

Newport & Gwent Philately



News of Members

Members will be saddened to read that Gwen Hussey passed away in the Royal Gwent Hospital in October 2013 at the age of 87.



Gwen had been an active member of the club since 1980, having served as chair and holding the club library for many years. Until recent years, when ill health took over, Gwen had been a regular on the visits made to other clubs and had also acted as an accredited judge. Many members will also remember the excellent spreads that Gwen produced when hosting summer meetings at her house in Malpas.

Alan Hayter, a previous member, passed away on 25 May 2013.

Ed Evan Display

On 27 August 2013, Ed and Gladys Evan visited us from St Petersburg, USA, as guests of Dennis Martin.



Ed started his display with some varieties of Canal Zone overprints, which gave us a chance to try out our new projector. The effect of seeing a stamp blown up to four feet was stunning, allowing all members to see the full detail. Ed then followed this with a highly entertaining interactive talk on papers used in stamp production.

Other Recent meetings

The final meeting in May before the AGM was a visit by members from Hereford. Frank Bennett, Antony Mills and Janet & Nicholas Nelson provided the entertainment. June saw the re-arranged "Members' Interests" evening at the Civic Centre. Roy Bentley and Alistair MacKinnon hosted summer meetings at their houses.

The new season kicked off with the usual new acquisitions evening, followed by the annual visit from the Cardiff club when Phil Marsden and Roger Gilbert provided displays and Graham Bean presented material from Dennis Edwards. The bring and buy evening was very successful with members reporting good finds, including many from a rummage box brought along by Roy Holliss.

October ended with the first ever visit by the Bath Society. Kevin Darcy, Nigel Dickinson, Kim Stuckley and Peter Basterfield provided the entertainment to a packed room that included several visiting Cardiff club members.

We have made two visits to other clubs in October. Alistair MacKinnon, Martyn Britton, Roy Bentley and John Perry visited Hereford and the same team minus Alistair visited Barry.

Stamp News

Nothing new to report here but I have been looking through some old first day covers. So far I have found five types of regular first day of issue (FDI) postmarks. The special postmarks are listed on our web site as well as in the A G Bradbury catalogue but the regular ones are not.

These postmarks first appeared with the Shakespeare issue in 1964 and finished in 1998. Monmouthshire became the county of Gwent on 1 April 1974. This lasted until 1 April 1996 when the unitary authorities of Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent were created. Before this, however the Post Office brought in Cardiff – Newport postmarks, on 5 April 1995.

Type 1: Newport, Mon (to 1971)

- Type 2: Newport, Mon Bilingual (1971 to 1973)
- Type 3: Newport, Mon Bilingual for Universities issue (1971)
- Type 4: Gwent Bilingual with Gwent at bottom (1973 – 1975)
- Type 5: Gwent Bilingual with Gwent in middle (from 1975)
- Type 6: as 5 but in red for 1990 double head issue

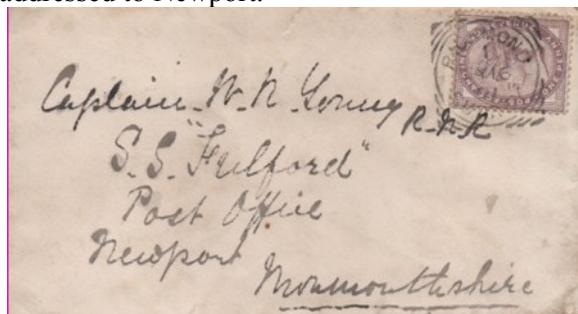
On 2 June 2013, Newport politicians gathered at a post box on Risca Road that was decorated in the Suffragette colours of purple, white and green on Sunday to pay tribute to the legacy of Lady Margaret Haig Mackworth (who became Viscountess Rhondda of Llanwern following the death of her father in 1918).



She ran the Suffragettes Newport branch of Emily Pankhurst's Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and posted a small home made bomb in a post box on Risca Road in July 1913 in an attempt to destroy the mail. She refused to pay a fine, was imprisoned and released after five days only after she went on a hunger strike.

Use Your Local Library

A few months ago I acquired an envelope posted in Richmond, Surrey on 16 July 1891 and addressed to Newport.

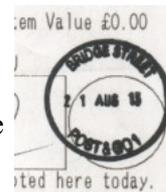


It was unremarkable except that it was addressed to Captain Young on a ship in Newport. It was difficult to read the name but it appeared to be the S.S. Fulford care of the Post Office Newport. A search of the internet produced no trace of such a vessel but a trip to the Newport reference library provided the answer. The library keeps copies of the Lloyds Register that shows all ships visiting

Newport and confirmed that this vessel was indeed in Newport at the time and its captain had the name Young.

News from Roger Vaughan

Roger Vaughan has kindly provided a copy of the Newport Post and Go machine small date-stamp. Post offices continue to be relocated, the latest being Georgetown, Tredegar. In these cases, the postmarks do not necessarily change, resulting in a wasted journey for the intrepid collector.



WPS Display at Tan y Bwlch

This year Martyn Britton and John Perry with our wives attended the annual weekend meeting of the Welsh Philatelic Society in Tan y Bwlch.



It was with some trepidation that I gave a display of Monmouthshire material to this group of experts but it seemed to go down well. A summary of the display with some illustrations appears in the WPS Newsletter (September 2013).

Federation News

Buster Shimmens of Swansea passed away during the summer. A minutes silence was held as the Federation AGM on 26 October 2013 in respect both for him and for Gwen Hussey. Falling attendances at the Convention and Autumn days and mixed feedback from dealers were reported. The next Convention will be at the same venue in Port Talbot but its future will be reviewed if numbers continue to decline.

Our club has agreed to host the South Wales Federation Autumn Day on 20 September 2014. This will be at the Graig Community Centre in Bassaleg. This is the annual event that moves round South Wales with a mix of club and dealer tables. Please make a note in your diary and tell your friends.

John Perry, Honorary Secretary (Tel: 01633 881068)