BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Seaside specials • Summer Stamp Scene • Tennis theme



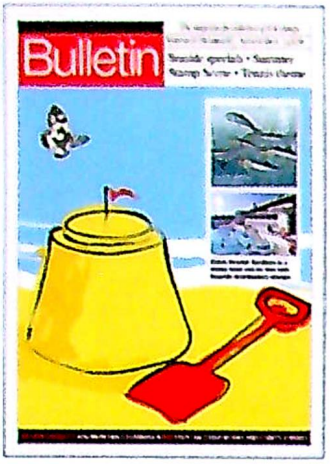




Catch Cornish Sardines in a stamp book and be first with Seaside Architecture stamps

WILLIAM DOHERTY WAR MEMORIALS DATABASE • WIN PRESTIGE STAMP BOOKS AND STAMPY T-SHIRTS

Issues and withdrawals



Cover image: the Cornish Sardine stamp, from the **Sustainable Fish** issue, appears in a new stamp book released on 18 August (see page 325). Tinside Lido in Plymouth features in the Seaside Architecture stamp set to be issued on 18 September (see page 368 and 327). The **Butterflies** stamps were voted the most popular set of 2013 by *Bulletin* readers.

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Royal Mail

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2 August	**Withdrawal** Bangkok 2013 World Stamp Exhibition: Exhibition Stamp Sheet (20 x 1st Class).
7 August	**Issue** Philakorea – Post & Go Machin Collectors Strip and Union Flag Collectors Strip, both 6 rates: 1st up to 100g, 1st Large up to 100g, Euro 20g/World 10g, Worldwide up to 20g, Europe 60g and Worldwide up to 60g. Overprint 'Philakorea 2014 World Stamp Expo'. Mail order only.
8 August	**Withdrawal** Andy Murray Wimbledon Champion Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.28).
13 August	**Withdrawal** British Auto Legends: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.28p), Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
18 August	**Issue** Sustainable Fish Stamp Book: 2 x Sustainable Fish Stamps (1st Class), 4 x Definitives.
17 September	**Issue** British Flora II – Symbolic Flowers: Post & Go Stamps (6 overprinted with 1st Class values).
18 September	**Issue** Classic Locomotives of Wales Stamp Book: 2 x Locomotives Stamps, 4 x Machins.
18 September	**Issue** Seaside Architecture: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x 97p, 2 x £1.28), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.28), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (11 in set), Coin Cover.
19 September	**Withdrawal** Post & Go Freshwater Life: Ponds, Lakes, Rivers.
19 September	**Withdrawal** Merchant Navy.
23 September	**Issue** Ryder Cup Medal Cover.

To order philatelic items, including those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at the post offices listed on page 361.

Information about Royal Mail products is that which is available at time of going to press. Royal Mail is not responsible for opinions and information provided by independent writers in the feature articles of this publication.

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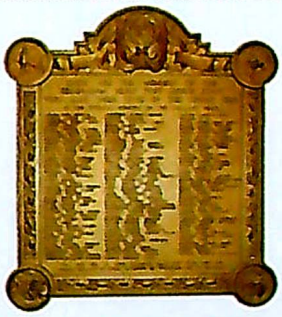
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The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets (see opposite) ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address opposite) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of the world ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editor ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Correspondence



We have had an exceptionally interesting postbag in response to the message to readers from Andrew Hammond, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles Managing Director, in June's *Bulletin*. Andrew would like to thank you for your time and interest and looks forward to answering more of your letters in future editions.



Accentuate the positive

Further to your article on page 293, I just wanted to let you know my thoughts about the Royal Mail issues. The First World War 1914 stamps issued on 28 July are a lovely set, and reflect the centenary of the conflict very well. The quality of the stamps looks fantastic and I really like them. I am looking forward to the further four issues over the next four years.

I support your plans to increase the presence of special stamps in retail books, so there can be more visibility for them on items of mail. I have always preferred using the commemorative stamps on my post and would love to buy a book of special stamps from a new issue (for first-class and second-class in books of 12 stamps).

The special stamp programme is always very exciting every year and I enjoy collecting the stamps. I prefer the traditional gummed stamps to the self-adhesives and I would like to see more second-class on special stamps. The Glasgow Commonwealth Games stamps look amazing. It would be nice to buy all the coded stamps (for example M14L and MBIL) as single stamps direct from Tallents House. That is the only thing I miss out on.

Tallents House provides an excellent customer service. I love receiving my regular order of stamps and they always arrive on time. I enjoy reading all of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* articles and find the new issue information very interesting. The behind-the-scenes tour of Tallents House in the May issue of the *Bulletin* was great to read and it was something I would love to do. I was very jealous! I would relish an opportunity one day to see the stamps being printed and prepared. (The *Bulletin*, by the way, is excellent value and very interesting.)

I have been collecting the stamps of Great Britain for 30 years, since the age of 11, and love the hobby. I always look forward to the annual stamp supplements to add to my albums, and I have started to collect Isle of Man and Gibraltar stamps after reading and being inspired about them in the *Bulletin*! I also go to a local stamp fair every month, and went to the London 2010 exhibition, which I thoroughly enjoyed. This is a hobby that will stay with me forever.

Jamie Woodbridge, West Midlands

Thank you very much for your encouraging letter. As mentioned in the July *Bulletin*, the availability of stamp code variations is currently under discussion at Tallents House. Please continue to watch this space for the outcome.

Andrew Hammond

Seconds please

In reply to your inaugural article in the *Bulletin*, I would offer this request: why oh why cannot special issues include a second-class stamp, like the Christmas one? I am sure this would result in a much greater use of stamps.

David Fletcher CBE, Merseyside



The denominations used in each stamp set are carefully considered and this year we included a Second Class stamp in the recent Commonwealth Games issue. We are taking steps to encourage the visibility of pictorial stamps in general; you may have noticed these on correspondence from Tallents House and on your *Bulletin* envelope. We hope this greater visibility will encourage more interest in collecting, and use, of special stamps.

Andrew Hammond



Medal muddle resolved

Thank you for explaining in the July issue of the *Bulletin* the background to Captain Francis Grenfell being described in the title of the painting on the Presentation Pack as the first Victoria Cross winner of the First World War. There were nine VCs gazetted on 16 November 1914 and Grenfell was, as you pointed out, the first to be listed. The names were not in order of precedence of VC action, however, but in descending rank and in alphabetical order within each rank. This meant that Captain Grenfell headed the list, followed by Captains Reynolds and Wright, before reaching Lieutenant Maurice Dease (the first VC of the war) and eventually listing Lance Corporal Charles Jarvis.

Captain Grenfell received his VC for two separate actions on 24 August 1914: a heroic but futile cavalry charge against German lines at Audregnies in Belgium and, later that day, successfully saving some British guns from capture by the enemy.

The Presentation Pack painting entitled *The First VC of the European War, 1914*, in which these two actions are combined, was intended to boost patriotic pride, but the name of this picture should not be taken too seriously. A title like 'The Fifth or Sixth VC of the War', by date of VC action, would not have sounded quite the same!

Derek Hunt, Berkshire

Thank you very much for supplying these important missing details. I am reminded that you wrote an article about the 150th anniversary of the VC in the September 2005 edition of the *Bulletin* and we look forward to seeing more of your writing in the year ahead, including the book *Windsor in the Great War*, published this month.

Kate Shaw, Publishing Editor

Special stamp suggestions

In Andrew Hammond's introductory address to the *Bulletin* readership he states that he would like to see more special stamps used on mail items. Perhaps a directive to Post Office staff encouraging them to use these stamps instead of labels would help. Secondly, when *Bulletin* readers are asked to choose subjects for issues it would be helpful if background information to each proposal were included. I would be more inclined to vote for a subject celebrating an anniversary if I had some information, rather than be presented with 20 subjects without any indication as to why they were selected.

Paul Kirsten, London



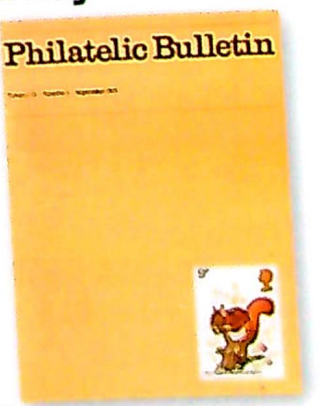
Many thanks for your suggestions. As to your first point, Post Offices are informed about special issues and the number they order is largely dictated by public demand, so we encourage readers to keep asking for them! Your second point is interesting and we will pass on your suggestion to Philip Parker.

William Doherty, Royal Mail Editor

Bulletin archive giveaway

I have old copies of the *Bulletin* that I need to dispose of. They are volumes 15 to 20, September 1977 to August 1983, all in good condition and in binders. Anyone interested in picking them up in Norfolk should contact me via rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

Sheila Masters, by email



Write to... The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or email bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

All readers' letters chosen for publication in the next edition will receive the First World War Prestige Stamp Book.

Royal Mail Update Concluding the fabulous four-year series of Classic Locomotives and explaining why Miniature Sheets now have stripes



Classic Locomotives of Wales Stamp Book The final product to be released as part of the handsome Classic Locomotives of Wales issue, and so concluding this popular series, is the stamp book due to be issued at Stampex. It contains four First Class Definitive Stamps and two First Class Special Stamps from the set, featuring the LMS No.7720 locomotive. Price: £3.72. Code UB370.

Classic Locomotives of Wales 6 x 1st Class Retail Stamp Book – Specifications

Date of issue	18 September
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die cut simulated perforations
Stamps	2 x 1st Class LMS No.7720; 4 x 1st Class Machins

The following stamp books from the series are still available too.

- Classic Locomotives of England, code UB329
- Classic Locomotives of Scotland, code UB351
- Classic Locomotives of N. Ireland, code UB362

When ordering philatelic products by phone, please mention the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and quote the appropriate order code, as shown above. You can order by mail or phone – address and phoneline are on page 354. To make your purchase online, visit www.royalmail.com/issue-by-issue/classic-locomotives •

Miniature Sheets and barcodes Following Post Office Ltd requesting that all products carry a barcode, Royal Mail has supplied Miniature Sheets with barcodes as part of the recent Buckingham Palace and Great British Film issues. Also for these issues, Minisheets without barcodes were supplied to Tallents House.

After reviewing this trial, and with effect from the Seaside Architecture stamp issue, all Miniature Sheets sold as mint from Tallents House will be the barcoded version. As the sheets are simply guillotined and in order to preserve the design aesthetics of the product, non-barcoded minisheets will still be used by Tallents House for the production of First Day Covers, Presentation Packs and annual products with effect from the Seaside Architecture stamp issue •

Natural history The new Post & Go stamps feature flowers rooted in historical symbolism

Symbolic Flowers brings beauty and new meaning to the British Flora Post & Go series. This latest issue, the second of three, reveals some intriguing stories behind the blooms as well as explaining each species' place in nature. The plants featuring in the Symbolic Flowers set, released on 17 September, are the forget-me-not, common poppy, dog rose, spear thistle, heather and cultivated flax. All the flower illustrations are by award-winning botanical artist Julia Trickey and the stamps were created by seasoned stamp designer Kate Stephens.

Stamp by stamp The stamps will be available from Post & Go machines in selected Post Office branches and also as a six-stamp sheet overprinted with First Class values and a philatelic Post & Go code.

Below: the British Flora II Symbolic Flowers issue blossoms into all its colours on the carrier card



FORGET-ME-NOT Seen as a symbol of remembrance and love, forget-me-nots come from a large family of plants. All of them have a visible white 'eye' in the middle, and petals range from the palest to the richest shades of blue.

COMMON POPPY Aptly in this centenary year, the poppy has long been associated with paying tribute to the fallen. It tends to grow in disturbed ground, such as the margins of fields, wasteland – and the artilleried battlefields of the First World War. ▸

Post & Go British Flora II: Symbolic Flowers – Prices

Stamp Set and Carrier Card	£3.60
First Day Cover UK	£4.80
First Day Cover overseas	£4
First Day Envelope	30p

Post & Go British Flora II: Symbolic Flowers – Specifications

Date of issue	17 September
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Kate Stephens
Stamp illustration	Julia Trickey
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Right: the six pretty designs for the British Flora II Symbolic Flowers stamps being released at Stampex on 17 September



Below: the range of postmarks with reference numbers shown beneath the pictorial alternative handstamp featuring the location ROSE, TRURO (with drawing of a dog rose by Julia Trickey); the Tallents House first-day postmark; and the alternative non-pictorial handstamp – again showing the ROSE, TRURO location



FD1417-PL



FD1417-TH



FD1417-NP

DOG ROSE The rose became the national flower of England after King Henry VII introduced the Tudor rose, a merging of the roses of Lancaster and York, to symbolise unity after the Wars of the Roses. The dog rose, which shows pink or white flowers in the depths of summer, decorates hedgerows, field banks and the borders of woods.

SPEAR THISTLE The Scots made the thistle their national emblem after it helped stop an attack on their homeland by marauding Norsemen. According to legend, a Norse force was about to set upon a group of sleeping Scottish warriors when a barefoot member of the raiding party stepped on a thistle and screamed in pain. The noise roused the Scots and they saw off their attackers. The purple-flowered spear thistle, one of Britain's larger species, offers insects a ready supply of nectar and pollen in late summer.

HEATHER This enduring symbol of good luck adorns heathlands and moors, and is one of the last plants of the year to flower. Heather colonies can transform whole landscapes when their purple flowers open together.

CULTIVATED FLAX Grown for centuries and used to make cloth, flax is the floral symbol of Northern Ireland, and honours the historical importance of the nation's linen industry. This delicate plant is often found on banks where it has escaped from arable fields. Flax flowers from May to September.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 17 September. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 354) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark . Alternative postmarks are shown on the left •

Stop press Following the success of the Post & Go machine at the BPMA in London, Royal Mail installed its second static Post & Go machine in the shop of the Royal Navy Museum in Portsmouth on 28 July. Machine A002 initially carries Union Flag and Machin designs with the static location identifier 'NMRN'.

Post & Go for it Where to buy the British Flora series

Here is a list of Philatelic Post Offices with Post & Go machines selling British Flora pictorial stamps and associated philatelic products. The second column indicates the number of machines at each location.

Location/No. machines		Address
East of England		
Stevenage	1	22-23 Westgate, Stevenage SG1 1QR
Cambridge	2	9-11 St Andrew Street, Cambridge CB2 3AA
Southend-on-Sea	2	199-201 High Street, Southend-on-Sea SS1 1LL
Colchester	2	68-70 North Hill, Colchester CO1 1PX
Castle Mall, Norwich	2	84-85 Castle Meadow Walk, Castle Mall, Norwich NR1 3DD
Milton Keynes	2	17-19 Crown Walk, Milton Keynes MK9 3AH
Luton	2	The Arndale Centre, 42-44 Smith Lane, Luton LU1 2LP
London		
Old Street	2	205 Old Street, London EC1V 9QN
Trafalgar Square	4	24-28 William IV Street, London WC2N 4DL
Croydon	3	10 High Street, Croydon CR9 1HT
City of London	2	12 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ
Baker Street	2	111 Baker Street, London W1U 6SG
Paddington Quay	2	Unit 6, West End Quay, 4 Praed Street, London W2 1JE
Midlands		
Nottingham	2	Queen Street, Nottingham NG1 2BN
Walsall	1	Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1AA
Birmingham	2	1 Pinfold Street, Birmingham B2 4AA

Location/No. machines		Address
North		
Durham	2	33 Silver Street, Durham DH1 3RE
York	2	22 Lendal, York YO1 8DA
Grimsby	2	67-71 Victoria Street, Grimsby DN31 1AA
Harrogate	2	11 Cambridge Road, Harrogate HG1 1AA
Liverpool Corn Exchange	1	India Building, Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RR
Northern Ireland		
Belfast	2	12-16 Bridge Street, Belfast BT1 1LT
Scotland		
Glasgow	3	47 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5QX
Edinburgh	2	8-10 St James Centre, Edinburgh EH1 3SR
South West		
Portsmouth	1	Slindon Street, Portsmouth PO1 1AB
Truro	3	High Cross, Truro TR1 2AP
Plymouth	2	5 St Andrews Cross, Plymouth PL1 1AB
The Galleries, Bristol	2	Castle Gallery, Broadmead, Bristol BS1 3XX
Exeter	3	28 Bedford Street, Exeter EX1 1GJ
Wales		
Cardiff	2	45-46 Queens Arcade, Queen Street, Cardiff CF10 2BY

The address list above is based on current information and is subject to change. A nationwide list of other Post & Go machines will be published in a future edition of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* •



Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

UK diary dates

1 August Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1, 9am to 4pm. Information: 020 8946 4480, www.stampshows.net.

9 August National Philatelic Society: USA Miscellany 1851 to (almost) the present by Michael Goodman, Welsh Centre, 157 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, 2.30pm (auction at 1pm). Information: nps@ukphilately.org.uk.

11 August Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society of GB, Centenary of Commencement of First World War display by Peter O'Keeffe. Information: Dudley Baker, 01372 745004, email Dudley.baker1@ntlworld.com.

5 September Strand Stamp Fair, details as above.



13 September National Philatelic Society: Mail on the Steam Ship display by Malcolm Roberts, Welsh Centre, address as above, 2.30pm (auction 1pm).

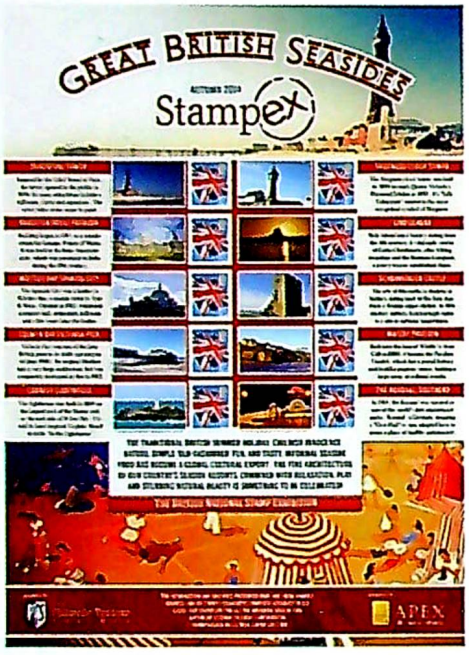
13 September Poole & District Philatelic & Postcard Club Annual Fair and Somerset & Dorset Philatelic Federation Competitions, Community Centre, Poole Road, Upton BH16 5JA, 10am to 4pm. Information: 01929 555052, email philathorne40@hotmail.com.

17-20 September Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1: ABPS National Exhibition, Germany and First World War displays. See below.

27 September Bookham Stamp and Postcard Fair (includes the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies Competition), The Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Great Bookham KT23 3PQ, 10am to 4pm. Around 16 dealers will be present. Information: www.bookhamstampclub.com, email barryfeltham@hotmail.com •

UK exhibitions and fairs

Autumn Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1 from 17 to 20 September. It is open Wednesday 11.30am to 7pm, Thursday and Friday 10am to 6pm, and Saturday 10am to 5pm. Admission is free. Over 100 dealers and postal administrations will have stands – including Royal Mail, which will release Seaside Architecture special stamps and Symbolic Flowers Post & Go stamps during the exhibition. The ABPS will mount National Competition exhibits and there will be displays to mark the 50th anniversary of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society and the centenary of the First World War. A new Stampex customised sheet, on the theme Great British Seasides, will be on sale at the exhibition information stand. A free Stampex postcard is included in the exhibition programme. Stampex enquiries: 023 9283 2289, email office.pts@btinternet.com.



The popular Scotex event – the annual Scottish stamp and postcard fair – will be held on 17 and 18 October at the Dewars Centre in Perth where it has been staged since 2006. About 30 dealers attend this fair organised by the Scottish Philatelic Traders Association. Information: 01368 860365 •

Overseas exhibitions

Philakorea 2014, an international stamp exhibition, will be held in Seoul from 7 to 12 August, to mark the 130th anniversary of the Korean postal service. It is the fourth international exhibition in Korea, following previous shows in 1984, 1994 and 2002. Some 500 exhibits from nearly 70 countries will be on show, with over 100 sales stands. There are eight entries from collectors in the UK in the stamp exhibits and five entries in the literature class.



Korea Post issued eight stamps for Philakorea on 16 May, produced in sheets of 24 containing three of each stamp to which image recognition technology was applied. The Korea Post website explains that if you download the ScanHit app and view each stamp via a smartphone or tablet, you can see a short film showing the flavours of Korea. Royal Mail will provide Post & Go machines at the exhibition, and the stamps will include an exhibition inscription (see page 137 of January 2014 *Bulletin*).

Malaysia 2014, the 29th Asian International Stamp Exhibition and a World YouthMalaysia 2014 will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 1 to 6 December. For further information contact Richard West by emailing him at: richjwest@btinternet.com •

Stamp-related exhibitions and events

On show at Tate Britain in London until 10 August is an exhibition called 'Kenneth Clark: Looking for Civilisation'. Lord Clark (1903-1983) is best remembered as the presenter of the TV series *Civilisation* in the late 1960s. He was appointed Director of the National Gallery when only 30, and was Chairman of the War Artists Advisory Committee.

Lord Clark played a role in the stamp world as Chairman of the Council of Industrial Design's Stamp Advisory Panel, predecessor of today's Royal Mail Stamp Advisory Committee. He served on the Panel for 13 years until he resigned in 1965 – it was said because he disagreed with Tony Benn's proposals to drop The Queen's head from special stamps.



Clark's views on stamp design were recorded by Stuart Rose in his book *Royal Mail Stamps* published in 1980. Clark explained to Rose: 'There had been a change of outlook in the production of stamps with which I was not in sympathy... It was evident to me that there should be a Chairman with more liberal views. I was afraid that the admission of pictorial stamps would lead to complete banality, and I have been proved right...

'I believe that pictorial stamps are wrong in principle. A stamp should have the character of a crest or badge with some symbolic meaning. This was strongly the opinion of that great stamp collector, George V, who often discussed the matter with me.'

To book tickets for the Kenneth Clark exhibition, call the Tate Modern on 020 7887 8888 or visit tate.org.uk • ▸



The main anniversary of 2014 is of course the centenary of the start of the First World War (and also the 75th anniversary of the start of the Second World War), with Royal Mail issuing stamps on 28 July. The Post Office is organising special travelling displays in its branches to commemorate the First World War. The exhibitions, launched at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, home of the famous Chelsea pensioners, will travel the length and breadth of the UK, showing how the General Post Office fitted into the story of the First World War. GPO war memorials are featured on page 374.

An exhibition entitled 'Enduring War: Grief, Grit and Humour', at the British Library in London until 12 October, considers attempts to boost morale at home and in the field during the First World War, showing posters, poetry, art, books and pamphlets from the period. See www.bl.uk/enduring-war for more information. For details of numerous local, regional, national and international events and exhibitions see the Imperial War Museums website at www.iwm.org.uk.

This month marks the 300th anniversary of the death of Queen Anne, the last monarch of the House of Stuart, and the accession of George I, the first of the House of Hanover. They featured in the Kings & Queens issues of June 2010 and September 2011. An exhibition, 'The First Georgians: Art & Monarchy 1714-60', is on show at The Queen's Gallery in Buckingham Palace until 12 October. Exhibitions relating to King George I, II and III can be seen at Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace and Kew Palace respectively until 30 November. Watch *The Glorious Georges*, a film about the monarchs, on the Historic Royal Palaces website at www. hrp.org.uk/georges •

Obituary



Cyril Macey, who died in June, will be remembered as an enthusiastic member of the Friends of the BPMA. A collector of GB, Netherlands and Luxembourg stamps, he was active in the Netherlands Philatelic Society and joined the Friends of the National Postal Museum when it was set up in the mid-1980s.

He soon joined the Council of the Friends and helped out in Post Office Archives, and was a familiar face on the Friends' stand at exhibitions. Cyril was a volunteer at the international exhibition at Earl's Court in 1980 and

was 'doorman' when The Queen visited the exhibition. He was advised not to speak unless spoken to, but when The Queen nodded, Cyril nodded in response, later saying he was on nodding terms with the monarch.

His work with the Friends gave him an interest in three-dimensional objects, not just stamps, and he subsequently joined the Letter Box Study Group. Vice-Chairman of the Friends for 11 years, then Chairman for four, he organised a much-enjoyed 21st anniversary event in 2006. Cyril's voluntary work in other fields was recognised in 2000 when he was invited to sign the Westminster Book of Honour. I always enjoyed meeting Cyril: he was ever jovial and enthusiastic and playfully chided me for not attending more philatelic events. For more on Cyril's career and activities, see Richard West's profile of him in the May 2004 *Bulletin* •

Philatelic awards

The 2014 ABPS Congress Medal has been awarded to Christopher Oliver for his contributions to the National Philatelic Society, Middlesex Philatelic Federation and South African Collectors' Society, as well as to the ABPS. He was President of the NPS from 2007 to 2013, organising philatelic seminars, workshops and displays. He chaired the Middlesex Philatelic Federation Diamond Jubilee Stamp Day in 2010 and is now helping organise another Stamp Day in October 2014. The ABPS Award of Merit for 2014 goes to Peter Aveyard (NW Philatelic Federation), Alan Green (Harrogate Philatelic Society) and Neil Sargent (Postal Stationery Society). Congratulations to all four on this recognition of their philatelic work.



The awards were presented at the July Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in Market Harborough, which will be reviewed in a future edition of *Bulletin* •

Letter box journal

The Summer 2014 issue of the *Letter Box Study Group Newsletter* (No.153) includes features on the Group's visit to Romec's premises near Newcastle upon Tyne where modern-day boxes are made, Rochdale's First National Standard box, and boxes in the Scottish borders, Australia, Chile, Gibraltar, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and elsewhere.

There is much about the activities of the Group and individual members, as well as a tribute to Tony Benn, who as a former Postmaster General wrote a preface to Jean Farrugia's seminal book *The Letter Box* (published in 1969). Benn described the letter box as 'the first visible and public sign of the age of modern communications'. He noted that 'from boyhood my favourite one has been a wall box on Osea Island in the River Blackwater in Essex. There is a causeway connecting the island to the mainland which is deeply submerged at high water. Along that causeway the postman used to cycle to empty the box which was – and still is – marked with the unusual inscription "Collection According To The Tide".'



All editors of philatelic society journals should look at this newsletter and be impressed not only by its production and attractive appearance but by the sheer enthusiasm of the LBSG members. If only all groups and journals were like this. For information about the LBSG contact Val Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Birmingham B20 1ES, or email membership@lbsg.org •

New FDC catalogue



The 2014 (33rd) edition of *Collecting British First Day Covers* is now available. It takes in all the issues from the Penny Black to the Remarkable Lives issue in March 2014. The 15-page General Notes section explains the different types of postmarks and covers the subject in some detail. The catalogue introduction should be read by all users, especially first-time users – it will help them get maximum benefit from the catalogue listings.

The list of commemorative stamp FDCs is arranged in four sections, covering pre-decimal issues (1924-1970), decimal issues (1971-1998), Millennium issues (1999-2001), and issues from 2001 to date. Definitive issues are listed under sub-sections, including Stamp Books, Prestige Stamp Books, Regionals and Varieties (changes to perfs, papers and phosphors). All FDC and postmark types are listed.

Prices for special handstamps are given for ordinary or commercial covers (including Royal Mail) and official or sponsored covers. Prices are also given for relevant circular datestamps and slogan postmarks.

The number of sponsored special handstamps has, thankfully, declined somewhat in recent years. There were as many as 40 to 50 such handstamps for some issues in the 1990s; for the Remarkable Lives issue just seven are recorded. A selection of special handstamps is illustrated for each issue and files illustrating all handstamps can be downloaded from www.bdfc.co.uk/postmarks.

The catalogue ends with an index for commemorative issues – very useful for seeking out a particular theme or stamp. The prices of some covers reflect their current scarcity. For example, one FDC of the 1986 Medieval Life set is priced at £275 on the official cover of the sponsor, but just £12 on an unofficial cover. Similarly, one official cover of the 1982 Youth Organisations issue is priced at ten times that of an ordinary cover. And in case you are wondering, FDCs of the Penny Black and Twopence Blue (6 and 8 May 1840) are priced at £20,000 and £25,000 respectively.

The 272-page catalogue is available through good stamp shops and by post, price £20 postpaid, from the publisher – A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Stoneygate, Leicester LE2 3RA. You can also order online at www.bfdc.co.uk (stock code 42122) •

Forthcoming auction

Spink is auctioning the Vestey Collection. British stamps from the collection go on sale on 25 September, followed by Australian Commonwealth on 16 October and Leeward Islands, Bahamas and Turks Islands on 11 December. Enquiries: 020 7563 4072, dparsons@spink.com. Grosvenor's auction on 24 and 25 September includes Fiji, Gibraltar, Egypt and British Levant postal stationery. Enquiries: 020 7379 8789, info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk •

Sanquhar Post Office



In January 2013 I reviewed a new book that told the story of the post office at Sanquhar in Dumfriesshire, Scotland which has been in the same building since 1712 – and possibly even earlier. The current owners of the building put it up for sale earlier in the year, but it is hoped that Sanquhar will continue to operate as a post office as it holds the record for being the oldest post office in the world. An article on Sanquhar Post Office was published in the January 1994 edition of *Bulletin* •

British Postal Museum & Archive

BPMA commemorative stamp The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) releases a special Post & Go stamp on 20 August to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Inland Airmail. The stamp includes a pictorial element for the first time: the underprint bears the airmail logo created by Theyre Lee-Elliott in 1934, with the legend 'Inland Airmail 1934'. In a new development, the Machin head appears on the Second Class as well as the First Class denominations for the duration of the commemorative issue, taking the place of the Union Flag. Inland Airmail launched in 1934 following a deal between the Post Office and Railway Air Services Ltd to create national airmail routes. An Inland Airmail exhibition runs at the BPMA from 20 August to 20 October.



BPMA exhibitions

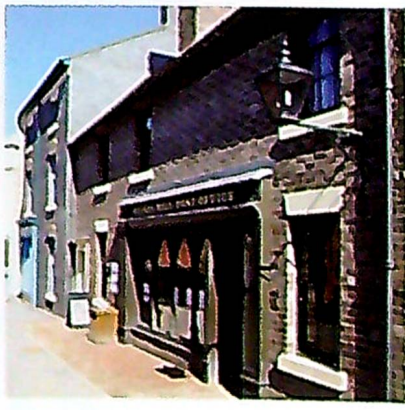
• Train Robbery: Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire, until 27 October. For details visit www.gtm.org.uk

• Last Post: Remembering the First World War – Flagship Exhibition: Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, Ironbridge, Shropshire, until 27 March 2015 – www.ironbridge.org.uk.
Also at Guildford Museum, Surrey, until 13 September – www.guildford.gov.uk/museum. And at Carrickfergus Museum & Civic Centre, County Antrim, 16 August to 30 September – www.carrickfergus.org

• Mail Rail, A Photographic Exhibition: BPMA Search Room, London, ongoing – www.postalheritage.org.uk

• Post Office in the Community: Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire, ongoing – www.ironbridge.org.uk

BPMA tours and walks



• Museum Store tour: the BPMA Museum Store, Debden, Essex, 6 August, 1pm to 3pm. Book online at www.postalheritage.org.uk

• Archive tour: BPMA, Freeling House, London, 13 August, 3pm to 4pm. Book online at www.postalheritage.org.uk

• Pillar to Post walk: meet at Farringdon Station, 24 August, 11am-2pm, and step into 350 years of postal history in London. Book online at www.postalheritage.org.uk

The BPMA is at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. For further details phone 020 7239 2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk.

Heritage Lottery grant The BPMA has been granted £4.5 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the building of a national museum charting almost 400 years of Britain's social and communications history. The Postal Museum and Mail Rail, which will provide a subterranean ride on the old Post Office Underground Railway, is set to open in 2016.



The BPMA has secured 95 per cent of the funding needed to complete the project and is looking to commence building of the new museum later this year. It has also launched a project website: www.postalmuseum.org will be the hub for all the latest news and information on the Postal Museum and Mail Rail. For a history of Mail Rail see Len Stanway's article 'Going Underground' in the August 2010 issue of the *Bulletin* •



EASTBOURNE BANDSTAND

Need to know Built to a unique semi-circular design, with sea-blue domed roof and cream faience décor, this bandstand opened on 5 August 1935 to a crowd of 8,000. Today it hosts some 150 concerts a year. This stamp is Royal Mail's 2014 Europa stamp (see page 370).

Claim to fame This bandstand has featured in *Antiques Roadshow*, *Songs of Praise*, *Foyle's War* and *Little Britain*.

Seaside secret In the bandstand's main arena a plaque pays tribute to local bandsman John Wesley Woodward, who died on the doomed *Titanic* in 1912.



TINSIDE LIDO, PLYMOUTH

Need to know Built in 1935 at Plymouth Hoe, this iconic Grade II-listed Art Deco pool juts 180 feet into the sea, offering swimmers glittering views of Plymouth Sound.

Claim to fame This is the old stamping ground of Olympic medallist Tom Daley, who used to practise diving into the sea at Plymouth Hoe.

Seaside secret Hitler's Luftwaffe used the distinctive semi-circular shape of the Lido as a landmark to guide them to their targets during the Plymouth blitz. Locals, filthy from clearing rubble after the bombing raids, would flock to the Lido to clean up.



BANGOR PIER

Need to know At 1,550 feet, Bangor is the longest surviving pier in Wales, built in 1896 as a landing stage for holidaymakers coming by steamboat from Blackpool and Liverpool. It fell into disrepair and closed in 1971 but was restored in the 1980s.

Claim to fame To help fund the restoration of the pier, parts of it have been available for sponsorship. Donors include folk band Fiddler's Dram, famous for their hit *Daytrip to Bangor*, and the Mayor of New York. Both sponsored a plank.

Seaside secret Early entertainments on Bangor Pier in the 19th century included shinning up a greasy pole to grab the prize of a meat joint and a best-dressed perambulator contest.

OH I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE

Visually stunning coastal landmarks on next month's Seaside Architecture set tell the story of the great British beach resort

Six Seaside Architecture stamps will be issued on 18 September. The stamps are 41mm x 30mm, designed by Why Not Associates and litho-printed by International Security Printers, with phosphor bars and 14.5 x 14 perforations, in sheets of 25/50. For further philatelic preview details, see page 327 of July *Bulletin*. The British Piers Miniature Sheet and limited edition Coin Cover, which pays tribute to the Corporation of Trinity House, the shipping protection authority, will be detailed in a future edition of the *Bulletin*.

Stamps © Royal Mail Group Ltd. For further information about the Seaside Architecture issue and other British postage stamps and philatelic facilities visit www.royalmail.com/stamps or write to Royal Mail, Freepost, Edinburgh EH12 9PE.



SOUTHWOLD LIGHTHOUSE

Need to know Unusually for a lighthouse, 31 metre-high Southwold Lighthouse sits among a quaint tumble of townhouses in the chattering classes' favourite seaside resort. Its lamp, with a range of 24 nautical miles, guides passing shipping and vessels coming into Southwold Harbour.

Claim to fame *Boys from the Black Stuff* legend Bernard Hill, who also starred in the *Lord of the Rings* movies, has abseiled down the 125-year-old Southwold Lighthouse to raise funds for the RNLI.

Seaside secret Local but nationally trendy brewers Adnams has named a pale ale-style beer after the lighthouse, which is quite rightly called Lighthouse. Adnams' slogan for the beer is 'shining as a champion'.



BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH

Need to know This legendary seaside fun zone was launched in 1896 at a gypsy site by Blackpool bigwig William Bean, whose aim was to 'make adults feel like children again'.

Claim to fame The Big One, the Pleasure Beach's 87mph rollercoaster, is Britain's fastest. In 1909 the Pleasure Beach opened a rollercoaster that could only manage 35mph.

Seaside secret The Pleasure Beach's first indoor entertainment, launched in 1910, was the huge Naval Spectatorium where American Civil War sea battles were re-enacted with lighting and special effects.



BEXHILL-ON-SEA SHELTER

Need to know Four shelters, in fact – each an eight-ton, pine-clad crazy-angled steel 'cube' – adorn the West Parade at Bexhill-on-Sea in East Sussex.

Claim to fame The shelters are the latest in a line of cool, smartly designed buildings hosted by this Victorian resort. The world-famous modernist triumph, the Grade I-listed De La Warr Pavilion, is a short walk along the prom, as is the Grade II-listed classically styled King George V Colonnade.

Seaside secret The Scots pine used on the shelters has been sealed with a alcohol-based protective layer, field-tested in the snowy mountains of Norway to ensure it survives the ravages of the windy English South Coast.



A tuneful band

There is an extraordinary range of musical instruments on the stamps in this year's Europa entries. In addition to Royal Mail's quintessentially British bandstand, here aresome of our favourites, including the Finnish stamps with a QR code that links your smartphone to online folk music. Remember to register your vote before the end of this month – it's simple to do at www.posteurop.org/europa2014.



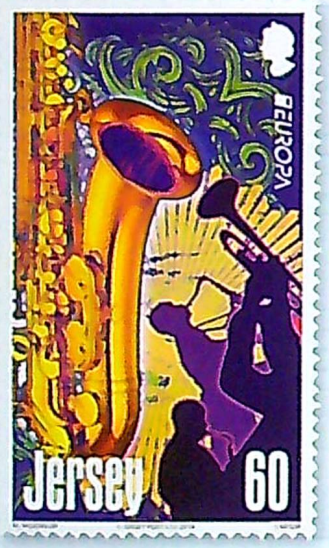
















Stamp images © postal bureaux of Belgium, Bosnia i Hercegovina, Denmark, Finalnd, Isle of Man, Jersey and Portugal. Not shown at actual size nor in proportion.

Vote for the best stamp in Europe

Over 50 stamps battle for philatelic favour in the 2014 Europa contest. Which is *your* favourite?

A MUSICAL THEME brings a harmonious note to PostEurop's 2014 Europa Stamp Design Competition. More than 50 entries show member countries' national musical instruments – from the classic to the culturally unique.

Legendary flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucía features on the Spanish Europa with the tool of his trade; MaltaPost's offering shows the island's goatskin bagpipes; the Icelandic stamp presents an illustration of a harp made from stones; from Royal Mail comes a brightly uniformed brass band playing an early evening seafront concert at an Eastbourne bandstand (see below for more details about Royal Mail's entry).

PostEurop is the industry association for European postal services. Every year the 52 member postal bureaux each create one or more Europa stamps for the contest. The stamps aim to promote philately, emphasise cooperation between European postal organisations, and celebrate the common culture between countries in Europe. There are in fact two competitions in one – with two stamps winning a 'best in Europe' award. One winning stamp is voted for by the public and the other is selected by a panel of expert judges.

How to vote Members of the public choose their favourite stamp with an online poll at www.posteurop.org/europa2014 – why not visit and make your vote count! Voting closes on 31 August •

First-class British brass

Royal Mail's Europa entry is an atmospheric image capturing the pleasures of the British seaside holiday.

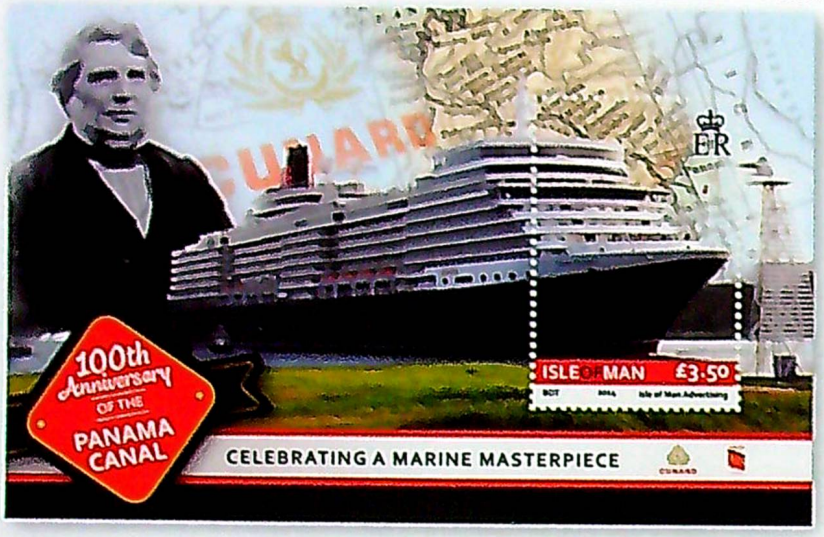
As evening falls in Eastbourne, lamps along the prom flicker on and a brass band plays at the town's bandstand. Completed in 1935, the bandstand today can entertain a seated audience of 1,600 in a main arena, and middle and upper balconies. Billed as 'the busiest bandstand in the United Kingdom', it is even licensed to host wedding ceremonies.

The First Class stamp comes from the Seaside Architecture issue, released next month, which tells the story of the British beach resort through iconic seafront buildings – including piers, pleasure beaches, shelters and lighthouses (see page 368 for more details).



New from the islands

Guernsey Guernsey's next issue on 6 November comprises seven stamps for Christmas; a further seven Christmas stamps for Alderney go on sale the same day. Six stamps and a miniature sheet marking the centenary of the First World War will be issued on 11 November. Information: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS, email philatelic@guernseypost.com •



Isle of Man The next issue from the Isle of Man on 8 August is entitled The History of Manx Playing Cards and comprises six colourful stamps of 42p, 75p, 90p, 110p, 121p and 182p denominations. On the same day a £3.50 stamp in a miniature sheet marks the centenary of the Panama Canal. The stamp and sheet show the Cunard liner Queen Elizabeth passing through the Canal. Information: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, www.iomstamps.com •

Jersey Round off the sunshine season with Jersey's Summer set, which shows the holiday island's natural beauty at its best (below). Other summer releases include the Red Arrows (11 July). Coming up this month are six stamps and souvenir sheetlet marking the First World War. The Marine Life – Crustaceans issue is out on 17 September. Details: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, www.jerseystamps.com •



Australia Post

New stamps from Australia Post celebrate the recent visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince George to Australia. Showing the Royal couple in front of Sydney Harbour Bridge, and with Prince George visiting the city's Taronga Zoo, these stamps were issued on 8 July •





This Month in History John Holman gallops back to 1984 for a very special mail coach anniversary…

Thirty years ago in August 1984, the Post Office organised a mail coach run from Bristol to London to mark the 200th anniversary of the first mail coach service between the two cities. A strip of five 16p (first-class) stamps showing mail coaches was issued on 31 July and used on covers carried on the bicentenary journey. Details of the anniversary run were given in the *Bulletin* of July 1984.

The Post Office's Mail Coach left Corn Street, Bristol at 3pm on 1 August and made stops – ranging from one to 20 minutes – at Bath, Pickwick, Chippenham, Calne, Marlborough, Hungerford, Newbury, Theal, Reading, Maidenhead, Slough, Colnbrook, Kew Bridge and Buckingham Palace. It was scheduled to arrive at the London Chief Post Office in King Edward Street at 8am on 2 August, after the 130.5 mile journey.

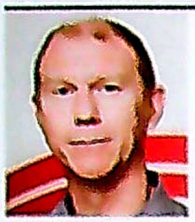


Top: the Royal Mail First Day Cover commemorating the coach service's bicentenary

Above: a National Postal Museum souvenir postcard also celebrated the service

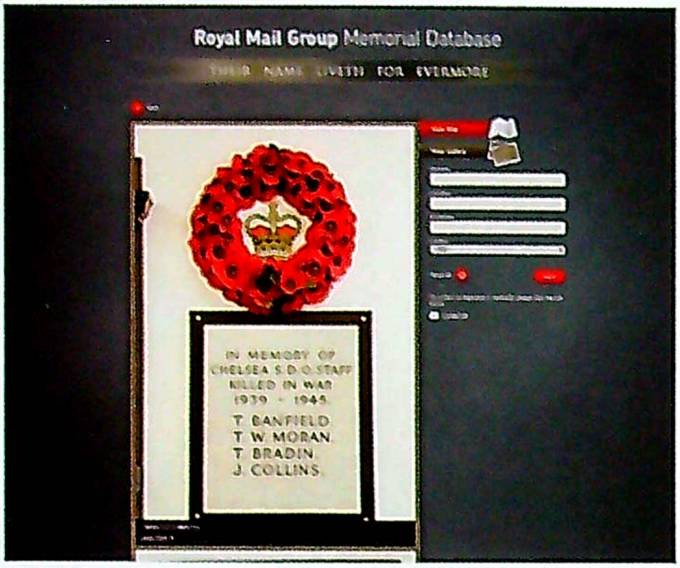
I recall being in King Edward Street to watch it arrive, slightly behind schedule owing to heavy London traffic. One of those lucky enough to travel overnight on the coach told me he would not have missed it for the world, though it was rather uncomfortable. The vehicle had been driven by John Parker, who was one of the top coach drivers in the country. Originally there were two drivers for the 16-hour journey. Interestingly the anniversary run, which followed the A4, took an hour longer than the original trip as modern road alterations, bypasses and one-way systems had increased the journey by 12 miles. So much for progress! Some 20 horses were used in the re-enactment.

Post Office covers carried on the run received a cachet worded 'Carried on a stage of the/bicentenary mail coach run/Bristol to London/1-2 August 1984' applied in red ink. The Mail Coach stamps were cancelled by the Bureau or Bristol first day postmarks. The covers were announced in the July 1984 *Bulletin* and readers had until 20 July to place orders for the 'limited number' available. Other souvenirs included sets of mail coach postcards from the National Postal Museum, and 'regional postcards' by the South East and London Postal Regions. Special handstamps were used on 31 July when the stamps were issued and on 1 and 2 August. The National Postal Museum put on a mail coach exhibition with a special handstamp in use from 2 August 1984 to 26 April 1985 •



The World War web

An online database of 250 Royal Mail war memorials helps you find these poignant tributes to the postal workers killed in the First and Second World War. William Doherty reports



Above: you can look for the locations of war memorials on the online map at www.royalmailmemorials.com

'THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE'. 'In honoured memory of our comrades who made the supreme sacrifice'. 'These gave their lives for humanity'. 'In the Great War they died for the cause of freedom'.

These tributes to the fallen appear on a parade of war memorials across the country that honour postal workers killed in action. Carved in bronze, etched on stone or set in simple wood frames, the 250 memorials maintained by Royal Mail offer an extraordinary variety of commemoration. Now, in this important centenary year, Royal Mail has launched an online database of the memorials so you can research their locations and visit them.

The GPO's own regiment Some of the memorials commemorate the Great War, some commemorate the Second World War. Others remember the fallen of both conflicts. Many of them are in places open to the public, such as reception areas in delivery offices. Remembrance services will be held for each memorial later this year. Postal workers played a significant role in the First World War. Some 75,000 GPO employees fought – 12,000 in Royal Mail's own regiment, the Post Office Rifles, who saw action at the Somme and Passchendaele. Over half the Rifles' fighting force was lost at the Battle of Wurst Farm Ridge near Ypres in 1917.

Hunting for our heroes The database, at www.royalmailmemorials.com, was developed by Royal Mail in partnership with the British Postal Museum & Archive. By clicking on 'View map' you can find the memorial nearest you and by clicking on 'View gallery' find photographs of all the memorials and search for particular names. This website is a fascinating source of information on 250 memorials and forms an important part of Royal Mail's centenary commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War and the events that followed •

Wartime post in numbers

12 million
The number of letters posted every week to serving soldiers in 1918.

1 million
The amount of parcels sent weekly to British troops at the front by the spring of 1917.

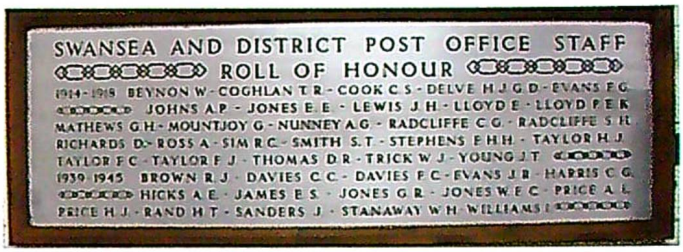
500,000
The number of mailbags bearing festive post and presents to the battlefields in the run-up to Christmas in 1917.

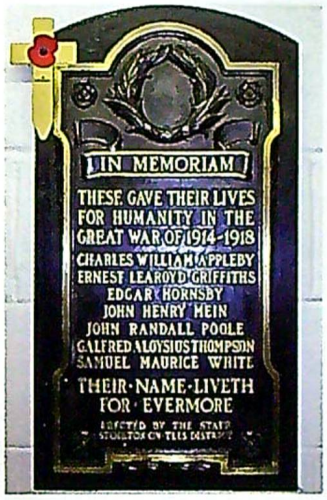
Readers whose relatives were in the Post Office Rifles, and all those for whom the database revives family remembrances of wartime, are invited to share their stories to help Royal Mail mark the centenary. We would also like to hear from those who own one of the Princess Mary Gift Boxes featured in the new First World War 1914 issue (see page 377, 340 and 304). Please write to the Editor (address on page 354) or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.



















Royal Mail at war

In 1914 a special sorting office – called the Home Depot – was built in Regent's Park, London, to deal with mail sent to the troops.

The depot covered five acres and was said to be the world's biggest wooden building at that time. Here a staff of 2,500, mostly women, sorted millions of letters and parcels bound for soldiers at the front.

Even at the heart of the action, the postal service was efficient. Letters took just two days on average to reach their recipients in the trenches. Mail was usually handed out by ration parties with the evening meal.



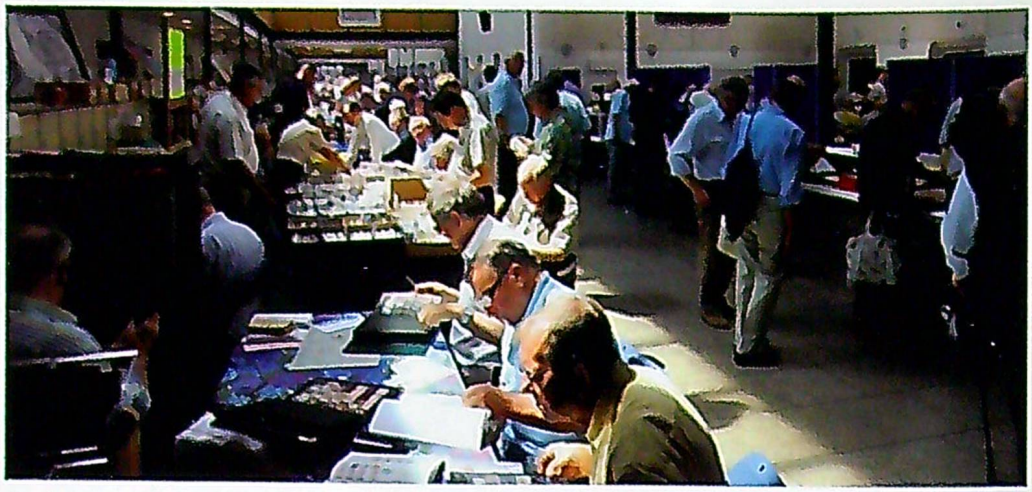
Post Office fighters

Some **75,000** General Post Office employees fought in the First World War.

Of **12,000** members in the Post Office Rifles – Royal Mail's dedicated regiment – 1,800 were killed in action and 4,500 were wounded.

This page: just a selection of the 250 war memorials maintained by Royal Mail which are now searchable at the new online database

Swinpex jubilee Colin Baker reports from the recent Swinpex, marking the event's 25th anniversary



Top: looking down the main aisle of dealers tables – a busy time for all collectors and dealers, with Swindon Society's 25th anniversary display and displays by specialist societies

Swinpex annual stamp fair celebrated its silver jubilee with a successful one-day show in June, featuring around 50 dealers, competitions, displays and specialist society meetings. I found plenty of postal stationery for sale and managed to fill one or two gaps in my collection. Speaking to fellow collectors it soon became apparent that they had also found some nice material. Having spent a long while browsing through boxes of postal history and stationery, I looked at the displays by Swindon Society's members. They covered a wide range of collecting areas and gave all of us some ideas of what we could look out for in the future and how we could organise our own collections.

Surrounding these displays were frames of album pages from many specialist societies. It's always nice to look these over and to realise that no matter what you collect, there are lots of people like you with the same interests. I found the display of advertising postcards and envelopes fascinating and well worth seeing.



Swinpex Jubilee programme used a vintage front page. Despite the nostalgic price shown, entry was free this year

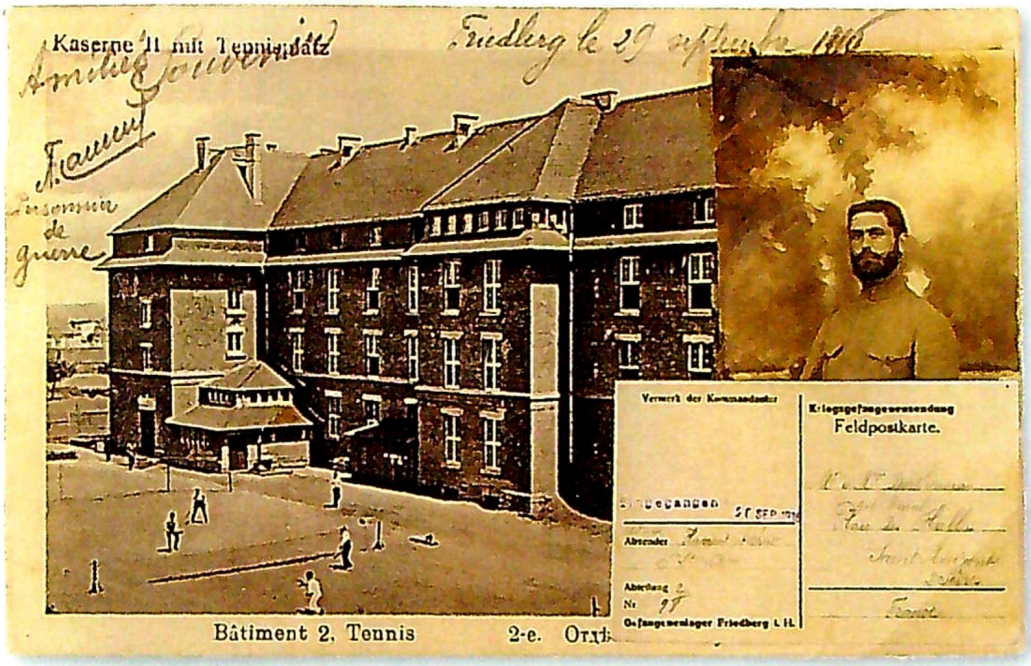
It is easy to spend the whole day at Swinpex, especially as parking is free and there is an excellent catering facility to keep you going. This year's Swinpex was held at St Joseph's Catholic College in Swindon, 25 years after the Wiltshire town's first event in 1990. The support shown by collectors and the philatelic trade alike was such that a second fair took place the following year, and since then Swinpex has become established as an annual event, welcomed by many collectors and dealers in the southern half of Britain.

As soon as the first fair closed its doors it was obvious that larger premises were needed, and the 1991 fair transferred to St Joseph's School just outside the town centre. Due to the school's layout, however, the fair was split over several rooms, which was not very satisfactory. Fortunately in 2007 St Joseph's Catholic College was built alongside the original building (now demolished), and this has been the home of Swinpex ever since.

There can be few better stamp-hunting and exhibition venues anywhere, thanks to the college's large light assembly hall and huge central aisle for the dealers' tables, with adjacent classrooms for society meetings •

The 2015 fair takes place on Saturday 13 June. To find out more about the Swindon Philatelic Society write to Secretary Nigel Borlase-Hendry at 2 Southerwood Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 2RJ, phone 01793 728330, or e-mail pderoet@hotmail.com.

Swindon Society's logo taken from the 19th century duplex cancellation for Swindon



1



2

Left: a 'Feldcard' showing prisoners playing tennis

Above: the new First World War 1914 stamp shows one of the thousands of brass tins filled with gifts that Princess Mary sent to troops for Christmas 1914

Court in the crossfire

In excerpts from one of his tennis-themed displays Ron Backhouse reveals the links between the game and war

SPORTING HEROES who became Great War heroes, the time when Wimbledon grew food to keep Britain fighting fit, the tennis court that hosted one of the bloodiest battles of the Second World War. There are many surprising ways in which tennis has played a part in the two greatest conflicts in history, commemorated this year. Here is just a selection of stories about tennis at war…

The Great War For some it might well have been a relief to be taken prisoner and escape the horror of the trenches. This 'feldcard' (1), sent home by a French POW in 1916, shows captured officers enjoying a game of tennis at their prison in Germany.

Many of course did not escape the carnage. Tony Wilding (3), the world tennis number one and a Wimbledon four-times winner, went to France when war broke out. On 9 May 1915 Wilding was killed by a shell while attacking enemy sniper positions.

Also among the fallen was French aviation pioneer Eugène Adrien Roland Georges Garros (4). A leading racing pilot and keen tennis player, he gave his name to the home of the French Open, Stade Roland Garros in Paris. Known as Roland Garros, he became a fighter pilot, shooting down two enemy aircraft before he was downed in 1915 and captured. Roland Garros escaped but was later killed in action.

The unprecedented slaughter changed the world forever, destroying an age of innocence. In July 2014 17-year-old Princess Mary, daughter of King George V, was enjoying tennis lessons with Wimbledon champion Dorothea Lambert Chambers. Just a few months later she was sending Christmas gifts, shown in the new Royal Mail stamp above (2), to frontline soldiers enduring the nightmare of war. ►



3



4

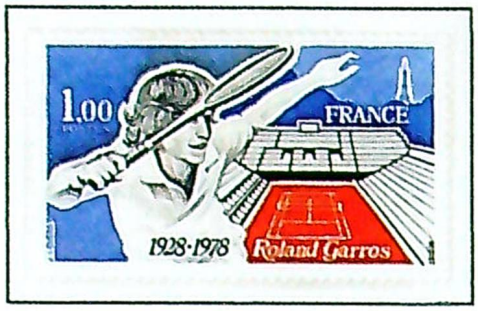
World War II

Issued in 1939



Fearing invasion by the Nazis, in 1939 the I L T F in Paris sent its funds to London where the Federation has since been run.

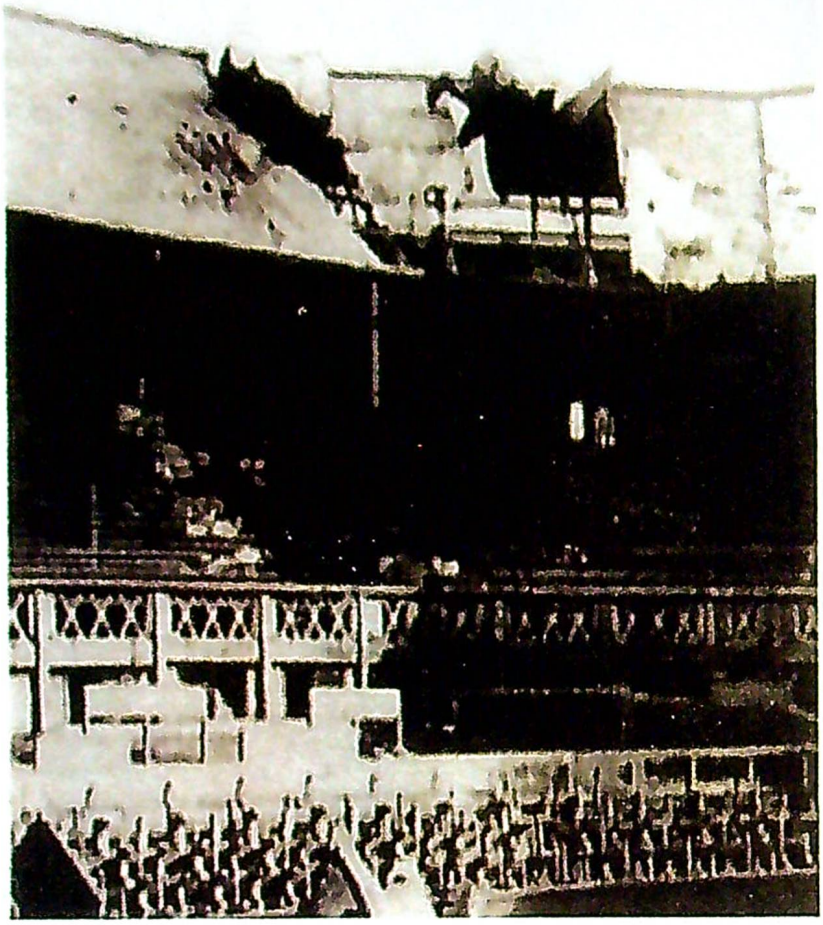
From Sept 1939 to June 1940 hundreds of political dissidents were imprisoned in the basement areas of Stade Roland Garros in miserable, crowded conditions. Many were sent on "death trains" to Auschwitch.



Wimbledon suffered bomb damage.

Dornier bomber



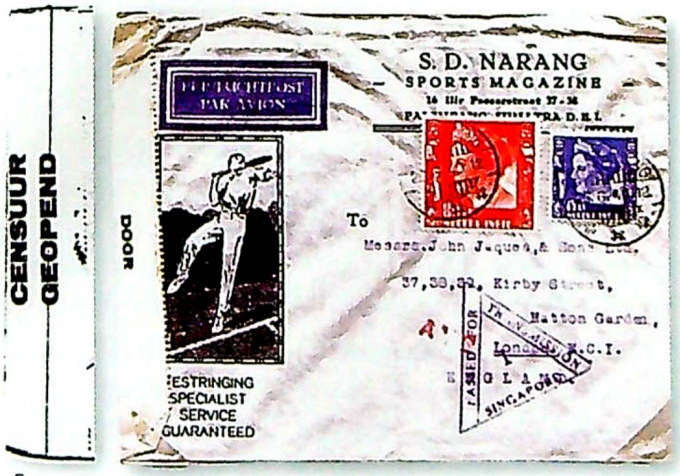


During the Second World War The Championships were suspended. The ground was used for various purposes e. g. growing vegetables and civil defence services. On the 11th October 1940 the roof of the Centre Court was struck by a 500lb bomb resulting in the loss of 1,200 seats.

The Second World War As the sheet shown above points out, the next war brought more uncertainty and misery, and the world of tennis did not escape its shadow. In 1939, as Paris awaited the Germans, the International Lawn Tennis Federation sent its money from France across the Channel to Britain for safe keeping. From 1939 to 1940, political dissidents were held in the Stade Roland Garros. After France fell in 1940, we struggled alone, our fighters and German bombers, like the Dornier on the classic David Gentleman stamp, clashing in the Battle of Britain. Everyone and everything was pressed into the war effort – Wimbledon included. The grounds, used for growing food, attracted the attention of the Luftwaffe.

Censorship and hardship For security reasons mail was censored, like this 1940 air letter (5) from the Dutch East Indies – invaded by the Japanese in 1941. Bearing an advert for racquet restringing, it has a censor's hand stamp from Singapore.

War also meant rationing. In Norway civilians applied for rationed goods by postal card (6). This one is for shoes, including tennis shoes ('tennissko'). A British soldier serving in India jokes in a card home (7) that women are wearing tennis socks as stockings are scarce. His message has been miniaturised by microfilming it – a system used to save weight and space for war materials. Before delivery the letter was printed full size on a V Mail (V for Victory) card.



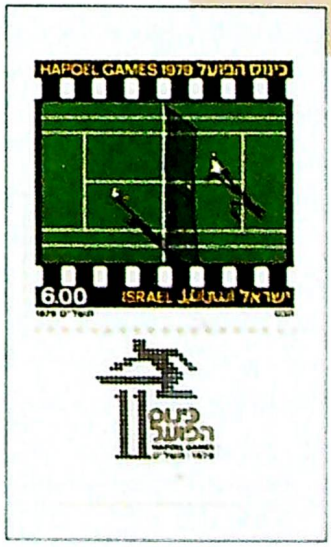
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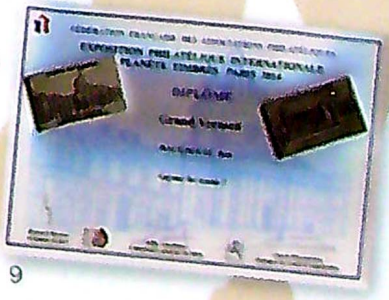

7

The Battle of the Tennis Court In April 1944 Japanese and British forces clashed at Kohima in north-eastern India. Some British troops made a stand at the tennis court by the Deputy District Commissioner's bungalow. The battle lines were separated only by the width of the court, about 20 metres (8). The court saw brutal, intense combat. Grenades were hurled across it at point blank range, bayonet charges were the norm. After four days the Japanese withdrew, and the Battle of the Tennis Court was the turning point in the Kohima campaign that halted the Japanese invasion of India.



8

Left: featuring a court with two players shown to scale, this Israeli stamp illustrates clearly how crowded together the Japanese and British troops must have been in the Battle of the Tennis Court

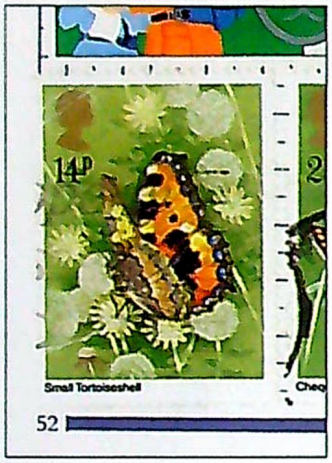

9

Ron Backhouse has received many high awards for his exhibit on Tennis, including Grand Vermeils in the Euro Championships in Essen 2007, Italia 2009 and Portugal 2010, and Gold at London Stampex 2010. He returned from the recent Euro Championships in Paris with another Grand Vermeil (9). Ron is the Librarian for the British Thematic Association and plays tennis three days a week. Between games he is happy to give advice to thematic collectors via email at Ron@10nis.fsnet.co.uk ●



Above: Royal Mail's Editorial Manager Helen Cumberbatch
Below: Helen as an enthusiastic young collector – and Brownie!





A natural collector Royal Mail's Helen Cumberbatch reveals how collecting stamps inspired a love of British landscapes and nature

My fascination with the humble postage stamp began during childhood in the early Eighties, thanks to my father's job. Working in the international department of a British high street bank, he received a lot of domestic and overseas post, all of which was covered with a range of strangely shaped and beautifully decorated gummed paper. The foreign stamps had a certain appeal, but the British stamps that he also brought home really caught my eye, and I began to build up a sizeable collection of used stamps. I now realise it was collecting British stamps that first fuelled my interest in the history, nature and geography of the British Isles.

One of the first stamp sets to make an impression on me was the series of British landscapes from June 1981, painted by Michael Fairclough and issued to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trust for Scotland. I was drawn to the Giant's Causeway stamp, which looked really unusual. I had never heard of this unique rock formation in Northern Ireland, and being an inquisitive child I remember going to the local library and looking up the reference in an encyclopaedia to find out more. I also really liked the effect of the sunlight bursting through the clouds in the Glenfinnan stamp.

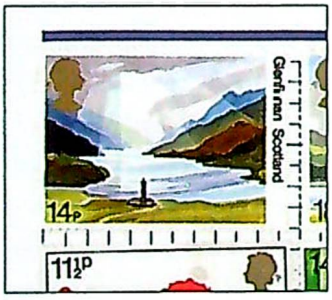
In the same year, a set on the subject of butterflies, featuring beautiful watercolours of four British butterflies by Gordon Beningfield, was also very appealing. My two favourite stamps were of the Small Tortoiseshell and the Peacock, and I recall looking out for them whenever I was playing outside during the summer months in 1981 and in subsequent years.

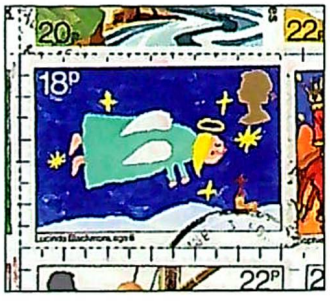
At the end of the year were the Christmas stamps, drawn by children who had won a stamp design competition. The Father Christmas and the 'flying angel' were especially memorable, and I remember wishing that I had been able to enter the competition, despite my lack of artistic talent!

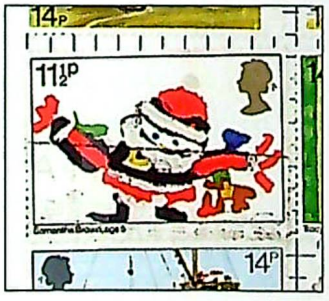
Other British stamps of special interest to me, which I obtained, include The Tale of Peter Rabbit stamp from the 1979 Children's Book Illustrations issue, the Lawn Tennis stamp from the 1977 Racket Sports issue and the Henry VIII/Mary Rose stamp from the Maritime Heritage set of 1982.

Collecting stamps also proved a useful hobby when, at seven, I became a Brownie. Keen to earn some Brownie badges at the earliest opportunity, one of the first I acquired was the Collector badge, awarded after I presented my stamp album at a Brownie meeting. In my youth, I was lucky enough to be introduced to so many fascinating new subjects through studying

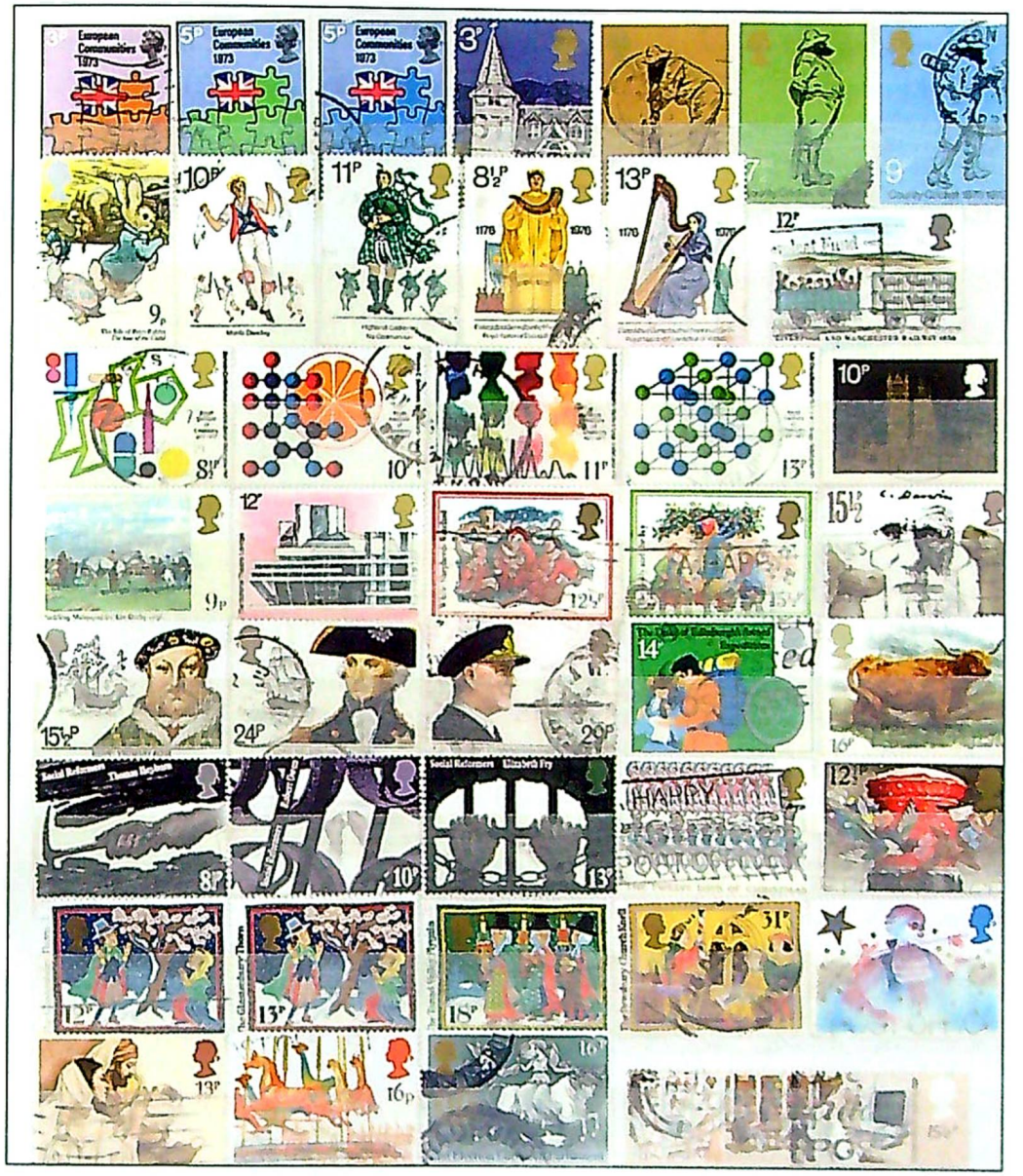








© Conor Masterson



Left: remember these? A page from Helen's album This page and opposite: just some of the many stamp issues that inspired Helen as a child



the illustrations, paintings and photographs on Britain's special stamps. So despite the myriad distractions that now bombard children and adults, I sincerely hope Royal Mail stamps will continue to excite future generations and inspire the young to enjoy a lifelong love of philately •

Helen Cumberbatch is Editorial Manager at Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles





All covered Three diverse covers feature the Great War, a top runner and a Roman emperor

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Commemorating the outbreak of the Great War, this cover features the First World War 1914 issue and a poster from the period (BC510 £17.90 inc p&p) •





Conquerors of the track and the world – these covers are about winners. First there is the Olympic, World and Commonwealth 400m Champion Christine Ohuruogu (BC509 £17.90 or BC509S £28.90 signed by Ohuruogu, both inc p&p). The coin cover marks the 2,000th anniversary of the death of Emperor Augustus, founder of the Roman Empire. It features a genuine Roman coin and stamp from the 1993 Roman Britain set. Four different coins and stamps available (BCC142 £19.90, BCC142S £29.90 signed by *I, Claudius* actor Derek Jacobi, BCC142SET £73.75 all four unsigned coin covers, all inc p&p) •

Hello sunshine! Brighten up with our sunny summer quiz



1



2



3



4

Our red-hot August quiz is based on stamps featuring all things sunshiny – answer four questions correctly and you could win a stunning Prestige Stamp Book *and* a stampy T-shirt.

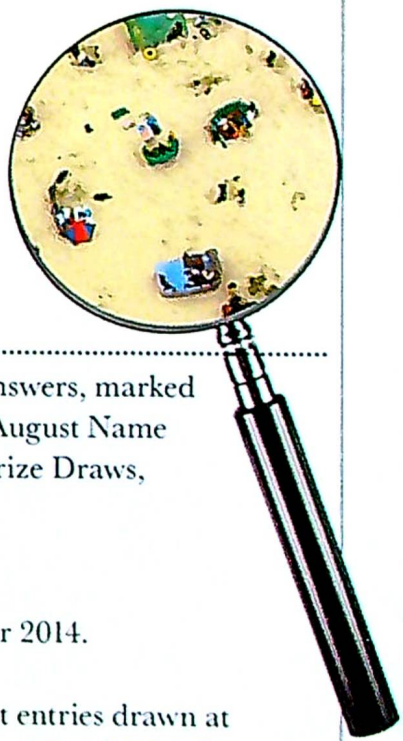
1 What great British summer tradition is being celebrated in this gem from the Summertime set of 1994?
a) Competitive beer drinking b) Wimbledon
c) Lobster-level sunburn

2 A little techno magic made this sunny stamp from the 2001 Weather issue do what when you stroked it?
a) Purr b) Sing 'Bring Me Sunshine'
c) Change colour

3 This giant ice cream is running amok in which stamp issue from 2002?
a) Beside the Seaside b) Beside Myself
c) Behind the Bike Shed

4 Even the sun has a dark side… Which of our vital assets is the sun happily frying in the 1992 Protection of the Environment set? What is it?
a) Boyzone b) The Ozone c) The Twilight Zone

NAME THAT STAMP
From the detail of the stamp shown right, identify the resort and the name and year of the issue.



How to enter Send your answers, marked 'Hello Sunshine!' and/or 'August Name That Stamp' to: Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.
Closing date 19 September 2014.

Prizes The first two correct entries drawn at random in each section win a Royal Mail Prestige Stamp Book and a stampy T-shirt. Four runners up receive a Prestige Stamp Book •

May solutions and winners *Screen Test Solution* 1b, 2c, 3a, 4b, 5c. *Winners* H M Brown, Greater Manchester; E Gilbert, Hertfordshire; Carol Salt, East Yorkshire. *Name That Stamp Solution* Peter Sellers, British Film Year, 1985. *Winners* S Kempster, Kent; J Foote, Glasgow; D Ward, Suffolk.

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ. December puzzle solutions and prizewinners are not available at time of going to press and will be published in a future issue of *Bulletin*.

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Stampex

Be the first to get your hands on First Day Covers and exclusive exhibition postmarks for new stamps launching at Autumn Stampex – British Flora II: Symbolic Flowers Post & Gos on 17 September and the Seaside Architecture issue and Miniature Sheet released the next day. For more about Stampex see page 362 or visit: www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

Special stamps for Stampex

Autumn Stampex runs from 17 to 20 September at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London

Europe's best stamp extravaganza is a collector's dream! Over 100 stands, top-notch displays, prize draws and competitions, an exclusive zone for children – and two stunning stamp issues making their debut at the Royal Mail stand (above). Entrance is free and you receive a complimentary postcard and catalogue on arrival. We look forward to seeing you there…

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