

# The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

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

2016/02

**Points of Contact – Editor** - New Editor Required  
**Secretary** - Sally Ellam [martin.sally101@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.sally101@btinternet.com)

**IN THIS ISSUE** – Wessex Bulletin by eMail, Wessex Federation Website, New Editor Required, Wessex Federation 2016 Competitions, Who is our Chairman, Whats On, Around Our Clubs, Submissions to the Bulletin, A New Flag from Sweden.

**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.**

**NEW EDITOR REQUIRED** – We are sorry to have lost the services of Tony Smith due to ill health. Tony has been a stalwart of the Bulletin for many years providing many of the features on philatelic matters. We now need a new Editor, someone who can provide illustrated articles on philatelic matters that will be of interest to many of our readers. If you are willing to perform this task please contact Jim Wigmore at [JamesWigmore@talktalk.net](mailto:JamesWigmore@talktalk.net) or have a chat with him on 01626 864844

**WESSEX FEDERATION 2016 COMPETITIONS** – As we advised you all in the last news letter this is our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and it would be quite fantastic to see a record entry into this years competitions. We would especially like to see entries in those competitions which are suited to first time entrants. Copies of the various entry forms are attached to this issue of the Bulletin. If you need any help of guidance contact the Competition Secretary Gary Green his details are on the entry forms. If you are not sure about the Competition Rules see the Wessex Federation website and download a copy or contact Gary Green see above.

**WHO IS OUR CHAIRMAN?** – My name is David Evans. I have been your Chairman since 2015, I collected everything as a boy growing up in Buckfastleigh. I joined the Mid-Devon Club at its start in 1976 and have been its Secretary for over 30 years.

I started collecting GB especially Penny Reds, however when I got married I sold my collection at Richards Auctions at the Queens Hotel in Newton Abbot. After a holiday in Morocco in 1982 I started collecting GB Overprints which had been used there until 1957, this led me on to the French, German and Spanish stamps that had been used there.

Being a bit of a Magpie I also collect Postcards of Buckfastleigh, the postcards of W.R.Fray, I also cannot resist one of a Devon Post Office.

Rather too much, but I have learnt so much from fellow collectors and have so much fun at our club meetings, I value the friends I have made over the years.

I would like to thank publicly all at Wessex who have given me support since my appointment, especially Carol Turner, Jim Wigmore and Martin & Sally Ellam and I hope I have the pleasure of welcoming as many of you as possible at the Sidmouth show on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

I wish you all Happy Collecting and may you enjoy our hobby as much as I do.

## WHATS ON

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 – Sidmouth & Honiton Stamp Club** Stamp Fair and Exhibition featuring the **Wessex Federation 2016 (70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) Competition Entries** at St Francis Church Hall, Woolbrook, Sidmouth. The Exhibition will open at 10.00 am and run until 4.00 pm. There will be a dealer presence and also catering, so do make the effort to get to this event. We are assured there is parking available on site. This is the first time that Sidmouth has run such an exhibition PLEASE make this a successful event for them.

| Date              | Meeting Description  | Speaker                          | Club                          |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 26/05/2016        | AGM & Informal   |                                  | Torquay & Teignbridge         |
| 28/05/2016        | A Great Britain Stamps of Edward VII   | Alan Vaughan                     | Taw & Torridge Stamp Club     |
| 01/06/2016        | Annual General Meeting   |                                  | Plymouth Philatelic Society   |
| 01/06/2016        | Members 8 Sheets E-H   |                                  | Exmouth Stamp Club            |
| 07/06/2016        | Visit from South Hams Club   |                                  | Mid Devon Philatelic Society  |
| <b>08/06/2016</b> | <b>A Philatelic Miscellanea</b>  | <b>Tony Key</b>                  | Dawlish Stamp Club            |
| 09/06/2016        | Trading, Leipzig Trade Fair  | V & E Sandercock,<br>Gary Green  | Launston Stamp Club           |
| 11/06/2016        | Philip Milton Entertains   | Philip Milton                    | Taw & Torridge Stamp Club     |
| 13/06/2016        | Your most Treasured Items  | Members                          | Bideford Stamp Club           |
| 13/06/2016        | AGM & Ken Fox Competition  |                                  | Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club |
| 14/06/2016        | AGM & Summer Social  |                                  | Axe Vale Stamp Club           |
| 15/06/2016        | Informal Swaps & Selling   |                                  | Exmouth Stamp Club            |
| 29/06/2016        | AGM & Members Displays   |                                  | Liskeard Stamp Club           |
| 06/07/2016        | British Occupation of old Italian Colonies   | Mike Saunders                    | Exmouth Stamp Club            |
| 11/07/2016        | An Evening with Pat  | Pat Grimwood-Taylor              | Bideford Stamp Club           |
| 12/07/2016        | Club Auction   |                                  | Axe Vale Stamp Club           |
| <b>13/07/2016</b> | <b>Members (4 Sheets or £1.00) Members Sales/Swaps</b> <i>Your chance to show off items in your collection you love as well as do some buying &amp; selling.</i> |                                  | Dawlish Stamp Club            |
| 14/07/2016        | Trading, A Whales Tale   | Chris Hockaday,<br>Lesley Marley | Launston Stamp Club           |
| 20/07/2016        | AGM & Mini Auction   |                                  | Exmouth Stamp Club            |
| 09/08/2016        | Improving your Collection/ Making a Packet   | Peter Hardie                     | Axe Vale Stamp Club           |
| 11/08/2016        | Trading, Pictorial Postal Stationary & Orchids   | Keith Attwood,<br>Mark Humphrey  | Launston Stamp Club           |

## AROUND OUR CLUBS

### DAWLISH STAMP CLUB

**Jan 2016 The Chairman Entertains**, as could be expected members were shown some up to date material from the USA plus other items from his collection not previously shown including Penny Reds and material from Canada, New Zealand, Falkland Islands and other British Commonwealth countries. By the Chairmans request Alan Taylor displayed some lovely High Value stamps from Bermuda.

**February 2016 AGM** – In a pre-planned move, the current Chairman stood down and was replaced by Peter Halmkin, his previous position of Treasurer was filled by Yvonne Wood all other members were re-elected as standing. Members followed the AGM by showing some of their new acquisitions, this included Airmail Covers to Argentina with GV and GVI stamps, a selection of Post and Go labels, a

study of Kenya Uganda & Tanganyika, a study of the Refugee Stamps of Cyprus, and the GB issue of Bee's

**March 2016** – Started with a sale of material donated to the club from the estate of the late Michael Boulton. This was followed by displays from members including A display of postcards from Jersey, Guernsey and Isle of Man featuring island post offices, A display of the stamps of Sudan including Postage Dues and an associated recent Competition Entry, this was followed by a display about the Commonwealth Airmail Service to India as started in the 1930's.

**April 2016 – Dr David Smith – “Devon People and Places”** – What an amazing bit of research to identify people associated with Devon, illustrate them philatelically and show the places they were associated with also illustrated philatelically. A splendid educational evening.

**DAWLISH AUTUMN AUCTION** – Your list of lots for the Auction need to be with us by end June 2016 obtain a copy of our submission form from our website [www.wessexpf.org.uk/Dawlish](http://www.wessexpf.org.uk/Dawlish) We need both a good descriptions of the lots as well as a realistic reserve. In order to photograph the lots so they can be seen online we will need the lots along with your list.

## **MINEHEAD STAMP CLUB**

**March 2016** - The subject of the meeting was changed to "Liberation Philately". The unusual and fascinating topic centred around the stamps issued in Europe during 1944/5. The presenter explained that as each European country was either liberated from the German occupying forces or where a country had been part of the overthrown Axis and was occupied by the Western and/or Soviet Alliance, postal services and the associated stamps became an immediate priority. In order to speed up the issue of new stamps existing stamps including in many cases "Hitler Heads" were simply overprinted and not always by the new government. Former resistance groups were not above becoming involved for their own political ends. Every country was dealt with in turn and the new stamps or overprints were shown.

France, Czechoslovakia and the Balkan states were particularly chaotic. The situation was not made easier by the Soviets who were looking to permanently extend their area of influence. The overprinting of existing stamps also gave rein to a flood of forgeries which does not make collecting these stamps any easier. The presenter did a great job shining a light on this chaotic period of European history. On 17th May 2016 the Stamp Club will celebrate its 50th Year with a dinner. Former members who might like to attend should contact the Club at the April meeting. Anyone who would be prepared to loan old display invitations, menus from past events, associated memorabilia and ephemera for display at the dinner should drop these off at the April meeting.

**April 2016** - The meeting was devoted entirely to Great Britain postal history. The presenter showed a wide range of covers some of which had been part of competition entries and were of a very high standard. The display started with Scottish covers ranging from 1780 to 1824 showing postal rates and marks. Following these the covers illustrated were mainly English showing a wide variety of subjects in the period 1800 to 1900 including Railways, Shipping, House of Commons, PO Telegrams, anti-Corn Laws, begging letters, anti-piracy, newspaper postage, book post, OHMS, pamphlets, Military and Naval. In many cases the contents of the covers were available. These made fascinating reading. Parcel post and overseas packet rates were shown. The first half concluded with scarce penny blacks, reds and twopenny blues on cover.

The second half concentrated on the development of the illustrated envelope starting with the maligned 1840 "Mulready" covers, caricatures of these and forgeries. From these beginnings illustrated pictorial envelopes were developed. Subjects included advertising, Valentine's Day, Christmas day etc. The 1890 Postal Jubilee cards and cancellations thereon rounded off a most interesting evening.

**May 2016** - The meeting was devoted to a presentation on the stamps and postal history of Eritrea in the Second World War from the moment British and Commonwealth troops captured the capital, Asmara in 1941 and ejected the Italian forces from the country. One of the first tasks facing the occupying forces was to reopen the postal system and to supply stamps.

Part of the current issue of British stamps overprinted MEF (Middle East Forces) was introduced in 1942. These remained in circulation until 1948 when the overprint changed to BMA Eritrea (British Military Administration) and finally in 1950 BA Eritrea (British Administration). The occupation ended in 1952.

The first half of the presentation was devoted to the stamps of the period 1942 - 1952 and delighted those of the members who thrive on the study of printing and plating stamp issues. The presenter had gone to considerable lengths to illustrate this aspect. The second half dealt with the postal history of the occupation. This focused on covers and postcards sent from the 18 post offices reopened

in Eritrea by the British forces together with associated photographs and philatelic covers from the period. The quality of the material was excellent.

## **LAUNCESTON STAMP CLUB**

**January's 2016** - Stamp trading session arranged by Mike Tooley.

The meeting was then devoted to displays from individual Club members showing the diversity of interests arising from collecting stamps and postcards.

**John Henderson** – presented a display comprising four of the five sets issued since 1966 of GB commemoratives devoted to Association Football. Each set had been carefully mounted at the time by John and hand franked by the local Post Office.

**Des Kent**– an interesting collection of some 16 sheets of Commonwealth issues of KGVI overprints from Somali, Eritrea, Tripolitania, BMA, North Borneo, Aden, Kuwait, Falkland Islands and Sarawak.

**Viv Sandercock** – presented 12 sheets featuring the rare “Thimble” post marks used by the local Launceston Post Office during the period 1850 to 1915.

**John Harrison** – gave three separate displays. The first being on the “language” of postage stamps which was popular around the time of the WWI when families often varied the orientation of the ½ d stamp on their postcards to convey a “secret” message. Although this practice was frowned on by the Royal Mail, John found an illustrated postcard actually giving the code or meaning for each stamp position and his collection of these postcards is complete with the exception of the “inverted head” position which asked the recipient “Do you love me?” The second display was devoted to the highly collectable KGV Seahorses high value definitive stamps first issued in 1913. The collection comprises over 200 stamps from the original issue and the many subsequent reprints. To complete this display John included an interesting sheet of the 1939 KGVI high value definitive stamps that finally replaced the Seahorses issue. John completed his displays with a miscellaneous collection of interesting postal items including a large group of QEII coil stamp leaders, each leader having a unique Royal Mail serial number. As each coil would have contained 500 stamp. John believes they were possibly issued to business users.

**David Richards** – Dave, a Bristolian, presented a thematic collection of 20 well annotated sheets of Commemoratives featuring famous persons and well known places associated with Bristol including John Cabot, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Gt. Western Railway, S.S Gt. Britain, Clifton Suspension Bridge, B.A.C., Concorde, St. Mary Paul Church, Bristol F.C and Bristol County Cricket Ground.

**Mike Tooley** – showed a unique collection of First Day Covers comprising some 18 envelopes and sheets of Commemorative Issues from the late 1960's to 1973. Each item comprised a hand painted illustration of the Commemorative Issue featured on the stamps which were subsequently hand franked by the Post Office.

**February 2016** - trading session arranged by David Lethbridge from St. Austell.

The evening's speaker was Terry Mounce, who enlightened us with “Mounce's Miscellany of the National Savings Movement.Club” . Terry introduced his Impressive collection of information, documents and ephemera on the creation and development of the National Savings Movement. Terry acknowledged the research work of James Mackay in his article “Savings stamps through the years” published in The Stamp Magazine of April 1967. Even so, having pieced together much of the early history of National Savings Movement, his closing remarks included a request for information on the later issues. Terry explained his collection was still a work in progress as he too had found difficulty in locating relevant information on National Savings from the HM Treasury Departments and the public bodies responsible for its administration. Although the National Savings movement came into being in March 1916 Savings Stamps can be traced back to 1861 and the Post Office Savings Bank which issued Savings Stamp Slips and later in 1911 introduced gummed perforated stamps featuring King George V. The idea of savings caught the imagination of the public and was further boosted during the 1914 – 18 war when some 40,000 National Savings groups were active and the issue of Savings coupons and Savings certificates became popular including the infamous Swastika labels were on sale. These were soon replaced with more patriotic stamps featuring Britannia which lasted for some 23 years. The Savings Movement continued through the WWII and savings stamps bore the slogan “For Victory”. After the War the designs and values of the stamps changed and National Savings continued to grow. By 1950 there were some 185,000 local National Savings groups with a membership of about 7,000,000 and the amount of small savings invested was over £6,100 million. To commemorate the Coronation in 1953, stamps portraying Princess Anne and Prince Charles were issued. These proved so popular that £56 million worth were sold that year alone. Updated portraits of the Royal children remained on Savings stamps until 1957. With the growth of the movement in addition to the issue of Savings stamps and Savings certificates, gift tokens, book marks, posters and similar literature were



produced both nationally and locally. Within the local Savings Groups voluntary organisers were awarded enamel badges to which long service bars were added. Several examples of these badges were included in Terry's collection along with items such as money boxes etc. However, over the next two decades the sales of National Savings declined with the introduction of other savings and investment products and on 30 July 1976, the Government announced that the 580 civil servants who supported the otherwise voluntary movement would be withdrawn over two years. Without this support the Movement was unable to function and it was wound up in February 1978 and so over a hundred and fifty years of public service came to an end.

**March 2016** - Trading session arranged by the evening's speaker Graham Eva from Truro

Graham introduced his presentation with a brief history of the events leading up to the proclamation of independence of the State of Israel on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1948. He explained that in the chaos the first Israeli stamps were designed and printed in secrecy by underground organisations and, as the new country had yet to be officially named, these stamps were issued by the Hebrew Post. The first official Israeli stamps, *Doar Ivri*, were issued on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1948. During his presentation Graham pointed out some unique features of Israeli stamps including the emblematic tabs describing the stamp in Hebrew and the trilingual inscriptions in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The collection, which is virtually complete, spans the initial twenty-five years of the State of Israel and provides an interesting insight into its development.

**APRIL 2016** - The Club held their Spring Auction conducted by the Auctioneer for the evening, Rex Eccott, ably assisted by John Harrison and Mike Tooley showing and distributing the lots with Des Kent and Viv Sandercock recording the sales. The auction raised a total of £476.45 realising £47.34 + £3 for one lot sold for Club funds.

**MID-DEVON PHILATELIC SOCIETY** – This is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Club the inaugural meeting was at "Sevenacres" home of the late John Berry, its first Secretary was Stan Bartlett.

We have had many highlights over the years, our 1977 Exhibition attracted over 500 people.

Today we meet fortnightly between September & June one of our monthly meetings is on a Monday afternoon, which has proved popular.

The club operates an open door policy with all being welcome.

**WEST OF ENGLAND THEMATIC SOCIETY (WETS)** – Our 2016 Roadshow with its title "How to put together a Thematic Collection/Display" has proved to be very popular in the clubs where it has been show to date. The display encourages some very interesting discussions and lots of animation amongst its viewers. We were delighted to get a letter from Brixham Club after the display saying "*Big Thank You for your WETS presentation last Monday evening. I've never known the interest that the members showed and the questions they asked you and between themselves during the interval. I've had two phone calls asking who you were, how did we get hold of you and .....can he come again*".

**WETS Spring meeting was held at Buckfastleigh Town Hall** when **Carol Turner** gave a full presentation of her "**Man & Malaria**" this is a superb piece of research wonderfully illustrated with a very wide variety of philatelic material, all highly relevant to the aspect being illustrated, attendee's were given Lunch and the members then put up a series of displays on the subject of "Fire" and Carol was asked to give a critique on the material shown. It was agreed that the subject for the Autumn Meeting would be Earth and for the Spring meeting in 2017 the subject would be Power.

**If Reports about your club are not here it is because nobody submitted one.  
DO TRY AND VISIT OTHER CLUBS**

**SUBMISSIONS TO THE BULLETIN** - To submit Club Reports use the email address at the head of the Bulletin – Please keep reports short and to the point.

To submit articles use the email address as at the head of the Bulletin. Articles on philatelic matters are especially required. Tell us what you have discovered and pass on your knowledge. It would help if your articles are produced using type face Ariel

Any pictures that you would like to be included should be submitted in jpg format and suitably reduced in size prior to submission to keep the size of the final document as small as possible.

**THE BULLETIN NEEDS YOUR STORIES**

## A NEW FLAG FROM SWEDEN - By Rev. Ed Elsey



Sweden is set to become the first country to issue rainbow-flag emblazoned stamps next month, celebrating LGBT Pride. The country's national postal service, PostNord (*jointly-owned by the Swedish and Danish governments*) will start issuing the stamps on 4th May, aiming to "*emphasise the equal value of all people and the strength*

*represented by people's unique qualities and difference*". As a priest counsellor in the South West and working for nearly a decade with LGBT and liaison with local churches moving forward in this area, instead of resisting or staying latent in their efforts for equality and respect, I am delighted to see, as a keen philatelist, this great move forward.

Per Ljungberg, PostNord Sweden's Head of Communications, said: "To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time the Pride Flag has been reproduced on a stamp – which makes its particularly gratifying that people will now be able to send affectionate greetings with the Pride Flag stamp to all corners of the world."

He added: "Swedes really like to send and receive stamped letters and postcards. For many people, the choice of stamp is an extension of their written message – which will be made especially profound with the new Pride stamp."

The idea for the stamp came from artist Lisa Rydell, and was picked from hundreds of suggestions PostNord receives every year. Rydell was also commissioned to design the final stamp, which features six edge-to-edge stripes in red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet.

The original Pride Flag was created in 1978 during San Francisco Pride by activist and artist Gilbert Baker. Rather than the current six stripes, it had eight, with pink and turquoise – representing sexuality and magic/art. These days, the flag's stripes represent (in order) life, healing, sunlight, nature, art and spirituality.

The Swedish stamp celebrating the LGBT community is reminiscent of the US Postal Service's decision to honour assassinated gay rights activist Harvey Milk with a range of stamps in 2014.

**THIS  
SPACE  
COULD  
HAVE BEEN  
USED BY  
YOUR STORY**