

THE FEDERATION OF SOUTH WALES PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Newsletter

ISSUE No. 81 APRIL 2018.

48th ANNUAL CONVENTION – 2018.

Our **49th Annual Convention** will be with us next month, and will be held on **SATURDAY 19 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. Dennis Keogh** 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, **17 dealers** have reserved tables, and these are, subject to any late change, **Paula Cant** (Basingstoke), **Rex Eccott** (Holsworthy), **Roy Evans** (Neath), **Eddie Foley** (Pontypridd), **Mark Grimsley** (Westbury on Trym), **Malcolm Harrington** (Swansea), **Roy Hollis**, (Chepstow), **Ernie Martin** (Haverfordwest), **P & P Postcards** (Swindon), **Bill Pipe – “Magpie”** (Poole), **Chris Proctor** (Winchcombe), **Raflet** (Reg Lyon, Llantwit Major), **Alf Reynold-Williams** (Bristol), **Dave Salter** (Cardiff), **Phil Smith** (Saundersfoot), **Worcester Philatelics** (Tom George & Brian Purcell), and **Martin Wybrow** (Basingstoke). The new dealers this year are **P & P Postcards** and **Worcester Philatelics**.

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 19 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 !!

THE WELSH POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The Welsh Postal History Society held their annual spring meeting in Aberystwyth on Saturday 7 April, the meeting having been postponed from 3 March, compliments of "The Beast from the East". The main focus of the meeting was on the "Skeleton" datestamps of Wales, beginning with a powerpoint introduction by Society Archivist Prof. Cedric Prys-Roberts, followed by presentations by members illustrating this type of datestamp.

The next meeting of the society will be the annual residential weekend and Annual General Meeting, held on **Thursday 21 June to Sunday 24 June** in the **Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, "Plas Tan y Bwlch", near Porthmadog.**

Following the success of last year's "Welsh Maritime Mail", the main presentation this year will focus on "**Railways in Wales**" (excluding the Narrow Gauge Railways), again with contributions from members, followed by "**A train journey into Merionethshire**" by Cedric Prys-Roberts, and "**Pembrokeshire Postal History**" by Roger Antell. Other attractions include a light-hearted but keenly fought "Egg-Cup" competition, a live/postal auction, and the opportunity to browse at leisure through the stocks of the dealer-members present.

For anyone interested in any aspect of Welsh philately, postcards or postal history, this is the specialist society to join. Subscriptions are a modest **£9.00** a year, for which you will receive an award-winning "Newsletter" three times a year, be able to participate in three auctions of Welsh material (two postal and one live/postal), three Saturday meetings held in **Aberystwyth, Conwy and Llanelli**, and the residential weekend held in a former slate quarry-owner's mansion as mentioned above.

THE GREAT BRITAIN STAMP PROGRAMME.

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

23 January	Game of Thrones.
15 February	Votes for Women.
20 March	Royal Air Force
17 April	Reintroduced Species.
11 May	The Old Vic.
5 June	Royal Academy of Arts.
26 June	Dad's Army.
31 July	Hampton Court Palace.
16 August	Captain Cook.
30 August	Owls.
13 September	The First World War – 1918.
16 October	To Be Announced.
1 November	Christmas.
14 November	The Prince of Wales' 70th Birthday.

In addition to the above there will be the new Machins and "country definitives to accommodate the increases in postal rates, a total face value of **£21.70**. In addition there will, no doubt, be two or three different sets of "Post & Go", and maybe a set for the new Royal Baby, plus anything else the Royal Mail can think of to exploit the Great Britain stamp collector. I dread to think of what that lot, plus Presentation Packs, First Day Covers, PHQ cards, "Smiler's Sheets" and whatever else Royal Mail can come up with.

*See you at our Annual Convention
in The Princess Royal Theatre in Port Talbot
on Saturday, 19 May.*

SOCIETY NIGHTS.

14 May	Monday	Swansea	Neil Prior, "President's Night".
24 May	Thursday	Haverfordwest	Junior Awards Night.
14 June	Thursday	Bridgend	Visit from Barry.
12 July	Thursday	Bridgend	Gareth Williams Entertains.

Rather a short list again, as I have only received a copy of a society Programme from **Bridgend, Carmarthen, Port Talbot, Haverfordwest, and Swansea.**

Note to secretaries.

Too late for this year, but if you wish to publicise your meetings for next year, Please send me a copy of your new Programme as soon as possible after it has been finalised. This is in addition to the copy sent to John Perry for inclusion on our website.

DRAGON FAIRS.

2 May	Wednesday	N. CORNELLY	Greenacre Motel 111 Heol Fach, CF33 4LH.
3 May	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.
6 June	Wednesday	N. CORNELLY	Greenacre Motel, 111 Heol Fach, CF33 4LH.
7 June	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF5 1JP.
4 July	Wednesday	N. CORNELLY	Greenacre Motel, 111 Heol Fach, CF33 4LH.
5 July	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham St, CF6 1JP.
1 August	Wednesday	N. CORNELLY	Greenacre Motel, 111 Heol Fach, CF33 4LH.
2 August	Thursday	CARDIFF	Methodist Church, Nottingham ST, CF5 1JP.

ADMISSION IS FREE to all Dragon Fairs, and for further information on these and other Dragon Fairs, contact **Trevor King** on **01522 857343**, or **07949 605594**, or email minsterstamps@ntlworld.com.

M J PROMOTIONS.

The next dates for these collector's fairs, held in **The City Hall, Cardiff**, from **10.00am to 4.00pm**, are:

Saturday 7 July, 13 October, and 8 December.

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

BIRMINGHAM STAMP AUCTIONS.

The only date I have at the present time for these auctions, held every two months at their premises at **2 Cantelupe Road, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR 9 7AN**, is **Tuesday 12 June**. Please note the change of auction day to a Tuesday. Live internet bidding can be made on the day, and for the 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 future auctions, contact **Barry Faulkner** on **01989 769529** or **07941 287692**.

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

Firstly, I must apologise for two spelling mistakes in my projected answer, Djibuti instead of Djibouti, and Somala in place of Somalia. As a result, no correct answers were received. Perhaps I'll revert to a normal crossword next Christmas!! The answers were :

Azrebaijan, Nauru, Uruguay, Yalta, Aruba, Aland, Djibuti, Iraq, Qatar, Rio Muni, Israel, Luxemburg, Grenadines, Sweden, Nyassa, Aden, Niue, Ecuador, Ryukyus, Stockbook, KUT, Thessaly, Yemen, Noreg, Greece, Egypt, Turks, Somala.

"AUTUMN DAY" STAMP & POSTCARD FAIR.

The NEWPORT club will, for the second consecutive year, be hosting the 40th Annual "Autumn Day" Stamp & Postcard Fair on SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER from 10.00am to 4.00pm in the GRAIG COMMUNITY CENTRE, CAERPHILLY ROAD, NEWPORT, NP10 8LG, the same venue as last year.

The venue is about 1 mile from Junction 28 of the M4, has free parking, and refreshments (excellent!) will be available throughout the day. As in previous years, there will be the usual mix of dealers and society tables to search through for a bargain, and items to enhance your collection.

No doubt the secretary of the Newport club, **Bev. Davies**, will be in contact in due course with further details.

SPRING AND SUMMER STAMP & POSTCARD FAIRS.

During the coming months there area number of Stamp & Postcard Fairs around, and those of you taking holiday, long weekends, or just somewhere to go for a day out, might be able to visit one or more of these events during your breaks. The main fairs to consider, in addition to our own **Annual Convention in Port Talbot on 19th May**, are:

WORPEX – NEW VENUE

SATURDAY 12th MAY 2018: 10.00am – 4.00pm

PERDISWELL LEISURE CENTRE, BILFORD ROAD, WORCESTER, WR3 8DX

FREE ADMISSION - PLENTY OF FREE PARKING – REFRESHMENTS ON SITE

TO GET THERE LOOK FOR THE YELLOW AND BLACK WORPEX SIGNS

FULL DIRECTIONS AT: <https://worpex.com/worpex2018/directions/> or set your SATNAV



"SWINPEX".

Another very popular one-day fair, to be held on SATURDAY, 9th June from 10.00am to 4.30pm at St. Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, SWINDON, SN3 3LR. There are usually around 46 dealers attending, with some 12 specialist societies holding morning or afternoon meetings. Light refreshments are available, and there is ample free parking, although admission is £1.00 by programme.

YORK.

Arguably the best Stamp & Postcard Fair outside London, this two-day event will be held on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st 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. Another feature are the National Competitions organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies. 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 south Wales collectors. I have not heard of the date as yet, but it is usually on the second weekend in August which, this year, should be on SATURDAY 11th August, at the Gordano Comprehensive School, St. Mary's Road, Portishead, BS20 7QR.

Don't Forget

*our Annual Convention Stamp & Postcard Fair
on Saturday, 19th May, in the Princess Royal Theatre,
Port Talbot, SA13 1PV, from 9.30am to 4.30pm.*