

THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH WALES PHILATELIC SOCIETIES



Newsletter



ISSUE No. 80 DECEMBER 2017.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

In the morning session prior to the afternoon's Annual General Meeting, the eight members present were entertained by a series of mini-displays of a miscellany of postcard rates and uses, Egyptian stamps & proofs, Philatelic Congress souvenirs, Cardiff Philatelic Congress 2017, and postcards from the late Victorian period. In addition, Colin Lewis showed his 16-sheet winning entry (in the Canadian P. S. of G.B. competition) of Newfoundland, and Bev. Davies showed the winning entry from **The Dell school in Chepstow** in the Spring "Stampex 2017" competition, winning a **silver-gilt medal**.

After a break for lunch, the Annual General Meeting commenced with the Chairman, **John Perry (Newport)**, in the chair. There was a disappointing **13 members** present, representing **7 societies**. Prior to the start of the meeting, members held a minute's silence in memory of **Geoff. Cooper (Swansea)**, **Alan Rosser (Barry)**, both past chairmen of the Federation, and **Glyn Attley (British Rail)**.

As the official Minutes of the meeting have already been distributed to all officers and societies, this is just a precis of those minutes, highlighting the main points from the meeting. The Chairman, **John Perry**, thanked all those members who had helped with the organisation of the Convention (in Port Talbot) and the Autumn Day (in Newport).

The Secretary, **Neil Prior (Port Talbot)** advised that he had only been able to circulate two issues of the "newsletter" again, due to holidays and other commitments, and that he would have to give consideration to changing the dates of issue next year.

The Treasurer, **Colin Lewis (Swansea)** presented the accounts for the year, which showed an overall **LOSS of £66** from 2016, adding that he thought that the coming year might also prove difficult. After some discussion, it was decided to **increase to Society Annual Subscription from £5.00 to £10.00**.

The Youth Officer, **Bev. Davies (Newport)** advised that youth philately continued to flourish in south and west Wales, advising that **Carys Llewellyn (Haverfordwest)** had been the overall winner in the **British Youth Championships**.

The following were elected to serve as Officers of the Federation for the coming year: **President – Charles Williams (Carmarthen)**; **Chairman – Chris Griffiths (Bridgend)**; **Secretary – Neil Prior (Port Talbot)**; **Treasurer – Colin Lewis (Swansea)**; **Exchange Packet Organiser – Reg Lyon (Bridgend)**, and **Youth Officer – Bev. Davies (Newport)**. For the first time, we have no **Vice-Chairman** nominated, as last year's Vice-Chairman submitted his resignation a week before the meeting.

In his report on the 2017 Convention, **Neil Prior** confirmed that the attendance had marginally increased, and that some dealers reported on a good day, whilst others were not so happy and would not be returning in 2018. The senior competitions continued to disappoint, with only **5 entries**, but there were a record **14 entries** from the juniors.

Colin Lewis advised that the **2018 Convention** would be held on **Saturday 19 May**, in the **Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot**, from **9.30am to 4.30pm**.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – CONTINUED.

Under any other Business, the proposal received from the **Swansea Society** that the Federation Competition Rules for the **Great Britain Class** be amended to include **Mint Postal Stationery** was agreed, **Neil Prior** explaining that the last entry received in this class was in **2006**, and that it was hoped that this extension might bring in an entry or two. He added that **used postal stationery** would continue to be entered in the Postal History class.

Neil Prior advised that no applications had been received to host the **2018 “Autumn Day” Stamp & Postcard Fair**. On behalf of the **Swansea** society, **Colin Lewis** added that he had made enquiries in Swansea, but that there was no suitable venue in the city. **Bev. Davies** volunteered the **Newport** society again if no other club came forward, although it was unusual for the event to be hosted by the same club on successive years.

The Treasurer, **Colin Lewis** commented on the tight schedule between the end of our Financial year on **30 September** and the date of the Annual General Meeting in October. After some discussion on various points raised, it was agreed to change the end of the Federation’s Financial Year to **31 July**, and it was noted that the next Financial Year would be of **10 months**, but that the **Annual General Meeting** would still be held in **October** as per the Constitution.

OBITUARY.

Alan Rosser.

Members will be saddened to learn that **Alan** passed away on **Sunday 15 October**, the day after the Barry Stamp & Postcard Fair. **Alan** was **Chairman** of the Federation from **2006 to 2008**, and **Vice-Chairman** before that. He had also served the **Barry** club in various capacities over many years, latterly as **Secretary and Exchange Packet Secretary**, and will be sorely missed by the club.

THE WELSH POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The society held another successful annual south Wales meeting on **Saturday 4 November** in **The Selwyn Samuel Bowls Centre in Llanelli**, when the main displays were by **Howard Jones**, who showed part of his collection of **Carmarthen Postal History**, and **Neil Prior**, who displayed some of the postal history of the **Bridgend Postal District**. These were supported by mini-displays by other members present.

If any member of a society within the Federation is interested in any aspect of **Welsh** philately, postal history or postcards, they would certainly benefit from membership of the WPHS, and should contact the secretary, **Neil Prior** on **01656 740520** for further information. The annual subscription is a very modest **£9.00**, the price of a decent postcard these days.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Now that the last stamps have been issued by Royal Mail for 2017, it’s time to find out what it would have cost if you bought one of everything – mint set, FDC, PHQ cards, etc. This would amount to **over £230**, and this does **NOT** include “Smilers” sheets, Post & Go issues, Booklets, and the **13 new Machin** values for the rate changes in April. (face **£19.24**). This year also saw the **50th** Anniversary of the first Machins, and that lot alone would have cost you almost **£100** !

The Programme for 2018 has yet to be announced, but don’t be surprised if it contains more rubbish issues to milk some of you GB collectors of your hard-earned salary or pension.



**WISHING YOU ALL
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2018
ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICERS
OF THE FEDERATION**



SOCIETY NIGHTS.

22 Jan.	Monday	Swansea	Rolf Scharning Entertains.
25 Jan.	Thursday	Bridgend	Nigel McGaw Entertains.
14 Feb.	Wednesday	Carmarthen	Gareth James, "Lord Nelson".
14 Feb.	Wednesday	Port Talbot	Neil Prior Entertains.
8 Mar.	Thursday	Bridgend	Chris Griffiths Entertains.
14 Mar.	Wednesday	Carmarthen	Bill Toye, "Postcards from Swansea to Carmarthen".
15 Mar.	Thursday	Haverfordwest	Martin Lewis, "Chairman's Night".
22 Mar.	Thursday	Bridgend	Visit from Newport.
12 Apr.	Thursday	Haverfordwest	Visit from Carmarthen.
12 Apr.	Thursday	Bridgend	Reg. Lyon Entertains.



To date, I have only received a copy of the Programme from the above-mentioned societies. If you want your Programme for the year mentioned in the Newsletter, please forward a copy to me as soon as possible.

DRAGON COLLECTORS FAIRS.

6 December	Wednesday	NORTH CORNELLY	Green Acre Motel, CF33 4LH,
7 December	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP,
3 January	Wednesday	NORTH CORNELLY	Green Acre Motel, CF33 4LH.
4 January	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.
7 February	Wednesday	NORTH CORNELLY	Green Acre Motel, CF33 4LH
8 February	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.
7 March	Wednesday	NORTH CORNELLY	Green Acre Motel, CF33 4LH
8 March	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF% 1JP.
4 April	Wednesday	NORTH CORNELLY	Green Acre Motel, CF33 4LH.

Wednesday 11am to 4.00pm.

Thursday, 10.00am to 3.00pm

ADMISSION FREE.

The Wednesday Fairs now seem to have settled at the Green Acre Motel, 111 Heol Fach, North Cornelly for the foreseeable future, and for more information on these and other **Dragon Fairs**, contact **Trevor King** on **01522 857343** or **07949 605594**, or email minsterstamps@ntlworld.com.

M J PROMOTION.

The last date for these Collectors Fairs, held in the **City Hall, Cardiff**, is **Saturday, 9 December**, from **10.00am to 4.00pm**.

The dates for **2018** are:

10 February, 7 April, 7 July, 13 October, and 8 December.

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

THE NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM.

The new National Postal Museum was opened to the public on **FRIDAY 28 JULY**. I gather from **Colin Lewis**, who paid a visit there shortly after it opened, that it is well worth a visit when you're in London, maybe combined with a "Stampex" visit. Ceremonially opened by the Princess Royal on **13 June**, the Museum is located in **Phoenix Place, Clerkenwell, London**.

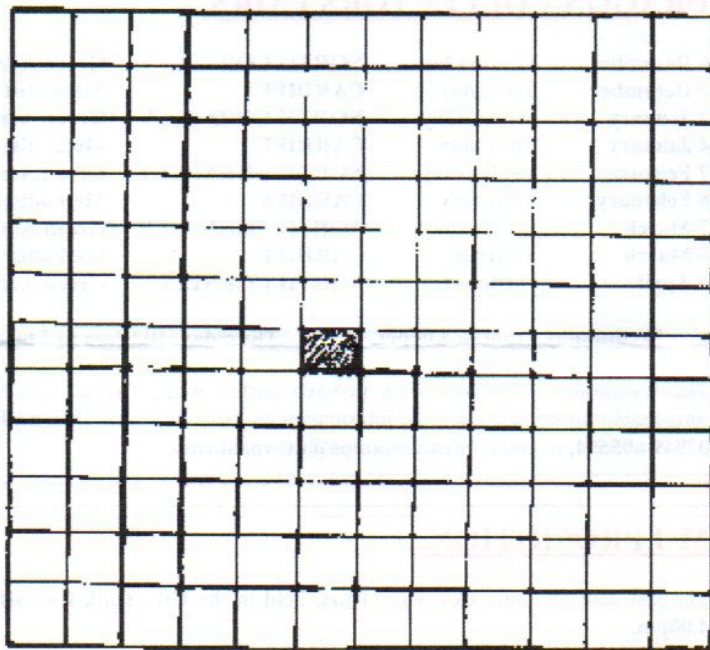
Adult entry tickets cost **£16.00**, including an optional donation of **£1.50**. One attraction is a ride on "**Mailrail**", the miniature underground railway system that formerly carried mail under the busy London streets. For further information, visit www.postalmuseum.org.

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

This year's competition is again a variation on the crossword idea, but here the answer to the clue begins with the last letter of the previous answer, for example, Stockbookenyauatraliantiguargentina etc. Beginning in the top left-hand square, work your way around the box in ever-decreasing circles, using the common letter only once, finishing in the shaded square in the centre. The number of letters in the answer required is also given after each of the **28 clues**. Best of luck !!!

1. This country's capital is Baku (10).
2. Phosphate producing island west of Kiribati (5).
3. Small South American country on the South Atlantic coast (7).
4. Crimean town, site of a famous conference (5).
5. Caribbean island, formerly Dutch, first stamps issued in 1986(5).
6. Autonomous province of Finland, first stamps issued in 1984 (5).
7. Former French colony in north-east Africa (7).
8. King Faisal was the ruler here until his assassination on 14 July 1958 (4).
9. An independent Arab Sheikdom (5).
10. Former Spanish settlement, now part of Equatorial Guinea (3,4).
11. Former British Mandate that became an independent state on 14 May 1948 (6).
12. An independent Grand Duchy in Europe (9).
13. The -----, islands between Grenada & St. Vincent (10).
14. Baltic country (6).
15. Chartered Company in Mozambique, stamps issued from 1898 (6).
16. Famous for the "Dhow" issue in 1937 (4).
17. A New Zealand dependency from 1902 (4).
18. South American country on the equator (7).
19. These islands are between Japan & Taiwan (7).
20. Collectors keep stamps in one of these (9).
21. Kenya, Uganda & Tanganyika, in short (3).
22. Five stamps issued here during the Graeco-Turkish war of 1898 (8).
23. South West Arabian republic (5).
24. Sometimes found inscribed on Norwegian stamps (5).
25. The Olympic Games started here (6).
26. African country on the Mediterranean (5).
27. Issued stamps before joining with Caicos.
28. This Gulf of Aden country's first stamps were inscribed "Benadir" (7)

Send your completed grid to **Neil Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, BRIDGEND, CF33 4EY**, by **Saturday, 27 January 2018**. Remember to add your name and society on the back of your entry. A draw for the winning entry will be made at a suitable society meeting after the closing date.



SWANSEA PHILATELIC SOCIETY,

The Swansea Society will be holding their next **Spring Stamp & Postcard Fair** on **SATURDAY 14 APRIL 2018** in the **St. Illtyd's Church Hall, Fforestfach, Swansea, SA5 4BT**, from **9.30am to 4.00pm**, admission being **50p**.

*Wishing the members of all the Societies in South Wales
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous
2018.*