

Newsletter

ISSUE No. 79 APRIL 2017.

48th ANNUAL CONVENTION – 2017.

Our 48th Annual Convention will be with us next month, and will be held on **SATURDAY 20 MAY** in **THE PRINCESS ROYAL THEATRE, CIVIC CENTRE, PORT TALBOT, SA13 1PJ**, from **9.30am to 4.30pm**, admission being **50p**.

The Official Opening Ceremony will be performed by the **Mayor of Neath Port Talbot, Cllr. Sheila Penry** at **12.00 noon**, and this will be followed by the **Presentation of Awards**, and the **Raffle Prize Draw**. Please note that parking outside the Theatre is now chargeable, at **£3.00 for over 4 hours**, and teas/coffees, etc. will be available in the hall. For those requiring something more substantial, there are a number of cafes, restaurants and pubs within a short walk, and for more detailed information, check at the Federation Table in the hall.

To date, **15 dealers** have reserved tables, and these are, subject to any late change, **Rex Eccott** (Holsworthy), **Roy Evans** (Neath), **Eddie Foley** (Pontypridd), **Dave Foster** (Nottingham), **Malcolm Harrington** (Swansea), **Roy Hollis**, (Chepstow), **Minster Stamps** (Trevor King, Lincoln), **Bill Pipe – “Magpie”** (Poole), **Chris Proctor** (Winchcombe), **Raflet** (Reg Lyon, Llantwit Major), **Alf Reynold-Williams** (Bristol), **Dave Salter** (Cardiff), **Phil Smith** (Saundersfoot), **West Country Stamps** (Chudleigh Knighton), and **Martin Whybrow** (Basingstoke). The new dealers this year are **Alf Reynold-Williams** and **Martin Whybrow**.

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. I would urge you to check on the entries in the junior classes, to see that the hobby is still alive and kicking with the children. **Raffle Tickets** will be on sale at the admission desk and in the hall, 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 asks for 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 in Port Talbot** on **SATURDAY 20 MAY**, even if it’s only for an hour or so, as the attendance over the past few years has been extremely disappointing. **Another downward trend in attendance could mean the loss of our Convention in its present form, the only Stamp and Postcard Fair of its kind in Wales.**

You never know, you might find that elusive stamp, cover or postcard you’ve spent years searching for lurking in one of the dealers stockbooks or boxes, just waiting for **YOU** to come along and find it. **If you don’t come, you’ll have no chance at all !!**

SEE YOU THERE !!

GEOFF. COOPER.

Members will be saddened to hear of the passing towards the end of March of **Geoff. Cooper**, a member of the **Swansea** and the **Welsh Postal History Society**.

Geoff. served the Federation as **Vice-Chairman** from **2008 to 2011**, and was the **Federation Chairman** from **2011 to 2014**.

THE WELSH POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The Society held a very successful meeting in Aberystwyth in March, when the main topic for the day was postal History related to **“Worthies of Cardiganshire and Merionethshire”**.

The Society will be holding its **41st** consecutive residential weekend at the **Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, “Plas Tan y Bwlch”, near Porthmadog, from Friday 16 June to Sunday 18 June**. Aside from the Annual General Meeting, the attractions will include a light-hearted (but keenly fought) **“Egg-cup”** competition, a live/postal auction of Welsh postcards and postal history, and several dealers are usually present with their stocks to browse through, and there will be displays by **Roger Broomfield** on **“Welsh Neighbours”**, **Cedric Prys-Roberts** on **“The postal history of Wrexham and the surrounding area**. In addition, there will be a joint presentation by members present on **“Welsh Maritime Mail”**.

For anyone interested in any aspect of Welsh philately, postal history or postcards, this is **the** Society to join, at an annual fee of just **£9.00**. For this modest sum, you will receive three award-winning **“Newsletters”** each year, containing articles on matters Welsh, the chance to bid for items to enhance your collection, and the opportunity to attend any or all of the meetings of the society, currently being held in **Conwy, Llanelli, Aberystwyth**, and, of course, **“Plas Tan y Bwlch”**.

THE GREAT BRITAIN STAMP PROGRAMME.

The Royal Mail was much later than usual in announcing its programme of special stamp issues for the coming year, which will include:

	Jan 17	Ancient Britain.
	Feb 6	65th Anniversary of the Accession (£5.00 face value!).
	Feb 15	Windsor Castle.
	Mar 14	Music Giants – David Bowie.
	Apr 6	Racehorse Legends.
	May 4	Songbirds.
	Jun 5	50th Anniversary of the Machin.
	Jun 20	Windmills & Watermills.
	Jul 13	Landmark Buildings.
	Jul 31	First World War, 1917.
	Aug 22	Classic Toys.
	Sep 14	150th Anniversary of Ladybird Books.
	Oct 20	To Be Announced.
	Nov 7	Christmas.
	Nov 20	To Be Announced.
Post & Go:	Feb 15	Royal Mail Heritage – Mail by Rail.
	Jun 5	50th Anniversary of the Machin.
	Sep 13	Royal Mail Heritage – Mail by Air.

In addition to the above, there will be the new Machin's and new “country definitives” to accommodate the increases in postal rates, a total face value of **£21.51**. I dread to think of what that lot, including F.D.C's, PHQ's Presentation Packs, “Smiler's” sheets, & whatever else Royal Mail will come up with to foist on G.B. collectors will cost. **How's that lot for exploitation of the average stamp collector?**

SOCIETY NIGHTS.

27 April	Thursday	Bridgend	Reg. Lyon Entertains.
2 June	Tuesday	Llanelli	Caroline Skyrme Entertains.
8 May	Monday	Swansea	Neil Prior, "President's Night".
21 June	Wednesday	Newport	Visit from Barry.

M J PROMOTIONS.

The dates for these Collector's Fairs for the remainder of 2017, held in the **CITY HALL, CARDIFF**, are:

1 July, 7 October, and 9 December.

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

DRAGON FAIRS.

3 May	Wednesday		Greenacre Motel, 111 Heol Fach, North Cornelly, CF33 4LH.	
4 May	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.	
7 June	Wednesday			Admission
8 June	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.	to these and
5 July	Wednesday			other
6 July	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.	DRAGON
2 August	Wednesday			FAIRS is
3 August	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.	Free of
6 September	Wednesday			Charge.
7 September	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.	

Please note the change of venue for the **3rd May Fair**. The Castle Hotel in Neath has closed for refurbishment for new owners, & it's not know at this time when, or if, the Fair can return there. Trevor & Mark were NOT told of the closure, and turned up on 5th April as normal to find the hotel closed!!

For further information on these and other **Dragon Fairs**, contact **Trevor King** on **01522 857343**, or **07949 605594**, or email minsterstamps@ntlworld.com.

BIRMINGHAM STAMP AUCTIONS.

The only date I have at the present time for these philatelic auctions, held every two months at their premises at **2 Cantelupe Road, Ross on Wye, HR9 7AN** is **Wednesday, 15 June**. Live internet bidding can be made on the day, and for full catalogue with many pictures of the lots, you can register **FREE OF CHARGE** on www.the-saleroom.com.

For further information on this and other auctions, contact **Barry Faulkner** on **01989 769529**, or **07941 287692**.

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

Unfortunately, there were no all-correct answers received to December's competition, the answers I was looking for were:

Stockcards – Suriname – Egypt – Tunisia – Azores – Seiyun – Niue – Eritrea – Album – Morvi – Iraq – Quetta – Arbe – Ecuador - Registration – Nauru – Uruguay – Yemen – Nevis – Saseno – Oldenburg – Gibbons – Strand – Dubai – Iceland – Danzig – Gambia.

On the first clue, as I had given **stockbook** in the example, I was looking for **stockcards** in the answer.

"AUTUMN DAY" STAMP & POSTCARD FAIR.

The Newport club will be hosting the 39th annual "Autumn Day" Stamp & Postcard Fair on **SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2017** from **10.00am to 4.00pm**, in the **GRAIG COMMUNITY CENTRE, Caerphilly Road, Newport, NP10 8LG**. This is the same venue as in 2014.

The venue is 1 mile from Junction 28 of the M4, has free parking, and refreshments will be available. As usual, there will be the usual mix of dealers and society tables to search through for a bargain, and for items to enhance your collection.

SPRING & SUMMER POSTCARD FAIRS.

During the coming months there are a number of Stamp & Postcard Fairs around the country, and those of you taking holidays or long weekends might be able to visit one or more of these during your breaks. The main fairs to consider, in addition to our own **Annual Convention in Port Talbot on 20 May**, are:

"WORPEX".

To be held on **Saturday 13th May** from **10.00am to 4.00pm** at the **Tudor Grange Academy, Bilford Road, WORCESTER, WR3 8HN**. This is close to **Junction 6** on the **M5**. There are usually **40+ dealers**, with refreshments available and free admission, a free programme, and free but limited car parking. There is also a free shuttle bus service, and for more information, go to www.worplex.com.

"SWINPEX".

Another popular one-day fair, to be held on **Saturday 10th June** from **10.00am to 4.30pm** at **St. Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, SWINDON, SN3 3LR**. There will be around **46 dealers** attending, with some **12 specialist societies** holding morning and afternoon meetings. Light refreshments are available, and there is ample free parking, and admission is **£1.00 by programme**.

"MIDPEX".

Held every two years, this popular and well-attended fair will be held on **Saturday 8th July** at the **Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, LEAMINGTON SPA, CV31 1XN**. Although an out of town venue, and difficult to find, there is ample free parking. There are usually about **70 dealers** present, in addition to the **40+ specialist societies** taking advertising frames and tables, including our own **Welsh Postal History Society**. For further information, see www.midpex.wordpress.com.

YORK.

Arguably the best Stamp & Postcard fair outside London, this two-day event will be held on **Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd July** at the **York Racecourse Grandstand**, with free admission and ample car parking. There are usually around **100 dealers** (plus 50 coin & banknote dealers) present. There is also the historic city of York, with its many attractions, making this a great place to spend a weekend or more, there is so much to see in the city and surrounding countryside.

PORTISHEAD.

A popular fair for collectors from south Wales, I believe that this Stamp & Postcard Fair will be held at the **Gordano Comprehensive School, St. Mary's Road, Portishead, BS20 7QR**, on **Saturday 12 August**, although this date has yet to be confirmed.

*Don't Forget
our Annual Convention Stamp & Postcard Fair
on Saturday 20 May, in the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot
from 9.30am to 4.30pm.*