BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 49 Number 11 | JULY 2012 £1.20

Welcome to London 2012 • Torch Relay Covers • 1948



This month's new stamp issue welcomes the world to London 2012

PREVIEW GOLD MEDAL WINNERS • WIN SPORTS OF LONDON 2012 SHEET

Issues and withdrawals



Cover shows two stamps from the special miniature sheet that marks the opening of the London 2012 Olympic Games. The stamps feature images of athletes and iconic London landmarks – see pages 334 and 336

14 July	**Withdrawal** Thomas the Tank Engine™: Medal Cover
27 July	**Issue** Welcome to the London 2012 Olympic Games: Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
27 July	**Issue** Keeping the Flame Alive – British Achievements at the Olympic and Paralympic Games: Prestige Stamp Book
27 July	**Issue** London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Sports Cover Collection: Wheelchair Tennis and Fencing
27 July	**Issue** London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Countdown Coin Covers: No 4, Crossing the Finishing Line with £5 Olympic Countdown Crown and Silver Proof £5 Olympic Countdown Crown
27 July	**Issue** Torch Relay Cachet Cover: 4 Edinburgh to Stratford
28 July	**Issue** London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Team GB Gold Medallists: Miniature Sheets
22 August	**Withdrawal** The Crown Jewels: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
28 August	**Issue** London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: Sports Cover Collection: Gymnastics 29/30 and Athletics – Field 30/30
29 August	**Issue** Welcome to the London 2012 Paralympic Games: Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards

To order philatelic items, including those listed on the right, contact Royal Mail Tallents House at the address below. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on the Royal Mail's 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 Tallents House
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

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.

Contents



Welcome to London 2012 Stunning mini sheets are issued at the start of both the Olympic Games this month and Paralympic Games in August **334**

Issues and withdrawals Hello to sporting gems to treasure and cheerio Crown Jewels **322**

Postbox and inbox Mail from readers **324**

This Month in History Remembering British Olympics and Commonwealth Games stamps **325**

Stamp Scene Philatelic news and events from John Holman **326**



Royal Mail News London 2012 Torch Relay covers and world-first Gold Medal Winners stamps **331**

Champions of Design How did they do it! Meet the creators of the forthcoming Miniature Sheets marking the opening of London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games **336**



The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Royal Mail Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.20 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 & Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

Stamp of Significance The story behind a special cover at the heart of Bob Wilcock's thematic collection **344**

First Class Days Out Family fun with philately to the fore in the must-see City of Bath **346**



Book Reviews An inspirational booklet for young philatelists and a new catalogue for UK collectors **349**

It happened in Perth The Scottish Philatelic Society's big bash at Dewars House **350**



On your marks... Sprint through this month's puzzles and you could win a special prize **351**

Postbox and inbox

Machin news

Douglas Myall always invites comments from collectors in his articles so may I bring to his attention the following:

I guess we are all familiar with source code 'FOYAL' Mail in large 1st/2nd class booklets. I have both (with printer's name removed) with codes 'MA11' and 'MFIL'. Interestingly the former is positioned, unusually, opposite the neck of The Queen's head, on the left. The latter is much lower down, on the right, at the base of the neck.
Ian Jeffrey, by email

Douglas Myall replies:
Thank you for writing in with your news. Machin source and year codes, where they exist, are usually in different positions on standard and large letter stamps, but I do not think they vary on the same product – that would require different cylinders.

The codes that are hidden in the iridescent overprint on self-adhesive stamps would make a good subject for an article and I hope to deal with it in *Bulletin* later this year.

First class letter

Bulletin has ears

May I put on record my thanks, eventually, to the Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles team for finally listening to collectors in reducing the number of issues per year for 2012 and for re-introducing the second class value to certain issues, starting with the Charles Dickens one.

I feel my complaints (there have been several letters sent by to Royal Mail and to the *Bulletin*) and those of other readers have finally been vindicated.

To comment on a certain article in the May edition, I found 'Partners in design' about Robert Maude and Sarah Davies quite fascinating. My only criticism about their choices for the A-Z of Britain issues was the lack of views from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Paul Kirsten, Morden, London

Thank you for your letter. We always pass on readers' opinions to the Royal Mail policy makers. Kate Shaw interviewed Robert Maude and Sarah Davies as a direct result of survey results that suggested *Bulletin* readers would like to read more about designers. We hope you enjoy the Designer Profile articles planned for future issues.





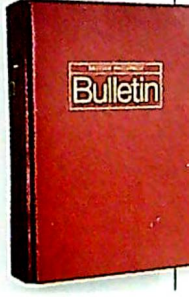
Is it a bird..?

Following P R Dawson's query in May *Bulletin* regarding the identity of the birds on the 35p Age of Steam stamp of 1994, I have enlarged to 185mm x 150mm that portion of the stamp showing the telegraph pole and Her Majesty's neck. The 'birds' are positioned in such a regular manner that it is almost certain that they are bobbins put on the wires to deter birds from flying into the cables. These bobbins are shown on the two outer cables of the four, which was standard procedure where there was a likelihood of bird migration or flight.
Dennis Townsend, by email

Alan Evans wrote to us with the same observation. He also notes that 'spacers' are often found in areas where homing pigeons are trained. Following this bird-relevant information, we do hope that the stamp will keep its place in Mr Dawson's collection.

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

Readers' letters published will receive a thank-you gift. The sender of the 'First-class letter' receives the *Bulletin* binder.



This month in history John Holman recalls great British Olympics and Commonwealth Games stamps

This summer the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games begin and Royal Mail is issuing new stamps to mark the event (see page 334). July seems to be a good month for sport stamps: the last London Olympics were commemorated by four stamps on 29 July 1948 and four sets of Commonwealth Games stamps have been issued in July – for Cardiff in 1958, Edinburgh in 1970 and 1986, and Manchester in 2002.

The 1948 Olympic and 1958 Commonwealth Games stamps were traditional in style, relying on symbolic and emblematic designs rather than depicting actual sporting activities. They were printed in the colours of the corresponding definitive values. Things were different by 1970, when the first of the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games issues depicted events in 'speed' designs featuring running, swimming and cycling. The four 1986 stamps portrayed athletics, rowing, weightlifting and rifle shooting, with the Scottish Saltire flag on the cap of the rifle-shooter. For Manchester 2002, the stamps were of elongated landscape format, with three of the set featuring the same events as the 1970 set and two more showing the long jump and wheelchair racing. The designs reflected the distance covered and effort required by the competitors.

In design terms, I like the 1970 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games set the best, but have a soft spot for the 1958 Cardiff Games issue, as they were the first set of commemorative stamps I bought, as a schoolboy, at my local sub-post office. The 6d stamp, designed by W H Brown, remains my favourite of the three and is shown in my selection of July favourites, below •



Below, top row: 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games, rifle shooting; 1948 Olympic Games; 1970 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games.
Middle row: 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games.
Bottom row: 1996 Olympics and Paralympics stamps, basketball and javelin; 1958 Cardiff Commonwealth Games

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

Olympic exhibitions There are two main exhibitions in London this month which will appeal to all collectors interested in the Olympic Games. Olympex, at the British Library, 24 July to 9 September, is part of the cultural programme of the 2012 Games, and features the first modern Games in 1896 and the London Games of 1908, 1948 and 2012. The exhibition is drawn largely from the collections of private collectors and reflects the manner in which the Olympic spirit touches the individual spirit. It includes some 2,500 stamps and postal items, as well as intriguing pieces of related Olympic memorabilia. Each item tells a story through the subject matter featured on them and the design treatment applied to that subject. On 16 July (6.30pm) Bob Wilcock, of the Society of Olympic Collectors, will give a talk on the 1908 London Olympic Marathon, often described as the greatest race of the 20th century. Tickets cost £3 for the talk. Mr Wilcock has written several articles in the *Bulletin* on stamps and postmarks of the Olympic Games and this month we feature one of his favourite covers on page 344. For full details of Olympex see www.bl.uk/olympex2012.

'The Olympic Journey: The Story of the Games' exhibition at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2, 27 July to 12 August, transports visitors back to ancient Greece, the original home of the Olympics, and follows a journey tracking some of the iconic Olympic athletes and stories of the last hundred years. Staged in collaboration with BP, a London 2012 partner, the exhibition will include unique artefacts, graphics, film and audio from The Olympic Museum in Lausanne, together with a collection of Olympic medals since 1896 and torches since 1936. A 'Hall of Champions' features the achievements of the great Olympians from the modern Games •

Rare Penny Black find Stanley Gibbons has acquired a rare Master Die Proof of the world's first stamp, the Penny Black. It is one of only two complete examples in private hands from a total of five known examples in the world. It is offered for sale at £350,000. Printed in March 1840, two months before the release of the Penny Black, the die proof was produced to check that all the details in the design would print correctly before the stamp went into production for release in May. The proof is described as being in exceptional condition – the other example in private hands, once owned by the Earl of Crawford, is somewhat flawed in comparison•

Below: new AN Post stamps celebrate the centenary of Bram Stoker's death in 1912. His world-famous *Dracula* was published in 1897



Bram Stoker remembered An Post, the Irish Post Office, issued two stamps on 19 April to mark the centenary of *Dracula* author Bram Stoker's death. Stoker was born in Clontarf, Dublin, in 1847 and educated at the city's Trinity College. He worked for the Irish civil service and the *Dublin Evening Mail* before moving to London to be manager of the Lyceum Theatre. The stamps are available as a se-tenant pair or a miniature sheet, both

1.10 euro. Enquiries to Philatelic Bureau, Order Dept, PO Box 1991, GPO, Dublin 1, Ireland. Dracula featured on the 26p stamp in Royal Mail's Horror set of 1997 •

Auction results Spink auctioneers sold the Temple Collection of GB Errors on 13 April, prices realised ranging from £30 to £14,000. A spectacular block of four of the 1961 POSB 2½d stamp with red colour missing sold for £14,000 (estimate £20,000-25,000) and a 1967 1s 6d Christmas stamp with purple and lemon colours omitted went for £12,000 (estimate £1,800-£2,000). A block of the 1966 Birds missing four colours (black, blue, bistre and reddish brown) made £4,500 (estimate £4,000-£5,000) and a fine strip of nine 1965 PO Tower 3d with final stamp missing the tower earned £4,000 (estimate £4,000-£5,000).

On 3 May Spink sold the George V section of the Chartwell Collection of Sir Humphrey Cripps, for a total of over £1.2 million, with realisations from £40 to £110,000 for four die proofs of the seahorses high values dated '9.13.12' (estimate £120,000-150,000). Three lots each made £21,000 – blocks of four imprimaturs of the 2s 6d, 5s and 10s seahorses by Bradbury, Wilkinson (estimate £30,000-40,000) and Waterlow (estimate £30,000-35,000), and an experimental proof sheet of nine of the 10s stamp (estimate £30,000-35,000).



Above: spectacular block of four of the 1961 Post Office Savings Bank stamps with red colour missing, recently sold at auction

The GB Line-engraved essays, proofs, stamps and covers from the Chartwell Collection will be sold on 5 July, and the Edward VIII, George VI and Elizabeth II sections on 12 September. Other Spink auctions are: Rhodesia Double Heads and Eastern Pacific Islands (11 July), Collectors Series (11-12 July), and GB Specialised (13 September). For further information about sales, contact Spink on 020 7563 4000 or visit www.spink.com •

Island issue On 3 June the Isle of Man Post Office issued a miniature sheet that commemorated the Thames Pageant marking The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The sheet contains three 50p stamps and a £1.50 stamp, the £1.50 showing the Royal barge. Price is £3 or £3.75 in presentation pack.

Seven stamps were issued on 19 June portraying Mark Cavendish, a native of the Isle of Man, world cycling road race champion and BBC Sports Personality of the Year. The set costs £5.16 or £5.91 in pack •



Above: the Thames Pageant for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee features on this Isle of Man miniature sheet

King Edward VII display At the next meeting of the GB Philatelic Society, on 14 July, at Fownes Hotel, City Walls Road, Worcester, Graham Horton displays 'King Edward VII' (11am), followed by Members' Displays (2.15pm). A special George V meeting will be held at Autumn Stampex on 29 September. For GBPS details, contact Peter Tanner, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7EN or visit www.gbps.org.uk •

Diary dates

JULY

4 Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1, 9am to 4pm, with 20 to 30 dealers. Tel: 020 8946 4489 or see www.stampshows.net

6 and 7 Thematix '12 (National Thematic Stamp Show) at King George Field Indoor Bowls Club, Jubilee Way, Chessington, Surrey. Friday 10.30am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 5pm. Enquiries 01256 415699 or www.thematix.co.uk

16 Talk on 1908 London Olympic Marathon, by Bob Wilcock, at the British Library, 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets £3, tel 01937 546060 or visit http://boxoffice.bl.uk

20 and 21 York Racecourse Stamp & Coin Fair, York, Friday 11am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Enquiries 01793 513431 or www.stampshows.net,

24 to 29 Olympex at the British Library (see page 326)

SEPTEMBER

26 to 29 Autumn Stampex at the Business Design Centre, London N1 0QH

London 2015 The organisers report great enthusiasm by traders and collectors for the event. About one third of the dealer stand space has already been reserved. The exhibition will run from 13 to 16 May 2015 at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, the venue for Stampex and the highly successful London 2010 international stamp exhibition. Traders wanting to make a stand reservation should visit www.london2015.net, phone 01892 613176 or email londonstamps2015@gmail.com. The competitive exhibits will be open to collectors who are members of philatelic associations affiliated to the European Federation of Philatelic Associations •

BPMA news Three exhibitions by The British Postal Museum & Archive are currently on view: Treasures of the Archive, a Diamond Jubilee display, is at The BPMA's headquarters at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London. The Post Office in Pictures is running at The Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, London, until 31 August (Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm). The Post Office in the Community exhibition is at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire (daily, 10am to 5pm). The next BPMA GPO Walking Tours are on 22 July and 25 August, both starting at 11am. Cost is £6 (£5 concessions, £4 Friends of BPMA). Phone 020 7239 2570 to book or for further information about tours •

Obituary Edward Short (Lord Glenamara), who died on 4 May, was Postmaster General from June 1966 to April 1968. At that time the Post Office was still a government department with the Postmaster General (PMG) its political head. As well as the postal service, the Post Office also held responsibility for telecommunications, the Post Office Savings Bank and broadcasting.

In 1963, the Post Office, under Reginald Bevins, instituted a major change in direction towards stamps and stamp collecting. More special stamps, in brighter designs, were issued, the Philatelic Bureau set up alongside GPO Headquarters in London, and the *British Philatelic Bulletin* launched. In 1964 Tony Benn became PMG; during his 21 months in office he pushed ahead with developing the stamp programme and started the planning for a new definitive design to replace the Wildings. All this continued after Short replaced Benn. Short took a keen interest in the progress of the new definitive, and announced the new Machin design in March 1967. He was proud of the Machin, describing it in the *Bulletin* in June 1997 as an 'exquisite' image of The Queen resulting in 'the world's most beautiful definitive stamp which has reigned supreme in the philatelic world for three decades'. As PMG he had an audience with The Queen at Sandringham and presented her with one of Machin's casts. Soon after England won the World Cup in 1966, he announced a commemorative stamp and the famous 'England Winners', on sale less than three weeks later, sold out at post offices within 24 hours. In September 1966, Short opened the National Postal Museum in London, forerunner of the British Postal Museum & Archive, and on 1 December 1966 issued the first British Christmas stamps, presenting the young designers with their awards. (The idea of Christmas stamps had started under Benn.) Postbuses were introduced in February 1967 and, by chance, the last one in England was withdrawn from service just one week before Short died.

Short took an interest in the philatelic world, opening the BPE and North East

Stampex (in Newcastle, his Parliamentary constituency) in 1966, and Stampex in 1967 and 1968 when he announced the introduction of pictorial stamp book covers. He visited the Interpex exhibition in New York in 1968, was made an honorary member of the Philatelic Traders Society, and toured the Philatelic Bureau after its move from London to Edinburgh.

He was, however, most proud of setting up a new Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) to advise on the design of commemorative stamps. Frustrated by the committee he inherited, largely members of the art establishment, he disbanded it, and, until a new committee was appointed, selected the stamp designs himself, assisted by his secretary and chauffeur. His SAC, which first met in February 1968, reflected more widely the views of the general public, but 30 years later he was a bit disconcerted to learn that the Committee had reverted somewhat to its earlier form.



Above: Lord Glenamara

During his time as PMG, it was decided to change the status of the Post Office from a government department to a public corporation (from October 1969). Short recruited John Wall, Managing Director of EMI, as the first businessman to run a government department. With the change in status, the historic office of Postmaster General disappeared. Short described his two years in the role as 'the most rewarding of my various ministerial jobs'.

In 1968 Short was promoted to the Cabinet as Education Secretary (he was a head teacher before becoming a politician), succeeded as PMG by Roy Mason and finally by John Stonehouse. When Labour returned to power in 1974 Short became in effect Deputy Prime Minister to Harold Wilson, chairing Cabinet meetings in the PM's absence. He left office in 1976 when James Callaghan succeeded Wilson, was made a Companion of Honour by The Queen and took the title Lord Glenamara the following year. He was subsequently Chairman of Cable & Wireless and Chancellor of the University of Northumbria.

Edward Short was a capable and businesslike minister rather than a political showman. In the annals of philatelic history, he will be less well remembered than his predecessor Tony Benn, but he did oversee and introduce changes of lasting importance for philatelists. I first met Mr Short when he opened Stampex in 1967 and years later, as *Bulletin* Editor, asked him for a comment on the Machin's 30th anniversary in 1997. He invited me to tea at the House of Lords and spoke at length about his time as a government minister; some of this I recorded in a tribute to him, on his 90th birthday, in the *Bulletin* of December 2002. He was a politician of the 'old school', with a strong public service ethos, proud of what he had achieved, and always remained interested in education and young people. Sadly he has died just a few months short of his 100th birthday when he would have received a 'telegram' from The Queen. Now the only survivors of the long list of PMGs from 1660 to 1969 are Tony Benn and Roy Mason (Lord Mason of Barnsley) •

Rare stamp raises interest in collecting

John Holman talks to Hugh Jefferies about his television appearance



Above: Hugh Jefferies on the *Alan Titchmarsh Show*.
Below: the Plate 77 stamp, which has now been sold to an Australian collector



IN APRIL we reported that stamp dealers Stanley Gibbons Ltd had acquired an example of the very rare GB Penny Red from Plate 77 which the company offered for sale at £550,000. The acquisition of the stamp attracted much media attention, including an item in ITV's *Alan Titchmarsh Show*, on which Hugh Jefferies, Editor of the Stanley Gibbons Catalogues and *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* was interviewed. 'It was a most interesting experience,' says Hugh. 'I arrived as the ITV studios on London's South Bank at 11am for the recording, accompanied by Scott Bradley [a colleague from Stanley Gibbons GB Dept]. We took along nearly £750,000 of rare stamps, including the Plate 77 and I had to wait for six hours in the green room. One of the other guests on the show was actor Roger Lloyd-Pack [famous as Trigger in *Only Fools and Horses* and Owen in *The Vicar of Dibley*]. He told me he had been a stamp collector in his youth and was interested to get a glimpse of the Plate 77 stamp.

'In a lead-up to the feature, Alan Titchmarsh had shown the audience a matchbox saying that it contained something worth more than a house, leading them to guess what could be so small but yet worth so much! When my slot arrived, the five minutes passed very quickly – it seemed just like 30 seconds.'

As well as the Plate 77, Hugh showed the audience mint and used blocks of the Penny Black and the 1965 Post Office Tower stamp with the Tower missing – a spectacular modern stamp printing error. He spoke about rare stamps and gave some advice on looking after stamps, but there was not time to promote the hobby of stamp collecting as he would have liked.

'Afterwards, I was surprised how many people told me that they had watched the show, even though most claimed they didn't normally watch daytime television,' Hugh recalls. Viewers who gave him feedback included members of his local philatelic society, the Ferndown & West Moors Stamp & Postcard Club, and members of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Hugh is no stranger to broadcasting. Back in the 1960s, whilst living in Iran, he made regular appearances on Iranian Educational TV, and from 1998 to 2012 had a monthly slot talking about philately and answering listeners' questions on Radio Solent. However, the Titchmarsh show was his first appearance in front of a live audience of over 200. He has been interviewed by Evan Davis and John Humphrys on the BBC Radio 'Today' programme on subjects including living footballers on stamps and the system enabling the public to pay for postage by sending a SMS message from their phone (see April *Bulletin*, page 237). One *Today* programme interview he remembers well was cut short by breaking news of the melt-down of the nuclear reactor in Japan in 2011. Hugh has recently recorded interviews with the Discovery Channel and CNN.

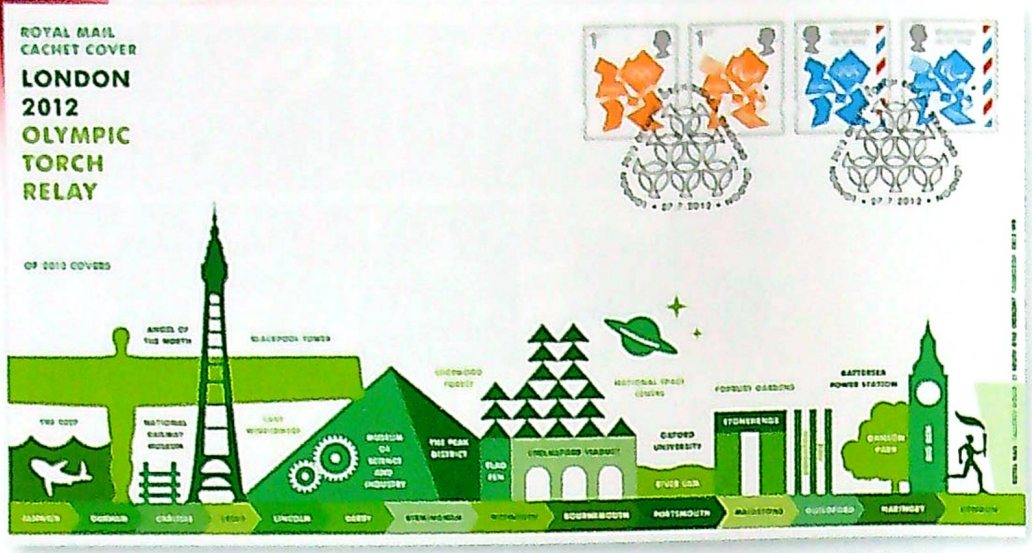
Hugh is a fourth-generation stamp collector, his main interests being in GB stamps and British Empire and Commonwealth issues to 1980. He joined Stanley Gibbons in 1975 and became Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in 1988 and of the SG Catalogue in 2003. He is a member of Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee which selects the designs for special stamps •



Left: the first three London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Cachet Covers: Land's End to Cardiff with London 2012 Sports Stamps Part 1; Cardiff to Belfast with the London 2012 Sports Stamps Part 2; and Belfast to Edinburgh with the London 2012 Sports Stamps Part III.
Turn over to see the fourth in the special Cachet Cover series, released this month

July update Stamp action is hotting up in the final leg of the run-up to London 2012

London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Cachet Covers The Olympic Flame was lit at the birthplace of the ancient Olympics in Greece on 10 May and arrived in the UK to begin its journey around the UK on 19 May, starting at Land's End. Royal Mail is celebrating the Torch Relay with a series of special cachet covers, marking four stages of the 8,000-mile journey and celebrating the ▸



Right: the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games stamp set features on the fourth London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Cover, above a composite design of famous landmarks along the fourth leg of the route, including the distinctive silhouettes of the Angel Of The North, Blackpool Tower and Big Ben

8,000 torchbearers. The colourful and collectable London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Cachet Covers bear the special Torch Relay postmarks and four different sets of special London 2012 stamps. Each cover is illustrated with a composite design of town names and notable landmarks that the Torch will pass on its route around the nation – visiting every county in the UK, every local authority in Northern Ireland and Scotland, every London borough and coming within ten miles of 95 per cent of people in the UK, the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey.

The fourth London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Cachet Cover (shown above) is released on 27 July. It highlights the Edinburgh-to-Stratford final leg and the climactic arrival of the Torch at its destination of the Olympic Stadium. The first of the London 2012 Torch Relay Cachet Cover series was issued on 25 May, commemorating the start of the relay, from Land's End to Cardiff. On 6 June the Torch Relay Cachet Cover number 2 celebrated the Cardiff to Belfast run and number 3 marked the end of the Belfast to Edinburgh route on 13 June (see previous page). A boxed set of all four Torch Relay Cachet Covers will be available at the end of this month.

Millions of people across the nation have already witnessed the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay and these covers make the perfect souvenir of the occasion for all generations. They can be ordered from Tallents House at the address on page 322 •

The fun and games begin In addition to the final Torch Relay Cover shown above, the following philatelic items go on sale on 27 July: Keeping the Flame Alive Prestige Stamp Book, London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Sports Cover featuring Wheelchair Tennis and Fencing; London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Countdown Coin Cover number 4; and the Welcome to the London 2012 Olympic Games Miniature Sheet (see page 334).

Released on the same date and completing the philatelic sporting line-up is the Olympic Definitive Generic Sheet. It features representations of all the Olympic venues and pictograms of the sports associated with those venues on labels alongside 16 First Class Olympic definitives and four Wolrdwide Olympic and Paralympic definitives. (Code A10/2, price £15.22, please mention Bulletin when ordering) •

Picture credit







Above, clockwise from top left: the base sheets for the Gold Medal Winners stamps have already been printed; stamps will be distributed to post offices and collectors who have pre-ordered, within 24 hours of the Team GB win; Royal Mail designers work on a 24-hour rota throughout London 2012 Olympic Games

Historic Gold Medal Winner stamps Royal Mail's historic next-day Gold Medal stamps, which will recognise the achievements of every Team GB win at the London 2012 Olympic Games, are all set for production. A 24-hour rota has been organised for the Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles department throughout London 2012 Games, from 27 July to 12 August. Stamp designers will have just one hour to review the images of Team GB winners supplied by Getty (the Olympic Games' Official Photographic Agency), choose the most fitting one, crop the photo if necessary and position it within the template base sheets for the six-stamp Miniature Sheet.

The self-adhesive base sheets have been pre-printed by Walsall Security Print, with the details common to all the stamps, including the 'gold' detail of The Queen's head, the first class tariff, the 'Gold Medal Winner' text, the emblem of Team GB and the title 'London 2012 Olympic Games' in the margin. Blank spaces have been left to accommodate the photographs of winning athletes and the text area to include the name. Six regional printers will be on alert in secret locations and, once they receive the artwork file from Royal Mail, they will digitally overprint onto the base sheets the athlete's image, name and winning event. The finished A4 sheets, each comprising four complete Miniature Sheets, will be collected from the printers by a fleet of 90 Royal Mail vehicles for distribution to 500 Post Office branches the following morning, ready to go on sale by noon. An additional 4500 Post Offices will receive the Gold Medal stamps within a week.

While we cannot foresee how many new issues there will be, RoyalMail is prepared for a good number of wins from Team GB! •



Welcome to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Miniature Sheets are coming!

Top, four very special postmarks, left to right: first day of issue pictorial and Tallents House postmarks for the Welcome to London 2012 Olympic Games issue; first day of issue pictorial postmark and (facing page) Tallents House postmark for the Welcome to London 2012 Paralympic Games issue. LONDON E20 was chosen because it is the location of the Olympic Park

Olympic sports and London landmarks come together on four striking stamps released on 27 July to welcome the world to the London 2012 Olympic Games on the day of the spectacular opening ceremony. And on 29 August, with the issue of a second miniature sheet showing sports merged with London locations, Royal Mail become the first postal administration whose country is hosting the Games to issue a set of stamps celebrating the start of Paralympic Games. To achieve maximum impact from these striking composite images, Royal Mail is using one of its widest formats for the mini-sheets, which contain two first class stamps and two £1.28 stamps.

Welcome to the London 2012 Olympic Games Miniature Sheet – stamp by stamp

£1.28, Diving and Tate Modern: stamp shows a diver's arrow-like vertical descent mirroring Tate Modern's imposing 325-foot chimney.

1st Class, Fencing and Tower Bridge: a fencer's lunge mirrors the angle of the walkway at the upper level of Tower Bridge.

1st class, Athletics and Olympic Stadium: runners take the curve of the track as it merges into the new purpose-built Olympic Stadium in Stratford.

£1.28, Cycling and London Eye: London's iconic Ferris wheel completes the front wheel of a racing bike in the final stamp.

Sets of five postcards featuring all five stamps and the Miniature Sheets will be available a few days before the issue date of 27 July.

Prices of Welcome to London 2012 Olympic Games Miniature Sheet and Welcome to London 2012 Parlaympic Games Miniature Sheet

Miniature Sheets	£3.76 each
Presentation Packs	£4.30 each
First Day Envelope	30p each
First Day Cover	£4.99, £X.xx overseas
Stamp Cards	£2.25 each (sets of 5)

Photography of Olympic athletes by Andy Hooper; photography of landmarks by Paul Grundy. The official Emblems of theLondon Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd





Welcome to the London 2012 Paralympic Games Miniature Sheet – stamp by stamp

£1.28, Powerlifting and the Millennium Bridge: the athlete is shown juxtaposed with a view of St Paul's Cathedral and the Millennium Bridge from the South Bank of the Thames.

1st Class, Athletics and Olympic Stadium: an amputee athlete on running blades is shown with an aerial view of the Olympic Stadium where many of the track and field events will take place.

1st Class, Wheelchair Basketball and The Palace of Westminster and Big Ben: a Wheelchair Basketball athlete takes a throw beside the Thames, with lights of the Houses of Commons and Big Ben reflected in the river

£1.28, Cycling and The London Eye: a cyclist on his specially adapted bicycle passes by London's iconic Ferris wheel and a blazing Waterloo sunset beyond.

Watch out for more details of the Welcome to the London 2012 Paralympic Games Presentation Pack in the August issue of *Bulletin* •

Welcome to London 2012 Miniature Sheets – Specifications

Number of stamps	Four per sheet
Size of sheet	192mm x 74.25mm
Design of Welcome to the London 2012 Olympic Games	Hat-trick design
Design of Welcome to the London 2012 Paralympic Games	Pearce Marchbank
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
No. of mini-sheets per A4 sheet	4
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Below: Welcome to the London 2012 Olympic Games Presentation Pack carries informative text by Jim Davies



London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd are ©2007 The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Limited. All rights reserved

Welcome to the greatest show on earth

How designers rose to the once-in-a-lifetime challenge of creating the special Miniature Sheets released on 27July and 29 August

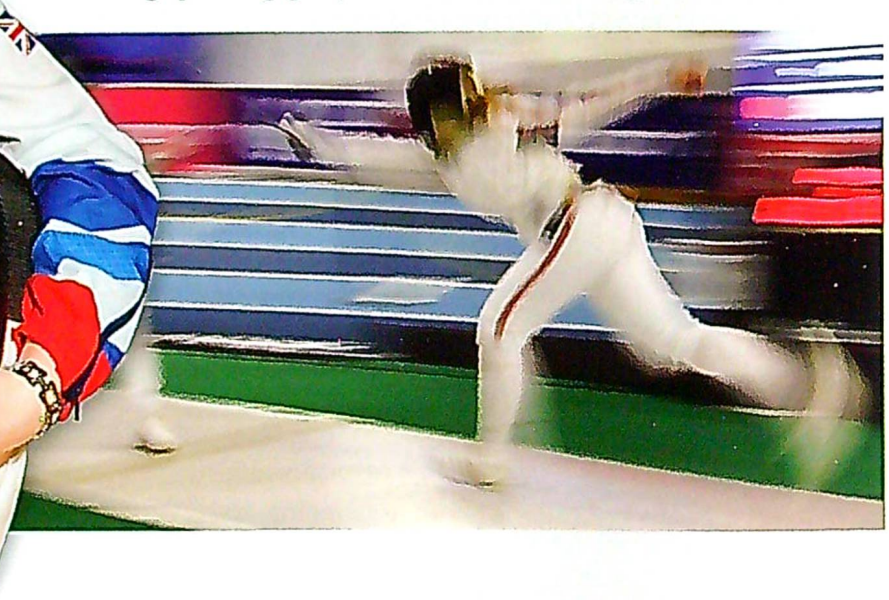
WHEN YOU'RE showcasing one of the world's finest capital cities, which is hosting the world's most important sporting contest, you've got to create something special. And the forthcoming Welcome to London 2012 Miniature Sheets are stunning classics. On each stamp an iconic London landmark is cleverly merged with an image of a sport from the Games, and here are the stories of how leading consultancy Hat-trick Design and legendary designer Pearce Marchbank created them.

Welcome to London 2012 Olympic Games World-class athletes power their way across amazing London, the world-class capital and perfect city to host this contest of contests. That's the elegantly stated message of Hat-trick's action-packed stamp designs for Britain's brilliant year. The symmetry between muscular athlete and soaring London landmark is impeccably executed on four stamps....

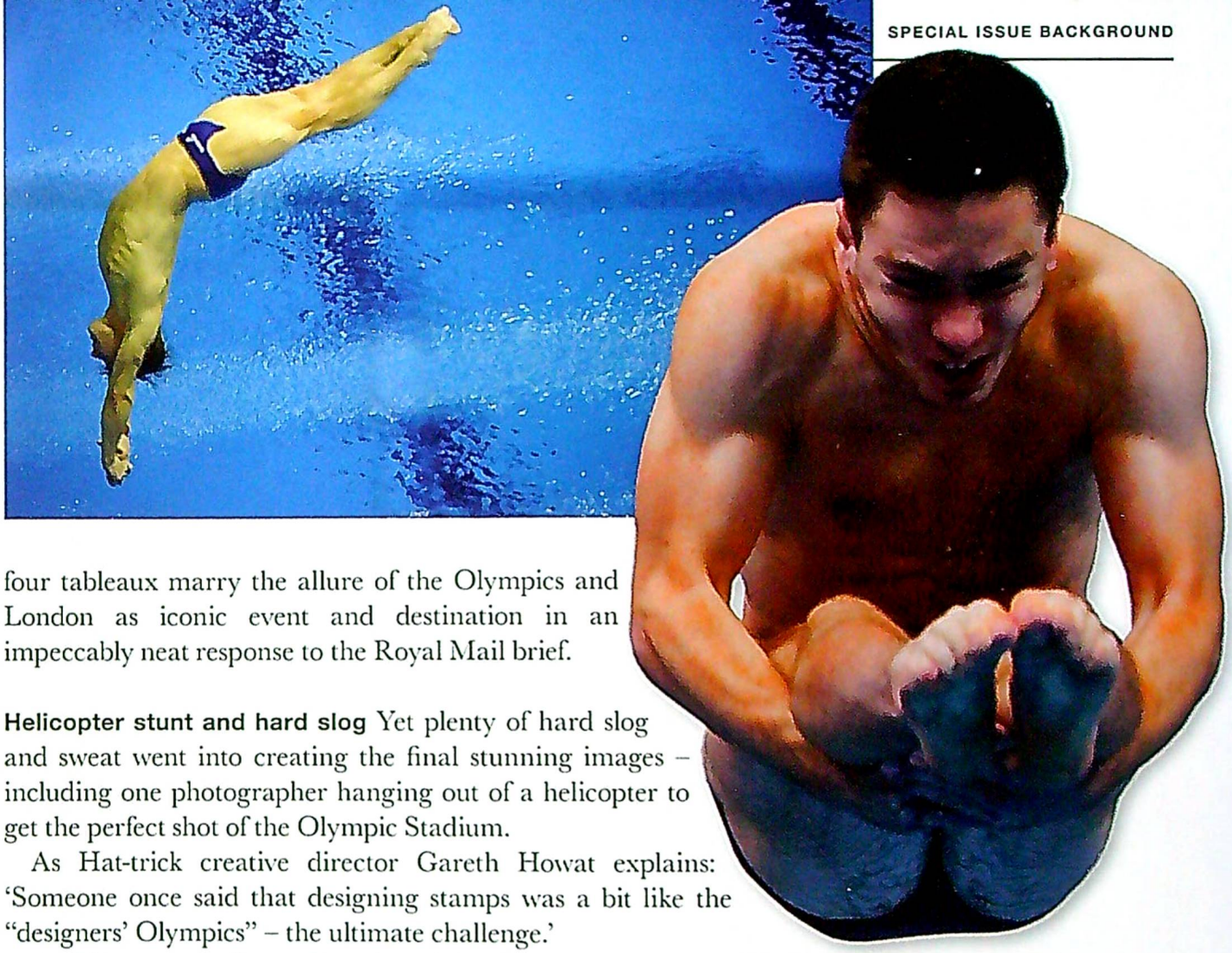
Fencer Corinna Lawrence battles forward, her épée, blending with the equally thrusting Tower Bridge. Teenage diving star Oliver Dingley plunges into the void while Tate Modern's chimney shoots into the sky – both human and building an elegant column of strength. Treble world champion cyclist Wendy Houvenaghel, who took a silver in Beijing, zooms across the skyline of London 2012, the London Eye her dynamic front wheel. Marathon runner Scott Overall, sprinter James Ellington and a European gold medallist and 10,000-metre hopeful Keith Gerrard hammer down a track that appears to bank directly into the Olympic Stadium: the trio seem literally to be chasing sporting glory at London 2012's flagship venue. These



Below: Corinna Lawrence, whose lunge inspired the first class stamp featuring fencing and London's Tower Bridge, in this month's new Royal Mail Miniature Sheet



Press Association Images, Getty Images



Divers Jack Laugher (above left) and Oliver Dingley (above) took time out of training to be photographed for the new stamp designs

four tableaux marry the allure of the Olympics and London as iconic event and destination in an impeccably neat response to the Royal Mail brief.

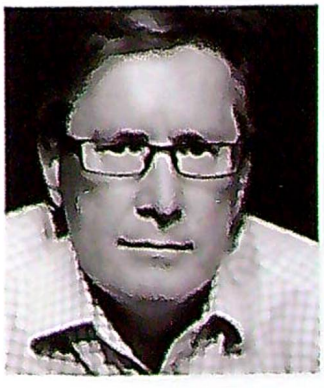
Helicopter stunt and hard slog Yet plenty of hard slog and sweat went into creating the final stunning images – including one photographer hanging out of a helicopter to get the perfect shot of the Olympic Stadium.

As Hat-trick creative director Gareth Howat explains: 'Someone once said that designing stamps was a bit like the "designers' Olympics" – the ultimate challenge.'

And it was a challenge Gareth and the Hat-trick art team relished. 'Being a born and bred Londoner, I love the idea of celebrating the city on stamps,' Gareth says, adding: 'I'm a massive fan of the Olympics so the chance to showcase the Games and London was really exciting.'

And Hat-trick has a lot of talent and experience to draw on: the team members are no strangers to stamp design – they have previously delivered a series of superb stamps for Royal Mail. To help ensure that the stamps images were also gold standard, Gareth hired big hitters from the world of photography. Cue Andy Hooper, shooting the athletes, one of the world's leading sport photographers. He has photographed a galaxy of sporting superstars, including Chris Hoy, Sir Steve Redgrave, Andy Murray, David Beckham, Frank Lampard and Tom Daley. Andy is a bit of a medal magnet himself. He was Sports Photographer of the Year four times, and has been a Royal Photographer of the Year.

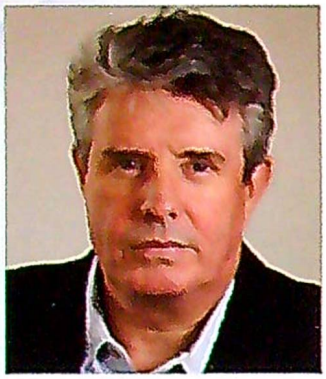
> 'Being a born and bred Londoner, I love celebrating the city on stamps'



Above: sports photographer Andy Hooper captured the athletes on this month's new Miniature Sheet

Accomplished architectural and interiors photographer Paul Grundy was commissioned to capture the landmarks on film. Clients include the Carlton Club, the Landmark Trust, Sir Robert McAlpine and the Oxford and Cambridge Club. As Gareth and fellow creative director Jim Sutherland art directed the photoshoots, their challenge was to conceptualise the camera shots so precisely that each half of the final design would neatly slot into the other, creating a seamless blending of building and athlete. This involved plenty of planning with the photographers. Andy shot our Team GB ▸

2012



Above: Paul Grundy toured London photographing landmarks. Below: cycling champion Wendy Houvenaghel

hopefuls first on location. Then Paul toured London, photographing the landmarks so that the images fitted with the pose of the athletes. The 'people shoots' took place at Crystal Palace for the running, the National Velodrome in Manchester for cycling, the Aquatics Centre in Leeds for diving and the London Thames Fencing Club at Roehampton University.

Says Gareth, 'All of the athletes were ready to interrupt their training to help out, and were very patient, repeating the action so we got just the right images. We like to think we've made them all a little fitter!

'Wendy [Houvenaghel] had to do about 35 laps of the cycling track so we had the time to shoot all the different options we needed and make sure we had all the various exposures, compositions and angles correct. At Crystal Palace, I remember it was a freezing day and the athletes ran back and forth around the same part of the track many, many times in order to get the exact angle we were after.

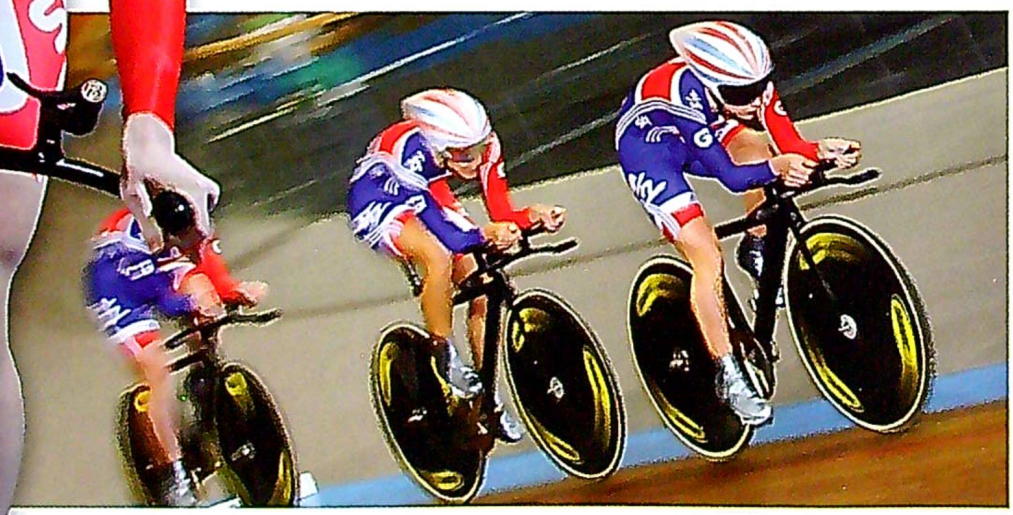
'Corinna [Lawrence] spent a long time explaining the subtleties of how fencers attack their opponents. It was a tricky balance getting the right angle of the lunge to be both true to the sport and to match the angles needed for the final design. But with her patience we managed it.'

The team actually photographed two divers, Oliver Dingley and Jack Laugher, to get the right shot. Gareth explains: 'Andy had to shoot literally hundreds of shots to make sure that we captured the perfect pose, angle and blur in the one shot. It just so happened that it was a photograph of Oliver that was perfect for what we were after and was chosen for the stamp.'

He adds, 'It was also a challenge to achieve a strong pose for the images but also to get some sense of movement in each sport. We had to encourage Andy to shoot some of his photos blurred – something that was slightly alien to him as he's used to shooting it pin sharp!'

Paul, too, was a trooper, taking to the skies to capture that spectacular bird's eye view of the Olympic Stadium. 'Paul had to go up in a helicopter over the new stadium to get exactly the right angle of elevation,' Gareth explains. 'He ended up hanging out of the helicopter with the door open





Press Association Images

Hat-Trick profile

'Designing stamps is the ultimate challenge'

World-famous institutions, top-level events and, of course, Royal Mail stamps. Hat-trick's stunningly imaginative artwork is everywhere.

The design team have rebranded great sporting destinations, including Twickenham and Wimbledon. Their cultural credits include identities for the Natural History Museum, the Edinburgh International Festival, the Imperial War Museum and Scottish Opera.

And Hat-trick designers have delivered a brace of brilliant stamp designs.

In 2006 the Isambard Kingdom Brunel bicentenary saw Hat-trick match the new long format stamps to Brunel's bridges, ships and railway constructions. Their Lest We Forget miniature sheets marked the 90th anniversaries of significant First World War events and included stamps with the emblematic poppy merging with images of barbed wire and soldiers.

In the 2008 Mayday – Rescue At Sea issue, Hat-trick's stamps featured an innovative dot-dash perforation that spelt out the SOS distress code. The presentation pack told the story of a dramatic RNLI rescue mission in the style of a graphic novel. For the Royal Shakespeare Company's 50th anniversary, photography of actors portraying world-famous Shakespeare characters were juxtaposed with graffiti-style quotes from the plays.

Says Royal Mail head of design Marcus James: 'Hat-trick have become seasoned hands at stamp design, but they still continue to surprise me with their intelligent and creative ideas.'



The Hat-trick team gather beside a diving pool to consider a proposal for the £1.28 Diving and Tate Modern stamp

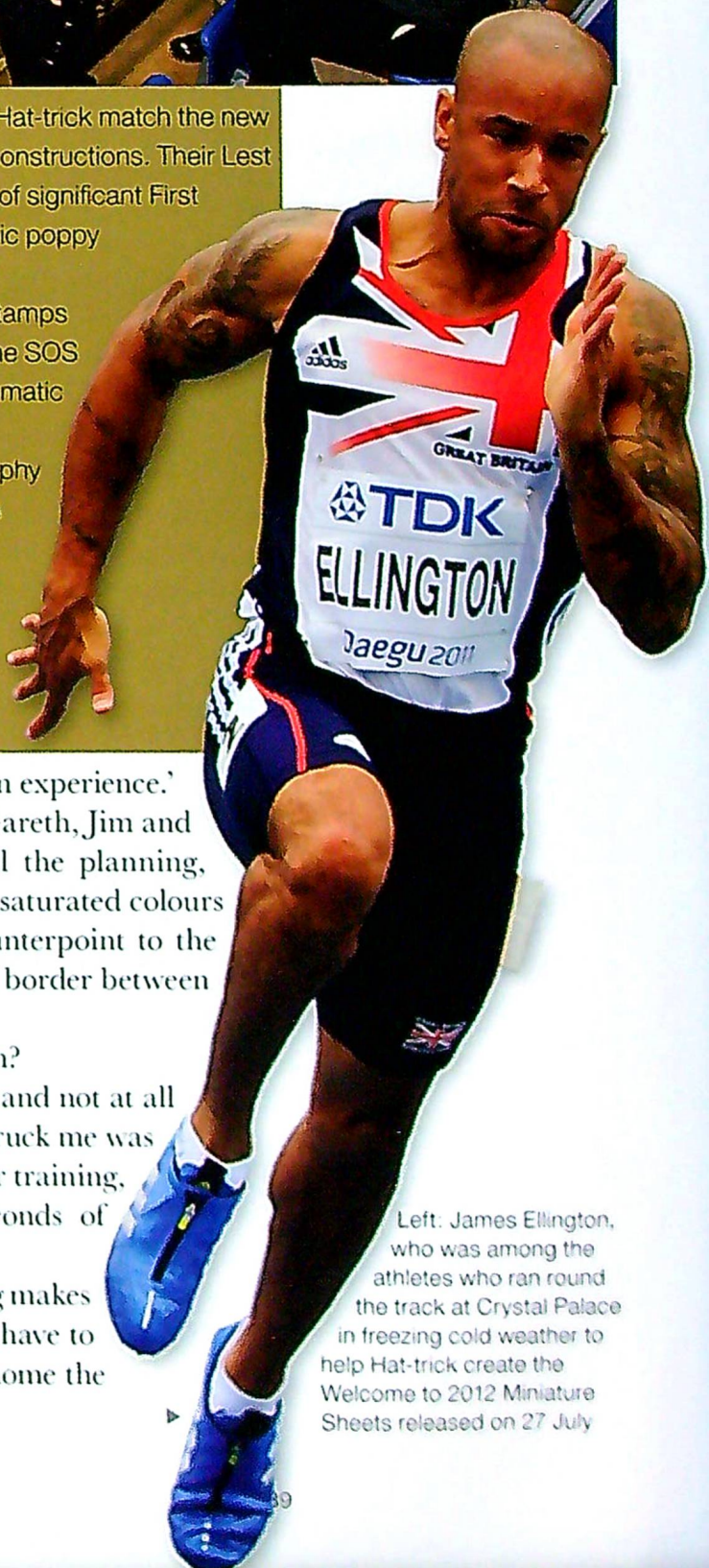
while shooting (wearing a harness of course) – quite an experience.'

When you see the stamps, which we executed by Gareth, Jim and senior designer Alex Swatridge, it's clear how well the planning, shooting and intensive editing have all paid off. The saturated colours of the athlete images are even more vibrant in counterpoint to the monochrome pictures of the landmarks. The angled border between the two halves adds extra dynamism.

So what impression did the athletes make on Gareth?

'They were all determined but very down to earth and not at all full of themselves,' he recalls. 'The main thing that struck me was the sheer amount of time and work that goes into their training, all leading up to just a few minutes or even seconds of performance in an event.

'Speaking to the athletes and seeing them in training makes you realise just how much pressure is on them – they have to be so focused on what they're doing. It really brings home the huge commitment they're all putting in.'



Left: James Ellington, who was among the athletes who ran round the track at Crystal Palace in freezing cold weather to help Hat-trick create the Welcome to 2012 Miniature Sheets released on 27 July

2012



Press Association Images

Above: weightlifter Ali Jawad held weights aloft while photographers did their work

Welcome to London 2012 Paralympic Games Strength and courage, grit and determination. They're all there in Pearce Marchbank's stunning images of four Paralympics sports. The legendary art director, creator of the iconic *Time Out* logo and designer of album covers for the world's most famous rock stars, has produced an extraordinary set of stamps that bring together images of London 2012 Paralympic Games athletes and London landmarks.

As legless weightlifter Ali Jawad hefts his kilos into the sky, his muscular arms are echoed in the form of the supports of the Millennium Bridge.

Wheelchair basketball star and Beijing 2008 bronze winner Abdi Jamad is poised to hurl his ball across the Thames and slam dunk Big Ben.

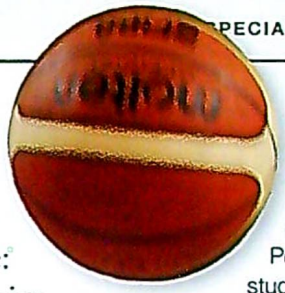
One-footed sprinter and Paralympic bronze medallist Stefanie Reid blazes a trail to the Olympic Stadium and appears set to plunge straight down onto the track. What a sense of destiny there is in this composition.

> 'There is a jewel-like detail in stamps, everything is focused in a tiny space, exposed to scrutiny at close range'

The spin of cyclist Jody Cundy's cycle wheels is echoed in the shape and sheer power of the big wheel that is London Eye. Very appropriate really, when you consider he is a powerhouse himself. Despite being born with a deformed right foot that had to be amputated when he was three, Jody has won a brace of medals in international swimming as well as cycling. His haul includes nine bike golds at the World Championships and Paralympics.

Pearce's designs all seem so effortlessly simple and elegant when you look at the Welcome to London 2012 Paralympic Games Miniature Sheet. Yet a huge amount of work lies behind the pristine results – months of planning, the selection of the landmarks to reflect the spirit of the individual sports and of London itself, the intensive two-day shoot, the exacting picture edit and, finally, Pearce's execution of the stamp design.

And, it has to be said, stamps are tricky. 'There's a jewel-like detail in



Below: Abdi Jamad was photographed for the new stamps while playing basket ball at Pearce Marchbank's studio in King's Cross, London – after an amusing hitch at the start of the photo shoot

stamps, everything is focused in a tiny space, exposed to scrutiny at close range by whoever buys them,' says Pearce. 'You can't afford to make the slightest mistake or it is sure to be seen.' Not that Pearce was fazed by the challenge: 'Everything in design should be risky and challenging, otherwise you're not doing anything new.'

And in any case, Pearce has felt an affinity with stamps and the Olympics all his life. 'For me, as an art student in the Sixties, each set of new Royal Mail stamps was a constant source of inspiration because they've always been prime objects of simple and elegant modern design,' he explains. 'And I was born just a few days before the 1948 London Olympics – an important marker in my life that gives me a feeling of connection to the London Games. I've never been asked to design stamps before, and I felt honoured by this commission – it's literally a once-in-a lifetime opportunity!'

Action-packed weekend Pearce art directed the shoot for the Welcome 2012 Paralymic Games Miniature Sheet over one weekend at his studio in London's King's Cross, working with photographer duo Jonathan Anderson and Edwin Low (aka Anderson & Low). They were the perfect choice, having shot US athletes in a commission for the US Olympic Committee and British participants in the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games.

The sports stars generously broke off from their training and turned up with all their equipment. But a shoot is not a shoot without the odd unexpected hitch. And Abdi Jamad arrived without a basketball: 'That meant I had to drive round north London on a Sunday morning trying to buy a professional basketball, which was quite a challenge,' chuckles Pearce.

But Abdi came good to produce the terrific shot of him poised to strike at the basket (see page 335). 'Abdi was static for the shot,' explains Pearce but he and Anderson & Low did so well to capture the power of that moment of him beginning his throw.'

Jody's bike was mounted on a stand, so he could pedal to ▸



Action Images / Jason Cairnduff Livepic

'get into character'. But he had to be shot completely still because the photographers needed to shoot his prosthetic limb in clear detail. So how did the studio team achieve Jody's wonderfully determined grimace, as if he is bombing down the final straight? 'Ah, well, we were shouting at him: "You're in pain, you're in pain but you're nearly at the finish!"' Pearce recalls with a laugh.

Powerlifter Ali, a Beijing 2008 competitor, proved his strength by actually raising and holding those weights while the photographers did their work. 'There was no support for them,' says Pearce, 'he simply held the pose without any shaking of his arms. A few more weights and he would have got the gold medal.'

Runner Stefanie, who lost her right foot in a childhood boating accident, was a total pro as well. She happily sprinted back



Above: Stefanie Reid kept on running around Pearce's studio until they got the the right shot for the special first class stamp

Pearce Marchbank profile

'I felt honoured by this commission – literally a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity'

Quite simply Pearce Marchbank is an art star. Ever since the launch of his career in the 1970s, he has been courted by the great and the good to design magazines, album covers and books. Just a year after he graduated from London's prestigious Central School of Art and Design in 1969, Pearce was made art director of *Rolling Stone* magazine's UK edition.

Time Out founder Tony Elliott invited him to join the hugely influential London listings magazine in 1971 and he produced that classic logo – still used today. At the same time, he also co-edited and designed the infamous *Oz* magazine.

In the 1980s Pearce was asked by Richard Branson to set up Virgin Books, and he went on to become design director of Virgin Records. There he worked with Mike Oldfield and The Sex Pistols and many others. Pearce has also designed album covers for T Rex and Pink Floyd legend Roger Waters.

In addition, he has worked on a number of illustrated books about rock icons such as David Bowie, The Rolling Stones and U2.

His corporate work includes distinctive packaging for John Lewis, labels for Tate Modern's house wines and a bespoke typeface for the Gap fashion label.

Pearce has won a fistful of prestigious design awards, and his work has been exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum and The Barbican. He was made a Royal Designer for Industry in 2004 for his contribution to design.

Find out more about Pearce's work at pearcemarchbank.com



Press Association Images

and forth across Pearce's (thankfully) large studio as Anderson & Low popped away with the camera. Pearce asked her to splay her hands as she ran, which has added an extra hint of almost dance-like grace to the shot chosen for the stamp.

Then it was up to Pearce to blend the landmarks and athletes together to create the full stamp design. The landmarks are library images and Pearce 'designed' the backgrounds, particularly the skies, with different and very vivid colours to give each stamp extra individuality. His boosting of the background colours also produces a crisp contrast to the black and white images of the athletes.

Under his direction, a skilled computer artworker focused on the athletes' bodies, giving them a subtle sheen of sweat, which supplies additional muscle contour to the already beautifully toned images.

Pearce is delighted with the shots, and proud of his artistic team, but he saves plenty of praise for the Paralympian models.

'They are brilliant, amazingly brave people – you could see they were absolutely determined, and had their minds totally focused on the Paralympics. But they were so professional, too, to break off from their training to be the fastest or strongest in the world, and to pose in the exact position required by my precious little designs with the skill and patience of actors and supermodels. That was very impressive' •

> 'They broke off from their training to be the fastest or strongest in the world'

Above: champion cyclist Jody Cundy's wheels are echoed in the shape of the London Eye in the Welcome to London 2012 Paralympic Games Miniature Sheet

Getty Images

1908





Top: Dorando receives a special cup from Queen Alexandra.
Above: St Vincent stamps commemorating Dorando's marathon show him wearing black or green shorts. The artist worked with black and white images, not knowing the shorts were actually red

The legend of Dorando Pietri The amazing story behind Bob Wilcock's favourite card

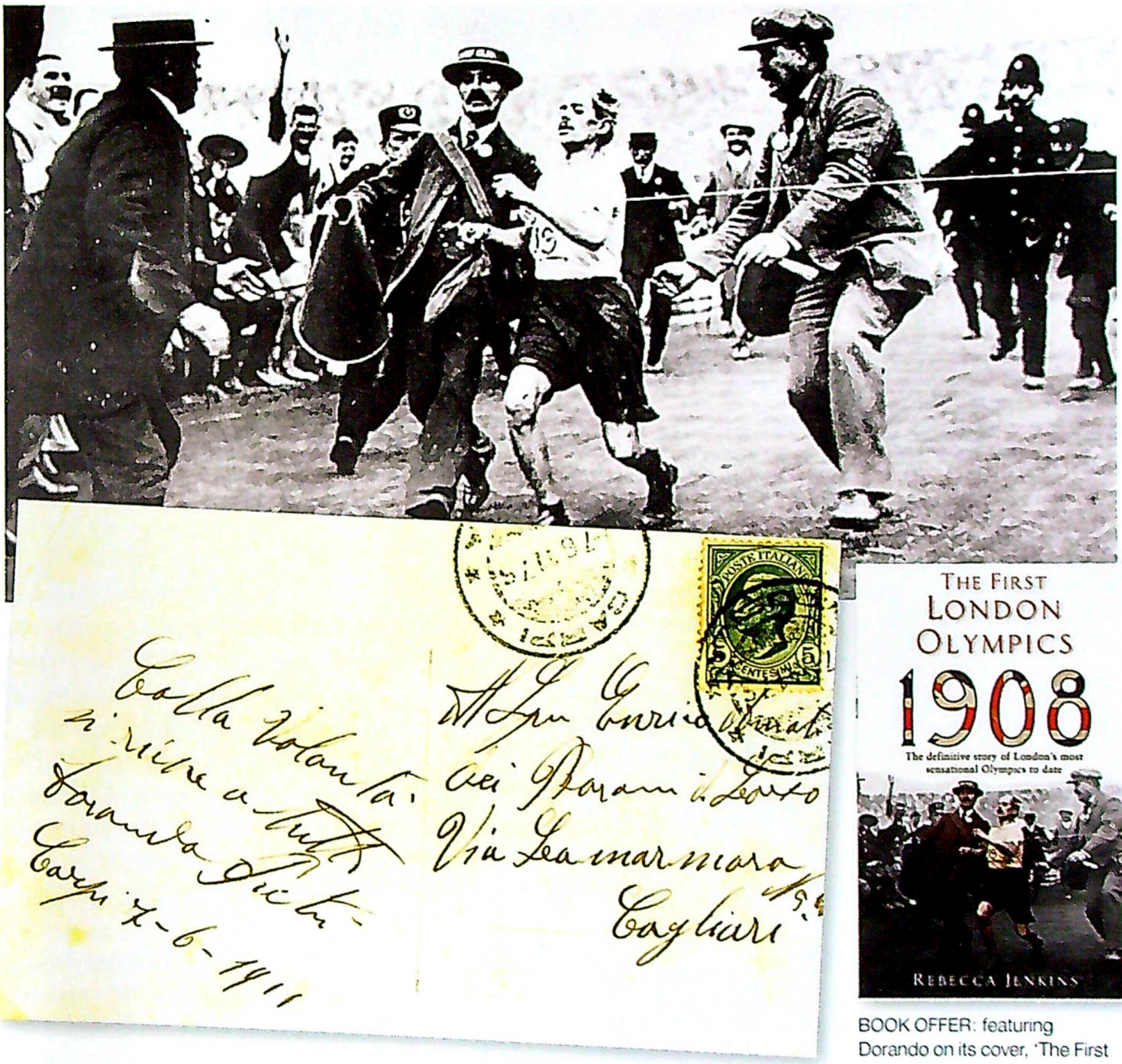
THE INSCRIPTION next to the address translates as 'If you have the will you can succeed in everything'. On the other side of the card is a worn photograph of Dorando Pietri, struggling towards the finishing line in the 1908 London Olympics. No image and no other words could better convey the spirit of human endeavour at the heart of the Olympic tradition.

Dorando Pietri must be the most heroic sporting failure of all time in the most exciting race story in Olympic history...

London, 24 July 1908. The capital is hosting the greatest games on earth and the marathon is reaching its astonishing climax. Under a blazing hot sky, tiny Italian Dorando Pietri staggers into the Olympic stadium at Shepherd's Bush to the roar of 100,000 frenzied spectators for the final run. He is to fall five times before stumbling over the line to take gold in what is surely the most controversial finish ever.

Half-dead from exhaustion and dehydration, the 5ft 2½in confectioner from Capri first turns the wrong way onto the track. Officials redirect him, and he falls down. Officials help him up, and he totters on. He is losing vital time, as US runner Johnny Hayes is seconds behind him in the street outside the stadium. The crowd goes wild as the Italian's courage is revealed. Three more

© Grant, Thomas F. & Horace Grant (20th Century) Private Collection/The Bridgeman Art Library



BOOK OFFER: featuring Dorando on its cover, 'The First London Olympics: 1908' by Rebecca Jenkins is published by Piatkus (rrp £9.99). To order a copy at the special price of £8.99, including free postage and packing, phone 07832 737525, quoting reference PIA 175/Bulletin

Above left: Bob Wilcock's treasured card, posted in northern Italy in 1911

times he collapses. Three more times he struggles up and stumbles on. Finally he slumps to the track, just feet from the finish.

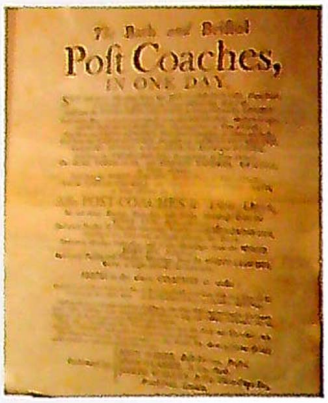
In true sporting spirit, officials help Dorando up and propel him over the line and he is declared the winner. His time is 2 hours 54 minutes 46 seconds. In true competitive spirit, the Americans demand that Hayes (who finishes 32 seconds behind Dorando) receives the gold, and Dorando be disqualified. The judges agree. In the meantime, Dorando is carried off on a stretcher but quickly recovers despite fears for his life.

So he loses the race but he wins the affection of millions. Queen Alexandra presents him with a huge gold cup by way of consolation. His courage makes headlines around the world and he becomes an international hero. Proving, in spectacular fashion, that it is not winning that counts, but taking part •

Bob Wilcock is Vice President of the Society of Olympic Collectors. The card shown above is included in one of the exhibits at Olympex 2012. For more details of this and Bob's talk on Dorando at the British Library, see Diary Dates on page 328.

© SZ Photo/The Bridgeman Art Library

Bath Postal Museum As the Bulletin team recently discovered, this compact museum conveys a colossal amount of fascinating postal history...



Above: original publicity document for the Bath-to-Bristol mail coach. Below: a private posting box that was used for many years at the Stothert & Pitt engineering works in Bath

THE THUNDER OF HOOVES along a dark country lane. The cry of the post horn echoing across the fields. The clatter of the mail coach in a cobbled yard as it halts at a remote country inn to change horses. These evocative sounds from history are part of the inspiring story of the mail system told in loving detail at the Bath Postal Museum.

The sounds of the horse-drawn mail coach are just one example of the many intriguing exhibits that instantly plunge you into the adventure of late Georgian and Victorian post delivery. Pick up the interactive display's phone and hear a variety of coach journey sound effects and post horn tunes played by a coach guard. Each one signified a different warning or instruction and each sounds strangely familiar. 'Charging through' told a turnpike keeper to open his gate sharpish because the speeding mail coach would not be stopping – even for the devil. 'Change horses' gave advanced warning to ostlers at the next inn to be ready with a new team. Drivers expected a quick change of horses, ideally in just three minutes. The post horn also let farmworkers toiling in the fields know that they would soon be able to pick up the latest news from London after the innkeeper had been updated by coach crew and passengers. Such was life in 19th century rural England.

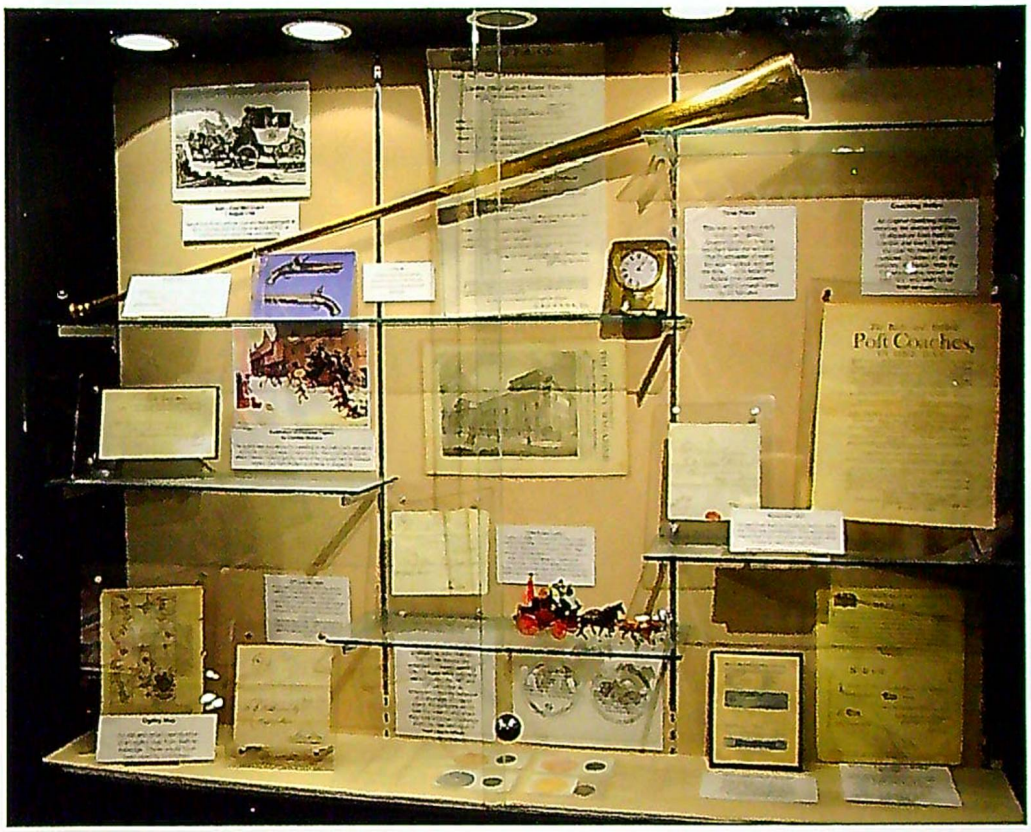
'In those days delivering the post was quite an adventure,' says Audrey Swindells, who founded the museum over 30 years ago with husband Harold, a keen philatelist and Bath stamp shop owner. 'At night, drivers could only just see to the front of the leading horses, and yet they went roaring through the pitch black darkness. It was very dangerous, and quite incredible how they coped.'



Voices from the past Audrey's colourful description of the coaching age reflects her passion for all things postal and philatelic. (Coaching is, by the way, a special interest and she used to collect mail coach prints.) That passion is clear at every turn when you tour this bijou museum, aptly housed under the City of Bath Post Office in the historic heart of Bath. Every display, original object, artefact, antique and document is beautifully presented and crisply captioned.

Dotted along the way are some lovely did-you-know surprises. At the life-size reconstruction of a Victorian post office, you learn that cats were on the official payroll in those days – the cost of keeping a resident rat-catcher was itemised in the weekly budget, for rats and mice were notorious munchers of letters. And an 1824 letter written by a certain Susan Rankin describes the heady social life she is enjoying in the city. Nothing surprising in that, given the lively reputation of Georgian Bath. What is surprising is that Ms Rankin writes in two directions, the copperplate lines crossing at right angles, demonstrating how such cross-written letters were a way to save space and cash in the pre-stamp era when postage was paid per sheet of paper used.

For a small museum, the Bath Postal packs a big punch. Your first stop, for example, might be the Room of Firsts. It is a tiny space, the size of a cupboard but full of big moments in world postal history where Bath has played a major







Top left: an absorbing display, including sound effects, of the history of mail coaches. Top right: vintage wall box that once lived at Farthing Farm. Above: this carved wooden and painted model of a Postboy, about 30 inches high and dating from around 1800, is believed to have been used as a trade sign at the Post Office in Andover, Hampshire

role. One display reveals a personal story behind the very famous occasion of the first stamp ever posted – yes, the Penny Black in 1840. It was sent by Bath postmaster Thomas Moore Musgrave's daughter Ann on 2 May, four days before the official issue date. Research shows the letter went to the Collyer family in Peckham, south London. Before Musgrave moved to Bath, he ran the Two Penny Post in London, and it is quite possible that Ann knew one of the Collyer daughters and sent her the letter. Proudly on display nearby is one of only three surviving Twopenny Mulready envelopes used on the first day of issue, 6 May 1840. Again, the museum believes it was sent by Ann Musgrave.

Also here is the only surviving contract signed between Bath postmaster Ralph Allen and the Post Office in 1727, granting permission for Allen to create and run the revolutionary network of cross-country postal roads that did not pass through London. Previously, all long-distance post went via the capital and was charged according to mileage covered – obviously a very expensive and inefficient way of doing things. But Allen's innovation changed all that. The contract itself is huge – about the size of a modest rug. Rather appropriate perhaps, considering Allen's huge profits from the network, which enabled him to buy the quarries that provided the stone for Georgian Bath.

Allen is a hero of Audrey's and so is John Palmer, father of the mail coach system that transformed the postal service in the 18th century. In fact, Audrey and Harold founded the museum to commemorate their work. Both Allen and Palmer appear in entertaining video displays on the next stage of your journey through the museum. One swish of your hand over some sensors activates two screens bordered by period-style picture frames (Audrey calls them her 'Harry Potter machines'), and Palmer and Allen (portrayed by actors) tell their stories. Bathonian John Palmer introduced the mail coach network, using small, fast carriages that initially ran from Bristol via Bath to London in 1784. The next ▸

Postboy image by kind permission of the owner



Above: this unique example of a Victorian perforating machine is now too delicate to use, but the Bath Postal Museum also has a replica machine so that visitors can perforate their own sheet of (faux) stamps and take them home

year Palmer travelled 5,000 miles in just four months to set up 11 mail coach routes. And thus the coaching age began. It is a bit of a shock to see Palmer played by heart-throb actor Mark McGann. It is also pleasing to see such a small museum, a trust run by volunteers, possess such pulling power. Especially when it is headed by someone as energetic and passionate as Audrey, now in her 80s.

But that is the fun of this place, the little surprises. McGann is a friend of the Swindells, and willingly doubles as Musgrave in another 'Harry Potter' video at the Victorian post office display. And Richard Briers does the voice-over for the first part of the museum's history of communications video later on in the tour. A keen philatelist and museum patron, Briers is also a friend, having met Audrey and Harold at Stampex.

There are, of course, plenty more gems here that do not need celebrity endorsement. Here are just a few of the many we enjoyed in our tour with Audrey and the museum's deputy chairman of trustees Ivan Holliday...

A rare Edwardian tram postbox reveals that the rat race is not necessarily a recent phenomenon. Workers too busy to post their mail could pop it in the box as they boarded the tram to commute to the office. Audrey is also rather proud of an early Victorian perforating machine, the only one of its kind in the country.

At the Victorian Post Office display, complete with desk, sorting frame and rat-catching cat, an actress playing a Victorian telegraphist on the 'Harry Potter'-style screen explains she must soon leave her job as she is about to get married. It simply would not do for a married woman to carry on in such a role!

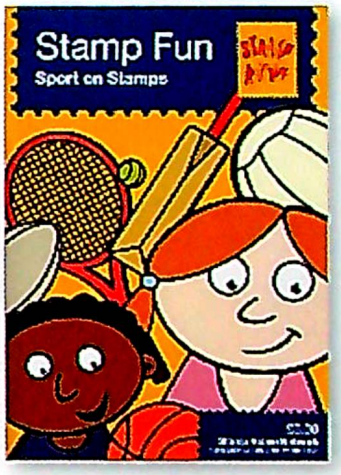
Visitors inspired by their tour can dip into fancy dress boxes, and rig themselves up as Palmer and Allen, a glamorous Georgian ('Chinese and Japanese ladies particularly enjoy this,' says Audrey), or a postman from the reign of George VI. In Ivan's unique display about delivering post in the violent territories of the Wild West, and the work of Wells Fargo and the Pony Express, an 1860 recruitment poster for Pony Express riders asks for: 'Young, skinny fellows, not over 18. Must be expert riders, willing to face death daily. Orphans preferred.' Whatever the hazards of delivering letters in 2012, it is good to know that working conditions have significantly improved since the bad old days of the Wild West •

Bath Postal Museum is at 27 Northgate St, Bath and is open 11am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. For more details phone 01225 460333 or visit www.bathpostalmuseum.co.uk



Bath on 2012 stamp A stamp featuring Bath's World Heritage site of the Roman Baths features in the Royal Mail's A-Z of the UK Part 2, the recent special stamp series highlighting some of Britain's most significant sights. Stephen Clews, Manager of the Roman Baths, says, 'The stamp image captures the baths as few people ever see it, with dawn light breaking. In the early morning the baths can be a calm and quiet space with mist rising slowly from the waters, allowing the viewer to immerse in tranquil solitude.' The Roman Baths that exist today date back to 60-70AD and were expanded into a bathing complex over the following 300 years.

Sport on stamps This Stamp Active Network publication gives youngsters exactly what it promises in the title – stamp fun



COMBINING AN INTEREST IN STAMPS AND SPORT is a popular inroad into philately and what better time than the London 2012 Olympic Games to explore the wide variety of stamps designed to celebrate the event by postal bureaux all over the world. A recently published booklet entitled *Stamp Fun – Sport on Stamps* offers intriguing snippets of stamp info and stamp-related activities designed to appeal to young people and children, no matter what their level of interest and experience in philately or sport.

This booklet has 16 bright and thoughtfully produced pages, with an introduction explaining how Stamp Active works as a voluntary organisation to promote stamp collecting for young people in the UK. It explains the 'Kids Corner' youth area at Stampex, the Stamps Active Competitions, the British Youth Stamp Championship, Planet Stamp website, National Youth conference and the Stamps in Schools programme.

A section on the history of the Games has illustrations of some of the many stamps connected to the Athens games in 1896 and 2004. The page for the 2012 Summer Games shows the four GB stamps issued for the 1948 Games in London and has spaces for collectors to mount some of the UK and overseas Olympic stamps being issued this year. There then follows a number of quiz pages, beginning with one showing stamps for Olympic Games from 1960 to 2000 with the name of the host city blocked out. The reader has to find the names of the cities by asking friends and family, using reference books or checking on the internet. Spaces are also provided for mounting stamps for the 2004 and 2008 Olympics.

An A to Z of sport – Archery, Baseball, Cycling and so on – is illustrated with examples of stamps from all over the world and space for the collector to add more. Some will be easier to find than others.

Knowledge of Olympic sports is tested when the reader has to find out which of the sports represented on ten stamps are included in the 2012 Summer Olympics and which of the sports not in 2012 will feature next time, in 2016. Another page is devoted to multi-sports with illustrations of some stamps relating to the biathlon, triathlon, equestrian three-day eventing, swimming medley, modern pentathlon, and men's combined gymnastics. Readers are challenged to find additional stamps for these six categories and enter the events which make up the Heptathlon and Decathlon. Next up is the Winter Olympics; seven stamps are shown and the competitor has to name the sports featured. Space is provided to mount other winter sport stamps. Finally there is a Sports Quiz, naming the sports on the featured stamps in a grid spells out the names of two branches of athletics.

The booklet costs £3 from Stamp Active, PO Box 477, Hounslow TW3 9HD. Enquiries can be e-mailed to stampactive@btinternet.com

For further information about the activities of Stamp Active Network, visit www.planetstamps.co.uk •











From top: Justin Sazbo receives the Barclays Cup from Richard West, with Brian Sole; Interfed Healey & Wise Salver is awarded to Alan Watson by Brian Sole; the Dewar Centre; Alexander McCulloch and Karen Grant, a One Page Competition winner; Alexander received the Tom Reilly Medal from Lea Wilson

Plenty to please at Perth A report from the recent Scottish Philatelic Congress

THE ANNUAL CONGRESS of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) is a popular event in the philatelic calendar north of the border. The 83rd ASPS Congress took place at the Dewar Centre in Perth on 11 and 12 May, hosted by the Kirkcudbright Philatelic Society. Since 2002 the Congress has been staged in Perth, one of the UK towns that became a city following a successful bid in an initiative to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The event included the Scottish national competitive exhibition, youth and thematic competitive displays, and invited exhibits, as well as 25 dealers and three society stands. The winners in the various categories in the national exhibition were: Social Philately – Alex Walker for his 'A Counterblaste to Tobacco'; Thematic – William McKinlay, 'Bridges of the World'; National – John Coltman, 'Treasury Essays 1879-80'; Postal History – William Steel, 'Handstamps of the London Foreign Office 1661-1875'; Scottish Postal History – James Crawford, 'Dunbartonshire Postal History'; General – Jean Osborne, 'The Lakatoi Issues of British New Guinea and Papua'; and Literature – Stewart Gardener, 'A General Illustrated Catalogue of Exhibition Poster Stamps'.

In addition there were nine entries in the Open class, which was judged by visitors rather than a judging panel. Entries included 'Aviation in Scotland', 'Humorous Postcards', 'Images of Uganda', 'Happy Birthday – Chinese Style' and 'The Hush Hush Army'.

An important part of such events is the Junior Competition, entered by young collectors who will be the philatelists of the future. The winners were Pearce Belshaw for 'Stamp Collecting' (up to and including eight years); Ayesha Nur, 'Wonderful Whales' (9 to 12 years); and Lynne Mitchell, 'A Helping Hand' (16 to 17 years). Joint winners of the One Page Competition were Karen Grant and Sophie Cameron.

The Friends of Thematica organised four thematic competitions at the Congress. There were about 30 entries for the Barclays Cup for young collectors, but only one entry for both the British Thematic Association Cup and John Fosbery Thematic Trophy. Four philatelic federations – Sussex, Scottish, Hampshire and Surrey – entered the Inter-federation competition which was won by the Scottish team of Margaret Morris, William McKinley and Alan Watson. They respectively entered 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star...', 'Clouds' and 'British Royal Heraldry'. The Hampshire Federation came second.

The invited exhibits were from a rarely seen collection that is housed in the National Museums of Scotland – the Hotson Collection display comprised several hundred sheets with strength in India and Newfoundland from Queen Victoria to George V.

The Scottish Congress for 2013 will be held at the Dewar Centre on 19 and 20 April, hosted by the Alba Stamp Group. Before then, the ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition will be held there on 19 and 20 October. The 94th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain follows at the Queens Hotel on 20 to 22 October. For further information, see www.perth2012.com •

London 2012 puzzles

a 

b 

c 

d 

e 

f 

Sports stamp quiz

Answer the following questions about stamps marking the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games – and you could win them all.

a) Which company designed the London 2012 logo featured on these special definitives

b) Name the sport represented in the stamp from the first Olympic Sports set issued in 2009

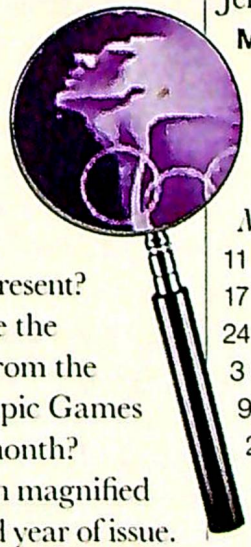
c) What sport is represented by the three figures on this 2010 stamp?

d) One of the 2011 stamp represents taekwondo. In what country did taekwondo originate.

e) The fourth Olympic Torch Relay Cachet cover shows this little green planet. What UK location does it represent?

f) What sport is represented opposite the Tate Modern on this £1.28 stamp from the Welcome to the London 2012 Olympic Games Miniuature Sheet issued later this month?

Identify puzzle From the detail shown magnified right, identify the stamp, its value and year of issue.



How to enter Send your answers, marked 'July Sports quiz' and/or 'July Identify' to: Philatelic Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date: 1 August 2012. The first correct entry drawn after the closing date in each competition wins the Sports of London 2012 stamp sheet and 'The First London Olympics: 1908' by Rebecca Jenkins. Four further winners also receive prizes •

May solutions and winners

Identify: 'The Prize Turkey', 35p stamp from the 1993 Christmas stamp set. Winner: Ms S Smith, Newbury.

Knowledge: a) 1849. b) Orange Tree. c) Celia Birtwell and Ossie Clarke. Winner: Mrs M Bolton, Gravesend.

May crossword: Across: 1 Placebo. 5 Eton. 10 Urn. 11 Newspaper. 12 Trent. 13 Snitch. 15 Crumbs. 17 Whales. 18 Harlem. 20 Pesto. 23 Memoranda. 24 Out. 25 Node. 26 Astound. Down: 2 Lunge. 3 Constabulary. 4 Bowls. 6 Typical. 7 Nerd. 8 Justice. 9 Upright piano. 14 Escorts. 16 Unarmed. 19 Mints. 21 Swoon. 22 Omen. *Solution*: specimen. Winners of James Bond Sheet: S Druce, Chichester; E Bowater, Kidderminster; E Emery, Portchester.

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 1 August 2012. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 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. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.



Stunning 1948 Prestige Cover

A fascinating new 1948 Olympic Games Coin Cover celebrating the post-war 'austerity' Games held in London is now available in a limited edition of 1,948. This unique memento carries four real 1948 Olympic Games stamps (not replicas), a 1948 Half Crown coin and a unique cancellation mark. A collection of evocative items accompany the cover, including the iconic 1948 poster and a ration book, as well as authoritative details of the background story.

Order by phone on 08457 641641 (+44 131 316 7483) or online at www.royalmail.com/london2012stamps. Price, £69.95.

Royal Mail

Royal Mail, the cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd. © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2012. All rights reserved.

5 014721 103112