BRITISH PHILATELIC

# Bulletin

*The magazine for collectors of UK stamps*

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 5 | JANUARY 2016 | £1.95

Celebrating the Penny Red
• 500 years of Royal Mail •
Duke of Edinburgh's Award


Entering the Antarctic ice-December 1914


Endurance frozen in pack ice-January 1915


Striving to free Endurance-February 1915


Trapped in a pressure crack-October 1915

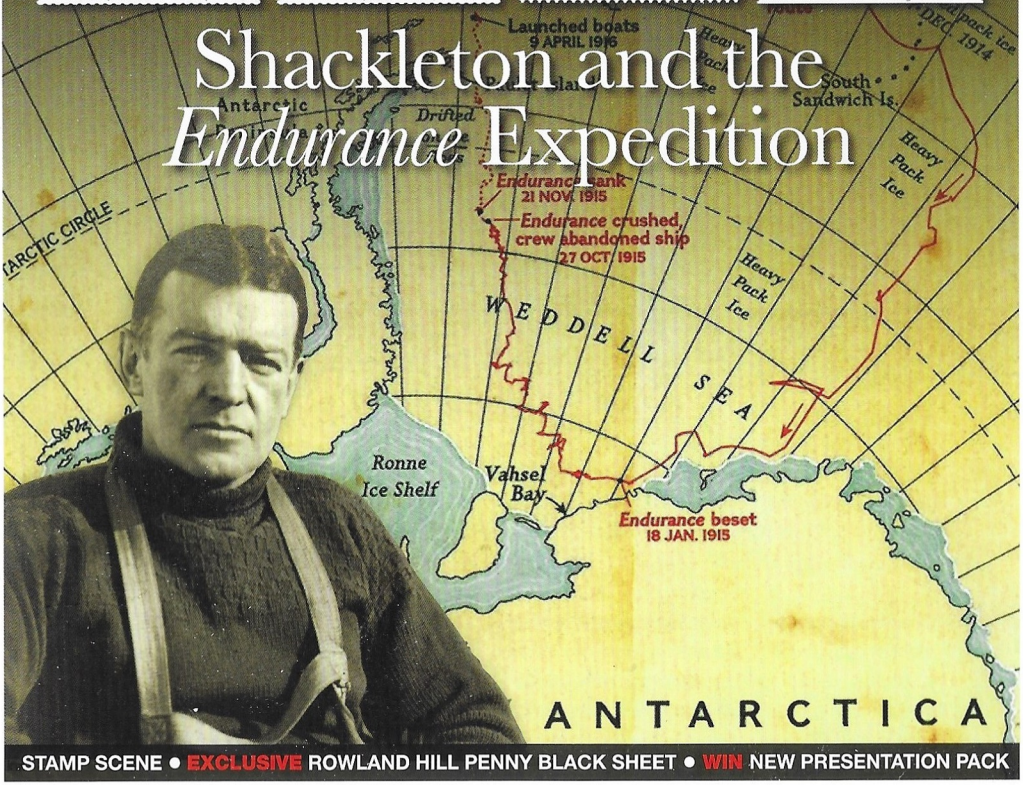

Patience Camp-December 1915–April 1916


Safe arrival at Elephant Island-April 1916


Setting out for South Georgia-April 1916


Rescue of Endurance crew-August 1916

# Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition




STAMP SCENE • EXCLUSIVE ROWLAND HILL PENNY BLACK SHEET • WIN NEW PRESENTATION PACK



# **Keeping you posted** A message to readers from Andrew Hammond, Managing Director of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles

YOU MIGHT EXPECT ME, working for Royal Mail, to say another fabulous philatelic year is just around the corner. But I can honestly say it is! 2016 is packed with goodies. History and adventure, nature and literature... so many extraordinary stories of our national life, land and people are colourfully covered by next year's stamp issues.

We begin 2016 with stamp tributes to some of Britain's greatest. Ernest Shackleton, surely one of our finest heroes, is remembered in the Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition set this month. On page 144 you can read more about Shackleton's selfless mission to save his men trapped on the Antarctic ice. Lesser-known heroes, who dedicated their lives to improving the lives of others, are lauded in the British Humanitarians issue out in March. The great Britons of literature figure prominently, too. April's Shakespeare stamps celebrate the powerful influence of The Bard in the 400th year since his death. Other distinguished writers receive their own issues – a Beatrix Potter set comes out in July, followed by Agatha Christie stamps in September.

Conflict and catastrophe wrought by history are poignantly captured in June's First World War 1916 set, recalling the events of a pivotal year in that epic, bloody struggle. And so to disaster – the Great Fire of London issue offers thought-provoking insight into the conflagration of 1666. The stamps are released on 2 September, the very date the first flames erupted into Pudding Lane 350 years ago.

On the entertainment front we have a limited-edition Pink Floyd maxi sheet for all you rockers out there. Nature lovers will be fascinated by the Ladybirds issue in September, and the Landscape Gardens set, released the month before, shows how we shape nature to beautify our surroundings.

Another important milestone, particularly close to my heart, is the 500th anniversary of the birth of the British postal service, following the appointment of the country's first Master of the Posts, Brian Tuke, in 1516. The Royal Mail 500 set reveals the extraordinary story of our mail service, with stunning First Day Covers, Miniature Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book and Post & Go stamps (see our Preview on page 132).

Last year we paid philatelic tribute to The Queen for becoming Britain's longest-serving monarch. This year we celebrate a further milestone – her 90th birthday – with an issue in April.

On a personal note, I am very pleased to see that the future looks bright for British Special Stamps as I am shortly leaving Royal Mail after five years as Managing Director of Stamps and Collectibles. It has been a real pleasure working somewhere where our customers are so passionate and knowledgeable. I hope you continue to enjoy our stamps for many years to come. Thank you for all your support and interest in the *Bulletin* and Royal Mail Special Stamps and my very best wishes for all your collecting endeavours.

Andrew Hammond




# Toast the post Celebrating five centuries of Royal Mail with a historic stamp set **132**

● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK and Europe; £17.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail 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 world ● 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. ● **Front page** Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition stamps; National Geographic Map, illustration Laszlo Kubinyi

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FD1602-PL




FD1604-PL

# **Royal Mail Update** The New Year will prove a great landmark for UK stamp collectors with this historic stamp issue that portrays key developments in our postal service over five fascinating centuries

**In 2016 Royal Mail celebrates 500 years** of operating a regular, organised mail service in the UK. This historic anniversary will be marked with a fascinating new stamp issue released on 17 February in tandem with stamp sheets commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Penny Red stamp, which are issued on the following day. Both issue dates appropriately coincide with the dates of Stampex, the key British stamp show held at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London every spring and autumn.

Entitled Royal Mail 500, the set of pictorial Special Stamps highlights significant elements in the story of how our postal network was established and expanded, ensuring the secure movement of mail to establish an efficient communications network across the nation.

Also in the issue are a Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards and Exhibition Presentation Pack. The Penny Red Generic Sheet, Smilers® Sheet and Prestige Stamp Book are previewed on page 136.




**Stamp by stamp** The six Royal Mail 500 pictorial stamps carry two values – three are First Class and three are £1.52.

*Sir Brian Tuke Master of the Posts* In this portrait by Hans Holbein the Younger, Tuke wears the chain of office as Master of the Posts. Tuke was appointed by Henry VIII to be responsible for royal messengers. *First Class*

*Packet Ship* This oil on canvas painting of a post boat, which is entitled *Mail Packet off Eastbourne*, is by Captain Victor Howes RN. *First Class*

*Penfold Pillar Box* In the background of this stamp image is an 1851 letter written by Anthony Trollope proposing pillar boxes in St Peter's Port, Guernsey. *First Class*

*River Post* This photograph shows a female postal worker carrying packages by rowing boat. *£1.52*

*Mail coach* In the background of the image is a letter written by John Palmer discussing the introduction of mail coaches in Portsmouth. The first mail coach run in the country took place in 1784. *£1.52*

*Medway Mail Centre* The recently opened £70 million mail centre replaced four sites in Kent. *£1.52*

**Accompanying the issue** is a Presentation Pack charting postal service history. It covers the opening of the service to the public by Charles I, Penny Post, mail coaches, pillar boxes, women postal workers and much more.











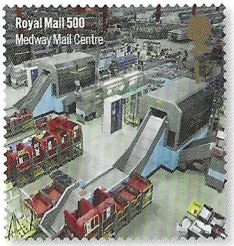


FD1605-PL










Above: the pictorial alternative postmark designated only for Prestige Special Stamp Panes

Left: the historic Royal Mail 500 Special Stamp issue

Below: the Royal Mail 500 First Day Cover with the pictorial alternative mark

**Orders for Serviced First Day Covers** for Royal Mail 500 stamps should reach Royal Mail by 17 February. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 160, quoting media code CDL) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark.

Two alternative postmarks show the code London WC1, the location of the BPMA. The pictorial alternative mark has a quote from Sir Brian Tuke explaining ▶




| Royal Mail 500 Stamps – Prices | |
|---|---|
| Stamp set | £6.45 |
| Presentation Pack | £10.90 |
| First Day Cover Stamps | £8.22 |
| Prestige Stamp Book FDC | £6.53 |
| Prestige Stamp Book | £16.36 |
| Stamp Cards (11 in set) | £4.95 |

| Royal Mail 500 Stamps – Specifications | |
|---|---|
| Date of issue | 17 February |
| Number of stamps | Six |
| Design | Atelier Works |
| Stamp format | Over-square portrait |
| Stamp size | 35mm x 37mm |
| Printer | International Security Printers |
| Print process | Lithography |
| Number per sheet | 25/50 |
| Perforations | 14.5 x 14 |
| Phosphor | Bars as appropriate |
| Gum | PVA |

*Acknowledgements: images, including letters and background images © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2016, courtesy of the British Postal Museum & Archive, except: portrait of Sir Brian Tuke by Hans Holbein the Younger © National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, USA/ Bridgeman Images; photograph of a River Post Woman by Horace Nicholls © IWM Q 30842; photograph of Medway Mail Centre © Peter Macdiarmid/Staff/Getty Images. King Henry VIII image by an unknown artist, c.1520 © National Portrait Gallery, London*

VIII's aims for the new postal system: '...The King's pleasure is, that posts be better appointed, and laid in all places most expedient'.

The four-stamp Classic GPO Posters Miniature Sheet features iconic designs from campaigns encouraging customers to use the postal service in ways that benefit them best. The set offers two values – two First Class stamps and two £1.33 values. All the posters are by leading graphic designers of their time.

Below: the Classic GPO Posters Miniature Sheet and the Carrier Card




*Quickest Way by Airmail* This poster is by Edward McKnight Kauffer (1890–1954). The American-born artist produced designs for London Underground, Shell, the Empire Marketing Board and the GPO. His highly influential work made use of new techniques such as airbrushing and photomontage to offer bold posters combining abstract, Cubist and Impressionist influences. *First Class Address Your Letters Plainly* Born in Berlin, Hans Schleger (1898–1976), who went by the pseudonym Zero, pioneered the use of graphic design to promote 'corporate identity', producing work for the GPO, as well as Shell, BP and London Transport.




Stamp images © Royal Mail Group




Left: the four Miniature Sheet stamps showing some classic and colourful poster designs

Below: the Miniature Sheet First Day Cover and Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover with alternative handstamp showing five concentric rings around a solid centre, as used for the 'Rainbow Trials' from which the Penny Red evolved

for the GPO, as well as Shell, BP and London Transport. Moving to England in 1932 to escape the Nazi regime, he was at the forefront of European émigré modernists and was known for his witty designs. *First Class*

*Pack Your Parcels Carefully* Hans Unger (1915–1975), who produced this poster, was a Jewish émigré artist who had moved from Berlin to South Africa in 1936 and then to London in 1948. He designed posters for several organisations, including the GPO, London Transport and various travel firms. In addition to designing charming and amusing posters, he completed numerous stained glass and mosaic commissions. *£1.33*

*Stamps in Books Save Time* Born in Manchester, Harry Stevens (1919–2008) had no formal artistic training but from the early 1950s became a prolific and versatile poster artist, producing eye-catching, colourful and charming designs for the GPO, London Transport and British Railways. In the mid-1960s, he became a Fellow of the Society of Industrial Artists. *£1.33*

A gummed Miniature Sheet in a limited edition of 7,500 and a Miniature Sheet Stamp Card in a limited edition of 3,000, both with Stampex overprint, are available only at Spring Stampex. The Miniature Sheet Carrier Card explains ▸







| Royal Mail 500 Miniature Sheet – Prices | |
|---|---|
| Stamp set | £3.92 |
| Presentation Pack | £8.90 |
| First Day Cover Stamps | £5.18 |
| Prestige Stamp Book FDC | £3.87 |
| Prestige Stamp Book | £14.60 |
| Stamp Cards (8 in set) | £3.60 |

| Royal Mail 500 Miniature Sheet – Specifications | |
|---|---|
| Date of issue | 17 February |
| Number of stamps | Four |
| Design | Purpose |
| Stamp format | Portrait |
| Stamp size | 27mm x 37mm |
| Printer | International Security Printers |
| Print process | Lithography |
| Number per sheet | 30/60 |
| Perforations | 14 x 14 |
| Phosphor | Bars as appropriate |
| Gum | PVA |

*Acknowledgements: all poster images © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2016, courtesy of the British Postal Museum & Archive, including stamp images: Quickest Way by Air Mail by Edward McKnight Kauffer, 1935; Address Your Letters Plainly by Hans Schleger, 1942; Stamps in Books Save Time by Harry Stevens, 1960; Pack Your Parcels Carefully by Hans Unger, 1950; GPO logo is a registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd.*




explains the influence of Stephen Tallents, who was appointed the Public Relations Officer for the GPO in 1933. He set out a programme of change for how the company would communicate with the public in the future. Tallents commissioned many of the period's most exciting graphic designers, and the GPO became a leader in poster design.

The Prestige Stamp Book comes out on 18 February – the second day of Stampex. Pane 1 quotes Brian Tuke's explanation of Henry VIII's aims for a better mail service. The stamps are Sir Brian Tuke Master of the Posts, River Post and Penfold Pillar Box. Pane 2 shows the original master die for the Penny Black stamps in 1840. It is surrounded by three Penny Black, three Penny Blue and three Penny Red First Class stamps. The pane also features a letter by MP Robert Wallace congratulating Rowland Hill on his postal reforms.

Pane 3 has a quote from Stephen Tallents and the Miniature Sheet stamps. Pane 4 has the remaining Royal Mail 500 stamps and a Tony Benn quote on the purpose of specialstamps. The PSB First Day Cover's Tallents House handstamp quotes Rowland Hill. The alternative mark shows the circular cancellation – five concentric rings around a solid centre – for the 'Rainbow Trials',

Above: Penny Red Stamp Book

Below: Penny Red Generic Sheet






The Royal Mail 500 Prestige Stamp Book has four panes which include Royal Mail 500 pictorial stamps and Miniature Sheet stamps, and stamps marking the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black, Two Pence Blue and Penny Red

**Penny Red Sheets** The 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red is marked with a handsome new Generic Sheet and Smilers® Sheet, out on 18 February. The Generic Sheet features 20 First Class Penny Red stamps (shown left), while the Penny Red Smilers® come as a Sheet of 20 First Class Penny Red stamps or a Half Sheet of ten, with blank labels for personalisation. Both sheets have images of original tries from the Rainbow Trials as a background.

Also out the same day is a 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red Retail Stamp Book ●

**To travel through 500 years of Royal Mail history, visit the interactive timeline at www.royalmailheritage.com**




# **Transport of delight** New Post & Go's reveal how vehicle technology made the post move faster

**A moving story** Half a millennium of moving the mail is explored in next month's Royal Mail Heritage: Transport Post & Go set. The issue, released on 17 February, maps the development of carrying our post, from delivering on foot and by mail coaches to planes, trains and automobiles.

**Stamp by stamp** The six-stamp issue was created by Howard Brown, one of Britain's leading stamp designers, and is printed in gravure.

POST BOY 1640s Post boys carried messages between relay points some 20 miles apart, the distance a horse could travel at speed before being replaced. Post boys kept to time and carried a horn to warn of their approach.

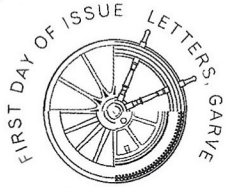
MAIL COACH 1790s The first coach ran between Bristol and London on 2 August 1784. The only postal employee on board was an armed mail guard.

FALMOUTH PACKET SHIP 1820s Early packet ships were built for speed rather than security and were vulnerable to rough seas and pirates. Falmouth became an important port for ships sailing to the West Indies and the Mediterranean.

TRAVELLING POST OFFICE 1890s The first purpose-built Travelling Post Office, in which mail was sorted en route, ran on 20 January 1838. Many of the trains exchanged mail pouches without stopping via trackside bag exchange apparatus. The last exchange took place in 1971.

AIRMAIL 1930s The world's first scheduled airmail service was launched on 9 September 1911. The use of planes for long-distance transport of mail increased significantly during the 1920s and 1930s. The aircraft shown on the stamp, HP 45 G-AAXE Hengist, first flew on 8 December 1931.

ROYAL MAIL MINIVAN 1970s Minivans were bought in large numbers in the 1970s after the demise of the Morris Minor. They were ideal for smaller




FD1603-PL




FD1603-NP

Above: alternative pictorial and non-pictorial postmarks for the First Day Cover of the six new Post & Go stamps







Clockwise from left: the Tallents House First Day Cover, Tallents House postmark and the illustrated Carrier Card

delivery duties in towns but limited ground clearance made them less suitable for rural operations.

**Orders for Serviced First Day Covers**, as shown above, should reach Royal Mail by 17 February. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 160), quoting media code CDL, for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. The two alternative postmarks have the location Letters, Garve. The pictorial alternative version features a wheel design to represent different types of mail transport ●

| Royal Mail Heritage: Transport – Prices | |
|---|---|
| Stamp Set and Carrier Card | £3.78 |
| First Day Cover | £5.02 |
| First Day Envelope | 30p |

| Royal Mail Heritage: Transport – Specifications | |
|---|---|
| Date of issue | 17 February |
| Number of stamps | Six |
| Stamp design | Howard Brown |
| Stamp illustration | Andrew Davidson |
| Stamp format | Landscape |
| Stamp size | 56mm x 25mm |
| Printer | International Security Printers |
| Print process | Gravure |
| Perforations | Die-cut simulated |
| Phosphor | Bars as appropriate |
| Gum | Self-adhesive |





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

## UK diary dates

**5 January** Scarborough Philatelic Society welcomes visitors and new members at The Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough YO11 2NN, 7pm. Details: Chris Phillips 01723 368475, chris@philatelic.org.uk.

**8 January** Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Details: Kate Puleston 020 8946 4489.

**9 January** – Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, Telford TF1 1LU, 10am to 3pm. Free entry, good range of stalls. Details: Bob Hemmings 01694 720192.




**15-16 January** – York Stamp & Coin Fair at the Grandstand, York Racecourse (right), YO23 1EX. Friday 11am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Admission free. Details: Kate Puleston 020 8946 4489, www.stampshows.net

**30 January** GB Philatelic Society meeting (Royalty and the Mails at Windsor by Phillip Lindley 11am, Society competitions 2.15pm) at Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Details: Peter Tanner 01753 887755

**12 February** Strand Stamp Fair. As 8 January, see above.

**13 February** National Philatelic Society display 'Overseas for a Halfpenny 1879-1949' by Peter Mellor. The Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, 2.45pm (members auction 12.45pm). Details: P Mellor, 01582 762284, www.philately.org.uk/nps

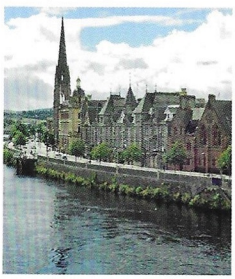
**17-20 February** Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1. Details: 01342 830225, info@thepts.net.

**20 February** GB Philatelic Society meeting at Spring Stampex, 2.15pm. Display Spoon Cancellations of GB & Ireland by Graham Booth ●

## 2016 Exhibitions



Spring Stampex, at the Business Design Centre (left), Upper Street, London N1, 17-20 February, will include a the National Competitions of all FIP classes plus cinderellas and picture postcards. In addition there will be the Seven Nations Challenge – an invited competitive exhibition comprising four entries, in different classes, from each of Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, UK, and USA. There will be some 100 trade stands including Royal Mail with its usual sales stand and Post & Go area. New special and Post & Go stamps will be issued during the exhibition (see Preview page 138). Stampex enquiries: 01342 830225, or email info@thepts.net.



The Southern England Stamp Show, billed as the biggest and best two-day stamp show in southern England, will be held at the Farnborough Leisure Centre, Westmead, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7LD on 11-12 March. Open Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4p. Free admission, programme, and raffle tickets. Extensive parking nearby. The Show, formerly the Sailsbury Stamp Show, will include nearly 60 dealers covering most aspects of philately. See www.southernenglandstampshow.com for further information.

The Scottish Philatelic Congress will be held at Dewars Centre in Perth (left) on 15 and 16 April, organised by the Caledonian Philatelic Society

which celebrates its 110th anniversary. The souvenir cover for the Congress will mark the 700th anniversary of the House of Stewart. Readers will recall Royal Mail stamps featuring the Stewart kings and queens, issued in March 2010.

This years' Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Belfry Hotel, Cambridge on 21 to 24 July.

Major international exhibitions will be held in 2016 in New York from 28 May to 4 June and in Tapei, Taiwan from 21 to 26 October ●

**British Postal Museum & Archive**

The BPMA, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open from Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on Saturday 12 December (10am to 5pm).

Visit the BPMA website for details of the 'Post Office in the Community' exhibition at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire. Some 25 exhibitions can be seen online, including Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes. A temporary exhibition 'Pop it in the Post: Your World at the End of the Street' is on show at Havering Museum, 19-21 High Street, Romford RM1 1JU.Contact the BPMA on 020 7239 2570, or email info@postalheritage.org.uk for a copy of the events guide.

Joining the Friends of the British Postal Museum and Archive is a very practical way of helping the Museum. Membership includes the well-produced Cross Post magazine and opportunities for behind the scenes visits to stamp printers and other interesting places. For details visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/friends, or write to: Friends of BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL for more details ●

**Stamp-related exhibitions**

In January 2015 Royal Mail issued stamps marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. An exhibition 'Alice In Wonderland', at the British Library in London until 17 April 2016, includes Carroll's original manuscript with hand-drawn illustrations. Visit www.bl.uk/alice-in-wonderland for further information.




Stamps marking The Queen becoming the UK's longest-reigning monarch were issued on 9 September 2015. Photographic displays entitled 'Long To Reign Over Us' are on show at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh and at Windsor Castle until 5 January and 28 January 2016 respectively. The displays, in inner quadrangles of the two residences, not normally on the visitor route, are included in the standard ticket prices.




On 7 January Royal Mail releases the Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition stamp issue, designed using photographs by Frank Hurley (see pages 102, 144 and 148). Hurley's photography is on show as part of a free exhbition – 'The Enduring Eye: The Antarctic Legacy of Sir Ernest Shackleton and Frank Hurley' – which runs until 28 February at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm; weekends 10am to 4pm. Find full details and an online version of the exhibition at www.rgs.org ●

**Postal history display at the Royal**

In his presentation to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 29 October, Malcolm Fenning examined the postal history of Scotland from 1591 to ▶

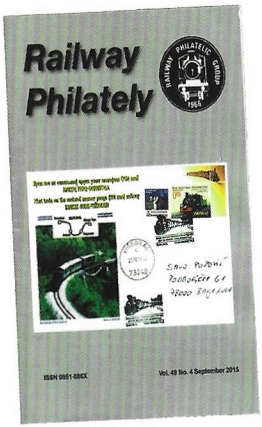


Malcolm Fenning and Royal Philatelic Society President Frank Walton

1711. The starting date was chosen as the earliest cover on display was sent in that year to London possibly from Kincardine. On 1 June 1711 the Post Office Act saw the abolition of the Scottish Post Office upon the creation of the General Post Office in London. Mr Fenning explained that Scottish postal history can be divided into three sections: privately carried letters; Burgh Posts, many towns having their own messengers; organised posts. He focused mainly on the development of the latter. King James VI of Scotland (James I of England) extended the post road between London and Berwick to Edinburgh, the King's Post being available to the public from 1635. During the 1660s the post roads in Scotland branched out to Glasgow, Ayr and Port Patrick, and to Aberdeen and Inverness.

Readers wishing to visit the Royal Philatelic Society London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or be a guest at one of its meetings, should contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044 ●

## Society News




The September 2015 issue of *Railway Philately*, journal of the Railway Philatelic Group (RPG), now edited by Keith Downing, includes aticles on parcel stamps of Dublin tramways by the late Francis Kiddle, Light Railway Review with details of recent railway letter stamps and covers from UK heritage railways, as well as Theme Scene recording railway related stamps from around the world, and a detailed account of the narrow-guage railways of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The RPG celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, having been founded by Roger A Kirk in 1966. The 2016 weekend convention will be held in Glasgow. The annual UK subscription is £16 which should be sent to Mrs P Peters, 81 Kirriemuir Ave, Glasgow G52 3DP. Details are to be found at www.railwayphilatelicgroup.co.uk




The October 2015 edition of the *British Postmark Society Journal*, edited by John Enfield, contains much useful information on Post & Go issues and postal labels as well as postmarks past and present. John Enfield writes about the new system for surcharged mail (from 5 October 2015), and on the handstamps issued to delivery offices to cancel unpostmarked stamps. Ken Smith provides his lengthy and essential listings of post offices openings, closures and relocations, and readers are warned about forged covers and cards bearing scarce cancellations. Roger Broomfield continues with his listing of FDCs bearing operational datestamps on the new decimal definitives of 15 February 1971 – on sale at those offices which remained open during the postal strike of January-March 1971. Some covers were carried by local services which continued during the strike, whereas others were seemingly cancelled by favour. Two pages report new Post & Go stamps and machines, with three reporting on Downstream Access mail indicia – now a common sight on advertising and other business mail. Changes to Horizon labels are reported in detail, as are recent ink-jet slogan postmarks. On older subjects, Cyril Parsons writes on 'phantom' paid machine marks and Grahame Blackman on cancels of Irthlingborough, Northants. Alan Finch records special event postmarks (special handstamps) used by Royal Mail from May to August 2015 and by Guernsey Post during 2014. For details of the British Postmark Society contact Duncan James, 26 Redhall Crescent, Edinburgh EH14 2HU or see www.britishpostmarksociety.org.uk ●

**Forthcoming auction**

Grosvenor will auction the Francis and Charles Kiddle collection of Cinderella and Revenue stamps on 24 February 2016. Enquiries: 020 7379 8789, email info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk, or visit www.grosvenorauctions.comw.cavendish-auctions.com.

An obituary of Francis Kiddle was published in last month's *Bulletin* ●

**New from the islands**

Isle of Man Post's colourful commemorative sheet, issued on 27 November, represents a historic milestone: the first time 27 mail administrations of the Commonwealth have partnered each other for a single postal project. The 50th Anniversary Commonwealth Secretariat Sheet marks 50 years of the organisation as well as the role of the Queen as head of the Commonwealth. The project was coordinated by Isle of Man Post Office, including the Sheet design, which features a stamp from each of the participating bureaux. The idea for the Sheet came from Maxine Cannon, General Manager of Isle of Man Stamps & Coins. She said: 'It's been a delight to work with our colleagues in all corners of the Commonwealth to bring the stamp sheet, the first of its kind in postal history, to life.' All orders will be sent from the Isle of Man.



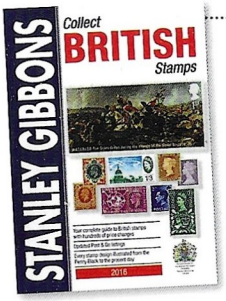

Jersey Post starts its 2016 programme with stamps for the Year of the Monkey on 5 January (right), followed by a set on RAF Search and Rescue on 6 February. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF. Website: www.jerseystamps.com.







Guernsey Post also celebrates the Year of the Monkey with a special stamp issue on 20 January. Next month the Endangered Species stamp, issued on 17 February, features the Phillipine Eagle. Enquiries: Guernsey Stamps, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 5SS, Great Britain. Website: www.guernsey stamps.com ●




**New catalogue**

The 2016 edition of Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps* is now available. It lists all British stamp issues from the Penny Black to the 2015 Christmas issue. Price £14.95. Order from Royal Mail Tallents House (address on page 160), Stanley Gibbons Strand shop, or by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SH ●

# Courage and Endurance

As this month's epic stamp issue honours the bravery of Sir Ernest Shackleton and the men of the *Endurance* expedition, we follow the Antarctic adventures of one of Britain's greatest heroes

Above: Shackleton's expedition ship *Endurance* in its death throes as pack ice slowly crushes it to pieces
The philatelic preview of Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition is on page 102

## TIMELINE: THE ENDURANCE ADVENTURE

**1914 8 August**
Ernest Shackleton and his 27 crew depart from Plymouth in Britain in their Norwegian-built expedition ship *Endurance*.

**5 November** The *Endurance* arrives at South Georgia island in the South Atlantic and after final preparations leaves on 5 December for the Antarctic.

**7 December** The ship enters the Antarctic pack ice for the first time, its strengthened bow slicing through the floes, and crosses the Antarctic Circle 23 days later.

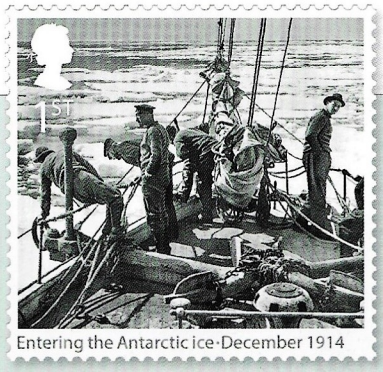



**1915 18 January**
Shackleton and his crew find that they are trapped in the pack ice and the stranded *Endurance* begins to drift southwards over the next month.

IT WAS A COURAGEOUS QUEST that ended in failure yet symbolised the triumph of the human spirit over disastrous adversity. Having been beaten to the South Pole by the Norwegian Amundsen the Anglo-Irish adventurer Sir Ernest Shackleton vowed to win Antarctic exploration glory for Britain.

His 1914 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition aimed to achieve this by making the first ever coast-to-coast crossing of Antarctica – 1,800 miles through one of planet earth's most dangerous environments. The objective was to traverse the continent from the Weddell Sea in the north to the Ross Sea in the south. The journey of discovery became a battle for survival after Shackleton's expedition ship was sunk by pack ice – trapping him and his 27 companions in a frozen wilderness cut off completely from civilisation.

Shackleton therefore launched a rescue mission to save his men. He and a hand-picked crew took a tiny lifeboat 800 miles across the Southern Ocean, the world's stormiest, to seek help. On that hellish journey a legend of supreme bravery was born.



Entering the Antarctic ice·December 1914

## THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

**The situation** Entering the Antarctic ice.

**Need to know** Built from tough fir and oak, the 144ft-long *Endurance* had a bow over 4ft thick to help the vessel smash through the ice that it first penetrated in December 1914.

**Hail the heroes** 'Wanted. Men for hazardous journey. Low wages. Bitter cold. Long hours of complete darkness. Safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in the event of success.' So ran Shackleton's advert for the *Endurance* mission. Five thousand brave men replied to it. A final crew of 28 heroes made the journey.



Endurance frozen in pack ice·January 1915

## THE ICE FIGHTS BACK

**The situation** *Endurance* frozen in pack ice.

**Need to know** The ship carved its way through 700 miles of ice up to 3ft thick to the Antarctic continent. The plan was to land at Vahsel Bay on the Weddell Sea. From here Shackleton would lead a six-man team trekking to the Ross Sea. But the *Endurance* got trapped in the ice in January 1915 80 miles from its destination.

**Hail the hero** As *Endurance* ploughed through the floes, official expedition photographer and man of action Frank Hurley dangled by a rope from the jib to film the ship's bow cut the ice.

*Continues overleaf*

**14 February** The explorers now begin a two-day battle to free the *Endurance*. They hack away at the ice with picks while the engines are fired up to force the ship out of its frozen trap. The vessel shifts a bit, but soon becomes trapped again.

**1 May** The sun finally vanishes for the season after the crew have waited in vain for warmer weather to melt the ice and free the *Endurance* from its ice trap.

**22 June** The explorers celebrate Midwinter's Day with a feast, toasts and songs. They have spent the last few months fishing, hunting penguins and carrying out a number of scientific experiments.

**21 November** The *Endurance* finally breaks up and sinks. Shackleton and his men had already abandoned the ship on 27 October because ice tightening round the ▶

*continued from previous page*



Striving to free Endurance·February 1915

**DIGGING FOR SURVIVAL**

**The situation** Striving to free *Endurance*.

**Need to know** Shackleton and his men had waited a week and a half after the *Endurance* ground to a halt to see if it would prise itself free. But the ship remained trapped so in February Shackleton ordered the engines to be cut to save on fuel. Now a digging party would have to use their bare hands to free the 300-ton ship.

**Hail the heroes** The men refused to give in, battling bravely for two days to dig the *Endurance* out using ice picks, chisels and saws. The vessel shifted but then stuck fast once more.

**FAREWELL, *ENDURANCE***

**The situation** Trapped in a pressure crack.

**Need to know** The pressure from millions of tons of ice gradually crushed the *Endurance* over the ten months it was trapped. Shackleton and his men had to abandon ship on 27 October and the *Endurance* sank the following month.

**Hail the hero** *Endurance* had given the men shelter from -50°C temperatures. There they played games and did skits to keep their morale up. Captain Frank Worsley described his vessel's battle to survive against the ice as 'the bravest and most gallant fight ever put up by a ship'.



Trapped in a pressure crack·October 1915


Patience Camp·December 1915–April 1916

**GO WITH THE FLOE**

**The situation** Patience Camp.

**Need to know** Patience was on a drifting 10ft-thick ice floe the men hoped would take them to dry land. The crew were here from December 1915 to April 1916. Shackleton kept them busy by holding debates. They used an *Encyclopaedia Britannica* salvaged from *Endurance* to settle the arguments.

**Hail the heroes** To cheer them up the men had courageous companions: their 69 Canadian sledge dogs. Every man personally cared for at least one dog, and all had names, which included Slobber, Spotty, Amundsen and Fluff.

## TIMELINE: THE ENDURANCE ADVENTURE



Above: Shackleton stamp, 2003 Extreme Endeavours

hull made it too dangerous to stay on. They set up camp on an ice floe.

**1916 9 April** The crew set up a second camp in December on a new ice floe. This floe now splits up, and the men are separated from their three lifeboats salvaged from the *Endurance*. The men manage to recover the boats they decide to sail for dry land – Elephant Island is their objective.

**16 April** After a week-long voyage the three boats arrive at the uninhabited Elephant Island 100 miles away.

Stamp images © Royal Mail

## ISLAND ESCAPE

**The situation** Safe arrival at Elephant Island.

**Need to know** The men finally sighted open water in April and sailed 100 miles in *Endurance*'s three lifeboats to uninhabited Elephant Island, harassed by killer whales buffeting the boats.

**Hail the hero** When Shackleton departed for South Georgia to find a rescue ship, he left number two Frank Wild in charge on Elephant. Wild did not let him down. While the men awaited rescue for over four months under two upturned lifeboats, eating nothing but seals, penguins and limpets, the indomitable Wild kept their hopes high and kept them alive.



Safe arrival at Elephant Island·April 1916



Setting out for South Georgia·April 1916

## HEROIC JOURNEY

**The situation** Setting out for South Georgia.

**Need to know** On the 800-mile voyage to South Georgia in the 22ft open lifeboat *James Caird*, Shackleton and his five crew endured hurricanes and 40ft waves rolling in at 50mph.

**Hail the hero** Captain Frank Worsley's amazing navigation ensured the crew reached South Georgia. As the boat bucked in the sea, he was held up by two men as he took sextant readings. Using a sextant needs sight of the sun, but it had nearly vanished, so Worsley took only four readings on the 17-day voyage. It was a heroic feat of seamanship.

## SAVED AT LAST

**The situation** Rescue of *Endurance* crew.

**Need to know** After landing at South Georgia Shackleton and his men scaled 2,500ft mountains and negotiated huge crevasses, marching for 36 hours across the island to a whaling station to borrow a ship to rescue their comrades.

**Hail the hero** Shackleton took selfless responsibility for his men, risking his life so they might live. Three missions to Elephant Island failed as ice stopped the ships but Shackleton was determined: he succeeded on the fourth try, landing on the island on 30 August 1916 and saving every one of his men.

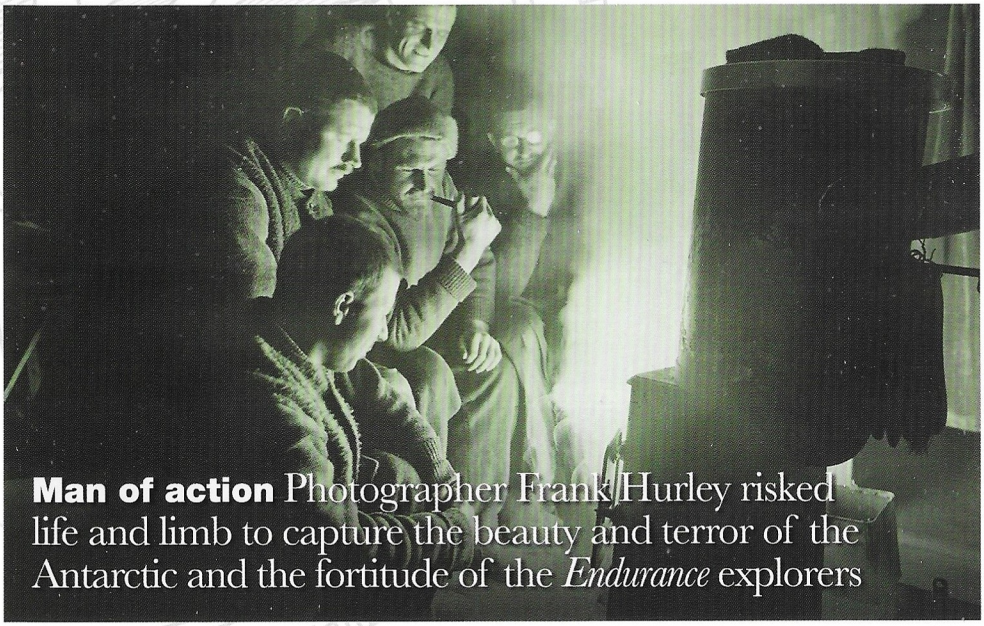


Rescue of Endurance crew·August 1916

**24 April** Shackleton and five men leave in one of the lifeboats, the *James Caird*. They sail 800 gruelling miles through mountainous seas and savage storms to the island of South Georgia. The plan is to take a ship from a whaling station there and then return to rescue the rest of the crew who are waiting in appalling weather conditions on Elephant Island.

**10 May** The *James Caird* arrives at South Georgia but Shackleton and his men have to scale mountains thousands of feet high and endure altitude sickness to reach Stromness whaling station on the other side of the island. When they arrive, the manager takes them in and feeds them, and gives them hot water to wash. They depart on a ship three days later but are beaten back by ice.

**30 August** Shackleton arrives on Elephant Island after three attempts to reach his men failed due to impenetrable ice. They are all still alive – four months after the *Caird* left on its rescue mission ●



**Man of action** Photographer Frank Hurley risked life and limb to capture the beauty and terror of the Antarctic and the fortitude of the *Endurance* explorers

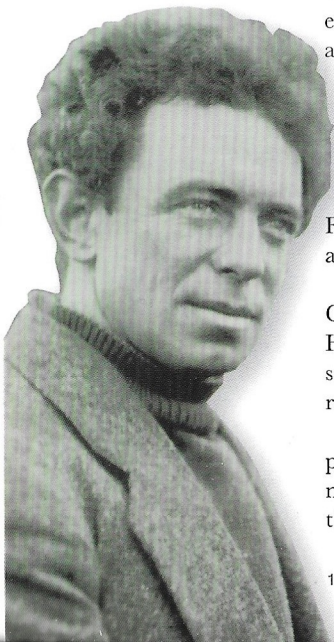
Without Shackleton there would be no legend of the *Endurance* expedition. Without Frank Hurley there would be no depiction of the legend as epic as the one he painted with his lens. Capturing the action with movie and stills cameras, Hurley was everywhere, his machines clicking and whirring – the shots on the Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition issue are all his.

The Australian climbed *Endurance*'s mast to take 'aerial' shots; he humped 40lb of camera equipment up a mountain to get a better view; he narrowly escaped death when the ship's crumbling crow's nest hit the ground just 10ft away from him as he filmed the final moments of the ice-strangled ship.

For an adventurer like Hurley, this was normal. He ran away from home at 14 to work on the Sydney docks, and when he moved from manual jobs to photography, Hurley won a reputation for taking risks to get the perfect shot – he once snapped a train from the tracks as it sped towards him. He later became a celebrated and daring war photographer on the Western Front. 'Hurley is a warrior with his camera and would go anywhere or do anything to get a picture,' wrote *Endurance* First Officer Lionel Greenstreet.

But Hurley was also an artist. His monochrome icescapes are stunning. Crisp and bleak, they convey both the beauty and terror of the Antarctic. His documentation of the *Endurance*'s death is powerful. The remorseless series of images recording its final destruction is the result of Hurley doggedly remaining on the ice filming for almost 72 hours.

The daily struggle for survival on the ice is etched into Hurley's careworn portraits of the expedition crew. Yet there is cheerfulness too. Hurley captures meteorologist Leonard Hussey smilingly hugging a huge sledge dog that threatens to knock him over. Another shot, inside the wardroom of



Frank Hurley portrait, 1914 © Scott Polar Institute, University of Cambridge.
Main photograph by Frank Hurley, February 1915: The Night Watchman Spins A Yarn, Royal Collection.

*Endurance*, shows crew members cheering each other up with storytelling by the glow of a stove. And there is history in the making: Hurley shoots Shackleton launching the *James Caird* on the dark shores of Elephant Island for his legendary rescue mission to South Georgia.

All this drama, captured on Hurley's glass plate stills, might have been lost. The plates were trapped in the *Endurance* when the men abandoned ship. Hurley returned to the disintegrating vessel, climbed in, dived through 4ft of mushy ice and retrieved his treasured pictures sealed in tin containers.

With the loss of the ship, and the prospect of a long journey to safety, Shackleton rationed each man to 2lb of gear. Not so Hurley. Shackleton knew the value of his pictures – photo and film rights would pay off some of the loans that financed the expedition. He and Hurley went through over 500 plates and Hurley was allowed to keep 120. Hurley smashed the rejects to prevent second thoughts. The photographs he kept are an extraordinary record of an extraordinary moment in history ●

## Polar post: Shackleton on stamps




Just a few of the many stamps issued in tribute to Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton: 1, 3, 4 South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Shackleton definitive 2009. 2 British Antarctic Territory, Falklands Post Service 2014. 5 Australian Antarctic Territory 1961. 6 Royal Mail Stamp Book 1969. 7 British Antarctic Territory 1979. 8 Eire, 90th Anniversary of Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic Expeditons 2004. 9 Some of the first Polar stamps issued, New Zealand with special postmark and overprint.

## **Bright young things** A Royal Mail Sheet marks 60 years of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and salutes the youngsters who have won the accolade

On 12 January Royal Mail will issue a Commemorative Sheet to celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, marking the achievements of almost 2.5 million young people who have successfully completed the scheme, and paying tribute to the work of its royal founder. Since its launch in 1956, the DofE, as it is often known, has developed into one of the most successful and respected schemes for young people. The story of its founding and expansion is told on the new Commemorative Sheet through ten image labels that accompany First Class Union Flag stamps. The Sheet Pack explains the different levels of award and the skills the Award promotes, and reveals the DofE organisers' plans for the future. The labels are as follows:




**HRH with the First Directors** Lord Hunt (second from left), who led the Everest expedition in 1953, was the first director of the DofE.

**First Gold Awards** In 1958 the Duke of Edinburgh presented the first Gold Awards to young people during a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace.

**Programme Launched for Women** Two years after The Duke of Edinburgh's Award for Boys was launched, a similar scheme was set up for girls. They merged in 1969.

**HRH Meets Young People** HRH meets Sea Cadets learning rope skills for their DofE in the Seventies.

**Prince Edward Gets Gold** The Prince received his Gold Award in 1986. He is a trustee of the DofE.

**Volunteering** From helping those in need to protecting the environment, the DofE Volunteering section aims to make a difference to people's lives.



Left: stamp labels of this month's new Commemorative Sheet, presented in the pack shown on the opposite page

Below: one of four 1981 UK stamps and examples from other countries celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Award




**Physical** In this section, young people spend time developing skills in their favourite sport or learning a new activity that will improve their fitness.

**Skills** The Skills section helps young people nurture their interests, such as music, cooking and web design, and to gain valuable skills for the future.

**Expedition** As part of a small team, young people plan and complete an adventurous journey in the great outdoors in a variety of ways – by bike, boat, canoe, foot, horse or wheelchair.

**Residential** Gold DofE participants complete an additional Residential section over five days, taking part in a shared activity with new people, either here in the UK or overseas.

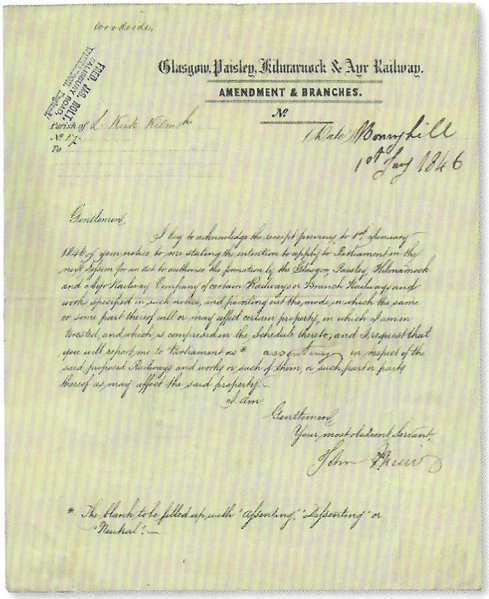
Order the DofE Sheet from the Tallents House address on page 160 or visit www.royalmail.com/specialsheets, quoting the *Bulletin* code 15CDL ●

**The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Commemorative Sheet – Specifications**

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of issue | 12 January |
| Number of stamps | Ten |
| Pack and sheet design | Jack Renwick Studio |
| Illustrations | Lisa Crone |
| Words | Vicky Prior |
| Sheet design | CDT Design Ltd |
| Union Flag Stamp design | Dick Davis/Anton Morris |
| 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: Lake District map © OS Data; 1950s map © National Library of Scotland;Kurt Khan photo: Thurston Hopkins/Stringer/Getty Images; all other images © The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

# L is for... letter sheets



Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock & Ayr Railway.

AMENDMENT & BRANCHES.

No

Parish of

No

To

10th Jany 1846

Gentlemen,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt yesterday the 9th instant of your notice to me stating the intention to apply to Parliament in the next Session for an Act to authorise the formation by the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock and Ayr Railway Company of certain Railways or Branch Railways and works specified in such notice, and pointing out the mode in which the same or some part thereof will or may affect certain property in which I am interested, and which is comprised in the Schedule thereto, and I request that you will report me to Parliament as * as to my consent in respect of the said proposed Railways and works or each of them, or such part or parts thereof as may affect the said property.

I am

Gentlemen

Your most obedient Servant

John [illegible]

* The blank to be filled up with 'dissenting', 'dissenting' or 'neuter'.

Fig 1 An 1844 letter sheet asking landowners if they agree to a railway line crossing their land

The Penny Post and the Penny Black changed the way the world communicated but these revolutionary innovations did not stop people hating the envelope

BEFORE THE POSTAL REFORMS OF 1840, the cost of sending a letter depended on the amount of sheets used as well as the distance the correspondence was going. An envelope counted as a sheet of paper so they were almost never used as people tried to keep costs down. Today the envelope is of course essential. Then it was an unwanted expense.

Senders usually wrote their message on one side of the paper and the address on the other, folded the paper so only the address was visible, and closed it with sealing wax. This was the 'letter sheet'.

The introduction of the postage stamp in 1840 changed the way a letter was paid for – by weight only. But people's habits die hard and single sheets of paper – letter sheets without envelopes – continued to be used for many years. Their use saved the cost of buying an envelope and were convenient for businesses sending out order forms or questionnaires to customers and clients as the return address was printed on the form, ready for it to be put back in the post.

Prepaid letter sheets were issued as part of the Mulready postal stationery in 1840 with Penny Black stamps (I will tell that part of the story in a future article). But the public did not like William Mulready's design and his letter sheets were replaced in 1844 by ones with a Penny Pink stamp. Their use gradually declined in the 19th century as the public changed to ordinary paper and envelopes, though businesses continued with letter sheets where it was convenient and saved them money. Companies would use letter sheets for sending out dividend statements, with payment cheques attached, which would be torn off and paid into a bank account. They displayed the amount of money invested, the dividend paid and the rates of income tax deducted. The example from 1912 here shows income tax at 1s 2d in the pound (just under six per cent). These statements can often be found in dealers' stocks, but minus their cheques of course!

In the Victorian period vaccination against smallpox was mandatory and the local medical officer had to be informed of all cases on an official form. Letter




Fig 2

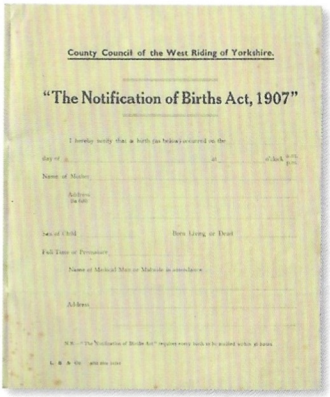



Fig 3



Fig 4

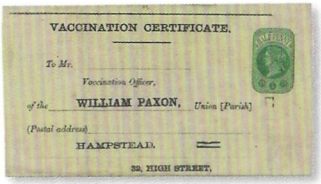



Fig 5

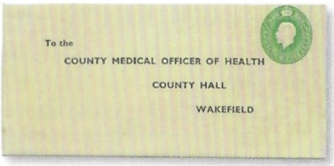



Fig 3a




Fig 6

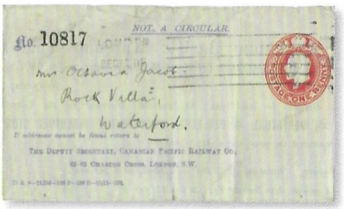



Fig 6a




Fig 7

sheets were used with a ½d stamp that was normally applied to newspaper wrappers, as the form was considered to be printed paper. It was also a requirement for births to be notified by mail (Fig 3 and Fig 3a) in the county in which they occurred. Letter sheets were often used for this purpose, as it avoided an envelope getting separated from a form. To make it easy for parents, the forms were prestamped and addressed, needing only to be folded and put in the post.

During the Second World War arrangements were made for families to write on special letter sheets (Fig 2) to servicemen and internees held prisoner by the enemy. These letter sheets were ideal – easy to censor because they were unsealed and without gum, with no hidden areas where secret messages could be written. Even the stamp was printed directly onto the sheet to prevent people covering a clandestine message with an adhesive stamp.

By the 1860s letter sheets were no longer sold by the Post Office, but they were still being privately produced by stationers for sale to the public. Businesses also continued to have letter sheets produced for their own use well into the 20th century. This ended when the stamped to order facility was withdrawn in 1973●

*Next in Baker's A to Z of Postal Stationery: M is for Mulready Stationery.*

Fig 2 A letter sheet for writing to prisoners of war. This example used in 1941 was censored both at the start and finish of its journey

Fig 3 and 3a Printed by West Yorkshire County Council, a birth notification letter sheet

Fig 4 Detail of the front of a Penny Pink letter sheet of 1850, which has the stamp impression accidentally inked on both sides of the paper

Fig 5 Victorian vaccination form with preprinted address

Fig 6 A pre-printed letter sheet of 1806 with a dividend statement, but without the cheque. Fig 6a Its front side

Fig 7 A preprinted letter sheet of 1806 with a dividend statement

# *This month* in history

## John Holman examines special covers and postmarks issued at the very first Stampex exhibition










Above: 1956 Stampex cover and filler card, and a registered letter, posted at the exhibition. The postmarks feature a mailcoach of the type used in the London to Brighton mail run

Sixty years ago this month the first Stampex exhibition was held. This was the new name for the National Stamp Exhibition, which had begun as the Coronation Year National Stamp Exhibition in 1953. The 1956 exhibition was held, like its predecessors and successors until 1968, at the Central Hall Westminster. It was on from 7 to 14 January (although probably closed on the Sunday).

A special handstamp used on mail posted at the exhibition has been seen on a cover sent by registered post, so a temporary post office must have operated at the exhibition. The Post Office would not, unlike now, have had a great variety of stamps to sell to collectors – just definitives and possibly postage due stamps. There had been no commemorative issues since the Coronation issue in June 1953. Registered mail from the Stampex post office received a 'LONDON, S.W. 126' registration label.

The 1956 Stampex postmark featured a mailcoach (previously the Maltese Cross had been the pictorial element in 1953 and 1954, and a posthorn in 1955). The mailcoach represents the National Stampex Award – a silver mailcoach made from sterling silver by Garrard & Co Ltd, the Crown Jewellers. Publicity labels featuring Penny Blacks and Maltese Crosses are known for the National Stamp Exhibitions of 1953 to 1955 and Stampex 1957, but not recorded for 1956. The exhibition logo for Stampex 1957 and 1958 was 'Stan the Stamp Man' who appeared on the cover, postmark and publicity label in 1958. Stampex souvenir sheets were introduced in 1959, the first one featuring unadopted designs for United Nations stamps together with a UN stamp affixed and cancelled by a Stampex cachet. The UN stamp featured Central Hall where the first meeting of the UN General Assembly was held in 1946.

The early Stampex exhibitions were rather different from those of today. All displays were by invited individuals or philatelic societies – the competitions became open to all in 1965. The number of visitors was usually in excess of 10,000, peaking at 17,183 in 1967. In 1962 some 16,000 items of mail were posted at the exhibition for the special Stampex handstamp.

Stampex was held anually at Central Hall until 1968 (except in 1960 when it gave way to the international exhibition), moving to the Royal Horticultural Hall, London SW1 the following year. There it remained until the move to the Business Design Centre in Islington, London N1 in 1996. It was branded as 'Super Stampex' from 1981 to 1986, and in 1987 took over the former British Philatelic Exhibition (BPE). It has since been held as Spring and Autumn Stampex.

The exhibition sometimes attracted national publicity, notably in 1963 when a part-sheet of the National Productivity Year 3d stamp with The Queen's head omitted was on display, and in 1966 when the World Cup Jules Rimet trophy was on show and stolen! (It was later recovered.) In 1958 the exhibition was opened by Harold Wilson, later Prime Minister, and in the 1960s by Postmasters-General Edward Short and John Stonehouse ●

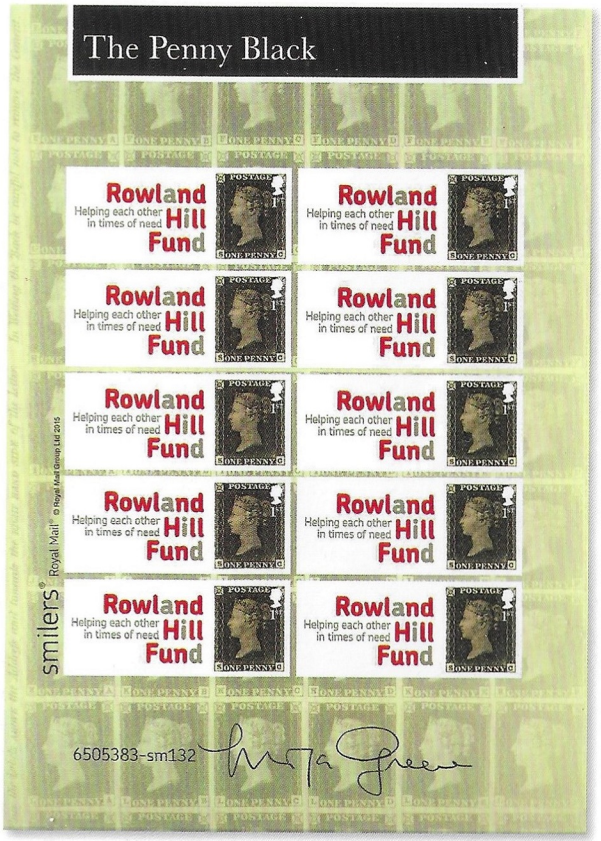
To find out more about past Stampex exhibitions, see *British Stamp Exhibitions: A Priced Catalogue of Sheets, Cards and Labels* by Glenn Morgan (published 1995). This year's Spring Stampex is at Islington's Business Design Centre from 17 to 20 February, with the Autumn show on 14 to 17 September

# Give a helping hand with Rowland Hill

## This original Penny Black Smilers® sheet is offered exclusively to friends of the *Bulletin*

We are pleased to offer to *Bulletin* readers the unique opportunity of purchasing a limited-edition stamp sheet that celebrates the strong traditions of philanthropy in our postal service, inspired by Rowland Hill over a century ago. The issue is limited to 100 sheets. Three sheets are reserved for auction and competition prizes, and the remaining 97 are available to readers, with a limit of two per purchaser, subject to availability. Six are signed by Royal Mail CEO Moya Greene and available at a special price. All proceeds will be used by the Rowland Hill Fund to support Royal Mail employees, pensioners and their dependants who have fallen on hard times.

The Fund is, of course, named after Rowland Hill (pictured overleaf), the famous postal service innovator and social reformer, and has been active since 1882. In that time, the charity has aided people in financial straits for a wide variety of reasons – through bereavement, inability to work because of illness, emotional problems, and domestic abuse, for example.




Typically the Fund can help with debt, disability aids, buying essential household items and hospital travel expenses.

The Rowland Hill Fund is looking forward to continuing its work with those in need. Fund Communications Manager Shan Lawrence says: 'The year ahead is going to be exciting and challenging for the Fund, as we – along with Royal Mail who reach a 500-year milestone – celebrate the charity's achievements and the thousands of families who have been helped.

'Rowland Hill saw his creation of the Penny Black as part of developing a postal service that was for the people and about the people – and we aim to hold true to his principles. We are proud to "help our own" and last year we made awards totalling £350,000.'

Turn over the page to find out how to order this limited-edition sheet ▶

## **Deserving cases** Here are a few of the thousands of examples of the work of the Rowland Hill Fund over 133 years – now and in the past

**Now... Help in the house** After suffering a stroke at the age of 30, Stephen Williams has been left with a clenched right hand and weakness down his right side. Stephen applied for a disability facility grant, as he needed essential special adaptations in his home. The Fund paid Stephen's contribution of £1,500. He can no longer work, but volunteers once a week at the Porthmadog Delivery Office.

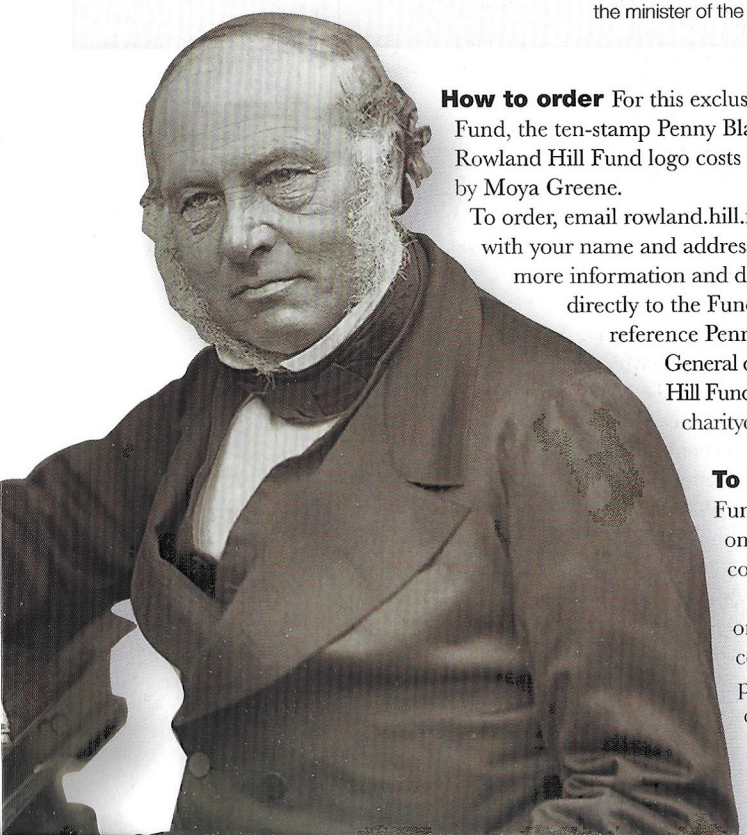
**A fresh start** Catherine Poole faced being evicted with her baby daughter after mounting debts left her unable to pay £1,000 in rent arrears. The Fund paid this off and helped Catherine to focus on tackling her other debt.

'Once my home was safe, I could move on and sort everything out,' says Catherine, who works at Royal Mail's Cirencester delivery office. 'Now I have paid off every last penny of my debt. I can never thank the Rowland Hill Fund enough for helping me.'

**And then...** The following citations for financial awards from the Rowland Hill Fund in the 19th century give a flavour of the challenges facing postal workers and their families at the time, and how the charity came to the rescue.

**Fatal fall** 'A letter-carrier fell accidently and was killed. The poor man was quite sober at the time. He leaves a widow and eleven children. He had been twenty years in the service and bore an excellent character. A grant of £10 was made to his widow.'

**Unfit for work** 'After serving as a letter-carrier for twelve years Edward was obliged to give up in consequence of an attack of inflammation of the lungs, which left him in shattered health and unfit for out-of-door exposure. He has a wife and eight children, five of them under nine years of age. Whilst employed in the Post Office, his conduct was most exemplary. The case was strongly recommended by the minister of the parish. A grant of £8 was made.'



**How to order** For this exclusive offer from the Rowland Hill Fund, the ten-stamp Penny Black Smilers® Sheet bearing the Rowland Hill Fund logo costs £25 unsigned or £35 signed by Moya Greene.

To order, email rowland.hill.fund@royalmail.com with your name and address or call 020 7239 2271 for more information and details of how to transfer money directly to the Fund's bank account, using the reference Penny Black CDL.

General donations to the Rowland Hill Fund can be made online at www.charitycheckout.co.uk/207479/donate.

**To find out more** Explore the Fund at www.rowlandhillfund.org, on Facebook and at www.twitter.com/rowlandhillfund.

The charity can be contacted on a 24-hour year-round confidential helpline – just phone 0800 688 8777 and choose option 1 then option 4 ●

# Correspondence

## Bletchley has not moved

I was rather surprised to read on page 9 of the 2015 Royal Mail Yearbook that Bletchley Park had been moved from Buckinghamshire to Northamptonshire. Have the residents been told or is this the ploy of GCHQ?
*John Abrams, Oxfordshire*




**You are quite right, Mr Abrams, Bletchley Park is in Buckinghamshire not Northamptonshire. During the busy Yearbook it appears that this escaped our notice when we were creating the entry for the Inventive Britain issue, which mentioned the Colossus computer at Bletchley Park. Apologies to all.**
*Helen Cumberbatch, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles Editorial Manager*

## Erratum

I noticed in the Royal Mail Update section of September's British Philatelic Bulletin, at the bottom of page 20, a small piece entitled 'Change of printer for definitives', which seems to be an old story that has apparently resurrected itself from several years ago, and is therefore worth acknowledging; it certainly confused me for a moment or two.
***Larry Rosenblum, California***

You are quite right. So our sincere apologies go to you and the rest of our readers. Tech gremlins seem to have got into the works and caused mischief after proof reading. As you conclude, you can safely ignore the story.
*Kate Shaw, Editor*

## Dear Reader..

Enclosed with this edition of *Bulletin* in your entry form for the 2015 Favourite Stamp Poll. Please take a few minutes to look back over the stamps of last year and vote for your favourite stamps and sets. Royal Mail values your opinion and welcomes feedback, so do invite family and friends to vote too, by post or email.




As a thank-you for taking part, there are three 2015 Yearbooks waiting for lucky voters whose names are drawn after the closing date of 30 January.

**We look forward to hearing from you in 2016 and wish you all good health, happiness and stamping in the new year ahead.**

## Measuring up

I am a little surprised by your article 'Mr Aitken rules OK' on the December *Bulletin* letters page, in response to queries about the largest stamp issued in Great Britain, because unfortunately the BPMA is incorrect regarding which one is the biggest (the 1993 £10 is mentioned), as are your Tallents House team.

The largest GB stamp in my collection is the 50p stamp issued in 1980 for the International Stamp Exhibition. This measures 59mm x 43.2mm. The £10 measures slightly under the 60mm x 41mm you quote in the article, as I make it only 59.7mm wide. But even using your numbers, that stamp covers an area of 2,460 square mm, whereas the 50p stamp covers an area of 2,548.8 square mm.

I enclose a scan of the stamp as you experts appear not to be familiar with it.
***Steve Fraser, by email***




Stamps not shown at true size




## Keep the letters coming...

We welcome your letters... Write to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. You can also email: bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com. The senders of letters published here receive a Star Wars™ Presentation Pack as a token of our thanks.

# **Snow how** Solve our quizzes on philately featuring expeditions in the wilderness and win yourself a Shackleton Presentation Pack

## NAME THAT STAMP

From the details shown below, identify the name and year of issue of the two stamps under the magnifiers.



**How to enter** Send your answers, with your contact details, marked 'January Name That Stamp' and/or 'January Crossword' to Bulletin Prizes, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com. **Closing date** 5 February 2016.

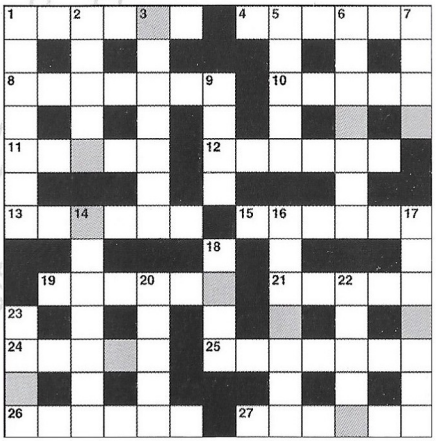
**Prizes** The senders of the first five correct entries drawn in each section after the closing date win the Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition Presentation Pack ●

**October Have A Try solutions and winners** *Name That Stamp solution* 1980 Sports Centenaries – Rugby; 2015 Rugby World Cup. *Winner* R Bowater, West Midlands. *Crossword solution:* Twickenham. *Winner* JC Longhurst, Bristol. Five runners-up in each section also receive prizes.

**Prize draw rules and regulations** 1 Promotions are open to all readers, 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) 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.

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Complete the puzzle, then rearrange the letters in the grey squares to name a man with supervision.



**ACROSS**

**1** Tree is liked by all, though nonU (6)
**4** Entire production's finale in it (part of play) (6)
**8** Very English Tosca performance with sets of eight notes (7)
**10** Sort of syrup pudding originally eaten by man (5)
**11** Only doctor without a supply (3,2)
**12** Push to fiery remains on yoga retreat (6)
**13** Herb and journalist made money (6)
**15** Object raised by poet about to move stealthily (6)
**19** Other wives left in turn (6)
**21** Ring in piece of info for animal (5)
**24** A foot sore going to seed (5)
**25** A piece of wood rep turned over to make trellis (7)
**26** Man enters drunkenly (6)
**27** Like money, it rises (6)

**DOWN**

**1** Difficulty having left dress out during the afternoon (7)
**2** Attractive but loses first race – it's unimportant (5)
**3** Go ahead and get a loan (7)
**5** Hymn composed about quiet wood sprite (5)
**6** Snake having to stop on road surface (7)
**7** Long journey back into Spinnaker Tower (4)
**9** Sounds like keen student to hit a fly (4)
**14** Just delivered to Newcastle area, brown rubbish (7)
**16** Protects against loss at sunrise, maybe (7)
**17** Remove passage (7)
**18** Piece of film gets cut (4)
**20** Roman goddess in heaven usually (5)
**22** Atmospheric layer, Australian one (5)
**23** Reliable worker leaving Santa Fe (4)




# A very special Stampex

Spring Stampex is at London's Business Design Centre from 17 to 20 February. Free entry, new issues and unique postmarks – this is a stampfest for UK collectors

Magical milestones are commemorated at this most important Stampex – the 60th anniversary of the show and the 500th anniversary of Britain's postal service.

- To celebrate Royal Mail launches its Royal Mail 500 stamp issue of Special Stamps, a 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red Generic Sheet and new illustrated Post & Go stamps (see page 132 for more details).
- Stampex organisers are also releasing a special limited-edition Smilers® Sheet and limited-edition postcard.
- With more than 100 stands, stunning displays, thought-provoking society meetings, young collectors' area and more, Stampex has something for all – so hope to see you there!



# Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

**6** January — **Withdrawal** Alice in Wonderland: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 81p, 2 x £1.28, 2 x £1.47), Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class, 2 x Specials), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (10 in set). Details: December 2014 *Bulletin* page 20.




**7** January — **Issue** Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1, 2 x £1.33, 2 x £1.52, se-tenant pairs), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (8 in set). Details: page 102 and 144




**7** January — **Issue** Annual Collection: Smilers® Continuation Pages and Standard Album Continuation Pages.

**12** January — **Issue** Duke of Edinburgh's Award Commemorative Sheet. Details: page 150.



**21** January — **Withdrawal** Smilers® 2015 Miniature Sheet.

**17** February — **Issue** 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red: Generic Sheet of 20 x 1st Class Penny Red; Stamp Book of 6 x 1st Class Penny Red; Smilers™ Personalised Sheet of 20; Smilers™ Personalised Sheet of 10. Exhibition products: Miniature Sheet, Stamp Cards and Souvenir Cover only available at Spring Stampex. Details: page 136.

**17** February — **Issue** Royal Mail 500: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52); Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (11 in set). Details: page 132.

**17** February — **Issue** Post & Go Royal Mail Heritage – Transport: six designs. Collectors Pack. Details: page 138.

**18** February — **Withdrawal** Post & Go Working Sail.

**19** February — **Withdrawal** Inventive Britain: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book.

**To order philatelic items,** including all those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. We would advise you to quote **15CDL**, the *Bulletin* media code. 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.

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

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