BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Machin round-up • Alice in Wonderland • Post & Go art



Issues and withdrawals



Cover image: celebrating Royal Mail stamps of 2014. Montage by Paul Elmes and Kate Shaw.
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1 December	**Issue** Kuala Lumpur 2014 FIP Exhibition Sheet: includes 20 x 1st Class.
10 December	**Withdrawal** Lunar New Year – Year of the Horse: Generic Sheet of 20 x 1st Class.
6 January	**Issue** Alice in Wonderland: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 81p, 2 x £1.28, 2 x £1.47), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (10 in set).
7 January	**Withdrawal** Classic Children's TV: Stamps (12 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (12 in set), Medal Cover.
20 January	**Issue** Smilers® Refresh: Stamps (8 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Miniature Sheet, Generic Sheet, Stamp Cards (9 in set), Retail Stamp Book.
24 January	**Issue** Winston Churchill Coin Cover: brilliant uncirculated cupro-nickel £5 coin (includes 1st Class Winston Churchill Stamp from Prime Ministers issue).

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Contents



Definitively 2014 From all the regular and Country definitives to special Prestige Stamp Book panes… here is your annual checklist **103**

Issues and withdrawals Dates for new stamps in store and last chances to purchase old favourites **98, 128**

Correspondence Your Christmas greeting from Royal Mail's Andrew Hammond, and letters from readers sharing their thoughts on collecting **100**

Royal Mail Update Churchill Coin Cover issued next month **102**



Stamp Scene Events, news and anniversaries in philately **106**



January preview Alice in Wonderland pictorial stamps make a magical start to the New Year **111**



Plant portraits by post A closer look at the artistry of Post & Go British Flora **115**



Happy days A new collection of Smilers® designed to help you celebrate life's special moments **117**



This Month in History John Holman recalls the revolutionary approach of Tony Benn as Postmaster General **120**

Teddy bear season Colin Baker on the advent of teddy bears on postcards **122**

Prizes for all the family Test your knowledge of the 2014 stamp world and win great prizes **124**



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Correspondence

Calling all Post & Go lovers

As Editor of the *British Postmark Society Journal*, I have been confused by the varying terms applied to the commemorative inscriptions which appear on Post & Go stamps to mark stamp exhibitions and other occasions. Indeed, Martyn Fry uses two different terms, 'overprint' and 'underprint', in the same article on page 74 of the November 2014 edition of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*.

In my view, neither of these philatelic terms is applicable. An overprint consists of additional characters printed onto an existing stamp; an underprint has two meanings – it can be either wording or a design printed onto the back of a stamp, or more correctly a security printing underneath the main design of a stamp.

However, all the wording and figures on Post & Go stamps are printed onto the basic Machin or pictorial stamp in one operation at the time of vending, so both terms are inappropriate. I have used the rather cumbersome term 'additional inscription', but welcome suggestions from *Bulletin* readers for a more pithy description.
John Enfield, Lancashire

An interesting point and well made, Mr Enfield. Over to you, dear readers, surely among the pithiest commentators in the stamp universe.

Stamps in the public eye

I was most interested in the letter in October *Bulletin* from Juliet Braithwaite, about her efforts to buy commemorative stamps. When I recently asked at the Post Office for a mint set of Prime Ministers, only a few days after the issue's release, I was given an unmistakable look of annoyance. The counter clerk went to a cupboard, got out a large envelope which contained the Special Stamps, gave me the stamps, wrote on the envelope and put it back in the cupboard.

I have also experienced a similar response at a philatelic counter, this time the clerk taking Special Stamps from a drawer. When I asked why these stamps were not in the stock books on the counter, it was explained to me that Royal Mail issues too many sets, and to keep stamps of the same denomination of so many varieties would be a 'nightmare'.

No wonder we rarely see these issues on regular mail! This makes it so difficult for those of us who collect used stamps only.

I have noticed the *Bulletin* similarly hidden away in Post Office drawers. I would think it could be displayed in a clear plastic stand behind the glass at the counter so that the public know it is for sale. While trying hard to sell all manner of financial products, the Post Office seems to have forgotten it is named *Post* Office when its employees look upon us philatelists as a bother.
Stan Beecham, Essex

We have passed your letter to Royal Mail's Post Office Ltd (POL) Channel Manager and will publish their response to your comments.

Read any good books lately?

Every year the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) considers recent publications with a view to awarding one of them the prestigious Crawford Medal. The medal (shown right) is silver-gilt and is awarded for the most valuable and original contribution to philately published in the form of a book. It is open to both members of the Society and non-members. To ensure that the widest possible list of titles is considered, the RPSL invites nominations of books that were published in 2013 or 2104. If *Bulletin* readers are aware of any major philatelic books which they believe should be candidates, please send brief details by email to secretary@rpsl.org.uk or by letter to 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY by 10 February 2015. We hope to have nominations for as broad a selection of books as possible.



Frank Walton, Vice President RPSL

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



Hello readers As you would imagine, the run-up to Christmas is a very busy time at Royal Mail. Traditionally there is an extra workload for everyone in Stamps and Collectibles, as all managers here volunteer to venture into London, Edinburgh and other home towns to take part in the massive annual operation to get the Christmas post safely delivered.

Through the windows of Royal Mail's Farringdon offices you can see the parking bays at Mount Pleasant vehicle depot and beyond, and you know that out there, thousands of men and women are driving postal vans or striding the streets of Britain, pushing the mail through your letter box. So it is great for us to get out there too, and be part of the delivery operation at Christmas, even if it is just for a few hours. Joining the postmen and postwomen on their rounds at this busy time is a useful reminder of the bigger picture, that the stamps we produce are a fundamental part of the whole postal service network.

I have been delighted with the letters I have received this year from *Bulletin* readers – what you think really matters to me and the team. Others, of course, ask me what I think about the stamps we produce, and want to know my favourite issues of the year. Well, obviously I always say I like them all! But in 2014 I have been especially proud of the stamps commemorating the centenary of the First World War. In the development of this issue I have come across many moving stories of those who served and sacrificed and images of that horrendous conflict.

And they affected me deeply. So much so that I went to Belgium recently to pay my personal respects to the fallen. I visited the Menin Gate Memorial to over 54,000 British and Commonwealth war dead who have no known grave. It makes me very proud that we have been able to remember the centenary in such a powerful way, and I am sure that you share this pride given your interest and involvement in stamps.

I am of course looking forward to 2015. It will be a really strong year packed with exciting issues. We start next month with an enchanting issue marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of one of the best-loved children's books of all time – *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Other issues focus on great historical events: the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta, the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo and the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black. The second set from our First World War series remembers 1915. We also pay philatelic tribute to the world of bees and celebrate Britain's hosting of the Rugby World Cup (fingers crossed for a home country win!). And with London hosting Europhilex in May, we are creating some products with core collectors in mind – watch this space.

I hope you have an excellent Christmas and that you enjoy the stamps for 2015 as much as we have enjoyed creating them ●

Keep the letters coming...

We would love to hear your views on Royal Mail stamps and any that are of particular significance to you and your collection. 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. All readers' letters chosen for publication will receive the First World War 1914 Prestige Stamp Book.



Royal Mail Update A new Coin Cover honours the remarkable life and times of Winston Churchill





Clockwise from left: the Winston Churchill Coin Cover envelope, the obverse side of the coin, front of the Coin Cover, Insert and the postmark showing the legendary war leader in victorious pose





Bulldog spirit Great Britain's greatest Briton is remembered with this new Winston Churchill Coin Cover from The Royal Mint and Royal Mail. It features a brilliant uncirculated cupro-nickel £5 coin of the great man and the Prime Ministers issue's Churchill stamp. This is cancelled by a postmark showing Churchill in V for victory pose and the location Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxford – his birthplace.

The coin's obverse has a bust of Churchill and the reverse the Queen's head. This 10,000 limited edition coin cover goes on sale on 24 January, the 50th anniversary of Churchill's death. An accompanying biography covers Churchill's army days, early political career, war leadership and latter years spent writing histories and painting •

Checklist of 2014 definitives A comprehensive list to complete your records of this year's Machin stamp issues



Please note We quote Royal Mail order numbers (prefixed DS, YB etc) as given on Tallents House stock lists • Key to printers: C = Cartor, D = De La Rue, E = Enschedé, ISP = International Security Printers, W = Walsall • Printing process: G = gravure, L = litho, I = intaglio • Unless otherwise stated, definitive and country stamps are self-adhesive, have a perforation gauge of 15 x 14 (with ellipses at lower left and right sides) and two phosphor bands (2nd class standard size one band) • Dates are when stamps were first available from Tallents House; at times they may have been available at Post Offices earlier to meet postal needs •

Counter Sheet Definitives

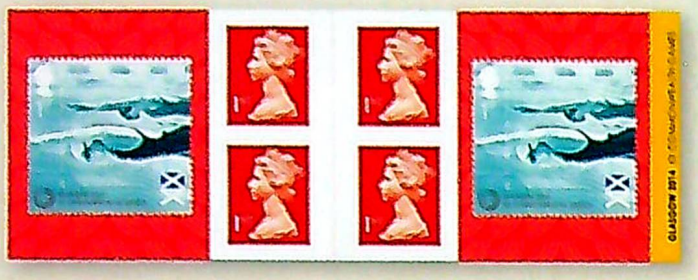
27 March 81p Holly Green (DS811); 97p Purple Heather (DS097); £1.47 Dove Grey (DS147); £2.15 Marine Turquoise (DS215). All W with iridescent ink.

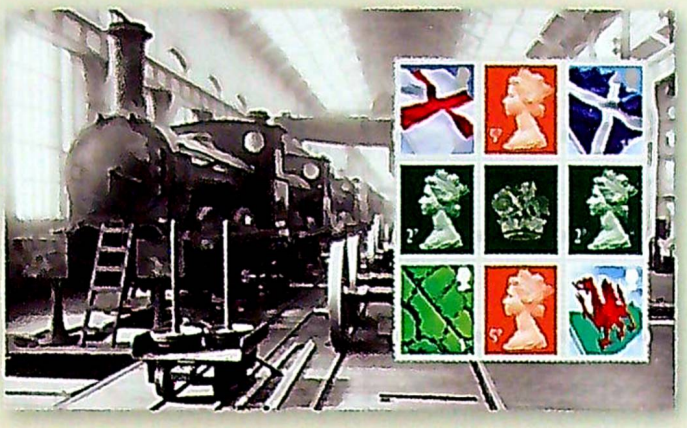
Country Definitives

26 March England 97p Oak (ES097), Northern Ireland 97p Linen (IS097), Scotland 97p Thistle (SS097), Wales 97p, Daffodil (WS097). All G, D, gummed.- ▸









Prestige Stamp Book mixed-value panes

20 February Classic Locomotives of the United Kingdom £14.21 (YB053).
Pane 1: 4 x 1st Class Country Definitives (Flags and Fields) 2 x 5p and 2 x 2p Machin Definitives.
Pane 2: Classic Locomotives of England Special Stamps, 2 x 1st Class and 2 x 60p.
Pane 3: Classic Locomotives of Scotland Special Stamps, 2 x 1st Class and 2 x 68p.
Pane 4: Classic Locomotives of Northern Ireland Special Stamps, 2 x 1st Class and 2 x 78p.
Pane 5: Classic Locomotives of Wales Special Stamps, 2 x 1st Class and 2 x 78p.
All W, G, gummed.

15 April Buckingham Palace £11.39 (YB054).
Pane 1: 4 x 1st Class Special Stamps showing Buckingham Palace circa 1700,1714, 1819 and 1846.
Pane 2: 4 x 1st Class, two showing Buckingham Palace in 1862 and two showing Buckingham Palace in 2014.
Pane 3: 2 x 10p, 4 x 20p and 2 x £1 Machin definitive stamps.
Pane 4: Special Stamps from the Buckingham Palace Miniature Sheet. E, L, PVA.

28 July First World War 1914 £11.30 (YB055).
Pane 1: 3 x 1st Class First World War 1914 Stamps.
Pane 2: 3 x £1.47 stamps.
Pane 3: 1 x £1 Wood Brown stamp surrounded by 8 x 1d King George V stamps.
Pane 4: 4 x 1st Class Country Definitives with a reproduction of Commonwealth Graves cross as a label and 2 x 10p, 2 x 20p Machin definitives. E, L, PVA.

Miniature Sheets

20 February Classic Locomotives of Wales £3.56 (MZ098). C,L, PVA.

15 April Buckingham Palace £2.48 (MZ099). E, L, PVA.

13 May Great British Film £2.48 (MZ100). E, L, PVA.

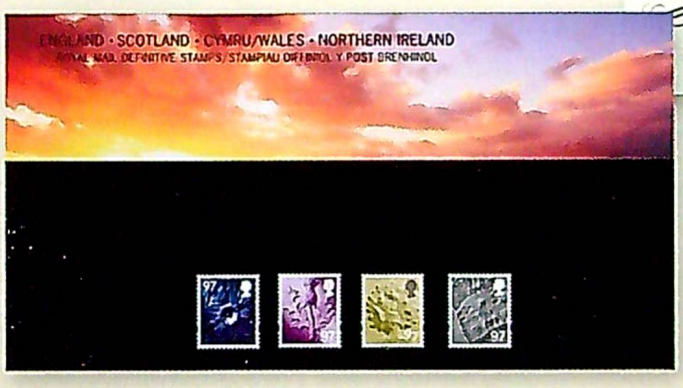
18 September Seaside Architecture £3.80 (MZ101). E, L, PVA.

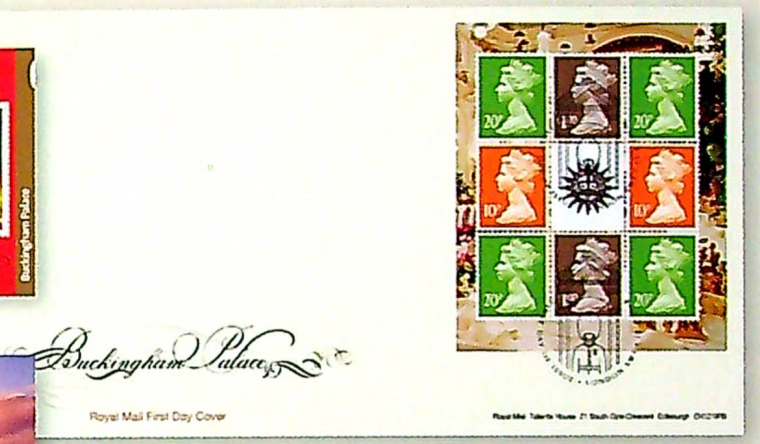
4 November Christmas 2014 £7.71 (MZ102). D, G, PVA.

Stamp Books

20 February Football Heroes £3.72 (U367), includes 4 x Royal Mail Red Machins and 2 x 1st Class Football Heroes stamps – John Charles and Dave Mackay. W, G.







Opposite page (clockwise from left): First World War 1914 Prestige Stamp Book Pane 4; Classic Locomotives of Wales Retail Stamp Book; Classic Locomotives of the United Kingdom Prestige Stamp Book Pane 1; Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Retail Stamp Book

This page (clockwise from left): Buckingham Palace Retail Stamp Book; Buckingham Palace Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover; Country Definitives Presentation Pack

15 April Buckingham Palace £3.72 (UB368), includes 4 x Royal Mail Red Machins and 2 x 1st Class Buckingham Palace stamps – The Grand Staircase and The Throne Room. W, G.

17 July Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games £3.72 (UB369), includes 4 x Royal Mail Red Machins and 2 x 1st Class Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games stamps – both Swimming. W, G.

18 August Sustainable Fish £3.72, includes 4 x Royal Mail Red Machins and 2 x 1st Class Sustainable Fish stamps – Common Skate and Cornish Sardine. W, G.

18 September Classic Locomotives of Wales £3.72 (UB370), includes 4 x Royal Mail Red Machins and 2 x 1st Class Classic Locomotives of Wales stamps – both LMS 7720. W, G.

4 November Christmas 2014 12 x 1st Class £7.44 (UB738); Posting Christmas Cards. W, G.

Generic Smilers® Sheets

4 November Christmas 2014 £15.20 (AT081). D, G.

19 November Lunar New Year of the Sheep with 10 x Fireworks stamps £12.90 (AT082). C, L.

1 December Kuala Lumpur 2014 FIP Exhibition Sheet with 10 x Hello stamps £12.90 (AT083). C, L.

Commemorative Sheets

25 February 10 x 1st Class Fireworks stamps celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Middlesex County Cricket Club (AV027). ISP, L.

25 March 10 x 1st Class Union Flag stamps celebrate By Sea, By Land – 350 Years of the Royal Marines (AV028). ISP, L.

16 October 10 x 1st Class Union Flag stamps celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Donald Campbell setting both land and sea speed records in the same year (AV029). ISP, L.

11 November 10 x 1st Class Poppy stamps commemorate the 1914 Christmas Truce (AV030). ISP, L ●



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

UK diary dates

3 December Grimsby and District Philatelic Society Annual Charity Auction, Central Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby DN32 7EG, 6pm. Information: Dave McMann, 01472 887523 or John Mileman, 01472 827396.

4 December Royal Philatelic Society London displays by Scottish members, RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 1pm. Non-members welcome by prior arrangement. Information: 020 7486 1044.

6 December National Philatelic Society Christmas meeting: members' displays, Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, 2.45pm (members' auction 12.45pm).

12 December Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1, 9am to 4pm. Information: 020 8946 4480, www.stampshows.net.

9 January Strand Stamp Fair – details above.

10 January National Philatelic Society meeting: Material from NPS Archive (Ted Halliday and David Alford), Welsh Centre – see 6 December above.

16-17 January York Racecourse Fair, York YO23 1EX.

24 January Manchester & District Philatelic Traders Association Stamp Fair at Sale Grammar School, Marsland Road, Sale M33 3NH (near Brooklands Metrolink Station), 10am to 4pm.

31 January GB Philatelic Society displays: Postage Dues (Patrick Frost, 11am), Sheffield Postal History (Frank Walton, 2.15pm), Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Information: P Tanner, 01753 887755.

6-7 February Liverpool 2015 stamp fair, Liner Hotel (formerly Gladstone Hotel), Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool, L3 5QB. Friday, 10.30am to 5pm; Saturday, 10am to 4pm. For details and a free programme, contact Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069 (mobile 07774 524518); or Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610 (mobile 07762 360575) or terryhuntsc@tiscali.co.uk •

International exhibitions

Malaysia 2014, a joint World Youth Stamp Exhibition and Asian International Exhibition, will be held in Kuala Lumpur from 1 to 6 December. For details contact Richard West: richjwest@btinternet.com. Royal Mail will issue an exhibition sheet. Next year international exhibitions will be held in London (Europhilex, 13 to 16 May) and Singapore (14 to 19 August). For information and application forms for Singapore, contact Peter Cockburn: pfcockburn@aol.com, 01444 811004.

1840 EUROPHILEX STAMP EXHIBITION LONDON 2015

A highlight of Europhilex will be its Court of Honour, which brings together some outstanding items representing the most significant highlights of postal communications over the years – starting with the Royal Charter of 1635, signed by King Charles I, that opened up the 'Royal Mail' for use by the public. Three hundred years later came the adhesive postage stamp: on display will be the original sketch made by Sir Rowland Hill in 1839 that would become the basis for the design of the Penny Black and Twopence

Blue stamps that were issued in May the following year. At the same time, postal stationery was issued in a design created by William Mulready; it was thought that the public would prefer to use the stationery rather than stamps, but this proved not to be the case. A Mulready letter sheet used on 6 May 1840 will also be on display at Europhilex, as well as the incredible 'Atlantic Letter'. Posted on 15 May 1840, this Mulready One Penny envelope also bears three Penny Blacks and two Twopence Blues, arranged in the order 1d, 2d, 1d, 2d and 1d. It was the first ever item bearing stamps to be sent across the Atlantic Ocean.

Unusual or pioneering items on show include hollowed-out pieces of driftwood used as mailboats by John Sands in 1876 to send messages when he was marooned on St Kilda, off the west coast of Scotland. There will be a letter carried by Alcock and Brown on their successful crossing of the Atlantic by air in June 1919, and another (one of 214) carried by Neil Armstrong, Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin and Michael Collins aboard Apollo 11 on the first journey to the Moon. For more on the Court of Honour go to www.london2015.net/specialexhibition •

Stamp-related exhibitions and events

The main anniversary of 2014 is of course the centenary of the start of the First World War (and also the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War). The first in a series of Royal Mail stamps commemorating the Great War was issued on 28 July.

An exhibition, The First World War and the Bank of England, is at the Bank of England Museum, London EC4, until March 2015. It is open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm – enquiries: 020 7601 5545. For details of numerous local events and exhibitions, see the Imperial War Museums website at www.iwm.org.uk.

Stamps were issued in 2011 to mark the 150th anniversary of Morris and Company. An exhibition, William Morris & His Legacy 1860-1960, is on at the National Portrait Gallery until 11 January (there is an admission charge for this exhibition).

Dylan Thomas featured on one of the 2014 Remarkable Lives stamps. An exhibition, Dylan Thomas Manuscripts, is on at the Dylan Thomas Centre, Somerset Place, Swansea SA1 1RR until 23 December. It is open daily 10am to 4.30pm, and admission is free. Information: 01792 463980.

In 1993 Royal Mail issued four stamps to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Harrison, inventor of the marine chronometer. Five of Harrison's timekeepers are included in an exhibition, Lost, No Way Home: Ships, Clocks & Stars, marking the 300th anniversary of the Longitude Act of 1714, on show at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10, until 4 January 2015. Admission charge applies.



Abram Games was one of the great graphic designers of the 20th century, with several stamps to his credit – see the special feature in the March 2014 issue of the *Bulletin*. An exhibition, Designing the 20th Century: Life and Work of Abram Games, is on at the Jewish Museum, Albert Street, London NW1 until 4 January. Open Sunday to Thursday, 10am to 5pm and Friday, 10am to 2pm. There is an admission charge. See www.jewishmuseum.org.uk for details. ▸

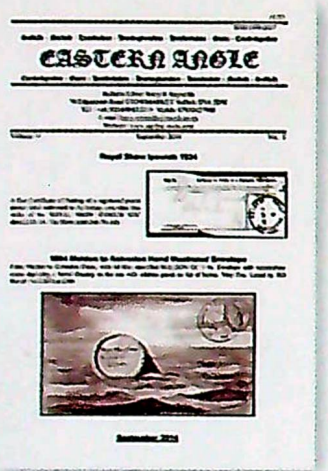


Elizabeth Gaskell, author of *Cranford*, *North and South* and *Mary Barton*, featured on one of four Famous Authoresses stamps in 1980. Her home, at 84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester M13 9LW, is now open to the public after a £2.5 million restoration by the Manchester Historic Buildings Trust. Gaskell lived there from 1850 until her death in 1865. The house is open Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, 11am to 5pm (admission charge applies).

Sherlock Holmes stories appeared on five stamps issued in 1993, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on an Eminent Britons stamp of 2009, and Peter Cushing starred as Holmes on a Great Britons stamp of 2013. An exhibition, Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die, is on at the Museum of London until 12 April 2015. The exhibition explores how Sherlock Holmes has transcended literature onto stage and screen and continues to attract huge audiences to this day •

Society journals

The Welsh Philatelic Society has been renamed the Welsh Postal History Society (Cymdeithas Hanes Y Post Cymreig). Its September 2014 *Newsletter* includes features on a traveller's letter from Haverfordwest to Wiltshire (1840), a 'unique' Penny Black from Ruthin, registered letter from Llansoy, Welsh post office openings and closures, Welsh postmarks, Pontnewydd/Pontnewynydd postmarks, and the Bangor '4' handstamp, as well as reports of displays at society meetings. The Society News section reports that 76 members voted for the change of the Society's name, with 29 against, nine having no preference and 20 abstentions. The Society will meet at Aberystwyth on 7 March 2015 and the popular Weekend will be at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd from 25 to 28 June. For details of the WPHS and its events contact Neil Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY or visit www.wps.wales.org.



The September 2014 issue of *Eastern Angle*, the journal of the East Anglian Postal History Society, contains articles on Colchester Town Sub Offices, Postal History of Stilton, Huntingdonshire, 1861 Unrecorded 'Redirected at Chelmsford' marking, Hadleigh Mileage Marks, Patterson Covers, Packet handstamps of Hemel Hempstead/Home Counties North and Norwich, and a review of Duncan Barrett's book *Men of Letters*, which tells the personal stories of the men of the Post Office Rifles, a 12,000-strong unit of the British Army which fought in the First World War. For collectors of modern postal history material, the seven-page Roundup of Postal News of East Anglia is essential reading, as is Post Office Movements listing closures and changes of status of post offices in the region. The Society will hold its AGM on 7 March 2015. For details about the Society, contact John Copeland at 20 The Vale, Brentwood CM15 4UP, call 01277 218128 or visit www.eaphsc.webs.com •

New postal history study

Occasional *Bulletin* contributor Richard Beith has written *The Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade in France and their Return Home 1944-1945, a Historical and Philatelic Study*, which was recently published by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. The 60-page A4 monograph covers the activities of the Brigade, which had been brought together and given military training in both England and the Scottish Borders. The Brigade left for

France as a fighting unit at the end of August 1944. From October 1944 onwards the unit was tasked with controlling the large German garrison in the port of Dunkirk, which had been bypassed when the Allied forces pressed forward to Antwerp.

The Czechs were to remain in this duty until VE Day, though they would have preferred to have helped liberate their homeland. When the troops were in France, they were in an area served by the British Army postal service and so used King George VI stamps for services where payment was needed: registration fees, carriage by air mail or surface mail outside the British Empire. A preprinted registered envelope, addressed to Twickenham and franked at 3d, is shown on the cover – only the registration fee had to be paid, not the surface postage.

The monograph is divided into 'historical' and 'philatelic' chapters, with detailed footnotes and a bibliography. It is available from the Publications Officer of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain at rexdixon@btinternet.com. Price: £18 plus £1.50 UK postage. For payment methods please contact the email address •

Stampex success

Congratulations to former *Bulletin* contributor Glenn Morgan on winning a gold medal at Autumn Stampex for his exhibit, A Stamp is Made. Anticipating 175 years of postage stamps next year, the exhibit told the story of stamp production, from design to withdrawal using some 420 printers' dummy stamps and unissued material, as well as a few supporting issued items. As Glenn points out, processes and presses aside, little had really altered until the introduction of the microchip, which heralded major new developments in almost every area of production.



These changes, rarely documented in detail, were reflected in his exhibit, which covered eight areas: Substrates (paper, including self-adhesive and papers with modern eco credentials); Inks, Colours & Foils (including foil blocking and holography); Designing & Engraving (artwork creation and engraving an intaglio die); Pre-Press (essays and proofs); Printing (processes); Production Problems (on press inspection and types of difficulties); Stamp Separation (perforation types, die cutting); and Post Production (publicity material, reprints, promotion, and withdrawal and destruction). Shown here is one of the pages dealing with essays. Glenn was the author of Bulletin Publication No. 12 *British Stamp Printers* (2006) •

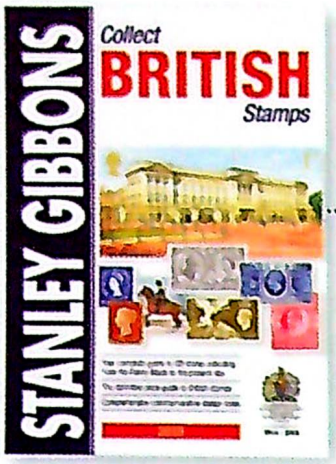
British Postal Museum & Archive

The BPMA, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on Saturday 13 December, 10am to 5pm (but closed the following Monday). On show at Freeling House is a display of photographs of Mail Rail. Visit the BPMA website – www.postalheritage.org.uk – for details of other exhibitions: Post Office in the Community (at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Shropshire), Last Post: Remembering the First World War (Brading Roman Villa, Isle of Wight, until 13 December, and Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, until 27 March 2015). The BPMA also hosts 25 online exhibitions including Aerial Post, regional stamps, ▸

Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes. A set of six Last Post postcards is on sale at the BPMA shop, priced £3.75.

Also see the website for details of Archive tours (10 December) and a talk entitled Glad Tidings: A History of the Christmas Card (2 December). Phone 020 7239 2570 to book or request a copy of the BPMA Events Guide. Advance booking and a small charge apply to some events.

For details of the Friends of the BPMA, visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/friends or email friends@postalheritage.org.uk. Annual membership is £21, with a reduced rate for over-65s •



The 2015 edition of Stanley Gibbons' *Collect British Stamps* has recently been published, covering all British issues from the Penny Black to the 2014 Christmas issue. It costs £14.95 and is available from Royal Mail Tallents House as well as from Stanley Gibbons' Strand shop and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH. A copy of *Collect British Stamps* awaits the winner of our bumper Christmas quiz on page 124 •

Railway's festive stamp



The Nene Valley Railway (NVR) issued its Christmas stamp to coincide with the Royal Mail set on 4 November. The 25p NVR stamp features a British Railways Standard Class 9F locomotive for hauling heavy freight trains. Built in the 1950s, it was one of the most powerful locomotives made in Britain. Price: £2.25 for sheet of nine. Two FDCs were serviced – with a full set of Royal Mail Christmas stamps at £12.20, or with two Royal Mail First Class Christmas stamps (standard and large) at £5. Minimum order £5 plus £1 postage and packing. Orders and enquiries: Nene Valley Railway (Stamps), Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR •

Philatelic anniversaries

The Barnsley Philatelic Society celebrated its 70th anniversary earlier this year, having been formed in January 1944. Readers in the area who are interested in joining should contact Nigel Harpham at 35 Queens Avenue, Barnsley S75 2AZ for details.

2015 is an important year for philatelic anniversaries, marking not only the 175th anniversary of the world's first adhesive postage stamps, but also the 125th anniversary of the first international stamp exhibition in London. Stanley Gibbons Ltd commemorates three important anniversaries – 175 years since the birth of Edward Stanley Gibbons, 150 years since his first catalogue (price list) was published, and 125 years since the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* (now *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*) started •

Forthcoming auctions

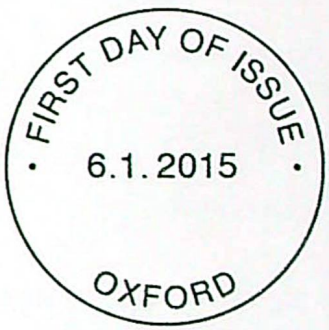
Warwick & Warwick's auction on 3 December includes the only known example of the 1967 Discoveries 1s 9d stamp with missing Queen's head (SG 755b). Enquiries: 01926 499031, www.warwickandwarwick.com.

Cavendish's December auction on 3 and 4 December will include the collection of Paquebots and Sea Posts of the World 1860-1950 of the late Roger Hosking, which formed the basis for Hosking's books on Paquebot mail. Enquiries: 01332 250970, 020 8785 7750 or visit www.cavendish-auctions.com. On 12 December in Putney, Cavendish auctions the Piat Dewavrin Collection •



Wonders will never cease A magical new stamp issue pays tribute to the eternally popular children's classic *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

ONE OF THE world's most treasured children's stories is exquisitely serialised in a ten-stamp issue released on 6 January. The Alice in Wonderland set represents pivotal scenes and key characters in Lewis Carroll's classic adventure. Acting as tiny, visual chapters in the story of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, the stamps feature favourites such as the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat and that famously barmy tea party. Honouring the 150th anniversary of the publication of Carroll's enduring masterpiece, the issue is illustrated by award-winning artist and author Grahame Baker-Smith. A Presentation Pack, Retail Stamp Book, Stamp Cards and Medal Cover (issued on 5 March 2015) accompany the issue.



FD1501-NP

Stamp by stamp The Alice in Wonderland set comes in a range of values: Second Class, First Class, 81p, £1.28 and £1.47. There are two stamps for each value.

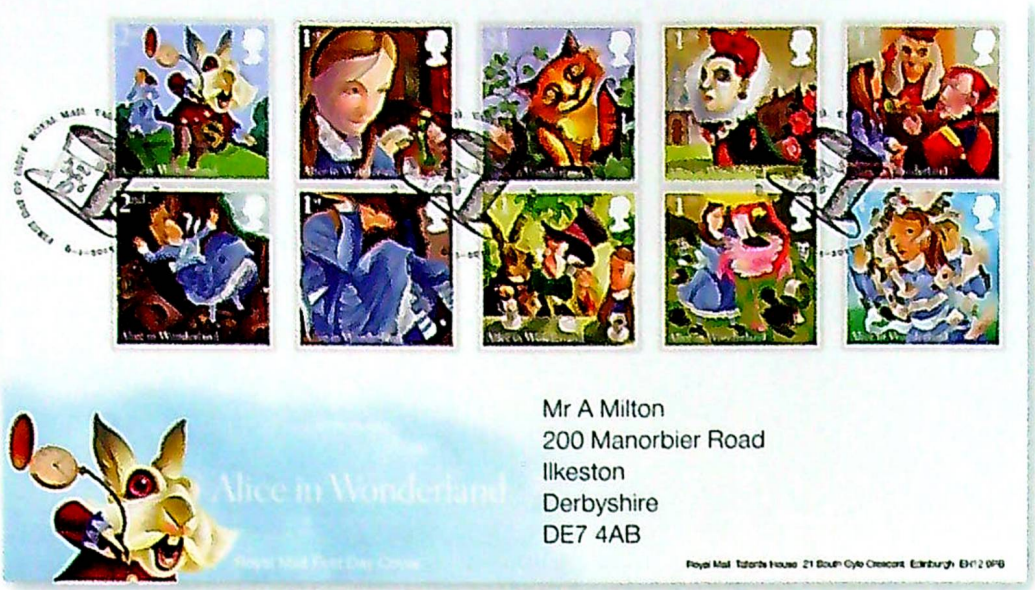
The White Rabbit The legendary rabbit in a hurry takes Alice on an extraordinary journey that changes her life forever. On the stamp she is shown in hot pursuit of the White Rabbit – and adventure – away from a sunny but boring day by the river with her sister. *Second Class* ▸

Alice in Wonderland Stamps – Prices	
Stamps – 2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x 81p, 2 x £1.28, 2 x £1.47	£9.42
Presentation Pack	£9.95
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£11.78/£9.82
Stamp Cards, set of 10	£4.50
Medal Cover	£14.95

Alice in Wonderland – Specifications	
Date of issue	6 January 2015
Number of stamps	Ten
Design	Godfrey Design
Illustrator	Grahame Baker-Smith
Stamp Format	Square
Stamp Size	35mm x 35mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print Process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



FD1501-TH



Above: the Tallents House postmark and the Alice in Wonderland First Day Cover

Below: the Retail Stamp Book with the Drink Me and White Rabbit's House stamps

Down The Rabbit Hole Alice chases the strange creature into a rabbit hole but an ordinary everyday burrow this is not. Soon the little girl is floating down, down a deep chasm past walls smothered in bookshelves, pictures and maps. *Second Class*

Drink Me At the bottom Alice glimpses a charming garden she can see beyond a tiny door she is too big to go through. She finds a bottle of potion with a painted label imploring 'drink me'. Alice drinks, then shrinks, but now is too small to fetch the key for the door she found on a table. She eventually reaches the 'shores' of Wonderland by swimming away through a pool of her tears formed when the Eat Me cakes grew her. *First Class*

The White Rabbit's House The White Rabbit mistakes Alice for his maid and sends her to his house to fetch his gloves and fan. After drinking from another bottle, she grows enormous, and is cramped to the rafters of the Rabbit's tiny home. After eating a magic cake, Alice shrinks again and is able to escape. *First Class*

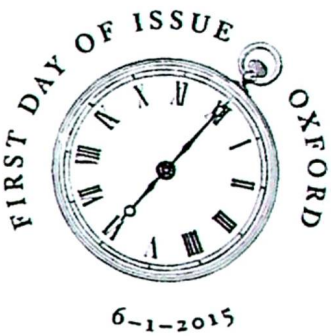
The Cheshire Cat With an ever-present, all-knowing grin, the Cheshire cat lounges on the branch of a tree and explains that everyone in Wonderland is mad, pointing Alice in the direction of two of its leading lunatics – the Hatter

Alice in Wonderland Stamp Book – Specifications

Issue date	6 January 2015
Book format	4 x Royal Mail Red 1st Class definitives, 1 x Alice in Wonderland 'Drink me', 1 x Alice in Wonderland 'The White Rabbit's House'
1st Class stamp format	Portrait 20mm x 24mm
Special format	Landscape 37mm x 35mm
Printer	Walsall
Print process	Gravure







FD1501-PL

and the March Hare. Then, tail-first, the Cat incrementally vanishes, leaving his grin hanging eerily in the air. *81p*

A Mad Tea Party Alice suffers a bewildering tea party with the Hatter, the Hare and the much-abused Dormouse, who is used as a cushion then dunked in the teapot. The Hatter offers her wine he does not have and asks her a riddle he has no answer to. *81p*

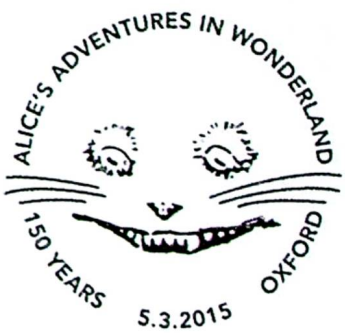
The Queen Of Hearts Alice meets Wonderland's most dangerous resident, the murderous Queen of Hearts – motto: 'Off with his/her/their head(s)' – and almost immediately faces execution for being cheeky. Alice is saved only from the Queen of Hearts' wrath by her own stubborn courage and the King of Hearts' gentle intervention. *£1.28*

The Game Of Croquet Unsurprisingly it is bonkers. The mallets are flamingos, the balls are hedgehogs and the hoops are the Queen's soldiers ▸

Above: the issue Presentation Pack and one of the pair of alternative postmarks

Below: the Alice Medal Cover and Cheshire Cat postmark, released on 5 March 2015





gamely bending themselves in two. Alice finds the game rather a challenge, since all the equipment has a habit of moving about of its own accord. *£1.28*

Alice's Evidence Alice is called to give evidence in the trial of the Knave of Hearts, accused of stealing the Queen of Hearts' tarts. Needless to say, the hearing is a farce. When the Queen demands sentencing first and verdict second, Alice loses her patience, saying: 'Who cares for you? You're nothing but a pack of cards!' *£1.47*

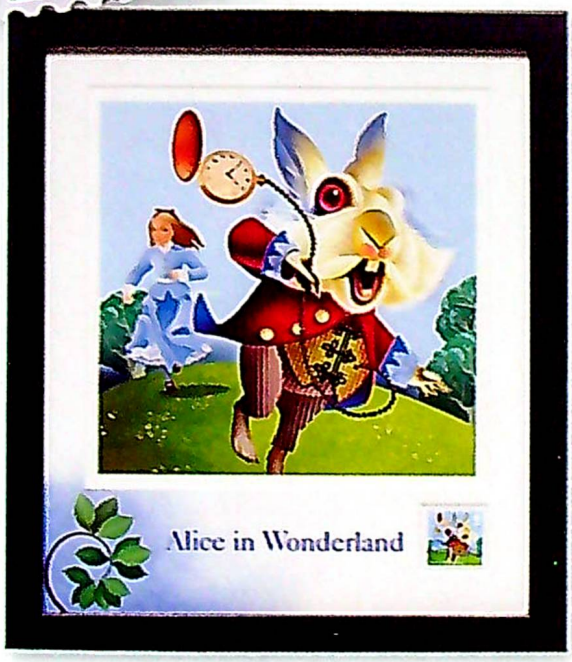
A Pack Of Cards Alice's accusation breaks the spell of Wonderland. The courtiers rise as a pack of simple playing cards and fly at her alarmingly. Alice wakes on the riverbank, the cards merely dead leaves her sister is brushing from her face. Alice reveals her dream before running in for tea. Her sister then has her own dream of Alice's future, as a grown woman telling little children of the adventure in Wonderland she had long ago. *£1.47*

Also in the issue is a Presentation Pack written by Hugh Haughton, Professor of English and Related Literature at the University of York.

In it he explains how Alice's Adventures in Wonderland resulted from the friendship between Carroll (real name: Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), a young mathematics don at Christ Church in Oxford, and Alice Liddell, the ten-year-old daughter of the Dean of the college.

The tale grew from one 'golden afternoon' in July 1862, when Dodgson told an outlandish tale to little Alice and her sisters. A Medal Cover features a cupro-nickel medal showing Alice, the White Rabbit, Drink Me bottle and the Cheshire Cat, and information on key Wonderland characters. It is released on 5 March 2015, in time for World Book Day.





Orders for serviced First Day Covers must reach Tallents House by 6 January. Send stamped self-addressed envelopes on the day of issue to Tallents House (address on page 98) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. The Edinburgh postmark has an illustration of the Mad Hatter's hat drawn by John Tenniel for the original edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The two alternative postmarks – one pictorial and one non-pictorial – bear the location Oxford, where Carroll lived and worked, and where of course the Alice legend was born. The alternative pictorial mark has an illustration of the White Rabbit's pocket watch.

Additional Alice in Wonderland products accompanying this issue include a delightful 150th anniversary edition of Lewis Carroll's classic story, created as a Panorama Pops™ Book in association with Royal Mail. Also available are a set of five cute pin badges, framed stamps (examples shown left) and an Alice figurine. For details and prices, visit www.royalmail.com/stamps in January •

Floral tribute to Post & Go The artistic secrets behind the success of the British Flora series are revealed by Royal Mail's Stamp Strategy Manager Philip Parker

While you hang up the holly and mistletoe for your Christmas celebrations, Royal Mail will be celebrating a festive first. For the British Flora III Winter Greenery stamps issued recently – two of which feature holly and mistletoe – are the first pictorial Post & Go designs specifically created for winter and the Christmas season. This is the final set in the British Flora series, following the Spring Blooms and Symbolic Flowers issues of February and September respectively.

As well as the milestone set by Winter Greenery, I think it is worth celebrating the creative magic that went into this stunning series. It is a story of beautiful illustration, excellent stamp design and crisp art direction.





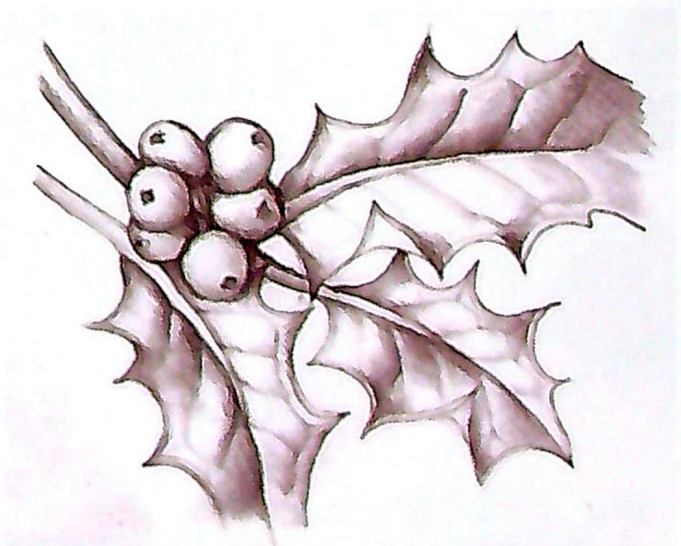
Julia's preliminary tonal drawings of snowdrops (above), violet leaf and holly (below)

Supplying these skills were the series illustrator, award-winning botanical artist Julia Trickey, eminent designer Kate Stephens, and Royal Mail Design Managers Catharine Brandy and Dean Price. The Post & Go pictorials have evolved something of a specific aesthetic, so Royal Mail's creative commissioners like to hire artists whose techniques give a distinctive feel to the stamps. Kate, overseeing the project for Royal Mail, knew Julia Trickey's style was perfect for British Flora, and suggested her to Catharine.

It was a wise choice. Julia is a renowned watercolour artist. She is the recipient of no less than four Royal Horticultural Society gold medals for work that combines natural beauty with scientific accuracy – a handy combination when the British Flora series features so many different types of plants, from dog violets and daffodils to thistles and forget-me-nots, poppies and ivy.

The botanical brief Julia was primed for the challenge. She had been working on some larger-than-life pictures of fading flowers (her speciality), and relished the chance to go from large-scale paintings to creating images that ultimately would be so small on the Post & Go stamps. Her brief was to depict the plants in a modern, graphic style rather than as formal botanical illustrations. They still, of course, had to be botanically correct.

'Early on in the design process we agreed to crop in close to each subject, filling the allotted space with flowers, buds and leaves from the chosen plant,' says Julia. 'Some of these features were to spill out of the frame, giving the sense of looking ▸



into the secret world of the plant with a magnifying glass.' At her studio in Bath, Julia sketched compositions for each plant in pencil and then emailed them to Kate and Catharine for their comments. Once the designs were approved, she started painting the images in watercolour.

Traditionally, botanical art depicts the entire plant on a white background. But it was decided this would not work for the stamps as the white spaces between the elements of the plants could look like holes in the image. To solve this, Julia created a number of 'off-white' backgrounds separately from the plant paintings. These prevented the flowers from contrasting too starkly with the backdrop behind them and creating that hole effect.

Julia then scanned the backgrounds and the plants into her computer, to be adjusted independently until a satisfactory combination was reached. Cropping close into the plants was also an unusual approach for Julia. But after some tests, she found the balance between zooming in too close (and losing the shape of leaves or flowers crucial for identification) and not cropping in enough (which could lead to the picture looking flat). The result was a perfectly tuned, arresting image.

Below: Winter Greenery Post & Go stamps feature ivy and mistletoe (vended at second class letter rates) and butcher's broom and holly (vended at the other letter rates). As well as the British Flora stamps, Julia painted original illustrations for the carrier cards in the three Collector Sets, available from Tallents House and at www.royalmail.com/postandgo

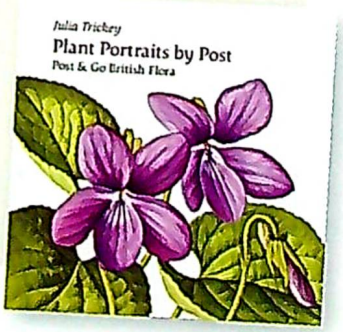


As well as composition, colour was also a challenge. Julia's illustrations were to be reproduced, of course, at a small size on the stamps. She therefore slightly exaggerated some colour and detail so the illustrations would not lose their impact when reduced.

The dog violet image from the Spring Blooms set is a good example of this. The veining on the petals was originally less defined, but it was felt that once reduced to stamp size the petals would appear as flat shapes. So Julia tweaked the violet, emphasising the veins and increasing the contrast of the painting. This helped add interest and shape to the flowers.

Her efforts have been worth it. Julia has painted exquisite renderings of these significant British plants that hundreds of thousands of people can enjoy seeing on the 16 gorgeous stamps in the three-part Post & Go British Flora series – Spring Blooms, Symbolic Flowers and Winter Greenery. Definitely something worth celebrating ●

Discover more about Julia's art and the design process for Post & Go British Flora with her book *Plant Portraits by Post*, which features more than 60 illustrations of Julia's work. You can order the book from Two Rivers Press, 24 New Road, Reading RG1 5JD, by telephone on 0118 987 1452 or online at www.tworiverspress.com. It costs £12.99 (plus £2.50 postage).







FD 1502-TH

Fine living The latest Smilers® stamp issue pays dazzling tribute to the best moments in life – from new babies and weddings to happy birthdays

Celebrating life's good times in a bright, upbeat way, the new Smilers® 2015 issue is about family fun. The eight-stamp set covers our greatest moments, from new babies and birthdays to weddings and anniversaries. Customers can personalise their Smilers® with their own photos printed on a label next to each stamp – using an App Store or Android app or by visiting www.royalmail.com/smilers. The refresh features First Class stamps with images by leading illustrator Jenny Bowers, whose clients include *Vogue*, the V&A and Penguin. Much-respected poet Roger McGough has written a poem on 'celebrating celebration' for the Presentation Pack. Accompanying the set – out on 20 January – is a Miniature Sheet, Generic Sheet, Stamp Cards and Retail Stamp Book.



FD 1502-PL

Stamp by stamp A central feature of the issue is flexibility. For example, the Well Done stamp, showing a loud, proud '1st' icon covers any achievement you want to congratulate a loved one for. Likewise the flowery Mum stamp, whose Mum/Mummy/Mother legend will fit anything from her birthday to Mother's Day. The New Baby stamp is cuteness incarnate, with the new arrival sporting an envelope-shaped nappy.

A three-tiered, pastel-coloured cake topped by love hearts on the Wedding stamp symbolically wishes the happy couple well on their special day. The Happy Birthday stamp is shamelessly cheerful, with three grinning cartoon birthday cake candle flames smiling many happy returns.

Solid, so reliable and masculine, the Dad stamp design can say it all too – whether you are wishing him happy birthday or happy Father's Day. The ▸

Smilers® 2015 – Specifications

Date of issue	20 January
Number of stamps	Eight
Stamp design	Jenny Bowers
Acknowledgements	Peepshow
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Sheet size	124mm x 71mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



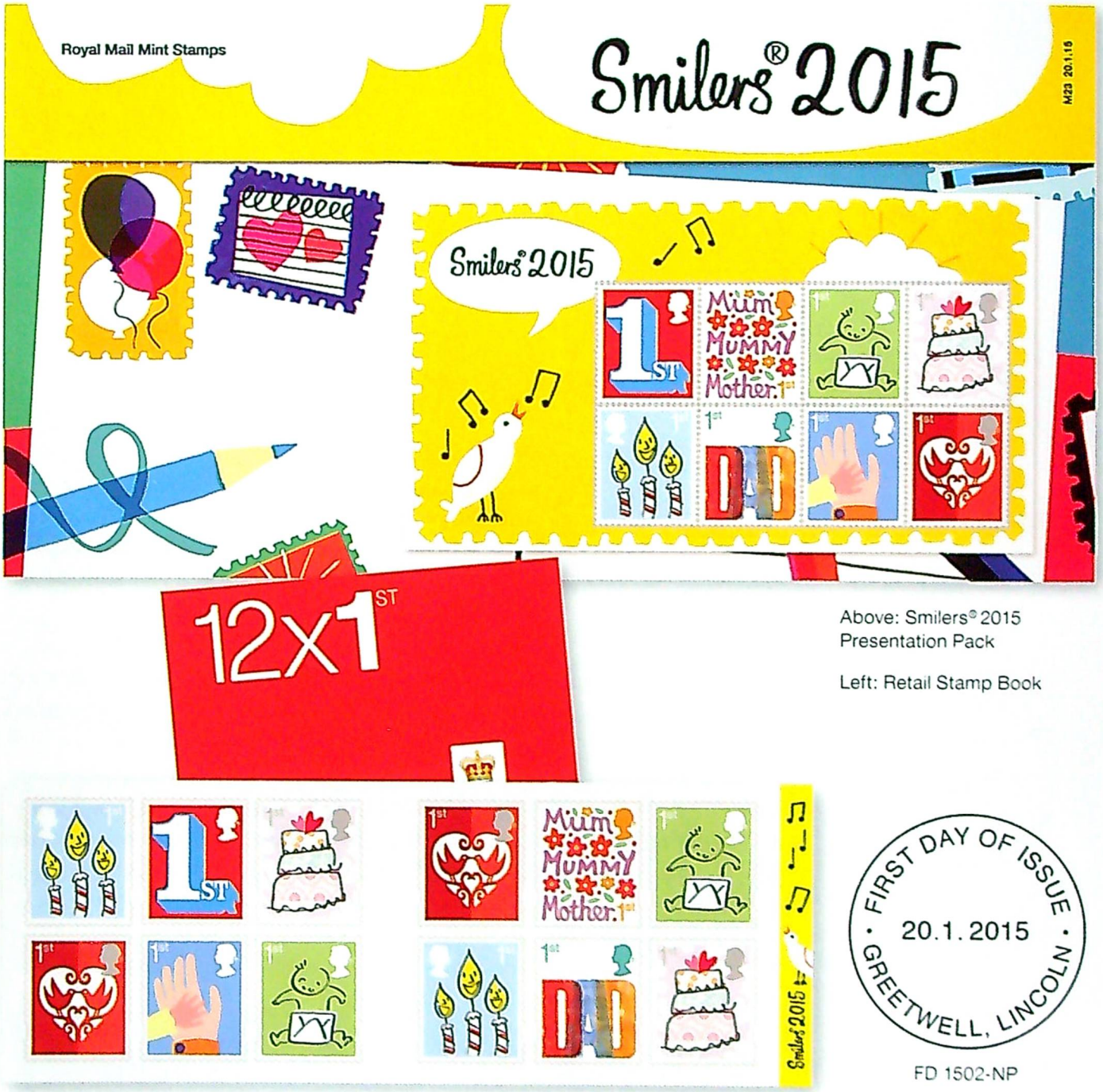




Top: the bright and beautiful Smilers® Miniature Sheet First Day Cover

Above: the fun Filler Card from the new Smilers® range

Right: the finely tuned Smilers® Refresh Miniature Sheet



Above: Smilers® 2015 Presentation Pack

Left: Retail Stamp Book

FD 1502-NP

Grandparent stamp shows a child's tiny hand in an older, larger one as two generations embrace each other. Finally, the image that sums it up: on the Love stamp love birds bill and coo – ideal for Valentine's Day, weddings and anniversaries.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers should reach Royal Mail by 20 January. Send stamped self-addressed envelopes on the day of issue to Tallents House (address on page 98) for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark bearing the message 'Celebrate'. Non-pictorial and pictorial alternative postmarks have the Greetwell, Lincoln location, with the pictorial mark showing a 'hello!' speech bubble •

Smilers® 2015 – Prices

Presentation Pack	£5.50
Miniature Sheet	£4.96
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£6.43/£5.36
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Cards, set of 9	£4.05
Generic Sheet	£12.90
Retail Stamp Book, 12 stamps	£7.44



This Month in History

John Holman remembers Postmaster General Tony Benn's revolutionary changes to our stamp design policy

FIFTY YEARS AGO this month Postmaster General Tony Benn announced a new policy for choosing subjects for special stamps. Previously the selection policy had been limited to stamp issues marking only 'outstanding national or international events and Royal and postal anniversaries'. The Post Office explained its position in an early issue of the *Bulletin*: '[We] do not mark anniversaries other than Royal and Postal ones nor do we issue stamps to support charities or other good causes.' This policy resulted in few issues. Indeed, there were no issues in some years – from 1954 to 1956 and in 1959, for example. And some stamp issues were for worthy but not exactly exciting events, such as the 1964 International Geographical and Botanical Congresses.

The *Bulletin* in December 1964 (Vol. 2 No 4) led with the news of the change in policy: 'The Postmaster General, the Rt. Hon. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, M.P. told the House of Commons on 15th December, 1964 that in future the criteria will be: to celebrate events of national and international importance;



Above and right: this Wilding Isles print is a stamp collage representation of the British Isles, created by Mel Piagesti using the Wilding series of stamps. Printed on Tinteretto Gesso Uncoated paper, 30cm x40 cm, price £25. For more details of this and a range of other framed stamp products visit www.royalmail.com/frames









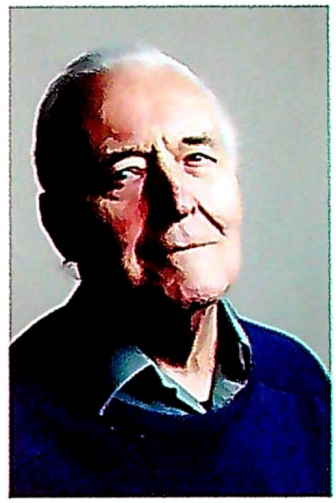
BPMA

to commemorate important anniversaries; to reflect the British contribution to world affairs, including the arts and science; and to extend public patronage to the arts by encouraging the development of minuscule art.'

The announcement reported Mr Benn as saying: 'In the general interest, the number of special issues must be kept within reasonable bounds.' His intention was to limit the number to eight issues in the next 12 months, each consisting generally of two stamps. He invited MPs and the public to submit suggestions for issues and also welcomed the views of those interested in stamp design.

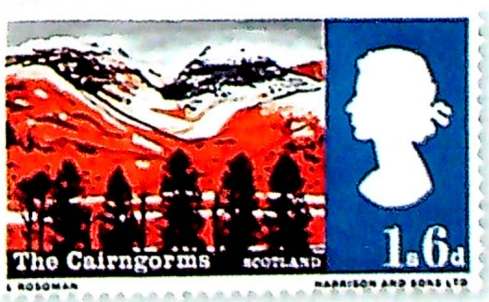
Since then, some additions have been made to Benn's criteria and some conventions laid down, but the basic tenets of those criteria remain. The current objectives of stamp issues are to: commemorate important anniversaries; commemorate events of national importance, including major contemporary UK successes on the international stage; reflect the contribution of the UK to world affairs in the broadest range of activities, from the arts and humanities to science and technology; explore 'the British way of life', celebrating the diversity of cultures and interests within the UK; and contribute to the cultural life of the UK through the patronage of art and design.

Benn was Postmaster General from October 1964 until July 1966 and briefly Minister of Posts & Telecommunications in 1974. He died in March. For more on Tony Benn, see articles in the *Bulletin* of December 1994, November 1997, May 2006, April, May and June 2007, December 2011 and April 2014 •



A different view As a government minister, Tony Benn famously had a map of the UK positioned upside down on the wall of his office. It made the point that London and the South East were not necessarily the most important areas of the country: all of the UK had a part to play in national life. In an important sense, Royal Mail embraces this principle with the Stamp Advisory Committee's process for considering subjects to be included in the Special Stamp Programme. Whatever pictorial stamps feature – landscapes, wildlife, monuments, history or people – great care has been taken since the earliest pictorial stamps (a selection is shown left) to ensure that they relate to all corners of the country. It is also interesting to note, especially for those at Tallents House, that, when the map is viewed 'upside down' from the Benn angle, Edinburgh appears to occupy a more central position in the UK









1

2

Bear necessities

Colin Baker explores an era of innocence when teddy bears were trendy subjects for children's postcards, including those sent at Christmas

1. A real bear called Roosevelt stars on this 1911 postcard – the reverse is also shown

2. The message on this 1930 new year greetings card asks the recipient to be as happy as the bears in the picture

In September 1894 the postcard regulations were amended, allowing postcards to be sent for the first time using a ½d adhesive stamp. This launched the picture postcard industry in Britain and over the next few decades huge numbers were posted to friends and relatives on special occasions such as Christmas, Easter and birthdays, and often from holiday resorts, too.

A further modification of regulations in 1897 allowed divided backs, with one half reserved for the address and the other for a short message – leaving the front for photographs and drawings.

In addition to pictures of towns and villages, other popular themes included children's toys. From the beginning of the 20th century German – and later British – teddy bear manufacturers made appealing soft toys. In 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt, known to friends as Teddy, coined the term 'teddy bear' when he famously refused to shoot a real bear on a hunting trip in Mississippi – and the universally loved teddy bear was born. Many teddy



3. In a typical postcard pose a domestic pet and teddy bear 'play' together

4. The special bond between bear and child is clear in this 1938 card

bear postcards were created in the following years and, of course, most were sent to children by relatives or close friends. Trips to the seaside or short holidays were then becoming popular with the working classes, but what child wants to receive a picture of a hotel or the seafront? Teddy bears on postcards won hands down. Soon children were receiving bear-themed cards from relatives on holiday, for the festive season, and at other special times of the year.

Every town had its photographic studio at the time, and these had the facilities to create and sell all manner of postcards. Scenes with children and their teddy bears were photographed in the studio, with photographers often using their own family as models – a good way to keep costs to a minimum. It is easy to spot the same child in several postcards, with just a few changes made to the scene.

Even family pets were employed in some cases, and somehow were made to remain still long enough for a tableau to be photographed. It can be difficult trying to complete these sets of postcards, but at least many are numbered and missing ones can easily be identified.

This type of postcard remained popular for half a century, then saucy seaside postcards and modern-day greetings cards took over in the 1950s and 1960s; the era of postcards for children, an age of innocence, came to an end •

Colin Baker welcomes enquiries about the Postal Stationery Society by email at pss.secretary@gmail.com.



Above: this Royal Mail Guardsman teddy bear is available to buy online at www.royalmail.com/inspiredideas and is one of the prizes in our Christmas quiz overleaf

Bumper Bulletin stamping quiz 2014

Because it is Christmas, we have a special collection of prizes in store for 40 lucky readers! The first prizewinner wins ALL the items shown opposite, so why not get the whole family involved in guessing the answers? If you are full of figgy pudding and sitting back with a post-feast snifter, that is the perfect moment, surely, to complete your festive revels with our bumper *Bulletin* quiz celebrating a great philatelic year in UK stamp collecting.



1 In June the world's most expensive stamp was sold for £5.6 million at auction in New York. What is it called?
a) British Guiana One-Cent Magenta
b) British Telecom One-Cent Magenta
c) British Home Stores One-Cent Magenta



2 The Stanley Gibbons Award of Merit 2014 winner is also the Events Manager London 2015 Europhilex. What is the name of the winner?
a) Dennis Wheatley
b) Yvonne Wheatley
c) Yvonne Calling



3 Unusually, this year's ABPS RDP Signing Ceremony was held abroad. Where? **a)** Mons **b)** Bastogne **c)** Ypres



4 One of the world's most celebrated palaces appeared in a stamp issue released in April. Which is it?
a) Crystal Palace **b)** Buckingham Palace
c) Hammersmith Palais



5 The BPMA is planning to reopen the Post Office Underground Railway as a tourist attraction. What is its other name?
a) Mail Rail **b)** Daily Mail Rail **c)** Car Boot Sale Rail



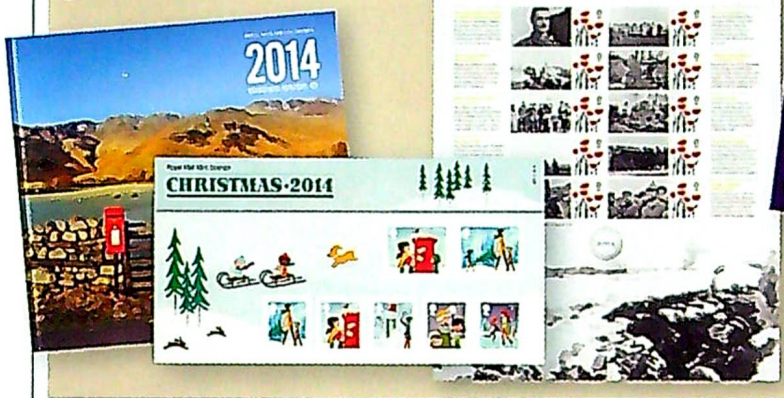
6 A scene from the well-known postal train documentary *Night Mail* appears in the Great British Film Miniature Sheet. But who wrote the film's eponymous poem?
a) Will Smith
b) W H Smith
c) W H Auden



7 What appears to be stuck behind W&LLR No. 822 *The Earl* on

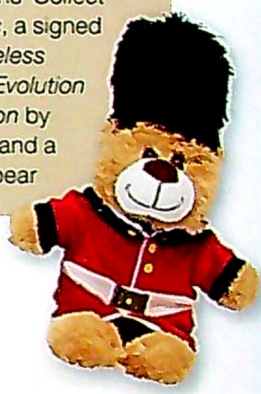
Rules and regulations 1 The closing date is 27 January 2015. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, 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 William Doherty, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

The big prizes you could win...





One lucky reader will receive the bumper Christmas prize: all this year's special stamps in the Royal Mail 2014 Year Book, the Christmas 2014 Presentation Pack, the Christmas Truce Stamp Sheet, the 2015 edition of Stanley Gibbons' *Collect British Stamps*, a signed copy of *A Timeless Classic – The Evolution of Machin's Icon* by Douglas Muir, and a cuddly teddy bear



the Classic Locomotives of Wales Mini Sheet?
a) A goat
b) A car
c) Catherine Zeta-Jones

8 A stamp from the First World War 1914 set features a poem that pays one of literature's most famous tributes to the fallen. Who wrote the poem?
a) D H Lawrence
b) Laurence Binyon
c) T E Lawrence





9 An iconic film about athletics for toffs stars on a stamp in the Great British Film issue. Who composed the soundtrack?
a) Vangelis **b)** Van Persie **c)** Van Hire



10 A lovable woolly farm animal is one of the stars of the Classic Children's TV issue. What is the creature's name?
a) Sean Connery
b) Shaun the Sheep
c) Sean Bean

11 The botanical name of the forget-me-not, which appears in September's Post & Go Symbolic Flowers set, is Myositis. What does this word mean?
a) Pig's ear
b) Mouse's ear
c) Mouse's rear



12 On one of the Seaside Architecture issue's 97p stamps, a lighthouse dominates the skyline of a pretty holiday town. What is the town called?
a) Southampton
b) South Croydon
c) Southwold



How to enter Send your quiz answers to: BPB Christmas Quiz, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com. **Closing date** 27 January 2015. **Normal rules and regulations apply** – see facing page. The sender of the first correct entry drawn from the postbag after the closing date wins the bumper prize as described above. Forty entrants also receive a signed copy of Douglas Muir's book, *A Timeless Classic – The Evolution of Machin's Icon*.

September solutions and winners

All aboard! solution 1c, 2c, 3a, 4b. *Winner* Mr C Math, Switzerland. *Name That Stamp solution* Cheltenham Flyer, Famous Trains, 1985. *Winner* Mr F Pieren, Belgium.

Happy Christmas one and all



May we take this opportunity to wish all our readers a happy, peaceful Christmas and a fantastic philatelic New Year. This jolly collection of UK seasonal stamps is ready to carry greetings to all corners of the world

• **Royal Mail – Christmas 2014** Issue date: 4 November
Size: Standard 24mm x 28mm/Large 34mm x 28mm
Illustrator: Andrew Bannecker
Printer: De La Rue Mint set: £7.71

Seven stamps show festive family traditions – bringing home a Christmas tree, posting cards, building a snowman, carol singing beneath a street lamp and ice skating outdoors. Purchase at www.royalmail.com/christmas2014, by phone on 03457 641 641 or from 8,000 Post Offices across the UK. Full specifications are in the Preview on page 57 of your October *Bulletin*.



• Alderney – What Christmas Means

Issue date: 6 November Size: 25mm x 36mm Illustrators: pupils of St Anne's School
Printer: Lowe Martin Mint set: £4.09



Seven images by children: The North Pole Scene; Santa, Snowman on a Starry Night; Sunset and Snowflakes; Snowmen and Fir Trees; The Elves' Workshop; Alderney Lighthouse and Children Posting; and Bright Lights and Decorations. Details at www.guernseystamps.com.



• Guernsey – What Christmas Means

Issue date: 6 November Size: 25mm x 36mm
Illustrators: local schoolchildren
Printer: Lowe Martin Mint set: £4.09

Bauble-shaped stamps illustrated by local children: Rudolph and Stars; Robins in Trees; Rudolph and Candy Canes; Jolly Santa; Round Robin; Snowman and Candy Canes; and Robin on Chimney. Visit www.guernseystamps.com or call 01481 716486.

• Jersey – The Story of Father Christmas

Issue date: 27 November
Size: 40.6mm x 29.79mm
Designer: Sharif Tarabay
Mint set: £5.27

Eight stamps explore the history of Father Christmas – known in various cultures as Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle, Sinterklaas and Père Noël. We see him in traditional settings and dressed in suits of different colours. For issue details, visit www.jerseystamps.com or phone 01534 516320.





• Isle of Man – The Snowman™ and The Snowdog

Issue date: 23 October Size: 32.32mm x 26mm
Printer: Cartor Mint set: £5.91

Based on scenes from Raymond Briggs' much-loved tale of *The Snowman™ and The Snowdog*, this set of six stamps features The Snowdog, The Snowman and Billy – the boy who brings both The Snowman and The Snowdog to life. For more details contact the Isle of Man Post Office at www.iompost.com/stamps or phone 01624 698430.

Royal Mail



Stamp Programme

2015

Special Stamps

6	January	Alice in Wonderland
20	January	Smilers® 2015
19	February	Inventive Britain
5	March	Bridges
1	April	To be confirmed
6	May	175th Anniversary of the Penny Black
14	May	First World War 1915
2	June	Magna Carta
18	June	The Battle of Waterloo
16	July	The Battle of Britain
18	August	Bees
18	September	Rugby World Cup
3	November	Christmas 2015

Post & Go Stamps

18	February	Post & Go Working Sail
13	May	Post & Go Heraldic Beasts
16	September	Post & Go The Sea
16	November	Post & Go Winter Fur and Feathers

Stamp Sheets

18	March	The Post Office Rifles
24	April	Anthony Trollope
13	May	London 2015 Europhilex Philatelic Exhibition Sheet
24	June	The Ghurkas

• To order philatelic items, including First Day Covers and Presentation Packs, visit www.royalmail.com/stamps or phone 08457 641 641 (or +44 131 316 7483 from overseas).

Selected items are available at Post Office branches listed on page 98. All dates are subject to change.

