on stamps mean? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Name the **4 Occupation Zones** of **Germany** after **WW 2**? \_\_\_\_\_
12. The enclave of **Tete** is now part of which country? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How many “**Key-Types**” can be found issued by **France & Colonies**? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Where is **Graham Land**? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Which part of the Portuguese island of **The Azores** issued stamps from **1892 to 1905**? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Which island at the southern tip of **South America** issued a stamp for the conveyance of mail to the mainland? And what was the **currency** involved? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Name the artist/cartoonist responsible for “**Old Bill**” postcards during **WW 1**? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What does “**PD**” handstamped on a cover mean? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What was the **Universal Postal Union** originally called? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Name the **3 “Key-Types”** of stamps issued by **Spain & Colonies**? \_\_\_\_\_
21. Name the postcard publisher responsible for **Song Cards**? \_\_\_\_\_
22. What were trailed in the **Southampton** area in **December 1957**? \_\_\_\_\_
23. What were trailed in the **Southampton** area in **November 1959**? \_\_\_\_\_
24. In which UK city were **Post Codes** first introduced in the late **1950’s**? \_\_\_\_\_
25. **Maldavia & Wallachia** are part of which modern country (mainly)? \_\_\_\_\_

Please add your **name and society** on the back of your entry, and post it to send your completed answers (a photocopy will be OK) to Neil Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, BRIDGEND, CF33 4EY by **SATURDAY 30 JANUARY 2016**.

**WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS**

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY**

**AND PROSPEROUS 2016, AND**

**GOOD HUNTING PHILATELICALLY,**

**ON BEHALF OF ALL THE OFFICERS**

**OF THE SOUTH WALES**

**FEDERATION.**