BRITISH PHILATELIC
Bulletin
The magazine for collectors of UK stamps
VOLUME 55 NUMBER 9 | MAY 2018 | £1.95

Dad's Army & Royal Academy Previews • Youth philately focus



SWOOPER STARS

Meet the high-flying hunters from the awesome Owls set



STAMP POLL ALL THE RESULTS! • **TUC AT 150** NEW SHEET • **WIN** OWLS PRESENTATION PACK

Wise up to Owls

Spread your philatelic wings with Royal Mail's handsome Owls Special Stamp issue preparing to land this month

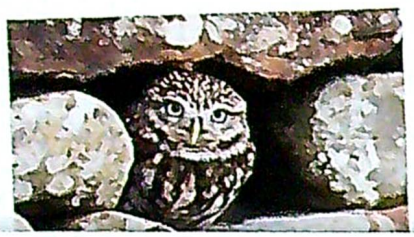
The Owls Special Stamp set is a wise addition to any collection and a magnificent tribute to a truly fascinating creature.

Owls, released on 11 May, features an intriguing variety of classic species: the Barn Owl, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Long-eared Owl and Short-eared Owl. Each species is portrayed on the stamps as both an adult and a juvenile bird.

Accompanying the Owls issue is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Framed Stamps and Postcards. See page 232 of April's *Bulletin* for the full preview. In this edition see page 272 for our focus on the lives and habits of the species in the Owls issue, page 274 for an owl-themed stamp gallery and page 286 for our bird-based philatelic quiz.

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

Of the five species of owls that breed in the UK, all are fairly widespread and in some areas quite common. Three of the five are mainly woodland birds, while the others prefer



SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

A true nomad, the Short-eared Owl is one of the most widely distributed birds in the world, occurring on all continents except Antarctica. Individuals may travel great distances, stopping to breed where feeding conditions are good. In Britain the species breeds mainly on upland moor in the north and west, but becomes more widespread in winter (and more numerous,





TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

The lovely quavering hoot of the Tawny Owl is a familiar night-time sound in woodland, parks and even gardens, but although this is the UK's most common owl, it is rarely seen, being strictly nocturnal. Tawny Owl pairs stay in their



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Hall of frame The Royal Academy 250th Anniversary set displays exclusive new work by well-known contemporary artists **260**



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Wise birds We reveal the fascinating life stories of the birds featured on the new Owls Special Stamps and hear from veteran designer Ian Chilvers (below), who created the issue **272**



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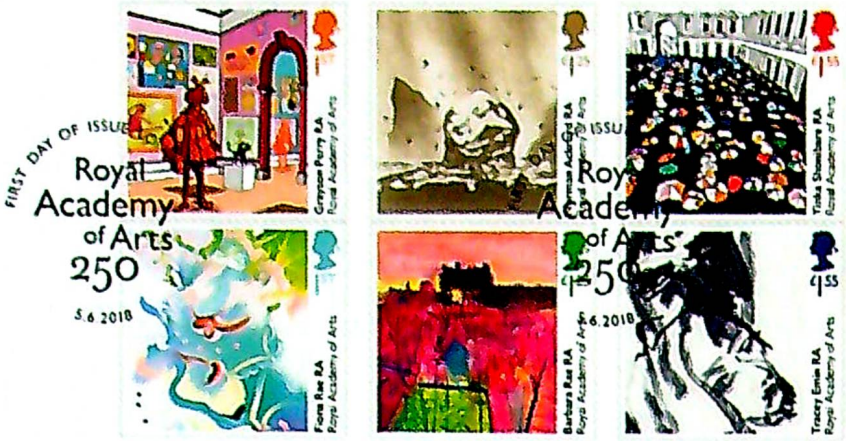
Are you bird-brained? Hope not, because our quiz based on owl-themed stamps is a real puzzler! **286**

Coming soon All the latest Royal Mail issues ready for release **288**

• **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. Subscribe online at www.royalmail.com/bulletin or write to Royal Mail Freepost, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp, as freepost is for UK only • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online • Stamp images © Royal Mail. 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



Royal Academy of Arts:
250th Anniversary



Mr A Brown
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail First Day Cover

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

Picture post Exclusive new art by today's creative legends adorn next month's issue celebrating 250 years of the Royal Academy

Above: the Royal Academy of Arts First Day Cover

Opposite page: the RA Tallents House postmark, alternative marks, and the Presentation Pack's Outer and Inner sections

Experience a brush with greatness as Royal Mail unveils six specially commissioned masterpieces by respected artists for the Royal Academy of Arts 250th Anniversary issue. Each crisply designed stamp frames a one-off work by some of the biggest names in the contemporary art world, including Grayson Perry, Tracey Emin and Norman Ackroyd. All the featured artists are Royal Academicians, special members of the world-famous art institution who have been nominated and elected by other Academicians. Accompanying the issue, released on 5 June, is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards and Framed Stamps.

Royal Academy of Arts 250th Anniversary – Specifications

Date of issue	5 June
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Stamp by stamp The Royal Academy of Arts 250th Anniversary Special Stamps come in three values: First Class, £1.25 and £1.55. Royal Mail commissioned new work from the artists for the issue.

Summer Exhibition Grayson Perry CBE, RA. First Class

Queen of the Sky Fiona Rae RA. First Class

St Kilda: The Great Sea Stacs Norman Ackroyd CBE, RA. £1.25

Inverleith Allotments and Edinburgh Castle Barbara Rae CBE, RA. £1.25



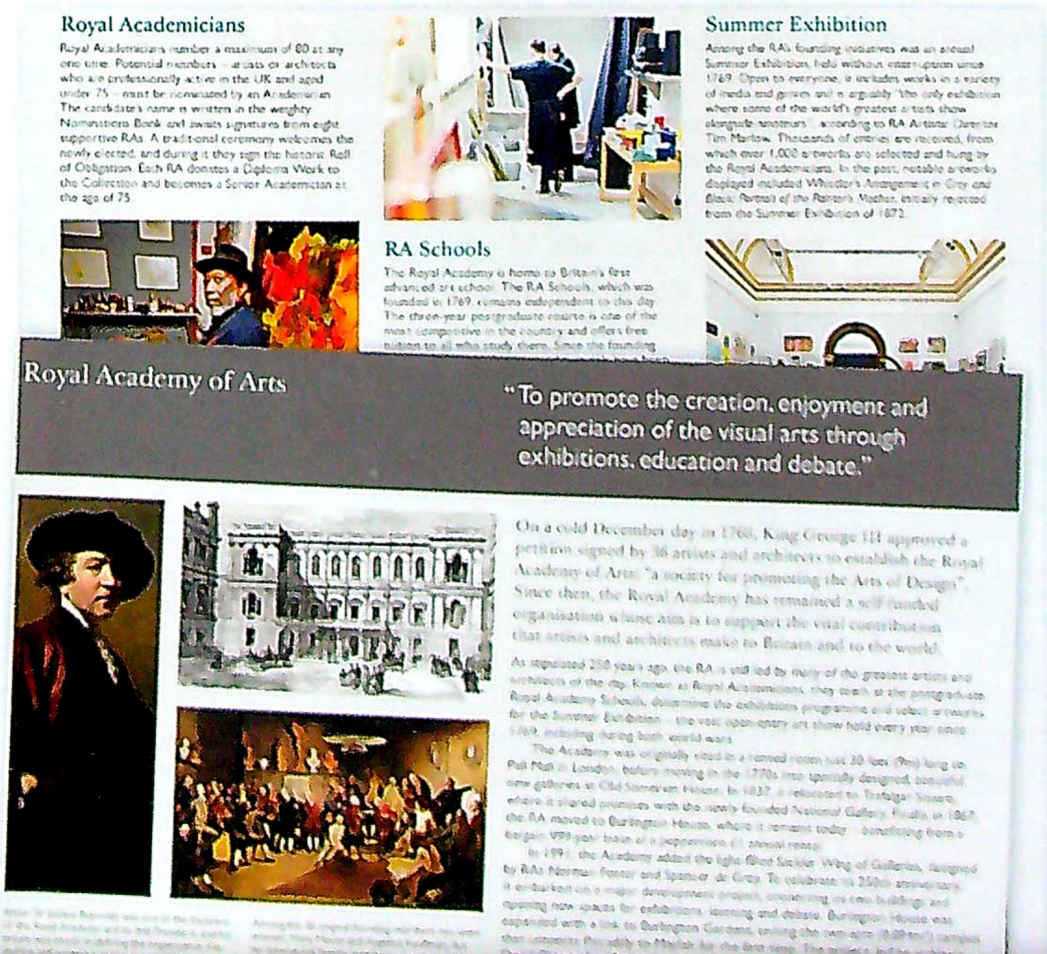
Queuing at the RA Yinka Shonibare MBE, RA. £1.55
Saying Goodbye Tracey Emin CBE, RA. £1.55

Also in the issue is an exquisitely illustrated Presentation Pack written by the leading art critic and academic Dr Gilda Williams. The Pack traces the history of the Royal Academy, and presents the highlights of this central London institution's offering, including its prestigious art collection, the famous Summer Exhibition, and the Royal Academy Schools.

Royal Academy of Arts 250th Anniversary – Prices	
Stamps	£6.94
First Day Cover	£8.75
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Souvenir	£8.75
Presentation Pack	£7.45
Postcards (6 in set)	£2.70
Framed Stamps	£29.99

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers (ie stamped and postmarked) must reach Royal Mail by 5 June. 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 18Bul05. The mark has the inscription 'RA 250'. Two alternative postmarks feature the location London W1, as the RA is situated at Piccadilly in this post code. The pictorial alternative mark bears the inscription 'Royal Academy of Arts 250' •

Acknowledgements: Summer Exhibition by Grayson Perry RA, Queen of the Sky by Fiona Rae RA, St Kilda: The Great Sea Stacs by Norman Ackroyd RA, Inverleith Allotments and Edinburgh Castle by Barbara Rae RA, Queuing at the RA by Yinka Shonibare RA and Saying Goodbye by Tracey Emin RA © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2018









Army issue Everyone's favourite Home Guard heroes are honoured in the Dad's Army Special Stamp set advancing towards you next month



FD1815-PL



FD1815-TH



FD1815-NP

Atten-shun! Get ready for the delightful *Dad's Army* set saluting one of the best-loved comedies in British television history. The programme's favourite characters are on parade in this eight-stamp set along with their legendary catchphrases, from Captain Mainwaring's 'You stupid boy!' to Lance Corporal Jones's 'Don't panic! Don't panic!'. The issue, out on 26 June, marks the 50th anniversary of the classic BBC show's launch in 1968. Also released with the issue are a Stamp Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Postcards, Stamp Book, Generic Sheet, Framed Stamp Set, Framed Stamp Set signed by *Dad's Army* star Ian Lavender, and Framed Generic Sheet.

Stamp by stamp The *Dad's Army* Special Stamp issue comes in a mix of values: Second Class, First Class, £1.45 and £1.55.

Sergeant Wilson John Le Mesurier played Wilson, who thoughtfully shared his ration book with Mrs Pike and his wise advice with Mainwaring. Le Mesurier was a Royal Armoured Corps captain on India's North-West Frontier during the war before becoming a fixture in cinema and television. Second Class

Private Pike The Walmington-on-Sea platoon's youngest recruit, Pike could be relied upon to tell his mum in the event of a crisis. He was played by Birmingham-born Ian Lavender; since the show ended, Lavender's work has included *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Goodnight Sweetheart* and *EastEnders*. Second Class

Captain Mainwaring As bank manager-turned-platoon leader Captain Mainwaring, Arthur Lowe perfected the portrayal of vulnerable pomposity. Lowe served in the Middle East as a sergeant-major in the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry during the Second World War. His acting career also included a spell in *Coronation Street*. First Class

Lance Corporal Jones Played by Clive Dunn, Jones was prone to panic, yet would still go through 'fire and brimstone and treacle' for the platoon. After spending the Second World War in Greece as a trooper in the 4th Queen's Own Hussars, Dunn appeared in such sitcoms as *Bootsie and Snudge*, had a number one record with *Grandad* in 1971, and received the OBE in 1975. First Class

Private Walker From whisky to tyres, Walker could lay his hands on almost any item – for the right price. Private Walker was played by James Beck, who attended art college and completed National Service before commencing his acting career. After working in repertory with the York Theatre Company, he began to appear regularly in TV

Dad's Army – Specifications

Date of issue	26 June
Number of stamps	Eight
Design	Up
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



plays and serials. He had a lead role in the early 1970s sitcom *Romany Jones*, and was about to collaborate with Arthur Lowe on a new show before his premature death. £1.45

Private Frazer The platoon's eternal pessimist, played by John Laurie, was a funeral director from the wild and lonely Isle of Barra. In a long career, Dumfries-born Laurie appeared in everything from *Hamlet* on stage to *The Clitheroe Kid* on radio. He served in the First World War with the Honourable Artillery Company and in the Second with the Home Guard. £1.45

Private Godfrey The platoon's much-loved medical orderly, Godfrey possessed a spirit as strong as his bladder was weak. Arnold Ridley, the actor who played him, was also a prolific playwright as well as a performer on stage, radio and screen. He served in the First World War with the Somerset Light ▸

Above: the Dad's Army issue First Day Cover

Below: the Filler Card from the First Day Cover

Opposite page: the Tallents House postmark and the pictorial and non-pictorial alternative postmarks



Infantry and in the Second as a major with the British Expeditionary Force in France. He was made an OBE for services to theatre in 1982. £1.55

Chief Warden Hodges Bill Pertwee played the warden plagued by lights, hooligans and the man he calls Napoleon. A member of the Air Training Corps during the war, Pertwee later became a regular on radio in *Beyond Our Ken* and *Round the Horne*, and starred in another Croft and Perry sitcom, *You Rang, M'Lord?*. He was awarded the MBE in 2007. £1.55

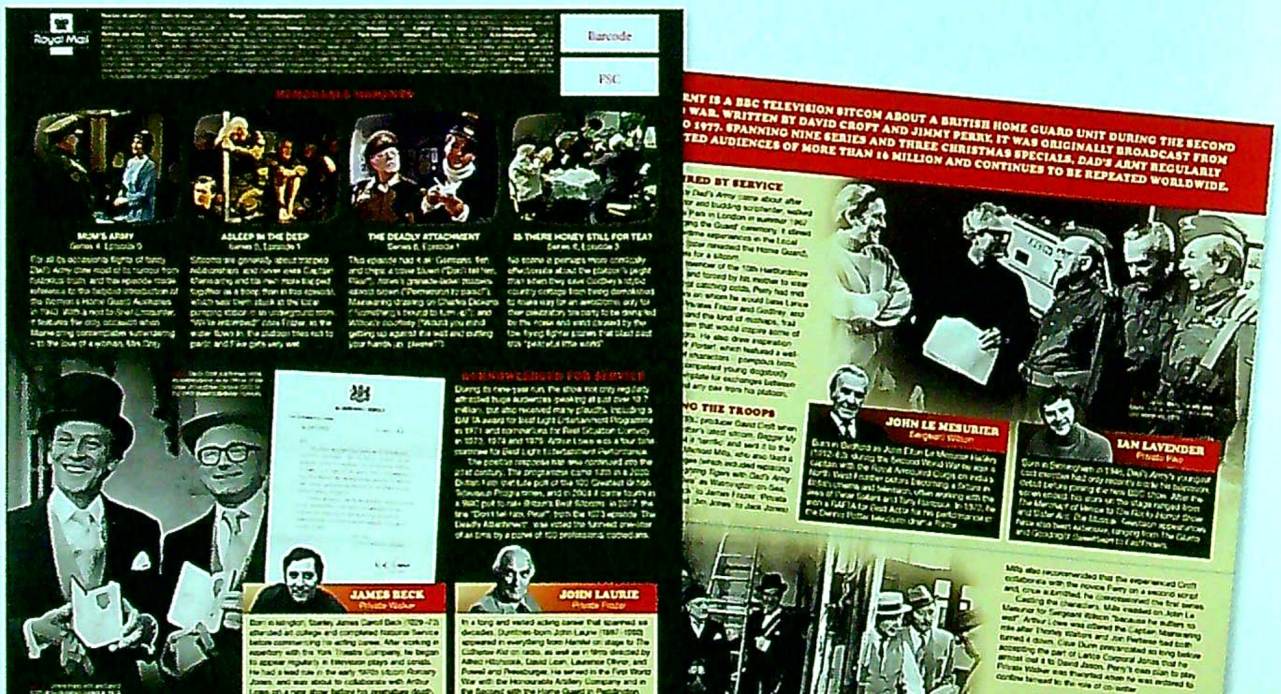
Also in the issue is a Presentation Pack tracing the creation of *Dad's Army* by Jimmy Perry and David Croft; it includes a focus on the actors behind the main characters and memorable moments from the show's classic episodes.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers (ie stamped and postmarked) must reach Royal Mail by 26 June. 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 18Bul05. The postmark features an image of the Union Flag arrow device that appears in the opening sequence of each episode. Two alternative postmarks have the location Thetford in Norfolk, as it was used for many of the series' exterior scenes. On the pictorial alternative postmark is a picture of a road sign that welcomes visitors to Walmington-on-Sea, the famous fictional 'front line' town defending dear old Blighty against Mr Hitler •



Right: the Stamp Book features the Captain Mainwaring and Lance Corporal Jones stamps

Below: the inner and outer sections of the Dad's Army Presentation Pack





Above: the Dad's Army issue Generic Sheet with a backdrop of the parade hall where much of the comic action took place

Dad's Army – Prices	
Stamps	£8.50
First Day Cover	£10.62
First Day Envelope	30p
Presentation Pack	£9.00
Postcards (8 in set)	£3.60
Stamp Book	£4.02
Generic Sheet	£7.50
Framed Stamp Set signed by Ian Lavender	£69.99
Framed Stamp Set	£29.99
Framed Generic Sheet	£49.99

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

Stamp fairs

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

4-5 May • Salisbury Collectors' Show 2018, City Hall, Salisbury SP2 7TU, stamps, postcards and more, 11am to 5pm Friday and 10am to 4pm Saturday. Over 30 dealers. Enquiries: 01722 412100.

5 May • Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT, 10am to 3.30pm, seven dealers. 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. 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. • Haywards Heath Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath RH16 3DN, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers. 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.

6 May • Wolverhampton Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, eight dealers. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297. • Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, Novotel, Saxon Street, Milton Keynes MK13 7RA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

7 May • Crowborough Stamp and Postcard Fair, Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE, 16 dealers. Enquiries: Ian Marshall, 01892 525780.

9 May • Cheltenham Stamp Fair, St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk. • Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, ten dealers. Enquiries: Andy McNab, 07787 796883.

10 May • Rugby Stamp and Postcard Fair, Rogers Hall, Deerings Road, Hillmorton CV21 4EN, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Hemmings, 01455 642248, stamps@midphil.com.

11 May • Strand Stamp Fair, Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

12 May • Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm, seven dealers. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • North Wales Stamp and Postcard Fair, Ysgol Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP, 9.30am to 3pm,



12 dealers. Enquiries: Steve Chapman, 01745 826434. • WORPEX: this annual major stamp fair is at a new venue: Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford Road, Worcester WR3 8DX (right), 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: David Grant, 01299 824829. • Langdon Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Langdon Hills SS16 6EX, 9.30am to 3pm, eight dealers. Enquiries: David Church, 01268 543371. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • Folkestone Stamp Fair, Trinity Church Hall, Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2UQ, 9am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.

13 May • 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. • Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL, 10am to 4pm, six dealers. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

19 May • Hull Stamp Fair, St James Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, near Hull HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 4pm, five dealers. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com. • Upminster Stamp Fair, St Lawrence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2AJ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845. • Charing Cross Market, as above.

20 May • Dronfield Stamp Fair, Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AY, 9.30am to 4pm, ten dealers. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Norwich Stamp Fair, Brook Hotel, Barnard Road, Bowthorpe, Norwich NR5 9JB, 10am to 3pm, ten dealers. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

25 May • Hythe Stamp Fair, United Reformed Church, East Street, Hythe CT21 5ND, 10am to 4pm, five dealers. Enquiries: Robert Uden, 01303 238807.

26 May • 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. • Middlewich Stamp Fair, Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 3.30pm, seven dealers. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069. • Wanstead Stamp Fair, Our Lady of Lourdes, 51 Cambridge Park, Wanstead E11 2PR, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • East Malling Grand Stamp Fair, East Malling Village Hall, New Road, East Malling ME19 6DD, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 14 dealers. Enquiries: Mike Thompson, 01474 325507. • REDEX Stamp Fair, Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building (right), Wesley Street, Redruth TR15 2EG, 10am to 4pm, ten dealers. Enquiries: Des Kent, 01288 355918.



27 May • Doncaster Stamp Fair, Park Social Club, Eden Grove Road, Edenthorpe, Doncaster DN3 2LS, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Peterborough Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SG, 10am to 3pm, ten dealers. Enquiries: Richard Lewis, 01945 700594, richard@lewis8571.plus.com. • Stevenage Stamp Fair, Novotel, Knebworth Park, Stevenage SG1 2AX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845. ▶

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

1 June • Strand Stamp Fair, as above.

2 June • Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, up to 12 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • 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. • Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, ten dealers. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.



2 June • Charing Cross Market, as above. • Beckenham Stamp and Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285. • Haywards Heath Postcard & Collectors' Fair, as above, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132. • RINGPEX Stamp & Postcard Fair, Greyfriars Community Centre, 44 Christchurch Road, Ringwood BH24 1DW, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers. Enquiries: Gordon Masson, 01425 470710. • Deal Stamp Fair, The Landmark Centre, 129 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.

3 June • Wolverhampton Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, eight dealers. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297. • Leicester Postcard Fair, Ramada Leicester Stage Hotel, 299 Leicester Road, Wigston, Leicester LE18 1JW, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: David Neill, 0116 243 2236, dn@davidneill.net. • Bedford Stamp Fair, St Mark's Church Hall, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY, 10am to 4pm, 11 dealers. Enquiries: Paul Harris, 01623 621143. • Sevenoaks Stamp Fair, Stag Plaza, Stag Theatre, London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers. Enquiries: Robert Uden, 01303 238807.

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

9 June • Liverpool Stamp Fair, St Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, seven dealers. 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. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • King's Lynn Stamp Fair, Gaywood Church Rooms, Gayton Road, Gaywood, King's Lynn PE30 4DZ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • SWINPEX annual event, St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way. Swindon SN3 3LR, 10am to 4pm, more than 45 dealers. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767. • Canterbury Postcard and Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall (left), Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843



862707, www.ukoldpostcards.com. • Orpington Stamp and Postcard Fair, Christ Lutheran Church, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood, Orpington BR5 1RD. Enquiries: 07746 124846.

10 June • 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 June • Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, ten dealers. Enquiries: Andy McNab, 07787 796883.

15-16 June • Stafford Stamp Show, Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John and Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk •

Society meetings



3 May • The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Display from 1pm onwards by James Podger entitled Cayman Islands: From Jamaica 'used in' to Queen Elizabeth II. 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.

12 May • Great Britain Philatelic Society. Regional meeting at WORPEX, held at Powick Parish Hall, Old Malvern Road, Powick WR2 4RT. New and prospective members are welcome to attend.

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.

17 May • The Royal Philatelic Society London, as above. Display from 1pm onwards by HSH Prince Albert of Monaco, entitled Selections from the Princely Collection. See 3 May entry for contact details and non-member visits.

19 May • Great Britain Philatelic Society. Meeting at The Royal Philatelic Society London, address as above. Two presentations and displays: at 11am by the society president Howard Hughes FRPSL, on Post Office and Other Notices with Related Philatelic Material and Postal History from mid-1700s to mid-1900s, and at 2.15pm by Graham Winters FRPSL on King George VI with a Difference. Prospective new members who wish to attend should contact the society secretary, Phil Waud, on 07484 629171, prior to the meeting.

31 May • The RPSL, as above. Group display from 1pm on Polar Philately.

9 June • National Philatelic Society, as above, with a 2.45pm display and presentation by the president, Michael Thompson. Refreshments available, and visitors and prospective new members are welcome.

9 June • Great Britain Overprint Society. Meeting at SWINPEX, the stamp, postcard and postal history fair, at St Joseph's RC College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR. Society Annual General Meeting at 11am, followed by members' displays to which prospective new members are welcome.

14 June • The Royal Philatelic Society London, as above. Display from 1pm with presentation from 5pm by Tim O'Connor entitled Dr Franklin will Address the Lords on the State of His Majesty's Post •

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National and international events

The hugely popular Crowborough Stamp and Postcard Fair has a new venue. The new location, as mentioned above for its Bank Holiday meeting on 7 May, is at the Crowborough Community Centre, off the A26 and close to the town centre. The venue has ample free parking and full catering facilities. The fair will be hosting a record 16 dealers, and as always admission is free. All children, accompanied by an adult, will receive a free pack of world stamps.

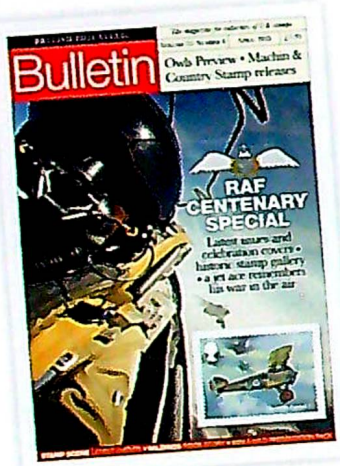
The Centennial Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at Jurys Inn Gateshead Quays, South Shore Road, Gateshead NE8 3AE, from 26 to 29 July. The highlights of the Congress will include the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, and the banquet in a different location – the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Newcastle. Further details of this event are available from Steve Harrison at sharrison500@btinternet.com.

Autumn Stampex will take place from 12 to 15 September at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London. The Irish national stamp exhibition, Stampa, will be held at the Griffith Conference Centre, Dublin from 5 to 7 October •

National Stamp Celebration Day

National Stamp Celebration Day takes place on 6 May to raise awareness of philately and to introduce new collectors to the hobby. A number of activities in support of the occasion will be taking place across the country. The Association of British Philatelic Societies, for example, is to host open celebratory meetings throughout May. To find your local event, visit the ABPS website, www.abps.org.uk. The Day, organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, is being held to commemorate the launch of the Penny Black. The stamp was first issued on 1 May 1840 and officially used from 6 May. People will also be encouraged to stick a stamp, and offices urged to use stamps rather than franking machines. Philatelic Traders' Society Chairman Rick Warren says: 'We are delighted to be once again celebrating stamp collecting and raising awareness for philately. It is important that we remember the Penny Black and how it changed the history of post and, so many years later, keeps bringing people together to share their enthusiasm for the hobby.' More information on National Stamp Celebration Day will be available on the Philatelic Traders' Society website, www.thepts.net •

Special Stamp-related events



Royal Mail's RAF Centenary Special Stamp issue salutes the courage and dedication of the Royal Air Force – as do commemorative events throughout 2018. For example, on 21 June there is the RAF Museum London Reopening Ceremony at Colindale, London. The RAF Museum is being transformed to celebrate the RAF centenary, with new exhibitions covering 100 years of aviation history and looking at the challenges of the air force's future. See www.rafmuseum.org.uk for more details. For information on other RAF centenary events, visit www.raf.mod.uk/raf100.

The Royal Academy of Arts 250th Anniversary issue released next month celebrates the colourful history of this great institution. And on 19 May the RA itself celebrates, with a special opening following a major transformation of its gallery spaces and displays: visit the new RA Collections Gallery, Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries, and Ronald and Rita McAulay Gallery for work by living Royal Academicians. Details: www.royalacademy.org.uk •



New from the islands





Isle of Man As the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle fast approaches, the Isle of Man celebrates with a very special stamp set marking the happy couple's engagement.

The two-stamp issue shows romantic photographs of Harry and Meghan, star of US TV drama *Suits*, on the day they announced their engagement with a photo call in the Sunken Garden at Kensington Palace in November. The collection includes stamp sheet sets, first day cover, presentation pack and a special sheetlet.

The sheetlet also features labels, one of which focuses on the three-diamond engagement ring set in a band of gold, designed by Prince Harry himself using two stones which belonged to his mother Diana, Princess of Wales, and made by The Queen's jewellers Cleave & Company.

In the background of the sheetlet is a picture of St George's Chapel, Windsor where Harry and Meghan are due to be wed on 19 May. The chapel, in the grounds of Windsor Castle, was also the location for the wedding of the Earl and Countess of Wessex in 1999. Orders: www.iompost.com.

Guernsey Stamps has also created a two-stamp special stamp issue with images from November's engagement announcement, which is released on 2 May.

Out on the same day is Guernsey's Bridges set, which includes the Channel Island's two-stamp contribution to this year's Europa series. The Europa stamps show a 19th century breakwater that connects 800-year-old Castle Cornet to Guernsey's capital St Peter Port and a bridge over St Saviour's Reservoir in the island's rural interior. Orders: www.guernseystamps.com.



HRH Prince Henry of Wales & Meghan Markle
MAY 19 | 2018

Jersey Stamps releases stamp sets on the 75th anniversary of the Dam Busters raid on 16 May, 150 years of the Jersey Animal Shelter on 25 May, and the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* on 18 June. Orders: www.jerseystamps.com •







A tale or twoo about our amazing owls…

They are the undisputed swooper stars of our woods and fields, dominating the sky and treeline as they hunt down their prey. And as Royal Mail releases its awesome Owls issue on 11 May, we tell the stories of these fascinating creatures of the night.

Owls are designed to do what they do best – tracking and cornering their next meal in total darkness. Their flexible necks rotate through 270 degrees, revolving like tank turrets to select a target; their eyeballs are tubular not round, giving space for larger retinas and enhanced vision; their brains process sound three times better than other birds', allowing them to identify prey in pitch black by the noises their victims make. But they are as lovely as they are lethal: their mesmerising eyes, exquisite plumage and haunting call make them very special indeed…

The man behind Owls

The Owls set is the work of designer Ian Chilvers from creative agency Atelier Works. Atelier has produced major stamp issues, such as the Kings and Queens set. He says: 'Owls are nature's covert killers – but they're also alluring: doe-eyed, heart-faced and serene, and have fluff-ball offspring too. These are the characteristics that I wanted to capture in the stamp designs.'



Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Species lowdown With its trademark white and gold plumage, heart-shaped face, and small dark eyes, the Barn Owl is most often encountered as a ghostly shape caught in car headlights, or heard rather than seen with its unearthly screaming call.

Special talon-t The Barn Owl's wing feathers are designed to make its flight virtually silent – allowing it to hunt prey undetected. For example, its foremost wing feather also boasts a row of small hooks that dull the sound of air striking the wings' leading edge.

Believe it or not The owl's hearing is so good that it can catch prey in total darkness simply by listening to the slightest movement its victim makes •





Little Owl

Athene noctua

Species lowdown The Little Owl, which nests in holes in mature trees, hunts mainly insects, often by chasing them on the ground.

Special talon-t This owl's defence mechanism to protect it against attack from the rear is a 'false face' marking on the back of its head, which gives the impression of backward-watching eyes.

Believe it or not The species is the national bird of Greece and emblem of the Greek goddess Athene. Florence Nightingale adopted a Little Owl after rescuing the bird from boys at the Parthenon who were tormenting it. She called the owl Athena and carried it in her pocket •





Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Species lowdown As babies, Tawny Owls leave the nest while still downy and flightless, and climb to safe spots among branches where they wait for food from their parents. The adult Tawny, the largest UK owl species, is a powerful predator and preys on other owls.

Special talon-t Even by owl standards Tawnies are confident hunters – they can even pluck goldfish from garden ponds in urban areas.

Believe it or not The male tries to attract a female by bringing her gifts of food, but two courting Tawny Owls may also woo each other by moving in a special swaying motion •





Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

Species lowdown Breeding mainly on upland moors in the north and west, the Short-eared Owl is long-winged with grey-brown, sandy, streaked plumage.

Special talon-t The Short-eared Owl uses a short, sharp, smart method of killing its prey. It drops feet-first upon its victim from above, surprising and grabbing it in its claws, and swallowing the creature head-first while it is still on the ground.

Believe it or not These owls do not tend to build nests in trees. Instead a breeding pair of adults scrape out a hollow in the ground and line it with grass and brambles •





Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Species lowdown Long-eared Owls roost by day, so those ear tufts are there to break up their profile and so make it more difficult for predators to spot them.

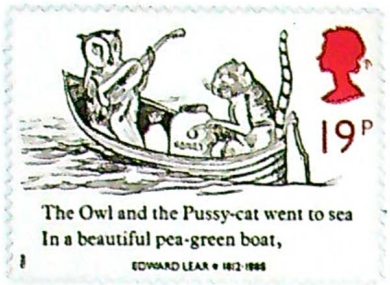
Special talon-t This intelligent species can hunt in co-operating pairs – one bird flushes the prey out while the other attacks and kills it.

Believe it or not If their nest is in danger from a predator, a Long-eared Owl will try and scare off the intruder by making itself look bigger than it is. The owl does this by puffing up its back feathers to form a frame round its head, thus creating the impression of a bulkier, more formidable body •

Talons house Wise owls have always found a welcome perch on Royal Mail Special Stamps



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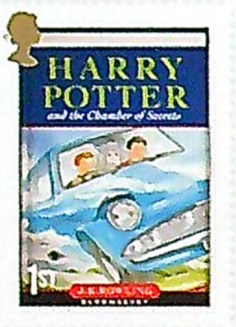
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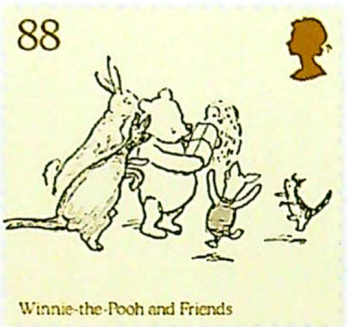
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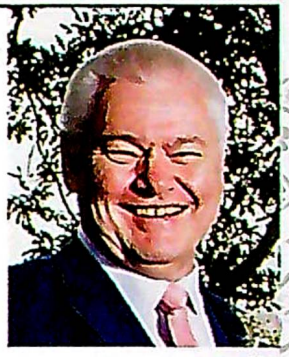


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Nature Conservation Species at Risk 1986: **1** Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). Edward Lear Verse for Children 1988: **2** The Owl and the Pussy-cat. Millennium Above Beyond 2000: **3** Third Millennium / Muncaster. Birds of Prey 2003: **4-8** Barn Owl *Tyto alba*. Harry Potter 2007: **9** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Winnie-the-Pooh 2010: **10** Winnie-the-Pooh and Friends. Owls 2018: **11** Barn Owl *Tyto alba* **12** Little Owl *Athene noctua* **13** Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* **14** Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* **15** Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* **16-20** Juvenile owls of the same species as 11-15.



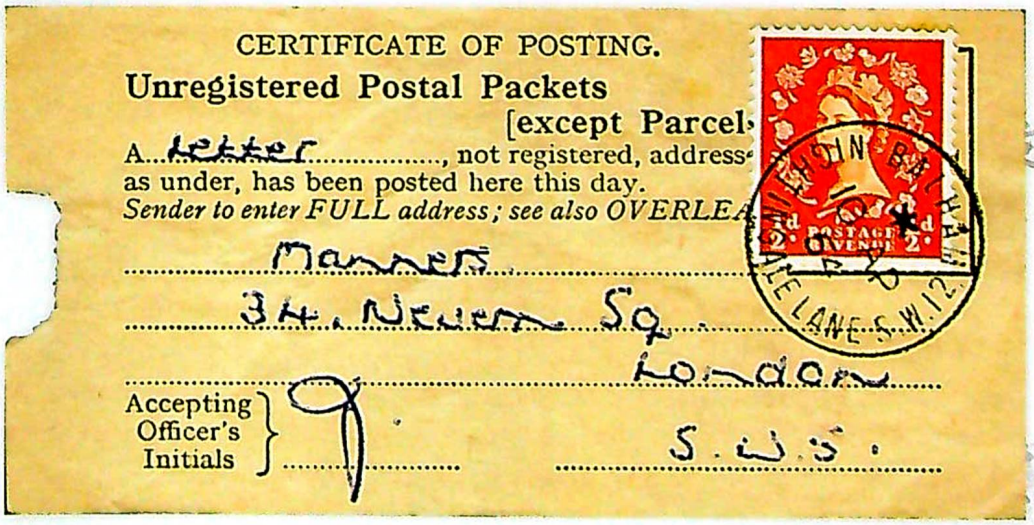
High-interest rates

Queen Elizabeth II: first definitive issues

To conclude his Wildings series Frank Walton RDP FRPSL explains the appeal of varying postage rates for collectors of the definitives

Why was each value issued? In general terms, postal authorities only issued stamps with face values for particular services. For Wildings, the only value that was issued for no obvious purpose was the 11d. While the vast majority of British stamps used prepay for the inland letter rate, different values have always been needed for distant destinations, heavier packages and special services. It is seeking out usages of Wildings for these non-letter rates that provides interest for collectors of postal history.

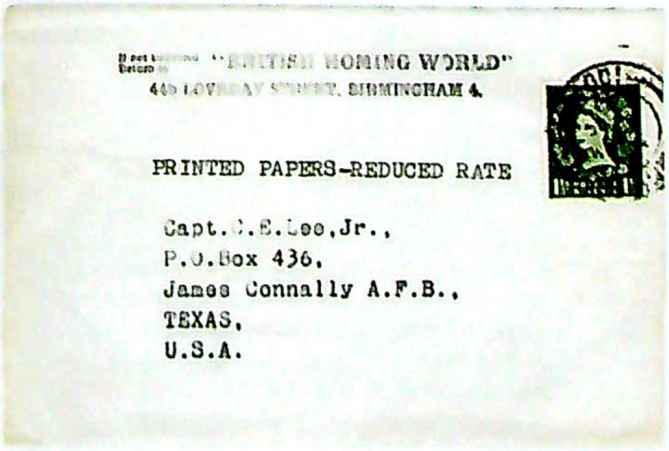
My own collecting preference, especially when exhibiting competitively, is to seek the covers that have single usages of stamps: such items truly demonstrate why a particular denomination existed.



Below left: from 2 October 1911 until 30 September 1955, the fee for a Certificate of Posting for unregistered mail was ½d per item. Other than mail for the blind, this service is the only way in which a ½d Wilding could be used singly.

Bottom left: for overseas printed matter, a distinction was made for commercial mail which enjoyed a lower rate. From 1 October 1957 to 30 June 1962 the overseas reduced printed papers rate was 1½d for the first 2oz.

Bottom right: the minimum inland printed papers rate was increased on 1 June 1956 from 1½d for the first 2oz to 2d for the first 4oz. This window envelope was posted in the first week of the new rate, but prepaid at the old rate. Thus it was charged 1d, ie double the ½d deficiency. It seems possible that the receiving office handled many similar items immediately following the rate change and temporarily ran out of 1d postage due adhesives, so used ordinary postage stamps instead.







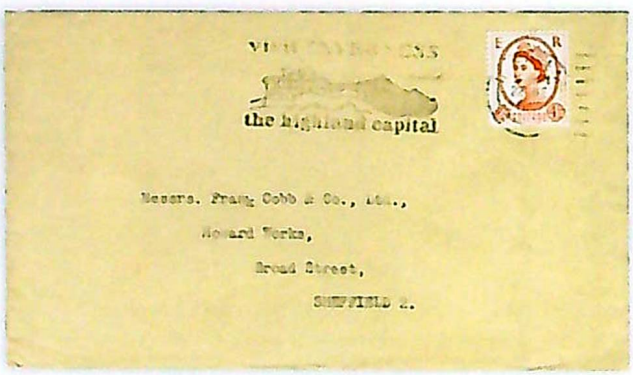
An unusual item from the Post Office Training School demonstrating the use of the 2½d value



First day of 3d letter rate. From 1 October 1957 until 16 May 1965 an inland letter up to 1oz cost 3d



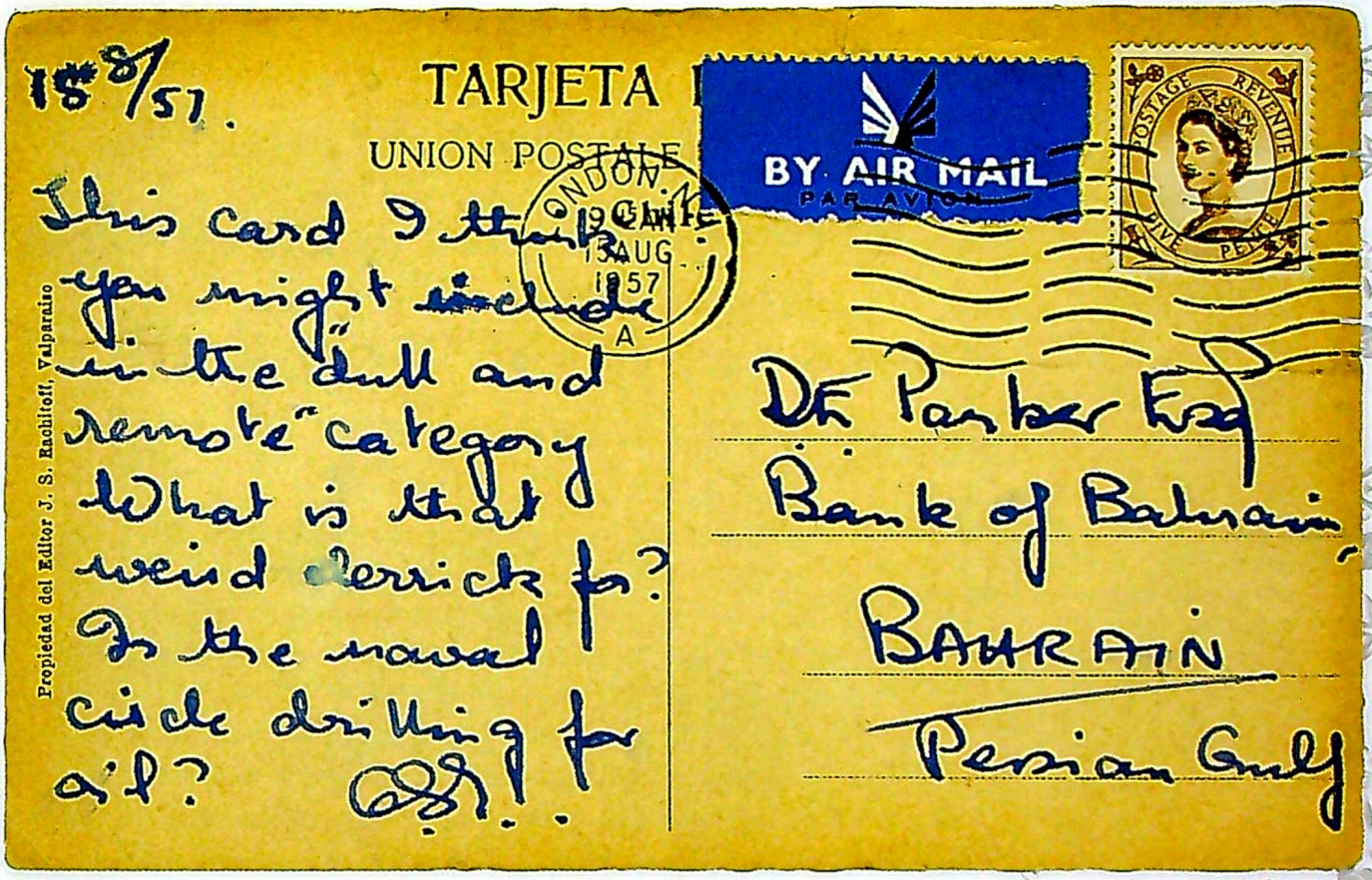
The 'all-up' letter rate to Europe from 1 October 1950 to 30 September 1957 was 4d for the first ounce. There was no distinction made between air and surface mail



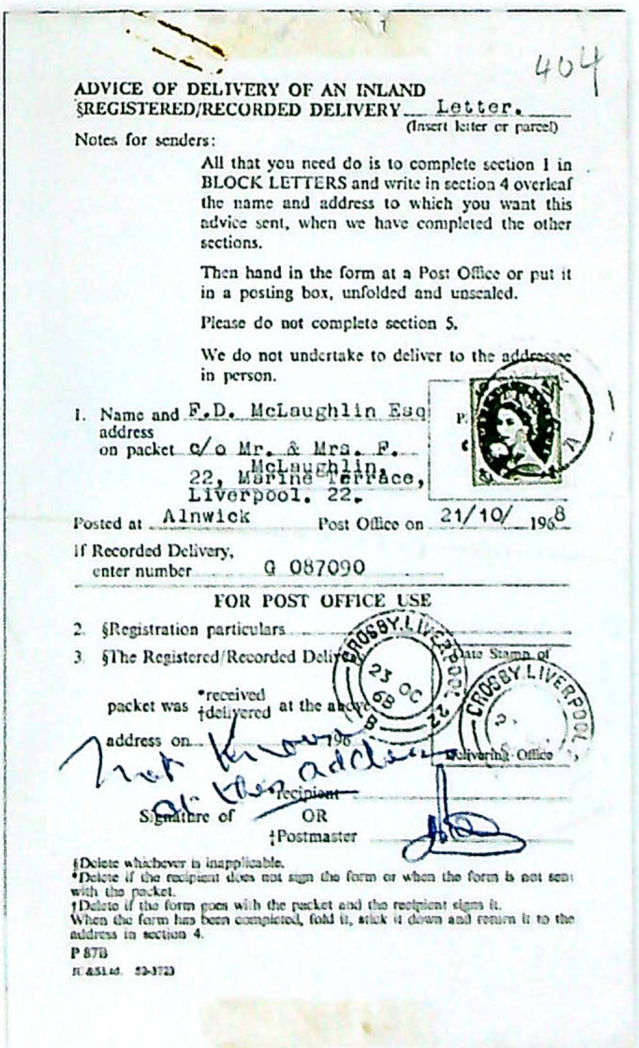
There was no basic single rate that required a 4½d stamp. The inland letter rate from 1 October 1957 to 16 May 1965 was 3d for 1oz + 1½d for the next 1oz = 4½d for a 2oz letter

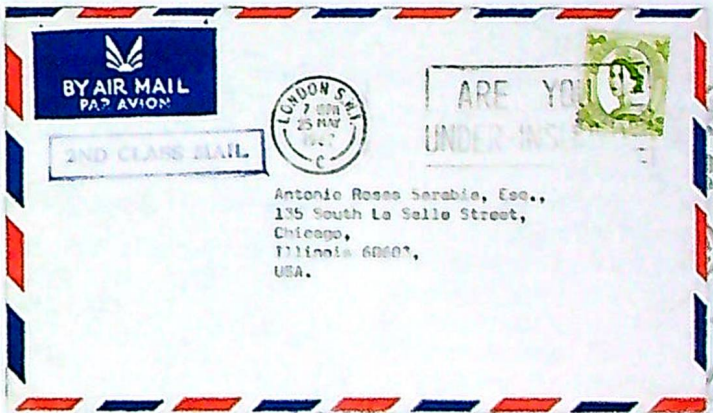


Soon after the issue of the dark 2d value on 31 August 1953, complaints were received over the difficulty of reading signatures written across it for fiscal purposes. It was decided to produce the 2d stamps in a paler shade from 17 October 1956. This piece clearly shows the difficulties in reading manuscript ink on the dark stamps, and also demonstrates that all of these issues were used for both postal and revenue purposes



Above: 5d Zone A air mail postcard rate from 1 May 1952 to 2 October 1966



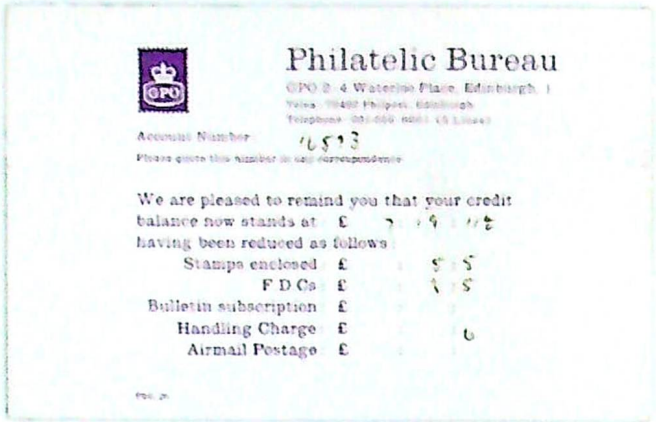


Above: from 3 October 1966 to 14 February 1971 the Zone B second-class air mail rate was 7d per half-ounce

Left: an unusual use for a 9d adhesive paying the fee for obtaining an Advice of Delivery. This service cost 9d from 3 October 1966 to 14 February 1971

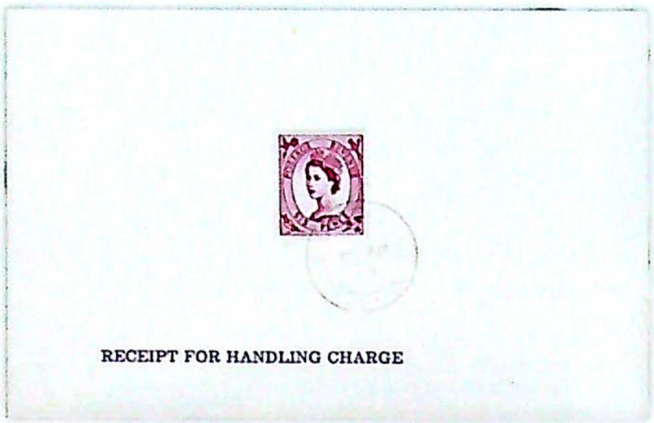


Above: between 3 October 1966 and 14 February 1971 the Zone C second-class air mail rate was 8d per half-ounce

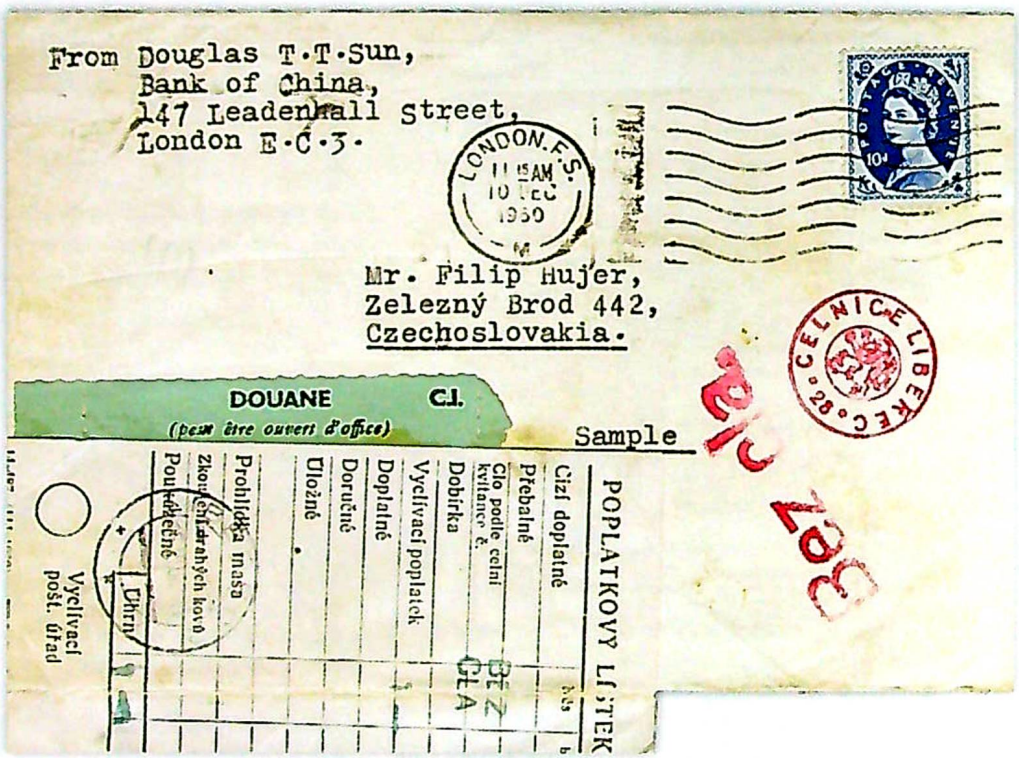




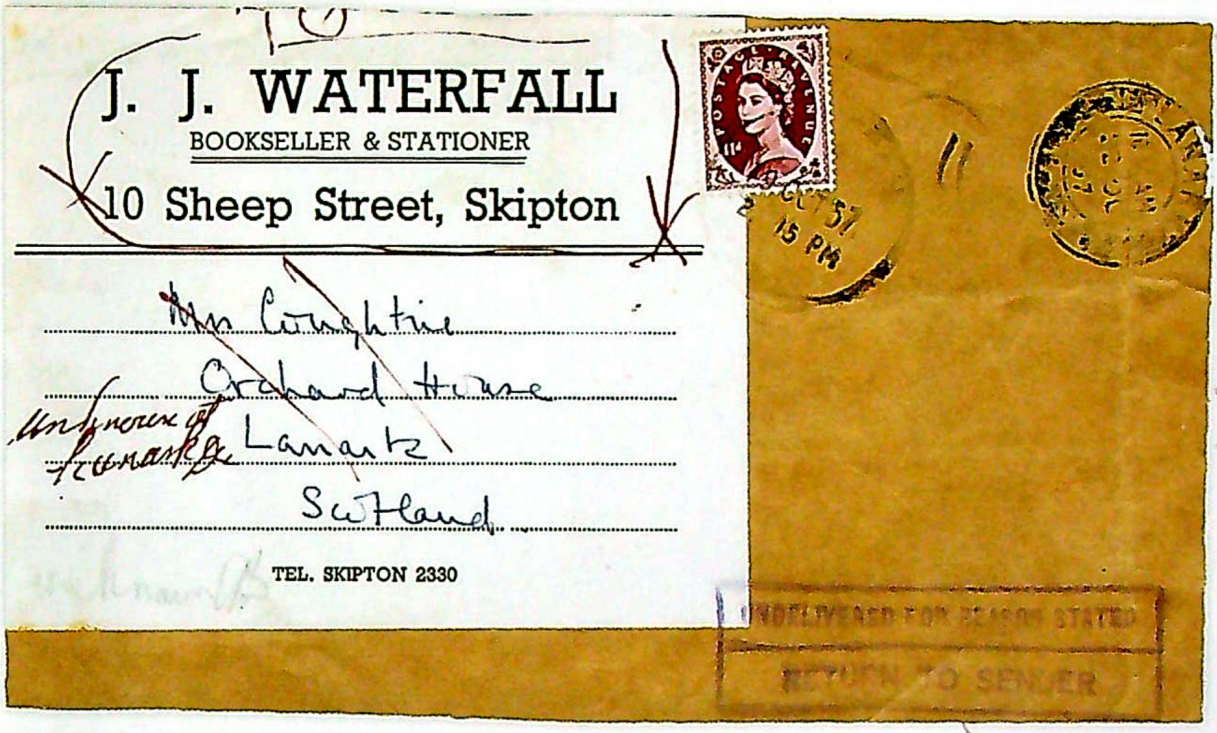
The air mail Zone B rate from 1 May 1952 to 2 October 1966 was 1s 3d for the first half-ounce



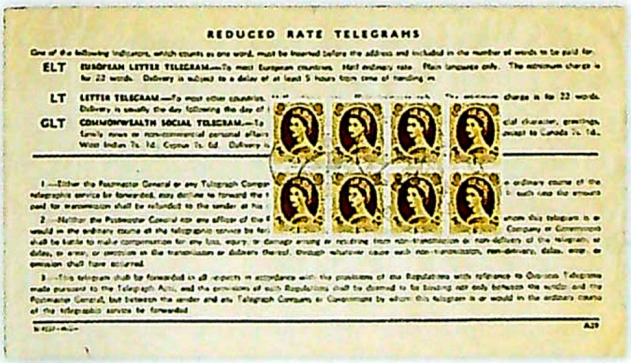
Above: the Philatelic Bureau used to charge a handling fee on all orders. A receipt was always provided with a postage and revenue stamp – 6d on this example from 1969



Right: small packet with a green customs label. The minimum charge for a small packet from 1 October 1957 to 30 June 1963 was 10d



Above: undoubtedly the most difficult denomination to find singly used on a non-philatelic cover is the 11d. Inland printed papers weighing between 16oz and 18oz posted between 1 October 1957 and 30 September 1961 would require a payment of 11d



Rather than showing a postal single use of a 1s value, this denomination is represented by a telegram form. The fee of 8s could have been paid in many combinations – but eight 1s stamps was the quickest way for the clerk as it meant going to only one page of the counter book



Between 1 May 1952 and 2 October 1966 the Zone C air mail rate was 1s 6d per half-ounce

Air mail zones Several of the captions include references to 'Zones'. In the period under consideration, there were three. A simple interpretation is: Zone A for Europe and the Middle East; Zone B for the Americas and Africa; and Zone C for Australasia.

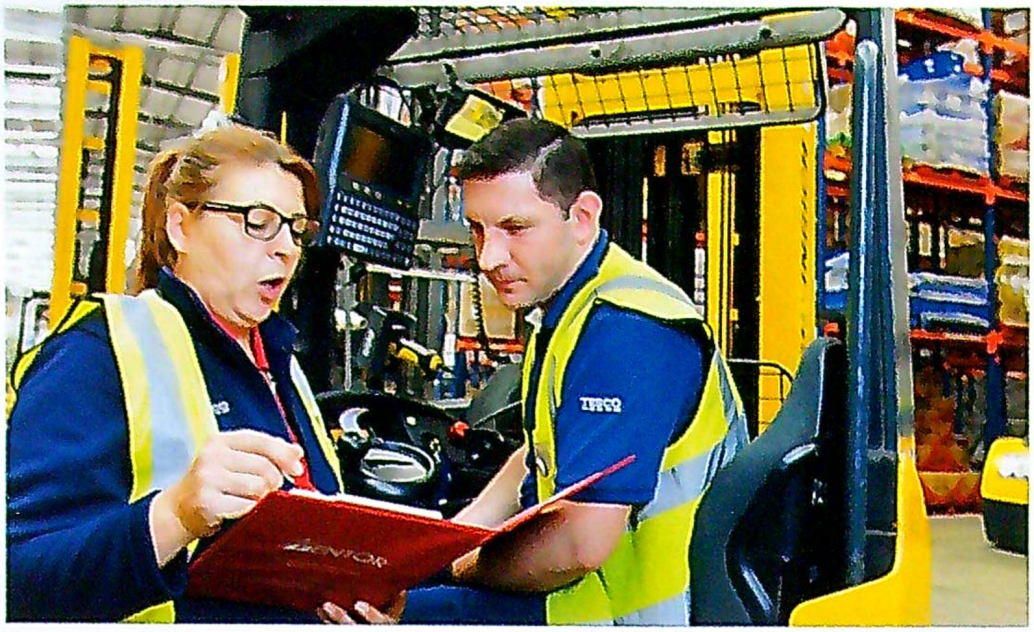


Inspiring Wildings This is the final article in my series on the Wilding low-value definitive issues of Great Britain. I hope that readers will have found the series both interesting and informative, and perhaps be inspired to collect this relatively modern area of GB philately •

Acknowledgements: my thanks to Maurice Buxton for kindly proof-reading this article.

For a comprehensive listing of UK postage rates, see www.gbps.org.uk – the website of the Great Britain Philatelic Society.

Wilding portraits used on Commonwealth stamps were featured in the British Philatelic Bulletin Vol 28, p252 – email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com to request a PDF.



Working for justice A new Royal Mail sheet celebrates the 150th anniversary of the TUC and its battle to protect working people

The struggle to defend workers' rights is honoured in the Trades Union Congress 150 Years Commemorative Sheet out next month. Comprising ten Seal pictorial definitive stamps with labels, the Sheet explores the history of the TUC since its inaugural meeting at the Manchester Mechanics' Institute in 1868.

It focuses on major events in the British labour movement's campaign to improve pay and conditions, including the Tolpuddle Martyrs' deportation in 1834, the London dock strike of 1889, the introduction of paid holidays, the 1968 Ford car plant strikes for equal pay and the Grunwick dispute over mistreatment by management in 1976.

Above: one of the ten labels, representing the work of trade unions in training members to maintain standards of health and safety

The Trades Union Congress 150 Years Commemorative Sheet, created by hat-trick design, is released on 1 June. It is priced at £15.95 and can be purchased at www.royalmail.com/stamps •

Trades Union Congress 150 Years Commemorative Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	1 June
Number of stamps	10 x 1st Class Pictorial Definitives
Design	hat-trick design
Sheet format	A4
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Acknowledgements: all imagery supplied courtesy of and © TUC Library, part of the Special Collections at London Metropolitan University (including the Ford machinists photo by Pat Mantle, the 'Britain Needs a Pay Rise' photo by Jess Hurd/reportdigital.co.uk, the TUC Education photo by Mark Thompson and the Halewood car factory photo by David J Colbran), with the following exceptions: (stamp sheet) detail of Tolpuddle Martyrs plaque © Rohan Van Twest/Alamy Stock Photo, dock workers' strike © Hulton Archive/Getty Images, workers' holiday © Kurt Hutton/Picture Post/Getty Images, founding of NHS © Popperfoto/Getty Images, background image of a trade union march in Manchester, 1874 © Chronicle/Alamy Stock Photo; (backing card) John Burns addressing London dockers © Artokoloro Quint Lox Limited/Alamy Stock Photo, General Strike support in Crewe © Hulton-Deutsch Collection/CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images, Bernard Meadows' Congress House sculpture © Neil Setchfield/Alamy Stock Photo

TUC 150 YEARS
Changing the world of work for good

Royal Mail

TRADES UNION CONGRESS
150 YEARS

DEVELOPI

▲ Demonstrators in Copenhagen Fields, London, protested against the transportation sentences imposed on the Tolpuddle Martyrs, April 1834

Convened by the Manchester and Salford Trades Council, the TUC's first Congress took place from 2 to 6 June 1868 in Manchester and was attended by 34 delegates representing over 118,000 trade union members. Many topics were discussed over the five-day gathering, including the regulation of working hours and the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Trades Unions (1867).

After the extension of the franchise in 1867, which benefited better-paid male workers, the TUC took on some of the functions of a parliamentary pressure group. Thus, the TUC's Parliamentary Committee was formed in 1871.

▼ A circular letter from representatives of the Manchester and Salford Trades Council invited union members to attend the first Congress

PROPOSED CONGRESS OF TRADES COUNCILS
—
Federation of Trades Societies.

SOLIDARITY AND SECURITY

Following the end of the First World War, those in staple industries, such as coal mining, found themselves faced with the threat of lower wages and longer hours. Various mining, railway and transport unions were galvanised into action, and with the support of the TUC this led to the General Strike in May 1926 in which an estimated 1.7 million working people – miners, railwaymen, iron and steel workers, transport workers, engineers, shipyard workers and printers – went on strike for nine days in opposition to worsening conditions proposed by employers.

Though ultimately unsuccessful, as the TUC brought it to an end without reaching agreement with the Government, the General Strike was a powerful display of working class solidarity.

▲ Workers in Chinese attire show their solidarity during the General Strike, 10 May 1926

TRADES UNION CONGRESS
150 YEARS

TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS
In 1834, six Dorset workers known as the 'Tolpuddle Martyrs' were sentenced to deportation to Australia for forming a trade union. They were later pardoned.

LONDON MATCH WOMEN
In 1888, women from the Bryant & May match factory in east London went on strike in protest at the poor working conditions. Their demands were met three weeks later.

DOCK WORKERS' STRIKE
The success of the London Dock Strike (1889), which involved 100,000 dockers, would strengthen the union movement among dockers and many other workers.

ORDER OF INDUSTRIAL HEROISM
The Order of Industrial Heroism was instituted in 1923 by the *Daily Herald*, a TUC-owned newspaper, to honour people who had saved civilians' lives.

PAID HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS
The TUC had long lobbied for workers' paid holidays. In 1938, the Holidays with Pay Act recommended the gradual introduction of an annual week-long holiday.



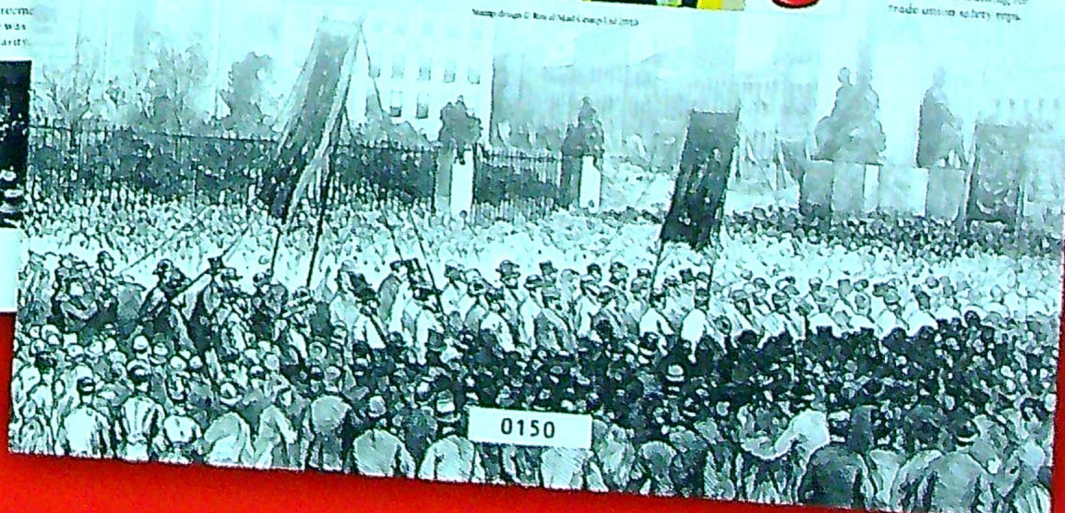
SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT
During the Second World War, the TUC and affiliated unions raised money for 50 mobile canteens to serve British forces abroad or in isolated locations at home.

FOUNDING OF THE NHS
The TUC was described as 'the Godfathers of the Beveridge Report', which set out a social legislation programme that led to the founding of the NHS.

EQUAL PAY CAMPAIGNING
In 1968, strikes by women sewing machinists at two Ford car plants led to the lower 'women's rate' of pay being abolished and inspired similar protests.

GRUNWICK INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE
Asian and black women workers at a film processing laboratory began a two-year protest against managerial mistreatment in 1976 and received wide support.

HEALTH AND SAFETY
To ensure that workers are protected in the workplace, the TUC and unions strive to provide high-calibre resources and training for trade union safety reps.



Results of 2017 readers' poll

Last December we asked you to take part in our 32nd annual stamp poll by choosing your favourite single stamp and – back by popular demand – also voting for your favourite stamp set of 2017. Counting the votes is something we look forward to every year, although this year it wasn't qute as much fun without John Holman to help.

And the winner is... Your votes left no doubt as to the outstanding Royal Mail 'Special Stamp star' of the year: the First World War 1917 Shattered Poppy is the clear favourite. Then comes a very close battle for the next five places: the charming Wren from the Songbirds set is in second place, followed by The Round Tower of Windsor Castle, a poignant Honeymoon stamp from the Royal Wedding Platinum Anniversary set; and the striking £5 Machin marking the 65th Anniversary of the Accession of The Queen (all shown below).

It was no surprise that popular music fans seemed

TOP TEN FAVOURITE STAMPS 2017

	Scores
First World War 1917 Shattered Poppy	1st 255
Songbirds, Wren	2nd 160
Windsor Castle, The Round Tower	3rd 137
Royal Wedding Platinum Anniversary, Honeymoon 23 November 1947	4th 129
£5 Machin 65th Anniversary of the Accession of The Queen	5th 128
Windsor Castle, The Long Walk	6th 116
Alladin Sane, David Bowie	7th 77
St George's Chapel, Quire, Windsor Castle Miniature Sheet	8th 56
Songbirds, Yellowhammer	9th 53
Racehorse Legends, Red Rum	10th 45





Honeymoon, 23 November 1947











Some of the winning Special Stamps and Stamp Sets chosen by readers in the Bulletin 2017 Favourite Stamp Poll

more likley to vote online; the Aladdin Sane, David Bowie stamp came a strong second favourite to the Shattered Poppy among online voters but was markedly less popular among postal voters.

Favourite sets You show a clear preference, year after year, for wildlife, royal topics and a spirit of place in the UK. True to this tradition, as soon as your votes started to come in for 2017, three sets on these themes leaped ahead of the pack. At the final count, Windsor Castle sits firmly in first position, with the charming Songbirds just pipping Windmills & Watermills into second place.

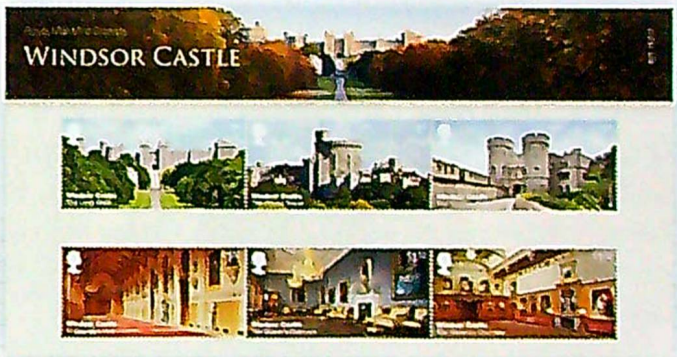
Results The tables on these pages show combined results for votes received by mail and online. Voters' first choices are allocated three points, second choices are allocated two points and third choices one point. Just over 500 voters took part in the *Bulletin 2017 Favourite Stamp Poll*. Thank you! •

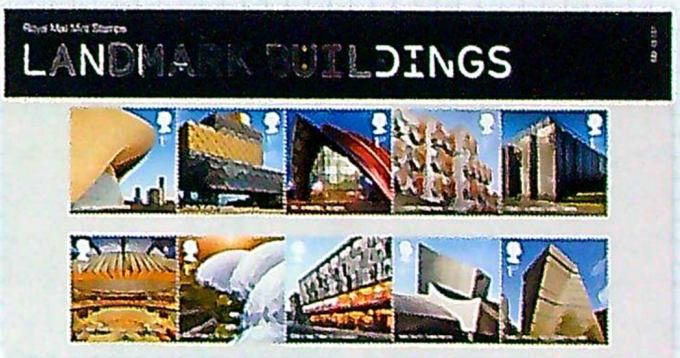
TOP TEN FAVOURITE STAMPS SETS 2017

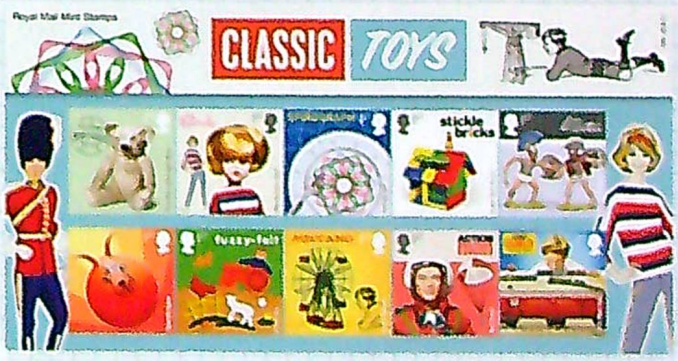
	Scores
Windsor Castle	1st 446
Songbirds	2nd 397
Windmills and Watermills	3rd 373
First World War 1917	4th 182
Landmark Buildings	5th 179
Royal Weddng Platinum Anniversary	6th 168
Classic Toys	7th 139
Ladybird Books	8th 59
Post & Go Machin Anniversary	9th 58
Ancient Britain	10th 57











Two lucky voters were drawn at random to win a copy of the 2017 Royal Mail Yearbook, a fascinating read accompanied by 142 mint stamps

UK Bulletin
Young collector

ARMY STAMPS GO ON PARADE

Have you ever watched that brilliant old comedy show *Dad's Army*, about the potty but plucky pensioners of the Home Guard who defended Britain against Hitler in the Second World War?

Well, there is a brilliant set (stamp set, not TV set!) coming out next month showing all the favourite *Dad's Army* characters, such as stuffy Captain Mainwaring, batty Lance Corporal Jones and dapper Sergeant Wilson (see preview, page 262).

And watch out for Stamp Active's 'Britain at War' theme for its Kids Zone activities at Autumn Stampex in September. This coincides with the release of the last of Royal Mail's five stamp issues commemorating the First World War.

Stamp Active school liaison officer Vivienne Kemp (pictured below) is arranging activities for school groups at the show. So tell your teachers or school stamp club leaders, and perhaps they will take you along! •







CHILD'S PLAY AT STAMPEX

Your youth philately scene is looking bright after Stamp Active's successful Kids Zone event at Spring Stampex, where Stamp Active, which promotes stamp collecting for young people, reports encouraging child attendances.

Activities included a prize draw to win a Penny Black, stamp art workshop where youngsters made pictures from stamps, and Stamp Active's popular auction for children. Prize winners included Zac Hayhurst, nine, from Reading, who scooped the Penny Black. And Holly Wan, 12, from Cheltenham, won a jar of stamps for guessing how many were in it.

At a Post & Go machine provided by Cartor Security Printing, children printed 'poster stamps' for free, and made them even more special with personalised messages. Find out more at: www.stampactive.co.uk •

HELP SAVE BUTTERFLIES!

If this month's Owls set and April's Reintroduced Species issue got you into nature, then you will love taking part in the Big Butterfly Count – it is quite literally the world's largest butterfly survey.



This annual survey checks the numbers of Britain's butterfly species and so helps scientists work out how to better protect these incredible creatures. The Count is in July and August but you can get ready right now! Visit www.bigbutterflycount.org for your colourful (and free) butterfly counting chart or download the Big Butterfly Count app onto your phone. You never know, you might spot a beautiful Large Blue Butterfly that appeared in the Reintroduced Species set... •

FANCY AN OWL INFO PACK?

Top random footie fact: Sheffield Wednesday are nicknamed the Owls as they first played near the old Owlerton Post Office! Talking of which, you can win an 'adopt an owl' kit in our quiz to mark the issue of the Owls set (page 286) •



Correspondence



Predecimal pound power

I read in the recent 'High on Castles' article in the *Bulletin* that the £1 stamp continued to be valid for postage after the other values in the set were declared invalid on 1 March 1972.

This is logical, of course, as a predecimal pound had the same monetary value as a decimal pound.

So this got me thinking as to whether these £1 stamps are technically still valid for postage. If not, when were the stamps declared invalid? And what about the validity of earlier predecimal pound stamps?

Harry Emambocus, Glasgow

Yes, a predecimal £1 stamp remains valid for use on post. But there is a potential problem with using earlier stamps on mail, because those without phosphor bands will be rejected by the postal system's processing equipment.

The Editor

In search of two sheets

In Volume 54 of the *Bulletin* at the top of page 263, two sheets are shown, with the left one headed 'The Genesis of the Machin'. Nowhere in the text can I find where these sheets come from. Are they the opened-out Presentation Pack folder or were they special artwork just for the Preview? Also, what size are they?

I would very much like to have a copy of these two sheets as part of my collection. Will you please answer my queries and let me know where I can get a copy of each from? Thank you.

Richard Camp, by email

You are correct with your guess that these were illustrations of both sides of the Machin Definitive 50th Anniversary Presentation Pack. It carries expert text and images telling the history of Machin stamps.



We are not allowed to publish images of unfranked stamps on our Preview pages, which by definition are published at least a month before the issue date; we can show only franked Royal Mail First Day Covers. So we often include images of Presentation Packs to give readers a fuller flavour of the design and inspiration behind a forthcoming issue.

I am sorry you could not obtain this information earlier, but you can still order this Presentation Pack from the address on page 288 (price: £4.02).

The Editor



Would you like the *Bulletin* online?

A couple of years ago we asked your opinion about receiving the *Bulletin* as an online file (as well as a paper version) and the response was underwhelming! But more readers now contact us by email, so we are asking again what you think about reading the magazine online. Send your views to: bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

Good to hear from you...

Please send letters by email to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com and by post to Tallents House (the address is on page 288). The senders of letters published will receive one of the latest Royal Mail Presentation Packs as a thank-you.



1



2



3



4



5



6

Night-fliers quiz

Are you a twit or t-woo clever by half? We bet you are the latter! Take our quiz based on owl-themed stamps and prove you are a high-flier. Winners will receive the Owls Presentation Pack and we will also adopt an owl in their name for a year

1 The Little Owl, shown on a stamp from Royal Mail's new Owls issue, is the symbol of which ancient city?
a Byzantium **b** Bolton
c Athens

2 The Short-eared Owl occurs on every continent in the world except one. Which is it?
a Africa **b** Asia
c Antarctic

3 This Owls issue stamp shows the very lovely Long-eared Owl. What type of woodland does it like to breed in?
a Pine forests
b Oak woods
c Coconut groves

4 The ten Owls Special Stamps show the adult and juvenile birds of five species. This stamp shows the juvenile owl of which species?
a Tawny Owl
b Barn Owl
c Little Owl

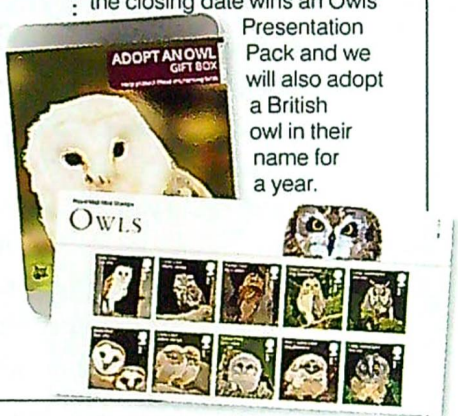
5 Owls and a Maltese cross appear on this logo of which British philatelic society?
a Leeds **b** Liverpool
c Lancaster

6 What location is used on this Owls issue alternative postmark?
a Owlswick, Buckinghamshire
b Hooton, Ellesmere Port
c Twitton, Kent

NAME THAT STAMP
From the detail of this Owls issue stamp shown below, identify the owl species.

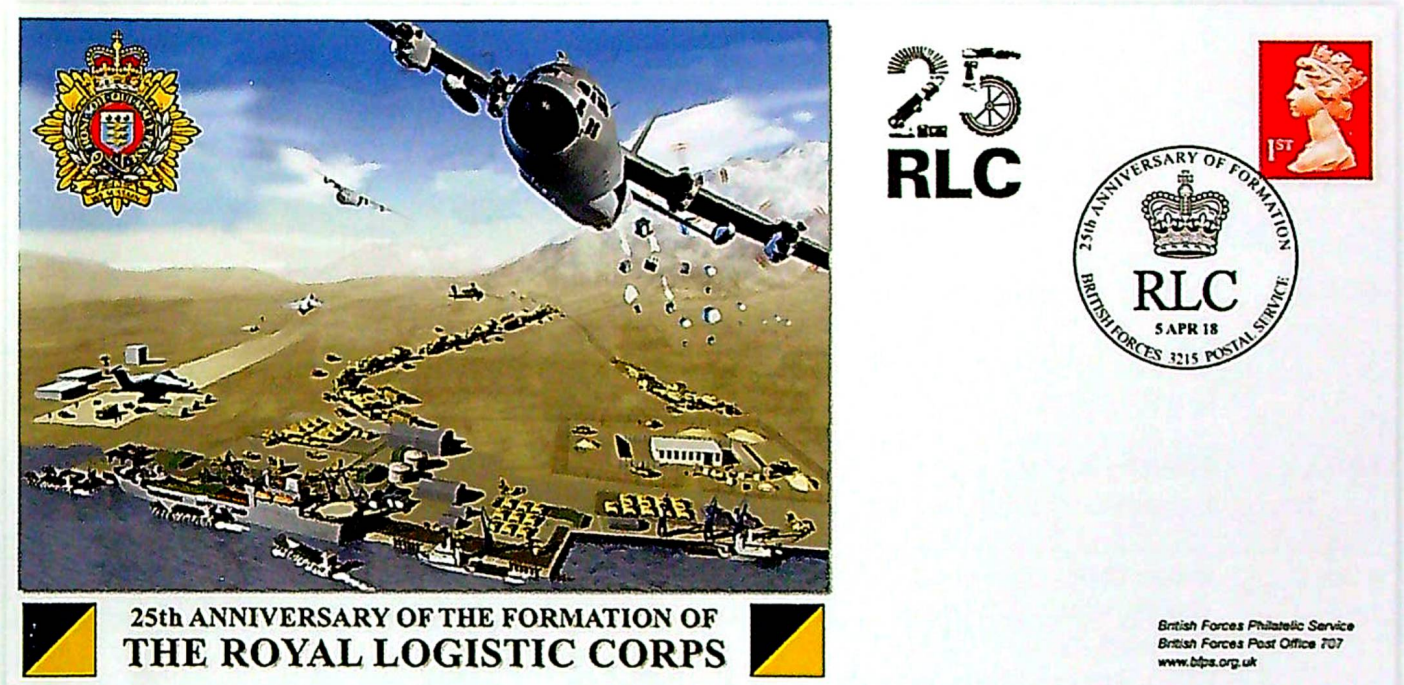


How to enter Send your answers, along with contact address or phone number, marked 'Bulletin Night-fliers Quiz' and/or 'May Name That Stamp', to Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH 12 9PB or by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.
Closing date 15 June 2018.
Prizes The first correct entry for each puzzle drawn after the closing date wins an Owls Presentation Pack and we will also adopt a British owl in their name for a year.



February solutions and winners *Naughty and Nice Quiz solution* 1a, 2b, 3c, 4a, 5c, 6b. *Winner* E Gilbert, Hertfordshire. *Name That Stamp solution* Game of Thrones, 2018. *Winner* A H Hammer, Oxfordshire.

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.



Fire support The Royal Logistic Corps cover pays handsome tribute to the team that supplies our soldiers with ammunition, rations and all the essential gear to ensure they are ready for action

This British Forces Philatelic Service cover marks the 25th anniversary of the Royal Logistic Corps – the unit that keeps the British Army well-supplied, well-fed and on the move. It was created in 1993 with the merging of five units: the Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Army Catering Corps and Postal and Courier Service.

From vehicle parts and tools to ammunition, rations and water, the Royal Logistic Corps backs up our troops by land, sea and air. The cover therefore features a picture of Corps supply operations by ship, plane and vehicle convoys, with a bespoke BFPS 3215 handstamp cancelling a Royal Mail First Class stamp. A '25' logo cleverly comprises symbols of the Corps' work, including bullets, tank transporter, vehicle wheel, cutlery, and envelope.

Three versions are available: an unsigned cover at £6, limited edition signed by the Corps Colonel, and limited edition signed by the Corps Regimental Sergeant Major. The limited editions cost £12. All versions contain an insert on the history of the Corps. Order at www.bfps.org.uk/shop or send a cheque payable to 'BFPS CIC' to the address on the right •

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The Old Post Office
Links Place
Elie
Leven
KY9 1AX
www.bfps.org.uk/shop

Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles issues and withdrawals

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



11 May **Issue** The RAF Centenary: Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class: 4 x Definitives, 2 x Red Arrows Special Stamps). Details: pages 164, 240.

15 May **Withdrawal** Votes for Women: Stamp Souvenir. Details: pages 136, 240.

1 June **Issue** 150th Anniversary of the Trades Union Congress: Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Smilers, Definitives Seal). Details: page 280.



5 June **Issue** Royal Academy: Special Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.25, 2 x £1.55 in three vertical se-tenant pairs), Stamp Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Postcards (set of 6), Framed Stamps (UK only), 4 x Limited Edition Framed Enlarged Stamp Print and Stamp – Barbara Rae, Fiona Rae, Grayson Perry, Yinka Shonibare (UK only). Details: pages 260, 304.



26 June **Issue** Dad's Army: Special Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.45, 2 x £1.55 in four horizontal se-tenant pairs), Stamp Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class – 4 Machin Definitives, 2 Special Stamps), Postcards (set of 8), Generic Sheet (10 x 1st Class Dad's Army Special Stamps, Captain Mainwaring and Lance Corporal Jones), Framed Stamps (UK only), Framed Generic Sheet (UK only). Details: page 262.

Order all philatelic items, including the stamp products listed above, at www.royalmail.com/stamps or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles 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 18BUL05, 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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