BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 10 | JUNE 2016 | £1.95

Pink Floyd • Stamp poll result
• Queen's 90th Birthday covers



First World War 1916: lest we forget Jutland and the Somme

GILES REVELL: BATTLEFIELD POPPY • BAKER'S A-Z POSTCARDS • WIN ANIMAIL PRESENTATION PACK







Top: the Belfry Hotel, Cambourne
Left: punting on the River Cam, one of many picturesque diversions in Cambridge, the location of the Philatelic Congress next month

Congress calling

Thursday 21 – Sunday 24 July

The 2016 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain takes place in the historic environs of Cambridge with a broad and lively programme. Organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies and hosted this year by Cambridge Philatelic Society, Congress is being held at the Belfry Hotel, Cambourne. The Congress Banquet will take place in the historic Dining Hall of Peterhouse College, Cambridge. And there is still time to book!

The theme this year is 'islands' with a programme that offers philatelists a wide variety of activities and displays, including 'When Gibraltar was an Island' by David Stirrups, Chairman of the 2016 Congress.

- Other expert talks include the postal history of Cambridge from Simon Kelly and the story of the private Cambridge University College stamps from Simon Catlin.
- Meet the new signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists: Roger Brody, Lars Engelbrecht, Jonas Hällström and Stephen Holder.
- Presentation of the 2016 Congress Medal to Jean Osborne.
- Four sheets to tell a story, the traditional warm-up to Congress.
- Entertainment from Cambridge Philatelic Society members.
- 'Affordable Philatelic Excellence' is the subject of the Kay Goodman Lecture, given by Rufus Barnes.
- Time to explore Cambridge, with a guided postal history tour for early bookers.

For further details of the programme and to book for Congress, whether you wish to attend as a day delegate or stay at the hotel, see www.gbcongress.uk

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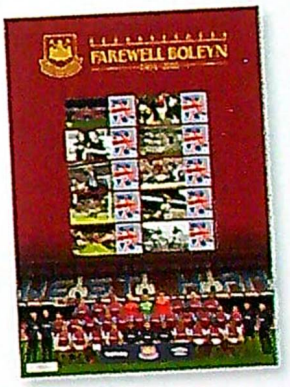
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1916 centennial Sharing personal responses to the poignant images from the First World War 1916 stamps released this month – the third in Royal Mail's series commemorating the 'war to end all wars' **306**



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Animail instincts Try our cute creature stamp quiz to win a Presentation Pack – and a woodpecker! **319**

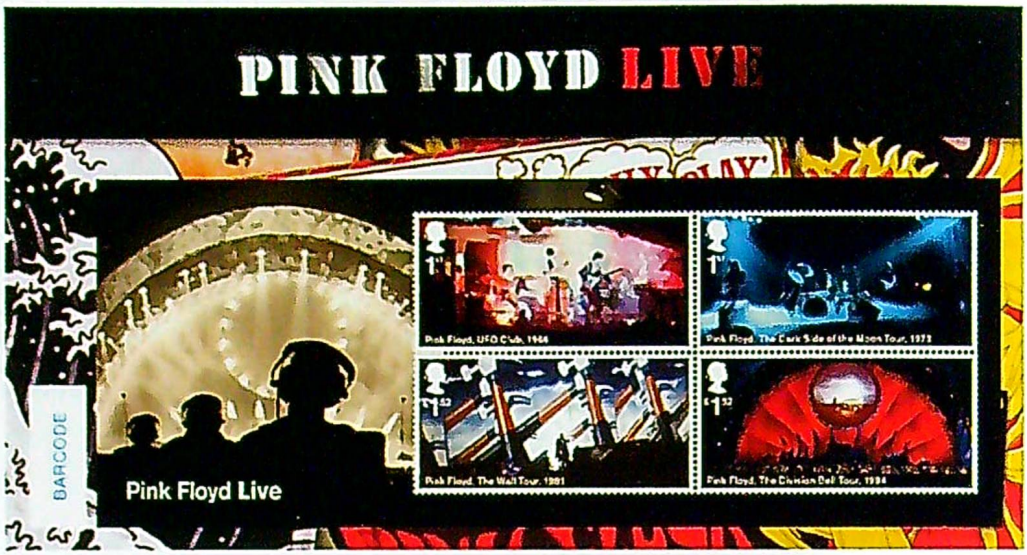


Issues and withdrawals The big stamp releases on the way and a final opportunity to buy some old favourites **320**



Above: Music Giants: Pink Floyd Presentation Pack

Right: Music Giants: Pink Floyd Miniature Sheet



Rock gods The latest stamp news is all about pop nostalgia, as Special Stamps out next month pay tribute to the world renowned sound of Pink Floyd

Psychedelic meets philatelic as the superstar band Pink Floyd is honoured with a special issue on 7 July. The six-stamp set features some of their finest albums. Among the classics in the Music Giants: Pink Floyd Special Stamp set are *Dark Side of the Moon*, *Animals* and *Wish You Were Here*. The cut-out design incorporates a record sliding out of the album cover on each stamp, while a four-stamp Miniature Sheet illustrates some of the band's legendary live concert appearances.

Accompanying the issue are a Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, limited-edition Dark Side of the Moon Maxi Sheet and limited-edition Wish You Were Here Stamp and Print. A special



Above: Pink Floyd stamps in the album sleeve format

personality Souvenir Cover is dedicated to the legendary Syd Barrett, one of the band's founders, and commemorates the tenth anniversary of his death in 2006.

Stamp by stamp

The Music Giants: Pink Floyd issue comes in a mix of values: three First Class and three £1.52 stamps.

The Piper at the Gates of Dawn (EMI Columbia, 1967) Pink Floyd's psychedelic debut is named after chapter seven of Kenneth Grahame's classic children's novel *The Wind in the Willows*, which was one of Floyd frontman Syd Barrett's favourite books. First Class

Atom Heart Mother (Harvest, 1970) Pink Floyd's fifth album brought their first UK Number One. It was also the first of their LPs not to feature the band's name on the front of the sleeve, setting the tone for subsequent albums. First Class

The Dark Side of the Moon (Harvest, *1973)* With sales in excess of 50 million copies worldwide, *Dark Side* remains in the Billboard chart in America over 40 years after its release and appears in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the longest-charting album. First Class

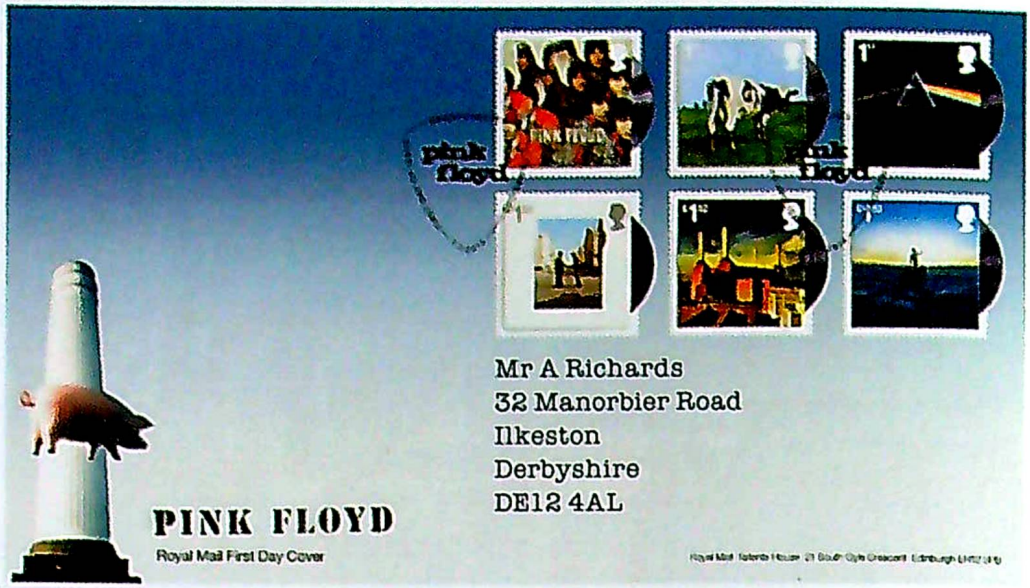
Animals (Harvest/EMI, 1977) The *Animals* album was released as punk raged. While Johnny Rotten wore a T-shirt with the slogan 'I Hate Pink Floyd', Pink Floyd co-founder Nick Mason busied himself producing The Damned's *Music for Pleasure*. £1.52

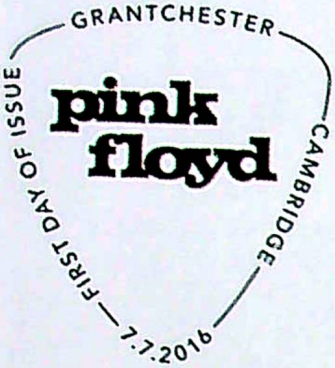
Wish You Were Here (Harvest, 1975) Legendary jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli was invited to play on the album's title track. His violin is inaudible in the song and he was uncredited on the album sleeve but received a fee. £1.52 ▸

Pink Floyd Stamps Specifications

Date of issue	7 July
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd based on design by Studio Dempsey
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	34.5mm x 31.5mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print srocess	Gravure
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

Right: First Day Cover
Below: special postmarks. Grantchester, Cambridge was chosen because it inspired the Pink Floyd song 'Grantchester Meadows'. The Tallents House postmark has the prism and light rays motif of the *Dark Side of the Moon* album

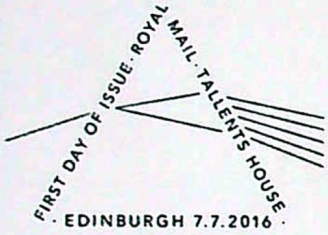




FDI616-PL



FD1616-NP



FD1616-TH

The Endless River (Parlophone, 2014) Ostensibly a tribute to the late Richard Wright, another of the group's founders, and described as a 'headphones' album by Floyd frontman David Gilmour, The Endless River beat all records in the volume of online pre-orders. £1.52

Miniature Sheet

The Miniature Sheet comprises two First Class and two £1.52 values.

UFO Club, 1966 Pink Floyd were booked for the opening of the UFO Club on 23 December 1966, along with Soft Machine. First Class

The Dark Side of the Moon Tour, 1973 This show included the special effect of a plane crashing into the stage at the end of the song *On the Run*. First Class

The Wall Tour, 1981 Gerald Scarfe produced a series of animations for the Wall Tour. These animations were projected onto a 40 foot-high wall of cardboard bricks which was gradually built between the band and the audience. £1.52

The Division Bell Tour, 1994 Over 5.3 million tickets were sold for this tour, which grossed about $100 million. £1.52

Syd Barrett Souvenir Cover

A special cover marks the tenth anniversary of Syd Barrett's death on 7 July 2006. As well as being a Floyd founder member, Roger Keith 'Syd' Barrett was the lead singer, guitarist and principal songwriter in the band's early years and is credited with coming up with the name Pink Floyd.

Barrett departed the band in 1968. Musically active for less than ten years, his innovative guitar work and exploration of experimental techniques such as distortion and feedback influenced many musicians, including David Bowie.

Also in the issue is a Presentation Park charting Pink Floyd's rise to fame and their experimentation with electronic sound, with a special section focusing on the band's extraordinary live performances.

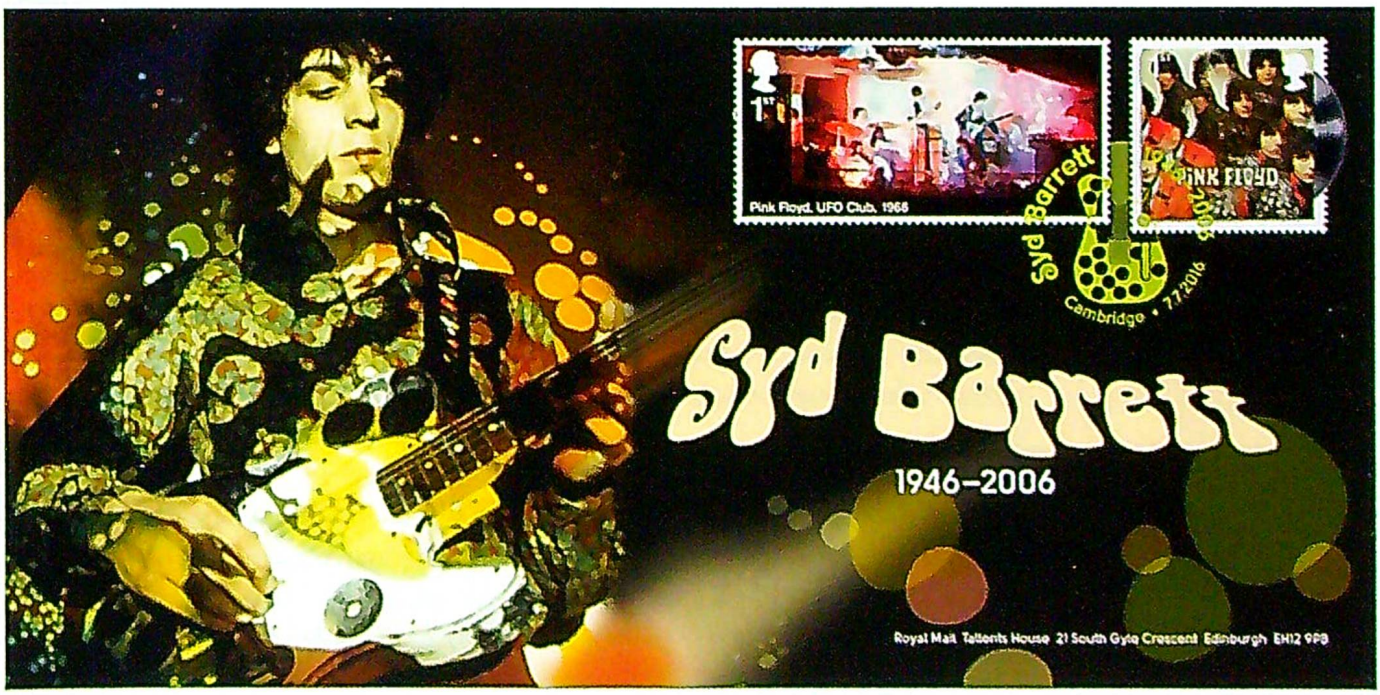
Pink Floyd Miniature Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	7 July
Number of stamps	Four
Size of sheet	192mm x 74mm
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Gummed



Left: Dark Side of the Moon Maxi Sheet in a limited edition of 10,000

Below: special cover in tribute to Syd Barrett, Pink Floyd founder member, singer, guitarist and songwriter. In a limited edition of 3,000



Orders for Serviced First Day Covers should reach Royal Mail by 7 July. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address is on page 320 – please quote the *Bulletin* code CDQ) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark •

Acknowledgments: The Piper at the Gates of Dawn, Atom Heart Mother, The Dark Side of the Moon, Wish You Were Here and Animals album covers © Pink Floyd Music Ltd. The Endless River album cover © Pink Floyd (1987) Ltd; photography of album covers by John Ross.
UFO Club photo © Adam Ritchie Photography. The Dark Side of the Moon Tour and The Wall Tour photos © Jill Furmanovsky/Rockarchive; The Division Bell Tour photo © Denis O'Regan/Corbis; miniature sheet border photo of The Division Bell Tour © Jill Furmanovsky/Rockarchive.

Music Giants: Pink Floyd Prices

Stamp set – 3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52	£6.48
Presentation Pack Stamps and Miniature Sheet	£11.30
Miniature Sheet – 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.52	£4.32
First Day Cover Stamps/Miniature Sheet	£8.20/£5.60
Stamp Souvenir	£8.20
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£5.60
Stamp Cards (11 in set)	£4.95
Dark Side of the Moon Maxi Sheet	£12.95
Wish You Were Here Stamp and Print, edition limit 750	£79.95
Syd Barrett Souvenir Cover, edition limit 3,000	£24.99





The bees' knees 2015 readers' poll results

THE NATION'S FAVOURITE STAMP and stamp issue of 2015 can now be revealed! In last December's edition of the *Bulletin* we asked you to take part in our 27th annual stamp poll by voting for the individual stamps and stamp sets you most admired, and you responded enthusiastically. More than 2,000 readers voted for their first, second and third-favourite stamps and sets.

While votes were very widely spread across the 153 stamps from the 18 sets on the voting form, clear favourites emerged. So without further ado, let us unveil the top ten winners in each category.

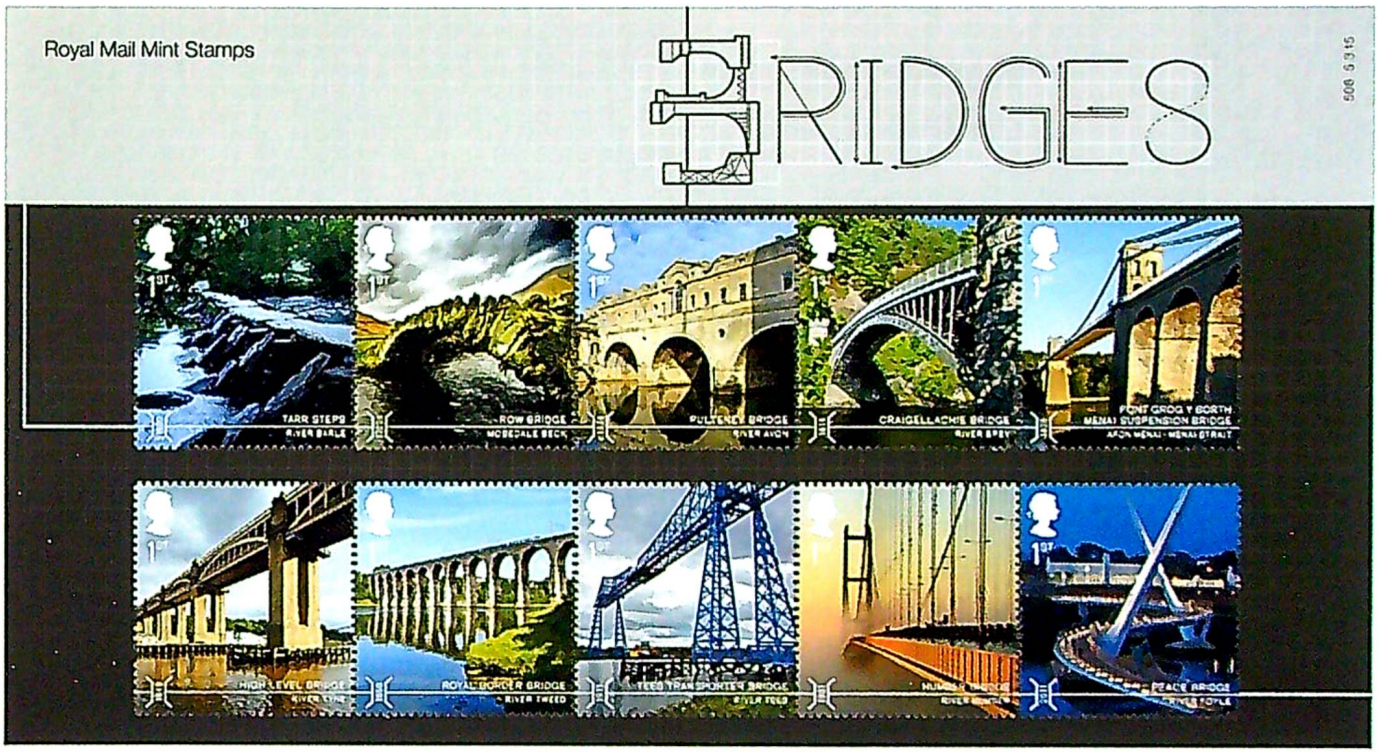
TOP TEN FAVOURITE STAMPS 2015

STAMP SET AND NAME (VOTING FORM REF)	VOTES
Bees: Great Yellow Bumblebee (84)	227
First World War 1915: Cape Helles, Gallipoli (59)	165
175th Anniversary of the Penny Black: Penny Black (47)	152
Bees: Biberry Bumblebee *Bombus monticola* (88)	146
75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain: Supermarine Spitfires on patrol (78)	106
Bridges: Royal Border Bridge, River Tweed (33)	96
Bees: Large Mason Bee, *Osmia xanthomelana* (89)	88
Bridges: Poultney Bridge, River Avon (29)	71
Inventive Britain: DNA Sequencing (25)	64
Long To Reign Over Us: House of Windsor (96)	61

Bulletin stamp of the year The unique images of Bees swarmed to a clear victory, landing in three of the top ten placings for favourites stamps. The pretty Great Yellow Bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*) flew ahead of the other 153 stamps as soon as counting began and held its lead position.

We know that animals, including insects, are perennially popular subjects for stamp collectors, but it is unusual for three from the same set to take such a high proportion of the votes. This is undoubtedly a reflection of the artistry of prominent wildlife illustrator Richard Lewington, and perhaps also a positive response to the work of the many organisations that have been campaigning to protect our bee population.

Voters' second favourite stamp is relatively plain and certainly sombre. But this is the kind of



stamp that speaks a thousand words. A soldier and a grave are silhouetted against an ocean far from home in the poignant press photograph by Ernest Brooks, the official war photographer who was tasked to capture events at Cape Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey in 1915.

Two anniversary stamps also made the top ten. In third place, the classic favourite Penny Black from the 175th anniversary issue. And in fifth place the Supermarine Spitfires on Patrol, from the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain set. Also performing well was the Inventive Britain issue: the DNA Sequencing stamp pipped the rest of the set to make ninth place. The House of Windsor stamp in tenth position was issued on 9 September, the day Queen Elizabeth II became the longest reigning monarch in British history.

Bulletin stamp set of the year 2015's highest flying set is Bees, so Richard Lewington's work has captured most votes yet again – the 2014 winning set was Butterflies, also showcasing his illustrations.

Just 65 votes behind is the Bridges set of ten stamps showing images of ancient and modern bridges from across the nation. It was not easy for designers to achieve this mix of engineering styles as well as a mix of regions, but your votes show that it was well worth the effort.

Next comes Long To Reign Over Us in third place, followed by the First World War 2015, the Penny Black and Battle of Britain anniversary issues, Comedy Greats, Inventive Britain, the Post & Go Winter Fur and Feathers set, and Alice in Wonderland.

Key to results On the Favourite Stamps list, far left, figures in brackets refer to the key numbers beneath the images on the voting form. Three points are awarded to first choice votes, two for second choice, and one for third. See page 319 for the prize draw winner •

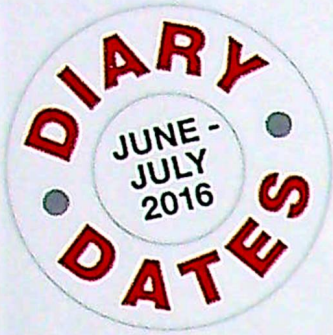
TOP TEN FAVOURITE SETS 2015

SET	VOTES
Bees	899
Bridges	834
Long to Reign Over Us	551
First World War 1915	503
175th Anniversary of the Penny Black	383
75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain	322
Comedy Greats	289
Inventive Britain	212
Winter Fur and Feathers	171
Alice in Wonderland	141



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

UK diary dates



28 May-4 June World Stamp Show – New York 2016, Javits Convention Center, West 34th Street, New York NY 10001. From 10.30am to 6pm on 28 May, 10am to 3pm on 4 June, 10am to 6pm on all other days. Admission free.
4 June Ringpex, Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood BH24 1DW, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: C Mount, 01452 474310.
10 June Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Details: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.
11 June Swinpex, Joseph's School, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR, 10am to 4pm. Hosted by Swindon Philatelic Society, 40 dealers, specialist society meetings and displays.
11 June GB Philatelic Society meeting: The Castle Issues of GB 1952-99, by Peter Shaw, 11am; AGM & Members' Displays, 2pm. At Grosvenor Auctions, 399-401 Strand, London WC2. Enquiries: Peter Tanner, 01753 887755.
11 June National Philatelic Society, The President's Display by Michael Thompson, Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE. Further information: www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps
17-18 June Stafford Stamp Fair, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD. Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm.
8 July Strand Stamp Fair – see 10 June for details.
9 July National Philatelic Society AGM followed by auction and displays by Members. Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE.
15-16 July York Stamp & Coin Fair, Grandstand, York Racecourse. Friday 11am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: C Rainey, 01793 513431 or K Puleston 020 8946 4489.
21-24 July Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6BW. See below for details.
23 July Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Summer Rally, Norton Knatchbull School, Hythe Road, Ashford TN24 0QJ •

Philatelic Congress



Philatelic Congress The 98th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Belfry Hotel, Cambridge from 21 to 24 July 2016. This will be the sixth time Congress has met in Cambridge, previously in 1925, 1938, 1967, 1980 and 1990. The 2016 event, hosted by the Cambridge Philatelic Society, will include talks and displays on Cambridge Postal History, College stamps, Newfoundland, South Georgia, Fiji, Gibraltar and Improving The Quality Of Displays To Local Philatelic Societies.

There will be the usual banquet in an unusual location – at Peterhouse College – as well as social events and the opportunity to meet the signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Signing the Roll this year will be Roger Brody (USA), Lars Engelbrecht (Denmark), Stephen Holder (UK) and Jonas Hällström (Sweden). Mr Holder, former proprietor of HH Sales, is a noted authority on philatelic literature. His collections include

the Franco-Prussian War, Siege of Paris, Alsace Lorraine, and many of the lesser-known states of Europe.

Next year Congress meets in Cardiff, from 27 to 30 July, and in 2018 in Durham (also July). For further details email gerald.marriner@gmail.com ●

International exhibitions

Although final figures are not confirmed at the time of writing, the World Stamp Show – New York 2016 is expected to have attracted over a quarter of a million visitors to enjoy the 4,500 frames of exhibits and over 250 dealer and postal administration stands. Some 112 philatelic societies and organisations are holding information tables and/or meetings and seminars. The United States, United Nations and other postal administrations are launching new stamps during the exhibition. Each day of the exhibition had a designated theme: World of Stamps Day (28 May), Learning Never Ends Day (29th), Armed Forces Day (30th), Science Meets Stamps Day (31st), US Stamp Day (1 June), Beautiful Americas & United Nations Day (2nd), Children Of The World Day (3rd), and Topical Collecting Day (4th).



May 28-June 4, 2016
Javits Center

Members of the Club de Monte-Carlo de la Philatelie have provided invited displays and put on show the world's rarest stamp, the British Guiana 1 cent magenta (except for 4 June). This stamp can also be seen at the National Postal Museum in Washington until November 2017.

The next major international stamp show of 2016 will be held in Tapei, Taiwan, from 21 to 26 October ●

Postbuses

I am obliged to Colin Peachey for information that four postbus services on the Western Isles ceased on 31 March 2016. These were the routes from Lochmaddy to Balivanich, Bayhead-Clachan, Lochmaddy-Tigharry, and Lochboisdale Pier-Balivanich. This leaves just the Talmine-Tongue-Lairg route in Sutherland. Postbus services started in 1967 and for many years provided an important transport link in rural areas, particularly in Scotland and Wales. Listings of postbus routes, compiled by Martin Robinson, were published in the *Bulletin* in May and June 2007.



A Rural Postbus stamp (right) was issued in 1985, one of a four-stamp set marking the 350th anniversary of Royal Mail as a public postal service ●

Postal Museum News

The Postal Museum (formerly British Postal Museum & Archive), located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to 5pm.

The Postal Museum will be moving to new premises nearby in 2017. Meanwhile a temporary exhibition, Unstitching The Uniform, is on show at Freeling House until 30 June, and the long-running Post Office in the Community exhibition can be seen at the Blists Hill Victorian Town, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire (see the *Bulletin* May 2012 and www.blistshill.org).

Online exhibitions on The Postal Museum's website include Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

A tour of the Museum Archive at Freeling House takes place on 1 June, and of the Museum Store at Debden, Essex on 1 and 6 June (see the *Bulletin* August ▸



2013 for feature on the Debden Store). Matt Tantony's talk, about The GPO Poster Advisory Group: A Short and Colourful History, was scheduled for 9 June but has now been cancelled and may take place in 2017.

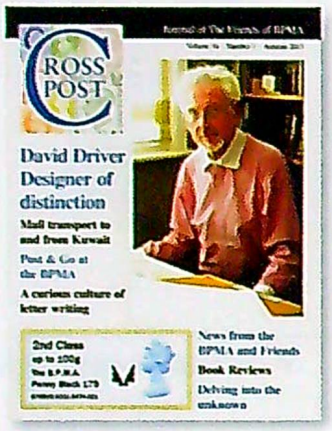
The popular Pillar to Post: GPO Walking Tour takes place on 26 June, 23 July, 28 August, 26 September, 23 October and 26 November, starting at Farringdon station at 11am. The tours last about two hours (fee payable).

For details of these events, see www.postalmuseum.org.uk or contact The Postal Museum on 020 7239 2570, or email info@postalmuseum.org.uk for its events guide or to book for tours or talks.

The Postal Museum's online shop offers a wide range of items of interest to philatelists and postal historians, including postcards, DVDs, gift sets, homeware, Mail Rail prints, publications, maps, replica GPO posters and stationery.

The Friends of The Postal Museum began their 2016 programme of events on 22 March with an evening visit to the College of Arms in the City of London. The visitors were greeted by William Hunt, Windsor Herald. The tour included the records library, to which members of the public are not normally admitted. A splendid selection of the priceless records was brought out for the group to see and Mr Hunt's presentation was both informative and entertaining. The evening ended with an informal buffet supper with Mr Hunt tirelessly answering questions from the group.

Future visits are planned to include Apsley House in London, the London Transport Museum depot (to see the Poster Collection), and Cartor, part of International Security Printers, near Paris.



This is a very important year for The Postal Museum, as building moves towards completion on the new museum complex and the Mail Rail Experience (work in progress on the Mail Rail is pictured above left). The Friends will be supporting and encouraging this major project. For details about the Friends see www.postalmuseum.org/friends or write to: Friends of The Postal Museum, The Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

The Friends publish the *Cross Post* magazine. A recent edition (shown left) includes illustrated feature articles. Douglas Muir writes on Mail Transport to and from Kuwait, 1862-1939; Richard West looks at the work of David Driver who he describes as 'an exceedingly fine illustrator'. Mr Driver designed the 1991 Christmas and 1997 Golden Wedding stamps, and submitted designs for other issues. He has also designed packs, covers and an aerogramme. In addition there are book reviews, news of The Postal Museum and Friends activities and messages from Adrian Steel, Director of The Postal Museum, and Brian Sole, Chairman of the Friends.

Cross Post alone is well worth the subscription to the Friends •

Special Stamp-related exhibitions

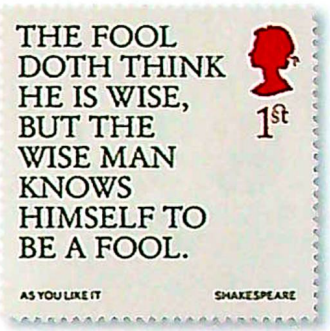
Stamps marking the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare were issued on 5 April. Shakespeare In Ten Acts is an exhibition at the British Library in London until 6 September, admission £12, free to under-18s. Book on www.bl.uk. For details of the many Shakespeare anniversary exhibitions,

performances and talks across the country, visit www.shakespeare400.org.

Stamps celebrating The Queen's 90th birthday were also issued in April. The Fashioning A Reign: 90 Years Of Style From The Queen's Wardrobe exhibition is now on at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. Similar exhibitions will be held at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle in August and September.

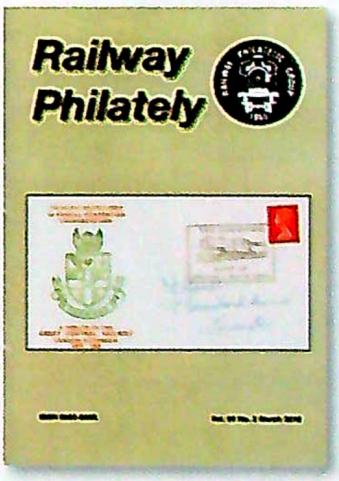
A Shakespeare And The Royal Library display is now on show at Windsor Castle until 1 January 2017. See the Royal Collection Trust website for details: www.royalcollection.org.uk.

Stamps featuring Landscape Gardens will be issued in August and previewed in the *Bulletin*, marking the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the most famous landscape gardener of them all. Events include 40 exhibitions by the Embroiderers' Guild. For details of venues and other anniversary events see www.capabilitybrown.org ●



Society news

The March 2016 issue of *Railway Philately*, the journal of the Railway Philatelic Group (RPG), includes features on Great Northern Railway newspaper stamps, Railway Sub Office postmarks, recent railway letter stamps from heritage railways, Isle of Man railway and tramways definitive stamps, as well as 'Theme Scene' review of railway stamps from around the world and articles on railway stamps of St Helena and Sabah.

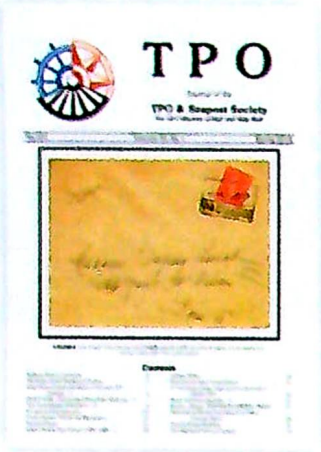


The RPG this year marks its 50th anniversary. For membership details contact Patricia Peters, 81 Kirriemuir Avenue, Glasgow G52 3DP or see www.railwayphilatelicgroup.co.uk.

The British Postmark Society has published *90 Years of Railway-themed Postmarks of Great Britain, Ireland, Channel Isles & Isle of Man 1925-2014*. In 300 pages it lists all handstamps and slogan postmarks used by each of the postal authorities of the British Isles which have some form of railway connection. The relevance of each mark is explained if the link is not immediately obvious – for example hotels, canals and steamships owned by railway companies. All postmarks are illustrated by dates of use with the relevant BPS catalogue number. This is a most useful work for all railway thematic collectors. Available from K Downing, 3 Vineyard Terrace, Hallmoor Road, Darley Dale, Matlock DE4 2HF, price £10 plus £1.50 postage. Remittances payable to K Downing.



The London Philatelist, the august journal of the Royal Philatelic Society London, is not normally noted for articles on modern British stamps or postal history. Thus it was good to see in the April 2016 issue a 12-page feature by John Lush on Letter Sorting Experiments In The UK 1935-1979, covering the Transorma machine introduced at Brighton in 1935, the Single Position Letter Sorting Machine first installed at Bath in 1953, through to experiments in Luton and Norwich in the 1960s, and address coding at London Eastern Central District Office in the 1970s. The article was inspired by a display given to the Society in 2015 on the Postcode Programmes of France, 1958-78. The annual subscription to *The London Philatelist* is £30, single copies £3 plus postage. For details of RPSL membership see www.rpsl.org.uk or write to the Society at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Non-members may attend meetings by prior arrangement – telephone 020 7486 1044. ▸



The Spring 2016 issue of *TPO*, journal of the TPO & Seapost Society, includes articles on Ship-to-shore Communications in the early 20th century (ocean letters, radio telegrams and radiograms), the transatlantic post office, postmarks, North Eastern TPO, Plymouth-Bristol TPO and Highland Sorting Carriage, as well as features covering overseas TPO and seapost services.

The TPO & Seapost Society will hold its AGM at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 on 23 July. The AGM at 12 noon will be followed by a lunch, then members' displays.

For details of the Society see www.tpo-seapost.org.uk or write to Tony Nicolson, Burracoppin, Parkersfield, North Petherton, Bridgwater TA6 6PN.

The East Anglian Postal History Society covers Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The March 2016 issue of its magazine *Eastern Angle* includes a round-up of post office openings, closures and relocations, from local press reports, and features on the Post Office Rifles, postal history of St Neots, the last surviving Royal Mail coach, Royal Mail steam packet and the Christmas post run by Ely Scouts. Full details of the Society are to be found on www.eaphsc.webs.com , or contact John Copeland, 20 The Vale, Brentwood CM15 4UP.



The March-April 2016 edition of the American Topical Association's glossy magazine *Topical Time* contains features on postmarks relating to Mickey Mouse and Disney, metermarks, stamps depicting coastal settings, and Cinderella labels for American Air Races, as well as news of ATA study units and index to 2015 ATA publications. Sadly there is an obituary of Kenneth Wood, a prolific philatelic writer, who died in November 2015 aged 89. He was Editor of *Stamp Collector* magazine from 1968 to 1980, and author of a three-volume stamp encyclopaedia *This is Philately*. For details of the ATA see www.americantopicalassn.org or write to: ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville IL 62918-0008, USA ●

New local stamps

On 4 May four new local stamps (local carriage labels) were issued by Rona off the east coast of Skye. The stamps feature the red deer that live on the island. The stamps are available in a block of four or miniature sheet at £4, plus postage of £2.50 UK, £3.50 elsewhere.

Local stamps for Rona have been issued since 2003 and are used mainly on postcards sent by visitors. Enquiries: Bill Cowie, Rona Lodge, Isle of Rona, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9RA ●



New from the islands



Left: Jersey's four-stamp Think Green set includes the winning Europa design from Cyprus Post on the £1.29 value

Jersey has a Europa-themed set: the Think Green issue show above uses a typographical style with environment-related words forming symbolic shapes. As Jersey Post Philatelic Marketing Manager Rachel MacKenzie explains: 'The words are arranged in the shape of a head, the island of Jersey and a globe to illustrate that protecting the planet starts with the individual.'

The 74p (Jersey's Europa entry), 76p and £1 stamps in this set were designed for Jersey Post by Two Degrees North in Guernsey. The £1.29 stamp features the winning entry in the Europa competition, created by Doxia Sergidou for Cyprus Post and carries the Europa logo.

'The idea behind the Europa joint stamp issue is to build awareness of each other's culture and history,' says Rachel. Every year, European postal administrations are given a common theme to interpret by PostEurop, the trade association that has been representing European postal operators since 1993.

Also from Jersey, on 7 June, are new stamps celebrating the Jersey Old Motor Club. For details of Jersey stamp issues, write to Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, or visit www.jerseystamps.com.

Guernsey Issued on 27 July, a stamp set entitled RAMSAR: Herm and 500 Years of Postal History celebrates the fact that Herm, Jethou and The Humps – a collection of sandbanks off the north-east corner of Herm – have been formally designated a Ramsar site. (The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.) For further information, see www.guernseystamps.com.

Isle of Man Stamps in association with the Royal Artillery has issued a six-stamp set celebrating 300 years of The Royal Regiment of Artillery and its remarkable achievements. The £2.44 stamp features Major Kate Philp, a hero of modern warfare, who lost her leg in a mortar attack in Afghanistan. Find out more about this interesting set at www.iompost.com •

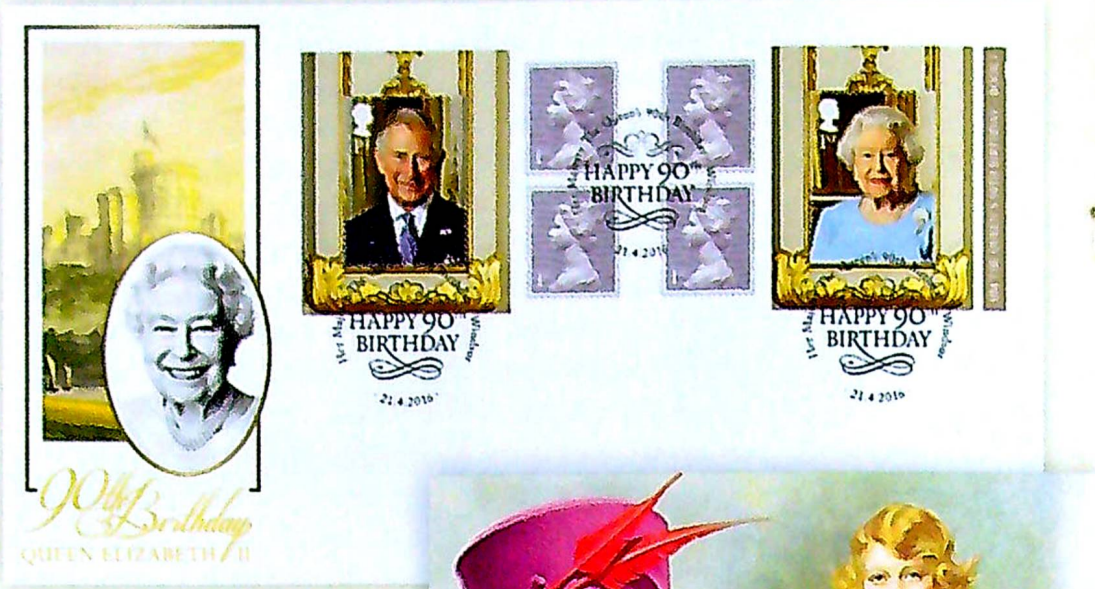
Celebration time A selection of elegant

Orders and enquiries

Buckingham Covers
Warren House
Shearway Road
Folkestone
Kent CT19 4BF
01303 278137
www.buckingham covers.com

BFDC
3 Link Road
Stoneygate
Leicester LE2 3RA
www.bfdc.co.uk/queen

Royal Mail
Tallents House
21 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh EH12 9PB
03457 641 641
www.royalmail.com/stamps



Above: an unusual cover from Buckingham Covers, featuring all the stamps from the Royal Mail Stamp Book issued on 9 June – a stylish tribute to Her Majesty (£16.95).

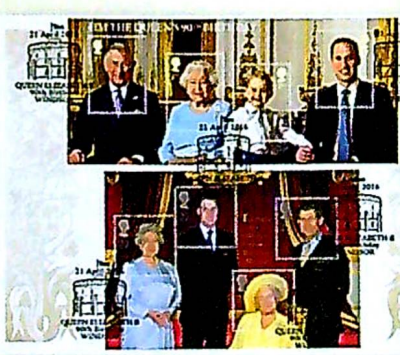
Right: this charming cover has a Royal Mail 90th Birthday First Class Special Stamp alongside a modern image of The Queen and a portrait of Her Majesty as a young girl, with a special Buckingham Palace postmark (£15).





Above: 90th Birthday Queen Elizabeth II is written in 22ct gold on this sumptuous cover bearing two special handstamps and a thoughtful selection of UK pictorial stamps charting Her Majesty's life. From Buckingham Covers (£26.95).

Right: this poignant cover from BFDC shows five generations of the Royal Family, by bringing together Royal Mail's new Miniature Sheet and the 2000 Miniature Sheet celebrating the 100th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen Mother (£49.75).

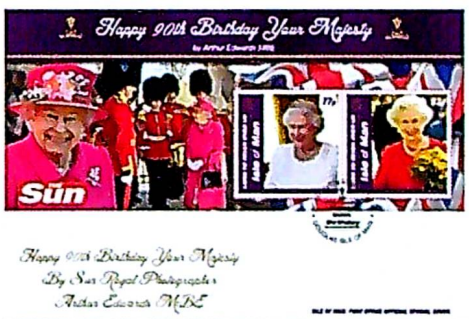


new covers marking Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday

Right: this gold-foiled Windsor Birthday Walkabout Special Envelope features photos by Arthur Edwards MBE, showing The Queen in celebratory mood as she wows crowds of well-wishers. From Isle of Man Post (£8.50).



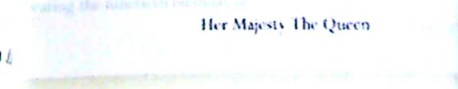




Left: another cheerful souvenir envelope features two special stamps from Isle of Man's Long to Reign Over Us issue, set against pictures taken by veteran *Sun* royal photographer Arthur Edwards on 20 April 2016 (£8.50).



Below: this gold-foiled and richly designed cover carries a specially cancelled Royal Mail Miniature Sheet and a £5 Crown – struck to the unsurpassed Gold Proof Standard of The Royal Mint™ in a numbered limited edition of just 50 (£1,800).



Above: famous for her sartorial style and those iconic hats, The Queen is beautifully turned out on this elegant souvenir cover from Alderney (£4.90).



Orders and enquiries

Jersey Philatelic Bureau
Freepost JE793
Jersey Post
Jersey JE1 1AF
01534 516320
stamps@jerseypost.com
www.jerseystamps.com

Isle of Man Stamps & Coins
PO Box 10M
Douglas
Isle of Man IM99 1PB
www.iomstamps.com

Guernsey Stamps (for Alderney)
Freepost GU267
Envoy House
La Vrangue
St Peter Port
Guernsey GY1 5SS
01481 716486
www.guernseystamps.com



Above: Presentation Pack of the third set in the Royal Mail five-part series of Special Stamps that commemorate the First World War – created by Hat-trick design agency

Right: First Day Cover from the First World War 1916 set



Lest we forget...

In 1916 British forces strove to make a breakthrough along the Somme and fought a historic naval battle at Jutland – now new stamps pay tribute to the heroes who served on the front line and at home

A PIVOTAL YEAR in history's first global conflict, 1916 exposed the true horror of modern warfare, and Royal Mail's First World War 1916 stamps record the suffering and courage in the trenches, at sea and on the home front. This latest in a five-issue collection continues the series format with six stamps articulating six themes to cover the vast scope of this huge conflict. So one stamp features a modern interpretation of that symbol of sacrifice, the poppy; another theme is a portrait photograph of a participant in the conflict; a third theme focuses on Remembrance, a famous memorial for example; two more themes show how a war artist and war poet reacted to the bloodshed; and the sixth theme shows an artefact related to someone who played an active role in the war, at home or in the front line.

The First World War 1916 issue, released on 21 June, is accompanied by a Prestige Stamp Book and a Miniature Sheet that reveals how the Post Office contributed to the war effort. Philatelic specifications for this issue were listed in the Preview on page 280 of last month's *Bulletin*, and on the following pages we explore the moving themes, talking not only to those involved in creating the stamps but also to those more emotionally associated with their subjects. We



Above: 'Outside Charing Cross Station, 1916: Casualties from the Battle of the Somme Arriving in London', by John Hodgson Lobley, an official war artist with the Royal Army Medical Corps. This painting is shown inside the fold-out Presentation Pack of First World War 1916 stamps

interview, for example, historian Nick Jellicoe, grandson of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, hero of the Battle of Jutland, for his reaction to the £1.52 stamp commemorating the clash between the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet in the North Sea on 31 May 1916 that kept the enemy's navy out of the war and ensured the decisive economic blockade of Germany. Nick pays fitting and affectionate tribute to Jellicoe: 'He was an extraordinarily gifted admiral, with an intellect second to none. He was a small, not very self-imposing man, very modest, yet courageous under fire.'

Nick Jellicoe, the author of a Jutland history called *Jutland: The Unfinished Battle*, also pays generous tribute to the German dead, and in a spirit of reconciliation and understanding, has made friends with the family of the German admiral who opposed his grandfather at Jutland. 'If we don't learn from the mistakes of history, then we learn nothing,' he says. Nick is more than aware, however, of the tricks history plays on us: he has met the grandson of a German torpedo boat officer who fought his grandfather at Jutland, yet who shared his grandfather's rations as they fought together in an international taskforce against Chinese rebels in the 1901 Boxer Rebellion.

We talk to the photographer who created the intriguing Battlefield Poppy image for one of the First Class stamps, an American artist who executed the calligraphy on the stamp showing an excerpt from a Vera Brittain poem, and *Bulletin* writer Andrew Neish recalls experiencing an unexpected emotion at the Thiepval Memorial. On the other stamps we explore the war experiences of artist Stanley Spencer and the ultimate sacrifice of a mother at home in Britain. ▸

1916 CENTENARY EVENTS

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
The exhibition, 36 Hours: Jutland 1916, The Battle That Won The War, details the significance of Jutland as a defining engagement.

Westminster Abbey
An evening vigil on 30 June to remember the Battle of the Somme will be attended by The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Imperial War Museum
An exhibition called Real to Reel: A Century of War Movies, marking the centenary of the iconic film *The Battle of the Somme*, opens on 1 July and continues until 8 January 2017.



Battlefield Poppy, G Revell



Giles Revell
Photographer
'I hope my Battlefield Poppy stamp provokes thought every time it is sent and received, about the loss and departure of war'

Thrilled to be commissioned to create the third poppy in Royal Mail's First World War stamp series, Giles Revell researched the history of the war. 'I was struck by the loneliness, vulnerability and desolate landscapes where the soldiers were sent into battle,' he recalls. 'I wanted to personify the poppy and express the chaos of war in a symbolic environment.'

The closer you get to Giles's Battlefield Poppy stamp, the more visual symbols and surprises lie in store. He reveals how these remarkable effects were achieved: 'The image was made in a water-filled tank, with pigments of varying viscosity delivered through catheters as clouds or streams of colour. It was made in three stages. The base layer of the image was introduced to create a plane, to give a sense of the scale and the vastness of a featureless landscape. Then came ballistics mimicking mortar fire, followed by the delicate but disrupted detail in the poppy.

'Despite its fragility and despite it being surrounded by madness and desolation, the poppy remains a symbol of enduring hope and survival. This stamp series is relevant to all generations; as a forward thinking society, we need to be reminded of our history' ●



To My Brother, V Brittain



John Stevens
Calligrapher
This American artist's sensitive rendering of Vera Brittain's final words to her soldier brother reflect the pain many suffered in the conflict

These poignant words form the first line of *Testament Of Youth* author Vera Brittain's 1918 poem to her beloved brother. Four days after she finished it Captain Edward Brittain, 22, was killed by an Austrian sniper on the Italian front. In that respect the four stanzas of *To My Brother* are full of crushing irony: in them Vera reminds Edward of the Military Cross he won at the Somme in 1916 for leading an attack in which he was wounded, and urges him to now lead 'the last advance' against his current foes – something he will of course never do.

The poem reads like a loving letter and, given Edward's fate, a farewell message. Artist John Stevens' skill has been to translate Vera's pain literally into words: the cursive lettering, and the ink slightly scuffed (achieved by using a grained paper), lends the words an intimate, handwritten aesthetic as though they were penned by Vera herself. As John says: 'Letters should have feelings, and there's a warmth to the lettering here; words are important and should be lasting. But, while the war was very ugly, people have become indifferent. So if this work encourages reflection on the horror of war, that means a lot to me' ●

Stamp designs © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2016



Munitions worker Lottie Meade



Sally Cowling
Producer, Brighton Festival
Exploring the hidden layers of a story is part of Sally's job and she is curious about Charlotte Meade, known as 'Lottie'

'At first glance the photograph of Lottie Meade is all about confidence: her turban at a jaunty angle; her pose, hand on hip in front of a white balustrade that could almost be the painted backdrop to a stage set. It makes an intriguing stamp image.

'For me, a courageous, spirited personality shines through. How frightening her job in the Kensington munitions factory must have been – a potential target for bombing raids and an environment that exposed workers to potentially fatal doses of chemicals. Yet this young woman is not crushed by her situation. She appears full of what at the time they would have called "gumption".

'We don't know a great deal about Lottie – just that she lived in London, her husband Frederick was away on the Western Front and she had four children to support. And in 1916 she died of TNT poisoning at the age of 26. The stamp is a reminder that it was not only members of the armed forces who risked their lives in dangerous work and did so willingly. In the years of the First World War over 600,000 women took on jobs in industries that had previously been male-dominated.'

Find out more at www.iwm.org.uk ●



Travoys Arriving with Wounded, S Spencer



Richard Slocombe
Senior Art Curator at the Imperial War Museum, London
Stanley Spencer paints a journey from darkness into light, based on a scene he witnessed in the Balkans

The full title of the painting on the new stamp shown above is *Travoys Arriving with Wounded at a Dressing-Station at Smol, Macedonia, September 1916*. It is based on an event following a night attack in the Balkans, which was witnessed by the war artist.

'I was delighted to hear that this painting had been chosen for a stamp,' says art curator Richard Slocombe. 'It very much sums up Spencer's approach to war. Whereas a lot of people's faith wavered during the First World War, Stanley Spencer's experience strengthened his idiosyncratic take on Christianity.

'The painting is square – ideal for the stamp shape. You see lines of the wounded on stretchers, coming from the physical darkness of battle into a redemptive light of the operating theatre; the painting is about physical cure and spiritual cure.

'These days we have so many different ways of communicating with each other, but there is nothing so personal as a letter and I think it is very important to keep on producing stamps. There is a sense of permanence about them – stamps seem to hold the spirit of the times in which they were sold' ●



Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France



Andrew Neish
Writer
Bulletin contributor Andrew Neish paid an emotional visit to the monument that marks the bloody sacrifice of the Somme

Thiepval Memorial soars into the air of the £1.52 value as if an organic part of the unbroken treeline. In the Somme mist Thiepval's foundations blur with the French farmland as if born in the earth itself. Which is fitting for a monument commemorating the 72,250 British and South African troops killed at the Battle of the Somme with no known grave, no place in the earth marked with respectful cross or stone. Thiepval is their earth.

Last year I went to Thiepval with my wife and children to find one of those names: William Cecil Tickle of 9 Battalion, Essex Regiment, who appeared on a stamp in the First World War 1914 issue, who lied about his age to go to war at 15, and was dead at 17, lost forever in the mud of the Somme. On a damp autumn afternoon we turned off the Bapaume-Albert road near the village of Thiepval, and motored, at cortege speed, up a drive to the memorial. Its immense proportions dwarfed us, but the names, thousands of them, overwhelmed us. I expected to feel pride. Yet, etched in every pillar and panel of the memorial, from every regiment, the names of the dead (including 'Tickle W.C.') ignited in me, the living, a spark of guilt ●



Battle of Jutland commemorative medal



Nick Jellicoe
Historian
Jutland hero Admiral Sir John Jellicoe's grandson remembers the fallen on both sides of the battle fought off the coast of Denmark

'Enough time has gone by to clear the air about Jutland; we have to build understanding,' says Nick Jellicoe. And Nick, the grandson of the Royal Navy hero who saw off the Germans at Jutland, has done just that. In an extraordinary gesture of reconciliation, he phoned the great-grandson of Admiral Reinhard Scheer, the German commander at Jutland, to make peace. He asked his new friend, also called Reinhard, to join him in marking the centenary of the battle. This year they open a memorial park at Jutland, and Reinhard will visit the tomb of Admiral Jellicoe at St Paul's.

It is in this spirit that Nick views the commemorative medal stamp. 'It's good that it remembers the fallen. But we should respect British *and* German fallen in what was a terrifying battle – if you'd been on deck, for example, you'd actually see an enemy shell coming towards you, a black blob getting larger, and arriving with the deafening sound of an express train. And when the British battlecruiser *Indefatigable* blew up, out of 1,000 hands only two men and the captain survived, and he died of exposure in the sea. We must remember this kind of suffering, which happened on both sides' ●

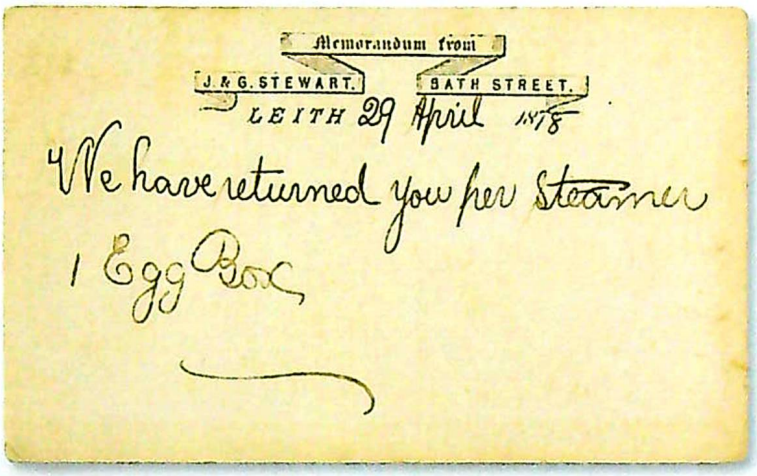

Memorandum from
J. & G. STEWART. BATH STREET.
LEITH 29 April 1878
We have returned you per Steamer
1 Egg Box

Fig 1

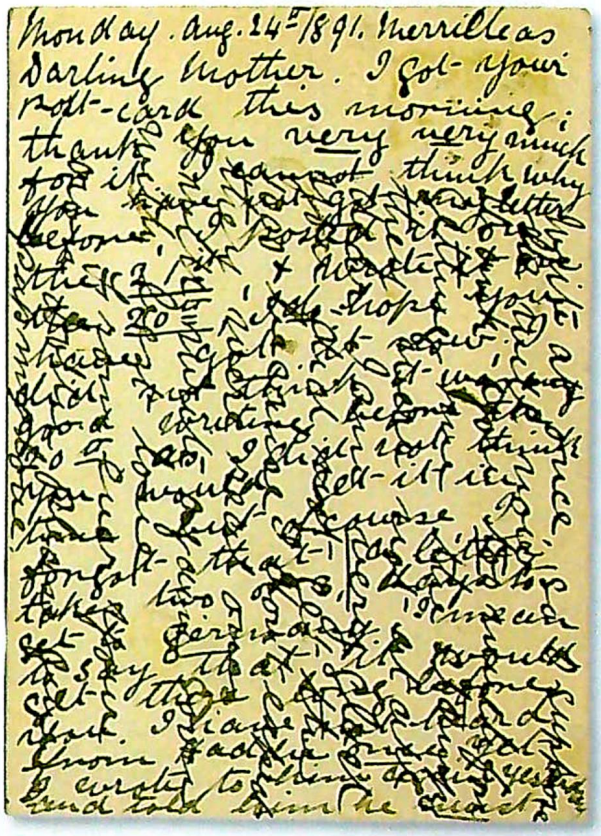

Monday. Aug. 24th/91. Merrilees
Darling Mother. I got your
post-card this morning,
thanks

Fig 2

P is for... postcards

The launch of the postcard almost 150 years ago revolutionised communications across Britain and now offers a huge variety of collecting opportunities

IN THE AGE OF EMAILS AND INSTANT MESSAGING, it may be hard to imagine the great impact of postcards in the late 19th century, but they proved an instant hit with the public. The inland postcard was first put on sale on 1 October 1870 and over half a million cards were posted on the first day. Indeed postcards remained a popular means of communication for more than a century.

'Weather is lovely, wish you were here' was to become the clichéd holiday postcard greeting of the 20th century, but in their early days postcards were used for a far wider variety of messages. As well as for handwritten personal notes and messages, they were also used by businesses to advertise a vast range of goods and services. And so, in addition to their stamps, postmarks, images and typography, postcards offer fascinating insights into communications in the days when very few households had telephones and saving a halfpenny was more important than the privacy afforded by the blatantly extravagant use of an envelope.

At first, the postage on a postcard was ½d. This was cheap enough to send even the shortest message, such as the one in Fig 1, advising that an egg box had been returned. One can only speculate as to the importance of that egg box. But some writers still economised by 'cross writing' their message, to ensure they got their full ½d worth. Cross written messages (where lines are written crosswise over an existing message) are not easy to read, but perhaps people had more time on their hands in those days. ▸

Fig 1 A quick note from 1878 to inform the recipient that an egg box is on its way to them

Fig 2 An example of cross writing on a card returned to 'Darling Mother' on the same day it was received from her

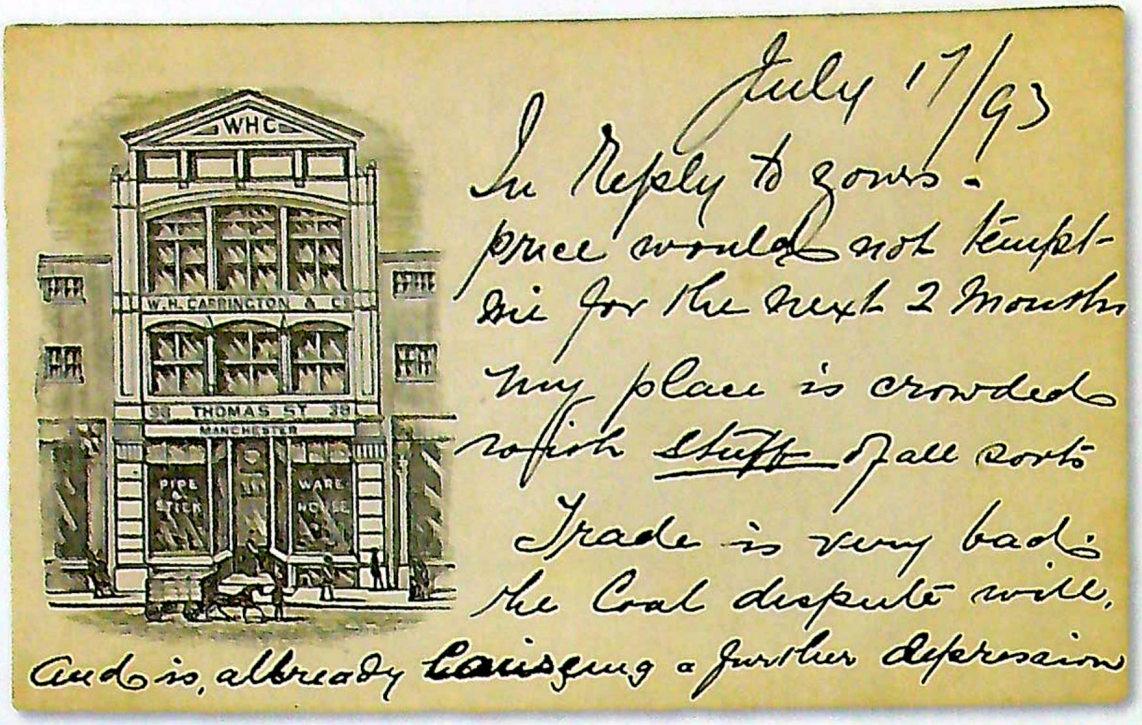


Fig 3

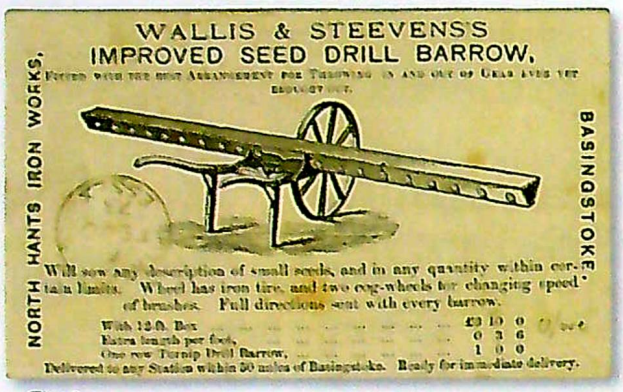


Fig 4

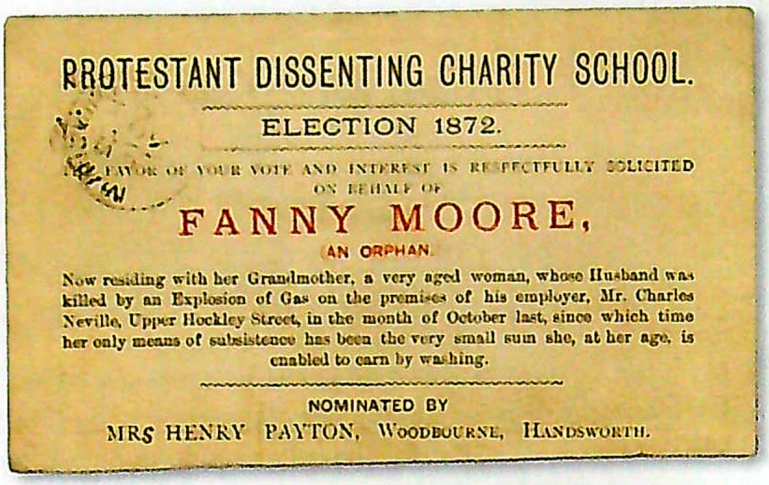


Fig 5

Some postcards give us a very succinct idea about people's problems – such as the one sent from W H Carrington & Co in 1893, which reads: 'In reply to yours – price would not tempt me for the next 2 months. My place is crowded with stuff of all sorts. Trade is very bad. The coal dispute will, and is, allready [sic] causing a further depression.' In 1893 coal, like oil today, was a vital commodity, crucial to everyday life. The first national miners' strike of 1893 caused considerable upheaval and hardship when stocks ran low.

Fig 5 strikes a rather more personal note, but offers us another window on social history. The sender pleads that orphan Fanny Moore, whose father has been killed in a gas explosion, be accepted into a charity school. The lucky few who were taken into schools like this were elected by those who had donated money to the charity. The sender of the postcard hoped to attract the attention of the charity's donors and win their votes for his nominated orphan to be granted an education.

Some postcards were used purely for advertising purposes. At the beginning of the 20th century it became possible to advertise on one half of the front of a postcard. The postcard was also a favourite with salesmen who would

Fig 3 How the 1893 coal dispute affected trade

Fig 4 A detailed advert for an 'improved seed drill barrow'

Fig 5 Did Fanny Moore get an education? We only know that Mrs Henry Payton helped her case with this postcard



Fig 6



Fig 7

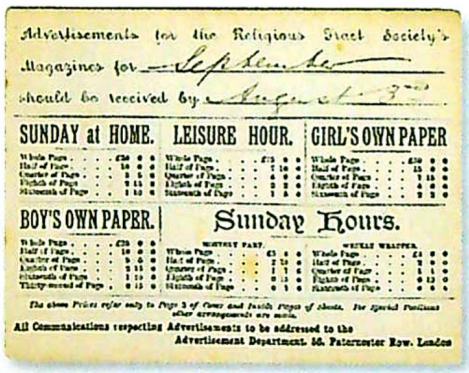


Fig 8

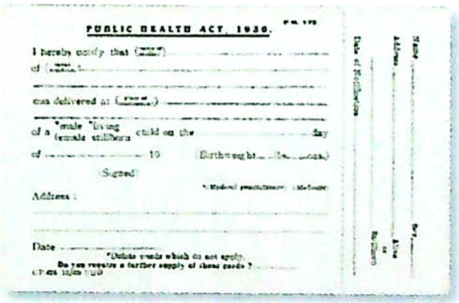


Fig 9

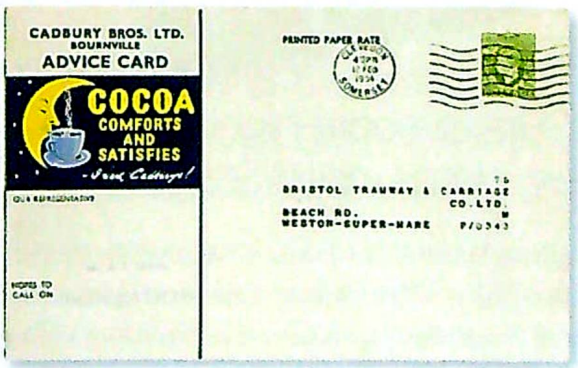


Fig 10

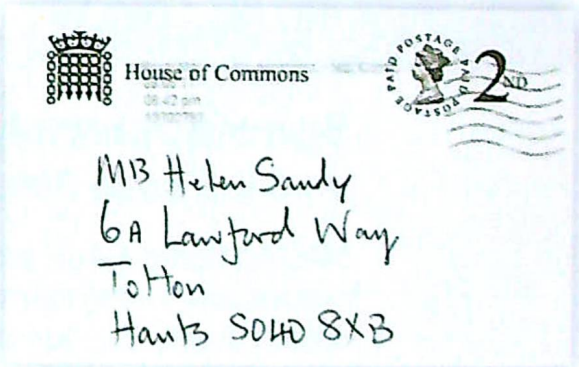


Fig 11

send them in advance of a visit to a shop. They would often carry lists of their company's products on the reverse, so that orders could be taken and the goods despatched quickly.

Postcards were also used to officially notify the authorities that a child had been born. A preprinted card was completed by the midwife or doctor to keep local public records up to date, and was in addition to the requirement that the birth of all babies be registered with its name, parents' names and so on.

In modern times the postcard has declined in use, but it is still a convenient way to send a simple message. Members of Parliament still sometimes use them as an acknowledgement of a letter, and some companies send out advertisements on postcards, although most companies use PPIs (printed postal impressions) rather than postal stationery stamps ●

If you are interested in collecting postcards and other forms of postal stationery visit the Postal Stationery Society (PSS) website at www.postalstationery.org.uk. The PSS holds a number of meetings and auctions throughout the year and publishes a quarterly magazine called the Postal Stationery Journal. Colin Baker welcomes your enquiries by email at pss.secretary@gmail.com ●

Fig 6 This advert for lawn mower repairs appealed to a new customer – lawns and parks were becoming more and more desirable as industrialised cities expanded in the mid-19th century

Fig 7 An advert for Wright's Coal Tar Soap, a brand name which has survived to the present day

Fig 8 A handy postcard that advertises advertising rates

Fig 9 Notification of a birth

Fig 10 The calling card of a Cadbury Bros sales rep

Fig 11 An acknowledgement card from a 21st century MP



Right: the Farewell Boleyn Stamp Sheet sports the West Ham strip's famous claret and blue colours
Below: a label featuring football hero Bobby Moore

Spectackler sheet Sure to score high with footie fans is this all-action West Ham United Stamp Sheet

Football fiends will get a kick out of the West Ham United Stamp Sheet that celebrates one of Britain's best-loved clubs. The Sheet, a limited edition of 10,000, marks the Hammers' move from the legendary Boleyn Ground at Upton Park to the Olympic Stadium at Stratford, east London. Comprising ten First Class Union Flag stamps, it features labels showing key moments and players in West Ham's history. These include superstars Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst, Trevor Brooking and Billy Bonds, and Premiership, FA Cup and UEFA matches.

Farewell Boleyn Stamp Sheet – Specifications	
Date of issue	18 May
Limited edition	10,000
Number of stamps	Ten
Sheet design	Royal Mail and West Ham Design Teams
Sheet format	Portrait
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

The Sheet Folder offers a whistlestop history of the Hammers, with a wealth of footie stats to delight the did-you-know buffs. It reveals that Billy Bonds made the most appearances (799 from 1967 to 1988) and Vic Watson scored the most goals (326 from 1920 to 1935). It also tells the story of a Nazi V1 rocket attack on the ground in 1944, and explains why the West Ham pitch was originally called The Cabbage Patch. The Farewell Boleyn Stamp Sheet costs £14.99, and you can order it from Tallents House (address on page 320) or visit www.royalmail.com/thehammers, quoting the *Bulletin* code CDQ •



Photograph: The Illustrated London News 15 June 1946

This month in history

John Holman examines two distinctive stamps issued to coincide with victory celebrations at Whitsuntide 70 years ago

SEVENTY YEARS AGO, on 11 June 1946, the Post Office issued two stamps on the theme of peace and reconstruction, although the stamps are often referred to as the Victory stamp issue. They coincided with events in London to mark victory and peace, including a parade of armed and civilian forces, a Royal salute by King George VI, and evening festivities and firework displays.

As early as 1941 a MP had asked the Post Office if it would issue Victory stamps at the appropriate time, and in 1943 a Sunday newspaper criticised the Post Office for not issuing any wartime propaganda stamps. When peace was proclaimed there was increasing pressure to issue special stamps, but the Post Office's reluctance to do so was backed by the government. It was felt that a celebratory slogan postmark was adequate – 400 dies of a Victory bells slogan were sent to main post offices and used between 8 May and 9 June and 15 August and 15 September 1945.

A number of other countries planned victory stamps, and in January 1946, when the government announced that victory celebrations would be held over the Whitsun holiday in June, the Post Office ▸

Above: New Zealand forces marching along Oxford Street, London, in the victory parade on 8 June 1946

Below: 1946 Peace and Reconstruction stamps on plain FDC addressed to a stamp shop in Guildford



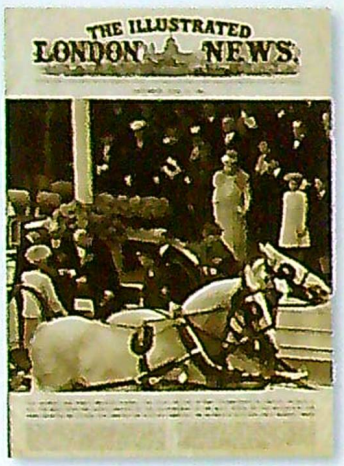
In focus: Stone's and Palmer's winning designs



Stone's design It bears The King's head at right facing a dove with olive branch in its beak, with symbols of rebuilding – trowel, square and compass – and a flamboyant ribbon. The value '3D' was positioned in both bottom left and right corners, with POSTAGE REVENUE prominently down the left and right sides of the stamp. The trowel, square and compasses were considered by some as Masonic symbols, and indeed the Post Office noted this at the time. It has been speculated that George VI selected Stone's design as he was himself a member of a Masonic lodge, though he had resigned as a Masonic official on becoming King.



Palmer's design The stamp shows the head of King George VI in the centre with crown and olive branch above and below. Symbols of reconstruction – tractor, housebuilding, power station and ocean liner – adorn the four corners of the stamp. The four national floral emblems – rose, thistle, daffodil and shamrock – are shown in a box at left, and this is balanced by the value in a box on the right, with the words POSTAGE REVENUE either side of The King's head.





relented and put in place plans for a special stamp issue. Consideration was given to three high-value stamps and an aerogramme, but later basic rate stamps were agreed. Some 15 designers, four stamp printers (Bradbury Wilkinson, De La Rue, Harrisons and Waterlow) and the College of Arms were invited to submit designs. Twenty designs were considered, of which only five were thought unsuitable. The designs ranged from economic activity such as building, agriculture, factories, ships and industry, to floral emblems, doves and olive branches. Two designs featured Westminster at night and the Cenotaph and one depicted smoking ruins alongside a dove and floral emblems. On 29 March three designs, by Edmund Dulac, Reynolds Stone and H L Palmer of Harrison & Sons Ltd, were submitted to The King who three days later approved the designs by Stone and Palmer.

Palmer's design for the 2½d domestic letter rate stamp was considered at the time rather fussy and crowded, while Stone's design for the 3d overseas rate stamp was praised for its simple dignity – some thought it would have been better used for the UK letter rate value. The stamps were printed in the colours of the definitive stamps – 2½d ultramarine and 3d violet. Stone and Harrisons (Palmer's employer) were paid 125 guineas each for the designs.

The new stamps were announced to Parliament on 11 April 1946 and Harrisons was ordered to print some 264 million and 33 million of the two values for issue after the Whitsun holiday on 11 June. On the eve of the issue the Postmaster General, Lord Listowel, gave a short radio talk about them. There was considerable demand on the day of issue. Among those who sent first day covers by the Post Office were Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, their covers containing blocks of 12 of the two stamps. The popular demand

for the stamps necessitated the order for the printing of a further 60 million 2½d and 12 million 3d stamps. Supplies of the 2½d were exhausted by the end of August and of the 3d stamp by late November.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 120, Harrisons using 12 cylinders for the 2½d, of which cylinder 6 is very rare and unpriced in the *Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue*; the 3d was printed from three cylinders, one of which (cylinder 5) produced stamps with shiny ink – this variety given separate listing in the *Specialised Catalogue*. Two significant constant varieties for each value are listed, also stamps with Specimen and Cancelled overprints.

First day covers were produced by a number of dealers, and many collectors sent themselves the stamps on ordinary plain envelopes. There were no first day postmarks, but collectors like covers with central London postmarks, especially House of Commons, as well as Jersey or Guernsey which were occupied during the war. Also popular are covers with the 'Don't Waste Bread – Others Need It' slogan postmark, which was used from 20 May to 15 June 1946. Postcards showing King George VI with the 2½d stamp affixed on the picture side and cancelled with the Bread slogan are known.

The stamps were overprinted for use at the British Post Office in Tangier, some 5,000 sheets of 120 of each value being produced. The well-known omnibus series showing the Houses of Parliament and bearing the date 8 JUNE 1946 were issued, in two values, by numerous colonies such as Ascension, Fiji, Gold Coast, Jamaica, Pitcairn Islands, St Helena and Trinidad & Tobago. These were popular and are found in many schoolboy collections formed at the time.

The total cost of producing the two British stamps was approximately £8,000 and philatelic revenue estimated at £57,000. The Post Office countered criticism of the stamps with an explanation of the short time scale, by contemporary standards, for designing and printing the issue.

The 8 June celebrations in London involved a Royal procession in state landau leaving Buckingham Palace at 10.10am and travelling, via Marble Arch, Oxford Street, Charing Cross Road, Northumberland Avenue, Bridge Street and Vauxhall, to arrive at a saluting station in The Mall at 10.57pm. The King, in naval uniform, was accompanied by a Captain's Escort of the Household Cavalry. Parades were held of mechanised units of the Army, Navy, RAF and civilian services, with servicemen and others also in marching columns.



Above: Victory omnibus stamps, showing the Houses of Parliament, from Bahamas and Bermuda

In the evening there was dancing, to the music of military bands in St James's, Green Park and Hyde Park, and searchlight, aquatic and firework displays. The King journeyed along the Thames from Chelsea to the Houses of Parliament to the tune of the national anthem played over 500 loud speakers. The displays ended at 11.45pm with the firing of 50 magnesium shells and a final rendering of 'God Save the King!' The Ministry of Works organised street decorations and over 20 famous London buildings were floodlit until 15 June. Various naval ships were moored on the Thames for the public to view. Seventy years on there are still many who remember the day with pride and recall those who did not live to celebrate the peace •

Correspondence

Size matters

I shall be very pleased if you could illustrate the difference between square and over square stamp formats. I have recently taken out a subscription to the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and look forward to it dropping through my letter box each month – it is very interesting and informative. Thank you.

John Foulger, Norfolk

Thank you for your letter. The stamp formats used by Royal Mail are square 35mm x 35mm, over square landscape 35mm x 37mm and over square portrait 37mm x 35mm. The choice of size is determined by many factors, but mainly by the subject matter and the design treatment.

Look out for a future article on the Stamps Advisory Council for more detail.

William Doherty, Royal Mail Editor



VOTING TIME **We would like to thank readers for their votes in the 2015 Favourite Stamp Poll. Results are on page 296. Now you can vote online for your favourites from recent Special Stamps – see www.bpb.london/shakespeare and www.bpb.london/hmbirthday**



Not half tricky

Your correspondent Dik Bakker (February edition) might like to know that the old 1½d stamps were always referred to as 'penny ha'penny', 'three ha'pence' or 'three ha'penny' stamps. Soon after decimalisation, when we had 1½p stamps, I once asked a foreign-born postal assistant for six 'three ha'penny' stamps. He was flummoxed!

Jan Pickup, Monmouthshire

For me these terms brought back memories of a Scottish childhood – especially of the 12-sided three pence bit known as 'thruppence', which was wrapped in greaseproof paper and added to a 'clootie' dumpling for a birthday treat. ***WD***

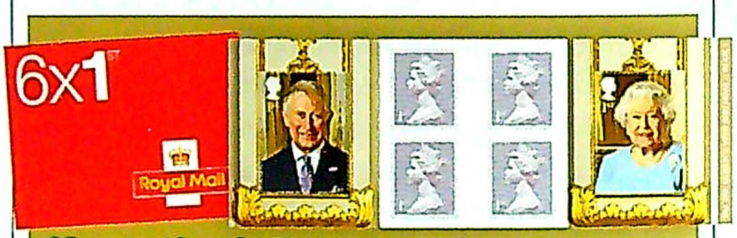
Puzzlers' forum

Oh how I agree with Celia Rhodes on the proliferation of cryptic crosswords in the *Bulletin* (March edition). None of the clues are philately-related and therefore have no place in the *Bulletin*. I happen to like crosswords, though not the cryptic sort – maybe that is sour grapes as I find them difficult – so how about a normal crossword with all clues referring to some aspect of philately? Also I would like to see a two-page quiz from time to time.

R Hanson, Spain

Ah, but the crosswords' shaded squares spell out a Special Stamp-related or philatelic term. And they do appear alongside a stamp-related puzzle. We are very pleased to have received a number of letters expressing preferences for the puzzle page. In response we are hatching plans for more variety to try and please everyone some of the time.

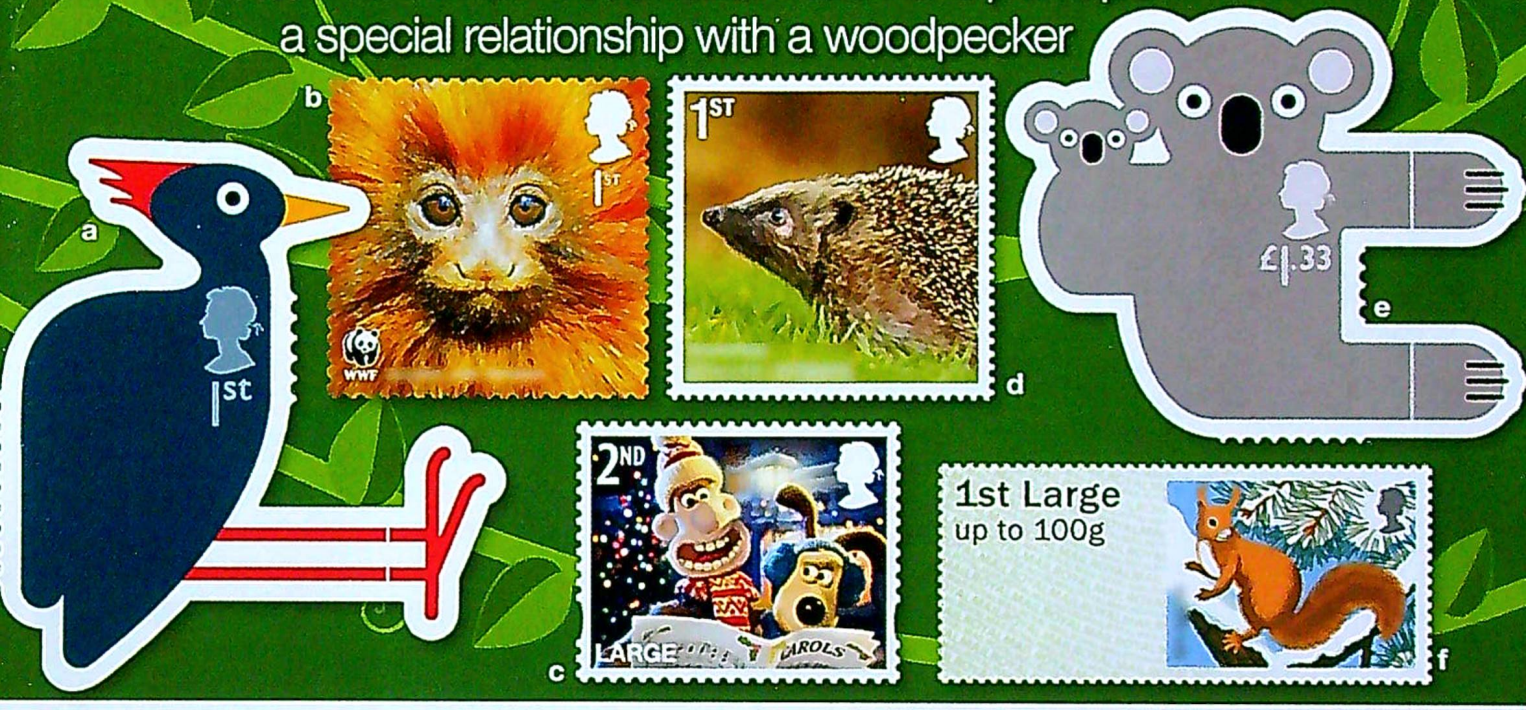
Kate Shaw, Publishing Editor



Keep the letters coming...

The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive a Royal Mail stamp book. Send your letters to: The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. You can also email: bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

WIN An Animail Presentation Pack and perhaps a special relationship with a woodpecker



Name Those Stamps Can you match the creatures on the stamps shown above with the clues below and give the date of the stamp issues? For example, if you think clue 1 refers to stamp a, answer 1a 2016.

1 Their favourite film is *The Wizard of Oz*.

2 You would never see this little critter if he was hiding in a box of carrots.

3 Some dogs chase rabbits. Some chew bones. One dog eats cheese. If it comes from North Yorkshire.

4 A cryptic one now. This cutie is the lucky mascot of greedy hedge fund managers.

5 Brain aching? Let us make it simple. Think of an animal that rhymes with 'Cyril'.

6 Be afraid. Very afraid. If you are a tree.

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'June Animal Quiz' to: Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

Prizes Senders of the first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Animail Presentation Pack. One winner also receives a Woodpecker adoption certificate (see below).

Closing date 20 July 2016.



Adopt a woodpecker The number of green woodpeckers in Britain is declining. You can support efforts to reverse this trend through the 'Adopt a Woodpecker' appeal, organised by the Royal Parks Foundation. For more details visit www.supporttheroyalparks.org.



Snow How solutions and winners *Name That Stamp solution* a) Heroic Journey, Setting out from South Georgia, Shackleton & the Endurance Expedition 2016. b) Ernest Shackleton, Extreme Endeavours 2013. *Winners* M Burfield, S Hogg, A H Lewis, I McIlwraith, J B Peart. *Crossword solution* Frank Hurley. *Winners* J Baldwin, B Messer, J E Mills, S J Pegum, M Stiff.

Favourite Stamp Poll draw *Winner* Wy Wong •

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.

Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

2 June — **Withdrawal** Magna Carta: 6 x Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (6 in set).

9 June — **Issue** HM The Queen's 90th Birthday: Retail Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class, 2 x Special Stamps).

18 June — **Withdrawal** Battle of Waterloo: Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, SB, Stamp Cards (11 in set).

21 June — **Issue** First World War 1916: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Stamp Cards (11 in set), 3 x Coin Covers (Brilliant Uncirculated Cupro-Nickel, Silver Proof and Gold Proof) , Framed Stamps. Preview: page 278. Feature: page 306.



7 July — **Issue** Music Giants – Pink Floyd: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.52), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (11 in set), Stamp Souvenir, Miniature Sheet Souvenir, Syd Barrett Limited Edition Souvenir, Limited Edition Maxi Sheet. Preview: page 292. See framed options at www.royalmail.com/shop.

16 July — **Withdrawal** The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain: Miniature Sheet, (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (7 in set).



28 July — **Issue** Beatrix Potter: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33, 2 x £1.52, in three horizontal se-tenant strips of two), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33), Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps); Prestige Stamp Book, Limited Edition Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (11 in set), Stamp Souvenir, Miniature Sheet Souvenir, 3 x Coin Covers. Details in July *Bulletin*.



Order philatelic items, including all the stamp products listed above, at www.royalmail.com/stamps or from 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. We would advise you to quote **CDQ**, the *Bulletin* media code. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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Information about Royal Mail products is the latest available at time of going to press. Issue dates shown in advance may be subject to change. Stamps are not shown to scale. Stamp sizes are listed on Royal Mail Preview pages.

Royal Mail

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