

The WESSEX BULLETIN

Journal of the Wessex Philatelic Federation

Visit our website at www.wessexpf.org.uk

2016/01

Points of Contact – Editor - Tony Smith email tonysmith1938@sky.com
Secretary - Sally Ellam martin.sally101@btinternet.com

IN THIS ISSUE – Wessex Bulletin by eMail, Wessex Federation Website, Happy 70th Birthday, Whats On, Around our Clubs, Obituary Norman Claydon, Happy New Year to all our readers

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.

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.**

HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY – How many Wessex Federation Club Members realise that the Federation is 70 years of age this year.

The Federation dates from a meeting held at the Rainbow Cafe in Exmouth on 16th November 1946. The six clubs present (Exmouth, Exeter, Pinhoe, Plymouth, Torquay and Bath) voted unanimously to form an association of philatelic societies in the South-West of England - the first such association to be founded in Great Britain.

The name “**Wessex Philatelic Association**” was decided upon, as it covered the area of “**Wessex**” as defined by Thomas Hardy. The original members were quickly joined by Ilfracombe, Weston-super-Mare, Falmouth, Liskeard, and Sidmouth, and further clubs from Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, and Dorset were added later.

The first Chairman was Mr. Hadfield Craven, a stamp dealer from Torquay, and the first Secretary F. H. (Tommy) Thompson of Exmouth, a Yorkshireman who had spent his life in the Bradford wool trade. Both are names associated with current Wessex competition trophies. The first Wessex annual meeting and exhibition was held at Torquay in June 1947 corresponding with the Jubilee of the Torquay Society.

At this time two exhibitions were held each year, hosted by member clubs in rotation; the Main Exhibition, at which individual competition entries in four adult and three junior categories were displayed, and the Thompson Cup Exhibition for the entries in the interclub competition.

The difficulties of covering such a wide area meant that in the 1970's two further federations were formed, Cornwall Federation and Somerset and Dorset Federation, at this time the **Wessex Philatelic Association** became the **Wessex Philatelic Federation**.

Some clubs became members of more than one federation with the Wessex Federation covering mostly the Devon area. The three Federations came together in a biennial exhibition **SWIPEX**.

Members will recognise the names of both Hadfield Craven and Thompson as they are carried by Trophies still being competed for on an annual basis by members of Wessex Federation Clubs.

Sadly today there are no survivors of the people responsible for starting the Federation and no photographs to record the event, we only have a copy of the minutes from which the above information was put together.

Wessex Philatelic Federation 50th Anniversary was far better recorded. The federation minutes show that a number of clubs arranged to make displays following the suggestion by Lesley Hampton of Exmouth Club that the 50th Anniversary Event should be held in Exmouth the town where the inaugural meeting took place. Following this a sub-committee was set up to run the event and feed information

back to the clubs. The sub-committee consisted of Jim Wigmore (Federation Chairman), Pearl Buxton (Federation Secretary), Ron Elliott (Federation Treasurer) and Leslie Hampton (Exmouth Club Representative). It was realised that the federation would not be able to fund such an event from its own funds. It was agreed that The Pavillions at Exmouth would be an ideal venue, they would produce a commemorative post card to be posted at Exmouth, it should represent the clubs taking part, a copy of which would go to each attendee, a Commemorative Cake should be produced, to be cut on the day with all attendees given a piece.

In order to fund the event attending clubs were asked to make donations, clubs donating were Bideford, Mid-Devon, Exeter, Liskeard, Torquay, Taw & Torridge, Exmouth Dawlish along with Sums given by Wessex Bulletin, Bideford Club Auction, and individual donations to the total sum of £251.50. When the costs for the day were subtracted a small profit of £22.09 was passed to the federation account.

The sub committee in conjunction with the various clubs allocated times for displays, speakers only being allowed to talk for 5 -10 min's.

The 50th Anniversary Meeting actually took place on 30th November 1996 between 10.30 am until 4.30 pm. Many of the clubs organised mini-buses or coaches to bring members a wives/friends with displays being given by Bideford, Dawlish, Exeter, Exmouth, Liskeard, Mid-Devon, Tiverton, Torquay and WETS.

The Commemorative Cake was in the form of a letter with a 50p Machin Stamp, see the picture of Jim Wigmore (Chairman) and the section of cake with the stamp on as reproduced in the Exmouth Express & Echo.



Exmouth Club had made arrangements for the commemorative post cards to handed in to Exmouth Post Office hand cancelled with the Exmouth H/Stamp and dispatched to the various addressee's, see the copy reproduced. It was a splendid day much talked about at the time and still remembered fondly by those who attended.

If any of our readers know anything further about the foundation meeting or have any pictures from this or subsequent events or any personal memories we would love to hear from you and we will be happy to print your stories and add them to the overall story of the Federation and how it has evolved since its original conception.

WHATS ON

3rd September 2016 – Sidmouth & Honiton Stamp Club Stamp Fair and Exhibition featuring the Wessex Federation 2016 Competition Entries at St Francis Church Hall, Woolbrook, Sidmouth.

Date	Meeting Description	Speaker	Club
07/01/2016	Auction - Up to 15 lots per member		Plymouth Philatelic Society
07/01/2016	Victory is only the Beginning	Norman Ling	Exmouth Stamp Club
07/01/2016	Club Members Entertain		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
11/01/2016	Yugoslavia	Dave Pratley	Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club
11/01/2016	Members - Thematic		Mid Devon Philatelic Society
12/01/2016	Members Evening "Other things I Collect"		Axe Vale Stamp Club
13/01/2016	Chairman's Evening – <i>Our Chairman may show something or he may invite some of you to show something.</i>		Dawlish Stamp Club
14/01/2016	Wives & Friends - One sht Comp, & Fun Auction		Torquay & Teignbridge
14/01/2016	Trading, Members Displays	Rex Eccott	Launston Stamp Club
20/01/2016	Club Speakers	Gerald Smith Chris Norris	Exmouth Stamp Club
21/01/2016	White Rajahs of Sarawk	Mike Roberts	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
25/01/2016	King George VI & Queen Mother	Dave Cairns	Mid Devon Philatelic Society
27/01/2016	Members Postcards		Liskeard Stamp Club
28/01/2016	Australian Airmails	Terry Stevens	Torquay & Teignbridge
03/02/2016	Falkland Islands	D. Swan	Plymouth Philatelic Society
03/02/2016	Quiz/Swaps	Mike Donaghue	Exmouth Stamp Club
04/02/2016	WETS Roadshow	WETS Speaker	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
08/02/2016	An Evening with Martin & Sally	Martin & Sally Ellam	Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club
08/02/2016	Odds & Sods	Alison Burden	Mid Devon Philatelic Society
09/02/2016	Members Evening Letter "E"		Axe Vale Stamp Club
10/02/2016	AGM & "Members New Acquisitions" - <i>An opportunity to finish a serious start with some fun, so keep those new acquisitions handy.</i>		Dawlish Stamp Club
11/02/2016	Competition Night, Ethel Cottey and John Heburn Cups		Torquay & Teignbridge
11/02/2016	Trading, Mounces Miscellany	David Lethbridge, Terry Mounce	Launston Stamp Club
17/02/2016	Club Speakers	Roger Smaldon & Barbara Rogers	Exmouth Stamp Club
18/02/2016	Members Evening plus Bring & Buy		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
22/02/2016	Solomon Islands & Misc.	Hillary Broughton	Mid Devon Philatelic Society
24/02/2016	Martins Miscellany	Martin Ellam	Liskeard Stamp Club
25/02/2016	Gary Entertains	Gary Green	Torquay & Teignbridge
02/03/2016	POW's & Internee's in UK in WW1	Graham Mark	Plymouth Philatelic Society
02/03/2016	Club Auction		Exmouth Stamp Club
03/03/2016	Eight Sht Comp plus Bring & Buy		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
08/03/2016	Club Auction		Axe Vale Stamp Club
08/03/2016	Annual Auction		Mid Devon Philatelic Society
09/03/2016	TBA		Dawlish Stamp Club

10/03/2016	Silent Auction		Torquay & Teignbridge
10/03/2016	Trading, Israel	David Lethbridge	Launston Stamp Club
14/03/2016	Visit by Torquay Club & Fun Auction		Brixham & Paignton Stamp Club
14/03/2016	Visit to Brixham Club		Torquay & Teignbridge
16/03/2016	Visit by Sidmouth & Honiton SC		Exmouth Stamp Club
17/03/2016	An Evening with Martin & Sally	Martin & Sally Ellam	Taw & Torridge Stamp Club
22/03/2016	An afternoon with Bob	Bob Wheeler	Mid Devon Philatelic Society
24/03/2016	Dealers Evening	Mark Grimsley	Torquay & Teignbridge
30/03/2016	Medals, Conflicts and Communication	David Lethbridge	Liskeard Stamp Club
31/03/2016	Club Auction		Taw & Torridge Stamp Club

AROUND OUR CLUBS

Liskeard Stamp Club Report,

30th September 2015 Richard Wiggins entertained us with his display "1492 And All That"; Richard gave a very interesting display and his knowledge of the subjects was amazing.

28th October 2015 Peter Epps gave us a comprehensive display of "Ireland" it was most interesting to have one of our own members give a display on a subject not often seen.

25th November 2015 The "Wessex Road Show" was presented by Martin Ellam, a fantastic display of material submitted by members from many federation clubs and as always it was very entertaining.

14th December 2015 WE held our Christmas Meal fourteen were booked but only thirteen were able to attend, we enjoyed the company of fellow members and partners, some past member were also invited. The event was much enjoyed by all.

16th December 2015 Last month a lady gave the club a stock book of stamps which we sold this month in a silent auction raising £9 for club funds. We ran a one sheet competition and had twenty six entries being won by David Richards and Jim Parsons jointly. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of entries. This was followed by mince pies cream and Christmas cake supplied by Janet Parsons and Sally and Martin Ellam. Members followed this by varied displays made up of a 160 pages in total a marvellous end to our year.

Launceston Stamp Club

September 2015 meeting was devoted to Postcards. The evening dealers Jim Fisher and Tony Lucas offered a wide range of regional and local postcards together with a selection of stamps and GB First Day covers.

Diane Lawer, from the Plymouth Postcard Collectors Club gave a history of the Cornish Pasty as recorded on Picture Postcards from the early 1900's to the present day. Diane's collection of postcards was displayed as a Power Point presentation enabling her to show each postcard and provide a running commentary.

October 2015 Meeting - AGM and Autumn Auction, starting with the Club's AGM.

The Auction of 262 lots followed, with Rex Eccott acting as Auctioneer, ably assisted by Viv Sandercock and Mike Tooley showing and distributing the lots with David Richards and Des Kent recording the sales. A total of £561.95 was realised, with £60 being paid for a Northern Nigerian collection.

November 2015 meeting - The trader for the evening was Rex Eccott. The Secretary welcomed the twenty-five members present and introduced our guests from the Taw & Torridge Club who would be providing the evening's entertainment.

Peter Harris introduced his team members and their specialities; Beryl Lloyd - Gibraltar and Malta; Lee Styles -Czechoslovakia; Andrew Austin – National Parks. Peter explained that Andrew was unable to be present. Finally, Peter's own presentation of his personal collection of photographic reminisces and their look-alike stamp issues.

December 2015 meeting - The trading session of stamps and covers was by Viv and Evelyn Sandercock. The evening's Speaker was Club member Roger Winn who introduced his collection of postcards from WW1. The evening's display was nearly 70 postcards from the period up to 1916 and included examples of ships of the line and tramp steamers, stylised coloured photo-prints of flowers and simple home scenes, family messages to and from home and iconic "On Active Service" postcards from soldiers at the Front. Roger pointed out that families (and sweethearts) would often use word codes to conceal personal messages in their correspondence.

Dawlish Stamp Club

October 2015 – The clubs Auction Night went very well with some very lively bidding in the room and some significant post auction sales. There were some very happy vendors many of who donated their few unsold lots to the club as an additional thank you for the work carried out in selling their lots.

November 2015 – Members brought along a number of displays and this was followed by some very lively bring and buy transactions that also included most of the donated lots from the previous auction, the sale of which helped the clubs funds.

December 2015 – This meeting was very well attended with member's partners also attending to enjoy our annual Christmas Party. Chairman David Chattock had once again thought up a fiendish quiz to tax everyone's brains, despite which everyone had a very jolly time.

All the federation clubs welcome visitors to their meetings, details of which can be seen above. Visit the Wessex Federation website www.wessexpf.org.uk to establish club meeting places and times of meetings.

If Reports about your club are not here its because nobody submitted one.

OBITUARY – NORMAN CLAYDON passed away on October 2015 after a long illness. Both Norman and Mary Claydon were major forces in the Wessex Federation and in SWIPEX the joint body for Wessex, Cornwall Federation and Somerset & Dorset Federation along with WETS. Norman had a lifelong Philatelic and Railway interest along with an amazing knowledge in both areas. For many years Norman was the Publications Manager for the Railway Correspondence & Travel Society (RCTS). As far as philately is concerned he hoovered up anything that came his way and built collections of Dutch East India, Sarawak, Belgian Railways, Scottish Islands and lots of humorous thematic items. He also had according to Mary a garage full of material and Mary had previously told him "dont you dare die and leave me to clear up this lot". As many who knew him will know, Norman had a very fertile mind and a very dry sense of humour. We will all miss him greatly and offer Mary our deepest sympathy and support.



HAPPY NEW YEAR To ALL OUR READERS

It is time to start thinking about your 2016 Competition Entries for this our 70th Year. It is also a celebration year for Stanley Gibbons, it got a mention on local TV and members of Plymouth Club were featured as it was Plymouth were Gibbons first set up business. There are some interesting looking stamps being issued by the British Post Office.

All this philatelic recognition suggests that local clubs should be trying to get publicity in their local newspapers and working hard to boost their memberships, it can be done, Taw & Torridge along with both Sidmouth and Dawlish Clubs manage to get some good press coverage. Feeding up to date information our webmaster and keeping your society web pages fresh and interesting looking is another key factor in drawing in new members.

LETS MAKE 2016 A DRIVE TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF PHILATELY