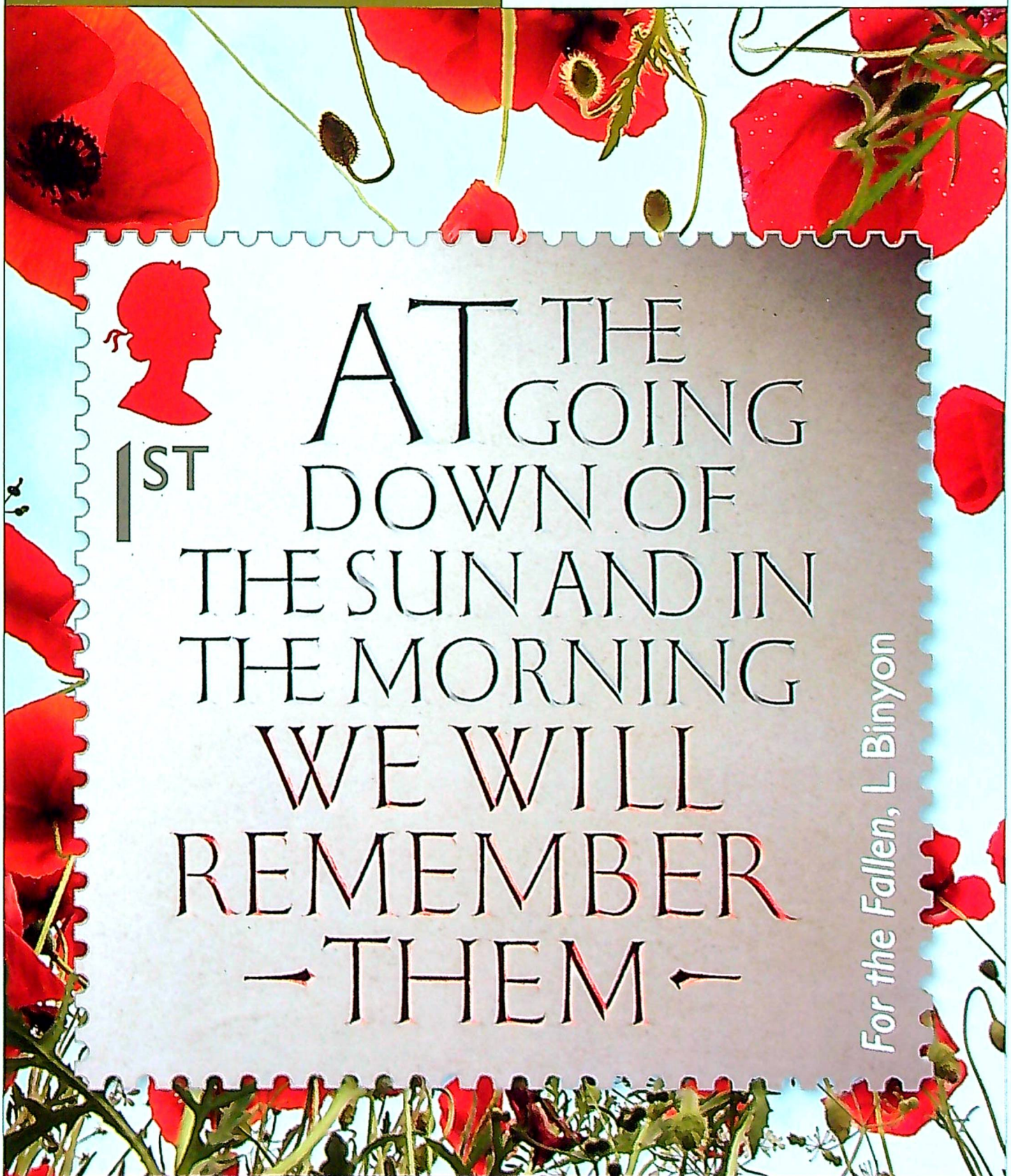
BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

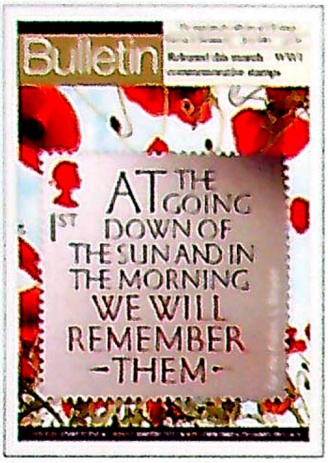
VOLUME 51 NUMBER 11 | JULY 2014 | £1.50

Released this month – WW1 commemorative stamps



J HOLMAN STAMP SCENE • C BAKER WARTIME POST • WIN COMMONWEALTH GAMES SPECIALS

Issues and withdrawals



Cover image: one of the First Class stamps from the First World War 1914 issue, available from 17 July. Turn to page 336 for the background story to this remarkable new stamp series.

For philatelic preview details of the **First World War 2014** stamps, see page 302 of June *Bulletin*.

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Please note: stamps and postmarks are not shown to scale. Stamp sizes are listed on Preview pages.

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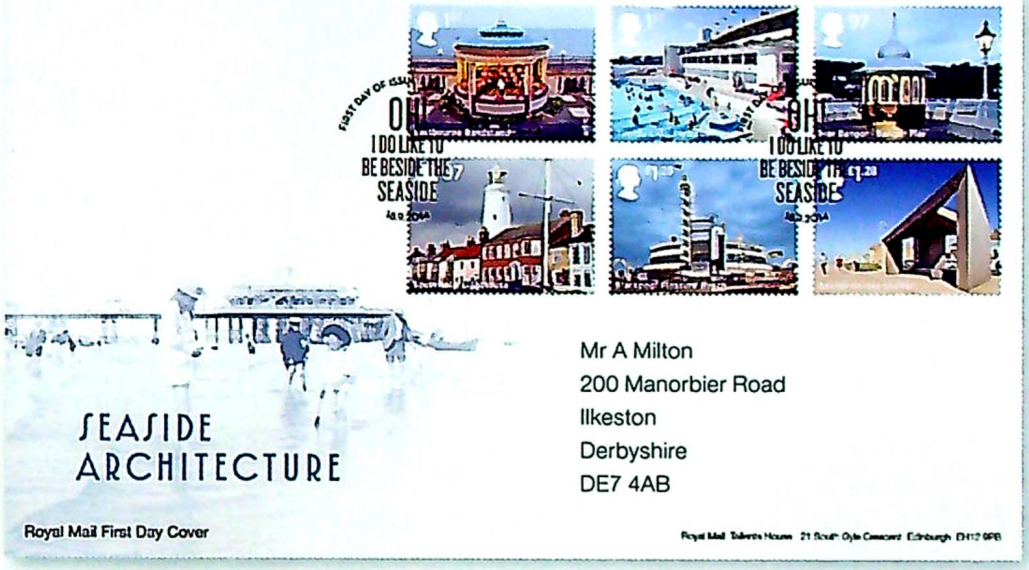
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11 July	**Withdrawal** Butterflies: Stamps (10 x 1st Class), Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class – 2 x Special Stamps, 4 x Definitives), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
17 July	**Issue** Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games: Stamps (2nd Class, 1st Class, 97p, £1.28, £1.47, £2.15), Presentation Pack, Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (6 in set), 3 x Coin Covers.
28 July	**Issue** First World War 1914: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.47), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (6 in set), 3 x Coin Covers.
31 July	**Change of phone number** on Business Sheets and Stamp Books, in line with European regulations
31 July	**Philakorea – Post & Go Machin Collectors Strip** 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. With overprint 'Philakorea 2014 World Stamp Expo'. Mail order only.
31 July	**Philakorea – Union Flag Collectors Strip** 6 rates: 1st up to 100g, 1st Large up to 100g, Euro 20g/World 10g, Worldwide up to 20g, Europe 60g, Worldwide up to 60g. With overprint 'Philakorea 2014 World Stamp Expo'. Mail order only.
18 August	**Sustainable Fish Stamp Book** 2 x Sustainable Fish Stamps (1st Class) and 4 x Definitives.

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 main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Square), Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southend on Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro, York and Newport, Isle of Wight.

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.

Contents



Seaside Preview From pier and bandstand to pleasure beach and lighthouse – you'll find Britain's best coastal buildings in this stamp set **327**

Issues and withdrawals Get warmed up for all the hot summer issues coming your way **322**

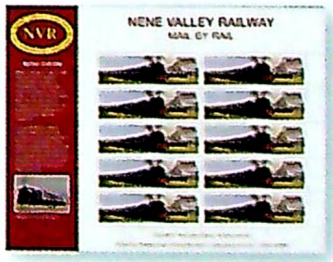
Correspondence *Bulletin* readers share opinions and thoughts on collecting **324**

Royal Mail Update Shiny new Ryder Cup Coin Cover minted **325**



Post & Go update Royal Mail expert Martyn Fry has the latest **326**

Stamp Scene Developments and events with your very own John Holman **330**



Front-line design The team behind the First World War stamps tell how this poignant work moved them **336**







Scotland the rave Susan Egelstaff has the story behind the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow – as celebrated with new stamps **342**



Field Service Postards Colin Baker explains the power of the penny postcard in WW1 **347**

Steeds of steel Two new covers show brave horses at war **350**

Puzzles On yer bike and win a special cover marking the Tour de France's Yorkshire Grand Départ **351**

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

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Correspondence

Dear Mr Hammond...

I very much enjoyed reading in the June issue of the *Bulletin* about the forthcoming stamps to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. I like the idea of the six themes running through all the stamps to be issued in the series and think the subjects chosen for 1914 are excellent. There was, however, an error on page 304: it said Captain Francis Grenfell was the first to receive the Victoria Cross in the First World War. He was one of the first but not the first. That honour belongs to Lieutenant Maurice Dease. Grenfell was awarded his VC for his action on 24 August 1914, the day after Dease, Private Sidney Godley, Lance Corporal Charles Jarvis and Corporal Charles Garforth won their VCs. (Captain Theodore Wright was later awarded the VC for gallantry on 23 August and 14 September.) Is it too late to amend the wording in the Presentation Pack? Or perhaps add a correction slip? I hope this information is of assistance to you.
Derek Hunt, Berkshire



I am delighted to hear that you like the First World War stamp series and also would like to thank you for reporting the error. We can always rely on *Bulletin* readers to study articles in detail and we are grateful for your feedback. William Doherty tells me that, in compiling the article for publication, the text was checked with information held at the National Army Museum, where Captain Francis Grenfell is described as the first 'gazetted' recipient of the Victoria Cross, ie the first to be officially listed in *The London Gazette.* Hence the painting that appears in the Presentation Pack, by Richard Caton Woodville (above), is entitled *The First VC of the European War, 1914. Captain Francis Grenfell, 9th Lancers at Audregnies, 24 August 1914.* The title of the painting cannot be changed, but, as you rightly point out, the action that resulted in Lieutenant Dease being awardedthe Victoria Cross took place one day earlier, on 23 August 1914.
Andrew Hammond, Managing Director, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles

Visible changes

Firstly, it was nice to see the face of the Managing Director of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles in the June edition of the *Bulletin*; Mr Hammond's message to readers was most welcome.

As a loyal collector of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* from issue number seven to date, I must say the number of its pages has increased, as has the number of stamp issues! However – as a customer for at least 50 years, with a standing order on many philatelic items including all new visible changes on Cyl blocks of eight definitive stamps – I am perplexed as to why Royal Mail does not include the year code changes in my regular order. They can be seen by the naked eye and are therefore most definitely visible changes.

I should say I have visited Tallents House on three occasions over the years with the Friends of the British Postal Museum & Archive, and we found the staff very accommodating.
George M Fleming, by email

Thank you for raising this matter Mr Fleming. The subject of different standing orders for visible changes is currently under discussion at Tallents House. Watch this space for the outcome.
William Doherty, Marketing Manager, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles

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.



An early glimpse of the limited-edition medal cover marking the Ryder Cup, a Sustainable Fish book and type changes on all stamp books

Medal Cover for Gleneagles Royal Mail's new Ryder Cup Medal Cover celebrates the prestigious biennial pro match-play golf competition between the United States and teams from Europe. It is released on 23 September, three days before the contest tees off at Gleneagles. In addition to the Royal Mint medal, specially struck in a limited edition of 10,000, the cover carries the Scottish Saltire stamp with a Ryder Cup label and cancelled with a special postmark. Inside is a booklet that includes a feature on the origins of the Gleneagles golf course and hotel, a map of the PGA centenary course and a quote from Samuel Ryder on the first ever Ryder Cup match held in 1927 •

New Stamp Book in August A new Stamp Book with two stamps from the Sustainable Fish issue comes out on 18 August. It contains six first-class stamps. Four Royal Mail red Machin definitives are flanked by two pictorial stamps, one a sustainable species, the Cornish sardine, and the other a species under threat, the common skate. The stamp book's number is UB376 •



Phone number change The following stamp books bearing new basic-rate phone numbers for Royal Mail Customer Services will be introduced from 31 July: 6 x First Class stamps £3.72, UB371; 4 x First Class Large Letter £3.72, UB372; 4 x Second Class Large £2.92, UB373; 12 x First Class £7.44, UB374; 12 x Second Class £6.36, UB375 •

Post & Go update Martyn Fry reports



NCR Collectors Pack on sale this month A new Collectors Pack, for the new-value version of Post & Go stamps, as issued through the NCR kiosks, is available by mail order from Tallents House and Post Office Ltd philatelic offices from 7 July. The pack contains five versions of the new layouts (First Class, First Class Large, Second Class, Second Class Large and A) costing £3.78. The stamps carry the Tallents House C002 machine print string.

Royal Mail machines in Seoul for Philakorea Royal Mail kiosks A003 and A004 will be at the Philakorea exhibition from 7 to 12 August, vending Post & Go Machin and Union Flag stamps. All the Post & Go stamps will carry the 'Philakorea 2014, World Stamp Expo' overprint.

GB versions of the two designs, printed on the B001 back office machine, will be available from Tallents House. The Machin Collectors Strip as well as the Union Flag Collectors Strips comprise six postage rates: First Class up to 100g, First Class Large Letter up to 100g, Euro 20g/World 10g, Worldwide up to 20g, Europe 60g, and Worldwide up to 60g. These UK versions will also feature the 'Philakorea 2014 World Stamp Expo' overprint and the print string B8GB14 B001.

In the last Post & Go update we reported that Jersey Post would be taking its J001 machine to South Korea, but this plan has changed: the focus has shifted to the installation of a Jersey-based J002 machine.

Royal Mail Series 2 font Collectors' feedback on the appearance of the dual-value 'Europe 20g/World 10g' print introduced on 28 April has prompted Royal Mail to review the type font used in the Series 2 machines.

Exhibition programme Since the Royal Mail Post & Go exhibition programme was introduced in 2012 at the Scottish Congress in Perth, additional venues have been added and this year there are eight in all. The remaining four venues of this year are listed below. In response to feedback from collectors and exhibition attendance figures, Royal Mail will be restructuring the programme for 2015 – UK Post & Go exhibitions may be limited to appropriate ABPS/BPT-affiliated shows. We will publish further details at the earliest opportunity •

Post & Go prices	
1st Class	62p
1st Class Large	93p
Europe 20g (Euro 20g/World 10g from 28 April)	97p
Europe 60g	£1.47
Worldwide 20g	£1.28
Worldwide 60g	£2.15
2nd Class	53p
2nd Class Large	73p
1st Class Collector Strip	£7.42
2nd Class Collector Strip	£1.26
1st Class Collector Set	£45.12
New Collectors Pack (shown above)	£3.78

Post & Go exhibition programme	
York Stamp Fair	18-19 July
Philakorea 2014	7-12 August
Autumn Stampex	17-20 September
Stafford Stamp Show	7-8 November

Note: exhibitions may be added or removed and Post & Go stamp listings for individual shows may change













Shore fire winners The spirit of the great British seaside holiday is evoked by architecture featured in September's special stamp issue

ALONG THE PROM, PROM, PROM... The pleasure of the promenade will be brought to life in a bracing new issue showing the history of the great British seaside. The Seaside Architecture Stamp Set and Miniature Sheet feature all your favourite bucket-and-spade icons – piers a-plenty, a grand little bandstand, a winking lighthouse, seafront shelter, a seaside lido and Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Designed by Why Not Associates, Seaside Architecture will be released on 18 September, 200 years after Britain's first sea pier opened at Ryde on the Isle of Wight. Also available are a Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards and Coin Cover.



FD1418-TH

Stamp by stamp The set, a mix of First Class, 97p and £1.28 values, shows the British seaside at its very best – under a rare blue summer sky and the more traditional grey clouds!

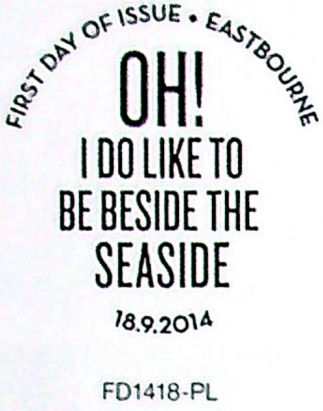
Eastbourne Bandstand Featuring a colourfully tiled bandstand with smartly uniformed players, this stamp is also Royal Mail's Europa stamp for 2014. The bandstand was constructed in 1935, and plays to seated audiences of up to 1,600. *First Class*

Tinside Lido, Plymouth Outdoor swimming pools, known as lidos, became the new centrepieces of British seaside resorts in the 1930s. Art Deco gem Tinside, built in 1935 on the Hoe, offers inspiring views across Plymouth Sound. *First Class*

Bangor Pier The cosy kiosk shelter on Bangor Pier was part of the Victorian craze for constructing ▸

Seaside Architecture Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	18 September
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Why Not Associates
Photography	Lee Mawdsley
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Number per sheet	25/50
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



piers, which gathered momentum thanks to fast-developing technology for building with iron, the material of the age. The metal was excellent for decorative styles, used on kiosks, lamps and bandstands. *97p*

Southwold Lighthouse The 31 metre-high lighthouse, opened in 1890, guides ships into Southwold Harbour and vessels sailing past the Suffolk coast. Automated in 1938, the tower is set among streets of small Southwold houses, and its light casts a beam 24 nautical miles out to sea. *97p*

Blackpool Pleasure Beach This seaside legend has been entertaining visitors since its launch in 1896 by local worthy William Bean, whose aim was to 'make adults feel like children again'. Over 100 years later, the Beach is thrilling adults and, of course, children with modern attractions such as The Big One, an 87mph rollercoaster and Britain's fastest. *£1.28*

Bexhill-on-Sea Shelter This is one of four supremely contemporary wind shelters in the Sussex resort, created by architects Duggan Morris who won the commission in a RIBA design contest. *£1.28*

Miniature sheet The background of the Miniature Sheet portrays Southend pier, Britain's longest, and carries four stamps showing other classic seaside piers:

Worthing Pier A great survivor is Worthing – the pier has been enlarged and rebuilt a number of times since it opened in 1862, with kiosks and a pavilion added in the 1880s. A fire in 1933 led to the construction of a new South Pavilion, as well as the windshield that protects the entire length of the pier. *First Class*

Llandudno Pier Completed in 1877, the longest pier in Wales has an unusual 'dog-leg' layout. Other notable features are the star-patterned iron railings

Seaside Architecture Stamps – Prices	
Stamps – 2 x 1st Class, 2 x 97p, 2 x £1.28	£5.74
Miniature Sheet – 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.28	£3.80
Presentation Pack	£10.05
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£7.36/£6.14
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet/overseas	£5.04/£4.20
Stamp Cards, set of 11	£4.95





and the octagonal kiosks. A pier-head pavilion was added in 1905. *First Class*

Brighton Pier This is the last of Brighton's three piers to be built and opened in 1899. It cost £137,000, a record for the time. Originally the pier featured illuminated arches with an electric railway that ran to the oriental-style theatre. Brighton is the most visited pier in the UK. *£1.28*

Dunoon Pier Perched on Scotland's Cowal Peninsula, Dunoon has a rare Arts and Crafts design, with a red-tiled roof and timbered decoration. Holidaying Glaswegian families once disembarked at the pier from fleets of paddle steamers. The *Waverley*, the only ocean-going steamer in the world, still comes to Dunoon regularly. *£1.28*



FD1418-NP

Also in the issue The Presentation Pack design is influenced by Art Deco, the style that in its turn influenced much of British seaside architecture. The Pack includes a concise history of seafront buildings and there is a timeline of architectural development too. Stamp Cards are available in a set of 11 – all the ten stamps as well as the entire Miniature Sheet.

A special Coin Cover contains a £2 coin and features the Southwold Lighthouse stamp. It celebrates the 500th anniversary of Trinity House, the shipping safety body that looks after lighthouses in England and Wales.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 18 September. You can send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark (address on page 322) •

Seaside Architecture Miniature Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	18 September 2014
Number of stamps	Four
Design	Why Not Associates
Photography	Lee Mawdsley
Acknowledgement	Background image of Southend Pier by Lee Mawdsley
Printer	Joh. Enschedé Stamps
Print process	Lithography
Sheet size	115mm x 89mm
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



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

UK diary dates



Above: the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield

5 July Yorkshire Philatelic Association annual convention, hosted by Wakefield Philatelic Society, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Northgate, Wakefield WF1 3QX, 10am to 4.30pm. Information: 01924 271218 or 01924 259713.

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

11-14 July Joint meeting of Royal Philatelic Society London and Belgium Philatelic Academy; Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Ypres, Belgium. See www.rdpceremonyweekend.com and 25-27 July below.

12 July National Philatelic Society AGM followed by members' displays, London Welsh Centre, 157 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, 2.45pm.

18-19 July York Racecourse Stamp & Coin Fair, York YO23 1EX.

18-20 July GB Philatelic Society regional meeting in York. Information: P Tanner, 01753 887755.

25-27 July UK Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, The Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough, LE16 7NJ. Talks, displays and presentation of Congress Medal. Information: Paul Gaywood, 01772 713917, gaywood@hotmail.co.uk.

1 August Strand Stamp Fair, details as above.

9 August National Philatelic Society: USA Miscellany presentation by Michael Goodman, London Welsh Centre, 157 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, 2.45pm •

Overseas exhibitions

Philakorea 2014 will be held in Seoul from 7 to 12 August. Malaysia 2014, a joint World Youth Stamp Exhibition and 29th Asian International Stamp Exhibition, takes place in Kuala Lumpur from 1 to 6 December. For details of Malaysia 2014 contact Richard West: richjwest@btinternet.com •

Stamp-themed events

The main anniversary of 2014 is the centenary of the start of the First World War (and also the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War). Royal Mail issues the first of a series of commemorative stamps on 28 July (see page 336). An exhibition called 'Enduring War: Grief, Grit and Humour', is on at the British Library in London until 12 October. The exhibition considers the attempts to boost morale at home and in the field, showing posters, poetry, art, books and pamphlets from the period. See www.bl.uk/enduring-war. For details of many local, regional, national and international events and exhibitions go to the Imperial War Museums website at www.iwm.org.uk.

Below: 'Fall in' poster issued in 1914 by the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee



Poster image: British Library

Royal Mail's Remarkable Lives issue released on 25 March includes a stamp celebrating the 100th anniversary of Dylan Thomas's birth. For commemorative events, visit www.dylanthomas100.org •

Friends of the BPMA

The Friends of the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) enjoyed a social day at the Museum's store in Debden on 17 May 2014. The store houses a large number of objects including pillar boxes, telephone kiosks, postal vehicles and letter sorting machines (see Debden Day Out, *Bulletin* Volume 50, page 370).

In addition to exploring the fascinating and historically invaluable collection, the Friends and guests enjoyed several excellent and informative presentations. Julian Stray, Senior Curator at the BPMA, talked about the development of postage labels from their early use on parcels in 1947 to the current usage with Post & Go machines. In between came the Frama labels of 1984 to 1985 and the computerisation of counter services in 2002 that brought the now familiar Horizon labels. Particularly striking was the contrast between the huge size of the Automatic Postal Service Machine of 2004 and the modern P&G machines. Examples of both are held at the store. Julian's talk was supplemented by a display provided by Glenn Morgan of many of the labels.

A splendidly restored early 19th century mail coach, owned by the BPMA, is now at the store, having previously been on loan. To mark this event, Cyril Parsons gave a short account of the history of the mail coach, which was superseded by the rapid growth of the railways. Cyril also presented the BPMA with a Stevengraph embroidered silk panel of a mail coach.

After lunch, Martyn Fry, Royal Mail's Head of Stamp Production, gave a presentation on 'Printing, Paper and Inks'. Involved with stamp production for more than 30 years, Martyn had many fascinating background stories to relate as well as a great deal of technical information, much of which is not widely known by collectors. The presentation explained the development of security features to prevent the reuse of stamps, revealing that next year the carrier (backing) paper of self-adhesive stamps will be receiving a security printing similar to the iridescent printing applied to the face of definitives. Also announced was a future change to the design of Horizon labels.



Above: embroidered mail coach presented by Cyril Parsons

In reply to a question, Martyn confirmed that The Queen still approves all new British stamp designs and has, on rare occasions, suggested that designs be reconsidered.

These are exciting times for the BPMA, with the new premises at Calthorpe House ready to be transformed in the new Postal Museum, and the plans to bring Mail Rail, the former Post Office Underground Railway, back to life. A significant way to support this invaluable work is to become a Friend of the BPMA. More details can be found at www.postalheritage.org.uk/friends, or write to: The Friends of BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, ▸

London WC1X 0DL. Among future events will be a talk by Bob Fothergill on Intelligent AR in the Post & Go revolution on 4 November (2pm) at the Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place, adjacent to Freeling House.

For details of BPMA exhibitions and events phone 020 7239 2570 or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk •

Society journals



The May 2014 issue of the *Newsletter of the Welsh Philatelic Society* (*Cymdeithas Ffilatelig Cymru*) is the first all-colour edition. It opens with reports of recent meetings, with good-quality illustrations of some of the key items included in the displays. Articles include 'Upper Bangor Post Office – the First Fifty Years' by John Cowell and 'Postal History of Caldey Island' by Gerald Marriner.

Ken Smith provides a useful list of recent post office openings and closures in Wales, Grahame Blackman records some Welsh postmarks of the early 20th century, and Colin Narbeth looks at postal history from Narberth.

The *Newsletter* concludes with illustrations of recent special handstamps used in Wales, taken from Royal Mail's *British Postmark Bulletin*. For details of the WPS and its activities contact Secretary Neil Prior at 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY or visit www.wps.wales.org.

The Spring 2014 issue of the *Newsletter of the British Royal Portraits Stamp Group* lists recent issues depicting the British Royal Family, principally Prince George, and stamps from Norway in June 2013 marking the 40th birthdays of the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway. There is a short feature on Royal residences, showing two of Royal Mail's recent Buckingham Palace stamps.

There is also a comment about Tony Benn, who died in March, recalling his attempt to remove The Queen's head from special stamps when he was Postmaster General in the 1960s. As the note points out, much has already been written about this, often under the heading 'Off with her head'. Not surprisingly The Queen vetoed the idea!

For details about the British Royal Portraits Stamp Group, contact Allan Rendle at 23 More Close, St Paul's Court, London W14 9BN, or email allanrendle@hotmail.com. The UK annual subscription is £10 if receiving the *Newsletter* by post, or £5 if receiving electronically.

The May issue of the *Newsletter of the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society of Great Britain* gives details of the Society's activities and members, as well as a number of interesting features on recent British stamp issues, including the Buckingham Palace set, and news of BPMA events and plans for the new postal museum. The *Newsletter* finishes with illustrations of covers and special handstamps relating to banking and the finance industry. The Society is open to all collectors working in, or retired from, insurance or banking. Contact Dudley Baker at 25 Bunbury Way, Downs View, Epsom KT17 4JP or email Dudley.baker1@ntlworld.com for details •

New Philatelic Fund

In his message in the Royal Philatelic Society London annual report, President Christopher King reveals that the Society has established the Philatelic Fund as a successor to the British Philatelic Trust. Income from the £1.7 million fund will be used to support British philately. The fund will be



chaired by Brian Trotter (right). The British Philatelic Trust, now being wound up, was established in 1981 for the long-term development of philately through 'financial assistance to philatelic initiative'. Funding came from donations of about £1 million from the Post Office from sales of miniature sheets for the 1980 International Stamp Exhibition and a further £199,000 after the 1990 Exhibition. Among the Trust's early objectives was setting up a British Philatelic Centre as a national focal point for organised philately. The Centre in Charterhouse Street, London opened in February 1987 but closed some years ago. It will be interesting to see what projects benefit from the new Philatelic Fund •

Record stamp sale

A new record for the highest price paid for a stamp at auction was set on 18 June, with the sale at New York Sotheby's of the only known surviving example of the renowned One-Cent Magenta, issued by British Guiana in 1856 (see page 301 of the June edition of *Bulletin*). It fetched $9.5 million.

Sanquhar Post Office

In January 2013 I reviewed a new book which told the story of the post office at Sanquhar in Dumfriesshire, Scotland which has been in the same building since 1712 (possibly even earlier). The current owners of the building put it up for sale earlier in the year and it is currently under offer. It is hoped that the building will continue in use as a post office as it holds the record as the oldest in the world •

New GB catalogue

Stanley Gibbons has published the 2014 – 29th – edition of its *Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue*, covering issues from 1840 to early 2014. Helpful new tables have been added showing the various date and source code combinations on Machins, and Post & Go collectors will find full details of stamps dispensed from Hytech machines at exhibitions and elsewhere. Booklet panes, including those with inverted watermarks, are now listed to 1952 (524 pages, price £34.95). Also new are *Canada & Provinces* (£24.95), *Part 10 Russia* (£45.95) and *Part 17 China* (£48.95). All are available from the Stanley Gibbons shop at 399 Strand, London WC2 and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons, 7 Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH, on 0800 611 622 (UK only) or by email –orders@stanleygibbons.com •

New presentation pack catalogue

The first edition of a new work, *British Presentation Packs*, was appropriately published on 23 April, the 50th anniversary of the issue of the Shakespeare Festival pack in 1964 – the first presentation pack as we know it. The book includes a well-written history of packs and description of different categories – commemorative, definitive, Collectors Club, forerunner, format, greetings, miniature sheet, postage due, Post & Go, reproduction, Smilers® for kids, year packs, year books, souvenir and special edition, and private. Seasoned collectors as well as those new to pack collecting will find much of interest in these introductory sections. Then on to the listings, which illustrate each pack with a brief description of the stamp issue, the number of packs sold (where known), and a catalogue number and price.

There were two types of the first pack (for the Shakespeare Festival) – the difference found in the unicorn on the Royal coat of arms, priced at £30 and ▸



£24 respectively. Variations are also found on the 1970 General Anniversaries pack, the basic pack priced at £4 with two variants at £150 each.

The commemorative packs are listed up to the Remarkable Lives issue in March 2014. Definitive packs started with the Machin low and high value packs in March 1969, but there were forerunner packs containing Wilding low and high values and regional stamps in 1960 – introduced by Frank Langfield, the founder editor of the *Bulletin* and first manager of the Philatelic Bureau in 1963. These forerunner packs, essentially stamps on a stockcard inside a printed envelope, are now scarce, with prices ranging from £275 to £5,000.

Format packs are described as specialist products that contain stamp issues in blocks of varying formats, sold at face value, and they were available from the Philatelic Bureau and selected post offices. I recall them on sale at the Royal Mail stands at some stamp exhibitions. Many contained cylinder blocks and gutter pairs and no doubt many purchasers removed the stamps for their collectors and the packing was discarded. This may explain their scarcity and prices – ranging from £60 to £600. Reproduction packs started in 2000 with replica Penny Blacks as printed from Victorian printing machine at the Earl's Court stamp exhibition. A second pack contains reproductions of the 1929 PUC £1 stamp for the 2010 exhibition.

Perhaps the most interesting section concerns souvenir and special edition packs, and lists many unusual productions from the Ships issue of 1969 to a Harry Potter Heroes & Villains pack of November 2011. Some of those listed were news to me, as were several in the private packs section. If you collect packs this new book is a must-buy (220 pages, price £24.95, from Packs & Cards, Oaklands House, Reading Road North, Fleet, Hants GU51 4AB, www.packsandcards.com) •

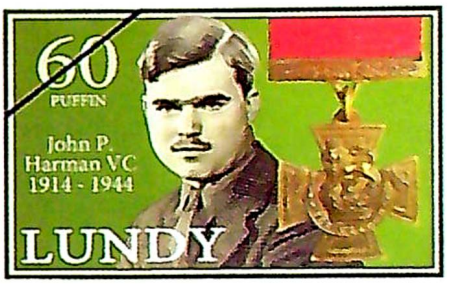
New local stamps

A number of islands around the UK coast issue local stamps (local carriage labels) to offset the cost of carrying mail to the mainland where it enters the Royal Mail system. Such stamps began in 1929 with Lundy in the Bristol Channel. On 29 May Lundy issued eight stamps marking the 500th anniversary of the Corporation of Trinity House, which was granted a Royal Charter by King Henry VIII in May 1514.

Trinity House runs the lighthouses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Lundy has three lighthouses – Old Light built in 1819 and North and South dating from 1897. The stamps comprise 5 puffin ('pence'), 15p, 2 x 47p, 2 x 60p, and 2 x 95p stamps. The 47p, 60p, and 95p cover UK second-class, first-class and overseas rates for sending mail from the island. Some 9,600 of each stamp were printed by Cartor in offset lithography. Sets cost £4.24 mint or used (CTO), or £4.95 on FDC or in presentation pack. A special first day postmark was used on FDCs. Blocks or complete sheets are available at face value. Postcards showing the photographs used on three of the stamps cost 25p each or £3.50 as a set of three, with the corresponding stamp on the picture side with first day postmark.

On 19 July 2014 a 60 puffin stamp commemorates a Lundy hero. John Pennington Harman was born on 20 July 1914, the oldest son of Martin Coles

Harman, owner of Lundy from 1925 to 1954. Like his father he was keen on nature and loved Lundy.



During the war he served as a lance-corporal in the 4th Battalion, the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. In 1944 he served in India and took part in the Battle of Kohima, in which he was seriously wounded and died soon after. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his extremely brave actions. A memorial was erected in his honour on Lundy.

The new stamp marks the centenary of Harman's birth and the 70th anniversary of his death and his award of the VC; Cartor has printed 5,400 stamps in sheets of 18. The price is 60p, with FDCs and presentation packs selling for £1.40 each. Blocks or complete sheets are available at face value. All orders, with postage of £2.30 UK, £3 Europe, £4 elsewhere, should be sent to Lundy (Stamps), Bideford, Devon EX39 2LY •

Island stamps

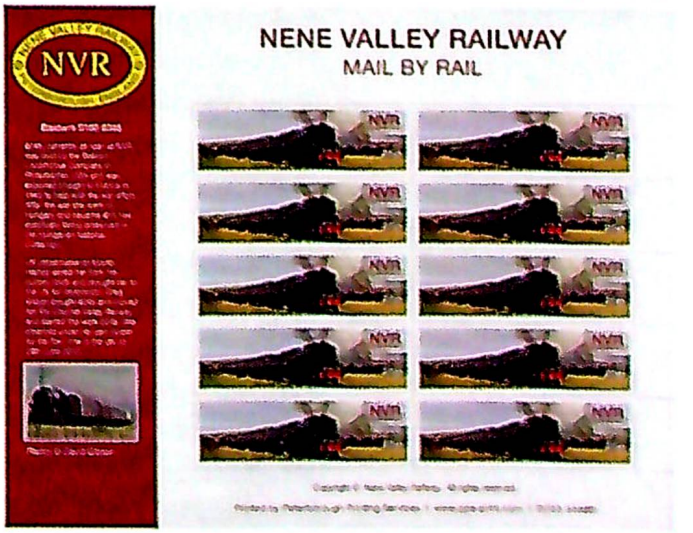
Guernsey's next issue, Marine Life II: Crustaceans released on 30 July, comprises six stamps and a miniature sheet. On the same day ten stamps depicting Guernsey scenes go on sale – five for local and five for UK rates. The stamps, on self-adhesive paper, will be available in booklets of ten and 100. Alderney is issuing First Birthday of Prince George – se-tenant pair – on 22 July, and six stamps and a miniature sheet in an issue entitled The Life of Ian Fleming on 30 July. Enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS, philatelic@guernseypost.com.

Jersey's next issue comprises six stamps and a miniature sheet honouring 50 years of the Red Arrows on 15 July, followed by six stamps and souvenir sheetlet marking the centenary of the First World War on 11 August. On 27 August six stamps and a miniature sheet feature Jersey's Roman Connections. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, www.jerseystamps.com.

Isle of Man will issue stamps featuring playing cards in August. Enquiries: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, www.iomstamps.com •

New railway stamp

The Nene Valley Railway (NVR) issued its third railway letter stamp of 2014 on 13 May, coinciding with the release of Royal Mail's Great British Film set. The NVR stamp, which features the S160 locomotive No 6046, is printed in sheets of ten (price £2.50). The locomotive stamp is available on a first day cover with the Great British Film stamps at £11.



Further stamps are expected in September when the locomotive *Tornado* revisits the railway, and to coincide with Royal Mail's Christmas issue released in November. Orders and enquiries: Nene Valley Railway (Stamps), Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR •



Above: Richard Caton Woodville's painting entitled *The First VC of the European War, 1914* appears on the Presentation Pack in this month's First World War 1914 stamp issue. Derek Hunt's letter on page 324 discusses the title of the painting

Return to the trenches of 1914 as Head of Stamp Strategy Philip Parker introduces Royal Mail's unique commemorative stamp series

AS THE COUNTRY BASKED in the afterglow of the immensely successful Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the memorable Olympic and Paralympic Games in the autumn of 2012, Royal Mail gathered itself to mark an event that is the polar opposite of those joyful national festivities – the centenary of the First World War. It is a subject of vast scope and impact, and its legacy continues to be debated. But how to convey, on stamps one inch square, a huge historic episode that almost defies comprehension?

Intensive desk research began in Royal Mail's Stamps and Collectibles department to gain an appreciation of all aspects of the war that escalated into the first truly global conflict: the contribution of Commonwealth countries, the roles of non-combatants abroad and on the Home Front, and the extent of the sacrifice across the services. We decided that the stamp commemoration should have a structure flexible enough to reflect a diverse range of subjects, but coherent enough to convey the idea of a series. Ultimately, the sequence of stamps would seek to humanise the conflict with a template of themes that aimed to make the scale of it understandable.

We decided on six themes, articulated in annual six-stamp issues up to 2018 that mark each year of the war – 30 stamps in all. One theme is a portrait: a photograph of a participant in the conflict. Another stamp will focus on Remembrance,

The Great War 1914 Prestige Stamp Book Written by Matt Brosnan, a historian at the Imperial Warm Museum. the 24-page stamp book contains a concise examination of the causes of the First World War and the events of 2014. A special stamp pane contains four First Class Country Definitives, with a reproduction of the cross that appears on Commonwealth war graves as a label. Available from 28 July, price £11.30



featuring a cemetery or memorial key to the year in question. Two more themes show the response to the hostilities by artists and writers – a painting by a war artist and lines composed by a war poet. The fifth theme was arrived at later in the planning – this is an artefact or object related to a participant.

For these themes, the content of the stamps was either created in a specific war year, from 1914 to 1918, or is entirely relevant to it. The stamps therefore form a narrative for each year, showing a symbolic person, an object or place, or words and images made by those who were involved. But our sixth theme – the emblem of Remembrance, the Poppy – is rather different. As a counterpoint to most of the other themes, a modern illustrator or artist has been commissioned to create a unique representation of the poppy as a key First Class stamp for each set. We have also commissioned contemporary image-makers to render the words from the war poems in a fitting style.

The first issue is out on 28 July, but initial ideas were presented to the Stamps Advisory Committee as early as March 2013. To ensure those ideas did justice to the importance of such a world-changing historical event, Royal Mail and the stamp design company Hat-trick have worked very closely with curators at the Imperial War Museums and consulted with other institutions, including the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Poetry Society, to find evocative, fitting images and poignant, inspiring stories. Over the next four years, many of these stories of the First World War will be revealed.

On the following pages we show the stamps in the First World War 1914 issue and speak to people closely involved in the different stages of creating this unique commemorative set ▸



Poppy, F Strickland



Fiona Strickland
Botanical artist
Painting the symbol of sacrifice made Fiona Strickland emotional over the suffering of war

Fiona Strickland's watercolour poppy is no frail wallflower. It explodes across the stamp like a shell bursting above the trenches; petals radiate out like flames from stamens resembling shrapnel. The bomb blast effect is astonishing and deliberate. Gareth Howat, whose company Hat-trick is designing the First World War issues, briefed Strickland to reinterpret the Remembrance symbol to signify the opening of hostilities. 'It had to be flame-like, and represent those first shots. So Gareth and I talked about the poppy looking like an explosion,' says Strickland, 58, who shares a studio with husband and fellow botanical artist Robert in Falkirk, Scotland.

Strickland used mixes of tone and colour to create the effect of roiling flame, completing the work in two months. 'While painting I had an emotional reaction I'd never had before,' she says. 'I felt for the men and women of the Great War, the sacrifice, the suffering. So I wanted to make every brush stroke count.' Her grandfather was an artilleryman in the Great War. Robert's great-uncle died on the Somme. 'It's not long ago that we lost the last people who served in the war. We need to remember their courage. I hope my stamp helps people remember all they endured' •



For the Fallen, L Binyon



Gary Breeze
Sculptor
Breeze's classic inscription takes us back in time to the sad, simple tributes of village war memorials

On Portland stone, gently, slowly, with metal mallet and tungsten chisel, Gary Breeze tapped out one of the most famous, and most tender, tributes to the dead in the English language. The lettering sculptor's inscription on his First Class stamp, from Laurence Binyon's 1914 poem *For the Fallen*, is carved in a design mimicking memorials built in our villages just after the Great War. Many memorials were created by sculptor Eric Gill and his brother MacDonald, who used a classically English style of lettering for the inscriptions.

'Contrary to what some think today, after the war a lot of people felt the war hadn't been pointless. They were proud,' says Breeze, 47, from his Norfolk studio. 'By echoing the Gill style I want people to look at the stamp and think they're looking at a memorial in an English churchyard, reflecting an era when people didn't feel it was pointless, because to feel like that is a shame for those who lost their lives. They deserve more.' Like his great-great uncle Bertie, killed aged 28 on the third day of the Somme at Ovillers – the same time and location as the death of Private William Tickle, featured on a stamp in this issue. 'I've seen a photo of Bertie outside his house, in uniform, going off to war. He looks like he has the whole world on his shoulders' •

Stamp designs © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2014



Private William Cecil Tickle



Peter Sijmons
Senior Production Manager
The treasured photograph of young Private Tickle brings a human touch to the set

Peter Sijmons' involvement in the First World War issue began two years ago: 'I set up the design and print end-to-end timescale, then monitor progress against the schedule right up to the delivery of the stamps. This has its challenges, especially with a subject as important as the First World War.'

Peter won't admit to having a favourite, but says, 'Although all the stamp images are strong, the photograph of Private Tickle brings a human touch to the set. It invites us to find out the story behind the smile: William Cecil Tickle lied about his age to join the Essex Regiment at 15, he was killed two years later at the age of 17, and his body was never identified. Before Private Tickle's mother gave this photo to the Imperial War Museum, she had written on the back "Billie Boy - one of the very best".'

Peter also manages the print and production specifications and ensures the printers meet Royal Mail requirements.

'The sepia tones of the Private Tickle photo printed very well,' he says. 'It was the printing of *A Star Shell* that was the trickiest in this set – the challenge was to get the correct phosphor level without changing the colour of the original painting, which is quite dark' •



A Star Shell, CRW Nevinson



David Gillespie
Product Manager
Nevison conveys the terror of war. This painting is relevant to 1914 and to any battleground

As Product Manager of Royal Mail's five-year stamp series, David Gillespie has kept an overview of research on all the First World War stamps: 'I spent a fascinating day with designers from Hat-trick, researching the work of war artists,' he recalls. 'The Imperial War Museum archive of war art is vast, with many paintings completed during the First World War, but few in its early months. So how best to portray 1914? Eventually *A Star Shell* by Christopher Richard Wynne Nevinson, from the Tate Collection, was chosen for the 1914 stamp set.

'I'm no art critic, but for me Nevinson conveys the terror of war, scenes that the new recruits would witness. *A Star Shell* is relevant to 1914 and to any battleground.

'It has been a privilege to be involved in this project. Everyone involved, at every stage of production, has been determined that this stamp series should commemorate the Great War in a respectful and appropriate manner. Royal Mail is uniquely placed to produce this kind of tribute; the postal service played a huge role in the First World War and is the second-largest curator of war memorials in the UK.'

A Star Shell is on display at Tate Britain, London SW1. It was almost certainly completed by Nevinson after he was invalided out of the Royal Army Medical Corps c ▸



The Response, Newcastle



Gareth Howat
Stamp designer
The man behind the First World War issues wants the stamps to tell us the human story of conflict

'Working on the First World War issues made me realise the scale of the conflict, something I hadn't completely understood before,' admits stamp designer Gareth Howat at his company Hat-trick's penthouse HQ behind the Tate Modern. 'Sacrifice was at home, not just in France. Suffering went beyond the Western Front, at Gallipoli, the Middle East, everywhere.'

It was a poignant education for Howat, and he wants others to learn from the stamps too. 'For us it was important that behind every stamp there was a story about people. War is after all a human story,' says Howat, 48, whose great-great uncle was killed when his fighter plane went down over France. And what stories these 30 stamps will tell. He and Royal Mail Head of Design and Editoral Marcus James have unearthed parades of brave men and women, tales of pity and hope. They include combatants and non-combatants, war artists and poets, and contemporary image-makers. *The Response* sculpture above, by Welsh artist William Goscombe John, portrays Geordie soldiers leaving home for the war. 'Many don't know that public sculptures to celebrate soliders going off to fight were put up during the war. It's sad, as later people realised what war was about, and the public sculptures became memorials for the dead' •



Princess Mary's Gift Fund box



Haleema Ali
Customer Marketing Manager
This little box carries a powerful message, as one of the most remembered objects from 1914

In October 1914, the Christmas Gift Fund was launched by Princess Mary, the 17-year-old daughter of King George V and Queen Mary. The purpose was to provide everyone wearing the King's uniform and serving overseas on Christmas Day 1914 with a "gift from the nation". The result was the production of an embossed brass box, which contained a Christmas card and a picture of the Princess along with small gifts.

'This little box was sent to 42,000 across the nation,' says Haleema Ali. 'For so many families it carried great significance; it gives the stamp a powerful message.'

Aware of the meticulous research and artistic effort involved in creating the First World War series, Haleema clearly feels a keen sense of responsibility in her work as Customer Marketing Manager: 'It is my job to help bring the First World War stamp series to life for our customers, through our *First* and *Featured* publications and by placing adverts in marketing magazines. I have to ensure all advertising material reflects the tone of this important stamp issue– with no glorification of war and no pictures of weaponry and horror.

'We have commissioned a replica of the Princess Mary Gift Fund Box as a memento for collectors. It's nice to think that these might be kept for another 100 years' •

This Month in History John Holman describes an ambitious attempt to speed up mail services

Eighty years ago, in July 1934, a bold experiment took place on a remote Scottish island – a rocket post. Earlier experiments on the Sussex Downs the month before were deemed successful and the rocket inventor, a 26-year-old German called Gerhard Zucker, then set his sights on firing his rocket over the sea for the first time. The need for a speedy means of communication between the island of Scarp and the neighbouring Isle of Harris led to the experiment there in July. Two Post Office officials and the local MP attended the first firing from Scarp on 28 July (known locally in Gaelic as Latha na Rocait – Day of the Rocket). After setting up the apparatus, Zucker signalled the crowd to retire to a safe distance before connecting up the electric fuse and pressing the button. Instead of the rocket shooting over the Sound of Scarp, there was a flash, a dull explosion and a cloud of smoke. The letters contained in the rocket fell onto the beach, many scorched. They were recovered, and given a marking to indicate the reason for damage. A second attempt from Harris to Scarp three days later was also less than successful. Covers were datestamped at Harris and sent on their way. The covers carried a special rocket mail stamp in addition to the George V postage stamps. Both the unused rocket stamps and covers bearing them are now highly collectable.

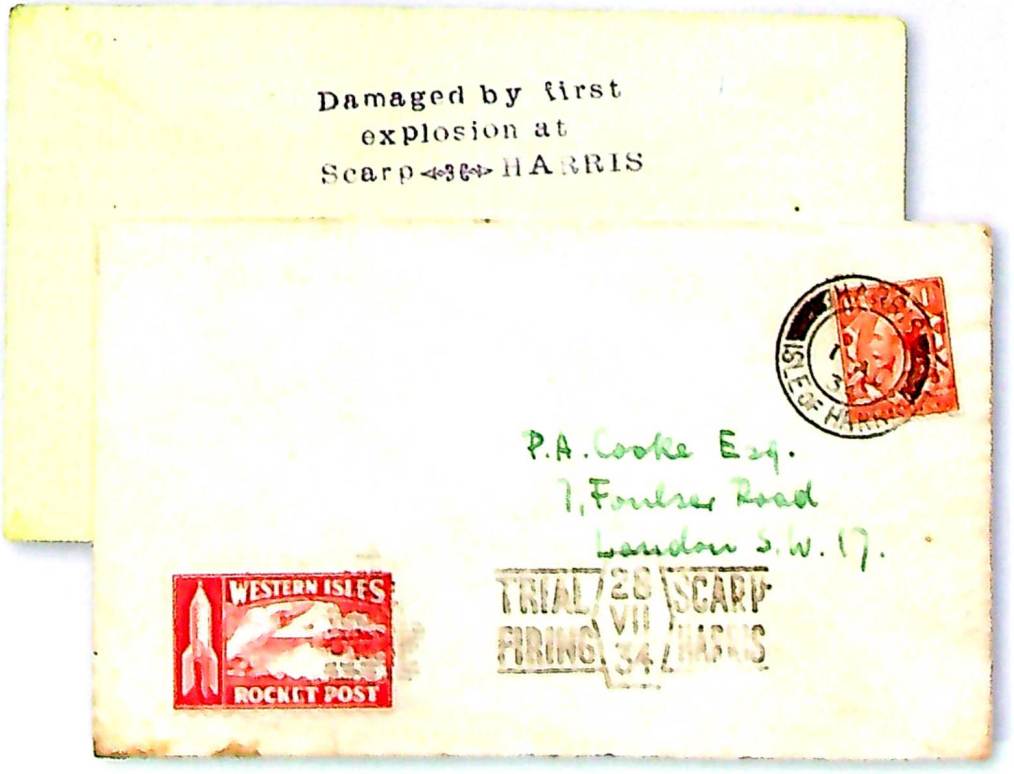


Above: this Cinderella stamp of 1934 reflects the high hopes for a bold new postal service

Below: scorched covers that almost travelled by rocket

Zucker attributed the failure to the explosive used, as he had not been allowed to import the original powder from Germany. He continued with trials but they were not successful. He returned to Germany and is believed to have worked with Wernher von Braun on the V1 and V2 rockets in the Second World War. He died in 1985. In 2001 a film called *The Rocket Post* was made – on the Hebridean island of Taransay rather than on Scarp (it was released in 2006). The BBC TV programme *Coast* successfully re-enacted the Scarp rocket test in August 2005. The post office on Scarp closed when the population left the island in 1971 •

Rocket post details: see Bulletin April 1995 (page 239) and July 1995 (page 329)





GLASGOW 2014
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Scotland the rave

Sports fans are going wild as Scotland hosts the Commonwealth Games – celebrated in an exciting new issue. Susan Egelstaff describes the build-up



Main picture: how the Opening Ceremony at Celtic Park could look

Above: the Glasgow 2014 emblem and drive to recruit volunteers

THE BIGGEST sporting event ever to have graced Scottish shores is almost upon us. On 23 July, the Opening Ceremony of the XX Commonwealth Games takes place at Celtic Park in the East End of Glasgow and will be watched by a global audience of over one billion people. Scotland, and more specifically Glasgow, will be captivated by the 2014 Commonwealth Games in a way that no other sporting event has managed in this country's history.

The London 2012 Olympic Games demonstrated just how big an impact a great sporting occasion can have on a country's psyche. The capital was transformed into a warm, friendly city where strangers struck up conversations on the Tube and people smiled at each other in the street. Glasgow will become as excited, electrified and transfixed by the Commonwealth Games as London and the nation was by the Games in 2012.

Playing for the future Seven years ago, when Glasgow won the right to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the entire ethos of the bid was based on legacy: all of the development projects which were to happen as a result of the Games had to be community-relevant and not purely Games-specific. Seven years on, parts of the city are entirely unrecognisable. The East End of Glasgow, notorious for being home to some of the poorest areas in the



Stamp Guide
First Class: swimming has appeared in every Commonwealth Games programme since the first tournament in 1930. Athletes in this sport are often more comfortable in the pool than out and this stamp perfectly illustrates the graceful nature of the swimmers as they glide through the water. A mere fraction of a second can be the difference between winning and losing
Second Class: in Glasgow judo will make its first appearance in the Games since Manchester in 2002. British athletes have been incredibly successful in this highly physical sport. This stamp superbly represents the one-on-one nature of judo, with tactical positioning and physical strength being equally important – one mistake and an athlete's competition can be over...

UK, has undergone significant regeneration as a result of the Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow. The Athletes' Village is purpose-built for the event and will house over 6,500 athletes and support staff for the duration of the Games. Afterwards, the Village will be transformed into private homes, social housing and a care home.

The East End is also the location of Scotland's first indoor cycling track, the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, named in honour of Scotland's greatest ever Olympian. There are numerous other venues which have been constructed or renovated specifically for the Games: Tollcross International Swimming Centre, the Glasgow National Hockey Centre and the Emirates Sports Arena are all now world-class sporting venues and will continue to bring top class sporting events to Glasgow long after the Commonwealth Games have concluded on 3 August.

Scotland's Commonwealth track record Scotland has a history of hosting. Glasgow 2014 is the third Commonwealth Games held there: Edinburgh held the 1970 and 1986 Games, with both events producing some of Scotland's most iconic sporting moments. In 1970 Lachie Stewart out-sprinted the multiple world record holder and overwhelming favourite, Ron Clarke of Australia, to win gold in the 10,000 metres on the first day of those Games. This performance remains one of Scotland's most memorable sporting triumphs.

In 1986, Liz McColgan won the 10,000 metres gold in front of a home crowd and defended her title four years later in Auckland. Numerous other Scottish sporting heroes have won Commonwealth gold. Boxer Dick McTaggart, sprinter Allan Wells and cyclist Chris Hoy are just some of ▸

Glasgow 2014 in numbers

XX



Glasgow 2014 will be the 20th edition of the Commonwealth Games. The first was hosted by Hamilton, Canada, in 1930 and was known as the British Empire Games.

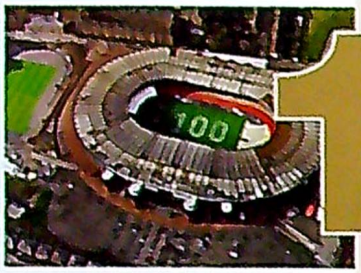
6,500

There will be 6,500 athletes from 71 nations competing at Glasgow 2014, in 17 sports over 11 days. In the original Commonwealth Games in 1930, only 400 athletes from 11 countries took part.

15,000

More than 15,000 specially selected volunteers, known as Clydesiders, will help Glasgow 2014 run smoothly. A total of 50,811 people put their names forward to volunteer at the Games, more than both Manchester 2002 and Melbourne 2006 combined.





1.9

The surface at Hampden Park has been raised by 1.9 metres, transforming it from the home of Scottish football into an international-standard athletics arena for Glasgow 2014. It has taken around 6,000 steel posts and 1,200 panels to create a deck for the transformation of Hampden and the deck weighs over 1,000 tonnes.

390,000

The 2,000-seat capacity Dining Hall in the Athletes' Village will serve around 390,000 meals, and there will be more than 1,000 different menu items.

4.25



The Queen's Baton Relay will cover 190,000km, the equivalent of going around the Earth's surface almost 4.25 times.



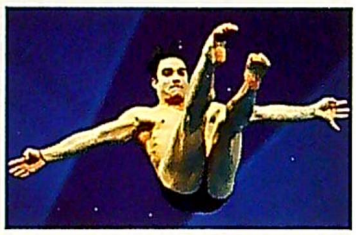


4,000

Up to 4,000 special people are set to be the baton bearers, carrying a unique symbol of the Games during the 40 days it will tour Scotland through all 32 local authority areas. The baton arrived in Northern Ireland on 20 May, travelling through Wales and England before it arrived in Scotland on 14 June.

9

Canadian diver Alexandre Despatie has netted nine Commonwealth gold medals – the most won by any single competitor.







New Zealand has won every rugby sevens gold medal since the sport first appeared in the Commonwealth Games in 1998.

803

Australia is the podium champ with a staggering 803 gold medals, and is the only nation with over 2,000 medals.



© Alamy



The Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome will play host to plenty of cycling action

Scotland's greatest stars who have stood atop the podium at the Commonwealth Games watching the Saltire being raised.

And for me personally, the Commonwealth Games hold special memories. In 2002, I was a member of the only Scottish badminton squad to ever win a Commonwealth team medal when we took bronze in Manchester. Four years later I became the first Scottish player to win a Commonwealth Games medal in the singles event in what is, unquestionably, one of the highlights of my sporting career. To win a medal for your country at the Commonwealth Games is something that very few athletes have achieved and it was an unforgettable experience. Being part of Team Scotland at three Commonwealth Games is something I am incredibly proud of and has produced memories that I will never forget.

Home is where the heart is Competing on their home ground, the Scottish athletes will experience a unique atmosphere: London 2012 demonstrated just how important the home crowd can be to the host nation competitors. So I have little doubt that every Scottish athlete will raise their performance as a consequence of the support they receive this summer.

I will not be competing at Glasgow 2014 but I have several high hopes for the Games. My first wish is that the event will give minority sports some much-needed exposure, which is in such short supply at other times of the year. The media in Britain is so heavily dominated by football that many of the smaller sports such as judo, hockey and, indeed, badminton do not get the media coverage that they deserve. But the Commonwealth Games will give these sports the platform to showcase themselves to the country, and ▸



Stamp Guide

97p: track and field athletics are some of the world's oldest sports and Glasgow 2014 will showcase some of the world's greatest stars. The athletics event will take place at Hampden Park and some close finishes are guaranteed. The 97p value perfectly captures the fluid style of the middle- and long-distance stars. In Glasgow eyes will be on the world and Olympic champions from the African countries

£1.28: squash requires extremely high levels of fitness combined with a deft touch for precise ball placement. The £1.28 stamp epitomises the pace, excitement and skill which will be on show on the squash courts at Glasgow 2014 during the summer





Stamp Guide
£1.47: the Commonwealth Games showcase all of the top nations who compete in netball. This is the only sport at Glasgow 2014 which is played exclusively by female competitors and the players' athleticism and skill will be very apparent to spectators. This stamp demonstrates just how far the players will push their bodies during a match in pursuit of victory
£2.15: Glasgow 2014 will have the largest para-sport programme in Commonwealth Games history, with the highest ever number of medal events across the greatest number of sports. The £2.15 stamp superbly illustrates the trust required between cyclists and their pilot riders in track paracycling. With the riders reaching incredibly fast speeds, sharp teamwork is an integral part of the sport



this will hopefully encourage more people to try them out. Now, from this more focused legacy for minority sports and on to the wider legacy issue: the word 'legacy' has been mentioned countless times when it comes to Glasgow 2014 but there is absolutely no guarantee that any positive long-term outcome will remain after the Commonwealth Games. No major sporting event has ever succeeded in leaving a lasting legacy and it is therefore by no means certain that Glasgow will succeed in bucking this trend.

However, I believe that everything possible is being done to ensure that the Commonwealth Games will positively benefit this country. For me, the best possible outcome would be for more children, and in particular young girls, to become interested and engaged in sport. The Commonwealth Games will create role models for these children, and this could shape the course of the rest of their lives. Irrespective of whether one plays sport recreationally or at an elite level, the benefits are innumerable. If children in Glasgow and across Britain were to participate in more sport and more activity as a result of Glasgow 2014, then I would consider the Games a resounding success.



The Commonwealth Games is now shaping up to be an extraordinary event. Glasgow will be a tremendously exciting city to be in during the Games, and the potential benefits of the event are endless. Scotland has never seen anything like it before and Glasgow 2014 could, just possibly, change this country forever •

Susan Egelstaff (left) is a sports journalist, former elite badminton player and Commonwealth double bronze medal holder who has also won six international open titles

'I am quite well'

Field Service Postcards from the front line brought tantalising messages of hope and despair to thousands of anxious families back home in Britain





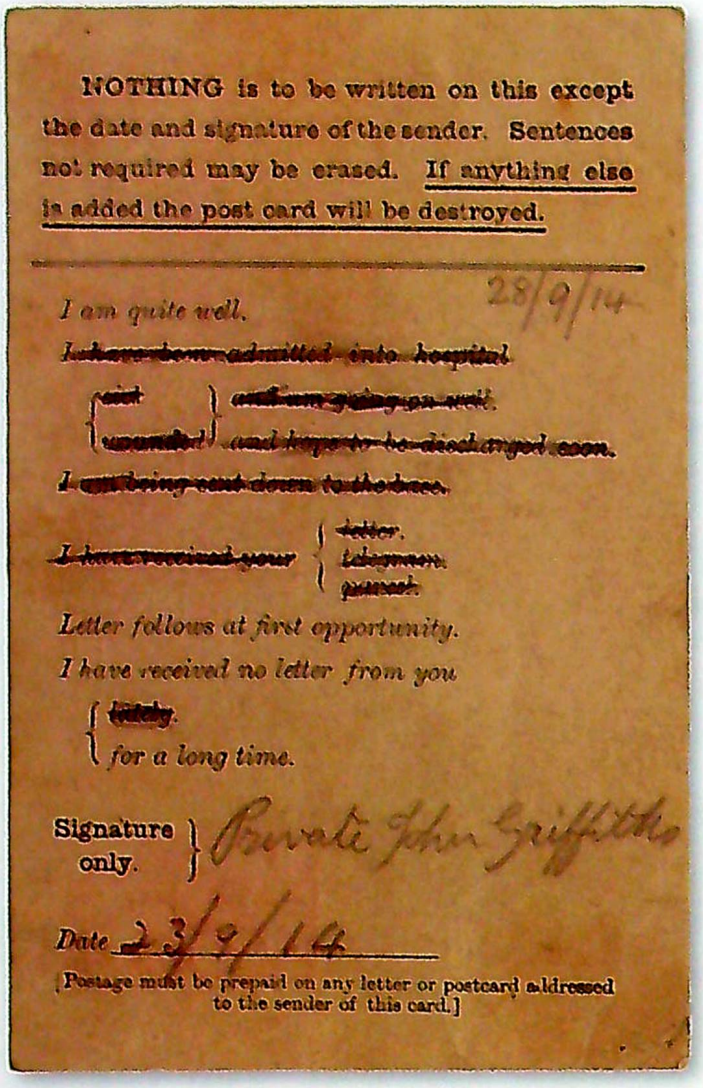
Left: Field Service Postcard sent from the front in France on 22 September 1914
Above: detail of the 1d stamp showing the dot, or full stop, that appears after 'PENNY'

LETTERS TO BLIGHTY penned in emotionless, preprinted phrases, preprepared by army bureaucrats, giving soldiers a minimal choice of news with which to console loved ones. These were the Field Service Postcards issued to men fighting the Great War in France and Flanders. Soldiers had to 'delete as appropriate' standard sentences to arrive at the message they wanted to send across the Channel. 'I am quite well.' 'I have been admitted into hospital sick/wounded.' One could add to the hospital news 'and I am going on well' but nothing more to ease the worry at home.

A serviceman could reassure family that he had received their letters, but each postcard might also be ended with the plaintive, almost accusatory line: 'I have received no letter from you lately/for a long time.'

If the sender tried to add any more words to the postcard, apart from his name and the date, the card was destroyed. Given the fact that soldiers were writing from the mud and blood of the trenches, the Field Service Postcard gave them no chance to unburden themselves. But the importance of censorship lent a logic to the terseness of the communication that the postcard allowed.

The Field Service Postcard was introduced by the War Office in 1912, and handed out free to troops of the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914 to encourage them to use it rather than write long letters. (Though at that time postage on them had to be prepaid.) For censorship of mail to prevent information falling into enemy hands is, of course, essential in any conflict. It was just as important in 1914 as it is today. The War Office ▸


NOTHING is to be written on this except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well. 28/9/14

~~I have been admitted into hospital~~

~~{sick / wounded} and hope to be discharged soon.~~

~~I am being sent down to the base.~~

~~I have received your {letter. / telegram. / parcel.}~~

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you

{~~lately~~. / for a long time.}

Signature only. Private John Griffiths

Date 23/9/14

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or postcard addressed to the sender of this card.]

Above: the reverse of the Field Service Postcard was printed with short messages, to be crossed out where not applicable

knew it would be very time-consuming to read through all the written messages coming from a large British force posted abroad. Censorship duties could take the intelligence services away from more essential tasks. Hence the introduction of the one penny Field Service Postcard. Censoring these cards would be as quick and easy as dealing a pack of playing cards.

It was simple to design the layout and wording of the postcards, but agreeing on how the postage should be paid was rather more difficult. There was concern that if the postcards arrived in Britain without stamps, enthusiastic postmen might surcharge them as unpaid. That would not have gone down well with the public.

However, the Post Office was unhappy at the suggestion that the Crown Free Circle should be used to indicate postage had been paid. Officials already considered it was being overused. And in any case the Free Circle was only valid in Britain, and not in foreign countries. Eventually all parties involved in developing the cards decided that they should be printed with a 1d stamp, the UPU rate for postcards addressed to foreign destinations.

It is interesting to see who finally paid the postage on the cards. Originally the War Office agreed that the charge for postage should come from its budget, with a 25 per cent discount usually afforded government departments by the Post Office. But at the insistence of the Treasury it was the Post Office that finally carried the whole cost, much to the annoyance of the Postmaster General.

In the summer of 1914 the first batch of postcards was produced, using thin buff card and black printing, with the 1d carmine stamp printed at Somerset House. Only stamped to order work was undertaken at this large complex in the centre of London, and it is probably for this reason that the die used on the Field Service postcards has a white dot after the words 'ONE PENNY', indicating it is an STO die. It had been intended to put the postcards into bonded storage until they were needed, but they were actually issued to the troops immediately in August 1914.

With the large number of men being sent to France, the first printing of Field Service Postcards was quickly used up and further printings had to be ordered. The next batch was printed and issued in September, but this time on a bluish-grey card, still using black printing.

For the third and last batch printed in October, a change was made to the printing arrangements to speed up card production and the whole front was printed in one operation in the colour of the stamp, carmine. This was the last issue of prepaid Field Service Postcards. At the end of October 1914 free

postage was granted to all members of the armed forces on active service. Similar postcards continued to be issued free of charge to encourage troops to use them rather than write letters, but they no longer carried a printed stamp.

The vast majority of Field Service Postcards were of course sent by British soldiers fighting in France and Belgium. But a few fell into the hands of the enemy, including the card shown below. It tells us quite a lot about one Alfred Claus, of the 245th German Reserve Infantry Regiment, Signals Corps, who 'captured' one following the hurried withdrawal of British troops from Gheluvelt, a village a few kilometres east of Ypres in Belgium. On 23 November 1914 he decided to send one home to his sister in Leipzig, crossing out the printed heading 'Field Service Post Card' and writing 'Feldpost Karta'. Translated the postcard reads:



Above: this Field Service Postcard was cancelled in London, and not at the front

'My Dear Sister,

Enclosed I am sending you a card like the English troops use. From this you can see the difference between the stationery used by the German and English soldiers. We found these when we took over Schloss Gheluvelt. So far all goes well with me. It is now cold here. Yesterday morning it was 6 degrees C.

Greetings to you and to little Erna.

Your brother, Alfred'

Ironically, the security-conscious War Office censors would have been infuriated with Alfred had he been one of ours. For Alfred had written the name of his unit and of course announced its exact position on the card – something the British Tommy would never have been allowed to do •



Below: A 'captured' British Field Service Postcard use by German soldier Alfred Claus

Steeds of steel Two new covers pay tribute to the one million horses requisitioned for battle by the British Army during the First World War





In the First World War horses were needed in large numbers – to mount cavalry charges, to pull the heavy artillery guns to the front line, to carry the wounded, and for general transport of weapons and supplies. Initially, the cavalry was seen as an essential part of all military forces involved in the conflict, but trench warfare and the deployment of the modern machine gun soon rendered cavalry charges virtually impossible.

Many horses were killed – by artillery fire or as a result of disease or poisonous gas attack. Wounded animals were treated at veterinary hospitals or the Blue Cross, and those that recovered were then sent back to the front.

The two first day covers shown above commemorate the hundreds of thousands of horses that died during the conflict. One cover depicts an ammunition column in the rear of the fighting and a second cover carries an illustration entitled *After The Charge – a Wounded Chum.*

I have also designed a limited edition stamp sheet featuring the plight of the war horse, featuring authentic images by war artists. The border images show wounded comrades and horses returning from battle and a charge by the 9th Lancers during the great retreat from Mons to Cambrai. This is the first in a series of ten stamp sheets focusing on various aspects of the Great War •

Adrian Bradbury

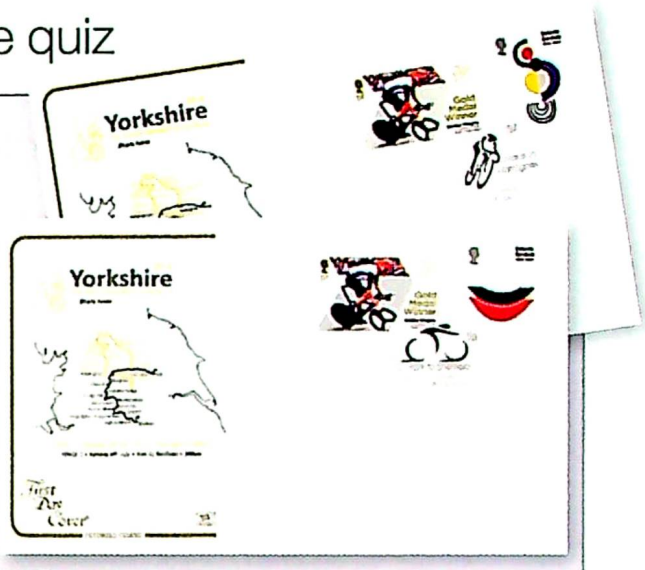
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Pedal power *Bulletin*'s brilliant bicycle quiz

Win a unique set of cycling covers

This month's puzzle winners will be the proud owners of a set of two handsome souvenir covers, marking the historic Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Tour de France taking place in Yorkshire this month. Produced by a Yorkshire company, the covers are engraved and intaglio printed. They show both routes and bear two stamps – a Bradley Wiggins Gold Medal Winner and an Entente Cordiale (2004), postmarked Leeds on 5th July and York on 6th July. For more details, see www.cotswold-first-day.co.uk. Contact Cotswold & Stuart Covers, PO Box 100, York YO26 9SS; by phone on 0844 980 9772 or e-mail em@postmark.co.uk.





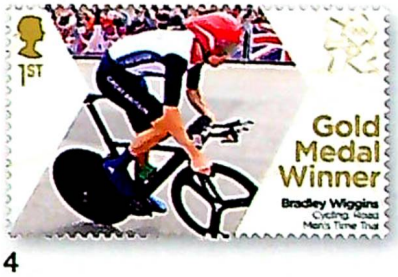
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As a new stamp issue celebrates this month's Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games we get you in sporting mood with cycling on stamps. So saddle up for some wheely good prizes – including two special covers marking the Tour de France 'Grand Départ' stage in Yorkshire.

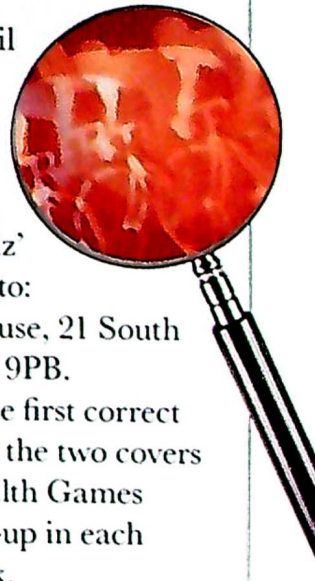
1 This cycling stamp is from the new Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games issue. What is the name of the Games' cycling stadium?
a) Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome **b)** Ship Ahoy Velodrome **c)** Don't Be Coy Velodrome

2 This stamp from the 1978 Cycling issue celebrated the centenary of the world's first...
a) Bike clips **b)** Bikes for pets **c)** Cycling clubs

3 This 1882 experimental five-wheel postman's bicycle had a nickname. What was it?
a) Cod and Chips **b)** Hen and Chicks **b)** Pick 'n' Mix

4 At London 2012 this champion appeared on an Olympic Gold Medal stamp for winning the Men's Cycling Individual Time Trial. What was his name? **a)** Bradley Wiggins **b)** Henry Higgins **c)** Christopher Biggins

Name That Stamp From the detail under the magnifying glass, right, identify the stamp's year, and issue name.



How to enter Send your answers, marked 'July Bicycle Stamps Quiz' and/or 'July Name That Stamp' to: *Bulletin* Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date 29 August 2014. The first correct entry drawn in each section wins the two covers shown above and a Commonwealth Games Presentation Pack. Nine runners-up in each section win the Presentation Pack.

April solutions and winners *Shakespeare Anagrams solution* 1a, 2e, 3d, 4c, 5b. *Winner* Mrs J Baldwin, West Yorkshire. *Name That Stamp solution* 1964, Hamlet. *Winner* Mr M Brown, Norfolk •

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.



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What is the name of the artist who painted the poppy for the First World War pictorial stamp set issued on 28 July? Clue: the answer is in hand.

How to enter: send your answer to Bulletin/War Horse, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com **Closing date:** 20 September 2014. Rules and regulations apply, see previous page ●

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