

# The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at [www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk)

2015/03

**Points of Contact – Editor** - Tony Smith email [tonysmith1938@sky.com](mailto:tonysmith1938@sky.com)  
**Secretary** - Sally Ellam [martin.sally101@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.sally101@btinternet.com)

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**WESSEX BULLETIN by email** – Requests to be included on the circulation list should go to our webmaster Jim Wigmore at [wessexweb@talktalk.net](mailto:wessexweb@talktalk.net) please include your full name, club and the email address your Bulletin is to be sent to.

**Please Note this is a totally secure process** – *Your email address will remain secure, each copy will reach you on a personal basis without disclosing your email address to the other recipients.*

**A number of our new readers have sent request for copies of earlier bulletins – PLEASE NOTE THESE CAN BE FOUND AND DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE – see the Publications Page.**

**WESSEX FEDERATION WEBSITE** at [www.wessexpf.org.uk](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk) – **OUR WEBSITE IS YOUR SHOP WINDOW** – Secretaries please ensure the details about your club are fresh and up to date contact our webmaster Jim Wigmore at [wessexweb@talktalk.net](mailto:wessexweb@talktalk.net) with your current club details and programme. **The federation can only publish that which you provide.**

## WHATS ON

**5th September 2015 – DAWLISH STAMP CLUBS ANNUAL EXHIBITION - PLUS the WESSEX FEDERATION 2015 Competition Entries** we would hope that all the competitors will be present to see how their entries fared, the awards will be made by Wessex Federation Chairman David Evans around 3.00 pm. The event will be held in The Strand Centre Dawlish opening at 10.00 am until 3.30 pm. There will be dealers present, refer to the poster included with this newsletter. Some great food will be available all day. Dawlish Clubs Autumn Auction Lots will be available for viewing.

This will be a great day out, with good company, good food and some great exhibits. The venue is easy to get to by public transport or car and a map is enclosed with the poster. **DO MAKE THE EFFORT – BOTH THE CLUB & THE FEDERATION NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

**WESSEX FEDERATION COMMITTEE MEETING DATES for 2015** - 26<sup>th</sup> September (to include the AGM) **all clubs are entitled to send two representatives.** All meetings at the URC Exeter starting at 11.00 am.

**2015 WESSEX COMPETITIONS** – have been in general been well supported with some very interesting new exhibits. This years entries will be displayed at Dawlish on 5<sup>th</sup> September and unlike last year they will be the actual exhibits and not colour copies. The big disappointment was that despite having been requested to introduce a class for first time exhibitors that had no rules to obey was simple just (4) sheets on any subject (*it could have been 4 sheets from your album*) we did not get a single entry. We have discussed this at the recent Federation Committee Meeting and for 2016 we are asking people not to enter a competition as such, but to submit something of interest to themselves and we will ask the attending public to select what interested them most.

**2016 WESSEX COMPETITIONS** – **we would like one of our clubs to run an exhibition and host the Wessex Federation 2016 Competition Entries- COULD IT BE YOU?**

This is a really good opportunity to advertise your club locally. Both Dawlish and Torquay have both done their bit. How about either North or East Devon?, if you need help all you need do is ask, the most important thing is a potential venue.

Its time to get back to clubs running annual exhibitions to promote the hobby, we are never going to grow our hobby or our memberships by hiding in the corner and not letting the population at large know that we exist

## ALL CLUB CALENDAR

Date	Meeting Description	Speaker	Club
05/08/2015	All Members 10 shts - Letter "D"		Plymouth Philatelic Society
11/08/2015	Taw & Torridge Entertain		Minehead & District Stamp Club
13/08/2015	Trading & The Story of Australia	Keith Attwood & Anne Lewis-Jones	Launston Stamp Club
17/08/2015	Wessex Roadshow	Wessex Speaker	Sidmouth & Honiton Stamp Club
02/09/2015	Concorde	Jim Parsons	Plymouth Philatelic Society
02/09/2015	Summer Acquisitions/Swaps		Exmouth Stamp Club
05/09/2015	<b>Annual Exhibition at the Strand Centre Dawlish</b> – Display of Wessex Federation 2015 Competition Material. <i>See also our October Auction Lots</i>		Dawlish Stamp Club
08/09/2015	Forerunner to Mandate Palestine	David Smith	Minehead & District Stamp Club
08/09/2015	Composers & South Africa	H. Capsey & R. Weaver	Axe Vale Stamp Club
09/09/2015	<b>“An Evening with Martin &amp; Sally”</b> – <i>Both are federation committee members, so what will they show?</i>	Martin & Sally Ellam	Dawlish Stamp Club
10/09/2015	Trading & A History of the Cornish Pasty	Tony Lucas & Jim Fisher with Diane Lawer	Launston Stamp Club
14/09/2015	Mystery Philately	David Watson	Bideford Stamp Club
16/09/2015	Switzerland	Garry Green	Exmouth Stamp Club
21/09/2015	Visit by Exmouth Club		Sidmouth & Honiton Stamp Club
21/09/2015	Visit to Sidmouth & Honiton Society		Exmouth Stamp Club
07/10/2015	Switzerland	Gary Green	Plymouth Philatelic Society
07/10/2015	Members 8 pages A-D		Exmouth Stamp Club
09/10/2015	AGM, Auction & Raffle		Launston Stamp Club
10/10/2015	Stamp Fair		Torquay & Teignbridge
12/10/2015	Flight Pioneers	Val Robbins	Bideford Stamp Club
13/10/2015	Members Evening & Postal History		Axe Vale Stamp Club
14/10/2015	<b>Auction Night</b> – <i>Lots need to be with us by end of June.. A live auction with viewing from 7.00pm to 7.30pm followed by the auction itself, postal bids will be allowed.</i>		Dawlish Stamp Club
19/10/2015	Auction		Sidmouth & Honiton Stamp Club
21/10/2015	Innovations	Graham Mark	Exmouth Stamp Club

**CLUB SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE** – if your meetings are not being shown above, it is because you have not sent details of your future meetings to the Wessex Webmaster, contact details above.

**Good programmes and good speakers do attract visitors.**

It is particularly important to tell us about **exhibitions** and **fairs**, plus **joint meetings** being held by clubs. If all this information is displayed on the federation website it does get noticed.

## AROUND THE CLUBS

**DAWLISH STAMP CLUB** the club has seen some excellent displays recently with Graham Rankin showing a superb exhibit of Russia plus lots of the associated history. This is a country that we see little of in general philatelically, perhaps the vast expanse of material is too much for most. Closer to home Alan Vaughan from Torquay Club gave one of the most fascinating looks at the British Stamps issued during the reign of King Edward 7<sup>th</sup>. This is without doubt one of the most comprehensive displays in the country given by a collector who has built his knowledge over a very long period of time.

**The club is sad to report the loss of Tom Wood who passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> July in Dawlish Hospital after a long illness. Tom along with his wife Yvonne was a jolly character and a stalwart member of Dawlish Club for many years, for much of this period he was the clubs Treasurer and continued as a Committee Member up to his death. He will be missed.**

**EXMOUTH CLUB** – How many readers picked up the superb idea that Exmouth had for its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April – An April Fool story told philatelically. We understand only one member was able to fool the entire meeting with his story – How's that for a bit of lateral thinking.

**BIDEFORD CLUB** – Had an interesting talk and discussion with Jim Wigmore Chairman of WETS showing how to put together a Thematic Story. Handouts were made available. The story started with how not to do things moving progressively to how to get the most from the story and presentation.

Because members were not interested in exhibiting, it had not occurred to them to look at the exhibition rules where it was possible to learn about structures of exhibits and the value of the structures, also about variation of page size and how these could be incorporated into a large display. The discussion generated was very interesting especially when it came to how such larger pages could be protected. *(see the article later in this issue).*

**LAUNCESTON STAMP CLUB** held their regular monthly meeting at the Royal British Legion Rooms on 14<sup>th</sup> May. The dealers for the evening were Jim Fisher and Tony Lucas, two well-known local Postcard & Stamp Dealers. After an hours brisk trading and the usual Club notices and business, Tony Lucas displayed enlargements of postcards of his home town of Saltash that had been taken at the turn of the century by W.O. Freeman and E. Clapp. These included a selection of cards showing Saltash Bridge and a number of snow scenes for which W.O. Freeman was renowned.

Jim Fisher followed with a display of views of Par and Luxulyan. Jim gave an interesting talk on the postcards by S. Dalby-Smith and an insight into the history of Par as a port. Initially it was for the shipping out of copper, and then other locally mined minerals including silver, tin, granite and, of course, china clay. The port is no longer used for the shipping of china clay. During his talk Jim commented on a couple of items of local interest, firstly that granite was ground down and used in the household cleaner "Vim" and secondly Tywardreath's claim to fame was its thirteen Ale Houses which were supported by miners working down the Fowey Consols Mine. Finally Jim produced a collection of postcards of "pasties", a great way to finish an evening of viewing postcards of local interest.

**The club meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June.** The dealer for the evening was Club member Rex Eccott and after an hours brisk trading and the usual Club notices and business, Secretary Evelyn Sandercock introduced the evening's speaker, Peter Hardy, who presented his display of Dutch philately "Netherlands - Pot Pourri".

Peter commenced his presentation by unfurling an enormous banner created for the 2002 Amphilex Exhibition. This needed his wife's help as the banner must have been all of 5 feet wide and some 20 feet in length. In reviewing of his extensive collection of early Dutch stamps Peter explained some of the unique features of the development of the country's postal system including the elaborate precautions taken to limit the re-use of the early stamps, the complexities of their perforation system, the "hokuspokus" of the POKO mechanical franking machine and finally the collectability of the "numbered" postmarks from the 260 or so local Post Offices spread throughout Holland.

On behalf of the Club, Chairman Jim Sowden, presented Peter with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked him for a most interesting and entertaining evening.

Visitors and prospective members are always welcome at our evening meetings which are now held at the Royal British Legion Rooms, Edymead House, 32, Westgate Street, Launceston on the second Thursday of each month. Parking is normally available at roof level in the nearby Multi-Storey Car Park. The Secretary, Evelyn Sandercock (01566 772846), will be pleased to provide further details of our activities and forthcoming events.

## **WHERE WERE YOUR CLUB REPORTS PLEASE**

### **FEED BACK FROM PAST STORIES**

**APPLEDORE NEWS ROOM** we reported the story of the ANR covers and asked the question did they still exist and did any Wessex Club Member perhaps have any of them in their collection?

*(We have been horrified to learn recently that these covers were deliberately burned along with other local philatelic material in what was described as a fit of spite.)*

One can only be appalled at such wanton destruction of such valuable items, if the story given to us is indeed true there is probably only one ANR cover left in existence.

Please, Please protect your own valuable philatelic material by identifying its existence in your will (a simple Codicil should suffice) identifying what you want protected and how it should be handled.

Recent affairs have identified the fallacy of keeping your will at home and not lodging it with a solicitor *(Wills left in the home have a nasty habit of getting lost thus ensuring that your intentions are not fulfilled.)*

**WHERE WERE THE MARINES** the story about this cover raised interest from an unexpected source, information was supplied that should have enabled the interested party to contact the vendor, we do hope a successful outcome occurred.

**IF YOU HAVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT STORIES PUBLISHED WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW**

## **LOOKING FOR SUITABLE EXHIBIT PROTECTORS.**

*(This article is in response to the various questions raised at Bideford about protectors for large pages)*

David Roseveare writes... We are adding more and more quality items to our collections thanks to eBay, Delcampe and the many auction houses who supply us with their lists. For those of us who like to present our work at exhibitions the requirement for good quality acid-free clear pockets offering protection for the pages is most important.

Some years ago, at a WETS event at Ashburton, the visiting speaker Brian Sole demonstrated how the visual impact of an exhibit could be greatly improved by the use of top quality exhibition protectors. At that time one of the few suppliers was Michael Jackson. He was a leading postal history dealer who attended stamp fairs in the region and who sold the "Permex" protectors. They were expensive but lasted a long time if handled properly. Luckily I purchased a large quantity from him. After Michael died, his stock was passed over to Vera Trinder of London and the personal touch was lost.

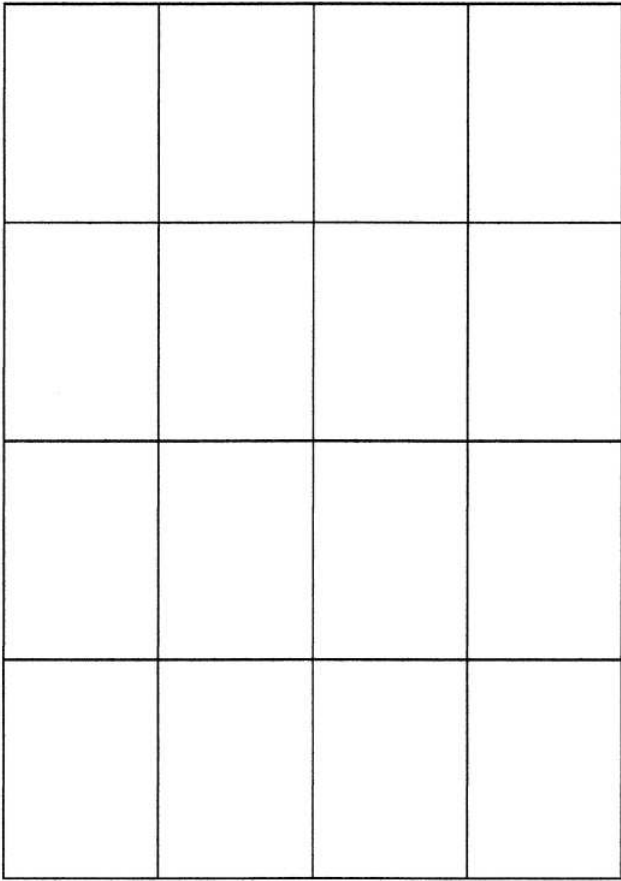
When I first started exhibiting my work I used the "Venus" protectors and they weren't too bad to start with. It all changed sometime later when I removed a display page from the sleeve and found a clear imprint of that page on the clear surface! Acid-free was a foreign word in those days! After dabbling with "Esselte" and some other brands, I ended up using the W.H. Smith range of A4 acid-free file pockets (in packs of 100 without the cardboard insert). My display page size is 284mm high and by trimming the top and removing the hinge portion of the pocket I found it suited my requirements. Smith's also sell a similar product, in a pack of 100 but with a cardboard insert but the pockets appear 'mottled' to the naked eye. Use a craft knife and straight edge on a wood or plastic board to trim the pockets, I don't use scissors. My WETS roadshow 16 page display was recently returned to me after a period of 12 months and, apart from a few blemishes, the protectors were still nice and clear, (many thanks to the presenters for looking after them).

For my international presentation "From Grandeur to Gravure" I replaced my "Permex" protectors with the Frank Godden "Clarendon" variety. They are excellent quality but expensive. When I was in Paris I purchased an original drawing for one of Pierre Bequet's Antarctic issues. It is roughly A3 format, double width. Unfortunately the "Clarendon" protector is too high (295mm) and it has been brought to my notice that it is difficult to fit them into frames. I resolved the problem, with some advice from Lesley Marley, by using the Ryman A3 Premium clear pocket, landscape opening and trimming the top and side as per the A4 'Smiths' pocket. I am very pleased with the finished product. They are made of 80 micron polypropylene material and a packet of 10 pockets cost less than £5. Although they aren't marked 'acid-free', I contacted the Ryman head office and they, in turn, contacted the manufacturer who confirmed that they are suitable for my use. They also do an A3 portrait opening type. The cost of 'Clarendon' double size protectors (pack of 25) costs over £60. I have discovered another company, Secol Archival Products of Norfolk. Their website address is [www.secol.co.uk](http://www.secol.co.uk) (by Royal Appointment) and they will send you a catalogue of their products on request. They can supply a packet of 50 protectors for roughly the same price as the 'Clarendon' product. Their postage rates are more expensive but the overall cost is still cheaper. There seems to be a vast price difference between similar sized products. Sometimes I wonder if we are being exploited for what we do.

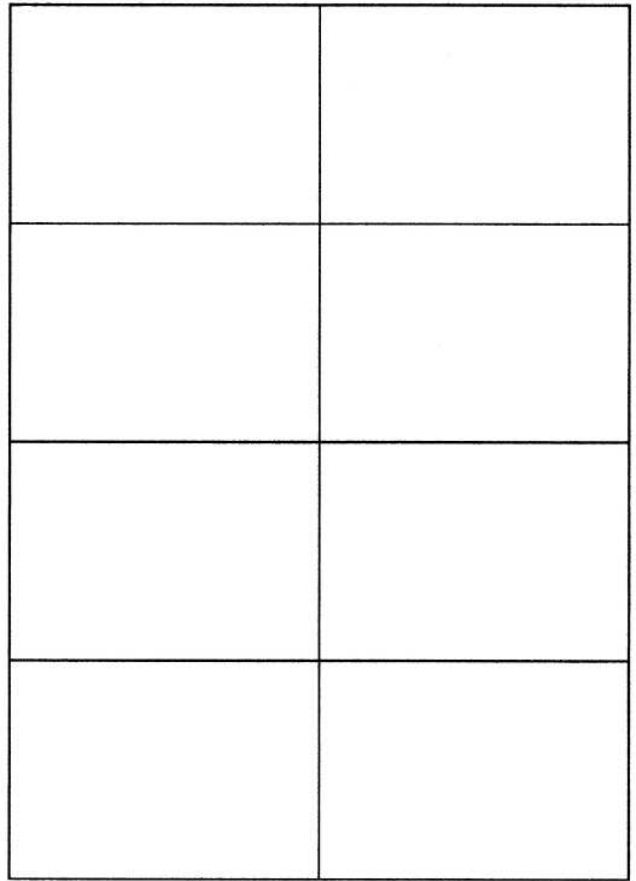
It took me a lot of time to work out what to use. Before you buy, hold the material up to the light and feel the texture. In my opinion, many products advertised as clear and of archive quality aren't very good. If you can find a sample do some checks of your own, put it on the window sill in the sun and check that it doesn't go brittle. What does it look like under a UV lamp? Does it easily crease? There are so many things to look for. You can save a lot of money if you have the time and patience.

*Please remember that this article is based on my own personal experiences. I hope that my observations will prove useful to some of you. If anyone else has come up with a better product, let's hear from you.*

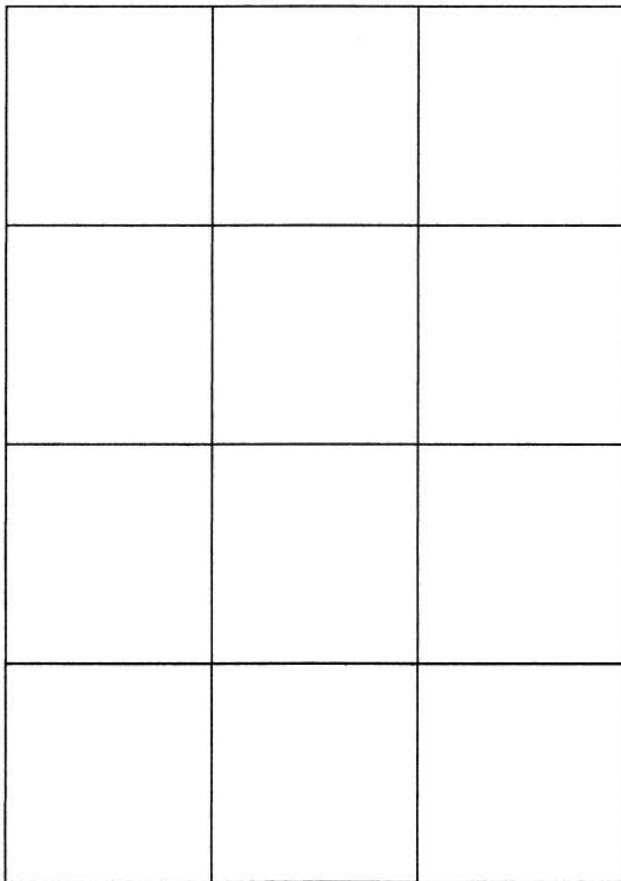
**FURTHER GUIDANCE** - Reference was also made to the information that could be gained from examining competition rules even when you are not interested in Competition. All club secretaries should be able to supply members with copies of Wessex Federation Competition Rules. They are also available on the Federation Website, look in particular at the marking structure, this is a good guideline as to the areas your display should cover, note in particular the weight given to each substructure. Page sizes and methods of use follow.



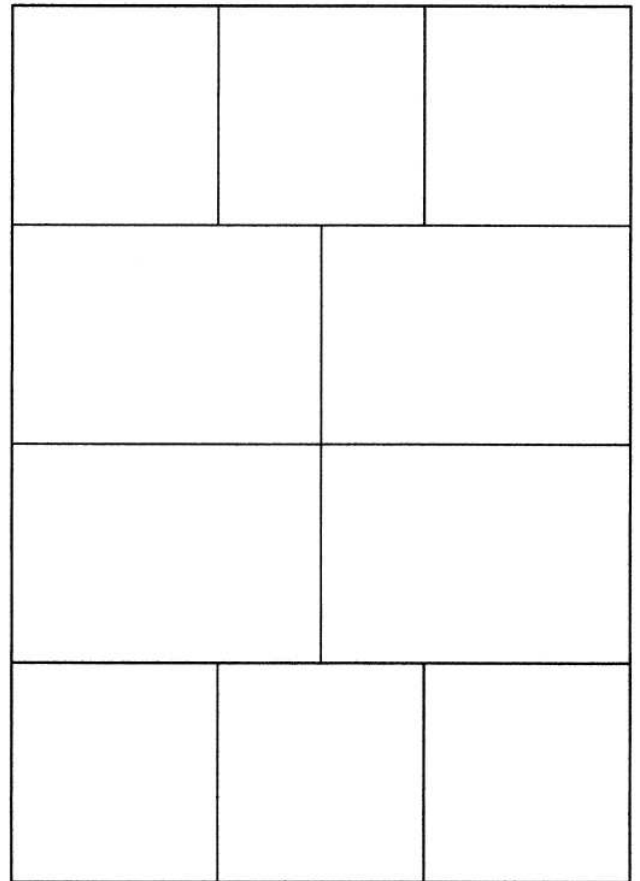
Standard frame of A4 sheets



Standard frame of A3 sheets



Standard Frame of 1 1/3 sheets.



Standard frame with mixed sheets.



The above shows how standard and larger pages can be incorporated into collections/displays giving the creator a great deal more scope to show larger items without having to turn them around or miss them out of the collection/display altogether.

Do have fun writing up and mounting your collections, this could be a vital task in defining what you have at the time when it comes to disposal and could be all the difference to the items obtaining the best realisation or not.

**Get out to club exhibitions and fairs, meet your fellow collectors, get to know what they are interested in and more importantly let them know what you are interested in. You will be surprised at what suddenly is offered to you as a direct result. GOOD HUNTING.**

### **OBITUARY - Martin Evans FRPS.**

**Wessex members will be sad to learn that Martin passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Martin was the driving force behind Exeter Philatelic Society and was for many years the Treasurer of the Wessex Federation. Most of us knew that Martin was ill and as a result had to drop out of his positions with both Exeter and Wessex although he was a keen support of Wessex up to the last. Martin had an excellent philatelic library and had a keen interest in the Postal History of Chatteris. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society and a keen supporter at both national and local level. Martin was a regular attendee at both society and federation events and had a good knowledge of other collectors interests often steering them to gems he had spotted. Martins knowledge of philately, his keen eye and ready smile will be missed by all who knew him. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and close associates.**

**WESSEX 2015 ROADSHOW** is still proceeding around the clubs where it is being well received. The idea of showing exhibition standard material and asking ordinary club members to judge has produced some interesting discussions in the clubs visited to date. Most ordinary club members have had an insight into how the judge's mind needs to work for the first time, they have all been very surprised at the actual results when they have been revealed at the end of the evening and an explanation given as to why.

Thank you once again to all who submitted material for the display, it has been much appreciated by all.

**2016 WETS ROADSHOW** is currently in the process of being put together and club secretaries/Meeting Secretaries should note that this display will commence as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Care will be taken in the booking process to ensure that when the display moves from one region to another sufficient time is allocated to actually move the display between presenters prior to its next appearance.

**ADVERTISING PAYS** – So we are told, we recently received a package addressed to the Wessex Philatelic Society, The Strand Centre Dawlish, this was re-addressed by the Strand Centre and forwarded to the Secretary of Dawlish Stamp Club.

Upon opening this package we revealed a large batch of Flyers for WORPEX 2016. At least we know the Wessex Federation website is visited and people take note of its content.

We are always ready to welcome visitors to our Federation Events and are always ready to reciprocate in advertising their events, however if they expect us to support them at least they should have the courtesy of supporting us. Do WORPEX in all honesty expect people from Devon to travel to Worcester?

**We will be interested to see if the people from WORPEX will be as keen to visit the Wessex Federations Exhibition at Dawlish as they hope we might be to visit theirs?**

**We live in hope. WATCH THIS SPACE**