

Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society

60th Anniversary (1947-2007)

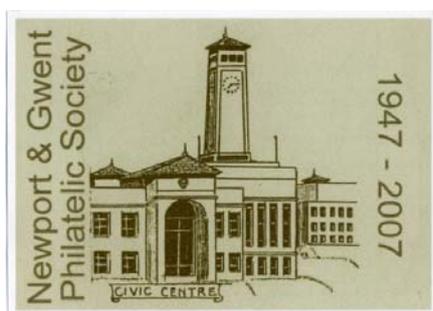


To mark its 60th Anniversary in October 2007, the Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society issued a themed Smilers sheet using the Glorious Wales customised Smilers sheet format with the label incorporating the club's logo, originally designed by Vic Sheppard. Here is an extract from their website which features details of this Smilers sheet:

(<http://uk.geocities.com/sewales@btopenworld.com/newsletter.htm>)

"The club started when on 16 October 1947 a meeting was held at 221 Caerleon Road Newport "by kind permission of Mr Meaker". The name of the society adopted by the 14 people present that evening was the Newport (Mon) Philatelic Society. The programme for that first year still exists in the club records. The first named speaker was Mr Chappell who gave a display of Great Britain and its postal history on 4 March 1948.

As well as the 2007 autumn day, the club has produced a special "Smilers" sheet and postcard. The postcard is available in small quantities now to club members, with 39 postcards being franked with the special stamp and postmarked at Caldicot Delivery Office (NP26 4VV) on 16 October, the date of the first meeting of the club.



The sheet number for the Smilers stamps is 1541389.



The original drawing of the Civic Centre has become a symbol of the club. Vic Sheppard produced it for the 1991 South Wales Federation Convention that the Newport club hosted. Vic spent ten years with the club before his interest in the history of aviation absorbed most of his time. Vic has sent his best wishes to all in the club."

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To meet the somewhat unexpected demand, the sheet was re-printed in January 2008 (Number 213300) with 20 sheets printed using the same customised sheet format and label design. Although they appear different the label design used was exactly the same for both printings.



The original printing of these sheets appears to have been printed by Royal Mail using a thermal-ink or laser colour printer. The labels appear sharp, with the background colour a uniform pale bistre. For the re-printed sheets Royal Mail appear to have used a different printer as the labels are far more vibrant with the label background colour a distinct deeper bistre colour and more closely resembling the postcards issued by the society.

The original printing was limited to 16 sheets, 2 of which were broken up to service 39 postcards, with the remaining stamp/label being retained as the Society's archive copy. The remaining sheets (14) were issued as whole or part sheets based on pre-orders following the first use on 16 October 2007. The significance of that date is that it was the date of the first meeting back in 1947. The Postcards are franked with a Caldicot Delivery Office hand-stamp which is reserved for occasional use for local deliveries in the area.

One final point of interest, the label is based on the logo of the club, designed by Vic Sheppard. It shows the civic centre in Newport, which is the location of the club, with the time on the clock set to 7.15pm, which is when the society meetings used to start. The design was first used in 1991.