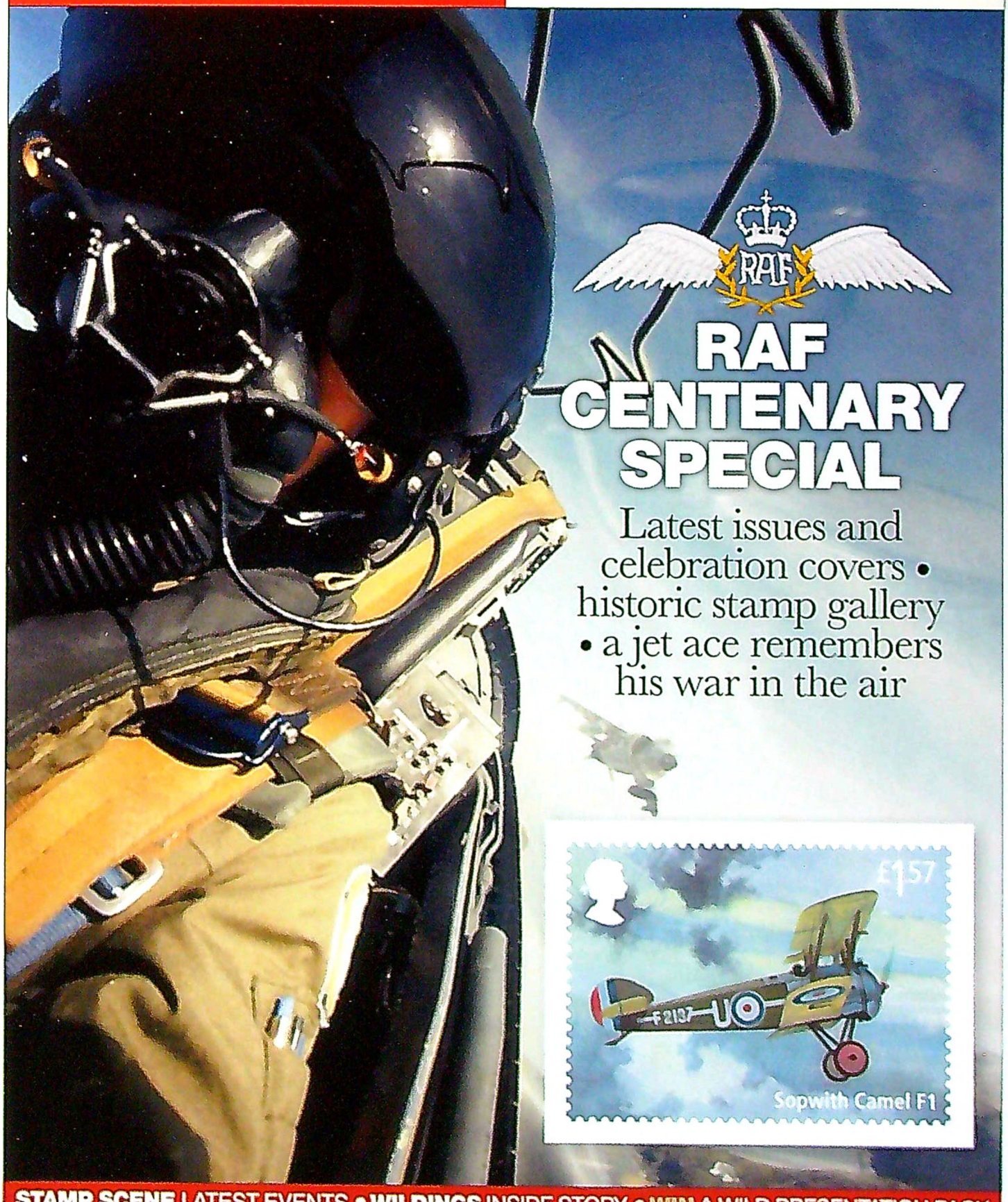
BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 8 | APRIL 2018 | £1.95

Owls Preview • Machin & Country Stamp releases



RAF CENTENARY SPECIAL

Latest issues and celebration covers • historic stamp gallery • a jet ace remembers his war in the air

STAMP SCENE LATEST EVENTS • **WILDINGS** INSIDE STORY • **WIN** A WILD PRESENTATION PACK

NEW ON 17 APRIL: SPECIAL STAMPS

Welcome back...



Above: the six pictorial stamps being released this month are printed in three horizontal se-tenant strips of two

For philatelic specifications, special handstamps and First Day Covers, see Preview on page 197 of the March edition of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*

An intriguing new Special Stamp set celebrates once-extinct species that have successfully returned to the UK

About 400 animal and plant species that were recorded in the UK in the 19th century have since become extinct. But recent reintroduction programmes have brought species back to their native habitats from other countries.

The Royal Mail Special Stamp issue released this month is a celebration of the successful reintroduction of flora and fauna across the UK; the six species depicted are the Osprey, the Pool Frog, Eurasian Beaver, Sand Lizard, Stinking Hawk's-beard and Large Blue Butterfly.

The mint stamps are also available in a Presentation Pack that contains a spotter's guide and information about each stamp, written by leading naturalist and television presenter Chris Packham •

Order at www.royalmail.com/stamps or call 03457 641 641



Hoots you, sir Royal Mail's wise new Owls Special Stamp issue swooping down to you next month should prove the perfect addition to your philatelic collection **232**

Royal Mail Editor Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at www.royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **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 ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd

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RAF CENTENARY CELEBRATION

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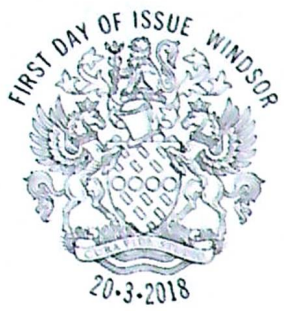


Coming soon Discover the new pictorial stamps of the season **256**





FD1810-TH



FD1810-PL



FD1810-NP



Definitives news The 2018 Machin definitives and Country Stamps are out – in a comprehensive philatelic range of mint stamps, First Day Covers, Presentation Packs and alternative postmarks

New postal rates came into effect on 26 March, with four new definitives issued in readiness on 20 March:

- £1.25p Holly Green for International Standard Letters to Europe weighing up to 20g and to World Zones 1 and 2 up to 10g
- £1.45 Dove Grey for International Standard Letters to World Zones 1 and 2 from 11g to 20g
- £1.55 Marine Turquoise for International Standard Letters to Europe between 21g and 100g
- £2.65 Purple Heather for Large Letters to Europe up to 100g

Machin Definitive Stamps 2018 – Specifications

Number of stamps	Four
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Number per sheet	Gravure
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Presentation Pack The four new definitive stamps can be purchased in mint condition in a classic Royal Mail Presentation Pack (£7.40). The Pack





From top: the 2018 Machin definitives First Day Cover with the Windsor pictorial alternative postmark; the Presentation Pack written by Douglas Muir; the interior of the Presentation Pack

insert card contains fascinating information from Postal Museum Archivist Douglas Muir about the origins and development of the 'Machin head' profile of The Queen, now in its 52nd year on UK stamps and appearing on more than 200 billion of them to date.

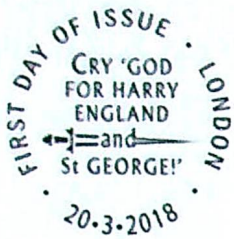
First Day Cover The traditionally elegant First Day Cover shows the Royal Mail coat of arms in a design created by stamp designer Robert Maude. The Cover is available with either a Tallents House or Windsor Castle postmark. As the issue date of these new definitives has passed, First Day Covers are no longer available from Royal Mail, but they may be purchased from ▸



Beginner's guide...

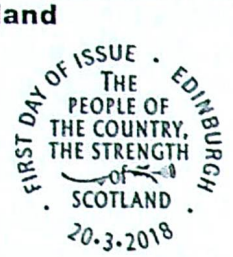
What? Standard UK postage stamps are also known as 'definitives' and 'Machins' – named after their designer Arnold Machin.
When? The Machin stamp was first issued on 5 June 1967 and since then Machin's timeless, iconic design has become one of the most widely recognised images in the world. The Queen herself called the design 'admirable'.
Why collect? Over the years the simple design has incorporated a huge variety of Machin specifications to excite the collector's enduring interest – including numerous colour palettes, printing processes, printers and adhesive methods.
Find out more The Postal Museum in London has a wealth of information on Machins. Visit www.postalmuseum.org and search under 'Machins'. You can also try the Machins Collectors Club at www.machins.org. Douglas Myall is a leading Machin expert and has written many articles on the iconic stamps for the *Bulletin*. Visit his website at www.deegam.com for further information.

England





Scotland





Wales





Northern Ireland

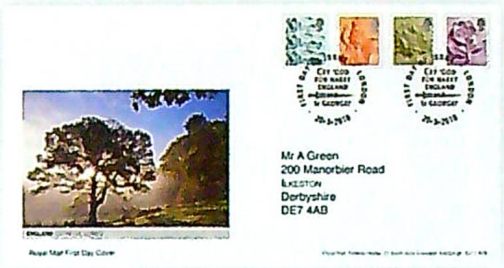




leading stamp dealers (rrp £8.70); unstamped Royal Mail Cover envelopes (30p) are available from main Post Offices and philatelic outlets.

Royal Mail has issued a First Class and a Second Class definitive for each country, to standardise the typographical styling across the popular series of Country Stamps and bring it in line with the current Machin definitive range. Each of the crisply styled Country Stamps shows a distinctive emblem in sharp relief, and features a unique association with a particular region. The stamps are available individually in their new First and Second Class definitive values, as a set of all 16 stamps (£15.80) or in the Presentation Pack (£16.30), which includes intriguing insights from expert Douglas Muir •

Country Definitive Stamps – Specifications	
Number of stamps	16
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Perforations	15 x 14
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA
Number per sheet	50 x 1st & 2nd Class 25 x International Values



Sedley Place designed the England Country Stamps; David Dathan sculpted the English oak and the English Tudor rose; and the photography was by Chris Ridley.



The Scotland Country Stamps were designed by Tayburn; Tim Chalk sculpted the thistle and Kinloch Anderson supplied the tartan, with photography by Julyan Rawlings.

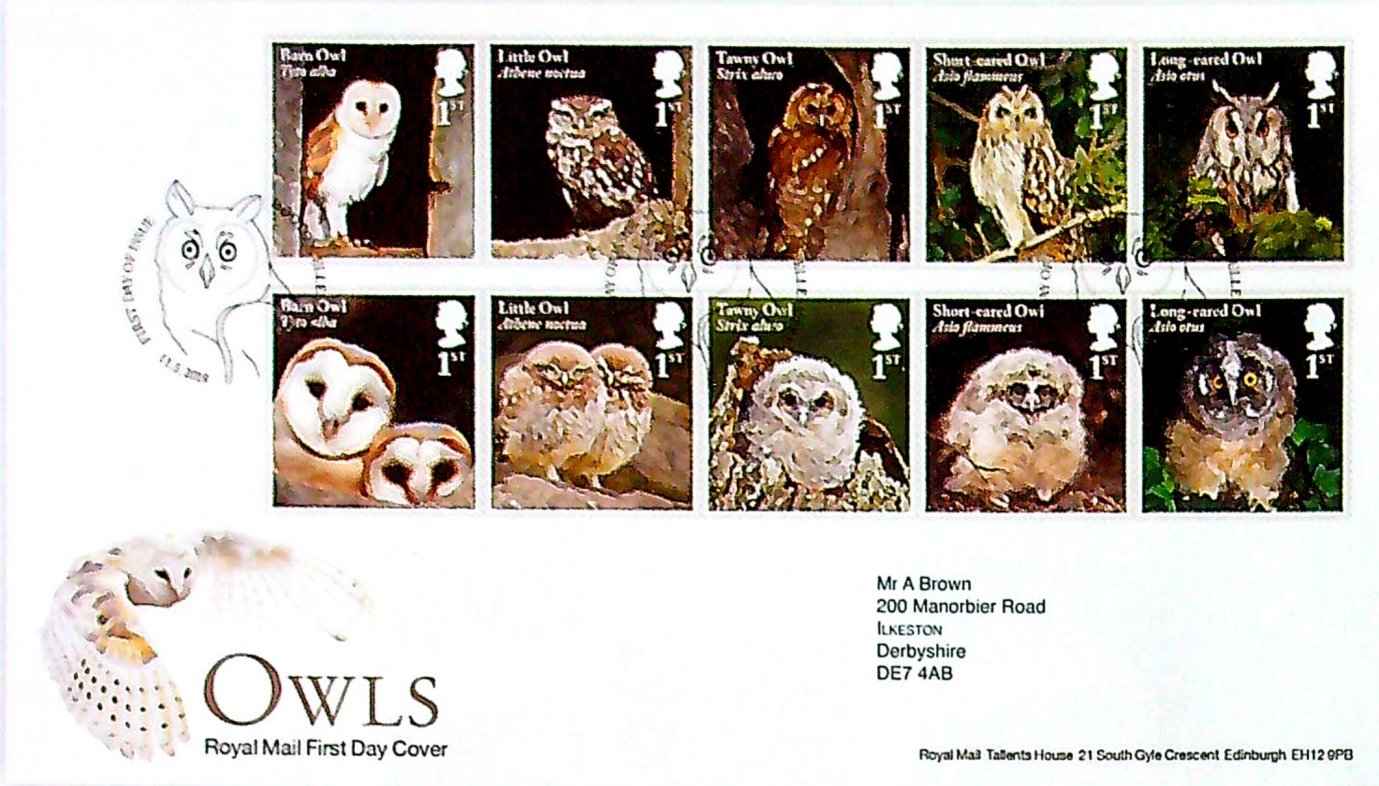


The Wales stamps were designed by Tutssels Enterprise IG. The daffodil was created in Welsh slate by Ieuan Rees and The Prince of Wales Feathers were crafted from Welsh gold and silver by Rhiannon Evans. / Dyluniwyd stampiau Cymru gan Tutssels Enterprise IG: crëwyd y genhinen Bedr o lechen Gymreig gan Ieuan Rees a saernïwyd Plu Tywysog Cymru o arian ac aur Cymreig gan Rhiannon Evans.



Rodney Miller Associates designed the Northern Ireland stamps; the linen slip case comes courtesy of the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum, with photography by David Pauley; the Parian china is courtesy of the Ulster Museum, Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland, and the photography was by Tiff Hunter.





What a hoot The Owls Special Stamp issue released next month pays colourful tribute to this always-fascinating nocturnal bird of prey

A word to the wise – Owls Special Stamps are set to cause a flap when they are released next month. The exciting ten-stamp issue presents five types of owls as adults and juveniles. Among the classic species featured are the Barn Owl, Tawny Owl and Long-eared Owl. Accompanying the issue is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards and Framed Stamps.

Stamp by stamp The Owls Special Stamps, released on 11 May, are all First Class values and are printed by lithography.

Barn Owl, Tyto alba Also known as the 'white owl' and the 'screech owl', the Barn Owl is perhaps the most familiar owl species in the country. It often nests on ledges inside farm buildings. The species hunts in flight, flying into the breeze for uplift.

Little Owl, Athene noctua The species is spread widely across southern Britain. It lives in woods and flies from tree to tree with a bounding flight action.

Tawny Owl, Strix aluto This owl's lovely quavering hoot is a familiar night-time sound but being strictly nocturnal, it is rarely seen. Tawny Owls stay in their territories through the year, building up familiarity with the terrain, and have their favourite hunting watchpoints and roosting sites.

Owls – Specifications

Date of issue	11 May
Number of stamps	10 x 1st Class (in 2 se-tenant strips of 5)
Design	Atelier Works
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	35mm x 37mm
Number per sheet	25/50
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Short-eared Owl, Asio flammeus This species is one of the world's most widely distributed birds, for it occurs in all continents except Antarctica. Active in daylight, it hunts close to the ground by dropping feet-first on its prey.
Long-eared Owl, Asio otus Named after its long cat-like ear tufts, the Long-eared Owl breeds mainly in pine forests in the UK's upland areas. The species nests in woodland but prefers to hunt in open countryside.

Also in the issue is a Presentation Pack full of wise words about owls and their lifestyles by wildlife writer and photographer Marianne Taylor. The Pack explores owls' hearing, sight, calls and plumage, and has special focuses on the five species.

Owls – Prices	
Stamps (10 x 1st Class)	£6.70
First Day Cover	£8.46
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Souvenir	£8.46
Presentation Pack	£7.20
Postcards (10 in set)	£4.50
Framed Stamps	£29.99

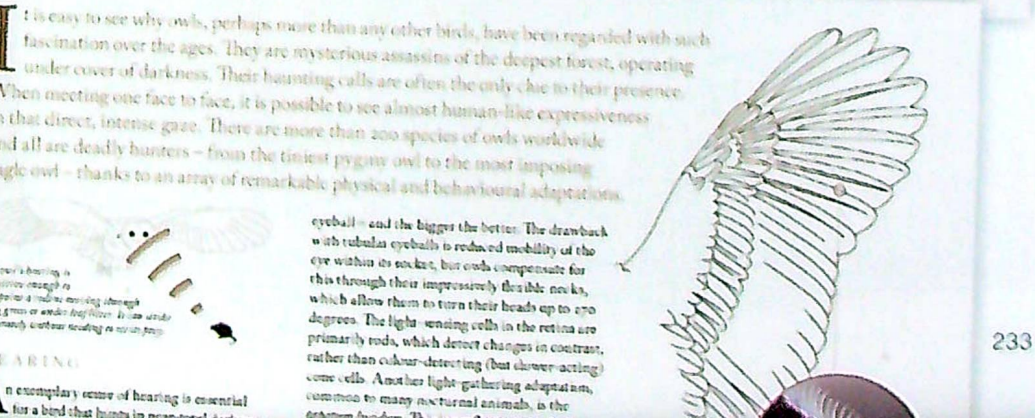
Orders for Serviced First Day Covers (ie stamped and postmarked) must reach Royal Mail by 11 May. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, for the Tallents House postmark. Please quote the *Bulletin* media code 18Bul04. The mark shows an illustration of a Barn Owl with his head cocked to one aside. Two alternative postmarks have the location Hooton, Ellesmere Port, for obvious reasons. The pictorial alternative mark shows a close-up image of a Long-eared Owl •

Acknowledgements: adult Barn Owl © Maurice Walker/FLPA/Corbis; adult Little Owl © Nik Goulthorp/ Alamy; adult Tawny Owl © George McCarthy/naturepl.com; adult Short-eared Owl © Andy Rouse; adult Long-eared Owl © Colin Varndell/Alamy; juvenile Barn Owls © Arco Images GmbH/Alamy; Little Owl chicks © Andy Rouse; Tawny Owl chick © FLPA/Alamy; Short-eared Owl chick © Mark Payne-Gill/naturepl.com; Long-eared Owl chick © Art Directors and TRIP/Alamy

Opposite page: the Owls issue First Day Cover

Below: the Tallents House Owls postmark and the two alternative marks



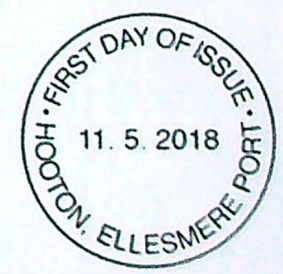




FD1812-PL



FD1812-TH



FD1812-NP



Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

Society meetings



5 April • The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Display from 1pm onwards by Bryan Kearsley entitled 'Discovering Seahorses', with a PowerPoint presentation at 5pm. Non-members of the Society are welcome as guests, but are required to contact Administration Manager Jason Webber on 020 7486 1044, during weekdays prior to the meeting.

14 April • National Philatelic Society, The London Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, with a 2.45pm display and presentation by Pat Adams entitled 'Norway Spitzbergen'. Refreshments available, and visitors and prospective new members are welcome.

19 April • The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Group display from 1pm onwards by the South-West Region of the Society. See 5 April entry for contact details and non-member visits.

28 April • Great Britain Philatelic Society. Meeting at The Royal Philatelic Society London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Two presentations and displays, at 11am by Bill Pipe on 'G.B. Railway Mail', and at 2.15pm by Mike Kentzer on 'The Life and Times of the King George V Seahorses', and Terry Wagg on 'Great Britain King George V Postal History'. See 5 April entry for contact details and non-member visits.

12 May • National Philatelic Society, The London Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, with a 2.45pm display and presentation by Jeremy Gaskell entitled 'British and Foreign Treaty Ports in China'. Refreshments available, and visitors and prospective new members are welcome •

Stamp fairs

1 April • Wolverhampton Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, eight dealers, free parking, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297. • Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL, 10am to 4pm, six dealers, free parking. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

2 April • Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury HP22 5AA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

6 April • Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm, free admission. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

7 April • Reepham Stamp Fair, Reepham Village Hall, Hawthorn Road, Reepham LN3 4DU, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: 07786 647103, siskinjo77@yahoo.co.uk. • Leicester Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, 129 St Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441. • Deal Stamp Fair, The Landmark Centre, 129 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827. • Cardiff Stamp, Postcards and Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293,

malcolm.harrington@hotmail.co.uk. • Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, ten dealers, free parking. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com. • Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com. • Beckenham Stamp and Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285. • Basingstoke Stamp and Postcard Fair, The Costello School, Basingstoke RG21 4AL, 10am to 3pm, 12 dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments. Enquiries: Paula Cant, 01256 415699, paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk.

8 April • Chelmsford Stamp and Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordian Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763. • Wokingham Stamp Fair, St Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

13-14 April • Southern England Stamp and Postcard Show, Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell RG12 9SE, two-day show, Friday 10am to 5pm. Enquiries: Melvyn Philpott, 01406 350896, melvynphilpott@gmail.com.

14 April • Liverpool Postcard and Stamp Fair, Lark Lane Community Centre, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 8UU, 10am to 4pm, 36 dealers, refreshments. Enquiries: Helen Prescott, 07712 722116, h.prescott@yahoo.co.uk. • Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Bilsborrow Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, up to 12 dealers, hot and cold food all day. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm, seven dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments from 12pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Telford Stamp and Card Club, Belmont Hall, Tan Bank, Wellington TF1 1LU, 10am to 3pm, 15 dealers, refreshments, free parking. Enquiries: Richard Camp, 01952 405458, mail@richardcamp.co.uk. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • Ferndown 42nd Annual Stamp Fair and Interclub Competition, Ferndown and West Moors Philatelic and Postcard Club, Barrington Centre, Penny's Walk, Ferndown BH22 9TH, 10am to 4pm, 26 dealers, free adjacent parking. Enquiries: Alan King, 01202 064298. • Maidstone Stamp Fair, Grove Green Community Centre, Grove Green, Maidstone ME14 5BT, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, free parking. Situated close to Junction 7 of the M20. Enquiries: Brian Stonestreet, 01622 675784. • Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Bilsborrow Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, up to 12 dealers, hot and cold food all day. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • Bridgwater Stamp Club Fair, Westfield United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, Bridgwater TA6 7EU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.



15 April • Newhaven Stamp & Postcard Fair, Denton & Mount Pleasant Social Centre, Denton Road, Newhaven (tight) BN9 0PX, 10am to 4pm, seven dealers, free parking. Enquiries: Tony Trevis, 07966 151073. • Dronfield Stamp Fair, Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AY, 9.30am to 4pm, ten dealers, free parking and admission. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845. • ▸



Bristol Stamp and Postal History Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3.30pm, free parking. Enquiries: 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.



21 April • Hull Stamp Fair, St James Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, near Hull (left) HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 4pm, five dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, refreshments, free parking. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com. • Bury St Edmunds Stamp Fair, Moreton Hall Community Centre, Symonds Road, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7EW, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 12 dealers, parking and refreshments. Enquiries: Rod Finn, 01379 898292, rod1finn@aol.co.uk. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • Shoreham Postcard and Collectors' Fair, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: R Shepherd, 01892 662132. • Michael Hale Collectors' Fair, The America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PX. 10am to 4pm, 12 stamp dealers, free parking, refreshments. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

22 April • Bexley Stamp Fair, Freemantle Hall, Bexley High Street, DA5 1AA, 9.30am to 3pm, seven dealers. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518.

28 April • Grampian Stamp and Postcard Fair, Queen's Cross Parish Church Halls, Albyn Place, Aberdeen AB10 1YN, 10.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries : Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com. • Morley Stamp Fair, St Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley LS27 3HZ, 9.30am to 4pm, 15 dealers, free parking and admission. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Morecambe Annual Stamp Fair, The Platform, Morecambe Station Buildings, (left) Marine Road Central, Morecambe LA4 4DB, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Frank Colling, 01524 733589. • Liverpool Stamp Fair, St Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, seven dealers, parking available. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • Beckenham Stamp and Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285.



2 May • Croydon Postcard Fair, St George's Church Centre, Barrow Road, Waddon, Croydon CR0 4EZ, 9am to 4pm, seven dealers, free parking and admission. Enquiries: Peter Duncan, 01444 482620, pjduncan26@gmail.com.

5 May • Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT, 10am to 3.30pm, seven dealers, free parking and admission. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • Leicester Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, 129 St Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441. • Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, ten dealers, refreshments, free parking. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • Haywards Heath Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath RH16 3DN, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers, free car parking. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132. •

Deal Stamp Fair, The Landmark Centre, 129 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827 •

Annual events

The 89th Annual Scottish Philatelic Congress will take place on 20 and 21 April at The Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth PH2 0TH. A special cover and special postcard is available at this national exhibition. As well as a Smilers® Sheet, there will be a special sheet for the Scottish Philatelic Society comprising nine commemorative labels. **Autumn Stampex** is on from 12 to 15 September at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London. **Stampa**, the Irish national stamp exhibition, will be held at the Griffith Conference Centre, Dublin, from 5 to 7 October. The **100th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain** will be at The Jurys Inn at Gateshead Quays, Gateshead from 26 to 29 July. Further information: Gerald Marriner, 0116 240 2064, gerald.marriner@gmail.com •



Special Stamp-related events

The Museum of London is hosting an exhibition entitled – like February's Special Stamp issue – Votes for Women. The six-stamp set shows how the suffragettes' campaigning led to the 1918 Representation of the People Act, which allowed women in Britain to vote for the first time ever. The Museum of London show is on until next January. Details: www.museumoflondon.org.uk.

March's RAF Centenary Special Stamps and Red Arrows Miniature Sheet salute the work of the Royal Air Force – as do commemorative events throughout 2018. For example, the three-day Royal International Air Tattoo in Gloucestershire hosts seven-hour flying displays and a mass RAF flypast. The Tattoo is on from 13 to 15 July. Details: www.raf.mod.uk/raf100.

A special vinyl version of David Bowie's classic album *Aladdin Sane* goes on sale on 20 April to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the record's original release. On 13 April Royal Mail releases its own Bowie tribute – an Aladdin Sane Anniversary Frame featuring five Aladdin Sane stamps from the David Bowie set of 2017. The Frame also shows an image from the inside of the original Aladdin Sane LP and photos from a photoshoot with the rock legend •



RPSL news

The growing success and increasing international reach of the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) was underscored by a recent meeting attended by a record number of visitors from a multitude of countries.

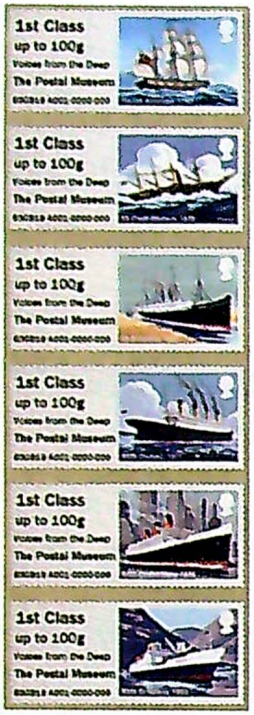
Two hundred RPSL members and guests from 13 countries gathered at the Society's London headquarters to see displays by the East Africa Study Circle. A wide range of fascinating material was shown, from missionary stamps of Uganda 1895-1899 to the philatelic repercussions of the 1964 revolution in Zanzibar. East Africa Study Circle Chairman John Wilks was presented with the RPSL plaquette by Society President Patrick Maselis RDP, FRPSL after the meeting in Devonsire Place. At a later meeting, an intriguing ▸



chapter in postal and imperial history was revealed with a display and erudite presentation by Dr Harald Lang. The focus was stamps issued in 1867 following a decree giving Hungary a measure of independence, with the monarchy divided between the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Hungary. As a result, stamps were produced that were valid in Austria and Hungary and had a neutral design acceptable to both halves of the empire.

Last month Patrick Maselis announced that the RPSL has acquired a rare freehold in the City of London and intend to move there in June 2019. So members have a year to bid a fond farewell to the Devonshire Place premises •

The Postal Museum

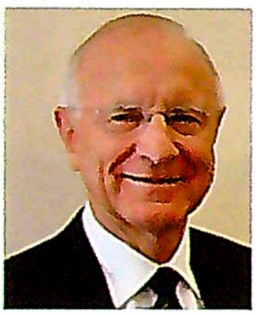




A new Post & Go overprint is rising to the surface at The Postal Museum to mark an exhibition of letters salvaged from a ship sunk by a U-boat in the Second World War. The Voices of the Deep display presents correspondence written 77 years ago but never delivered when the ship carrying the mail, *SS Gairsoppa*, was torpedoed. *Gairsoppa* went down off the coast of Ireland on 16 February 1941 with its 84 crew, over 700 letters in 12 bundles, and a cargo of silver bullion.

Voices of the Deep will be marked by an overprint on the Royal Mail Heritage: Transport Mail by Sea Post & Go issue. The overprint is available until September from the Museum's Post & Go machine. It reads: 'Voices from the Deep/ The Postal Museum' and appears on all six First Class Mail by Sea designs. The Voices of the Deep exhibition is on until 13 January 2019. Further details at: www.postalmuseum.org/voices-from-the-deep •

Philatelists rewarded



The UK stamp world is celebrating after British philatelists earned honours in the prestigious annual awards, recently hosted by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA).

Brian Trotter RDP, FRPSL (left) won the FEPA Medal for exceptional philatelic study and research for his book, *Southern African Mails, Routes, Rates and Regulations 1806-1916*, published by the Royal Philatelic Society London. And a FEPA Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding activities for the promotion of philately by societies was awarded to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain •

Europa stamp competition

Voting for the best stamp design on the continent opens soon with the launch of PostEurop's annual Europa Stamp Contest on 9 May. This year the Europa stamp theme is 'bridges'. Check for further details and how to vote online at www.posteurop.org •



Islands
RAF specials

Jersey Post pays tribute to the Royal Air Force with a range of products covering the extraordinary century of its history. A six-stamp set, souvenir miniature sheet and prestige stamp book focus on landmark aircraft that represent the RAF's development over the last 100 years.



The stamps feature a First World War SE5a, Hawker Fury Mk1 from the inter-war years, a Second World War Short Stirling BIII bomber, a classic Supermarine Spitfire PR XIX (the last Spitfire mark flown by the RAF), a Cold War English Electric Lightning F6 interceptor, and a contemporary Typhoon FGR4 multi-role combat aircraft.

Jersey's RAF centenary stamp range was released on 31 March. Further details and orders: www.jerseystamps.com.



Guernsey has a pictorial stamp issue honouring a historic squadron's long association with the island, which is the Channel Island's philatelic contribution to the RAF centenary celebrations.

201 (Guernsey's Own) Squadron was formed when the RAF was founded in 1918 and its long history is reflected in the issue of six stamps and a one-stamp miniature sheet. The stamps (right) show a number of First World war actions, including strafing of German trenches, a Second World War aerial attack on an enemy submarine, and modern-day air-sea rescue operations – all featuring 201 Squadron aircraft. One stamp shows the visit of a London Flying Boat to Guernsey in 1939, which formalised 201's links with the island.



The Guernsey RAF Centenary issue is available from 3 April. Further details and orders: www.guernseystamps.com.

Isle of Man The island's RAF issue offers an intriguing – and moving – secret feature hidden on the stamps. Shine a UV light on the stamps and the famous aviation poem *High Flight* printed in security ink appears as Morse Code. The poem was written by Spitfire pilot John Gillespie Magee before he was killed, aged just 19, in a flying accident in 1941.

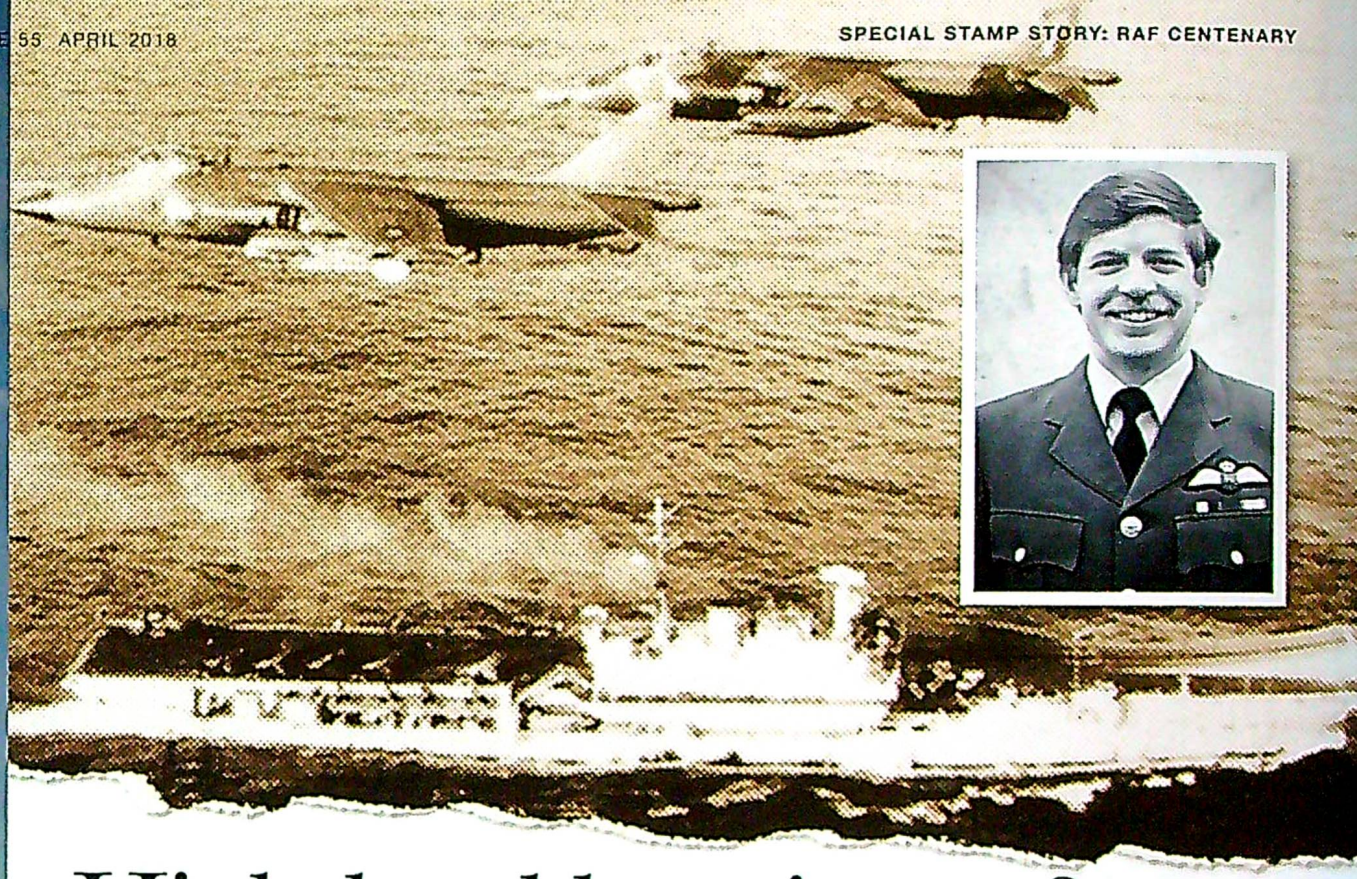


The special stamps, which have been out since January, feature historic RAF aircraft such as the Sopwith Camel, Lancaster and Vulcan bombers, and Harrier jump jet. Further details and orders: www.iomstamps.com •



This page: David Morgan in the cockpit of his Harrier jet

Opposite page: David in RAF uniform and *HMS Hermes* during the Falkands War



High-level heroism of a Falklands fighter ace

As Royal Mail stamps mark the centenary of the Royal Air Force, David Morgan recalls his extraordinary experiences as a jet fighter pilot in the Falklands War. Interview: Andrew Neish

IN JUST TWO MINUTES over the bone-grey South Atlantic sea, Flight Lieutenant David 'Moggie' Morgan became a hero. And a very unusual record holder.

On 8 June 1982 he blew a pair of Argentinian jets out of the sky in less time than it takes to make a cup of tea, an act of calm courage and steely skill that earned him the distinction of being the last RAF pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft. Yet David's final dogfight in the closing stages of the Falklands War was only the latest in a series of heart-pounding encounters with danger in an extraordinary career. An RAF Harrier jet pilot attached to the Royal Navy in the battle to take back the Falklands, David flew through a storm of cannon and missile fire to bomb the enemy-held Stanley airfield; survived being hit by enemy flak; and fought a deadly duel with Argentinian helicopters.

And as a helicopter pilot in Northern Ireland, David had flown daring covert operations to drop SAS troops into the 'bandit country' by the Irish border, hedge-hopping at less than 50 feet to avoid the IRA's SAM-7 anti-aircraft missiles. Even so, he took ground fire from the Provisionals more than once. Today, at his home in Dorset, tucked away at the end of a pretty, wintery lane, David tells me his ▸

RAF IN NUMBERS

1,238,606 Total RAF personnel at the end of the Second World War.

55,573 The RAF's bomber crew losses in the Second World War.

9,250 The weight in pounds of the bouncing bomb used by the Lancaster bombers of 617 Squadron during their 'Dambusters' raid against the Ruhr dams in 1943.

4,900 Displays performed by RAF stunt team the Red Arrows.

1,321 Maximum speed (miles per hour) of the RAF's Tornado GR4 fighter-bomber.

1,294 Enemy planes shot down by Britain's Sopwith Camel fighter in the First World War.

715 The number of serviceable fighters available to the RAF in the Battle of Britain.

Falklands story – when, as a 34-year-old father-of-two, he left his family and sailed on aircraft carrier *HMS Hermes* to the bottom of the world to fly Sea Harrier jump jets with 800 Naval Air Squadron.

Raring to go 'Were we frightened? Not really. We were raring to go as we had been training all our lives for this moment,' recalls David, still dashing and dapper at the age of 70. 'But we were certainly tense, because we wanted to do a good job, we didn't want to let anyone down.'

There seems to have been little danger of that. 'Moggy' Morgan and his pals fulfilled their duties with honour and then some. Just take that raid on the Stanley airstrip on 1 May 1982. David and his comrades were tasked to pound the airfield to prevent it being used by the Argentinian air force and destroy planes and other targets on the ground.

'I remember thinking that we'd lose at least a few aircraft on this mission. Perhaps the boss, because he'd be the first man in, and then the last plane, as there would be no one else for the Argentinians to fire at. As it happened, mine was the last plane in,' David recalls with a wry smile. 'When we approached the airfield I received quite a shock – there was a complete hemisphere of explosions and anti-aircraft fire that I was going to fly through.

'A fuel dump by the control tower had been bombed and was blazing, there were great clouds of smoke, and Argentinian Pucara planes were lying around at drunken angles. I was going in at 15 feet off the ground at 480 knots, with this red tracer fire flying towards me, whipping past my ears and bouncing off the water below me. I was flying so low that Argentinian soldiers on some sand dunes were actually firing down at me with machine guns.'

Diving into the smoke David launched two of his three 600lb cluster bombs on to the airfield. Then disaster struck: 'There was a bloody great explosion and the aircraft started vibrating like hell. I had been hit. I couldn't read my instruments because everything was shaking so much. So I got rid of my last bomb and dived into the smoke from the fuel dump, flying past the windows of the control tower at 50 feet. I then rolled west, went as low as I could over the beach and out to sea.'

Yet even as David escaped, a radar-controlled anti-aircraft gun locked onto his Harrier and he was forced to pump out metal chaff strips to confuse the weapon's guidance system. David mastered the controls of his injured craft, limping it back to the deck of *Hermes*. There he found a large hole punched in his tail by a 20mm anti-aircraft shell. (Part of the tail section with said hole now hangs in his study.)

100 YEARS OF THE AIR FORCE

1914 In October the now-famous RAF red, white and blue roundel replaces Union Flags on the wings of British warplanes because at high altitude only the crosses on the



flags are visible to anti-aircraft gunners who mistake them for German cross markings.

1918 The highest scoring ace of the First World War with 80 kills to his credit, Baron Manfred Von Richthofen is finally downed on 21 April, apparently by Captain Roy Brown of the RAF's 209 Squadron. Others, however, also claimed to have shot the Red Baron down, including an Australian anti-aircraft company.

1919 Lieutenant Arthur Brown of the RAF and his Royal Naval Air Service colleague Captain John Alcock complete the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic on 15 June. The

'I was very lucky to say the least,' admits David. 'The tail is just about the only part on a Harrier you can put a hole in and expect the aircraft to survive. Everything else is fuel tanks, engine or pilot.'



Above: David with the wreck of an Argentinian Puma helicopter downed during one of his many dogfights

Right: David today with a section of his tail sporting the hole caused by an enemy shell in the Stanley airfield raid

'Follow me down!' Until his two-minute dogfight with the Argentinian jets in June, David had approached combat operations with a cool professional eye, unwilling to let emotions interfere with mission objectives – from the Stanley raid to a dogfight with Argentinian helicopters in which David downed two aircraft and an attack on an enemy intelligence-gathering ship. But on 8 June everything changed. David and his colleague Dave Smith had been patrolling the skies over the stricken *Sir Tristram* and *Sir Galahad*, which had been bombed overnight by Argentinian A4 Skyhawk jets. Their task was to prevent further raids on the ships while the wounded evacuated from them.

As they flew back and forth, David had been watching a British landing craft taking troops and a Land Rover to Bluff Cove, and had grown protective of the tiny vessel. When four Skyhawks suddenly roared in from the east to attack the craft, David exploded into action: 'I shouted to Dave, "A4s attacking the boat, follow me down!".

'I stuffed the Harrier's nose down and accelerated as quickly as I could but I couldn't stop the second A4 coming in and dropping a bomb on the landing craft and killing the crew. Previously the fighting had been about purely professional tactical thinking. You see a target and consider how you will destroy it. But with the Skyhawks it suddenly got personal. I was angry, they'd killed men on that boat I had been defending ▸

pair land in a bog in County Galway, Ireland after flying in from Newfoundland.



1936 The most respected – and feared – fighter plane in history takes to the skies for the first time. A prototype of the Supermarine Spitfire Mk I makes this historic maiden flight on 5 March, and 18 years later a Mk XIX model carries out the last ever Spitfire combat mission over rebel lines in Malaya on 1 April 1954.

1940 In the Battle of Britain from July to October the Hawker Hurricanes and Spitfires of RAF Fighter Command batter Hitler's Luftwaffe into submission, even though they are outnumbered at least three to one by the German air force's 2,550 planes.



1944 On 6 June ▸

RAF IN NUMBERS

50 is the number of squadrons in the RAF today.

23 The number of 'kills' achieved by Battle of Britain ace Douglas Bader.

21 The maximum payload of a Vulcan B2 bomber during the Cold War era was 20 1,000lb bombs.

8 Red Arrow pilots pull up to 8g (ie 8 times the force of gravity) in the 'Synchro Pair' manoeuvre when two planes pass each other from opposite directions at only 100 feet.

and I wanted to do the same to them. It wasn't revenge, but it was pure hatred. I was shooting down pilots, not aircraft.

'I was preparing to attack the Skyhawk that had bombed the boat when I realised there was a third Skyhawk to the south. So I racked the aircraft round to the new target and fired a missile at it from minimum range at a speed of 670 knots, way more than the Harrier is designed to do.

'The missile came off the wing and went straight up the A4's jet pipe and it just disintegrated in a huge fireball. Nothing much was left of it to splash into the water. But I was going so fast that when my missile came off the wing and went supersonic, the shock wave from the missile threw me upside when I was below 50 feet from the ground. I racked the aircraft upright again and found I was pointing right at the Skyhawk that had just hit the landing craft. I locked a missile on him and he broke to the left. The missile lost lock and locked onto a reflection on the water. So I relocked the missile, fired it.

'The Skyhawk pilot did exactly the right thing. He manoeuvred to try and run the missile out of control. But the missile followed him round the corner and took him just behind the cockpit and blew off the back end of the aircraft.

'I watched the detached cockpit rotate 90 degrees and go straight into the water. Then my hatred turned to empathy as the pilot ejected and his parachute opened right in front of my face. He came past in a horizontal position, arms and legs stretched out like a star. He went into the sea and didn't survive.'

Dogfight debrief Dave Smith took out the lead A4 and David turned his attention to the fourth. With his two missiles gone, David used his 30mm Aden cannon on the Skyhawk being flown, he would discover later, by First Lieutenant Hector Sanchez. He failed to hit Sanchez and ran out of



Top: the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to David for his courageous actions in the Falklands

Right: David at the controls of his Harrier on a landing strip at San Carlos during the Falklands conflict

100 YEARS OF THE AIR FORCE

the RAF unleashes 57 squadrons against the enemy



as the Allies launch their campaign to liberate Europe from Nazi occupation. In the first 24 hours of D-Day, RAF aircraft fly no less than 1,246 sorties.

1948 The RAF plays a vital role in the Berlin Airlift to feed the beleaguered city while it is blockaded by the Soviet Union from June 1948 until May 1949. Transport planes deliver 1,340 tons of food every day during the operation, and bring in other supplies such as clothes and fuel.

1952 Pilot Officer Jean Lennox Bird becomes the RAF's first female pilot and receives her RAF pilot's wings on 20 September.

1969 The RAF is the first air force in the world to be equipped with vertical take-off aircraft when the

ammunition; Sanchez had Morgan in his sights but his guns, damaged earlier by British ground fire, jammed. Sanchez broke off and, perilously low on fuel, David returned to *Hermes*. Both therefore survived the fight and went home from the war, with David winning the Distinguished Service Cross for valour.

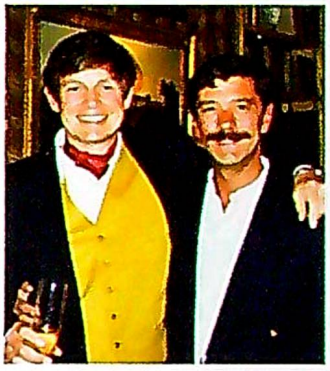
Yet their paths crossed again a decade later, when a mutual friend organised a meeting in London, then shortly after at David's home near Yeovilton. Sanchez brought his wife Inés, the widow of an Argentinian pilot shot down by one of David's pilot friends from *Hermes*.

'It could have been ugly, and I felt tense at first, but they were both super. After dinner Hector and I sat down in front of the fire with an old map and debriefed the fight we'd had with each other,' recalls David.

'We had been enemies. But now we were friends, even though I had killed two of his. We were simply both sad they had died.'

While admirably modest about his own service, David feels it is vital to remember all those who served by marking this year's RAF centenary. 'We should honour those who did their bit, who gave their service or indeed their lives. We must also remember the past or we are condemned to relive its mistakes' •

David Morgan has written a book about his Falkland experiences called 'Hostile Skies' (Cassell, £10.99). Readers can order with free P&P from www.octopusbooks.co.uk, using the order code BulleOffer0418.



Above: David makes friends with his old enemy Hector Sanchez in a moving reunion

RAF CENTENARY SPECIAL STAMPS



Royal Mail recently issued a six-stamp RAF Centenary issue and four-stamp Miniature Sheet in tribute to the planes of the Royal Air Force and the courage of those flying them. Famous aircraft from all eras of RAF history feature on the Special Stamps, including a First World War Sopwith Camel, the Hawker Hurricane of Battle of Britain fame, and the modern-day Typhoon FGR4. The Miniature Sheet is devoted to world-famous RAF stunt fliers the Red Arrows. For full details, see the philatelic preview on page 164, in the February edition of the *Bulletin*. A Red Arrows Retail Stamp Book is released on 11 May, and the RAF Centenary Coin Cover is issued on 17 September. To order Royal Mail Stamps, visit www.royalmail.com/stamps •

ground-breaking Hawker Siddeley Harrier 'jump jet' enters service.

1982 Flight Lieutenant David 'Moggie' Morgan becomes the last RAF pilot to shoot down an enemy plane after he destroys an Argentinian A4 Skyhawk fighter over the Falkland Islands.

1991 In the First Gulf War between January and April 1991 RAF planes conduct over 4,000 missions and drop over 3,000 tonnes of ordnance. Serving combat aircraft include Tornadoes, Jaguars and Buccaneers from 19 squadrons.

2003 In the Second Gulf War during Operation Telic, RAF aircraft conduct 2,519 missions, and 1,353 of these are offensive strikes.

2017 Tornado and Typhoon aircraft of the 903 Expeditionary Air Wing, based at RAF Akrotiri on Cyprus, mount attacks against Isis ground formations and command centres in Syria.



Flying first-class To mark the RAF anniversary we present 50 years of stamps starring the Royal Air Force – all truly top-flight philatelic classics…



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Battle of Britain 1965: **1-6**. British Anniversaries 1968: **7** Royal Air Force 1918-1968. Notable Anniversaries 1969: **8** First non-stop Atlantic Flight: Alcock & Brown 14/15 June 1919. The Royal Air Force 1986: **9** Lord Dowding / Hurricane. **10** Lord Tedder / Typhoon. **11** Lord Trenchard / DH9A. **12** Sir Arthur Harris / Lancaster. **13** Lord Portal / Mosquito. Gallantry 1990: **14** Distinguished Flying Cross / Distinguished Flying Medal. D-Day 1994: **15** Groundcrew Reloading RAF Bostons. Architects of the Air 1997: **16** Mitchell / Supermarine. **17** Chadwick / Avro. **18** Bishop / De Havilland. **19** Carter / Gloster. **20** Camm / Hawker. Victoria Cross 2006: **21** Missing in France – Captain Ball Feared Lost. Air Displays 2008: **22-25**. RAF Uniforms 2008: **26** Hawker Hunter Pilot 1951. **27** Helicopter Rescue Winchman 1984.



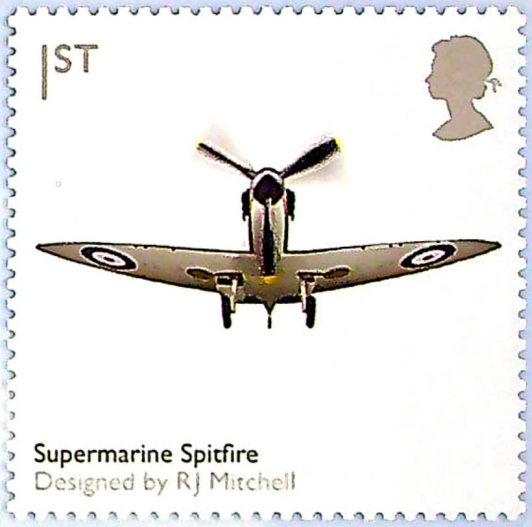
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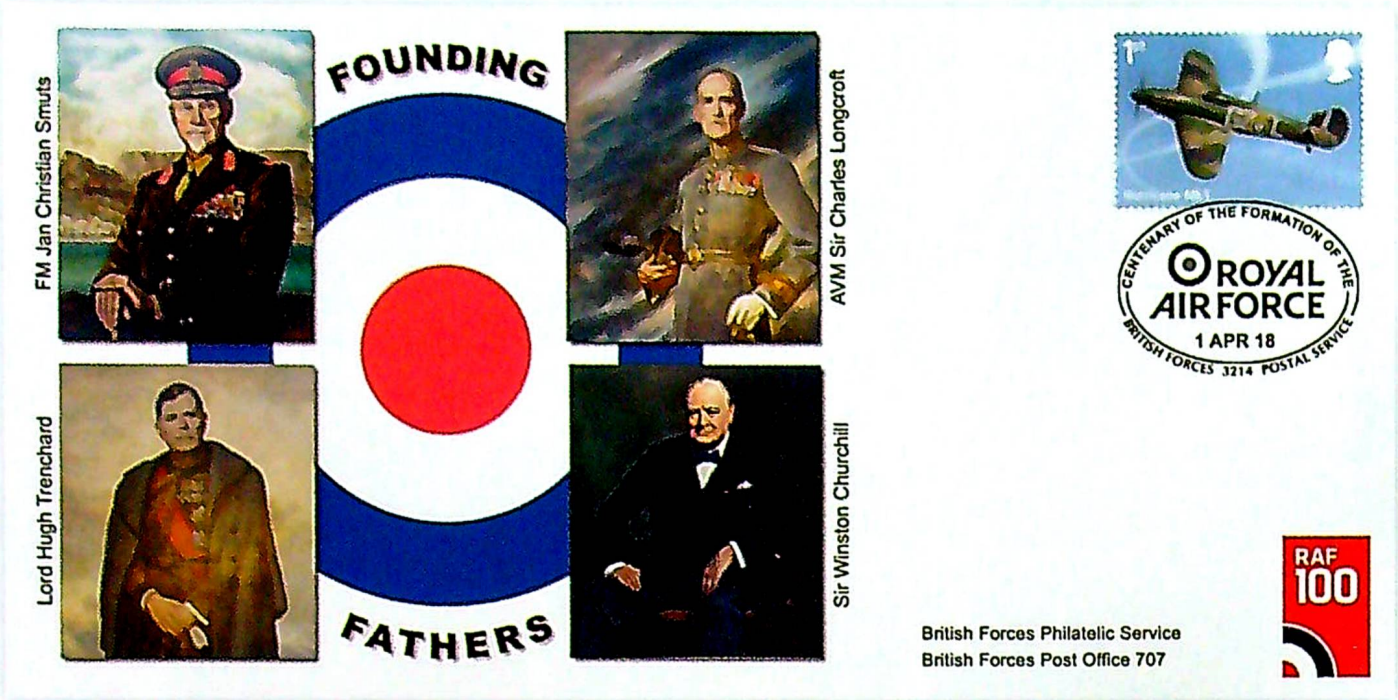


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28 Drum Major RAF Central Band 2007. **29** Pilot 1918. **30** Plotter WAAF 1940. **31** Lancaster Air Gunner 1944. British Design Classics 2009: **32** Supermarine Spitfire designed by RJ Mitchell. Great British Film 2014: **33** A Matter of Life and Death. Battle of Britain 2015: **34** Armourers replacing ammunition boxes. **35** Operations Room at Bentley Priory. **36** Pilots of 32 Squadron await orders. **37** Pilots scramble to their Hurricanes. **38** Spotters of the Auxiliary Territorial Service. **39** Supermarine Spitfires on patrol. RAF Centenary 2018: **40** Hurricane Mk1. **41** Lightning F6. **42** Nimrod MR2. **43** Sopwith Camel F1. **44** Typhoon FGR4. **45** Vulcan B2. Red Arrows Miniature Sheet 2018: **46** Python. **47** Flypast. **48** Swan. **49** Synchro.



Visionaries of the air This handsome cover produced by the British Forces Philatelic Service pays tribute to the founding fathers of the Royal Air Force

BFPS
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www.bfps.org.uk/shop

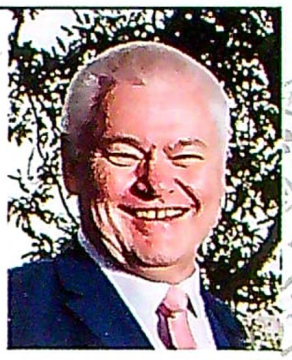
Their extraordinary vision and determined commitment helped create and develop the formidable fighting force that is the RAF. Now this handsome cover from the British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) salutes the 'founding fathers' of the Royal Air Force. Released on 1 April, the commemorative cover bears the images of each man – Lord Hugh Trenchard, Field Marshall Jan Christian Smuts, Air Vice Marshall Sir Charles Longcroft and Sir Winston Churchill.

The BFPS 3214 special handstamp featuring the RAF logo cancels a First Class stamp from Royal Mail's RAF Centenary Special Stamp issue. The standard unsigned version has a Hurricane Mk1 stamp and costs £6; the signed version will be signed by prominent RAF personnel (details to follow on the BFPS website – address below), carries a Lightning F6 stamp, and is priced at £12. Both cover versions contain a double insert, covering the history of the RAF and the story of 'forgotten' founding father, Sir David Henderson. Order your cover online at www.bfps.org.uk/shop or send a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to the address shown on the left •

Wilding varieties

Queen Elizabeth II: first definitive issues

In the third part of his series Frank Walton RDP FRPSL gives examples of varieties that keep Wildings collectors enthralled



Before looking at the varieties of Wildings, I will define for new collectors what the term 'varieties' means in the world of philately. Put very simply, a variety is a feature on a stamp that makes it different from the product that the issuer intended. And so collectors love them!

Broadly speaking there are three categories of varieties:

- constant varieties from multipositive flaws
- constant varieties from a specific print cylinder
- non-constant varieties that occur from a temporary problem with production.

Stamp catalogues usually include details of the first two categories, but not the third.

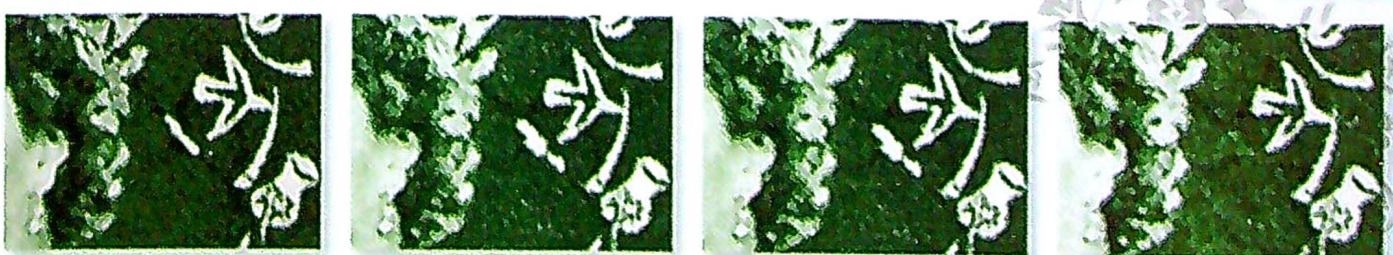


Below: an early printing from 1½d Cylinder 6 dot showing the Butterfly Flaw on Stamp 19/1. This is a white diagonal mark behind The Queen's ear

Multipositive flaws As explained in my previous article in the March *Bulletin*, all the Wildings printing cylinders were created from master multipositives for each value. Where there was a flaw on this master, it would inevitably be transferred onto the same unit on all printing cylinders that were created from it.

There are numerous examples to be found in the Wildings stamp series, but the two most famous ones are shown here: the Butterfly variety on the 1½d denomination, and the Tadpole and Shamrock Flaws on the 2d value. The names Butterfly and Tadpole were coined when the stamps first appeared, and are no more than a description of the shape of the resultant flaw.

1½d Green Butterfly Flaw This was a multipositive flaw which can be detected to some degree on Stamp 19/1 (ie the first stamp of the next to bottom row, shown right) of the dot pane of Cylinders 2 to 15. The printers clearly knew of the flaw, as it was retouched on the multipositive prior to the creation of ▸



Above: 1½d Butterfly Flaw on Stamp 19/1 from the dot panes. From left: Cyl 6 dot, Cyl 14 dot, Cyl 15 dot and a typical retouched stamp showing a disturbed background

these 14 cylinders. However, the retouch failed before Cylinder 6 was made, leading to the white flaw appearing on sheets produced soon after the cylinder was put to press.

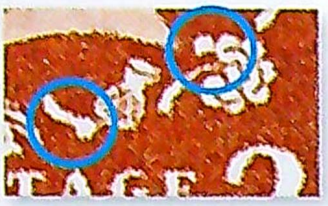
Harrisons retouched both Cylinder 6 and the multipositive so that the later sheets from this cylinder and Cylinders 8 to 13 were all useable. Unfortunately the retouch failed again on the multipositive prior to Cylinders 14 and 15 being made. The first printings from these two cylinders also show the white flaw – but these were both repaired after a period on press giving second states. The Butterfly Flaw on Cylinder 6 dot is rare.



Tadpole Flaw; normal Shamrock. Cyls 4. 8. 9. 10. 11.

2d Brown Tadpole and Shamrock Flaws These two varieties both occur on Stamp 17/6 on dot cylinders on the 2d denominations. The Tadpole Flaw appears as a white circular flaw on the stem of the thistle below The Queen's Head, and the Shamrock Flaw takes the form of an extra leaf to the shamrock immediately to the right of the thistle affected by the Tadpole Flaw.

There was only one multipositive for the 2d value, so Stamp 17/6 on the dot pane must have been retouched several times on the multipositive, as several combinations of the Tadpole and Shamrock Flaws exist. There was also retouching undertaken on the individual cylinders; six cylinders exist in more than one state.



Tadpole Flaw, Shamrock Flaw. Cyls 9. 12. 16.

The life cycle of these flaws can be deduced from the condition of the dot panes of the cylinders produced and sent to press: Cyls 1 and 2 were perfect; Cyls 3 to 16 all exhibit either one or both of the flaws in some state; Cyls 17 to 30 were made correctly – with the exception of Cyl 27 which exists with the Shamrock Flaw.



Tadpole Retouched; normal Shamrock. Cyls 3. 6. 7. 8. 11. 12. 13. 15.



Tadpole Retouched; Shamrock Flaw. Cyls 14. 16. 27.



Tadpole Retouched, Shamrock Retouched. Cyl 14.



Above: 2d Cylinder 12 dot. Stamp 17/6 (top right) shows both Brown Tadpole Flaw and Shamrock Flaw

Constant cylinder varieties There are a great deal of different flaws that fall into this category, and collectors must make their own mind up as to how they wish to collect them.

My own preference is to follow the standard established by Stanley Gibbons, where they insist that for a flaw to be included in their catalogue it must be 'prominent' (my interpretation: 'visible to the naked eye') and, perhaps more importantly, it must be constant on printings from the same cylinder. The examples shown here are typical of the flaws that can be found on Wildings. ▷





Daffodil with dot enlarged



Normal daffodil enlarged

Above: daffodil with and without dot
Left: 1½d Cylinder 22 dot Stamp 1/12. Extra dot by top daffodil



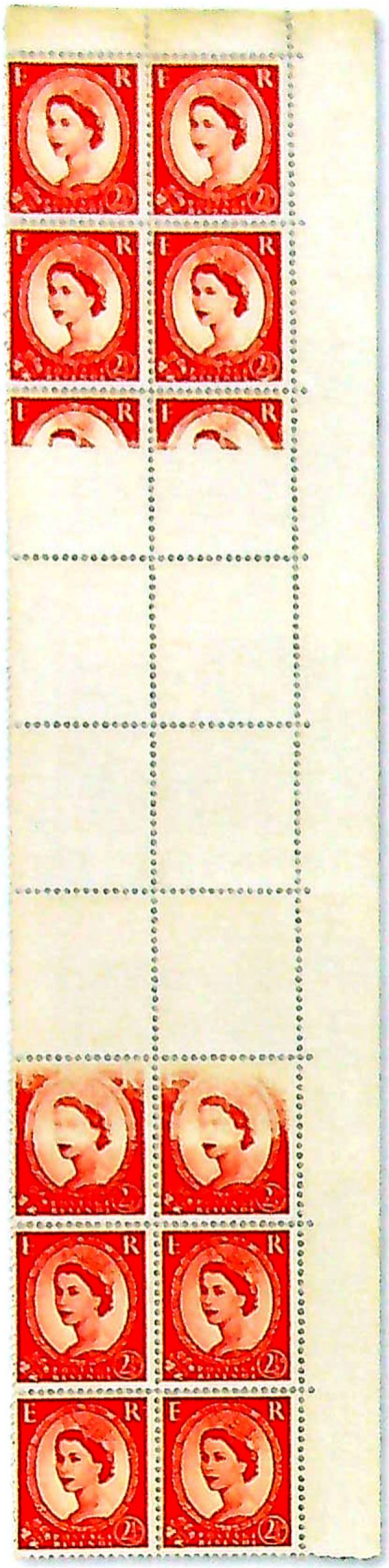
Broken Daffodil Flaw enlarged



Normal daffodil, enlarged

Above Broken Daffodil Flaw and normal daffodil
Right 9d Cylinder 2 no dot, Stamp 7/2 has broken stem to daffodil





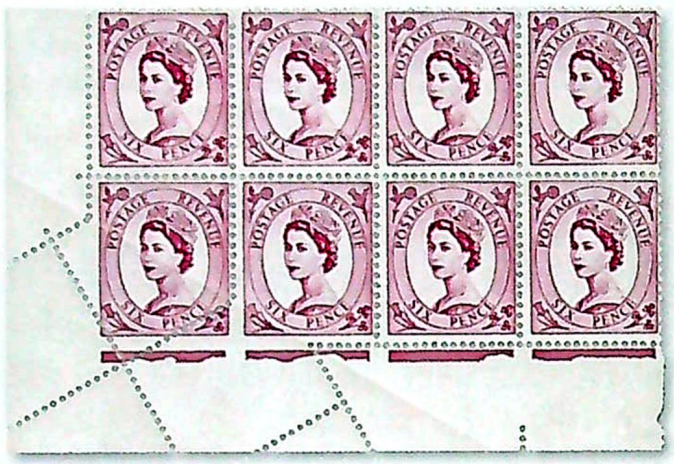
Above: spectacular dry print on a sheet of 2½d stamps which left three rows completely unprinted

Non-constant production errors This type of variety can be most eye-catching – though the errors normally do not achieve listing in the standard catalogues. By their very nature these varieties are normally one-offs, and collectors must draw their own boundaries when it comes to what they add to their albums.

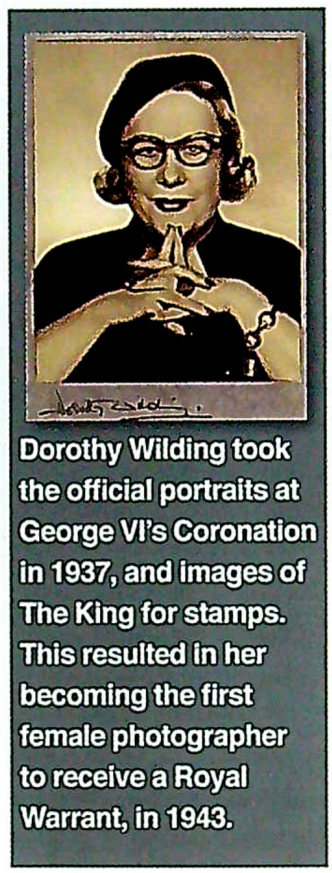




Above: one sheet of 4d stamps received a double impression, which leaves a 'fuzzy' image



Above: the corner of this sheet of 6d stamps was folded over after printing, but before perforation. This created a most unusual pattern of perforations when unfolded



Dorothy Wilding took the official portraits at George VI's Coronation in 1937, and images of The King for stamps. This resulted in her becoming the first female photographer to receive a Royal Warrant, in 1943.

Dorothy Wilding by Dorothy Wilding chlorobromide print on tissue and card mount, 1950s
© William Hustler and Georgina Hustler / National Portrait Gallery, London

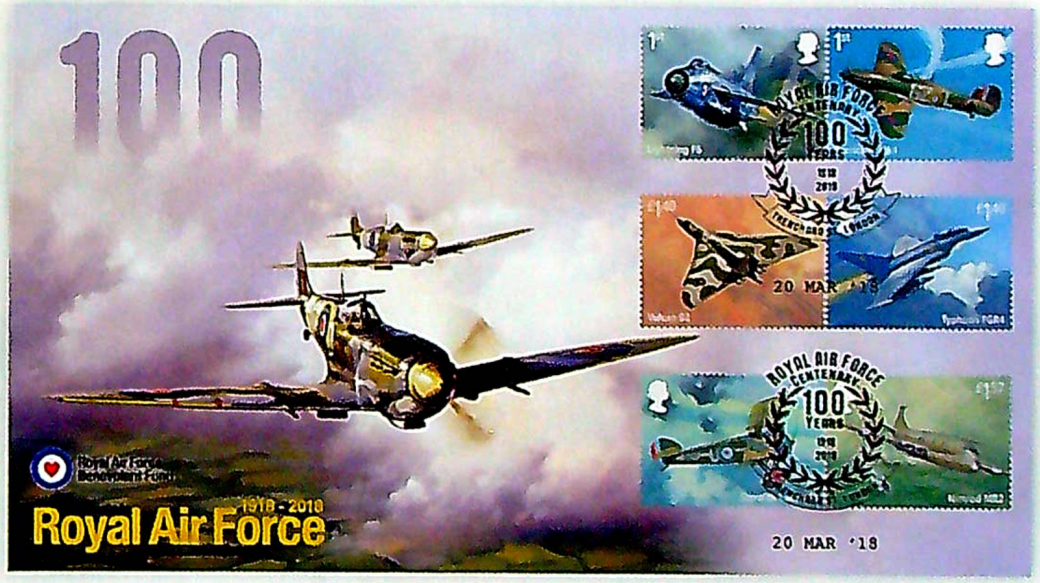
In next month's edition of the *Bulletin* Frank Walton's Wildings series concludes with a look at how the public used these stamps on mail, and highlights some of the more unusual postage rates such as the 4½d and 11d •

Acknowledgements: Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue Volume 3, 12th Edition, 2011; Mark Johnson of Mint GB Stamps.

Spitfire special Honouring the Royal Flying Corps commander Hugh Montague Trenchard

Two Supermarine Spitfires thunder through the skies on this dynamic Buckingham cover of RAF Centenary Special Stamps that is raising money for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

The recently released cover features a 'Trenchard St, London' special postmark in recognition of Hugh Montague Trenchard, 1st Viscount Trenchard, the Royal Flying Corps commander who helped lay the foundations of the RAF. Price: £17.97 (code: BC605). Order your cover online at www.buckinghamcovers.com or telephone at 01303 278137 •



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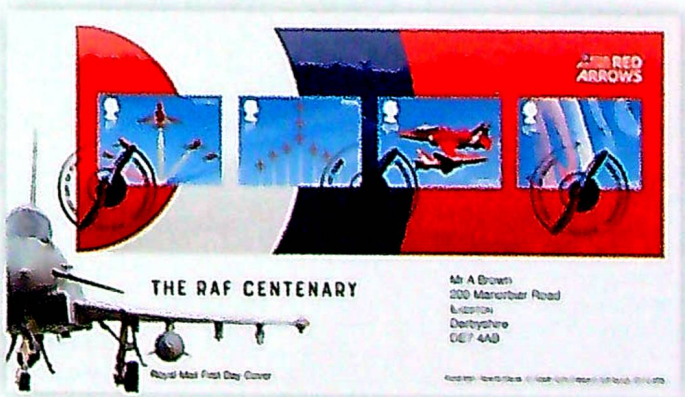
Air mail Royal Mail First Day Covers salute the Royal Air Force and its Red Arrows stunt flyers



Royal Mail's RAF Centenary set offers collectors no less than three exhilarating First Day Covers: one for the Special Stamps, the second for the Red Arrows Miniature Sheet, and a third bearing the Definitives pane from the issue's Prestige Stamp Book.

The Tallents House postmark, shown right, features an illustration of the famous RAF Pilots' Wings. The two alternative postmarks come with the location Cranwell, Sleaford, where the Royal Air Force College is based. The pictorial alternative version presents an image of an aircraft propeller.

Price: Special Stamps First Day Cover, £9.11; Miniature Sheet FDC, £5.34; Prestige Stamp Book FDC, £3.48 (please quote the *Bulletin* code: 18BUL04). Order your RAF covers online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or phone 03457 641 641 •



Philatelic flower quiz

Come on buddies, weed out the right answers in our flower-themed stamp quiz and you could win yourselves a pretty bunch of prizes



The *Bulletin* team were getting tired of chilly old winter so this month's flower quiz stems from our yearning for the warmth (hopefully) of spring, and the sight of freshly budding blooms to brighten up our days. From our philatelic flower below, simply pick the key letter in each petal and the centre, which show a detail from a Special Stamp set, and then match it with one of the issues listed below. For example, if you think that a segment of a stamp from the 1967 British Flora set is shown in petal a, your first answer is 1a. Five winners in the quiz and five winners in the Name That Stamp puzzle will receive a wild and wonderful Reintroduced Species Presentation Pack.

1 1967 British Flora
2 1976 Roses: The Royal National Rose Society 1876-1976
3 1992 The Green Issue
4 1993 Orchids



5 1995 Springtime
6 2004 Royal Horticultural Society 1804-2004
7 2018 Reintroduced Species

NAME THAT STAMP

From the detail below, identify the issue and the year it was released.



How to enter Send your answers, along with contact address or phone number, marked 'Philatelic Flower Quiz' and/or 'April Name That Stamp', to Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

Closing date 18 May 2018.

Prizes The first five correct entries for the Philatelic Flower Quiz and the Name That Stamp puzzle drawn after the closing date win a Reintroduced Species Presentation Pack.

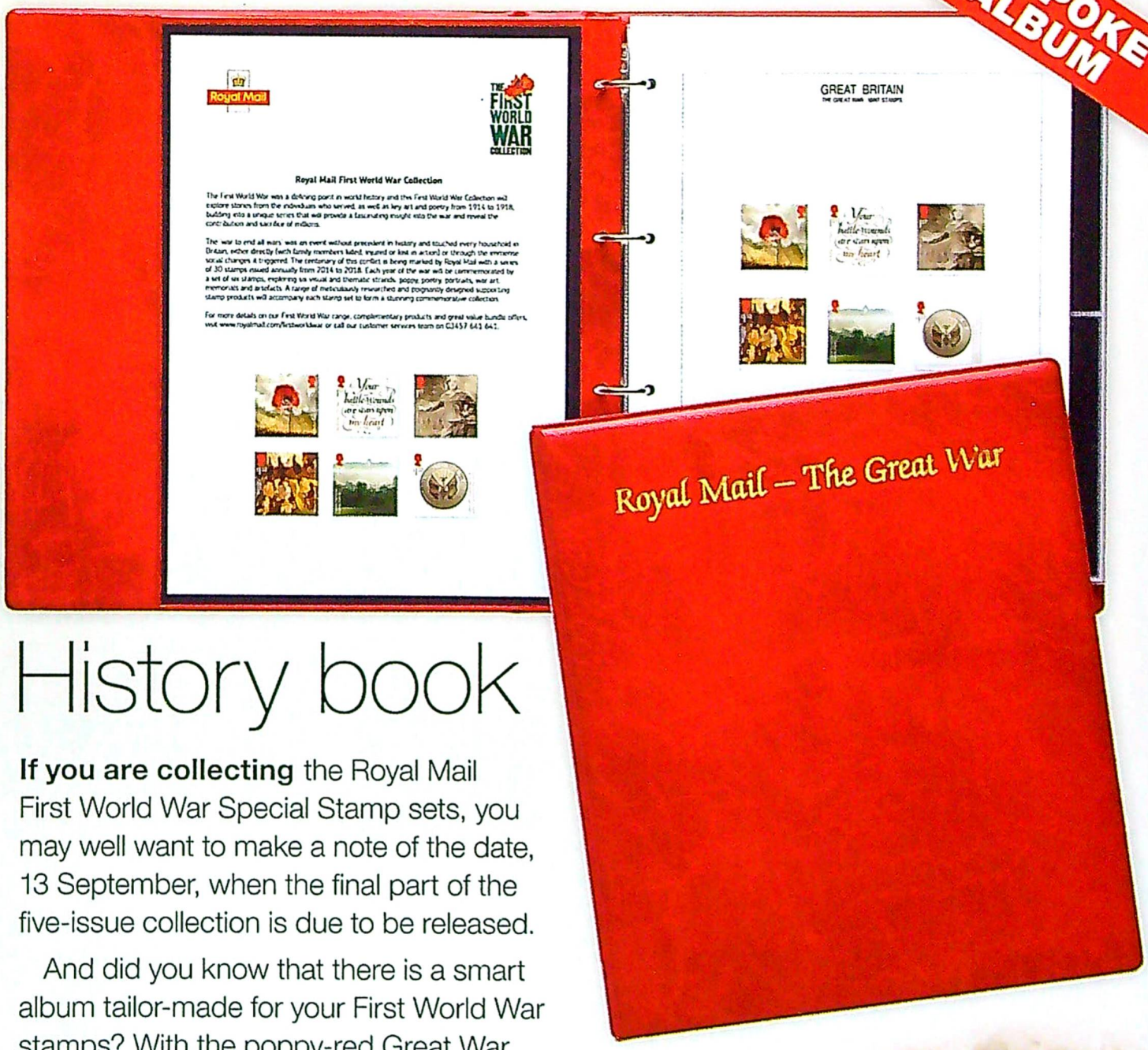
January solutions and winners

Quick-fire Quiz solution 1a, 2b, 3a, 4c, 5b, 6c. *Winners* A Bridgeman, E Emery, K Hatch, M Perry, C Pudsay. *Name That Stamp solution* Harry Potter, 2007. *Winners* E Bowater, M Neaves, G Paterson, R Sayers, A Tooze.

You can view six decades of Royal Mail pictorial stamps at www.rmspecialstamps.com

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. 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.

BESPOKE ALBUM



History book

If you are collecting the Royal Mail First World War Special Stamp sets, you may well want to make a note of the date, 13 September, when the final part of the five-issue collection is due to be released.

And did you know that there is a smart album tailor-made for your First World War stamps? With the poppy-red Great War Collector Album and Slipcase you can create a self-contained commemorative collection and keep it in pristine condition.

The special Collector Album will hold and display the entire five-year series of Royal Mail stamps, First Day Covers, Presentation Packs, Prestige Stamp Books, Postcards and Coin Covers being issued to mark the centenary of every year of the First World War from 1914 to 1918.

To order: contact Royal Mail at the address on page 256 or order online at www.royalmail.com/stamps. Simply type the product code PA777 into the search box. The Album with Slipcase costs £24.99. Media code: 18BUL04 •

Royal Mail Stamps and Collectables issues and withdrawals

13 April — **Issue** Aladdin Sane Anniversary Frame: 5 x 1st Class Aladdin Sane Stamps from David Bowie issue and Print. Despatched to UK addresses only. See page 237.

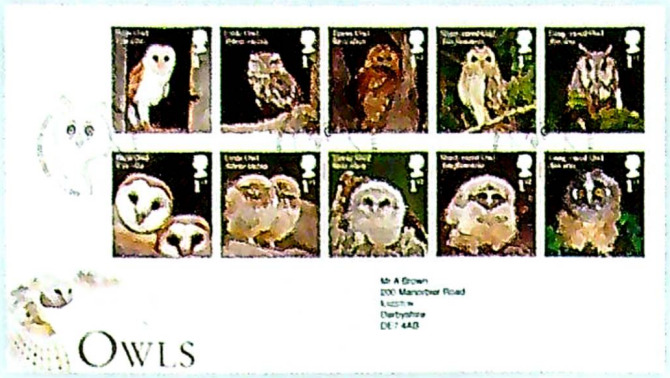


17 April — **Issue** Reintroduced Species: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.40, 2 x £1.57 in horizontal se-tenant pairs), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards (6 in set). Details: preview page 197; page 226.

23 April — **Withdrawal** *Game of Thrones*™ Stamp Souvenir and Stamp Sheet Souvenir.

24 April — **Withdrawal** Anthony Trollope Commemorative Stamp Sheet.





11 May — **Issue** Owls: Stamps (10 x 1st Class in 2 x se-tenant strips of 5), Stamp Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Postcards (10 in set), Stamp Souvenir, Framed Stamps.

11 May — **Issue** The RAF Centenary: Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class: 4 x Definitives, 2 x Red Arrows Special Stamps).



15 May — **Withdrawal** Votes for Women Stamp Souvenir.

19 May — **Issue** Royal Wedding Souvenir: details to be confirmed.

Order all philatelic items, including the stamp products listed above, at www.royalmail.com/stamps or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectables PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote 18BUL04, the *Bulletin* media code. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices.

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Royal Mail

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