



# The New Midlander



September 2017 Number 281

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**MIDLAND PHILATELIC FEDERATION AUTUMN**  
**CONVENTION**  
**AND**  
**BANBURY FESTIVAL OF STAMPS**

**BLESSED GEORGE NAPIER SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD AVENUE,  
BANBURY OX16 9JD**

**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017, 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

Banbury Stamp Society is to host a major event for stamp collectors in the Autumn. Banbury's event will feature the Midland Philatelic Federation Autumn Convention annual competitions and a Stamp & Postcard Fair. There will be approximately twenty stamp dealers taking part.

Refreshments will be available all day.

Ample free parking is available to visitors.

There is also a Railway Station at Banbury on the Chiltern Line (Marylebone – Birmingham) for those travelling by train. Free valuations of stamps and postal history will be available from Midland's expert valuer, Tony Lester, for anyone thinking of selling all or part of their collection.

Commenting on plans for the Festival, Chairman. Malcolm Moodie said "It will be an event not to be missed for all new and experienced philatelists. There will be some displays by some of the leading collectors in the Midlands. It will be a great opportunity to meet fellow collectors, buy some new items for your collections and learn more about the hobby."

For more information contact John Davies on [davies1890@btinternet.com](mailto:davies1890@btinternet.com) or telephone 01295 255831.

The MPF will be holding the annual 16-sheet competition at this event. An application form for submission of entries is attached to this issue of the New Midlander and will be available to download from the MPF website.

**Results of the Midland Philatelic Federation 9-sheet Competition held at  
Worpex May 2017.**

<b>Entrant</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Society</b>	<b>Marks</b>	<b>Award</b>
<b>Aerophilately</b>				
Brian Hyner	German Atlantic Catapult Mail	Royal Sutton Coldfield	81	Silver Gilt
Robin Jarman	Chilean Airmail	Redditch	80	Silver Gilt
John Symons	Serving the Islands	Worcester	78	Silver
<b>Thematic</b>				
Richard Pearson	Parrots	Royal Sutton Coldfield	72	Silver
<b>Open</b>				
Alan Godfrey	Wilkins-Ellsworth Arctic Expedition	Redditch	82	Silver Gilt
Geoff Bath	Rio Postcards 1900-22	Royal Sutton Coldfield	79	Silver
Victoria Archard	Post Stat. of Deutsch Ostafrika	Hereford Mid Wales	75	Silver
<b>Postal History</b>				
John Walker	Wallpaper Envelopes of the Confederacy	Royal Sutton Coldfield	80	Silver Gilt
Darrell Kellett	Free Franks	Wales	67	Silver Bronze
Lyel Swingler	Rotterdam	Redditch	65	Silver Bronze
<b>Traditional Stamps</b>				
John Barker	German Lettercards 1897-1900	Solihull	82	Silver Gilt
Keith Law	Lesser Known German Issues	Royal Sutton Coldfield	74	Silver
Alan Godfrey	South Georgia 1963-78	Redditch	70	Silver

Congratulations to all entrants and especially to John Barker and Alan Godfrey who were awarded Joint Best in Show.

**Shropshire Philatelic Society  
Stamp & Postcard Fair**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Barnabas Community Church  
Longden Coleham, Shrewsbury, SY3 7DN

A very popular and well-lit venue, up to 20 Dealers, good and varied refreshments  
available all day, nearby car parking

Further enquiries: ring 01743 860910  
or Brian Lythgoe 01928 735440

## Subsidized Trip to Autumn Stampex for MPF Members

The ABPS have selected the Midland Philatelic Federation to receive a bursary of £250 towards subsidizing coach travel to attend a specially organised trip to Stampex on **Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>**.

ABPS have planned an exclusive event for those attending the trip, which will include a special meet and greet, and a goodie bag. Free cloakroom space and a guided stroll around the exhibition and Court of Honour will be provided.

To celebrate the Autumn show, the PTS has invited Forrester to showcase his collection called *The Forrester Collection of Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Essays, Errors and Varieties*. The collection contains many examples of each variety from 1961 to present and stands out as a comprehensive accumulation of stamps with a high level of completeness containing many rarities. There are a great many unique items and items for which less than 10 exist.

**At the time of preparing the New Midlander, I don't know the logistics for the coach trip and suggest those interested contact Bob Harper for more details. I will be away at the time and unable to take advantage of this generous offer.**

## MIDPEX SUCCESS

MIDPEX 2017 was hailed a success with good attendance and positive feedback. It is the largest stamp event in the Midlands and is the showcase for the best of philately. It is a very prestigious biennial exhibition attended by stamp collectors from across the



UK. It brings together Specialist Societies with local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of Philately. It allows Specialist Societies to show off their interests to other collectors, to recruit members and identify common ground with members of other Societies. It also provides an opportunity for Societies to promote their publications and research projects and for members to meet informally, particularly

those members who find it difficult to get to meetings in London. The event in 2017 included post card dealers as well as stamps, thematics and postal history. Over 50 dealers and 40 Specialist Societies supported the Show with many holding their

regional meetings at the event including Opal, Pacific Islands, BPS & The Forces Postal History Society, TPO, Malta, Meter Mail, Revenue and Iran Study Groups. John Gledhill, Chairman of the Midpex Committee, said "We were delighted to get a wide range of comments from both dealers and collectors on the quality of the venue, organisation and displays. Although some would like us to hold the show every year or extend it to two days, we are sticking with what we believe is a successful formula and are have already booked the next show for **July 6th 2019**." As an example, John Enfield wrote in the BPS Society News "Midpex is a well-organised event at a spacious venue with ample parking and good catering facilities. I would urge any members who have not previously attended to come along in 2019, when I hope the BPS will again be represented". Many of the societies took the opportunity to recruit new members, sell their publications and raise funds through the sale of philatelic items and were generally pleased with the level of interest shown by visitors to Midpex.

Photograph courtesy of Bill Barrell

Midpex 2019 is already being planned. It will take place on the more traditional first Saturday of July (July 6<sup>th</sup> 2019). There will be a new Chairman Clive Jones who is replacing John Gledhill who has had to stand down problem and a new website manager, Nick Bridgwater. Anyone who is thinking about volunteering to join the organising committee should contact one of the existing committee.

### **Hinckley and District Philatelic Society**

Annual October Fair and Exhibition  
Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 10.00 a.m. - 15.00 p.m.

Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre, Butt Lane, Hinckley,  
Leicestershire, LE10 1LE.

There will be 12 plus dealers in attendance, as well as a raffle for a genuine 1840 QV 1d Black.

Admission is free and there is ample free parking.  
Refreshments will be available throughout the day.  
For further information contact Richard Flemming on 01455 613826.

## **STAMP FAIRS – USE THEM OR LOSE THEM**

As a part-time dealer selling stamps for charity at a small number of the fairs in the Midlands I have noticed over the last three years that attendance has declined significantly over the period. I appreciate that collectors are getting older and hence less likely to venture out but stamps fairs will not survive without people going to them. Many people now tell me it is so much easier and convenient to use eBay or online dealers but surely nothing is as rewarding as sorting through a dealers 50 p box and finding that elusive item for a song. Items on eBay generally find the proper price even from a low start price.

Fairs are held throughout the Midlands with Simon Collyer, Dave Burnett and John Rice organising a number of them. The following isn't a comprehensive list but the ones I know of. I am happy to give details of any fairs which I am notified of – especially if local societies support them. Details are also put on the MPF website so if you want to find a fair to attend any weekend have a look on there.

Knowle – Third Sunday each month (second Sunday in May)

Great Barr – Saturdays each month

Wolverhampton – first Sunday each month

Nottingham – Second Wednesday alternate months from February

Shifnal – last Sunday each month (except December)

Stourbridge – first Saturday each month

Kenilworth – See John Rice website for dates

Lichfield – See John Rice website for dates

Sutton Coldfield – See John Rice website for dates

Rugby – First Thursday alternate months from February

Shilton – Third Saturday each month

Birmingham Midweek – Last Wednesday each month

Cirencester – First Wednesday each month

Northampton – Saturday Dates in January, April, July, September, December

Powick – Saturday Dates in January, April, July, September, December

Larger events are held in Stafford twice a year organised by John Rice and at Motorcycle Museum Birmingham/Solihull organised by Simon Collyer (mainly postcards but always some stamp dealers present).

**If anyone wants to supply detailed dates and locations for these and any other relevant fairs then send them to me at the above email or to the MPF website run by Nick Bridgwater.**

**Hopefully attendances will pick up and we won't lose this vital aprt of our hobby – USE THEM OR LOSE THEM.**

The **Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fairs** are held quarterly on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October each year and are held in the Belmont Community Hall, adjacent to the Tan Bank Car Park in Wellington Centre, Telford, TF1 1LU.

The fairs are organised by Telford Philatelic Society. Entry is free and the fairs are open from 10 am to 3 pm. Free parking is adjacent to the hall. Both train and bus stations are nearby for those who cannot travel by car.

If there are any dealers out there who wish to have a table at this well-attended fair then contact Bob Pilkington, Tele: 01299-211737. Email: sbpilkington02@outlook.com.

**Next Fairs**  
**2017 – October 14<sup>th</sup>**

**2018 – January 13<sup>th</sup>; April 14<sup>th</sup>; July 14<sup>th</sup>; October 13<sup>th</sup>**

## **Society News**

### **Leicester Philatelic Society**

Leicester Philatelic Society have moved venues. From Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, which will be the start of their 112<sup>th</sup> Season, meetings will be held at **Charles Keene Room, Christchurch, 105a Clarendon Park Road, Leicester LE2 3AH.**

The first meeting will be the President's evening, and further details of future monthly meetings, are available on the website [www.leicesterphilatelicsociety.webs.com](http://www.leicesterphilatelicsociety.webs.com).

### **Hereford and Mid-Wales Philatelic Society**

Hereford and Mid Wales have a new Secretary Janet Nelson and a new President in Frank Bennett. Please amend the MPF contact list to reflect this change. Janet's contact number is 07887 997932.

### **Coventry Stamp and Postcard Club**

Coventry SPC celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday in May 2017 with a meal in a local pub. The Society first met in the Squirrel pub in Coventry City Centre but this no longer does food in the evening and an alternative was found. The meal was attended by the current longest serving members, Mark Rollason who joined as a junior and John Dixon. In recent years, the society membership has dwindled due to age of the members but has recently picked up some new members by advertising the society meetings in the free publications in the area. We look forward to a fascinating programme in the new season with the highlight likely to be Peter Pugh's Siberian Railway Part 2 display.



## Loughborough and District Philatelic Society

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017, the Loughborough & District Philatelic Society were 70 years of age. The Society was formed by a Captain Emerson Huston, an eminent industrialist, entrepreneur and philatelist, of Barrow-on-Soar, Leics, who with a few enthusiastic



stamps collectors met in the Loughborough library on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1947. One of those members was a Mr. Tom Blower, a postmaster from the village of Mountsorrel, Leicestershire. He used to take his son Lionel along to some of the meetings. Lionel, is still member of the Society and along with Brian J. Williams, are our two longest serving members. (In the photograph, Lionel is on the

left with Brian). The Society is not a large one (32 members to date), however it is the variety and quality of its members interests that cover all aspects of philately and indeed anything to do with the post. Meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays in a month, in the refurbished Rosebery Street School Rooms, which are part of the new Rosebery Street Medical Centre in Loughborough. On 30<sup>th</sup> June, the Society held a special anniversary dinner. The Secretary (and this year's President), is Rowland F. Tatton 01509-268073. Further details can be obtained from the internet <https://sites.google.com/site/loughboroughphilatelic/>

### Additions to the MPF Speaker's List

**Dr. Malcolm Hughes**, Tel: 0121 378 4837; E-mail: mkhughes567@btinternet.com

Areas of interest: 1. Niger Coast (Oil Rivers) Protectorate; 2. British Guiana;  
3. British Honduras; 4. Falkland Islands & Dependencies; 5. Mauritius  
6. German Colonies – the 'Yacht' overprinted issues

Own transport and am prepared to travel up to a radius of 40 miles.

ADD to **Dr Ken Flint**; Postal History and Post Cards of Buxton, Derbyshire.

## SOCIETY DIARY

If your society programme is not in this list then it means that Ken Flint and Nick Bridgwater have not received it. Please send a scan of the programme to either of us for inclusion in the New Midlander and on the MPF website.

Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	European Potpourri	Tony Sibley	Nottingham
Sept 4 <sup>th</sup>	An Introduction to Brazil	Nick & Janet Nelson	Gloucetershire
Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bourse and Half-night General Tips on Stamp Displays.	Members	Hinckley
Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	New Acquisitions and Newly Mounted	Members	Sutton Coldfield
Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>	Nine sheets on any philatelic subject	Members	Hereford
Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>	Acquisitions or Potential Disposals	Members	Stratford on Avon
Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	New Acquisitions	Members	Redditch
Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	Wei Hai Wei Postcards	Nick Kerridge	Northampton
Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	Germany Bits & Pieces	John Hodges	Worcester
Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	Introductory Evening - New Acquisitions	Members	Rugby
Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	A Danzig Miscellany	Giles du Boulay	Telford
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	New Acquisitions plus Bourse	Members	Coventry
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Informal Meeting	Members	Solihull
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Members' Displays / New Acquisitions	Members	Dudley
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Letters 'M', 'N' and 'O'	Members	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Display	Brian Ward	Notts Co-Op
Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Confederate States	John Walker	Matlock
Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Introductory Wine & Cheese Evening	Members	Leamington
Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	Up to 16 Sheets - "Compass Points"	Members	Solihull (morning)
Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	President's Evening		Derby
Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	Something Sporting	Members	Radcliffe on Trent
Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting and The Country	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	Informal Meeting	Members	Stafford
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	TransSiberian Railway (Part 2)	Peter Pugh	Solihull
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mesopotamia during WWI	Terry Hare-Walker	Banbury
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cacti on Stamps	Les Pearcy	Hinckley
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	Confederate use of Patriotic Covers & Letterheads in the Civil War 1861-1865	John Walker	Sutton Coldfield
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	Judith and Paul Bradshaw Entertain	Judith and Paul Bradshaw	Rushden
Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	History of the Lottery	John Baron	Stratford on Avon
Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	New Acquisitions and Interests	Members	Stroud
Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting and Something Hot	Members	South Midlands (afternoon)
Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	Competition Displays - Stocks Trophy, Hanson Trophy & Presidents Trophy	Members	Coleshill
Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parachutes	Barry Stagg	Redditch
Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	New Acquisitions	Members	Wombourne



Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	Military Postal History	Malcolm Watts	Worcester
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	New Acquisitions and Recently Mounted	Members	Nottingham
Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	Worcestershire Postal History	Christopher Jackson	Rugby
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	Transport – Covers and Stamps	Members	Coventry
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	Great Britain – Modern Postal History	John Sussex	Solihull
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	Big Business on the China Coast	Peter Pugh	Dudley
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	'Gold'	Theo Schilderman	Leamington
Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	Channel Islands	Douglas Harvey	Radcliffe on Trent
Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting and Bourse	Members	Birmingham (afternoon)
Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Competition - The Letter "P"	Members	Gloucetershire
Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	West Indies – Nevis and British Virgin Islands	W.Gibb	Solihull
Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parachutes - A Thematic Display	Barry Stagg	Banbury
Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	The Letter "R"	Members	Hinckley
Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Small Islands	Members	Sutton Coldfield
Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	Letters 'S', 'T', and 'U'	Members	Hereford
Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	The Letter "N"	Members	Stratford on Avon
Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	Thematic Displays	Members	Stroud
Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rocket Mail	Nick Levinge	Northampton
Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	Postcard Evening	Members	Redditch
Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	Wiltshire Postal History and Village Postcards	Malcolm Watts	Wombourne
Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	Japanese P.O.W. Mail WW.II	John Walker	Worcester
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Uniform Penny Post	Doug Nottingham	Rugby
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Military Conflicts Through Letters / Artefacts	Graham Bradbury	Telford
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Letters 'K', 'E' and 'N'	Members	Coventry
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Imperial Airways - Delayed, Disasters and Disruption	D Crewe	Solihull
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Great Britain - Registered Mail	Steven Harrison	Dudley
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic ... and Points East	David Venables	Sutton Coldfield (morning)
Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Display	Bob Hill	Notts Co-Op
Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Zeppelin Mail	Bryan Hyner	Matlock
Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Wiltshire Postal History	Richard Flemming	Leamington
Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	Up to 16 Sheets – Letter 'L'	Members	Solihull (morning)
Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	Hungary	George Kirkham	Radcliffe on Trent
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	Something from Somerset	Nick Bridgwater	South Midlands (afternoon)
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Postal History of the Army of the Black Sea part 2		Stafford
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Italian States and Italian Postal Rates	A. Harris	Solihull
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	World of Czeslaw Slania and New Acquisitions	Colin Searle	Banbury
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Auction and Half-night Display	Members	Hinckley
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	My Favourite Country	Members	Sutton Coldfield
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Golding Entertains	Andy Golding	Rushden
Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	New Zealand Wartime Airmails & Clipperton Island	Laurence Kimpton	Stratford on Avon

Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Displays	Paul Fowler John Worrallo	Stroud
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Stratford on Avon PS Entertain		Redditch
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Members' Displays	S. Mitchell J. Moseley	Coleshill
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Wombourne Stampex	Members	Wombourne
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Not Another Bloody Railway	Peter Pugh	Worcester
Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	Great Britain Used in Malta	Martin Lloyd	Nottingham
Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	It's all Greek to me	Paul Woodness	Rugby
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>	Perfins Penguins	Steve Bence Maggie Bence	Coventry
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>	Railways (A Postal History Story)	Yvonne Wheatley	Solihull
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>	Austrian Medical Units in World War I	Clive Murray	Dudley
Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	Revenues Great Britain Overprinted Revenues	George Dunbar John Gledhill	Leamington
Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>	To Be Announced		Radcliffe on Trent
Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	Competitive Philately	G Winters	Solihull
Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	Danzig - The Propaganda War	Giles du Boulay	Hinckley
Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	A Visit from Birmingham Philatelic Society		Sutton Coldfield
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Great Britain Travelling Post Offices	Clive Jones	Stratford on Avon
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Kings and Queens	Members	Stroud
Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Single Sheet Competition	Members	Redditch
Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Goodyear's Bits and Bobs	Sue and Dave Goodyear	Wombourne
Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Social	Members	Northampton
Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Across the Middle East by Air & Land 1918-1930	Lawrence Kimpton	Worcester
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Visit from Leicester P.S.		Nottingham

### **Rugby Stamp Fair**

**The fair is organised by Simon Hemmings of Midland Philatelics Ltd and held at Rogers Hall, Deering Road, Hillmorton CV21 4EN**

The event will open at 9.30 am and close at 3.00 pm.

Rugby Philatelic Society will be in attendance to give philatelic advice and details of their meetings.

Free parking, free admission and refreshments available at all fairs.

**The remaining dates for fairs in 2017 are  
October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Now into its third year, the Benn Hall fair will be run on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. Again there will be a varied selection of dealers offering stamps, postcards, postal history and accessories. Admission is free and there is plenty of free parking. Hot and cold refreshments will be available all day.**

**It is anticipated there will again be in excess of 20 dealers in attendance.**

# MPF 16-sheet — Individual Competitions

## Banbury — Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> 2017

We are continuing the “Open Frames” competition concept which has worked so successfully at recent MPF Competitions. This has the advantage that you do not need to send your expensive items in the post. They will be pre-judged so the results will be available from the start of the Exhibition.

Please post photocopies or printed scans of your entries **with protectors** to:-

Clive Murray, 53, Wrens Avenue, TIPTON, DY4 8AF  
Email [clivemurray33@gmail.com](mailto:clivemurray33@gmail.com)

**All are 16 sheet entries:-** There will be five competitions with sections as below:-

<b>Traditional Stamps</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Postal History</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Thematic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Aerophilately</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Open Class</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

The Open Class section may have anything that is not covered in the first 4 sections and may include postcards, ephemera, entire letters, postal orders etc.

Title of Entry \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. Home \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Society \_\_\_\_\_

**All entries will be acknowledged by email.**

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**