BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 10 | JUNE 2014 | £1.50

Commonwealth Games set • WW1 tribute • Post & Go



New stamps released this month echo the principles of the Fish Fight campaign fronted by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

J HOLMAN STAMP SCENE • D MYALL MACHIN COLOURS • WIN 'THE RIVER COTTAGE FISH BOOK'

Issues and withdrawals



Cover image: Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall at Rock-a-Nore Road Wholesale Fisher Merchants, Hastings.

Sustainable Fish stamps are issued on 5 June and echo the message of the Great British Fish Fight – turn to page 310 for background story.

For philatelic preview details of Sustainable Fish stamps, see page 263 of May *Bulletin*.
The copyright of all stamp images in this publication is owned by Royal Mail Group Ltd unless otherwise stated.

Please note: stamps and postmarks are not shown to scale. Stamp sizes are listed on Preview pages.

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

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

Royal Mail

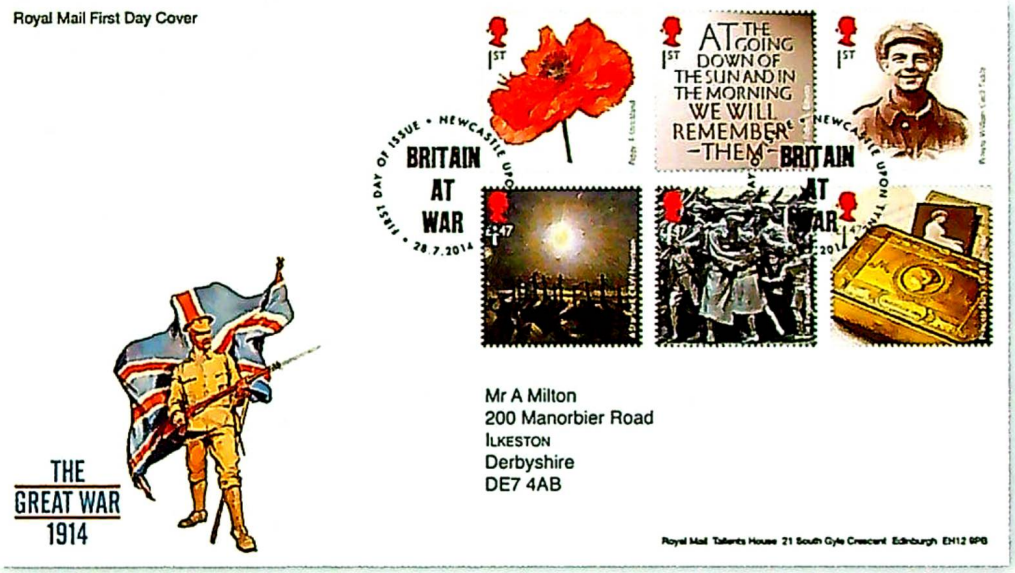
Royal Mail, the cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd. © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2014. All rights reserved.

30 May	**Withdrawal** Her Majesty the Queen – Six Decades of Royal Portraits: Commemorative Document.
5 June	**Issue** Sustainable Fish: Stamps (10 x 1st Class in 2 se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (10 in set).
11 July	**Withdrawal** Butterflies: Stamps (10 x 1st Class), Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class – 2 x Special Stamps, 4 x Definitives), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
17 July	**Issue** Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games: Stamps (2nd Class, 1st Class, 97p, £1.28, £1.47, £2.15), Presentation Pack, Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (6 in set), Silver Coin Cover, Gold Coin Cover.
28 July	**Issue** The Great War 1914: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.47), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (6 in set), 3 x Coin Covers.
31 July	Change of all 0845 phone number on Business Sheets and Stamp Books, in line with European regulations

To order philatelic items, including those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.
Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Square), Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southend on Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro, York and Newport, Isle of Wight.

Information about Royal Mail products is that which is available at time of going to press. Royal Mail is not responsible for opinions and information provided by independent writers in the feature articles of this publication.

Contents





War memorials The first stamps of Royal Mail's five-year Great War series evoke the courage and calamity of the conflict **302**



Issues and withdrawals Say hello to Sustainable Fish and cheerio to the lovely Butterflies **290**

Correspondence Valued views and news from our readers **292**

Keeping you posted Royal Mail update from Andrew Hammond **293**

Post & Gos Martyn Fry has dates and details for the Post & Go collector **294**

Preview Get on track for July's stamp champ – the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games issue **295**

Stamp Scene John Holman with the latest diary dates and summertime news from the world of stamps **298**

Island news A selection of recent stamp issues from offshore **306**

Another View Douglas Myall traces the development of Machin colours **307**

Fight to the fin-ish As the Sustainable Fish issue launches we tell the story of the Fish Fight conservation battle **310**

Scottish congress Colin Campbell reports from Perth **314**

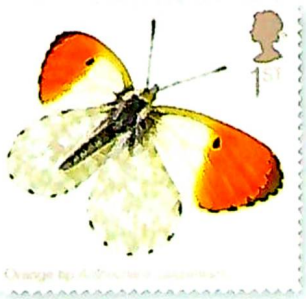
Personal postcodes Revealing results of a Royal Mail survey **316**

This Month in History The UPU centenary **317**

Food for thought Prizes to be won **318**

Step up stampers News for juniors **319**

Classic FLT A stamp-inspired recipe! **320**





The ***British Philatelic Bulletin*** is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets (see opposite) ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe, £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address opposite) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of the world ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editor ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

Correspondence

First-class letter

Se-tenant definitives

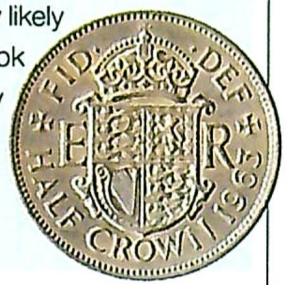
Articles about *Bulletin*'s 50th anniversary have brought to mind the introduction in 1963 of mixed value se-tenant panes, which are something of a philatelic novelty. The very first *Bulletin*, of September 1963, reported 'the provision of books of 2½d stamps for picture postcards, from coin-operated machines' to ease the 'pressure at Post Office counters in tourists resorts...' As it was 'not technically feasible to modify the machines to take a half-crown so as to provide all 2½d stamps.... we tailored the book to fit the machine by restricting the number of panes and by rounding up the value to 2s with ½d stamps.'

This was the first time such an arrangement of se-tenant was used in UK stamp issues. Previously, since 1904 panes of six stamps (3 x 2) had well suited Britain's imperial currency of 12 pennies to shilling; smaller panes of four (2 x 2) in books for coin-operated machines necessitated this se-tenant pane. Other countries, though, had also long been using the conveniently sized 3 x 2 format in books of stamps. But six did not fit so easily with decimal currency, hence Germany issued se-tenant panes of 5 and 10 pfennig Germania definitives a full 50 years earlier in April 1913, followed shortly by German South-west Africa and Cameroun.



Se-tenant arrangements for commemorative stamps began with the Battle of Britain issue in 1965, while se-tenant panes in machine-vended booklets, often with side-phosphor varieties, continued until 2000. From 1969 to 1995 coils of stamps offered Machin definitives in further se-tenant formats. Now, other than the very occasional Exhibition Miniature Sheet, se-tenant definitives are only likely to be found on Prestige Stamp Book panes. If only it had been technically feasible to modify the machines to take half crowns 50 years ago!

Paul Mudge, Stafford







A special collection

I am a long-time subscriber to the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and wish to pass on my copies to a collector. There is a complete run of back issues from Volume 3 through to Volume 49, with the first ten volumes in binders.

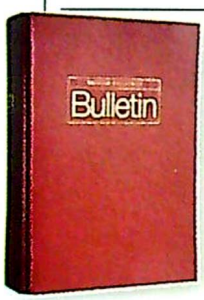
I am happy to give away the collection to anyone who can pick them up them from Devon or pay postage. If this is of interest, please e-mail me at catucker@btinternet.com.

A Tucker, Devon

Serendipity for Dr Elbourne

I am writing to relate how delighted and frankly amazed I was by the serendipitous wording of the addresses on the covers featured on pages 278 and 279 of the May *Bulletin*. The reason lies in the names of the recipients of these two covers. viz. Mrs Pomeroy Limited and Miss Ronald. My full name just happens to be Ronald George Pomeroy Elbourne and this is the first time in 80 years that I have seen these two names connected in any other way.

RGP Elbourne, Suffolk



It's good to hear from you...

The Editor welcomes your correspondence by mail and e-mail at the addresses shown on the facing page. The sender of the 'First-class letter' will receive a handsome *Bulletin* binder. And the senders of other letters published will also receive philatelic delights as a thank-you.

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



Welcome to the conversation! This is the first of the regular chats I would like to have with our much-valued readers. I believe that the two-way communication between you and Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles is already terrific. With this occasional spot in the *Bulletin* I want to make it even better. Why? Well, for starters, we genuinely value your feedback on what we are doing and how we are doing it. Our stamps and our service only get better when we hear your opinions and ideas. And we never forget that the special stamp programme is what it is because of the intelligent and imaginative input on stamp subjects and direction that collectors give us.

So that is why I would like to keep the conversation going with *Bulletin* readers – to share our news with you and encourage you to tell us what you think about the stamp programme. Talking of which, what is your view of the new Great War 1914 issue? I am naturally excited about all the special stamp issues – it is great seeing all the hard work finally come to fruition – but I am particularly looking forward to hearing what you all think of this set. The Stamps and Collectibles team have done a fantastic job to mark this important centenary in a way you would expect from Royal Mail. I hope you like them, but let me know your thoughts!

I also aim to update you with behind-the-scenes developments that you will not often hear about. So I can reveal that one of my key objectives is to get more special stamps used on mail items. We are looking at, for example, how we can increase the presence of special stamps in retail books. This is more complicated than you would probably imagine, but I am sure you would support our plans to have more visibility for the marvellous stamps. This seems especially important when I think about the plans for special stamps over the next few years: I have to say the proposals are looking excellent, with a balance between subjects that appeal to regular collectors and others that will bring new collectors in and keep this fantastic hobby exciting and fresh.

Improving communication The second piece of good news I want to share is that over the next 18 months we plan to introduce a new IT system to Tallents House. I hope this will improve our communications with the *Bulletin* team and make our offering to customers even better – from the speed of orders despatched to our ability to give you the products and services most relevant to your core areas of interest. Watch this space...

Thanks for reading and keep your views coming in – I see many of the letters that do not get published and I really do value your expert feedback. We are keen on your views about stamps, but also your comments about the *Bulletin* and we will conduct a reader survey later in the year. Finally, the conversation does not end here. I am also keen to do more to meet our regular collectors and get feedback face to face, so I will be working with the *Bulletin* team to find great ways to do this. Speak soon! ●

Keep the letters coming...

We would love to hear your views on what Andrew Hammond has to say. Send your thoughts by letter to: British Philatelic Bulletin Correspondence, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Your emails are also welcome at bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

Post & Go update Martyn Fry reports





Above: six Post & Go values on a strip from NCR kiosk

The 85th Scottish Congress was the most successful ever Perth event for Post & Go. For the first time we were joined by collectors from Europe, who used the postmark and posting service from Tallents House. Kiosks A003 and A004 vended Machin and Union Flag stamp designs with an '85th Scottish Congress' overprint. The Jersey Flag Post & Go was also available from the J001 kiosk.

A pre-order facility was offered for the first time at an event other than Stampex. Printed on the back office B001 and B002 machines, it proved to be a great success with collectors.

York Stamp Fair confirmed The Post & Go Kiosks A003 & A004 will be present at the York Stamp Fair on 18 and 19 July. They will take up their usual position in the entrance hall along with the Smilers® unit. Both kiosks will vend Union Flag and Machin stamps with no overprint.

Philakorea 2014 World Stamp Exhibition Royal Mail Kiosks A003 and A004, along with Jersey Kiosk J001, will be transported to Philakorea, on from 7 to 12 August. Machin and Union Flag stamps will be available from the Royal Mail kiosks and the Jersey Flag and Union Flag from J001. All stamps will carry the 'Philakorea 2014, World Stamp Expo' overprint. A GB version of the Philakorea overprint, printed on the B001 machine, will be available from Tallents House at the address on page 291. A JE version of the Philakorea overprint will be available via mail order from Jersey Post.

NCR Collectors Pack From 7 July a new pack of the new Post & Go values will be issued through the NCR kiosks and available mail order from Tallents House and Post Office Ltd philatelic offices. The pack contains five versions of the new layouts (First Class, First Large, Second Class, Second Large and A) and costs £3.78. The stamps will carry the Tallents House C002 machine print string.

Poppy stamps in October The Poppy stamp design, from the forthcoming Symbolic Flowers Post & Go set, is scheduled for issue on 17 September during Autumn Stampex at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London. It will be produced as a single reel of designs to allow the Post & Go machines to carry the stamps in the lead-up to Remembrance Day in November •

Post & Go prices	
1st Class	62p
1st Class Large	93p
Europe 20g (Euro 20g/World 10g from 28 April)	97p
Europe 60g	£1.47*
Worldwide 20g	£1.28
Worldwide 60g	£2.15
2nd Class	53p
2nd Class Large	73p
1st Class Collector Strip	£7.42
2nd Class Collector Strip	£1.26
1st Class Collector Set	£45.12

*40g printing removed

Post & Go exhibition programme	
York Stamp Fair	18-19 July
Philakorea 2014	7-12 August
Autumn Stampex	17-20 September
Stafford Stamp Show	7-8 November

Note: exhibitions may be added or removed and stamp listings for individual shows may change

Game on An action-packed new issue captures the sporting glory of the Commonwealth Games

A VERY FIT new stamp issue celebrates the year's biggest sports extravaganza – the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. The six-stamp set showcases some of the most exciting sports in the competition programme: judo, swimming, the marathon, squash, netball and cycling. The stamps are launched on 17 July, six days before the start of the Games. During 11 days of competition, approximately 4,500 athletes from the nations and territories of the Commonwealth will take part in 17 sports. Also in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games issue are a First Day Cover, Presentation Pack, Coin Cover, Retail Stamp Book and Stamp Cards. The FDC, Presentation Pack and Coin Cover contain fascinating facts about the Games, billed as the largest sporting and cultural celebration Scotland has ever hosted.

Stamp by stamp The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games issue comes in a mix of values: First Class, Second Class, 97p, £1.28, £1.47 and £2.15. Designed by Howard Brown, the stamps are a deft combination of dynamic artwork by illustrator Nanette Hoogslag and pictures by award-winning sports photographer Andy Hooper.

Swimming An established Commonwealth Games discipline, swimming has been contested at every event since 1930. Six Para-Sport swimming events will also be contested. Tollcross International Swimming Centre, which features a 50-metre, ten-lane competition pool and a new 50-metre, six-lane warm-up and training pool, will host the swimming competition. *First Class*

Judo Fourteen gold medals are up for grabs ▸

Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	17 July
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Howard Brown
Illustration	Nanette Hoogslag
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Number per sheet	25/50
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Below: the Glasgow 2014 stamps are a deft combination of dynamic illustration and exciting sports photography



2014 logo © Glasgow 2014 Ltd



Above: the Commonwealth Games First Day Cover features a vibrant illustration showing big sporting action

Below: four Royal Mail red definitives and two of the Commonwealth Games Swimming stamps make up the Retail Stamp Book

across 14 weight categories in this tough sport, which requires strength and tactical skill. Judo, which takes place at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) Precinct, will make its third Commonwealth Games appearance. *Second Class*

Marathon The route begins at Glasgow Green in the city's heart, and takes in well-known areas such as George Square and Buchanan Street. *97p*

Squash Technical and demanding, squash has been thrilling crowds at the Commonwealth Games since 1998. In Glasgow, players will do battle in Individual Men's and Women's Singles events as well as Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles contests. The venue is Scotstoun Sports Campus. *£1.28*

Netball In Glasgow, 12 women's teams chase gold in this fast-paced sport, first seen at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. *£1.47*

Para-Sport track cycling This Para-Sport makes its Commonwealth Games



Commonwealth Games Stamps – Prices	
Stamps	1st Class, 2nd Class, 97p, £1.47, £1.28, £2.15
Presentation Pack	£7.55
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£8.90/£7.42
Retail Stamp Book	£3.72
Stamp Cards, set of 6	£2.70
Coin Cover Standard	£17.50
Coin Cover Silver/Gold	£50/ £725

Commonwealth Games 6 x 1st Class Retail Stamp Book – Specifications	
Date of issue	17 July
Printer	Walsall Security
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die cut simulated perforations
Stamps	2 x 1st Class Swimming; 4 x 1st Class Machins



Left: the powerful Glasgow 2014 issue captures the excitement of the Games

Below: the Standard Coin Cover and the three postmarks – one for Tallents House and two alternatives for Glasgow



debut in Glasgow, with four exciting events scheduled: the Men's 1000m Time Trial, the Men's Sprint, the Women's 1000m Time Trial and the Women's Sprint. The events are at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. £2.15

Also in the issue The Presentation Pack includes a history of the Commonwealth Games, highlights of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games programme and details of venues. Like the Presentation Pack, the First Day Cover features lively artwork capturing the energy of six sports. Coin Cover are available with a 50p piece in standard mint, silver proof or gold proof. The Retail Stamp Book has four First Class red definitives and two First Class Swimming stamps.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 17 July. You can also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 290) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark, shown right with the alternative pictorial and non-pictorial postmarks, which have the location as Glasgow •



FD1415-TH



FD1415-PL



FD1415-NP



Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you up to date on events and activities in the philatelic world

UK diary dates

13 June Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1. 9am to 4pm. 20-30 dealers. Enquiries: 020 8946 4480, www.stampshows.net.

14 June GB Philatelic Society display 'On My Honour' from Michael Lockton, 11am. AGM and Members' Displays, 2.15pm, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1.

14 June Swinpex, St Joseph College, Swindon SN3 3LR, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: D Gibbon 01793 813484.

20-21 June Stafford Stamp Fair, Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Rd, Stafford ST18 0BD. Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Over 50 dealers. Enquiries: 01785 259350.

28 June Kent Federation Day and AGM, Ashford School, East Hill, Hythe Road, Ashford TN24 8PB, 10am to 4pm.

5 July Yorkshire Philatelic Association annual convention, hosted by Wakefield Philatelic Society, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Northgate, Wakefield WF1 3QX, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries 01924 271218 or 01924 259713.

11 July Strand Stamp Fair, see above.

11-12 July Thematix (thematics stamp fair) King George Field Indoor Bowls Club, Jubilee Way, Chessington KT9 1TR. Friday 10.30am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Parking and refreshments available. Enquiries: Paula Cant, 0125 615699 or paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk.

11-14 July Joint meeting Royal Philatelic Society London and Belgium Philatelic Academy; Philatelic Congress of GB, Ypres, Belgium. See www.rdpceremonyweekend.com. Also see 25 to 27 July below

18 -19 July York Racecourse Stamp & Coin Fair YO23 1EX

18-20 July GB Philatelic Society regional meeting in York. Enquiries: P Tanner 01753 887755.

25-27 July GB Philatelic Congress, The Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough. Talks, displays and presentation of Congress Medal. Enquiries: Paul Gaywood, 01772 713917, gaywood@hotmail.co.uk •

Overseas exhibitions

An international stamp exhibition will be held in Seoul, capital of South Korea, 7 to 12 August.

Malaysia 2014, a joint World Youth Stamp Exhibition and Asian International Exhibition, in Kuala Lumpur takes place from 1 to 6 December. For details contact Richard West – richjwest@btinternet.com •

New RDPs

Four collectors will sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Philatelic Congress in Ypres in July. They are Robert Johnson and Christopher King (both UK), Wolfgang Maassen (Germany) and Dan Walker (USA). Mr Johnson's interests include British Charge and Accountancy Marks, Suspended Mail, Twopence Blue stamps, Cape of Good Hope Rectangulars, and postal history of George V and French

Congo. He has written over 200 articles for society journals and authored or co-authored a number of books. He was the first Chairman of the Friends of the National Postal Museum.

Christopher King is a noted collector of the stamps and postal history of Scandinavia, particularly Schleswig from 1625 to 1920. He is Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust and President of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Wolfgang Maassen collects and has written works on Brazil. He is also noted for studies on the history of philately such as Milestones of the Philatelic Literature of the 19th century. He is President of AIJP (the international association of philatelic journalists).

Dan Walker has built up noted collections of British Borneo and Romania but is best-known for his work on the Caribbean island of Grenada. He is now studying the stamps of the Indian Feudatory States, especially Barwani. He has served numerous philatelic organisations in the USA and the FIP.

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was established in 1921. Over 360 philatelists from 40 countries have signed and of the present 79 signatories, 16 are from the UK •

Stamp books display

Ian Harvey's display of GB stamp booklets, at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 27 March, demonstrated that these are more intricate to collect than normal sheet stamps. They also provide a fascinating insight of life over the years through their advertising pages. The material shown extended far beyond the stamps contained within the booklets, including the covers and interleaves, with many trials and essays on display. Also shown were booklet panes with the stamps invalidated, such as by CANCELLED or SPECIMEN overprints, often included within sample booklets supplied to advertisers.



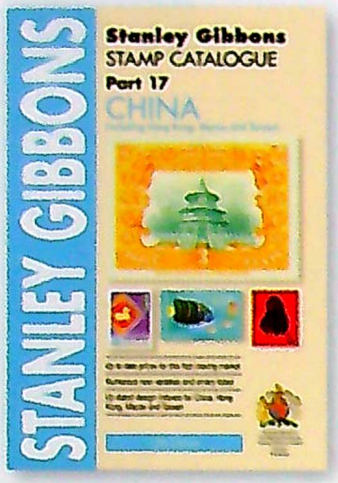
Although the British Post Office issued its first booklet in 1904, the Stamp Distribution Syndicate (Limited) in 1891 produced a 'Memorandum' note book containing a single 1d lilac stamp. However, Ian's display began with the earliest extant booklets, dating from 1868, sold for 21 shillings and containing the 3d stamps produced by Bonnelli's Electrical Telegraph Co Ltd. Giving the vote of thanks, Chris Harman described this as 'most astonishing collection' that had been 'exceptionally difficult' to assemble.

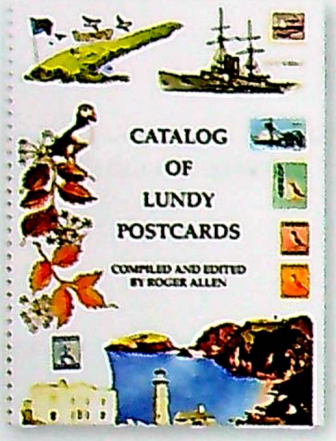
Collectors wishing to visit the Royal Philatelic Society London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or be a guest at one of its meetings, should contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044 •

First World War exhibitions & events

The main anniversary of 2014 is the centenary of the start of the First World War (also 75th anniversary of start of Second World War), with Royal Mail issuing stamps on 28 July. 'The Great War in Portraits' exhibition can be seen at the National Portrait Gallery in London until 15 June – phone 020 7306 0055 for information. Stephen Jardine will give a talk on what we can learn from the recollections of Scottish soldiers 'From Scotland to The Somme' at the National Library of Scotland at 6pm on 30 June. Admission free but booking essential – 0131 623 3734, www.nls.uk/events/booking. For details of numerous local, regional, national and international events and exhibitions see the Imperial War Museum's website at www.iwm.org.uk •

New publications





A new 10th edition of Part 17 of the *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue – China* is now available. The catalogue includes Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. Price £48.95. New 5th editions are also available of the New Zealand and St Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha catalogues, price £24.95 and £15.95 respectively Catalogues are available from the SG shop at 399 Strand, London WC2 and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Publications, 7 Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH, telephone 0800 611 622 (UK only) or e-mail orders@stanleygibbons.com.

Roger Allen has long collected stamps and postcards of Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel. He has now published a 160-page *Catalog of Lundy Postcards* based on the cards in his own collection and those of other Lundy enthusiasts. The work is arranged by publisher of the cards – nearly 150 of them – plus a few unidentified. Each publisher section includes a catalog number for each card, with indication of colour, serial number (if one is shown), inscription and a description of the picture or design. No valuations are given but the cards are rated C (common) R (rare) or RR (very rare). There are 20 pages of colour reproductions of cards, old and modern, some used with Lundy local stamps which have been issued since 1929. The cards feature views of the island, ships, maps, Lundy ponies, Lundy stamps and coins, and of course puffins, the island's emblem and from which it drives its name. This unique work will be enjoyed by all collectors of Lundy cards, indeed anyone with an interest in the island. Price £15 plus £5 UK postage from Roger Allen, 29 Solomon Drive, Bideford, Devon EX39 5XY. Mr Allen's book *Lewis Carroll Phillustrated* was reviewed here last July •

Society journals

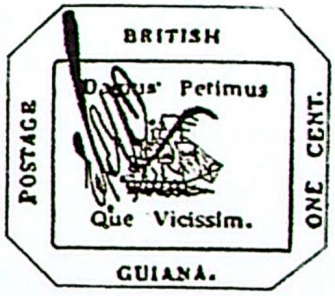


The March/April issue of *The GB Journal* from the GB Philatelic Society (GBPS) contains erudite features on Archer-perforated stamps, use of embossed postage stamps to France, official penny pink letter sheet, and George V Royal Cypher ½d shades – you may need a scientific mind to understand this article. There is also a review of a new book on 1840 Prepaid Parliamentary Envelopes. Sent out with the Journal is the GBPS Newsletter, now edited by Paul Ramsay, with well-presented reports of Society meetings; a moving tribute to Richard Payne, a former GBPS President; and a preview of the new British Presentation Packs catalogue. The GBPS will mark its 60th anniversary with a display at Spring Stampex 2015. For details of the Society contact Peter Tanner, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross SL9 7EN or e-mail petertannerHS13@talktalk.net

The Spring 2014 issue of *TPO* (the journal of TPO & Seapost Society) includes an appreciation of its elder statesman Roger Hosking who died in December, and a photograph of him (less than flattering) on the front cover. Articles include Liverpool Landing Stage 6d late fee, a new Thames paddle steamer cachet, Greenock & Ardrishaig Packet datestamp, War Emergency TPO services, Edinburgh-Carlisle Sorting Tender new mark, and late fee mailings to the USA, in addition to a number of articles on overseas TPO and seapost services. For details of the Society e-mail TPO_Seapost@hotmail.com, or visit www.tpo-seapost.org.uk •

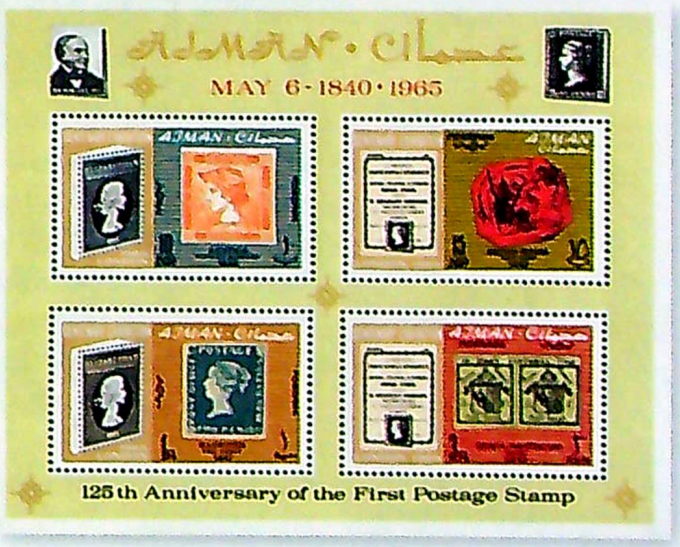
The British Guiana One-Cent Magenta





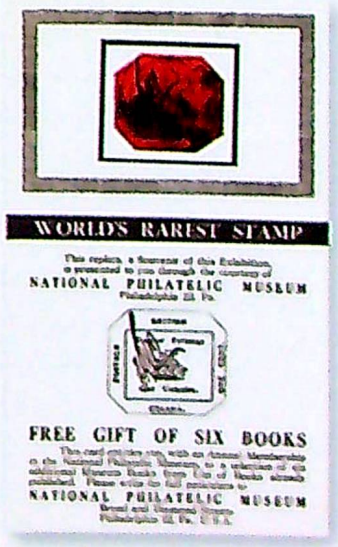
Sotheby's New York will auction the most famous stamp in the world on 17 June. It will be on display at Sotheby's London from 1 to 5 June. Only one example is known of the One-Cent Magenta issued by British Guiana (now Guyana) in 1856. Supplies of British Guiana stamps from London were delayed, so the Postmaster in British Guiana got the local *Royal Gazette* newspaper to produce provisional stamps to maintain stocks until the fresh supplies arrived. The stamp depicts a crude image of a sailing ship and the Latin motto of the colony, which translates as 'We give and expect in return'. The Postmaster was fearful of forgery and required postal clerks to initial each stamp.

The only known example of the 1 cent stamp was discovered by a Scottish schoolboy, L Vernon Vaughan, among family papers in 1873. It was purchased from him by Neil McKinnon, who later sold it to Thomas Ridpath of Liverpool, who in turn sold it to leading collector Philippe la Renotiere von Ferrary (or Ferrari). His collection was seized by France as war reparations in 1922 and the stamp auctioned. It was purchased for $35,000 by another major collector, Arthur Hind of New York who outbid King George V. Hind, a textile industrialist, was born in Bradford in 1856, the year the One-Cent Magenta was issued., and emigrated to the USA in 1890. He died in 1933 and his widow continued to exhibit the stamp. In 1940 it was then sold to Frederick T Small, an Australian living in Florida, and then bought at auction by Irwin Weinberg Stamp Consortium in 1970 for $280,000. Ten years later it was purchased by John E du Pont of Pennsylvania for $935,000. The pre-sale estimate for the forthcoming auction is $10-20 million. A portion of proceeds from the sale will benefit the Eurasian Pacific Wildlife Conservation Foundation, which du Pont championed during his lifetime. Other stamps in the John E du Pont British Guiana collection are to be auctioned by David Feldman in Geneva on 27 June 2014.



The stamp bears on the reverse owner's stamps of Ferrari and Small, and one unknown (possibly Hind), plus pencil signatures of Weinberg and du Pont. It has recently been given a new certificate by the Expert Committee of the RPSL and an interesting report on this, by Christopher Harman, published in the April 2014 issue of the Society's journal, *The London Philatelist*. Some older readers may recall the stamp being displayed at the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Centenary Exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall in 1965; it was last on public view at the '86 International Stamp Show in Chicago in 1986.

The stamp featured, along with seven other classic and rare stamps (above right) on one of two miniature sheets issued by Ajman in 1965 to mark the 125th anniversary of the Penny Black. The stamp was also reproduced on stamps from Guyana in 1967, 1979, and 2006. Some years ago I acquired a card bearing a photographic reproduction of the stamp hinged to it, giving details of the National Philatelic Museum of Philadelphia (right). No doubt reproductions have appeared on other philatelic souvenirs •





Memories of war The first in an extraordinary series of commemorative stamps tells the story of the opening stages of the Great War…



FD1416TH

THE COURAGE AND SUFFERING of servicemen and civilians in the Great War are remembered in the first of Royal Mail's five stamp issues marking the centenary of the devastating conflict. The stamps' subjects evoke the horror, sadness and sacrifice of war: the death of a boy soldier, the splintered landscape of the front line, a poem for the fallen, a blood-red poppy. From 2015 to 2018, a further four issues will commemorate every year of hostilities. Each issue covers six evocative themes – the poppy icon, war poetry, images of those who served, war art, memorials and poignant artefacts from the fighting. This first set, The Great War 1914, comes out on 28 July. Also in the issue are a Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book and Coin Cover.

The Great War 1914 Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	28 July*
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Hat-trick
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Number per sheet	25/50
Phosphor	All over on For The Fallen and Star Shell stamps : bars as appropriate on rest of set
Gum	PVA

Stamp by stamp The Great War 1914 stamps are a mix of three First Class and three £1.47 values, and some feature original artwork commissioned by Royal Mail for the issue.

Poppy Leading botanical artist Fiona Strickland's painting of a delicate poppy, commissioned by Royal Mail, hints at the fragility of life itself. The flower's ability to flourish even on the shattered European battlefields made it a common sight for soldiers and a symbol of sacrifice. *First Class*

For The Fallen 'At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.' These famous lines from Laurence Binyon's 1914 poem *For The Fallen* were carved by stonemason Gary

Stamp designs © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2014. Background images © Robert Hunt Library/Mary Evans.



Above: First Day Cover with Tallents House and alternative postmarks and the postmarks themselves in close-up

Left. First Day Cover for the Great War Prestige Stamp Book

Breeze as part of a special Royal Mail commission for the issue. *First Class*

Private William Cecil Tickle Tickle enlisted aged 15, a month after war was declared. At 17 he was dead on the third day of the Somme, caught on three sides by savage enemy machine gun fire near the village of Ovillers, along with many of his comrades from the Essex Regiment. *First Class*

A Star Shell The artillery flare in CRW Nevinson's painting *A Star Shell* reveals the bleak, butchered landscape of the front line, wreathed in ▸

Below: the Presentation Pack features a painting of the Great War's first VC winner Captain Francis Grenfell leading a cavalry charge against German troops



trenches and barbed wire. Invalided out of the army after serving in France and Flanders, Nevinson became an official war artist. *£1.47*

The Response William Goscombe John's spectacular sculpture *The Response* in Newcastle upon Tyne shows the enthusiasm for the conflict at its start: led by drummers and a Victory figure, the local Northumberland Fusiliers march to the railway station, one man saying goodbye to his sweetheart. *£1.47*

Princess Mary's Gift Fund Box King George V's daughter raised over £162,000 to send servicemen a present for Christmas 1914: that first year more than 420,000 servicemen received her embossed brass tin, containing writing materials, a Christmas card, tobacco and cigarettes. *£1.47*

Also in the issue The Presentation Pack charts 1914's events, from the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on 28 June to the year's end. The front of the Presentation Pack is styled like a newspaper of the time and the back features a painting of cavalry captain Francis Grenfell, the war's first Victoria Cross winner.

The richly illustrated Prestige Stamp Book details the causes of the war. Special features include a

The Great War 1914 Issue – Prices	
Stamps – 3 x 1st Class and 3 x £1.47	£6.27
Presentation Pack	£6.80
Prestige Stamp Book	£11.30
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£8.00/£6.67
Coin Cover	£17.50
Coin Cover Silver Proof	£60.00
Coin Cover Gold Proof	£750.00

© Lebrecht Music and Arts Photo Library/Alamy



Left: the Prestige Stamp Book features striking pictures of British troops

Below: the four Prestige Stamp Book panes. For details see July *Bulletin*







gatefold demonstrating preparations for combat and a map showing the early battles. The Coin Cover presents the Royal Mint's Anniversary of the First World War £2 coin, featuring Lord Kitchener. Standard, Silver and Gold versions of the coin are available.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 28 July. You can send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Tallents House for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark (address on page 290). The non-pictorial alternative postmark is Newcastle, location of *The Response* sculpture. The pictorial version shows the momentous 1914 headline from *The Times* – 'Britain at War' •

New from the islands

Channel Islands Guernsey's next issue, Marine Life II: Crustaceans released on 30 July, comprises six stamps and a miniature sheet. On the same day ten stamps depicting Guernsey scenes go on sale – five for local and five for UK rates. The stamps, on self-adhesive paper, will be available in booklets of ten and 100. Enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS, or email philatelic@guernseypost.com. Earlier spring issues from Guernsey were a Europa set on the theme of musical instruments (8 May) and an issue marking 50 years of Britain in Bloom (28 May).



Above: Alderney celebrates with The First Birthday of Prince George stamps

Below: the Isle of Man's D-Day First Day Cover

Alderney will be issuing The First Birthday of Prince George – se-tenant pair – on 22 July, and six stamps and a miniature sheet in an issue called The Life of Ian Fleming on 30 July. Previous sets include the Bayeux Tapestry of 28 May. Enquiry details as above.

Jersey's forthcoming issues are six stamps and a miniature sheet commemorating D-Day (6 June), eight stamps entitled Seasons – Summer (30 June), and six stamps and a miniature sheet honouring 50 years of the Red Arrows (15 July). Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, or visit www.jerseystamps.com. Jersey issued a set marking the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth on 23 April, and six stamps and a miniature sheet featuring Poppies on 6 May •

Isle of Man The next IOM issue is in August and features playing cards. Out on 8 May, the six-stamp set entitled D-Day: A Manxman's Journey, celebrated the exploits of locals involved in the operation. Enquiries: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, or visit www.iomstamps.com. Sets released earlier this year include the ten-stamp Archibald Knox issue, the six-stamp Rare Breeds – Farmyard Animals set on 15 April, and six stamps on 23 April commemorating the Battle of Clontarf •



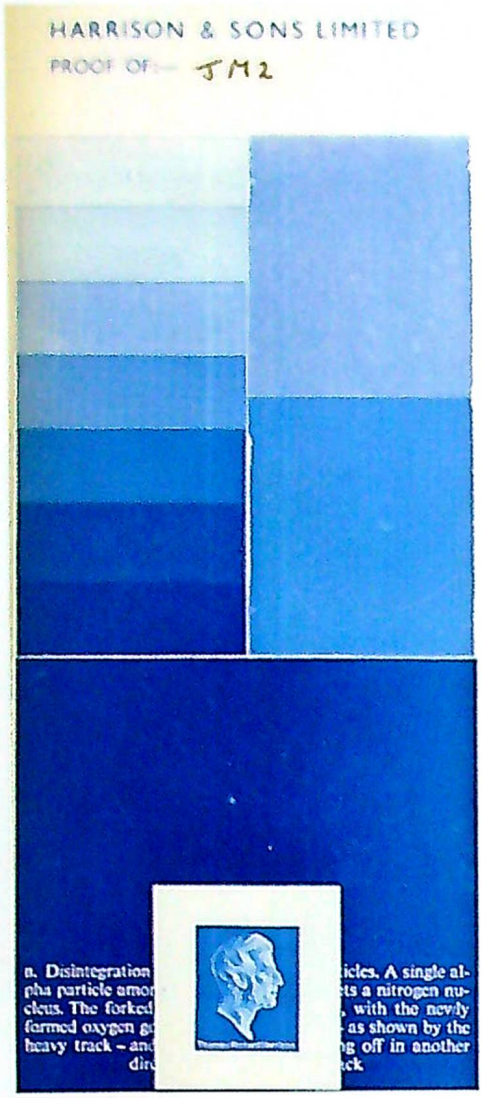


1

Another view Douglas Myall traces the pedigree of the colour palette used on Machin definitives

THE FOUR MACHIN stamps issued to meet the needs of the tariff changes of 31 March are in colours that have not been used before – Holly Green, 81p; Purple Heather, 97p; Dove Grey, £1.47; and Marine Turquoise, £2.15. They are part of the Jubilee palette, of which more later. They bring to 125 the number of colours used for this, the longest-running UK definitive ever. Why so many? Would not a group of about 20 to 30 suffice for all series requirements? Here I will try to answer these questions.

I will use the names officially assigned to the colours by Royal Mail. These usually differ from those used by publishers of stamp catalogues, some of whom publish colour guides for which they have coined their own names. Arnold Machin had quite firm views on the best colours to bring out the beauty of his sculpture. In the 1969 Royal Mail film *From Picture to Post*, he can be seen expressing a preference for the darker colours. He also suggested that the background gradation from left to right of some of the paler colours should be abandoned. Twenty colours were used for the first Machin (pre-decimal) ▸



2

issues. They were decided upon following exhaustive tests for ease of recognition and were released over a year or so from June 1967. Most of the names were officially adopted from the British Colour Council's *Dictionary of Colours for Interior Decoration*. The first-class letter rate of the time was 4d and it is believed that its colour, Dark Sepia, was the personal choice of The Queen, in a conscious reference to the penny black. However, on 6 January 1969 it became the first Machin to be re-issued in a different colour, Vermilion, to make postal cancellations on it more visible. Because the new colour was similar to the Scarlet used for the 8d stamp, that too was changed, to Duck Egg Blue. Since then, colours have been changed for a variety of reasons and not only because of tariff changes.

With decimalisation in prospect, no further changes were made but the need to ensure that the colours were distinctive was a major factor when deciding on the 14 colours that would be needed for the initial range of decimal small format stamps. It was announced in the staff magazine *Courier* that the Applied Psychology Unit at Cambridge University was sorting out the required number from a field of 25. There had originally been 40 colours but 15 had been eliminated after tests by Post Office engineers showed that they did not work satisfactorily in the mail sorting machines in use at the time.

As inflation caused tariffs to alter at frequent intervals, the number of values increased, as did the requirement for new colours in order to avoid confusion with others only recently abandoned. In consequence, the number of different colours employed over the next 16 years increased rapidly. A two-page list of official decimal colour names from 1971 to 1991 was given in the September 1991 edition of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* (volume 29 pages 14 and 15).

Matthews' palette The Post Office completed a major review of colour policy in 1988 (1). Artist Jeffery Matthews FSIAD was commissioned to produce a range of stronger and brighter colours with the aim of setting off The Queen's head to greater effect. An account of these developments was given by Angela Reeves FCSD, Design and Editorial Manager at Royal Mail, in the January and February 1993 issues of the *Bulletin*. Accompanying the second of these articles is a colour illustration of the Matthews autographed palette which had been exhibited at Stamp Show 2000 as part of the Royal Mail display titled 'Eyes Right – the Definitive Story'.

The Matthews colours were formulated so they could be replicated exactly. Essays of them were printed by Harrison in 1985, using an image of the head of Thomas Richard Harrison, often used by the firm for publicity and trial printings. On the ruby (40th) anniversary of the Machin head a commemorative document, entitled *The Colourful Art of Arnold Machin*, was issued by Royal Mail. It featured three folders, one of which contained prints of 16 JM colour essays. At that time these colours were not named but were



3

designated JM plus a number or a number plus JM. A Harrison proofing sheet for the colour named JM2 is illustrated here (2). The sheet shows the build-up of the colour and its tonal range. The final colour names were originated by Royal Mail and the colour previously known as JM2 was later named Ultramarine.

The first stamp to be printed in a JM colour was the 2p Dark Green of 23 February 1988. For the next 30 years it was used almost exclusively, though new colours were created for special occasions, including Ruby (£1 for the 40th anniversary of the Machin design in 1997), Gold (26p for The Queen's Golden Wedding anniversary in 1997 and 1st NVI for her golden Jubilee in 2002), Brownish Olive (1st NVI for the millennium in 2000) and Diamond Blue (1st NVI for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 2012). The latter was the first of the Jubilee palette, hence the name.

Souvenir sheet At the Stamp Show 2000, a miniature sheet with eight colours from the Matthews palette was printed by De La Rue and issued as a souvenir (3). This used up all the units on the Jumelle press so there was not one available for the phosphor bar overprints. The solution was to use paper with the phosphor incorporated into the paper coating, a practice which had largely been phased out after 1995.

I do not know whether the Matthews palette has been abandoned in favour of the Jubilee palette. I hope not, as, although some of the darker JM colours are no longer considered suitable, the rest are bright and colourful, whereas the Dove Grey of the £1.47 is rather insipid in my view.

Although the colour of last year's £1.88 stamp was named Sapphire Blue, one of the colours of the Jubilee palette, it is not the first time this colour was used for a Machin stamp. The recess (intaglio) printed 50p of 1970 was also officially given that name – see page 15 of the *Bulletin* for September 1991. It just goes to show what a vexed, albeit fascinating, subject colour naming can be •

Douglas Myall FRPSL is known for his exhaustive study of British definitive stamps since 1967. His catalogue, 'The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook', is one of the main reference books for Machin collectors and is available on CD from www.deegam.com

Philately fights for fish



The Sustainable Fish issue launches this month and the stamps reflect the choices we can all make to help save sea life in UK waters and beyond

THERE IS A BATTLE for survival going on in our oceans as our seafood favourites are decimated by over-fishing. Industrial trawling has turned the seabed into a 'desert' in many places and led to a serious decline in many species – particularly those that take a long time to reach reproductive maturity, such as cod, the UK chip-shop favourite. Over the past 120 years catches of popular bottom feeders, including cod, plaice and sole, have dropped by a whopping 94 per cent in our home waters, according to research at the University of York. Hence the need to choose sustainable species if we are to help save our sea life while taking full advantage of fish as a healthy eating option – for its proteins, vitamins, minerals and omega-3 oil.



The plight of our fisheries was not helped by some well-meaning European Union legislation that set landing quotas for the various species. Because modern fishing practices like bottom-trawling have been rather indiscriminate, these policies resulted in perfectly edible fish being cast back overboard once the quotas were reached. The plan for landing quotas might once have sounded sensible in theory, but by the time most of these fish are hauled onboard and then sorted into 'keepers' and 'discards', they are all damaged or dead. And so the only beneficiaries of the legislation were the gulls following the fishing fleet. A significant percentage of the catch was just going back over the side.

> ‘If we want to keep eating fish, we need to be more responsible in the way that we catch it and more adventurous in the food we choose to cook’
>
> **Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall**

© Dennis Hardley / Alamy







Above: sardines on toast and pickled herrings are classic British fish dishes

The great Fish Fight

Fortunately a man with passion emerged to inspire change. Chef and eco-activist Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall took to the high seas to produce the first episode of *Hugh's Fish Fight* back in 2010 and so launched the Fish Fight conservation campaign. Fearnley-Whittingstall had already made a name for himself through the *River Cottage* television series and his efforts to raise public awareness about the intensive rearing of chickens destined for supermarket shelves with *Hugh's Chicken Run*. And when he exposed the tremendous waste of the discards fishing policy to an incredulous viewing public and urged them to take action, the results were staggering. In the first advertisement break 40,000 people had signed up to the Fishfight.net online petition against discards. And the social media pressure that Hugh mobilised did not stop there…

- 12 million people viewed Fishfight.net
- 870,000 people from 195 countries signed the online petition
- 225,000 emails were sent to MEPs demanding an end to discards
- 220,000 tweets were sent to MEPs asking them to take action
- 255,000 Facebook fans signed up to join the campaign

Before long celebrities ranging from fellow television chefs like Gordon Ramsey and Heston ▸

Check before you chew

Buying fish? You can check how sustainable it is in the Fish Finder section on the Marine Conservation Society's website – www.fishonline.org. The MCS rates species from 1 (most sustainable) to 5 (least sustainable), recommends a minimum size to buy it at, and when to purchase. Some fish have a range of ratings, as their sustainability depends on where and how they are caught. See the website for the most sustainable catches.

Herring MCS rating: **1-5**
Recommended minimum size: 25cm
Season: N/A as spawning can be throughout the year

Red Gurnard MCS rating: **3**
Recommended minimum size: 25cm
Season: avoid summer (spawning)

Dab MCS rating: **2-3**
Recommended minimum size: 20cm
Season: avoid April-June (spawning)

Pouting MCS rating: **2**
Recommended minimum size: 22cm
Season: avoid March-April (spawning)

Cornish Sardine MSC Rating: **2-3**
Recommended minimum size: 20cm
Season: July-November





Above: fresh white fish, like pouting and dab, tastes best cooked simply – just dip in seasoned flour and fry in a little butter



Blumenthal to Harry Hill and Jemima Khan had signed up and added their considerable social media presence to the campaign with a combined reach of over 16 million Twitter followers. Other big names associated with the campaign included Stephen Fry, Jeremy Paxman and Ricky Gervais. Activists and TV chefs from France, Germany, Poland and Spain joined in and people-pressure eventually won the day.

An online tool allowed Fish Fighters everywhere to contact MEPs in their native language and success came in February of this year, when Europe's politicians voted to ban discards. Since then the Fight Fight's celebrity leaders across Europe have sent an open letter urging politicians to find a Common Fisheries agreement that preserves an effective discard ban and to bring an end to overfishing.

How timely, then, is this month's Royal Mail Sustainable Fish issue, which endorses one of Hugh's key objectives – to encourage us to eat sustainable species and avoid those under threat. The new set includes five stamps with sustainable fish (shown on these pages) and five featuring vulnerable species (see page 320).



The future battle to save our seas

The nation is changing its fish-dish favourites. In the UK 600 chip shops have been persuaded to add sustainable mackerel to their menu boards and sales of previously little known species such as gurnard and pouting are up by 150 per cent at UK supermarkets.

Campaigners stress that these changes must be permanent. Bringing an end to overfishing in Europe will take perseverance and hard work from our fishermen and politicians. The implementation of fair and effective legislation is no simple matter; only last month, in an article in *The Times*, the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations accused the Fish Fight and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall of misleading the public in presenting discards as a problem not

> ‘The Fish Fight is important. Damned important. It is so fantastically easy for us to make a difference by doing something small and so appallingly easy for us to be complicit in a complete disaster by doing a big nothing. So what's it to be then?’
>
> **Stephen Fry**

© WFPA / Alamy

being addressed by those in the catching sector. But what remains abundantly clear is that we can all play our part by making choices and asking questions that continue to send to supermarkets and restaurants the vital message: that people do care how our seas are managed.

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall urges us to carry on the work of the Fish Fight by supporting the Marine Convervation Society (MCS). He says: 'The first action you should take is to add your name to the MCS Deep Sea petition to help protect our precious oceans, and we can keep working together for sustainable fisheries and healthy seas. MCS produces the best guidance there is about which fish you can eat if you want to make sustainable choices' •

Want help Save our Seas? To support the MCS in protecting the deep, go to www.mcsuk.org. For the ongoing debate about discards, see www.nffo.org.uk and www.rivercottage.net/blogs. Find Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's fish recipes at www.rivercottage.net.



Above: the red gurnard has firm tasty flesh and is good slow-baked with vegetables

Pescatorial postage

We are a fish-friendly nation and it shows in our stamps. We eat around 380,000 tonnes of seafood every year, one in ten people have a pet fish and a further four million of us enjoy fishing as a hobby. No wonder fish are philatelic favourites:

Royal Mail The 1981 Fishing Industry issue showed fishing methods such as cockle dredging and seine netting which would be judged as environmentally damaging today. (1 and 2). Atlantic salmon (3), pike, brown trout and perch (4) were the subject of 1983's British River Fish set, illustrated by Alex Jardine.

More recently, Freshwater Life was the theme of 2013's Post & Go stamps. The three sets were illustrated by Chris Wormell and the fish featured were: a three-spined stickleback in February's Ponds set; perch, crucian carp, Arctic char (5) and the European eel (6) in June's Lakes issue; and Atlantic salmon, brown trout (7), the river lamprey and the tiny minnow in September's Rivers collection.

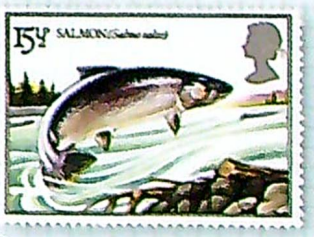
Guest appearances by fish in UK issues include the three-spined stickleback in 2001's Pond Life set, thornback ray (7) and bass (8) in 2007's Andrew Ross-designed Sea Life issue; and the bull-rout, illustrated by Jonathan Couch in the 1988 stamp set celebrating the bicentenary of the Linnean Society (10).



1



2



3



4



5



7



6



7



8



10

By the silvery Tay Colin Campbell reports from the Scottish Philatelic Congress in Perth







From top: view of Perth from the river Tay; Dr Ian Evans (with the Tom Rielly Medal) and Dr David Kindley; Incoming ASPS President Jean Osborne

The 85th Annual Congress of The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) has taken place at the Dewars Centre in Perth. This has been the venue of the Congress for many years and once again proved popular, with a footfall of over 700 over the two days.

The host society was the Scottish Postal History Society, with its chairman Dr David Kindley as Congress chairman. There were displays in the National Exhibition, the Postcard Competition, Open Competition and the Junior Competition, as well as over 30 dealers – plenty to keep the collector busy. Behind the scenes, a band of volunteers deserve special mention for overcoming challenges with the display frames on the Thursday evening, ensuring everything was shipshape for a 10am opening the following day on 11 April.

The Royal Mail Post & Go machines A003 and A004 were in full use and the increased speed of the printing of the logo meant that queues of collectors were kept to a minimum. This year there were again two Smilers® sheets – one with the Union Flag and the other with the Scottish Saltire. After a gap of many years, when there has been no participation by a philatelic bureau, it was pleasing to see Jersey Philatelic Bureau displaying its materials and attracting new subscribers.

Friday evening saw the Tom Rielly Display given by Dr Ian Evans, the incoming President of the Scottish Postal History Society. His display and talk, 'Scottish Postal History of the Victorian Age', was enjoyed by an appreciative audience that included Liz Grant, the Provost of Perth. A civic reception followed where, as is the tradition, the Provost formally welcomed the delegates back to Perth. The Congress Dinner followed when Dr Tony Pollard, the guest of honour, gave a fascinating talk about his work in archaeology.

The Awards Ceremony Perth Provost Liz Grant presented the following awards: Scottish Thematic Rosebowl – Bill McKinlay for 'Gears, The Wheels of Industry'; Carson Trophy (Traditional GB) – Ian Devlin for 'The Wildings Country Definitives 1958-1969'; William Ferris Memorial Trophy (Traditional non-GB





Above left: Provost of Perth Liz Grant with some Congress delegates at the civic reception

Above: ASPS President Dr David Kindley presents Matthew Restall with the Junior Trophy. He and Claudia Calder won the One-Sheet Competition for juniors up to 10 years old

pre-1900) – Sandy Forbes for 'South Australian 2d Surface Printed 1868-1908'; Bridge of Allan Trophy (Traditional non-GB post-1900) – Alexander McCulloch for 'New Zealand Definitives 1960-1967'; Glasgow 800 Cup (General Postal History) – James Burney for 'The Postal History of Nice to 1860'; Bruce Auckland Centennial Quaich (Scottish Postal History) – Keith Robinson for 'Scots Local Namestamps of Sub-Offices of Falkirk'; Iain T. Boyle Vase (Social Philately) – Alan Blakeley for 'Sir Wilfred Grenfell, A Labrador Doctor'; Aerophilatelic Shield (Aerophilately) – Alan Blakeley for 'Newfoundland , Winter Air Mail Flights 1921-1923'; Jean Osborne Cinderella Award – Jean Osborne for Labels of the 1924-25 Wembley Exhibitions'; Robson Lowe Award for Literature – Don Hilditch for 'Postal History of Elgin'; JS Merrylees Award for Literature – Jeff Dugdale for 'Orbit Journal of the Astro Space Stamp Society'; Cowell Salver (Best First Time Entrant) – Keith Robinson for 'Scots Local Namestamps of Sub-Offices of Falkirk'; Dr Hirst Bowl (Best Presentation) – Sandy Forbes for 'South Australian 2d Surface Printed 1868-1908'; Scottish Postcard Trophy – Kenneth Bruce for 'The Reluctant King, George VI'; and the Robert Burns Quaich – Dr David Kindley for 'Shetland in the Wars'.

In the Junior Competition the winners were: One Sheet Competition: Matthew Restall for '100 Years of War' and Claudia Calder for 'War Horses'. The Alba Salvar was won by Logan Murray with 'My Books for Boys'.

Election of officers At the Congress the following were elected: President Jean Osborne; Vice President Paul McGowan; Secretary and Treasurer Alan Watson; National Exhibition Officer Keith Robinson; Junior Competition Organiser Colin Campbell; Youth Development Officer Sandie Robb; Accounts Examiner Derek Fisher; Representative to ABPS Willie King; Keeper of the Book of Scottish Philatelists Jeff Stone; Representative to SPTA Alan Watson; Webmaster Norman Kelso; Publicity Officer Colin Campbell •

The 86th ASPS Congress is on 17 and 18 April 2015, hosted by the Falkirk and District Philatelic Society at the Dewars Centre, Perth. For local events, see www.scottishphilately.co.uk

Personal postcodes What's in a postcode? An amazing amount of information – about us

29 million
The number of addresses in the UK

1.8 million
The number of postcodes covering these addresses

100,000
Visits to Royal Mail's online Postcode Finder per day

5,000
Changes made to the Postcode Address File every day

17 The average number of residential addresses covered by one postcode

EVERY COVER in your collection tells a story and, since its mid-20th century introduction, the postcode speaks volumes – according to a recent survey of Britain by postcode that reveals an extraordinary snapshot of our habits, health and home life.

The special survey was commissioned by Royal Mail and carried out to mark 40 years since the allocation of postcodes to every town in the country was completed. Today there are almost two million postcodes. The anniversary is also being celebrated with a blue plaque in Norwich, the first place to trial the modern postcode system in 1959.

If you are looking for love that lasts, head for Poole in Dorset. It contains the postcode with the biggest proportion of married couples, the survey shows. And you might avoid Canterbury if you are looking to start a family – the postcode has the lowest birth rate in Britain.

Are you brainy? Then you will be in good company in Birmingham – the city is home to the highest-qualified population outside London. Further north, the places to really take care of yourself are Langholm (DG13) and Gretna (DG16) – these codes are the healthiest in Scotland. The healthiest postcode in Wales is Cynderwen in Dyfed – SA66 – and in Northern Ireland it is BT26, the Hillsbrough code. The survey also reveals that:

- People living in the Aldeburgh postcode IP15 have the highest average age in the UK
- The Shetland code ZE2 has the lowest crime rate in Scotland
- Households in London and Surrey postcodes owe the most on their mortgage
- The West Country's Frome and Somerton codes enjoy the lowest unemployment levels in the UK

After the 1959 trials, the programme to postcode every location in the country was launched in 1966. It was completed in 1974 when Norwich received its new code. These new, more detailed codes resulted from Royal Mail's mechanisation drive, with machines designed to tackle the problems of labour-intensive mail sorting. This process needed addresses to be reduced to machine-readable codes, and so the modern postcode system was born. Today optical recognition machines read postcodes and convert them to phosphor dots, which are then read by sorting machines that handle correctly addressed mail.

The system is still evolving: the Postcode Address File, run by Royal Mail's Address Management Unit, contains details of every UK address, or delivery point, and it is constantly updated for accuracy – with 5,000 changes made every day •

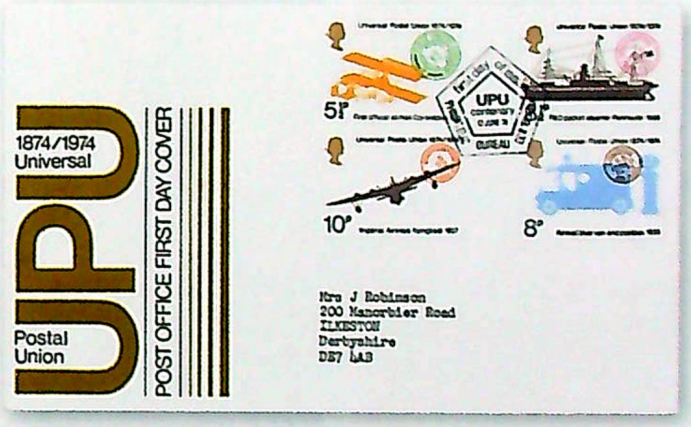
In the beginning... in 1864 Liverpool was the first place outside London to be divided into different postal districts. Numbers were introduced to postcodes in 1917. The move was to help women who had taken over sorting operations from men serving in the forces and did not have as much knowledge as experienced male workers.

A mix of letters and numbers was chosen for the postcode system as people can remember this combination better than just a list of numbers.

This Month in History John Holman reveals how the Universal Postal Union was celebrated on stamps

Forty years ago, on 12 June 1974, the Post Office issued four stamps to mark the centenary of the Universal Postal Union. This was established following the Paris Postal Conference of 1863 and is the body through which postal administrations co-ordinate postal services. Since 1948 it has been a specialised agency of the United Nations. Its headquarters are in Bern, Switzerland. In 1949 stamps were issued by many countries, including Britain, to mark the 75th anniversary of the 1874 Postal Union and numerous stamps followed for the centenary in 1974.

The four British stamps feature methods of carrying mail with images of related postmarks. The 4½p stamp shows the P&O packet steamer *Peninsula* of 1888 with a Southampton Ship Letter datestamp. The Farman H. F. III biplane used for the Coronation aerial post flights of 1911 is depicted on the 5½p value together with the Aerial Post handstamp. (The centenary of these flights was commemorated by a miniature sheet and prestige book in 2011.) The 8p denomination shows a 1930 airmail van and postbox, both painted blue, with a London Air Mail cancellation. The top value, 10p for overseas airmail, features a 1937 Imperial Airways Short S.21 flying boat, *Maia*, with Southampton Air Post postmark. As with all good stamp designs there was proper captioning: each stamp bears the inscription 'Universal Postal Union 1874/1974' plus an identification of the mail transport shown. Information about the subjects of the stamps was published in the *Bulletin* of June 1974 with eight unused designs.



Above: a first day cover celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union

The stamps were designed by Rosalind Dease who also created the 1968 Christmas, 1970 and 1971 Literary Anniversary, 1972 General Anniversaries 3p, and 1973 Inigo Jones stamps. With her husband David Gentleman she also designed the 1965 Churchill, Commonwealth Arts Festival, and seven of the eight Battle of Britain stamps. The eight unused designs for this UPU issue were shown in the June 1974 *Bulletin*. Five by Ms Dease featured ships and aircraft; those of Peter North showed a selection of postmarks, the initials UPU, and Henniker Heaton, author of *Universal British Imperial Penny Postage*. Ms Dease's unused designs would have made a worthy set.

The stamps were printed by Harrisons in three colours, plus gold for The Queen's silhouette positioned at top left. The gold colour varies on the 5½p stamp, recorded as pale gold, silvery gold and dark gold. No major errors such as imperfs or missing colours are recorded in the SG catalogue, though two significant constant varieties are listed in the GB Specialised Catalogue. On the 3½p the staff of the pennant on the bow of the ship is almost missing, and on the 5½p value there is 'bomb-burst' damage to the wheels at the left of the aircraft.

As well as the Philatelic Bureau first day postmark, an Imperial Airways Southampton special handstamp is found on first day covers, plus other unrelated special handstamps in use on the day of issue. First day covers with the Bureau cancel and a special Internaba cachet were sold at the British Post Office stand at the UPU Centenary International Exhibition at Basel. The stamps were withdrawn from sale on 11 June 1975, sales ranging from 6,450,000 for the 8p stamp to 38,880,800 for the 3½p value. Some 105,550 packs were sold. No stamp cards were produced for this issue •

Food for thought Try these brain-teasers on tasty fish

Dive into these questions based on the new Sustainable Fish issue, which encourages us to change our seafood choices and protect threatened marine species. Get them right and you could net some big philatelic prizes.

1 This species has been caught by English fishermen for a thousand years. What is it?
a) Cornish Sardine **b)** Norfolk Nipper **c)** Gloucestershire Gobbler

2 Which location does the Sustainable Fish alternative handstamps feature?
a) Finsbury Park **b)** Swimdon **c)** Fishguard

3 These cheeky little tykes may look happy but they sound a bit miffed. What are they?
a) Wincing **b)** Pouting **c)** Sulking

4 Herrings contain an oil that is good for our health. What is it?
a) Beta-2 **b)** Omega-3 **c)** Alpha-Papa

5 Which artist illustrated the stamps?
a) Glenn Miller **b)** A Miller **c)** Windy Miller

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'June Quiz' and/or 'June Name That Stamp' to: *Bulletin* Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. **Closing date** 18 July 2014. The correct entry in each section wins the Sustainable Fish issue and *The River Cottage Fish Book* (see page 320). Five runners-up also win prizes.

Name That Stamp
From the detail of the stamp shown under the fishing net, can you identify the fish, the name of the stamp set and its year of issue?



March solutions and winners *Spring Blooms Quiz solution* 1a Julia Trickey. 2 Snowdrop. 3a Primrose Hill. *Winners* J M Williams, M Dungate, TJ Bowater, R Hanson, S Kempster, S Levitt. *Name That Stamp* Colchicum/Autumn Crocus, 34p, 1987. Flower Photographs (by Alfred Lammer). *Winners* G Bates, D Slater, G J Mills, S J Brennan, J D Bowater, J Constantine. *Crossword solution* Cinderella. *Winners* A Harker, J O'Hare, P Bowater, J Eves, D Ireland, E Gilbert. *Readers' Favourite Stamp Poll* In the April *Bulletin*, we omitted the name of a lucky draw winner – congratulations to A Pottkamp of Germany, who receives a leatherbound 2013 Year Book •



1



2



3



4

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; 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.

Stamp images: © Royal Mail Group Ltd Net: iStock



STEP UP, STAMPERS

Start creating your brilliant display for Britain's biggest stamp contest for kids and show it off to stamp specialists from around the world! Entries are now open for the 2015 Stamp Active Competition and qualifying displays will be on show at Spring Stampex in London next February.

Stampex attracts experts, dealers and collectors from all over the planet so your entry will be seen by the best in the business. Unlike the British Youth Stamp Championships, which require eight pages, you only have to produce four pages for the Stamp Active contest – but you can enter up to 24 if you want to.

Your entry can be a theme – such as flowers, vehicles, buildings, sport or animals – or a particular country. You are also free to feature used and unused stamps, postcards, envelopes with stamps, stamps with postmarks related to the theme, stamp booklets and miniature sheets.

You can do an 'open' entry, too – this is a theme that includes non-postal items such as maps and photographs.

The winner in each class receives £25 and a trophy. The competition is run by Stamp Active, the national organisation helping young people discover the fun of philately. Find out more at www.stampactive.co.uk •

QUICK QUIZ

Which British actor with a philatelic name starred in 'Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace'? (Answer at bottom of page)

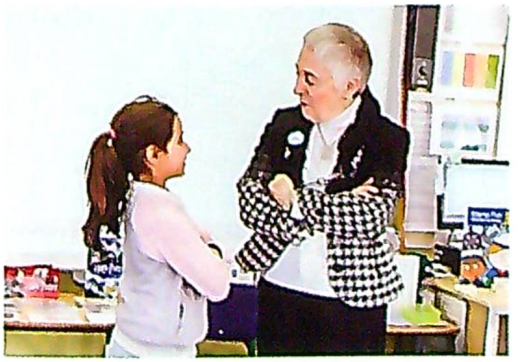
QUICK FACT

A 'dead letter' is the term for a letter that cannot be delivered because it is incorrectly addressed.

FIRST-CLASS CLASS

Get your teacher to read this! The fascinating world of philately comes to your classroom with the free Stamps in Schools service. During one-hour workshops, you and your classmates will discover the extraordinary story of the post through historic stamps and other postal items.

Stamps in Schools, sponsored by the BPMA, is perfect for both primary pupils and younger secondary school students. The in-class workshops support the National Curriculum from Key Stages 1 to 3, and feature cross-curricular links to subjects such as literacy, numeracy, history, geography, art and design, and citizenship.



Stamps in Schools Co-ordinator Erene Grieve (left) takes the workshops, which comprise a presentation, stamp display and stamp activities. In the presentation, retired teacher Erene tells you her own story of how she started collecting at the age of ten when her dad sent off for a bag of stamps for her. She reveals the history of stamps from the Penny Black to the present day, using her stamp display and objects such as airmail letters, first day covers and a model post van. You learn about soaking off and also fix stamps to pages during the activities session – and you can take some stamps away with you •

To find out more at www.postalheritage.org.uk /learning

FANTASTICO PHILATELIC FIAT



Stamp on the accelerator – and everywhere else if you are Italian philatelist Sandro de Biasio. He has plastered his 1970 Fiat 500 with 30,000 stamps and even arranged them to create a post horn image on the bonnet.

Sandro, from Pordenone in northern Italy, spent three years creating his mobile display, sealing the stamps onto the body work with layers of varnish. Saves cash on buying albums! •

Terence STAMP



Sustainable Fish stamps, issued from 5 June, feature five fish at risk and five sustainable alternatives

The classic FLT

Quick-fried fish, lettuce, tomatoes and a dollop of your favourite sauce, all in a bread bun – it is the ultimate fish sandwich. A quick, nutritious choice after a hard day and ideal for summer barbecues



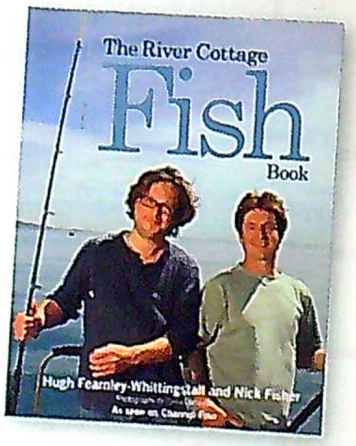
Ingredients

Knob of butter
Dash of olive oil
1 small pouting fillet (about 100g); skinned if preferred
A little plain flour, seasoned with salt and pepper
1 large bap, sliced; buttered if preferred
A few small lettuce leaves
1-2 ripe tomatoes, thickly sliced
1 tablespoon mayonnaise
Tomato ketchup (optional)

Heat the butter and a dash of olive oil in a non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. Dust fish with flour and fry for about two minutes each side.

Slice the bap, lay lettuce and tomatoes on its base, then top with the fish and season well. Spread mayonnaise on the top half of the bap, add ketchup if you want to, then close the sandwich and eat while the fish is still warm •

This recipe is taken from *The River Cottage Fish Book* by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Nick Fisher, published by Bloomsbury and serialised on Channel 4. Available from Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 290), and online at www.royalmail.com/sustainablefish. Price £35.



The River Cottage Fish Book by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Nick Fisher (Bloomsbury) can be ordered from Royal Mail

5 014721 138916 >

Food photography: Simon Wheeler