

The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at www.wessexpf.org.uk

2014/04

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IN THIS ISSUE – Wessex Bulletin by email, Wessex Federation Website, ABPS website, Dates for your Diary, All Club Calendar, Around the Clubs, From our Archive, Do First Day Covers Have a Value, Roadshow's, Black Swan Fall Foul, Slogan Cancels

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

Our readership is still climbing to the extent we now need to distribute in **three** batches.

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 – **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 with your current club details and programme. **The federation can only publish that which you provide.**

It would be a real asset to clubs to report their meetings, especially the details of displays and have those reports included on their web pages.

The updating of our site hosting has taken place as reported in the last Bulletin. The site is now more responsive and files can now be uploaded to the host much quicker.

Some recent clean ups have taken place around the pages of our website keeping the site fresh and up to date as far as is possible.

The ABPS Website – during the recent clean up and review of our website we reviewed the ABPS website to ensure that the details being given with respect to Wessex Federation Clubs is both up to date and accurate. We were alarmed to see that many of our clubs are not being reported correctly, including some clubs that were members of ABPS not being shown at all.

All clubs are requested to visit the ABPS website (*use the link from our website*) check you are being shown and that your details are correct, e.g, the correct meeting place, days & times are correct, the Secretary name, telephone and email address is correct and that your federation website page (e.g. www.wessexpf.org.uk/Dawlish) is linked back to your club name, (*your correct web address is shown when you access the Wessex website and open the header page for your club*).

Changes can be requested by emailing ABPS using the facilities on their website. **DO CHECK THE CHANGES, THEY DO MAKE MISTAKES**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE 2013 WESSEX FEDERATION COMPETITIONS - will be hosted by Torquay & Teignbridge Club at St Michael Church Hall, Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton on **Saturday 5th October 2013**. Do come along to the exhibition, visit the dealers and tuck into the refreshments on offer. There is a lot of parking at the venue.

DAWLISH CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION will be held at The Strand Centre, The Strand, Dawlish on **Saturday 30th August** featuring, Displays, dealers, viewing of the Autumn Auction Lots and some superb refreshments. There is nearby parking or you could travel by train or bus, Stagecoach services B, 2 and 11 stop close by and it is a very short walk from the bus stops or the station to the event.

ALL CLUB CALENDAR

Date	Meeting Description	Speaker	Club
16/07/2014	AGM & Mini Auction		Exmouth Stamp Club
01/08/2014	WETS Roadshow	WETS Speaker	Exeter Philatelic Society
12/08/2014	Ascension Island Postal History Plus	Wilf Vevers	Minehead & District Stamp Club
14/08/2014	Trading/The Queens Elizabeth	Dave Sillem/John Henderson	Launceston Stamp Club
30/08/2014	Annual Exhib at Strand Centre Dawlish – inc. dealers, refreshments, Autumn Auction Lots viewing.		Dawlish Stamp Club
03/09/2014	Summer Acquisitions/Swaps		Exmouth Stamp Club
08/09/2014	France	Bob Campbell	Bideford Stamp Club
09/09/2014	Taunton S.C. Entertain		Minehead & District Stamp Club
10/09/2014	Channel Islands at War	Peter Gay	Dawlish Stamp Club
11/09/2014	AGM Auction & Raffle - Viewing from 6.30 pm.		Launceston Stamp Club
17/09/2014	Winter Olympics	Garry Green	Exmouth Stamp Club
01/10/2014	Members 8 pages M-P		Exmouth Stamp Club
08/10/2014	Autumn Auction		Dawlish Stamp Club
09/10/2014	CPF AGM & Quiz Final		Launceston Stamp Club
13/10/2014	Stamps on Stamps	Val Robbins	Bideford Stamp Club
15/10/2014	First Flights & Hamburgers	John Roe	Exmouth Stamp Club
20/10/2014	RPSL (SW)		Tiverton Motel
05/11/2014	Informal Swaps & Selling		Exmouth Stamp Club
10/11/2014	Club Auction		Bideford Stamp Club
13/11/2014	Bourse + Members (8 sheets or £1.00)		Dawlish Stamp Club
13/11/2014	Trading/Postcards "Seaside Memories"	Jim Fisher, Tony Lucas/Diane Lawer	Launceston Stamp Club
19/11/2014	Aspects of Austria	James Hooper	Exmouth Stamp Club
03/12/2014	Members Displays	Richard Wakeman & Colin Rogers	Exmouth Stamp Club
10/12/2014	Christmas Social		Dawlish Stamp Club
11/12/2014	Trading/Chairmans Evening	V & E Sandercock	Launceston Stamp Club
15/12/2014	Members & Guests Christmas Evening		Bideford Stamp Club
07/01/2015	Members 8 sheets Q-T		Exmouth Stamp Club
14/01/2015	Chairman's Evening		Dawlish Stamp Club
21/01/2015	Gems from Gerald	Gerald Smith	Exmouth Stamp Club
04/02/2015	Quiz/Swaps	Mike Donaghue	Exmouth Stamp Club
11/02/2015	Annual General Meeting & Members recent acquisitions		Dawlish Stamp Club
18/02/2015	Members Displays	Roger Smaldon & Barbara Rogers	Exmouth Stamp Club
04/03/2015	Club Auction		Exmouth Stamp Club
11/03/2015	Bourse + View the Spring Auction Lots		Dawlish Stamp Club
18/03/2015	Ionian Islands 1815 - Date	Richard Stroud	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 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

TORQUAY & TEIGNBRIDGE – 14th May 2014 - Mike Roberts “**PHILATELY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE**” (*The Pitiful & Wasted Life of a Stampaholic*) was shown at Torquay & Teignmouth Club, St Michaels Church Hall, Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton. This display was given to the Royal Philatelic Society London in December 2011. This meeting was specially convened to see this very fine display, as the title suggests, the speaker had a fine sense of humor to match the fine nature of the material being shown from around the world. Those who attended were enthralled with material from Sarawak, Pakistan, GB and much more, each accompanied by a story and lots of laughter. Those from Torquay & Dawlish clubs who promoted this special event are to be applauded, well done all.

THE 2013 WESSEX FEDERATION COMPETITIONS - will be hosted by Torquay & Teignbridge Club at St Michael Church Hall, Chudleigh Road, Kingsteignton on **Saturday 5th October 2013**. Do come along to the exhibition, visit the dealers and tuck into the refreshments on offer. There is a lot of parking at the venue

The **Ethel Cottey Trophy** is one of the trophies competed for by members of Torquay & Teignbridge on an annual basis. This fact is mentioned on Torquay Page of the Wessex website. One of Ethel's relatives Jane Lyons has picked up this fact while using the internet and sent the following message to the Wessex webmaster to pass on to the club

“Ethel Mary COTTEY was my great Aunt (my Mother's Aunt). I was searching the web last night for Cottey links for genealogy and saw the Ethel Cottey Cup. I know that Auntie at first would be a bit embarrassed but secretly VERY proud. She had as you are aware a great love of stamps and her duty as secretary before her eyes started deteriorating. I can remember as a teenager helping her with displays of her Israel stamps and as a child her getting together stamps that were brightly coloured with animals and butterflies for my first collection. Later I collected under her guidance Australian first issue which I sold to assist with my deposit on a house.

I met many members of the Torquay branch over the years at St Michael's Church

As I had no Grandma Auntie took on this role and we welcomed her stays in Stockport and ours to Torquay.

Thank you so much for making my day to see that she was appreciated.”

(Living proof that many people visit the WESSEX FEDERATION website. – Ed.)

EXETER & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY – The club has run into a few problems recently, the hall where they meet has been put on the market and the club have to leave by Sept 2014, two key members of the club have resigned their positions on the Committee with no other members prepared to take on the roles. The result of this is that at the recent AGM the club decided to close down. The last meeting of the club will be on 1st August to see the WETS Roadshow. The clubs funds and effects will be passed to the Wessex Federation to be held pending the re-forming of a society in Exeter in the future. We hope that Exeter members will join other local clubs e.g. Dawlish, Exmouth, Sidmouth & Honiton etc. With a little bit of drive and determination in a big city like Exeter, it should be possible to find a new home and generate a new club, if it can be done in North Devon very successfully it should be possible in Exeter.

DAWLISH STAMP CLUB

The club has been fortunate to host two excellent displays recently, the June meeting was Pete's Pieces when Pete Halmkin the club Treasurer showed some of his philatelic interests from Sarawak, Where in the World, and GB Stamps with corner letters PH. The July meeting was host to Wessex Federation Chairman Carol Turner showing North Borneo Part 2 containing a lot of superb and very unusual material from a country we know little about, what a joy.

The clubs **ANNUAL EXHIBITION** will be held at The Strand Centre, The Strand, Dawlish on Saturday 30th August featuring, Displays, dealers, viewing of the Autumn Auction Lots and some superb refreshments. There is nearby parking or you could travel by train or bus, Stagecoach services B, 2 and 11 stop close by and it is a very short walk from the bus stops or the station to the event.

The **AUTUMN AUCTION CATALOGUE** (Copy enclosed with this newsletter) is now available online and it will be possible to view the lots online shortly.

The Auction will be held at the Mayors Parlour starting at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 8th October, postal bids can be left during the Exhibition, sent by post or submitted by email.

LAUNCESTON STAMP CLUB

Launceston Stamp Club held their regular monthly meeting at the Eagle House Hotel on 10th July. The Club Secretary, Evelyn Sandercock, gave out Club notices introduced the evening's speaker, Anne Lewis Jones, who presented her display on Thematics.

Anne prefaced her display with a short introduction to the subject of Thematics. In her view, unless intended for Competition entry, there were no strict rules as to what were considered suitable subjects for a collection and the format was also a matter of personal choice and preference. In short "Anything Goes".

Anne explained her interest in Thematics started many years ago when her local Club held a "thematic competition". In alphabetical order each member was given a 'subject' for the competition. On receiving the letter 'M' which at first seemed to have somewhat limited philatelic subject matter Anne nominated 'Mosaics' as her subject choice and this became her entry into the fascinating world of Thematics.

This was the first of seven individual thematic collections of stamps, postcards and ephemera forming the evening's display. Each collection is unique as each subject has been selected, compiled and researched by Anne and represents her wide range of historical and cultural interests.

The collections displayed and commented on were briefly as follows:

Mosaics – exhibits featuring mosaics from Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Brazil, GB, Czechoslovakia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, U.N.O and the Vatican.

Christmas – worldwide collection of stamps and postcards illustrating the Nativity with Gospel stories, texts from the New Testament, publications from the Guild of St. Gabriel and Christmas Carols.

History of Spain – this collection of stamps and postcards etc. is based on the works of Diego Velazquez (1599 -1660) featuring portraits of King Philip IV and the Spanish Royal family.

History of Spain – a collection of stamps depicting the regional costumes of Spain and 16 hand coloured sketches of costumes together with a set of postcards showing regional costumes.

Coronation of King George VI – exhibits of stamps and first day covers of the commemorative issue of 12th May 1937 including a wide ranging collection of contemporary postcards and pictures of the Coronation regalia and royal family photographs.

History of Textiles - a collection of early postcards and stamps covering the various stages of production of woollen textiles including with sheep farming, shearing, spinning and weaving. This collection is a current work in progress project.

History of Balloons – another work in progress collection covering the story of the development of Hot Air Ballooning launched by the Montgolfier Brothers in 1782 to the present day. Ballooning developed in the 19th Century and quickly spread across Europe where it became the fashionable craze of the time. The collection features stamps and postcards from around the world depicting balloons in flight which have captured the imagination as the forerunner to modern aviation.

On behalf of the Club, Chairman Jim Sowden, presented Anne Lewis Jones with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked her for a most interesting evening.

Visitors and prospective members are always welcome at our evening meetings which are held at the Eagle House Hotel on the second Thursday of each month. The Secretary, Evelyn Sandercock (01566 772846), will be pleased to provide further details of our activities and forthcoming events.

(The situation with Exeter and the loss of home came to mind when it was noted in the Western Morning News that the Eagle Hotel in Launceston was up for sale. I feel sure that there is enough drive in Launceston Club to overcome such obstacles. – Ed)

EXMOUTH STAMP CLUB – at their recent AGM there were some changes of Club Officers brought about by the resignation of their Secretary Ed Elsey who appears to have moved abroad. The Club Officers are stated as being Life President – Barry Hampton, Chairman Barbara Rogers, Vice Chairman/Librarian – Mike Donaghue, Packet Secretary/Auctioneer – Colin W. Rogers, Treasurer – Gerald Smith, Joint Secretaries – Jeff Gregory & Roger Smaldon. The club will continue to meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from September to July in The Meeting Room, Bastin Hall, Elm Grove Exmouth EX8 1DJ

FROM OUR ARCHIVE

(the following item is drawn from Wessex Bulletin No.9 of May 1983)

TORQUAY TABLEAU - Had the six Torquay citizens who contributed to the first volume of "The Stamp Collector's Magazine" in 1863 got together & formed a club Torquay would probably have been the scene of the oldest club in the country.

However, it was not until 1921 that five ladies & gentlemen met & launched the Torquay Philatelic Society with Mr. David Field as President, In 1930 the club was host to the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at the Palace Hotel, Torquay. When later the Society had a bad patch it was founder member S A R Oliver and Ethel M Cottey who revived it & prevented its demise. The new secretary was John Hepburn, well known to many Wessex members, while the treasurer was Ethel Cottey, who held that office for 30 years. Ron Ashmore was elected secretary in succession to John Hepburn & he successfully steered the Society on its course for some 10 years until becoming treasurer last year when Colin Hughes took over as secretary.

Many prominent philatelists have passed through the Society, including Mr Hadfield-Craven, whose name is perpetuated by the Wessex Federation Trophy, while visitors have included Messrs Robson-Lowe, C Harmer, Frank Staff and George South. The Society's Golden Jubilee was celebrated in 1971. Ethel Cottey with 43 years membership, 30 of them as treasurer, still a member & presenter last year of a trophy for Thematic competition, demonstrates that devotion & dedication to philately & her society which is not only an inspiration to all of us, but also shows that spirit which makes our hobby something special. TORQUAY will be hosts for the THOMPSON CUP entries on 24th September 1983 at OLDWAY MANSION, PAIGNTON.

(There are a number of notable names that appear in the above story with Ethel Cottey having already been mentioned in the report from the current Torquay Club. The striking thing is how important dedication and enthusiasm has been in building a club and keeping it together – this is still very true today – Ed)

(We will be finding more stories from the archive for the next issue and we start to look at the articles written by the Devon Society of Postal Historians as published in their news letters.)

DO FIRST DAY COVERS HAVE A VALUE? By Jim Wigmore

If you ask the average collector the answer is very much NO. To the collector of First Day Covers (FDC's) the answer is very much YES. As is often the case the truth is very much in the eye of the beholder.

Thematic Collectors along with collectors of cancellations used by the Post Office may well along with collectors of FDC's find such covers to be gems in their collections.

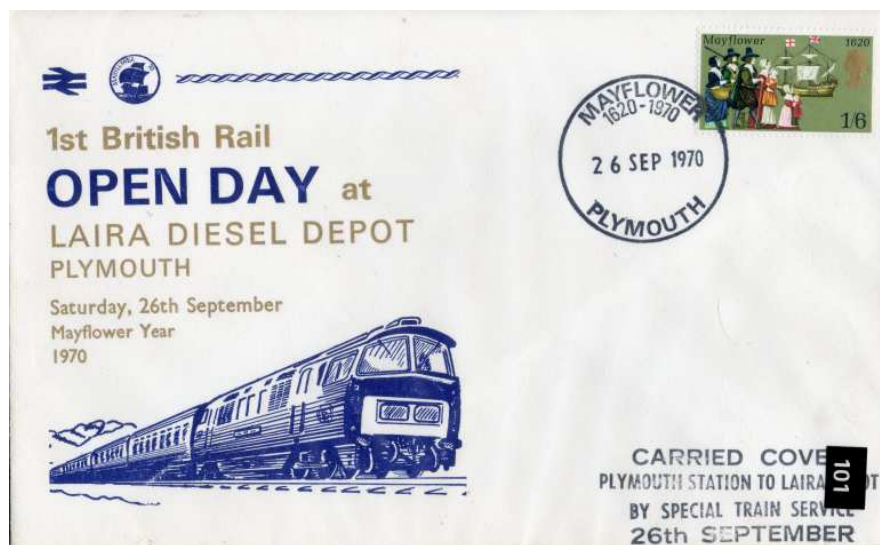
Since FDC's get a bad press in general and suffer badly in auctions. Perhaps we need to look beyond the obvious mentioned uses.

For collectors of used GB stamps it is has always been the case that obtaining what Stanley Gibbons would describe as fine used stamps is almost impossible as the Post Office uses obliteration cancels such a multiple wavy lines or rubber hand stamps that totally obliterate the stamp. Other countries seem to be a lot better at controlling the point at where the cancel is applied, not so the British Post Office. This fact means that if you have a collection of used GB up to the present date it will never do very well in auction as the stamps in general cannot be described as fine used and will be marked down accordingly.

So lets take a good look at those FDC's and notice one very important fact, all the stamps are cancelled like that in the illustrated cover above, with a cancel applied to clip but not obliterate the stamps.

With some careful purchasing of FDC's you could obtain full sets of modern GB stamps, by carefully soaking them off the covers you will have a collection of fine used stamps for your collection.

FDC's would appear to have a value that many collectors have overlooked? Perhaps its time to look at those FDC's in the dealers boxes or in Auction Catalogues with a new set of eyes and thoughts and start to catch up with those collectors who have already wisely going down this route. There are currently some real bargains available.



ROADSHOWS - The current WETS Roadshow with its theme of “Aspiration & Achievement” is being very well received by clubs. All seem to enjoy seeing how thematic ideas start, seeing where they fail and having explained how the ideas can be recovered and built upon to get a full and entertaining story.

Club Secretaries and Meeting Secretaries should note that the confirmation of bookings and the booking of future Wessex and WETS Roadshow’s should be made through Sally Ellam who’s contact details are at the head of this newsletter.

BLACK SWAN FALLS FOUL

Letters from local councils do not always bring good news and the cover is often roughly opened and cast to one side.

Here is an example of two cancellations from the same authority, one correctly franked with the correct 2nd Class Rate and the other incorrectly franked for 1st Class.

The second item has fallen foul of the Post Office Revenue Protection Branch have spotted error and downgraded it and marked it accordingly.

It is very easy for these little gems to slip in through our letter boxes and pass unnoticed. We need to be as diligent as the Post Office.



SLOGAN CANCELS



For those interested in cancellations, there is a vast array of material available. Perhaps these slogans would suit the aero philately collector or the thematic collector with a theme of Aircraft, aerospace or the like.

Pride of Britain must be true for aero engine manufacturer Rolls Royce who supply engines for a large part of the worlds aircraft.

The Rolls Royce slogans come from two different Pitney Bowes Taxograph machines, there is only a few months difference in the dates which begs the question, did one replace the other or were they both in use simultaneously in different parts of the business?

WE NEED YOUR CLUB REPORTS & PHILATELIC STORIES FOR FUTURE ISSUES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE YOUR INPUT MATTERS