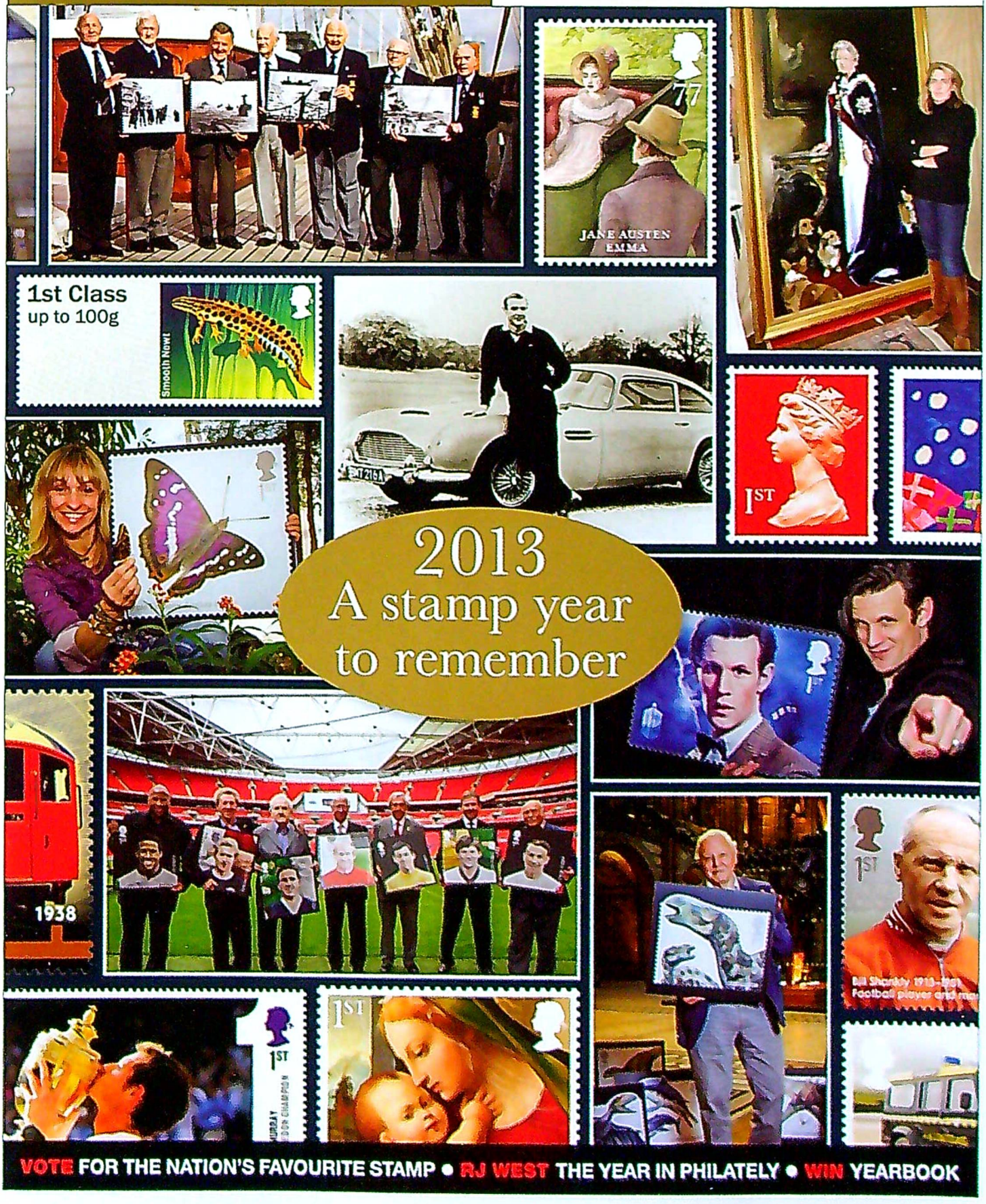
BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

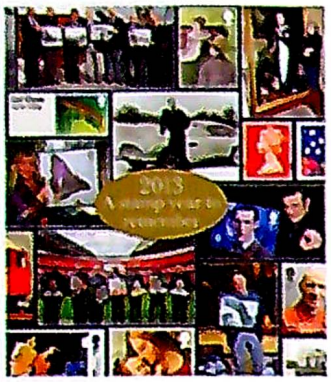
VOLUME 51 NUMBER 4 | DECEMBER 2013 £1.50

Machin round-up • Year of the Horse • Children's TV



VOTE FOR THE NATION'S FAVOURITE STAMP • RJ WEST THE YEAR IN PHILATELY • WIN YEARBOOK

Issues and withdrawals



Cover: design by Paul Elmes. Read more about this year in philately in Richard West's round-up on page 103.

The copyright of all UK stamp images in this publication is owned by Royal Mail Group Ltd.

10 December	**Issue** Lunar New Year – Year of the Horse: Generic Stamp Sheet (20 x 1st Class), Silver Proof Coin Cover.
10 December	**Withdrawal** 2011 Year Book: Year Pack, Year of Presentation Packs.
7 January	**Issue** Classic Children's TV: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Medal Cover.
10 January	**Withdrawal** London Underground: 12 x 1st Class Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Stamps and Miniature Sheet Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Stamp Book (4 x Machins 1st Class and 2 x London Underground Stamps), Coin Cover.
4 February	**Issue** Working Horses: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x 88p, 2 x £1.28 Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
19 February	**Issue** Post & Go British Flora 1 – Spring Blooms: Stamps, First Day Cover (6 designs overprinted).
20 February	**Issue** Classic Locomotives of the United Kingdom: Prestige Stamp Book, First Day Cover.
20 February	**Issue** Classic Locomotives of Wales: Miniature Sheet (1st Class, 78p, 88p and £1.28 Stamps), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (5 in set), Nameplate Cover 5/5 King George V.
20 February	**Issue** Football Heroes Stamp Book: 6 x 1st Class - 4 Machins, 2 Heroes, John Charles and Dave Mackay).
25 February	**Issue** Middlesex County Cricket Club: Commemorative Sheet

FSC
www.fsc.org
MIX
Board from responsible sources
FSC® C019670

The use of the FSC logo identifies the product which contains wood from well-managed forests certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council.

To order philatelic items, including those listed above, contact Royal Mail Tallents House at the address above left. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

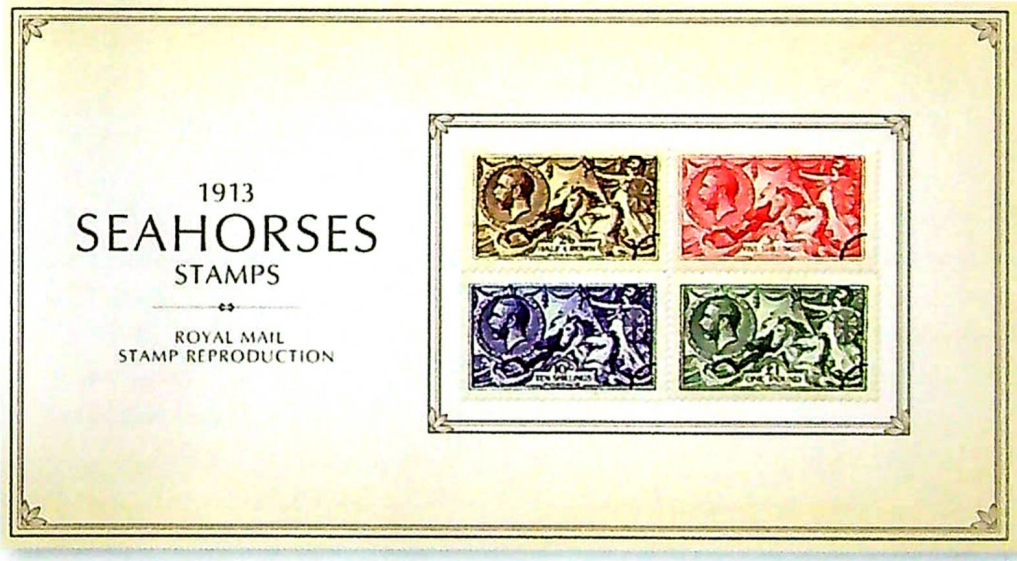
Many products can be ordered on the Royal Mail website: www.royalmail.com/stamps. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Square), Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southend on Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro, York and Newport, Isle of Wight.

Royal Mail

Royal Mail, the cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd. © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2013. All rights reserved.

Contents

A stamp year to remember Join Richard West in recalling the collector's view of 2013 – a year of brave new steps in the world of UK philately **103**





Voting time See the enclosed form – please make your vote count!

Issues and withdrawals Advance dates for New Year stamp releases **98**

Correspondence A selection from our bulging postbag **100**

Year of the Horse ahoy! Royal Mail announces the new Lunar New Year generic sheet **102**

Stamp Scene John Holman's update on philately over the festive season **106**

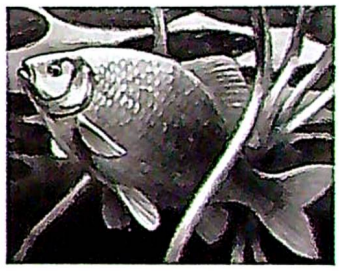
Collector confidential A new series of personal reflections on philately **110**

Classic Children's TV A sneak preview (with all the specs) of 2014's first special issue **112**



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: £12.25 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of the world ● ©Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editor ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

Machin round-up 2013 Definitives, books, sheets, PSBs and more: the year in Machins from Royal Mail **117**



Designer profile Meet Chris Wormell on his Freshwater journey **120**



This month in history Did Santa have more friends in 1963? **124**

Bulletin celebration Snapshots from our 50th birthday party **125**



Mind over mince pies Puzzling fun, great prizes to be won! **126**

Young collectors The new-look SAN site **127**

Correspondence Readers' questions and favourite finds

Christmas stamping spirit

Last December you published an item on the *Bulletin* Correspondence page requesting that readers send any spare stamps to the Stamp Active Network, to help encourage young collectors. We would like to thank *Bulletin* readers for their great generosity and



at the same time ask that no more stamps be sent for the time being – we are truly overwhelmed!

John Davies, Stamp Active Network

Thanks to all readers who contributed stamps! We hope to help young collectors in different ways in 2014 and now is a good time for introducing youngsters to the detail of Christmas stamps. Turn to page 127 for a review of the new-look Stamp Active Network website.

Mann is the Man



Your article on the work of the Handstamp Centre at Mount Pleasant in the October issue of the *Bulletin* provided us collectors with something of an understanding of the work of people on whose pursuit of perfection and dedication to the task we rely. I use the Centre frequently and am constantly impressed with the quality of the handstamps that are applied and of the service that is provided. I would like to extend thanks to the team on behalf of *Bulletin* readers. It is very clear that Pritpal Mann is the Man!

Stewart Kempster, Kent

It was a great pleasure and inspiration to meet Mr Mann and enter into the rarefied world of the handstamping department at Mount Pleasant. We will certainly pass on your thanks.

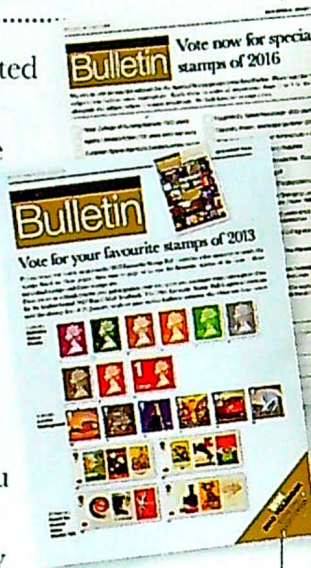
Sarah Fordham, Bulletin sub editor

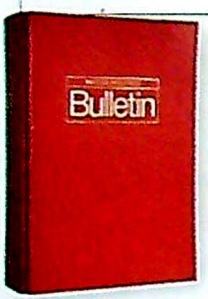
Letting off steam

Once again you have left the index out of the September *Bulletin*, in spite of the many readers' requests in the past for it to be done on a permanent basis. It is no good trying to placate us by putting in a coloured list of the year's stamps. We need to look up some of the articles now and again. Without the index it is time-consuming and almost impossible. It is a good magazine and I have mine bookbound, so that it is easy to look up anything – *with the index*.

C J Everson, Surrey

By now you will have received the Volume 50 Index with the October issue, but we are publishing your letter because we have had two others in a similar vein and would like to explain. The September edition was distributed with a special cover as a gift to subscribers in celebration of the *Bulletin*'s 50th anniversary. For administrative reasons we decided to include only one insert per issue for the rest of the year: the Index with October, the 2016 voting form in November, and the Favourite Stamp Poll which you will have received with this edition. We ask readers to study the stamps on the enclosed leaflet with family and friends over the Christmas holidays, to help us achieve a record number of votes for the nation's favourite stamp and stamps sets of 2013.





Keep the letters coming...

The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. The writer of the 'First-class Letter' receives the *Bulletin* binder.

Send your letters to: William Doherty, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Remember that you can also send emails to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.



The perfect hero

I was very pleased to read the article concerning the Aston Martin DB5, featured in many James Bond films. On page 376 of the August *Bulletin* there is a photograph of a die-cast model of the Aston Martin DB 5 and the original box.

My grandad bought me the very same die-cast model many years ago. The front wing-mounted machine-guns, smokescreen and the passenger ejector seat are still working perfectly on my model. Believe me, the little figure still flies out of the car if you press the right button!

M K P Kahlbow, Reutlingen, Germany



We are glad you enjoyed the article, which gave the background story to one of the stamps in the British Auto Legends set. The die-cast model image was there because I remember it as my first sighting of an Aston Martin. When a box of the toys arrived at my uncle's toy shop he hurriedly opened one to explain its special features. I had never been interested in toy cars, but the detail of this one had us both wide-eyed with wonder. The stamp took me right back to that moment. ***K M Shaw, Publishing Editor***

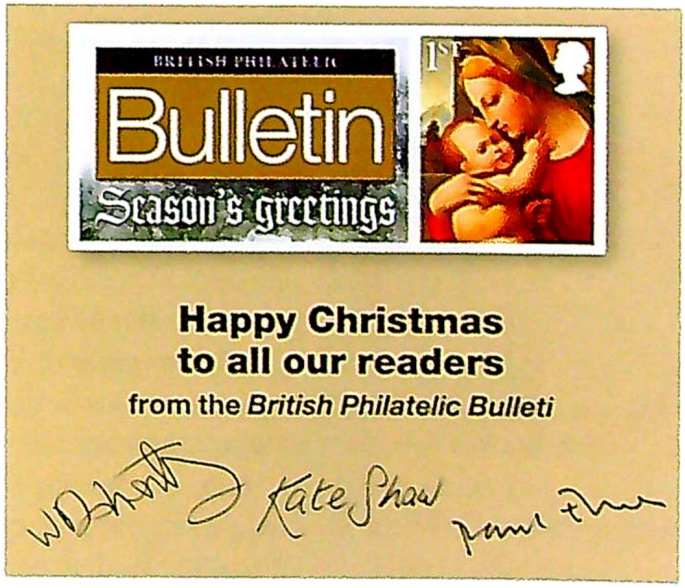


Bulletin Souvenir Cover

I refer to the illustration of a special souvenir cover and handstamp postmark for the 50th anniversary of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, shown on page 31 of the September 2013 issue of the *Bulletin*. Can you confirm that this cover was actually produced as shown, as there has been no other reference to its availability? Or was this one of the prizes awarded to the 50 winners of the Jubilee Quiz set out on the same page?

I shall be much obliged if you could confirm the exact situation with regard to this matter for our Society records. If possible, a copy of any such cover for our reference collection would be further appreciated.

A Finch, Special Handstamps Secretary, British Postmark Society



The page showing the 50th anniversary handstamp was prepared in August as an illustrative artwork, before the postmark had been registered. Readers who remembered to bring their anniversary edition of the *Bulletin* on the Thursday of Stampex were given a 'birthday gift' of the specially printed envelope, for which they could choose their own stamp and postmark.

A limited edition of 50 covers with the *Bulletin* anniversary postmark (number 12948) envelopes were sent to prizewinners in our September competition.

W Doherty, Royal Mail Web Content and Magazines Manager

Royal Mail News Early release of Year of the Horse Lunar New Year Generic Sheet, plus the prospect of moustachioed Movember Smilers®

Year of the Horse Lunar New Year Generic Sheet – Specifications	
Issue date	10 December
Stamps	20 x Smilers® range Fireworks stamps
Designer	Hat-trick
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Sheet size	297mm (w) x 210mm (h)



Right: the Lunar New Year Generic Sheet vividly marks the beginning of the Chinese Year of the Horse



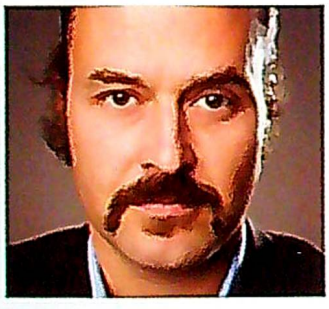
Above: the Coin Cover has a beautifully engraved silver coin – the first ever issued by the Royal Mint to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year

Chinese new cheer A richly designed Generic Sheet celebrating the Year of the Horse is coming out early so it can be given as a present for Chinese New Year. Usually the Royal Mail Lunar New Year sheets are released at the beginning of the calendar year but the latest issue launches on 10 December. New Year's Day for the Chinese is the first day of the first month of their lunar calendar – 31 January in 2014.

The sheet, featuring 20 First Class Fireworks stamps, has been designed with a background in red, a colour associated with good luck. It shows powerful pictures of running horses as well as labels containing messages of good luck and prosperity, good fortune, good health and 'happy new year' in Mandarin and Cantonese. Other colourful labels on the £12.50 sheet depict the horse in the key elements of metal, earth, fire, wood and water.

The horse is one of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac, which includes the snake, the ram, the dog and the pig. Each year is 'named' after one of the animals. The horse is associated with power, elegance and loyalty. In addition, there are photos of Lunar New Year celebrations taken in five cities across the UK: Manchester, Liverpool, Milton Keynes, Swansea and Kilmarnock.

A Silver Proof Coin Cover, presented in a striking 'lucky red' envelope, will also be offered in a limited edition of 2013. It contains a solid fine silver proof quality coin struck by the Royal Mint – the first time it has issued Lunar New Year coinage. The Coin Cover costs £90 •



Hair raising Royal Mail employees put their money where their mouth is by growing moustaches to raise thousands for Prostate Cancer UK's Movember campaign. Prostate Cancer UK is Royal Mail Charity of the Year. Staff were aiming to beat the £525,000 they raised last year for Movember – the global charity drive where men get hairy for prostate cancer. The sum was more than any company in the world achieved. Watch out for Smilers® sheets used to show off charity 'taches on personalised stamps •

iStockphoto

A year to remember Richard West reflects on a truly historic 12 months for British philately

WHAT WILL BE SEEN as the highlights of 2013 when historians look back at Royal Mail? Without doubt it will be the privatisation of the business. Some believe it will result in reforms as significant as those that occurred in 1840. We know that the nature of the business has to alter as our habits change. Social letter writing is all but dead, but still much arrives at our doors – admittedly many items that will simply be disregarded as 'junk mail'. Where the increase in business is noted is with packets and parcels, as we make more purchases online. However, as the nature of what Royal Mail carries changes, so is the way in which postage charges are denoted. Will the adhesive postage stamp that brought about such a tremendous social change worldwide in 1840 soon be relegated to the history books?



Above: Freshwater Life Post & Go stamps issued in 2013

We know that staff at post offices now prefer – indeed are encouraged – to use labels printed on the spot rather than affixing postage stamps. When we do need to post something, will we be encouraged, even impelled, to go to the Post & Go machine? These have been creating great collector excitement in recent times, especially when the Royal Mail machines have been seen at the Stampex exhibitions. In 2012 these started to appear at more venues, and this trend has continued in 2013, with machines made available at various stamp events, such as the York Stamp Fair, Scottish Congress at Perth, Midpex, and stamp shows at Salisbury and Stafford. However, the most significant development was that two machines were taken to the World Stamp Expo in Melbourne in May.

Not everyone, of course, could go to Australia, so the inscription that was applied to the Post & Go stamps (with their Machin and Union Flag designs) could also be obtained through Tallents House in Edinburgh. As a result of an oversight, the GB inscription read 'Australia 2013 World Stamp Expo' while the inscription applied in Australia omitted the word 'World'. ▶

Left: Post & Go stamps for the World Stamp Expo

Below: Michael Sefi, Andrew Hammond and Richard West who attended the Expo







Right: the Football Heroes set featured some of the game's most revered superstars



Above: the Doctor Who issue celebrated 50 years of the legendary BBC adventure

At present there are no second-class stamps generally available from Post & Go machines. However, there is an intention to include a blue Machin second-class version, which, at the time of going to press, has only been available at Spring Stampex 2013, though it can be bought in a special pack.

Australia was not the only venue for international exhibitions in the year. Both Brazil and Thailand also hosted, and there were many exhibits from British collectors. There is also a noticeable increase in the number of exhibits at the Stampex exhibitions: the venue, the Business Design Centre in London's Islington, is now packed with exhibits and standholders.



Above: Nicky Philipps with her picture of The Queen that featured in the Six Decades of Royal Portraits issue

Below: the winning work from Royal Mail's Christmas stamp design competition

Another great year Always busy at Autumn Stampex is the Royal Mail stand, it having been another classic year for new issues. Many stamp collectors have an interest in transport, so the set and miniature sheet that celebrated the 150th anniversary of London Underground proved extremely popular. Just as noteworthy were the issues that marked the 50th anniversary of the cult BBC television classic *Doctor Who*, Football Heroes, Merchant Navy, Jane Austen, Classic Locomotives of Northern Ireland, Butterflies, Dinosaurs, British Auto Legends and, of course, the 60th anniversary of the Coronation of The Queen.

As previously recorded in the *Bulletin*, a portrait of The Queen was specially commissioned from Nicky Philipps for the first-class stamp. The actual painting was donated to The Royal Collection. Another cause for celebration was that, after a very long wait, Britain could at last boast a Wimbledon Men's Champion in 2013. The success of Andy Murray was marked by a miniature sheet issued on 8 August.

As usual the final issue of the year celebrates Christmas, with the theme for 2013 being the Madonna and Child. Two further stamps will be issued. These feature the two winning pictures from Royal Mail's highly successful Christmas stamp design competition for schoolchildren, which received about 240,000 entries. They were judged by a panel led by HRH Prince Charles. The panel also included Tasveer Shemza who, aged six, designed the 3d value of the first Christmas stamps issued by Britain in 1966. All the short-listed entrants have been honoured by special slogan postmarks in the areas where they live. The two winning designs are by Molly Robson, seven, and ten-year-old Rosie Hargreaves.

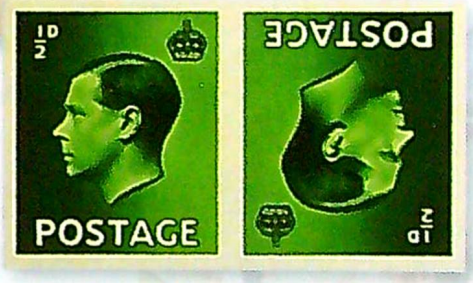






Left: the 1923 Bradbury Wilkinson 'Joynson' Paper 10s blue registration sheet on sale at Sotheby's

Below: 1936 tête-bêche pairs also went under the hammer at the legendary auctioneers



Seahorse facsimiles Some anniversaries are marked not by stamps but by using Smilers® sheets. One of these takes us back to Melbourne, Australia, where stamp designer Edgar Bertram Mackennal was born on 12 June 1863. This 150th anniversary was marked by a Commemorative Sheet issued on 19 September. Fifty years later, in 1913, the classic 'Seahorse' high values that he designed were issued. This centenary was marked by the release of facsimiles of the four values, superbly printed as a block of four using intaglio by John Enschedé Stamps. Also produced were press sheets of the facsimiles, comprising twelve of the blocks of four. Only 150 individually numbered press sheets were released, and these were quickly snapped up.

Sadly, there was less collector interest in the registration sheets and similar pieces, not only of the Seahorse designs, but also of other issues, definitives and postage dues, from the reigns of King George V to King George VI, that were offered by Sotheby's on behalf of the British Postal Museum & Archive. These were duplicate items that the BPMA sought to sell to raise funds for its ambitious plans for a new museum at Calthorpe House in London, and a Mail Rail visitor centre and ride experience at the Mount Pleasant site, but the amount realised was substantially less than had been hoped. While the projects will go ahead – the target is that Calthorpe House and the major part of Mail Rail will open in 2016 – some elements, such as the Mail Rail ride, will be delayed.



Above: the planned BPMA building Calthorpe House

Below: Douglas Muir – with Chris King, President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London – after becoming a Distinguished Philatelist in June



But there was good news too: the BPMA's Curator, Philately, Douglas Muir, was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the ABPS Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in June. Douglas has researched and written the definitive works on the Penny Black, the stamps of the reign of King George V and the Machin definitives.

So it has been an exciting year for Royal Mail, but one that understandably has resulted in uncertain opportunities and challenges. And as with any privatisation, there are going to be differences of opinion. We who follow the special stamp programme very closely will be keeping a sharp eye on developments •



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

UK diary dates

4 December GB Philatelic Society Members' Displays, Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 399 Strand, London WC2, 6pm.
12 December Inverness Philatelic Society Auction (most lots at £1, £2 and £5 reserve), Haugh Community Centre, 7pm.
13 December Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG. Information: 020 8946 4489, www.stampshows.net.
14 December National Philatelic Society Annual Competitions, Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, 2.45pm.
9 January Inverness Philatelic Society – Letter C – Members' Displays, Haugh Community Centre, 7pm.
17-18 January York Stamp & Coin Fair, York Racecourse YO23 1EX, Friday 11am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Information: www.stampshows.net •

London 2015 thematic displays

The organisers of London 2015 Europhilex and the European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) will work together to create a joint exhibition in May 2015. This international co-operation is a new departure in the world of exhibitions. The ECTP will be held in Essen from 7 to 9 May 2015, and London 2015 Europhilex will take place at the Business Design Centre, Islington, from 13 to 16 May 2015. To maximise the opportunities for exhibitors, the ECTP will be the thematic arm of London 2015. All thematic exhibits will be shown and judged in Essen to the same international standards as in London and they will be awarded London 2015 medals. The winning exhibits in each of the nine thematic groups will be displayed in London but will not be judged again. They will also be eligible to be considered for the Grand Prix awards. Entries for thematic exhibits will be sent to the ECTP and processed there. Further details can be found on the ECTP website: www.ectp.de.

This exciting development has the full support of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA), which has given patronage to London 2015 and the ECTP. Both shows will also have FIP recognition. London 2015 Chairman Bill Hedley says: 'We are delighted to be able to work with our colleagues in Essen to produce a first-class European show. This new approach will benefit exhibitors and will help to secure the future of competitive philately in Europe.' For further details about London 2015 visit www.london2015.net •

New from the islands

Guernsey's first issues for 2014 will be Chinese New Year (six stamps and souvenir sheet), out on 8 January, and Endangered Species – Orangutan (miniature sheet) released on 12 February. Also coming out on 12 February is Alderney's Ladybirds (six stamps and souvenir sheet). Enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS, or email philatelic@guernseypost.com.

Jersey issued six stamps honouring F1 champion Nigel Mansell on 15 October. The first issues in 2014 will be six stamps featuring Manor Houses,

designed by Nick Shewing (7 January), and four Europa stamps of musical instruments, designed by Mark Wilkinson (25 March). Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, or visit www.jerseystamps.com.

The Isle of Man's 2014 issues start with Island of Culture,Winter Flora and World War 1 sets in January and RAF Red Arrows 50th Anniversary on 19 February. Enquiries: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, or see www.iomstamps.com •



Exhibitions

MonacoPhil 2013 will be held in Monte Carlo from 5 to 7 December. This comprises an exhibition of 100 rare stamps and philatelic items (in the Stamp & Coin Museum); 80 postal administration and dealers stands (Salle du Canton Hall); and a display of Swedish philately and philatelic literature (Top Cars Collection Museum). Six UK dealers will have stands. The exhibition will be opened by Prince Albert of Monaco. The Rare Stamps exhibition will include items from the collections of Prince Albert, HM The Queen, various postal museums and members of the Club de Monte-Carlo. The item on display from The Queen's collection will be a cover bearing Canada's 1851 twelve pence stamp. This is one of the earliest stamps to be classed as a rarity as only 1,510 of the 51,400 printed were sold. The cover, one of only six known bearing this stamp, was acquired by King George V when Duke of York. The cover comprises a folded letter to Wall Street dated 13 January 1853. The Royal Collection also has an unused copy of the stamp with left sheet margin. See www.monacophil.eu for more information on the Monaco exhibition.

MonacoPhil 2013

In May Royal Mail issued stamps showing famous footballers to mark the 150th anniversary of the Football Association. The 'Football Rules' exhibition, at the British Library in London until 17 December, includes the FA minute book which documents the origins of association football. Enquiries: 020 7412 7676 or visit www.bl.uk/whatson. If you are visiting this exhibition, do not forget to take a look at the British Library's permanent Philatelic Collections display •



New catalogue

The 2014 edition of the Stanley Gibbons Collect British Stamps catalogue was published at the end of November and is available from Stanley Gibbons Ltd and from Royal Mail Tallents House (price £13.95). The Gibbons catalogue lists all the basic UK stamps from the Penny Black to the 2013 Christmas issue •

December at the BPMA

The British Postal Museum & Archive, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on Saturday 14 December (10am to 5pm), but closed on Monday 16 December.

On show at Freeling House is a display of photographs of 'Mail Rail', ▸



the famous Post Office Underground Railway built to carry mail between sorting offices beneath the London streets in the Twenties. The 'Post Office in the Community' display can be seen at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire, and 25 online exhibitions on the BPMA website include: Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

On 3 December at 6pm BPMA Director Adrian Steel will give a talk entitled 'The Future of Britain's Postal Heritage'. 'Charles Dickens and Postal Communication' is the subject of the talk by Tony Williams at 7pm. A tour of the BPMA Archive takes place on 11 December at 3pm.

The Great Train Robbery, one of the most famous crimes of the 20th century, occurred on 8 August 1963. Material relating to the event is held at the BPMA. The organisation has arranged a touring exhibition which can be seen at: Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum, North Road Station, Darlington DL3 6ST until late December, but check first with the BPMA for confirmation.

For more on BPMA displays and events, contact the BPMA for a copy of its comprehensive Events Guide: call 020 7239 2570, email info@postalheritage.org.uk, or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk •

Friends of the BPMA

The Friends of the BPMA will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the Phoenix Centre (adjacent to the BPMA), Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL at 3pm on 3 December.

Following the meeting, Friends are invited to a viewing of the display, 'Off with her Head' (originally prepared for the ABPS exhibition in Perth in 2012), and a private viewing of the exhibition of photographs depicting the Mail Rail underground line on show in the BPMA search room. Friends can then obtain refreshments from the Mount restaurant between 5 and 6pm, after which they can attend the two public talks by BPMA team members Adrian Steel and Tony Williams.

For information about the Friends see www.postalheritage.org.uk/friends or email friends@postalheritage.org.uk. Membership costs £21 a year, with a reduced rate for those over 65 •

Society news



The September/October issue of *The GB Journal*, the magazine of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS), includes articles on the Official Penny Pink Letter Sheet, George VI ½d and 1d booklet panes of four, the myth of the James Chalmers adhesive postage stamp of 1834, flaws on the ½d George V Downey Head stamp and Post Office Express Paid and Express labels. The *GBPS Newsletter*, sent out with the *GBJ*, includes illustrated reports of recent meetings and the Society's Lancaster Weekend. On 4 December an evening reception, with members' displays, will be held at Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX and the Spring Meeting is at Stampex on 22 February. For details of the GBPS, contact Peter Tanner on 01753 887755 or email petertannerHS13@talktalk.net.

The September 2013 issue of the *Newsletter of the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society of Great Britain* includes an interesting feature about cars on

British stamps, marking the recent British Auto Legends set. There is also a feature on National Stamp Day (6 May) and the associated postmarks used from 1974 to 2006. The Society, founded in 1951, is open to all collectors working in, or retired from, insurance or banking. A Christmas Social will be held on 9 December, a Members' Evening on 11 March, and a Spring Auction on 14 April. For details contact Dudley Baker: 25 Bunbury Way, Downs View, Epsom KT17 4JP or email Dudley.baker1@ntlworld.com.

The Autumn 2013 issue of *TPO*, journal of the TPO & Seapost Society, includes features on the *RMS Mauretania*, Birmingham and the Ocean Mails TPO from Fishguard, an air letter with Genova and London Paquebot Marks, a West Glamorgan Paquebot cancel, and Moses Nobbs, the last of the mailcoach guards, a link between the horse-drawn mail coaches and the early railway TPOs. The Society recently celebrated its 75th anniversary with a meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London. For membership details email TPO_Seapost@hotmail.com or visit www.tpo-seapost.org.uk •

Forthcoming auctions

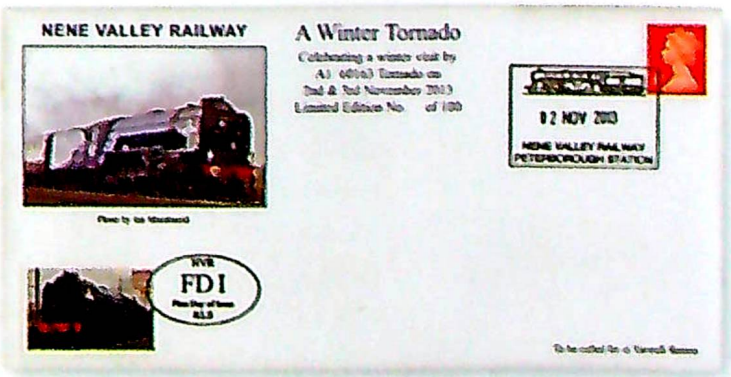
Cavendish's Worldwide Stamps & Postal History Auction in December features a first day 2d Mulready Lettersheet recently discovered in the USA, plus specialised Yugoslavia. Enquiries: email stamps@cavendish-auctions.com or phone 01332 250970. Spink will hold a GB Stamps & Postal History auction on 11 December. Enquiries: 020 7563 4094 •

Rona and Nene Valley Railway issues

Six new local stamps (local carriage labels) featuring plants were issued by the small island of Rona, off the east coast of the Isle of Skye in September. The set comprises three 50p and three 60p values. They are available in a miniature sheet of six at £3.30 or in a sheet of 30, comprising five of each stamp, at £16.50. Postage extra on orders. Enquiries to: Bill Cowie, Rona Lodge, Isle of Rona, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9RA, or email billcowie@isleofrona.com.

The Nene Valley Railway issued a new 25p railway letter stamp on 2 November. It features the A1 class locomotive Tornado in blue livery. The 25p stamp was printed in sheets of nine. The stamp was used on covers for a 'Winter Tornado' event marking a visit by the train (price £5) and also, on 5 November, on FDCs of Rotal Mail's Christmas stamps (£12.20 with full set of Christmas stamps or £4.50 with two first-class stamps). Postage extra on orders. Enquiries: Nene Valley Railway (Stamps), Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR or email rls@nvr.org.uk •





© Crea

Collector confidential In our new series philatelists reveal the personal passions that inspire them to collect. Here is how philosopher and novelist Ayn Rand explained her love of stamps

I STARTED collecting stamps when I was ten years old, but had to give up by the time I was 12. In all the time since, I never gave thought to resuming the hobby. It left only one after-effect: I was unable to throw away an interesting-looking stamp. So I kept saving odd stamps all these years; I put them into random envelopes and never looked at them again. Then I met a bright little girl named Tammy, who asked me – somewhat timidly, but very resolutely – whether I received letters from foreign countries and, if I did, would I give her the stamps. I promised to send her my duplicates.

Once I started sorting out the stamps I had accumulated, I was hooked. It was an astonishing experience to find my enthusiasm returning after more then 50 years, as if there has been no interruption. Only now the feeling had the eagerness of childhood combined with the full awareness, confidence and freedom of age. No, I have not forgotten Tammy: I send her piles of duplicates every few months, and I feel very grateful to her.

In all those years I had never found a remedy for mental fatigue. Now, if I feel tired after a whole day of writing, I spend an hour with my stamp albums and it makes me able to resume my writing for the rest of the evening. A stamp album is a miraculous brain-restorer.

I am often asked why people like stamp collecting. So widespread a hobby can obviously have many different motives. I can answer only in regard to my own motives, which I have observed also in some of the stamp collectors I have met. The pleasure lies in a certain special way of using one's mind. Stamp collecting is a hobby for busy, purposeful, ambitious people – because, in patterns, it has the essential elements of a career, but transposed to a clearly delimited, intensely private world.

‘Stamp collecting is a hobby for busy, purposeful, ambitious people’

A career requires the ability to sustain a purpose over a long period of time, through many separate steps, choices, decisions, adding up to a steady progression to a goal. Purposeful people cannot rest by doing nothing. They seldom find pleasure in single occasions, such as a party or a show or even a vacation, a pleasure that ends right then and there, with no further consequences. The minds of such people require continuity, integration, a sense of moving forward. They are accustomed to working long-range. Yet they need relaxation and rest from their constant, single-tracked drive. What they need is another track, but for the same train – that is, a change of subject, but using part of the same method of mental functioning. Stamp collecting fulfils that need.

The course of a career depends on one's own action predominantly, but not exclusively. A career requires a struggle; it involves tensions, disappointments, obstacles which are challenging at times, but are often ugly, painful, senseless – particularly, in an age like the present, when one

has to fight too frequently against the dishonesty, the evasion, the irrationality of the people one deals with. In stamp collecting, one experiences the rare pleasure of independent action without irrelevant burdens or impositions. Nobody can interfere with one's collection, nobody need be considered or questioned or worried about. The choices, the work, the responsibility – and the enjoyment – are one's own. So is the great sense of freedom and privacy.

For this very reason, when one deals with people as a stamp collector, it is on a cheerful, benevolent basis. People cannot interfere, but they can be very helpful and generous. There is a sense of 'brotherhood' among stamp collectors, of a kind that is very unusual today: the brotherhood of holding the same values.



Treasure seekers The pursuit of the unique, the unusual, the different, the rare is the motive power of stamp collecting. It endows the hobby with the suspense and excitement of a treasure hunt – even on the more modest level of collecting, where the treasure may be simply an unexpected gift from a friend, which fills the one blank spot, completing a set.

There is a constant change in the world of stamps, and constant motion, and a brilliant flow of colour, and a spectacular display of human imagination.

Stamp collecting gives one a large-scale view of the world and a very benevolent view. One feels: no matter how dreadful some of mankind's activities might be, here is a field in which men are functioning reasonably, efficiently and successfully. When I hear in the news the name of some country that I discovered only through my stamp album, I feel a touch of personal recognition, like an affectionate greeting. A stamp album is like a world tour, with the advantage of focusing selectively on the best aspects of various cultures, and without the bitter disadvantages ●

So the late Ayn Rand was inspired by a little girl to resume her childhood hobby in middle age – and the hobby seems to have helped her to see the world in a happier, more benevolent light. But ask half a dozen other philatelists why they collect and they will give you half a dozen different answers. We think those many different reasons for collecting are fascinating – and that is why we are asking you to contribute 100 to 500 words to this new series by telling us why you took up philately and what makes it so special for you. Simply write to the Editor at the address on page 132 or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

* The extract here is from an article that first appeared in the Minkus Stamp Journal in 1971



Classic Children's TV 12 lovable legends of children's television are lined up to star in the first special stamp issue of next year

The Classic Children's TV stamp issue, to be released on 7 January 2014, features famous, much-loved characters who have delighted generation after generation. Happy childhood memories will doubtlessly be stirred for viewers of all ages, from wide-eyed toddlers to young-at-heart grandparents.

The set celebrates the 40th anniversary of the first television appearance of Bagpuss and the 50th anniversary of *The Magic Roundabout* in 2014. But it also represents over 60 years of magical broadcasting – one stamp pays tribute to Andy Pandy, which first hit our screens in 1950.

All the greats are showcased, from *Camberwick Green* and *The Wombles* to *Peppa Pig* and *Shaun the Sheep*. As well as the 12-stamp series, a Presentation Pack, First Day Cover, Stamp Cards, Medal Cover, Framed Stamps and Pin Badges are also available – plus, of course, special postmarks.

Classic Children's TV – Specifications	
Date of issue	7 January
Number of stamps	12 x 1st
Stamp design	Interabang
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	25mm x 25mm, excluding protusions
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	15 x 15
Phosphor	All over
Gum	Self-adhesive

Stamp by stamp The stamps are all First Class and feature eponymous or major characters from each classic children's series.

Andy Pandy That friendly little chap with the famous striped playsuit and hat, along with pals Teddy and Looby Loo (remember her song – *Here We Go, Looby Loo?*), is shown in the wicker hamper where he lived with the toy bear. The show, which encouraged children to sing along with the songs, was first broadcast live, then filmed to allow repeats. *Andy Pandy* was the flagship programme in the *Watch With Mother* afternoon segment from 1953.

Photography: © Alamy



Ivor the Engine This ITV classic is famous for the soft, Welsh lilt of narrator Oliver Postgate, who created the series with Peter Firmin. It is also famous, of course, for the 'pssh-te-cuff' sound of Ivor's engine as he pottered about the rural railways of, as the programme put it, 'the top left-hand corner of Wales'.

The Magic Roundabout The nation's favourite shaggy dog, the slightly curmudgeonly Dougal was the lead character in a show that became a star in the firmament of British TV in the Sixties. Making legends of Florence, Zebedee and Brian the Snail, *The Magic Roundabout* was a hit when it debuted in 1965. Interestingly, however, the show began life as a French animation before the BBC adopted it.

Camberwick Green A series that seemed to capture the spirit of Middle England, along with sister show *Trumpton*, *Camberwick Green* followed the life of a picturesque village in the county of Trumptonshire. Locals included Dr Mopp, busybody Mrs Honeyman and Windy Miller, who features on the stamp wearing his trademark red kerchief. At the start of each episode, the featured character would appear from a music box after that evocative rhyme: 'Here is a box, a musical box, wound up and ready to play. But this box can hide a secret inside. Can you guess what is in it today?'

Mr Benn Bowler-hatted Mr Benn was the envy of Seventies suburban Britain. Not for him the rat race with its torturous commute and office politics. Mr Benn would simply visit the fancy dress shop and swap his sober suit for an outlandish outfit and a surreal themed adventure by exiting the changing room into a fantasy world. Cowboy, knight, spaceman, caveman – anything was possible after the shopkeeper had appeared 'as if by magic'. Mr Benn's street Festive Road was inspired by Festing Road in Putney where his creator, author David McKee, lived. McKee's book work was adapted for the TV series, which launched in 1971. ▶



Above: the Classic Children's TV stamps celebrate a golden age of British television

Below: the non-pictorial alternative postmark features the home of The Wombles



FD140107-NP









Above: the First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial postmark and Filler Card detailing the story of each classic television show

The Wombles Recyclers decades before eco-warriors were invented, the Wombles cleaned up the world messed up by mucky humans from their subterranean base under Wimbledon Common. Head of the Wombles clan was Great Uncle Bulgaria, who features on the stamp with his famous tartan shawl and round specs. Such was the appeal of Madame Cholet, Orinoco, Tomsk and the gang that the TV series, first aired in 1973, spawned a pop group with a string of hits, including the unforgettable *Remember You're A Womble.*

Bagpuss In his stamp, Bagpuss looks surprisingly alert, considering this laid-back feline was billed by the programme-makers as a 'saggy old cloth cat' when he first appeared in 1974. The plot of each *Bagpuss* episode was formulaic but always intriguing: little girl Emily would bring a different discarded item to the lost-and-found shop where pink, striped Bagpuss lived with his pals, including those bustling mice, rag doll Madeleine and woodpecker bookend Professor Yaffle. The *Bagpuss* characters would weave songs and stories around the object while it was repaired. Once it was restored and placed in the shop window, Bagpuss would yawn contentedly and settle back down to sleep. Ah, cat heaven… and a blissful TV experience for young viewers.

Paddington Bear Michael Bond's smash-hit Paddington books translated perfectly onto the television screen when the bear from Peru's series launched in 1975: TV Paddington retained all his endearing innocence and bumbling charm – encapsulated in this stamp, where the furry little fella waits in hope

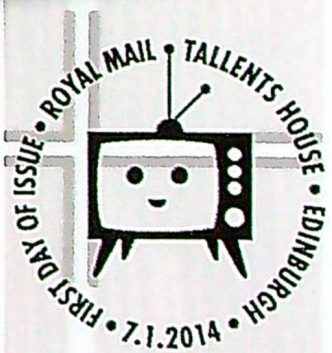


at London's Paddington Station with his old battered suitcase containing his beloved marmalade, and sporting that now-famous label pleading for someone to look after him.

Postman Pat 'Postman Pat, Postman Pat, Postman Pat and his black-and-white cat...' Come on, no one can pretend they have forgotten the theme song. Debuting in 1981, Britain's best-loved TV postman charmed young viewers as he trundled around rustic Greendale making his rounds, helping locals out of scrapes along the way, including handyman Ted Glen and the wonderfully named postmistress Mrs Goggins. Pat's stamp shows him posing by his postal van with his faithful moggie, ready to help out in a crisis.

Bob the Builder We could all do with a builder like Bob – he always turns up when he says he will and he will build or rebuild anything for free. Helpful Bob's can-do attitude has always had a boost from his anthropomorphic vehicle pals, including Dizzy the cement mixer, Muck the digger, Roley the steamroller and Lofty the mobile crane. Narrated by Neil Morrissey and featuring that well-known catchphrase 'Can we fix it? Yes we can!', *Bob the Builder* celebrates its 15th anniversary this year with a run on the CBeebies channel.

Peppa Pig Little ones naturally empathise with Peppa Pig, who lives with younger brother George, Mummy Pig and Daddy Pig: she is cheeky, loves playing games and dressing up, and most of all adores jumping in dirty puddles – and that is ▸



FD140107-TH

Above: the Classic Children's TV Presentation Pack and the Tallents House postmark

Classic Children's TV – Prices	
Stamps	£7.20
Presentation Pack	£7.70
First Day Cover UK/overseas	£9.12/£10.95
Stamp Cards	£5.40
Framed Stamps	£25.00
Medal Cover	£14.95
Pin Badges	£5.95
Cuddly Paddington Bear	£29.99



Above: the Medal Cover with a unique cancellation that shows the Bagpuss character Professor Yaffle

Below: a cuddly Paddington is also available at www.royalmail.com/stamps









Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Clyde Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Acknowledgements: Andy Pandy © Ben Productions LLC; Ivor the Engine and Bagpuss © 2014 Smallfilms Ltd and Peter Firmin; Dougal, The Magic Roundabout © Serge Danot, Windy Miller, Camberwick Green © Gordon Murray (Trumptonshire) Ltd; Mr Benn © 2013 David McKee. Licensed by Clive Juster & Associates; Great Uncle Bulgaria, The Wombles © WCH Ltd; Paddington Bear™ © P & Co Ltd 2013; Postman Pat © 2014 Woodland Animations Ltd, a division of Classic Media UK Limited. Licensed by Classic Media Distribution Limited. Original writer John Cunliffe. All rights reserved; Bob the Builder TM © 2014 HIT Entertainment Limited and Keith Chapman; Peppa Pig © ABD Ltd/ Ent. One UK Ltd 2003; Shaun the Sheep © Aardman Animations Ltd 2014



exactly what she is doing in her stamp. What a girl. *Peppa Pig* sees its tenth anniversary on air next year.

Shaun the Sheep Shaun earned himself his own series in 2007 after appearing in the Oscar-winning 1995 Wallace and Gromit film *A Close Shave*. Shaun's appeal lies in the fact that he is a counter-intuitive sheep, refusing to follow the flock, and more often than not leading his woolly friends into plenty of scrapes at Mossybottom Farm. There he runs rings round long-suffering sheepdog Bitzer and the Farmer.

Philatelic specials The fully illustrated Presentation Pack features the story of the 'Golden Age' of children's television by expert TV writer Graham Kibble-White and details about each programme appearing on the stamps. Also available is a First Day Cover, with facts from Graham Kibble-White on all these iconic shows, as well as 12 Stamp Cards and Framed Stamps. A special Medal Cover spotlights the work of Smallfilms, the production company of top TV partnership Peter Firmin and Oliver Postgate, responsible for *Bagpuss* and *Ivor the Engine*. It is illustrated by Peter Firmin himself. The Medal Cover, a limited edition of 900, offers a medal showing Bagpuss and Ivor the Engine. The unique cancellation depicts *Bagpuss* character Professor Yaffle and is postmarked Blean, Canterbury, the home of Smallfilms.

A Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark has a TV set with a fun face on the screen, while pictorial and non-pictorial alternative postmarks show Wimbledon, London SW19 – the home, of course, of the Wombles. Orders for serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 7 January. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 98) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark •

Checklist of 2013 definitives A comprehensive list to complete your records of this year's Machin stamp issues



Please note We quote Royal Mail order numbers (prefixed DS, YB etc) as given on Tallents House stock lists • Key to printers: C = Cartor, D = De La Rue, E = Enschedé, ISP = International Security Printers W = Walsall • Printing process: G = gravure, L = litho, I = intaglio • Unless otherwise stated, definitive and country stamps are self-adhesive, have a perforation gauge of 15 x 14 (with ellipses at lower left and right sides) and two phosphor bands (2nd class standard size one band) • Dates are when stamps were first available from Tallents House; at times they may have been available at Post Offices earlier to meet postal needs •

Counter Sheet Definitives

3 January 1p Maroon (DS018); 2p Dark Green (DS022); 5p Ash Pink (DS055); 10p Light Tan (DS010); Light Green (DS207); Slate Grey (DS500); 1st Class Royal Mail Red (DS601); £1 Wood Brown (DS106) – all D, G with iridescent ink; Large 1st Class Royal Mail Red (DS902) W,G with iridescent ink.

27 March 78p Orchid Mauve (DS781); 88p Amber Yellow (DS881) – both W, G; £1.88 Sapphire Blue (DS188) W, G with iridescent ink; 1st Class Royal Mail ▸







Above left: the London Underground Stamp Book
Above right: the Machin Refresh First Day Cover
Left: The Doctor Who Prestige Stamp Book contains stamps showing the Doctors, the TARDIS and aliens
Opposite page top left: Pane 1 of the Football Heroes Prestige Stamp Book features four 50p and four 5p Machin Definitives
Top right: Classic Locomotives of Northern Ireland Stamp Book
Below left: Butterflies Stamp Book showing the four Machins and the Chalkhill Blue and Comma Butterfly stamps
Below right: Pane 1 of the Merchant Navy Prestige Stamp Book

Signed For Yellow/Flame (DS155); Large 1st Class Royal Mail Signed For Yellow/Flame (DS185) – both D, G with iridescent ink.

Prestige Stamp Book mixed-value panes

26 March Doctor Who £13.77 (YB050): Pane 1: Miniature Sheet 4 x 1st Class Doctor Who aliens stamps, 1 x 1st Class TARDIS C, L, gummed; Pane 2: 3 x 1st Class Doctors stamps; Pane 3: 4 x 1st Class Doctors stamps; Pane 4: 4 x 1st Class Doctors stamps; Pane 5: 4 x 1st Class TARDIS stamps, 1 x 5p Machin, 1 x 10p Machin, 1 x 20p Machin, 1 x 87p Machin. Panes 2-5 W, G, gummed.

9 May Football Heroes £11.11 (YB051) Pane 1: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland Country stamps, 2 x 1p, 2 x 1st Class Red Machin Definitive; Pane 4: 2 x 2p, 2 x 5p, 2 x 10p Machin Definitives W, G, gummed.

19 September Merchant Navy £11.19 (YB052) Pane 1: 4 x 50p, 4 x 5p Machin Definitives E, L, gummed.

Miniature sheets

9 January £3.52 London Underground (MZ090) C, L, PVA.

26 March £2.60 Doctor Who (MZ091) E, L.

9 May £6.60 Football Heroes (MZ092) C, L, PVA.

18 June £3.54 Classic Locomotives of Northern Ireland (MZ093) C/L, PVA.

8 August £3.76 Andy Murray (MZ096) ISP, L, PVA.

13 August £2.40 British Auto Legends (MZ094) C, L, PVA.

19 September £2.40 Merchant Navy (MZ095) E, L, PVA.

5 November £6.73 Christmas 2013 (MZ097) D, G, PVA.

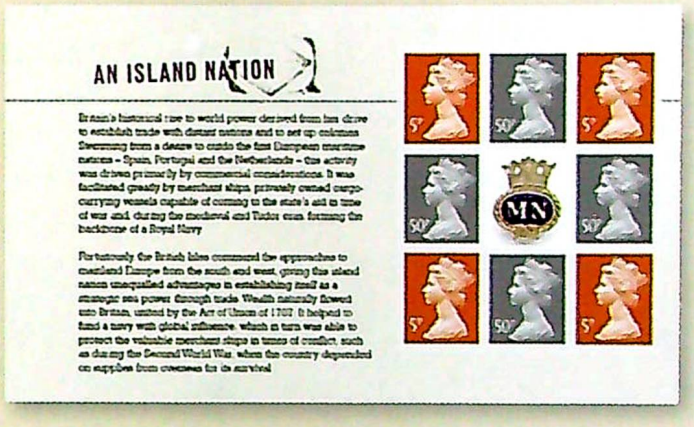
Stamp books

3 January 6 x 1st Class Revised Colour Palette Retail Booklet £3.60 (UB356); 4 x 1st Class Large Revised Colour Palette Retail Booklet £3.60 (UB357); 12 x 1st Class Revised Colour Palette Retail Booklet £7.20 (UB358). All W, G.









9 January London Underground £3.60: 4 x 1st Class, 2 x London Underground (UB359) W, G.

26 March Dr Who £3.60: includes 2 x Classic TV, 4 x Tardis (UB360) W, G.

9 May Football Heroes £3.60: includes 2 x Heroes, 4 x Machins (UB361) W, G.

18 June Classic Locomotives of Northern Ireland £3.60: includes 2 x Locos, 4 x Machins (UB362) W, G.

11 July Butterflies £3.60: includes 2 x Butterflies, 4 x Machins (UB363) W, G.

19 September Merchant Navy £3.60: includes Royal Mail Van from British Auto Legends, Royal Mail Ship from Merchant Navy, 4 x Machins (UB364) W, G.

Generic Smilers® sheets

7 February £12.50 Lunar Year of the Snake (AT074) C, L.

26 March £12.50 Doctor Who (AT075) C, L.

10 May £12.50 Melbourne 2013 Exhibition Sheet (AT076) C, L.

2 August £12.50 Bangkok 2013 Exhibition Sheet (AT073) C, L.

5 November £14.22 Christmas Madonna & Child (AT080) C, L.

10 December £12.50 Lunar Year of the Horse (AT079) C, L.

Commemorative sheets

16 April 10 x 1st Class Union Flag stamps celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Launch of HMY Britannia (AV020) C, L.

1 May 10 x 1st Class Scottish Country Definitives celebrating David Livingstone Pioneering Explorer and Medical Missionary 1813–1873 (AV021) C, L.

19 September 10 x 1st Class Royalty Seal Stamps marking the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Bertram Mackennal (AV025) ISP, L.

Please note the following amendments to last year's continuation pages: **31 May** 1st Class Diamond Jubilee Blue (YB048) W, G; **27 July** 1st Class Olympic & Paralympic Orange (YB049); **27 July** World Wide 20g Olympic & Paralympic Blue (YB049) •

The coolest cut of all

Craftsman Chris Wormell cuts and carves beautiful works of art to create spectacular stamps. Here he reveals the secrets behind his Post & Go series

CHRIS WORMELL, as careful readers of the *Bulletin*'s special stamp previews will know, is the master craftsman behind this year's 18 Post & Go Freshwater Life stamps, issued in three sets featuring creatures from ponds, lakes and rivers. Keen collectors were able to meet Chris at the Royal Mail stand during Autumn Stampex and get his signature on First Day Covers and Presentation Packs of the most recent Post & Gos.



Above: Chris signing First Day Covers at Autumn Stampex

Below: a vivid example of Chris's lino cut work for the Farm Animals issue



During the autograph session, Chris chatted with many British and European philatelists, who were interested in the traditional lino cut method that he used to illustrate the Freshwater Life series. Indeed, Chris is a craftsman as much as an artist. He combines the traditional artisan techniques of lino cut and wood engraving, 19th-century hand-printing methods and raw drawing talent to produce stunning works of art, from book illustrations (he is a prolific and award-winning author of children's illustrated books) to imagery for big-brand advertising campaigns and, of course, Royal Mail stamps.

A modest master As well as the Freshwater Life issue, Chris also illustrated the Farm Animals stamp set of 2005 (a first-class stamp is shown below left) and created a stamp for the 1999 Millennium series. It was part of the Farmers' Tale set, showing Jethro Tull's horse-drawn seed drill.

'I am just a jobbing illustrator, really, and I simply like applying my techniques to all sorts of commissions,' he says modestly from his home in Bounds Green, north London. 'Jobbing illustrator' really does not do him justice, especially when you consider that he is almost entirely self-taught, apart from a little help from his painter father. Chris, 58, is in fact a master craftsman-artist, creating wonderfully crisp, atmospheric black and white wood engravings and boldly beautiful, coloured lino cut images.

Wood engraving and lino cut are exacting and meticulous ways of creating pictures. Engraving involves making a pencil drawing on a block of wood, then cutting away along the drawn lines and dots of detail, which creates tone and shadow. All the cutting is done with marvellous-sounding traditional tools: spitstickers, scorpers and gravers. The surface of the block is covered with oil-based black ink, then placed on the bed of Chris's



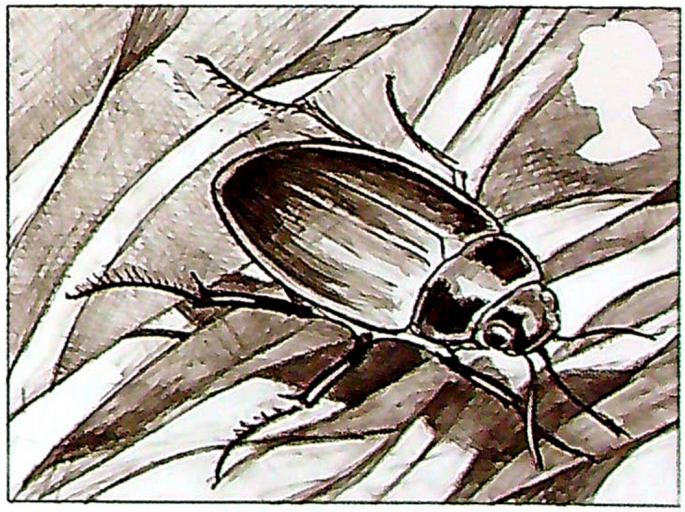
Victorian printing press. He positions paper over the block, then pulls the press's lever, which pushes a plate onto the paper. And hey presto, you have your print.

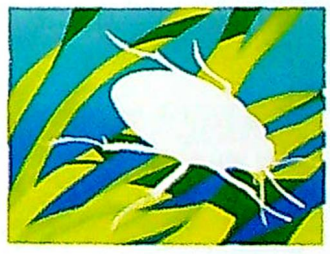
Freshwater lino cuts Chris's stamp work was done in lino cut. Lino cuts begin with a pencil drawing on a piece of lino backed onto wood, then cut away to leave a basic illustration of the subject. This is inked in black and placed in the press, giving a black and white master image.

On other lino pieces Chris will have the same basic master picture, but on each lino piece he carves out various elements of the whole image. Each of these elements, or 'blocks', are covered with a different coloured oil-based ink. These are printed in sequence onto a single piece of paper, so Chris gradually builds up the complete picture with its printed colour elements.

Finally, a lino block carved with an outline of the subject, and inked black, is pressed over the complete picture. This process provides those strong black lines between the coloured areas and the rest of the final picture. The contrast between the black lines and vivid blocks of colour makes for a distinctive lino cut image.

Chris's Freshwater lino cuts for the Ponds, Lakes and Rivers sets show the denizens of the water (and the air around it) in bright, vibrant hues that contrast with the background colours of their natural habitats, rendered in a subtle background palette of aqua-blues and plant-greens. ▶







Top: Post & Go Freshwater Life 1 – Ponds was issued this year on 22 February

Above: three stages in Chris's creation of the Lesser Silver Water Beetle



Clutter and creativity The Wormell artistic hub is a cluttered studio at the top of the Early Victorian house he shares with wife Mary, an actress and lecturer. 'It's a mess!' admits Chris with a chuckle. 'It's chock-a-block full of stuff, a bookcase full of my reference books, papers piled everywhere, five tables, one covered with ink and pens and paper, my Victorian printing press, shelves of the wood blocks for engraving. Oh, and a sofa in case I want to have a nap occasionally.'

And out of this 'mess' emerge truly lovely things. Chris Wormell's lino cuts include an evocative book jacket for Sebastian Faulks' First World War tragedy *Birdsong*, with a soldier bowed over a comrade's grave; a cheeky *Time Out* magazine cover showing a dog and a duck for a special edition on London pubs; a series of advertising pictures for Suffolk brewer Adnams. In the Adnams 'Beer from the Coast' ad campaign, Chris created picture postcard scenes of an ideal seaside England, with Adnams bottles, bottle tops and pint glasses popping up as subtle props – tops appeared as limpets on a groyne or as pebbles on the shore, an Adnams glass blended seamlessly into a parade of cliffs. The images featured on everything Adnams, from beermats to billboards. And they were such a hit that beer fans sent Chris mats for him to autograph. 'That was both a surprise and a pleasure,' recalls Chris with another chuckle.

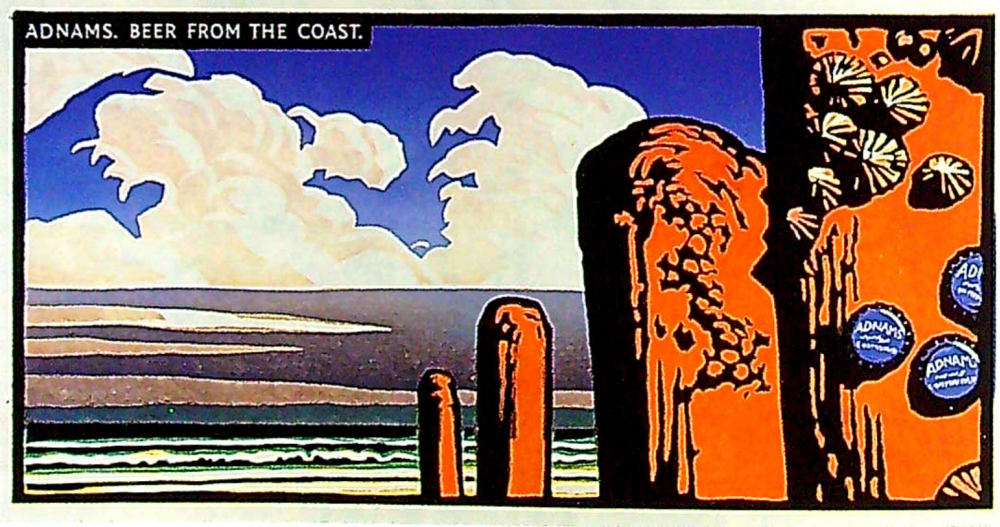
His wood engravings, while monotone, are no less impactful. He has cut coats of arms for the Royal Opera House and the London Stock Exchange; drawn a windswept wheatfield for bread packaging; and for his first ever commission in 1983 created a haunting scene of a country house in the hills for a Faber & Faber book cover (based on a house he used to visit for holidays).

This is commercial art, but with the emphasis on art.

Freshwater challenge Experienced as Chris may be, illustrating the Freshwater Life stamps was a real challenge. For stamps, an illustration will obviously be reduced to a tiny space, so it has to work small, and work hard – be detailed and accurate yet uncluttered, precise yet simple. Chris also had to ensure that while there was a consistent visual style across each set of six stamps, each stamp also had a distinctive composition, an individual

Above: an apple tree and dove image created for St John's Gate Museum and the coat of arms for the Royal Opera House

Right: one of Chris's coastal scenes, with clever beer-themed additions, for the successful Adnams advertising campaign





Above: sets 2 and 3 of 2013's Post & Go Freshwater Life stamps – Lakes and Rivers – issued on 25 June and 20 September respectively

Below: Chris's preliminary drawing of the Common Toad for the Freshwater Life series



character. 'With the fish and other creatures I was doing, there is a danger that they will all look the same, going from left to right or from right to left, and all living in a similar environment,' explains Chris. 'But you couldn't do them face on, that would be absurd, so you have to find a way of varying the shapes of the composition of each stamp, the position the creature is pointing or travelling. And you have to subtly alter the background, so there's continuity and individuality at the same time.'

When you see Chris's menagerie of carp, sticklebacks, trout, beetles, eels and dragonflies swimming, wriggling and flitting across the three Post & Go sets, it is clear that he handled the challenge with artistic aplomb.

Chris's added challenge was that Royal Mail wanted lino cuts without those black lines. This was tricky, as the black lines are both the barriers and the glue that separate contrasting areas of colour but also pull them together as a whole. With no black framework, he had to be particularly careful about making the colours work together. His solution was to print different, separate blocks of colour, scan them into his Mac, build up the layers on-screen, and use the Photoshop program to fine-tune those hues.

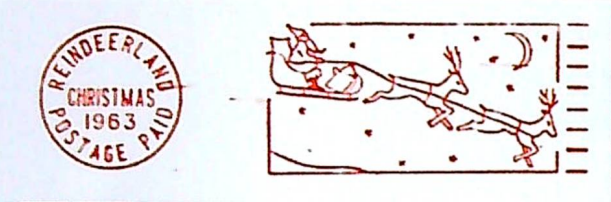
So yes, Chris does use 21st-century technology to complete his traditional engravings and cuts. But almost the entire process is by hand and traditional tools, the rolling-on of ink, the creak of a manual press. It is tricky, it is time-consuming, but Chris would not have it any other way. 'I like the idea of printing because you don't actually see what you're creating until the moment you take the block off the paper,' he explains. 'There's always chance and excitement when something different happens. No matter how long you've been doing it, you never know quite what you're going to get' •



This month in history John Holman recalls the first appearance of the popular Santa Service in 1963

This year we have marked a number of 50th anniversaries: the setting-up of the Philatelic Bureau and the *Bulletin*, the first se-tenant stamps (2s 'Holiday book'), and the introduction of tourist slogan and 'First Day of Issue' postmarks. Also 50 years ago, the then GPO introduced its Santa Service, sending replies to children who wrote to Father Christmas at fictional addresses such as Reindeerland, Toyland or Santaland. The children were sent an attractive card inside a plain envelope bearing a Post Paid Reindeerland postmark applied in red ink. It is believed between 5,000 and 8,000 were sent out in 1963 but the numbers grew rapidly in subsequent years, to 100,000 in 1972 and reaching 350,000 in 1985. Subscribers to the new *Philatelic Bulletin* were sent a Bureau compliments card bearing an impression of the 1963 Reindeerland postmark. This postmark continued in use until 1985, and was replaced the following year by a Royal Mail PPI (printed postage impression).

From 1985, cards bearing a message in Welsh were sent to children who wrote to Santa in that language. The Santa Service was originally organised by the Philatelic Bureau in London, but handled by a private mailing house, and in recent years by the Return Letter Centre in Belfast.



Above: the first of the special REINDEERLAND postmarks in red ink, used to send children reply cards from Father Christmas

In 2001 Royal Mail sold packs containing prepaid envelopes (with imprinted Christmas Robins first-class stamp), one of the envelopes addressed to Santa ready for children to send him their letters. The other envelopes in the pack could be used to send Christmas cards or greetings. The pack was sold at 250 Early Learning Centres, Post Office postshops and Tallents House – details were given in the *Bulletin* in October and November 2001.

Information about the early Santa cards and postmarks can be found in Glenn Morgan's *British Post Office Santa Mail Service* (published 1989), and in an article by Gilbert Lowe in *The Cinderella Philatelist* of April 1989 •

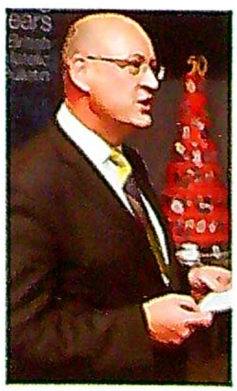


Above: just a few of the readers and friends who helped celebrate Bulletin's 50th anniversary
Right: the Bulletin birthday cake, rumoured to have inspired a pillar box cake bake-off at the BPMA

Bulletin celebration



The best thing about *Bulletin*'s 50th year has been meeting so many readers, through letters and at Stampex. A special thank-you goes to the 100 or so who came along, *Bulletins* in hand, to help us celebrate at Stampex in September. All received, mostly willingly, souvenir mementoes a printed envelope for a commemorative cover and a 1960s-style Polaroid photo. There was also a little cake to share ●





Right: Andrew Hammond, Director of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, thanked editors and readers for their commitment to British philately; Royal Mail editor William Doherty with consultant editor John Holman and publishing editor Kate Shaw

Mind over mince pies Escape your stamp cave and share these puzzles with family and friends to win some special Christmas prizes



Stamp tree puzzle

Can you find the stamp designer hidden in our philatelic festive tree below? All you have to do is write down the names of all the stamps in the baubles decorating the Christmas tree. Then take the first letters of each, rearrange them to form the name of a stamp illustrator, and send your solution to the address on the right.

Remember, you need the first letter of the stamp name, not the name of the set in which it was issued. And if a person is the subject of a stamp, use just the first letter of their surname.

Clue: a fresh face in Post & Go waters.

Stampstumper

Phil comes home from Christmas shopping with a packet of mixed stamps, definitives and pictorials, ready to go on his Christmas post.

There are 80 stamps altogether – 23 are first-class stamps, 35 are definitives, and 32 are neither definitives nor first-class.

How many first-class definitive stamps does Phil have?

How to enter

Send your answers, marked 'Dec Stamp Tree Puzzle' and/or 'Dec Stampstumper' to: Bulletin Puzzles, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date 14 January 2014. The senders of the first two correct entries drawn in each section after the closing date win the Royal Mail Yearbook. Six runners-up receive the Dinosaurs issue and the toy dinosaur pictured above.

October Dinosaur Quiz solutions

Dinosaur Quiz 1a) Baryonyx means 'heavy claw'. 2a) Palaeontologists first thought the Hypsilophodon to be the Iguanodon. 3a) Owen was the expert celebrated in a 1991 stamp issue.

Name That Stamp Polacanthus, October 2013.

Crossword Overprint.



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.

Stamp images: © Royal Mail Group Ltd Stampstumper puzzle creator: Tereza Kroupa



Philately forever A great website for young collectors

BRIGHT, LIVELY AND SIMPLE to navigate – Stamp Active Network's revamped website gives an exciting new boost to its campaign to make stamp collecting more exciting for children. A colourful, more contemporary design combined with clear, easy-to-reach sections showcases its activities and the fun of philately.

The Fun & Games section offers downloadable activity sheets and competition entry forms. Stamp Active is inviting children to take part in the 2014 Stamp Active Competition, and winners' displays will be on show at Spring Stampex – the theme is Our Living World. By the way, any adult who brings a child to the Stamp Active area at Stampex wins free entry to a prize draw!



Above: the new Stamp Active Network site is fun, colourful and much easier to navigate

The site also reports good news for Kidstamps, Stamp Active's postal club for the under-19s, with a recent sharp rise in membership. Kidstamps gives new members a starter pack, as well as follow-up gifts relevant to their specific philatelic interests.

As part of its campaign to attract children to philately, Stamp Active supports junior stamp clubs inside and outside schools, and holds Stamp Active Days and Stamps in Schools programmes. Experts come into classrooms or youth clubs for a range of exciting activities. The website also offers lots of information and downloadable packs to help children get a new stamp club started. Visit the website at www.stampactive.co.uk •

Girl artists get Royal approval in Christmas stamp competition



The designers of the 2013 children's Christmas stamps are the crowned queens of philately after HRH The Prince of Wales presented their prizes at a special ceremony at Clarence House. Prince Charles gave Molly Robson, seven, from West Sussex, and Rosie Hargreaves, ten, from Devon, a framed copy of their designs, which earned them first place in Royal Mail's Christmas Stamp Design Competition. Royal Mail CEO Moya Greene also attended. She and Charles were among the competition judges.

Both girls won £1,000 in vouchers and £1,000 for their schools. Molly's Santa picture is on the first-class stamp and Rosie's singing angels painting is on the second-class. Two postmarks bearing the girls' names were made available when the stamps were issued •



Looking for a history theme? You could start a Great War collection with this 2008 stamp, an all-time favourite showing the face of a fallen soldier on poppy petals. From 2014, Royal Mail marks the centenary of the war's start with a special three-part issue. Turn over to see a list of specials for 2014



Royal Mail Stamp Programme

2014

Your diary dates for special stamps and Post & Go stamps issued next year

7 January	Classic Children's TV
4 February	Working Horses
20 February	Classic Locomotives of Wales
21 February	Spring Blooms Post & Go
25 March	Remarkable Lives
21 April	Buckingham Palace
13 May	Great British Film
5 June	Sustainable Fish
17 July	Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games
28 July	The Great War – 1914
18 September	Seaside Architecture
19 September	Symbolic Flowers Post & Go
14 October	Prime Ministers
4 November	Christmas
13 November	Winter Greenery Post & Go

To order philatelic items, including First Day Covers and Presentation Packs, visit www.royalmail.com/stamps.

Or contact Royal Mail Tallents House at 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line 08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday: 08457 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 listed on page 98.

