BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Annual Collections • Festive gift special • Post & Go locations

STAR WARS™

SPECIAL STAMPS OUT THIS MONTH









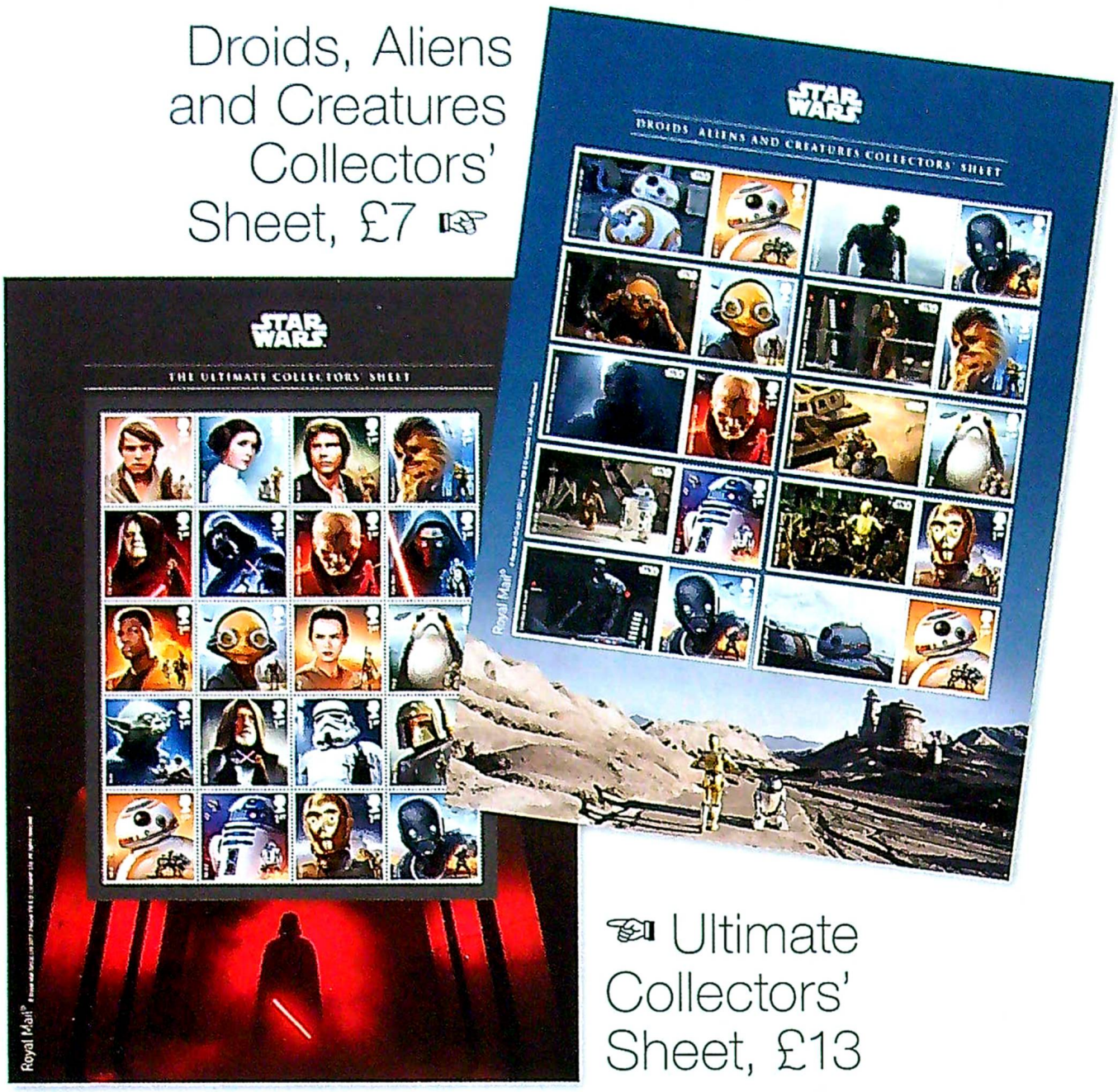
Christmas 2017

MADONNA & CHILD SPECIAL STAMP SET

Plus Children's design competition winners

STAMP SCENE LATEST EVENTS • **NEW** YEAR OF THE DOG • **WIN** COLLECTORS' SHEET

Droids, Aliens and Creatures Collectors' Sheet, £7 ☞



☜ Ultimate Collectors' Sheet, £13

On 12 October 2017 Royal Mail launches a stamp issue to mark the release of the latest instalment in the *Star Wars* series of films, *The Last Jedi*. Included in this issue is the Droids, Aliens and Creatures Collectors' Sheet, which includes ten stamps – eight new First Class stamps, with BB-8 and K-2SO featuring twice – along with labels showing stills from Lucasfilm's *Star Wars* archives.

Also on 12 October The Ultimate Collectors' Sheet is published. This stunning 'composite' sheet of stamps brings together all 20 character stamps from the 2015 and 2017 *Star Wars* issues. Both of these unique souvenir sheets are A4 size and come with a protective backing card and clear plastic cover.

To order visit www.royalmail.com/starwars or phone 03457 641 641, quoting the *Bulletin* media code 17BUL10 •

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William Doherty's Royal Mail report The new *Star Wars* stamp set • 2017 Annual Collections • Framed classics • Lunar New Year... and more



Above: Star Wars Presentation Pack, issued this month

Below: Framed Set of Racehorse Legends Special Stamps

Roars for Star Wars *Star Wars* fans will be roaring with joy as loudly as Chewbacca when Royal Mail's second set celebrating the legendary movie series is released on 12 October.

In the meantime you can enjoy your sneak peak with the issue preview on page 4 in September's *Bulletin* and discover the stories behind the films in our special feature on page 45.

A racy issue The new Racehorse Legends Framed Set is hot to trot. A beautifully mounted frame (33cm width x 18cm height) displays all eight stamps from the issue that celebrates some of the most famous and successful horses in racing history. Among the legends featured on the Special Stamps are Red Rum, Shergar, Desert Orchid and Frankel.



The Racehorse Legends Special Stamp set was issued on 6 April this year and is available from www.royalmail.com/racehorselegends. Please quote media code 17BUL10 when ordering from Royal Mail.

What a year that was The time has come again to savour the finest philately of the last 12 months with the 2017 Yearbook and Yearpack out in November. Presented as a limited edition of 8,000 and with 64 full-colour pages, the Yearbook contains the entire 2017 Special Stamp collection and special features on the sets written by experts.

For example, Richard West MBE, one of Britain's leading philatelists, writes about the enduring allure of the Machin stamp, commemorated this year by Royal Mail (*Bulletin* Vol 54, pages 260 and 301). And Dr Alison Sheridan, Principal Curator of Early Prehistory at National Museums Scotland, reveals the fascinating historical background to the Ancient Britain set (*Bulletin* Vol 54, page 148).

A chapter on Windsor Castle, the focus of the stunning Royal Mail issue released in January this year (*Bulletin* Vol 54, pages 141 and 176), takes you on a tour of the art and treasures in that world-famous building, and is written by Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures Desmond Shawe-Taylor.

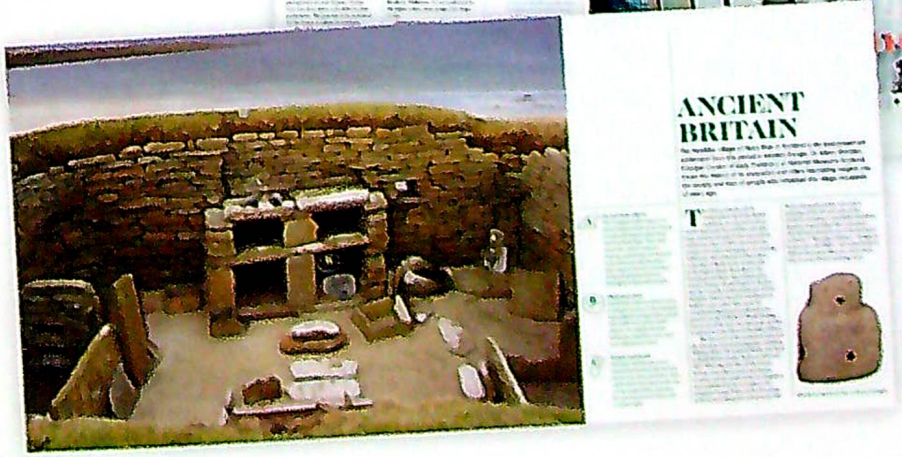
The Yearbook costs £139, and the Leatherbound version, priced £189, is in a limited edition of just 160.

Also available is the 2017 Yearpack, which offers a concise overview of the theme behind each stamp issue, with fascinating collages of images reflecting every set. All the year's Special Stamps are, of course, also included. The Yearpack is £122.

Accompanying the 2017 Yearbook and Yearpack are the 2017 Year of Presentation Packs (£122) and 2017 Year of Miniature Sheets (£35). All the Annual Collections are released on 20 November. ▸







Above: 'Setting the Scene' is the title of this year's lavishly produced Royal Mail Yearbook



Above: the colourful Year of the Dog Sheet will be issued on 16 November

Below: the 2006 Lest We Forget Poppy stamp available for Remembrance Day and a Little Miss whose time is almost up

Welcome the Year of the Dog Collectors of the Lunar New Year Smilers® sheets are straining at the leash for the next one – the Year of the Dog Generic Sheet is released on 16 November. It comprises ten Fireworks First Class Definitive Stamps with five colourful labels depicting Chinese celebrations across the UK and five showing traditions associated with the festivities.

Background paper cut-out illustrations crafted by Rebecca Sutherland (see Andrew Neish's interview in *Bulletin* Vol 54, page 144). The cut-out dogs represent the elements of metal, water, wood, fire and earth. The Year of the Dog lasts from 16 February 2018 to 4 February 2019.

A limited edition Coin Cover accompanies the issue – see next month's *Bulletin* for more details.



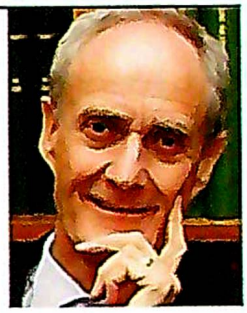
Poppies bloom again Two classic poppy stamp designs are being reissued to salute Britain's war dead as Remembrance Day approaches next month.

The popular Common Poppy stamp from the 2014 Symbolic Flowers Post & Go issue and the much-loved Lest We Forget Poppy design of 2006 will be reintroduced on 24 October.

The Common Poppy will be produced on reels of self-service stamps with just the one single design, so Post Office Post & Go machines can carry the stamps in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday on 12 November. New Post & Go collectors can find their nearest self-service machines in the list on page 59.



Last chance to buy... Remember that the Mr. Men and Little Miss Special Stamps and Hibernating Animals Post & Gos are being withdrawn shortly so catch them before they go. Mr. Men and Little Miss, including the popular Mr. Tickle Souvenir Cover (full details in *Bulletin* Vol 54, page 20) goes off sale on 20 October and the cute Hibernating Animals set (see Vol 54, page 36) will be withdrawn on 14 November •



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

6 October Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, 38-51 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG. 9am to 4pm. Free admission. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

6-8 October STAMPA (Irish National Stamp Exhibition), Griffith Conference Centre, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. 11am to 6pm (5pm Sunday). Exhibits, dealers, souvenirs and special postmarks. Further information: info@stampa.ie.

7 October South West Scotland Stamp & Postcard Festival, Prestwick Community Centre, Caerlaverock Road, Prestwick KA9 1HR. 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: davidrossall@sky.com.

7 October King's Lynn Stamp Fair, Gaywood Church Rooms, Gayton Road, Gaywood, King's Lynn PE30 4DZ. 10am to 3pm.

8 October Hinckley & District Philatelic Society Annual Fair & Exhibition, Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form College, Butt Lane, Hinckley LE10 1LE. 10am to 3pm. Refreshments, free parking. Enquiries: Richard Flemming, 01455 613826.



Waterfront scenes: King's Lynn, above, and Perth, below, both host stamp fairs this month

14 October Telford Stamp & Card Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, Telford TF1 1LU. 10am to 3pm. Free entry. Enquiries: Bob Pilkington, 01299 211737.

14 October South of England Stamp Fair & Convention, South of England Showground, Ardingly RH17 6TL. 10am to 4pm. Free entry and free parking. Enquiries: Jim Etherington, 01273 471897.

20-21 October Scottish Stamp & Postcard Fair, Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth. 11am to 5.30pm Friday, 10am to 3.30pm Saturday.



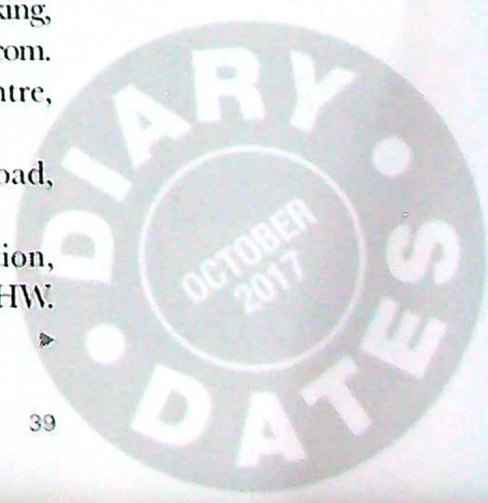
20-21 October Salisbury Stamp & Postcard Show, Five Rivers Leisure Centre, Hulse Road, Salisbury SP1 3NR. 10am to 5pm Friday, 10am to 4pm Saturday. Free entry and free parking.

28 October Midland Federation Autumn Convention & Banbury Festival of Stamps, Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, Banbury OX16 9JD. 10am to 4pm. Free entry and free parking, refreshments. Enquiries: John Davies, 01295 255831, davies1890@btinternet.com.

28 October Surrey Federation Stamp Fair, Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone KT15 2NJ. 10am to 4.30pm. Free entry.

28 October CORNEX, Liskeard Community Centre, Greenbank Road, Addington, Liskeard PL14 3EA. 10am to 4pm.

30 October Bolton Society Stamp Fair & NW Federation Convention, St Joseph's RC High School, Chorley New Road, Horwich, Bolton BL6 6HW. 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: 01942 813386 •



Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture

Historian and Postal Museum Head of Collections Chris Taft is giving this year's Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture about Mail Rail. Chris will take his audience through the amazing story of the Post Office Underground Railway which transported post below the streets of London from 1927 to 2003. The lecture, in the Museum's new premises at Phoenix Place, central London on 3 November, explores the development, design, building and operation of the railway network. Admission to the Memorial Lecture is free. Apply for tickets from Rex Dixon FRPSL at rexdixon@btinternet.com •

The Royal Philatelic Society, London

One hundred and seventy three Fellows and Members from 15 countries and from five continents gathered at Devonshire Place on 14 September, to admire the exceptional material from Her Majesty The Queen's Philatelic Collection – a selection from The Bahamas, Jamaica and The Cayman Islands. It was a very successful opening of the philatelic season, under the Presidency of Patrick Maselis. The Royal Philatelic Society, London, is at 41 Devonshire Place, W1G 6JY. To find out more email adminmanager@rpsl.org.uk or go to www.rpsl.org.uk •

Machin sale

Long-forgotten Machin trial sheets recently fetched more than £12,500 at an auction in America. The three 100-stamp sheets in deep green, flame and light grey were rediscoved 20 years after they were created during a print trial at leading gravure printer Helio Courvoisier in Switzerland. Courvoisier had been commissioned by British firm Questa, which did not have gravure capability, to provide technical know-how and cylinder-making because Questa wanted to tender for Royal Mail gravure contracts (Machin definitives were now being produced with that print process). The Courvoisier trial, attended by the then Royal Mail Design Director Barry Robinson, took place in October 1997. The sheets, which sold at the Daniel F Kelleher auction house in Connecticut, were displayed at Spring Stampex •

Royal Wedding Anniversary

Guernsey Post is releasing a six-stamp set on 8 November celebrating the platinum wedding anniversary of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The stamps show the royal couple sharing public duties as well as relaxing at home and with their children. Guernsey's issue is of course in the great tradition of philately featuring royal marriages, and we will showcase that tradition in the next issue with a gallery of all the UK stamps celebrating The Queen's and Prince Philip's marital milestone •

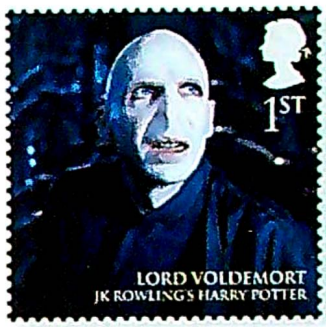
Sramp-related events



The V&A's exhibition on the life and times of rock legends Pink Floyd, who starred in their own stamp set last year, has been extended due to popular demand. Pink Floyd: Their Mortal Remains has been a phenomenal success since it opened at the London museum in May, attracting over 300,000 visitors. Museum chiefs have therefore extended the show's closing date from 1 October to 15 October. The Pink Floyd issue featured some of the band's most famous albums, including *Wish You Were Here*, *Dark Side of the Moon* and *Animals*. Visit: vam.ac.uk/pinkfloyd.

A retrospective exhibition of artist Wyndham Lewis is on at the Imperial War Museum North, which appeared in July's Landmark Buildings issue. Wyndham Lewis: Life, Art, War marks the 60th anniversary of the death of Lewis, who was

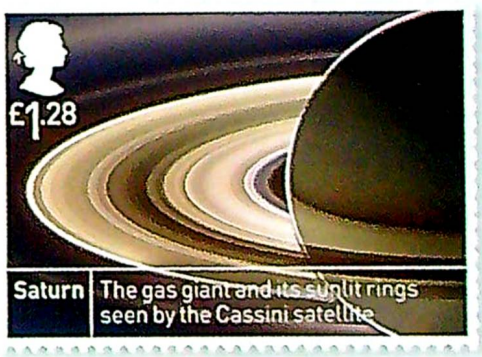
commissioned as an official war artist in 1917. The show, on until January 2018, presents Lewis's artworks, books and journals. Visit: www.iwm.org.uk.



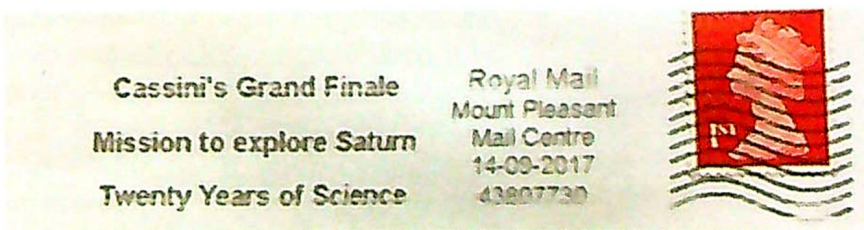
Go for a Potter at the British Library's new show exploring the world of J K Rowling, whose Hogwarts sagas have appeared on a number of Special Stamps. Highlights of Harry Potter: A History of Magic include original drafts and illustrations by J K Rowling and artist Jim Kay displayed to the public for the first time. The exhibition is on until February. The Harry Potter stamp issue came out in 2007 and Voldemort and Dumbledore featured on stamps in the 2011 Magical Realms set.



A fascinating series of lectures and a private tour of The Queen's oriental treasures is taking place at Windsor Castle, which was the subject of a six-stamp set in February. The afternoon session on 7 November focuses on exquisite works of art presented to British kings and queens by Japanese and Chinese rulers down the centuries, which are all now part of the Royal Collection. After discovering porcelains, jades, lacquers and other fine objets d'art, visitors will be treated to a private view of selected works held in the castle's State Apartments. Visit: www.royalcollection.org.uk.



Royal Mail launched a new postmark last month to say farewell to NASA spacecraft *Cassini* at the end of its 13-year Saturn exploration mission, which featured on a £1.28 stamp in the 2012 Space Science Special Stamp set. The mark was dated 14 September, when *Cassini* was preparing for its final plunge into Saturn's atmosphere. The postmark read: 'Cassini's Grand Finale Mission to explore Saturn / Twenty Years of Science', marking the date of the craft's original launch: 15 October 1997 •



The Postal Museum

The Postal Museum's new Mail Rail ride is meant to tell the whole – not the hole – story of the Post Office Underground Railway! Try telling that to this young woman as she attempts to post a letter while negotiating a yawning chasm on a London street that reveals a Mail Rail train roaring along below.

Okay, it is just a cheeky stunt and the hole is a removable plastic picture PR wizards have been moving around London to promote the ride. But the image is so remarkably three-dimensional that commuters have taken to Twitter to post photos of the hole when they spot it. The hole has been sighted at Waterloo and on Gray's Inn Road, and is touring London for the rest of the year. Book your ride on Mail Rail at www.postalmuseum.org •









Stamp spree

Choose brilliant Christmas gifts for your philatelist friends and family with James Cooper's festive shopping guide

Christmas list

a Here are the ideal places to scribble down your philatelic wish lists – stunningly colourful notebooks wrapped in covers crammed with classic stamps. *£15 each, www.tanglecrafts.co.uk*

Year of cheer

b Sit back with a chilled glass of bubbly and toast a year of philatelic cheer with the latest *Royal Mail Yearpack* containing every Special Stamp from 2017 presented in mint condition and a concise overview of every Special Stamp theme. *£122, www.royalmail.com/stamps*

Perfect paper

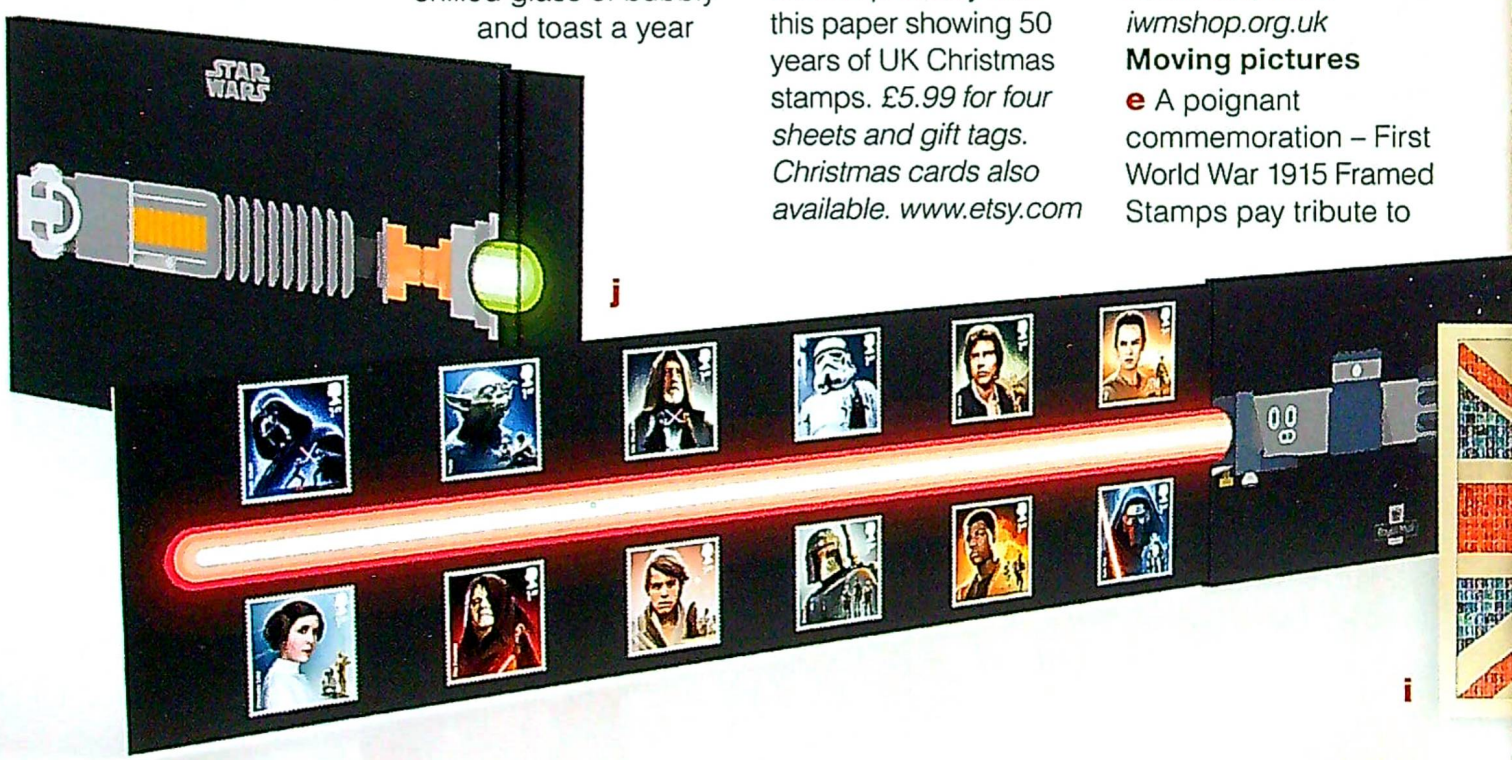
c Wrap up the festive season perfectly with this paper showing 50 years of UK Christmas stamps. *£5.99 for four sheets and gift tags. Christmas cards also available. www.etsy.com*

Remember them

d These elegant earrings from the Imperial War Museum hold real poppies, the symbol of sacrifice featured in each of Royal Mail's First World War stamp sets. Here poppy petals have been picked, dried, then cast in resin and sterling silver. *£25, www.iwmshop.org.uk*

Moving pictures

e A poignant commemoration – First World War 1915 Framed Stamps pay tribute to





the fallen. *£29.99, www.royalmail.com/stamps*

Stardust of wonder

f The spangled glamour of Ziggy Stardust and David Bowie's other alter egos are celebrated in David Bowie first day of issue stamp and badge souvenir covers. Each cover is presented in a protective CD case and carries a metal badge featuring the legendary Aladdin Sane lightning bolt and iconic star from *Blackstar. £19.50, www.stampin.org/aladdinsane*



d

e



Off the cuff

g Treat your wrists with bespoke cufflinks made with genuine stamps. *£25, www.miniprintvintage.com*

State of the art

h This digital LCD microscope sports a 3.5-inch screen and gives up to 500x magnification, with the facility to take photos and videos. *£234.95, www.stanleygibbons.com*

Patriotic post

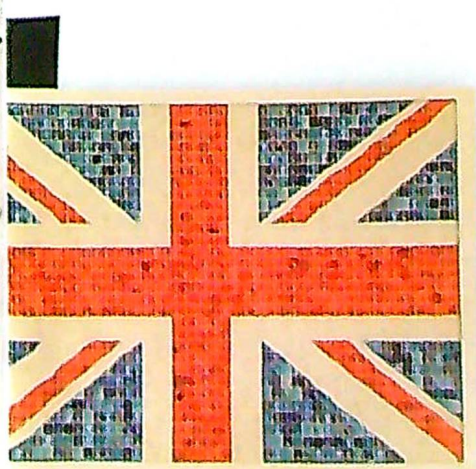
i Salute this Union Flag collage made from GB stamps, 100cm by 70cm. Bespoke stamp collages are available for commission. *www.artstamped.com*

Absolutely slashing

j This cutting-edge Lightsaber Display Set from Royal Mail unfolds to reveal the latest *Star Wars* issue as well as the 12-stamp *Star Wars* set from 2015 starring Luke Skywalker, and Princess Leia. *£20, www.royalmail.com/stamps* ●



f





h



g

New from the islands



Jersey A sweet issue celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Jersey Beekeepers Association has six stamps infused with the scent of honey. The stamps illustrate the honey-making process, from bees collecting nectar to a keeper harvesting honeycomb from a hive and the golden final product glowing in a pot. Also sure to cause a buzz is a miniature sheet featuring different types of bee. The issue is released on 3 October.

The Jersey Fruits and Berries Post & Go issue was launched on the first day of Autumn Stampex in September, at Jersey Post's JE01 kiosk. Also making a splash at the show in Islington, north London were Jersey flag stamps commemorating the Duke of Edinburgh's retirement from public duties, with a special exhibition overprint proclaiming: 'HRH Prince Philip 65 Years of Service'. Enquiries: 00 44 (0)1534 516320 and www.jerseystamps.com •





Guernsey The fourth First World War issue released by Guernsey focuses on the island's associations with the conflict in the air. The six stamps feature native pilots and ground crew who took part, along with their aircraft. They include Frederick Fieldhouse Smith of the Royal Flying Corps, who was shot down by the German Ace Karl Allmenröder, a protegé of the Red Baron. Also appearing are the Crespin family – a father and two sons who served in the Royal Naval Air Service as mechanics. The stamp issue will come out on 8 November. Enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau on 00 44 (0) 1481 716486 or at www.guernseystamps.com •

Come and feel the Force



Explore the epic stories behind each of the eight Special Stamps released by Royal Mail this month – the second set celebrating the *Star Wars* legend

Four decades after R2-D2 crossed the Tatooine desert in search of Obi-Wan Kenobi, Royal Mail has created two stamp sets to celebrate *The Last Jedi* and *The Force Awakens*. The first set was issued in October 2016 and the second comes out on 12 October.

On the following pages we invite you to explore the galaxy with our stellar stories behind the new *Star Wars* stamps and *The Last Jedi* – the latest movie in Lucasfilm's space adventure series, due for nationwide release in December.

The Special Stamp issue showcases characters from the eight *Star Wars* films, including old favourites R2-D2 and C-3PO and more recent heroes such as K-2SO from *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* and Maz Kanata from *Star Wars: Episode VII The Force Awakens*.

Also included in this latest issue is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, two Collectors' Sheets, a pair of Medal Covers, two Retail Stamp Books and Stamp Cards (see page 32 and the philatelic preview on page 4 of the September edition of the *Bulletin*). Two Prestige Stamp Books and four further Medal Covers will be released on 14 December. ▸

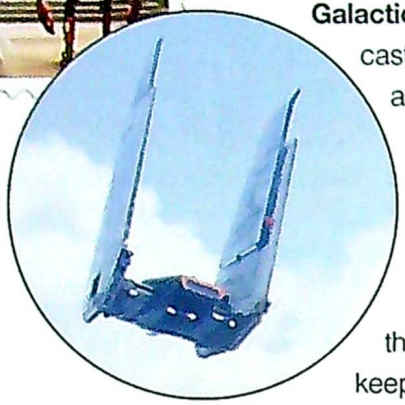




Above: the new *Star Wars* stamps Right: a poster for the original 1977 *Star Wars* film Far right: promotion image for *The Last Jedi*



Kylo Ren's command shuttle zooms through the sky on the Maz Kanata *Star Wars* stamp



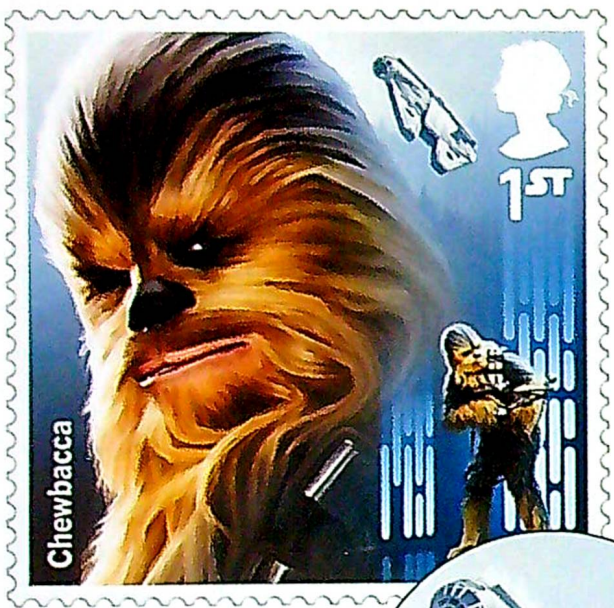
MAZ KANATA

Need to know In the outer limits of the galaxy is a secret castle hideaway run by wise, 1,000-year-old Maz Kanata. An ex-pirate, Maz holds court in the interstellar underworld: smugglers, bounty hunters and thieves. Maz is also an ally of the Jedi, and her fortress contains secrets that tell of a certain Luke Skywalker…

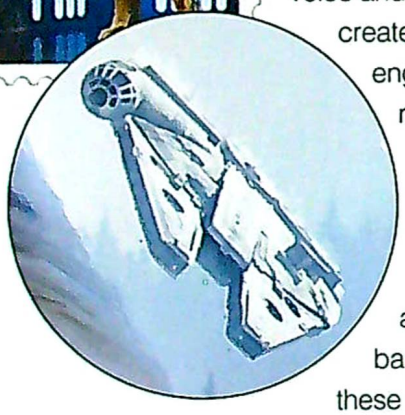
Galactic fact At her castle Maz keeps a curio box full of items she has gathered during centuries of roving around the galaxy and keeps in case they will one day help visitors to her fortress. Among her treasured artefacts is a 4,000-year-old hyperspace sextant and a diatium power core (whatever that is).

Down to earth Maz Kanata may be a wise and wily friend to space pirates, smugglers and rebels but she can be a homely sort too – Maz knitted the stripy socks she wears in *The Force Awakens*.





The sleek, gleaming lines of the legendary spacecraft *Millennium Falcon* appear on the Chewbacca stamp

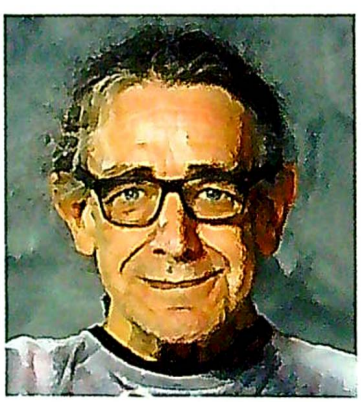


CHEWBACCA

Need to know Han Solo's loyal comrade Chewbacca is a champion of the Rebellion. Now back with the Resistance after a series of independent adventures, 'Chewie' witnesses the tragic death of Solo, leaving him only with the legendary spaceship *Millennium Falcon* and a new companion, Rey.

Galactic fact Chewbacca's voice and language were created by *Star Wars* sound engineer Ben Burtt from recordings that he made of animal cries. Burtt explained: 'I collected lots of bear sounds as well as walruses, lions and badgers, and out of all these recordings you could extract little bits of sound, grunts and groans and arghs and ughs.'

Down to earth While on location for *Return of the Jedi* in the Redwood forests of California, Chewbacca actor Peter Mayhew (pictured below) was advised not to stray off the set in costume because it was feared he would be mistaken for Bigfoot by hunters and shot.





First Order TIE fighters patrol close to their huge battleship on the Supreme Leader Snoke stamp

SUPREME LEADER SNOKE

Need to know The mysterious (and immensely tall) leader of the First Order, Snoke trained Kylo Ren in the dark side of the Force. He now orders the construction of the planet-sized 'Starkiller' superweapon to annihilate the New Republic government and commands Kylo Ren to track down the last Jedi Knight, Luke Skywalker.

Galactic fact Snoke has an interesting range of vicious villains at his disposal for dealing with his rebel enemies. Among them is his master of ground troops Captain Phasma, whose gleaming chromium armour is made from metal once used on one of Emperor Palpatine's yachts.

Down to earth Snoke actor Andy Serkis had a surreal time filming scenes with General Hux (played by Domhnall Gleeson) and Kylo Ren (Adam Driver): because the Supreme Leader is entirely CGI, Serkis had to act without being in costume and high above the set to mimic Snoke's gigantic stature. He recalled: 'My first day was basically standing on a 25-foot podium doing Lord Snoke without the faintest idea what he looks like or in fact who he was. I was very high up, totally on my own, away from everyone else but acting with them.'



On the Porg stamp the *Millennium Falcon* whizzes low over the water planet Ahch-To

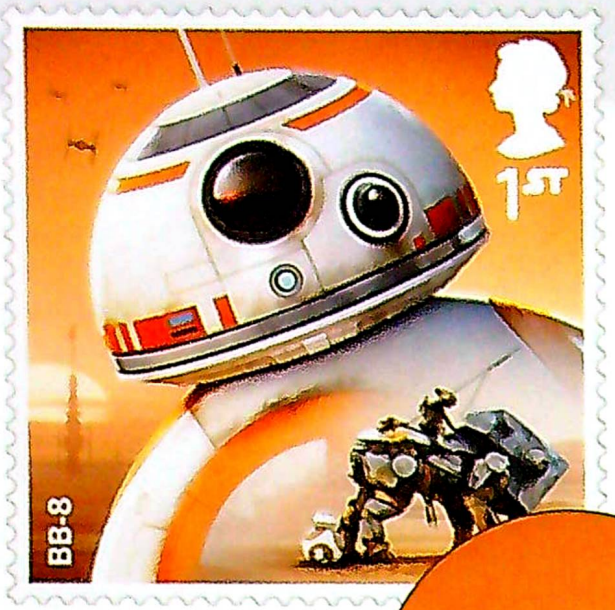
PORG

Need to know Porgs are little flightless birds inhabiting remote planet Ahch-To, home to exile Luke Skywalker and covered by sea and craggy islands. The porgs, however, are quite unprepared for the arrival of strangers when Rey and Chewbacca land there in the *Millennium Falcon*.

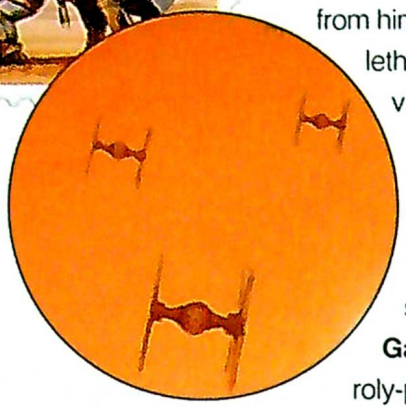
Galactic fact Porg families and their young (called porglets) live on the cliffs near Luke's island home but they share their habitat with The Caretakers – strange bird-fish hybrids who look after the island.

Down to earth The porgs are based on the puffins living on the Irish island of Skellig Michael (right) – location for Luke's home on Ahch-To in *The Last Jedi*. The film's director Rian Johnson explained: 'If you go to Skellig at the right time of year, it's just covered in puffins, and they're the most adorable things in the world. So when I was first scouting there, I saw these guys, and I was like, oh, these are part of the island. And so the porgs are in that realm.' ▸





A flight of First Order fighters roars over the desert planet of Jakku – home to heroine Rey – on the BB-8 stamp



BB-8

Need to know Brave, cute droid BB-8 joins his swashbuckling companion, the Resistance fighter and X-wing fighter pilot Poe Dameron, in the battle against the evil First Order. Initially backing up Poe with on-board flight assistance, he is separated from him during a lethal encounter with villain Kylo Ren. He then joins forces with scavenger Rey and rebel stormtrooper Finn.

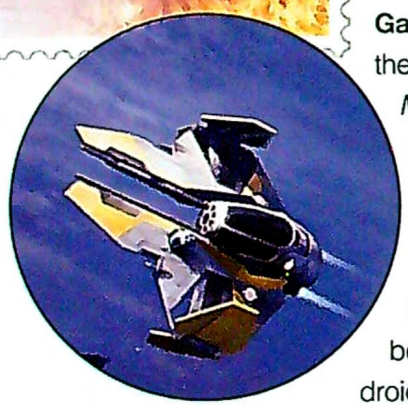
Galactic fact The roly-poly appearance of BB-8 was inspired by a football. Lucasfilm concept designer Christian Alzmann revealed: 'You start looking at everything spherical for inspiration. I think I ran across a soccer ball, and I was just like: 'Oh, it's kind of perfect.'"



Down to earth The US comedy actors, Ben Schwartz (*Parks and Recreation*) and Bill Hader of *Saturday Night Live* fame, voiced BB-8's dialogue which *The Force Awakens* director J J Abrams changed into 'droid speak' with the help of a synthesiser.



On the R2-D2 stamp Jedi fighter craft fly over the planet of Coruscant – capital of the Galactic Republic and the Empire that followed



R2-D2

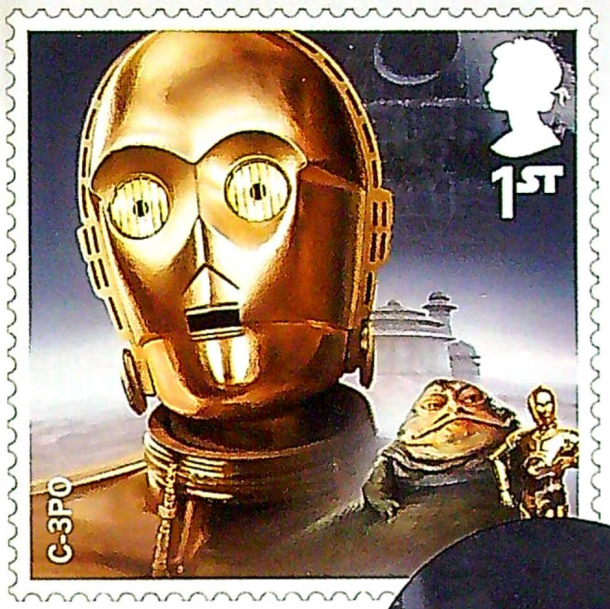
Need to know Trusty little droid 'Artoo' has led an action-packed life, first on board Queen Amidala's ship in the Battle of Naboo, then in the Clone Wars with Anakin Skywalker, and with Luke Skywalker in the campaign against the Empire. Now he secretly keeps the only map that reveals the location of Luke Skywalker.

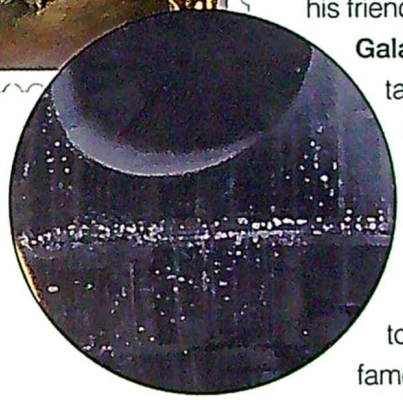
Galactic fact While watching the pod race in *The Phantom Menace*, R2-D2's head turns so much that it rises up until, if you play the film slowly, you can just see Artoo actor Kenny Baker's face in the gap between the dome of the droid's head and his body.



Down to earth While filming the first *Star Wars* movie in the UK, Kenny somewhat incongruously took Luke Skywalker – Hollywood star Mark Hamill (above) – on nights out in the Home Counties. Baker recalled: 'We took Mark out to Stevenage and to Luton and we showed him the ropes. He was very young and he'd never been to working men's clubs before, and it was a whole new experience for him.'

Stamp design: Interabang Illustrations. Malcolm Tween Acknowledgements: images TM © Lucasfilm Ltd all rights reserved
Printer: International Security Printers Pack No 547 Words: Simon Beecroft All rights reserved Pack design © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2017





The dark, sinister form of the gigantic Death Star II looms over the C-3PO stamp

C-3PO

Need to know As a boy on Tatooine, Anakin Skywalker constructed protocol droid C-3PO as an assistant for his mother. 'Threepio' became an expert in diplomatic affairs, but he was certainly not designed for a life of drama and danger. However, in the Rebellion's battles against the Empire, this nervous droid has often helped his friends save the day.

Galactic fact It can take up to two hours for C-3PO actor Anthony Daniels (the only performer to appear in all eight *Star Wars* movies) to be put inside his famous golden costume, which consists of 17 parts.

Down to earth Anthony Daniels almost turned down the chance to audition for the part of Threepio as he disliked science fiction – Daniels once walked out of a screening of *2001: A Space Odyssey* and asked the cinema for his money back.







Climbing high on the K-2SO stamp are Rebel Alliance X-wing fighters and a U-wing troop transporter and gunship

K-2SO

Need to know K-2SO is a reprogrammed Imperial security droid now fighting for the Rebel Alliance against the Empire; he has the ability to blend in when doing reconnaissance work behind Imperial lines, which gives the Rebels a handy advantage.

Galactic fact The sinister appearance of K-2SO was developed from the equally evil design of the Viper probe droid scouting snow planet Hoth for anti-imperial rebels in *The Empire Strikes Back* and the IT-O Interrogator droid in the original *Star Wars* movie.

Down to earth K-2SO actor Alan Tudyk (right) played the tall droid by wearing foot-high stilts and kept them on even when going to the toilet on set. Tudyk admitted: 'I would just go to the bathroom with stilts on. It was about aiming and trying to shield your eyes when you walked past the stalls because you could see over the stalls. You could see who's in there taking care of business' •







Above: BB-8 *Star Wars* Display Set

Right: R2-D2 *Star Wars* Display Set

The Lightsaber Display Set is shown on page 42

Intergalactic pop-ups Three innovative stamp Display Sets add an interesting new dimension to this month's *Star Wars* issue

Why make do with a two-dimensional *Star Wars* stamp set when you can have R2 in 3D instead of 2D? These *Star Wars* Display Sets let you show off the new issue in all their three-dimensional glory.

Just 'push out' the paper parts for a pop-up R2-D2 and BB-8, and fold out the Lightsaber to admire the galaxy's favourite close combat weapon. The Droid Sets feature the latest Star Wars stamps out on 12 October, while the Lightsaber Set (shown on page 42) also presents the issue from 2015. They have been designed by Star Wars stamps artist Malcolm Tween.

Artoo and BB-8 are easy and fun to assemble from separate parts; the Lightsaber simply unfolds to reveal the famous blazing laser blade. All three would be the star of any space in the house of a *Star Wars* fan – on a mantelpiece, desk or shelf – and they make excellent Christmas socking-fillers.

R2-D2 costs £15, BB-8 is £10, and the Lightsaber is priced at £20. All three products are, like the Special Stamp issue, released on 12 October. Buy them at: www.royalmail.com/stamps •



THE ROYAL SIGNALS WHITE HELMETS
~ FINAL DISPLAY ~









Saluting the White Helmets A new cover marks the 90th anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals' legendary motorcycle display team

The latest cover from the British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) shows the White Helmets stunt squad from the Royal Corps of Signals performing their renowned 'human pyramid' trick on their 750cc Triumph Tigers. The cover marks the team's 90th anniversary and their final display before they are disbanded. It features a First Class Post & Go Union Flag stamp with White Helmets overprint, cancelled with the special BFPS handstamp number 3206 showing the date of the last show, 30 September, and the White Helmet logo – a motorcycle rider pulling a 'wheelie' manoeuvre.

The White Helmets are based in Blandford, Dorset, but since forming in 1927 they have regularly wowed crowds all over the world and across the UK, where they have toured every year promoting the British Army. Over the decades the display team have added a thrilling atmosphere of excitement and action to many a fete, fair and country show.

To order your White Helmets cover, visit www.bfps.org.uk/shop. The price is £7.50 (UK/BFPO p&p free). You can also order the cover by post by sending a cheque payable to 'BFPS CIC' to the address shown on the right •

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

Christmas 2017

Yule love these festive sets This year's Christmas stamp collection celebrates the bond between Mary and the infant Jesus and the magic of the festive season seen through children's eyes

This year's Christmas issue comprises an eight-stamp 'Madonna & Child' Miniature Sheet and a four-value set that showcases the winning pictures in the latest Royal Mail Children's Design Competition. The Prince of Wales was chief competition judge and chose the two final winners from a shortlist whittled down from more than 200,000 entries. The 'Santa Claus on his Sleigh on a Starry Night' design, by Ted Lewis-Clark, ten, from Frome, Somerset,

Children's Design Competition – Specifications	
Date of issue	7 November
Number of stamps	Four
Stamp design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Stamp format (Standard)	Portrait
Stamp format (Large)	Landscape
Stamp size (Standard)	24mm x 28mm
Stamp size (Large)	34mm x 28mm
Printer	De La Rue Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	25 (sheets of 50 stamps contain 25 Madonna & Child and 25 Children's Design Competition Stamps)
Perforations	14.5 x 15
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

Madonna & Child – Specifications	
Date of issue	7 November
Number of stamps	Eight
Stamp design	Royal Mail Group Ltd, based on initial concepts by Kate Stephens
Stamp format (Standard)	Portrait
Stamp format (Large)	Landscape
Stamp size (Standard)	24mm x 28mm
Stamp size (Large)	34mm x 28mm
Printer	De La Rue Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	25 in relation to the 2nd Class,1st Class, 2nd Class Large and 1st Class Large values, with bottom half of the sheets of 50 containing 25 Children's Design Competition Stamps; 50 per sheet for all the other values
Perforations	14.5 x 15
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive



Left: the eight-stamp Madonna & Child 2017 Christmas Miniature Sheet from Royal Mail

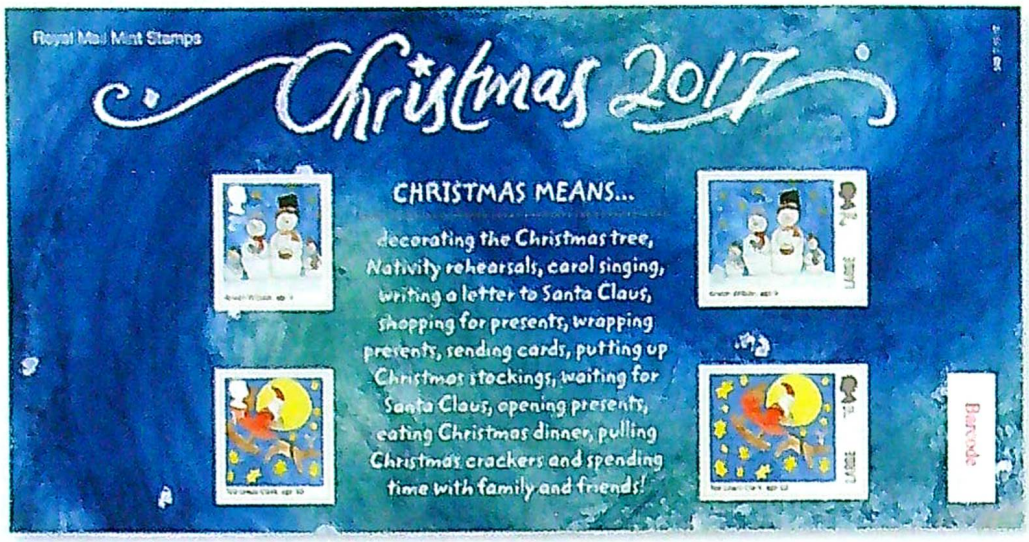
Below: the two winning pictures from the Children's Design Competition star in this year's Christmas issue

appears on the First Class and First Class Large stamps. The 'Snow Family' design, by Arwen Wilson, nine, from Dudley, West Midlands, features on the Second Class and Second Class Large stamps.

They created their pictures in response to the competition theme of what the Christmas season meant to children. Ted's picture shows Father Christmas zooming through the star-spangled night clutching a drink complete with straw. In Arwen's picture, a family of snow people hold a Christmas pudding, Christmas present, snowball and snow baby.

Madonna art The Madonna & Child Miniature Sheet stamps feature details from the following paintings: *Virgin and Child*, attributed to Gerard David; *The Madonna and Child* by William Dyce; *Virgin Mary with Child* attributed to ▸







Top: the front of the Design Competition Carrier Card

Right: the Madonna & Child Miniature Sheet

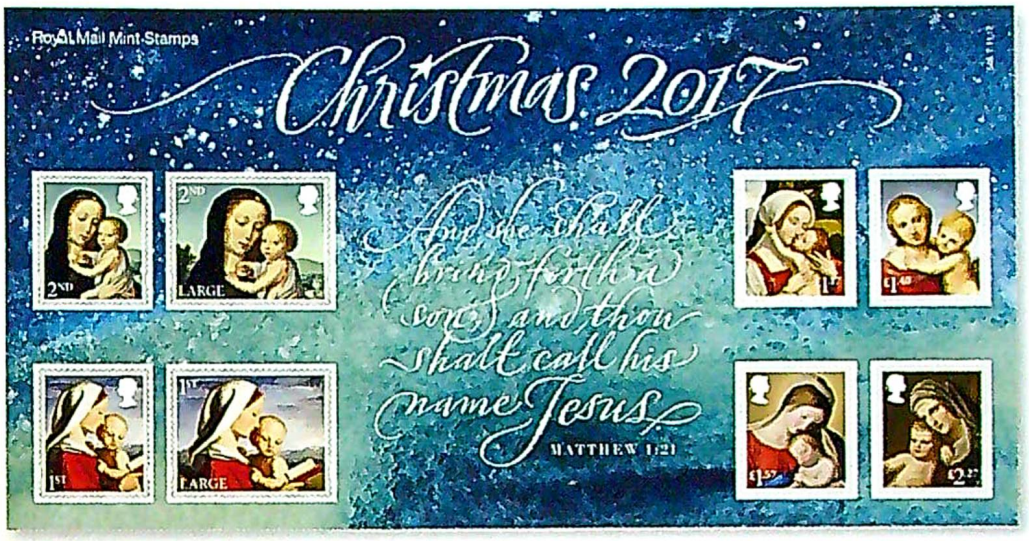
Opposite page (clockwise from top): the front of the Madonna & Child Carrier Card, Handstamps, Miniature Sheet First Day Cover and issue First Day Cover

Quinten Massys; *The Small Cowper Madonna* by Raphael; *The Sleep of the Infant Jesus* by Giovanni Battista Sassoferrato; and *Saint Luke Painting the Virgin* by Eduard Jakob von Steinle. In their compositions, these paintings show a more intimate artistic rendering of the relationship between Mary and Jesus, with mother and son embracing, that developed in the 13th century. Previous artistic interpretations of the bond between the Madonna and Christ were more reserved, with Jesus portrayed as a king and Mary as his 'throne'.

The Madonna & Child stamp values are: Second Class, Second Class Large, First Class, First Class Large, £1.17, £1.40, £1.57 and £2.27. Accompanying this issue and also released on 7 November is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Retail Stamp Books, Postcards, two Generic Sheets and four Half Sheets.

Presentation pack Written by Dr Beth Williamson of the University of Bristol, the Presentation Pack traces the history of the depiction of the Madonna and Jesus Christ from early Christianity to the late Middle Ages.

A Stamp Sheet Souvenir is available for three months after the First Day of Issue, containing the Miniature Sheet bearing all the eight Madonna & Child Christmas stamps cancelled with a Bethlehem, Llandeilo postmark. It comes with an illustrated information card that explores the depiction of Mary and Jesus through the ages.





FD1722-TH



FD1722-PL



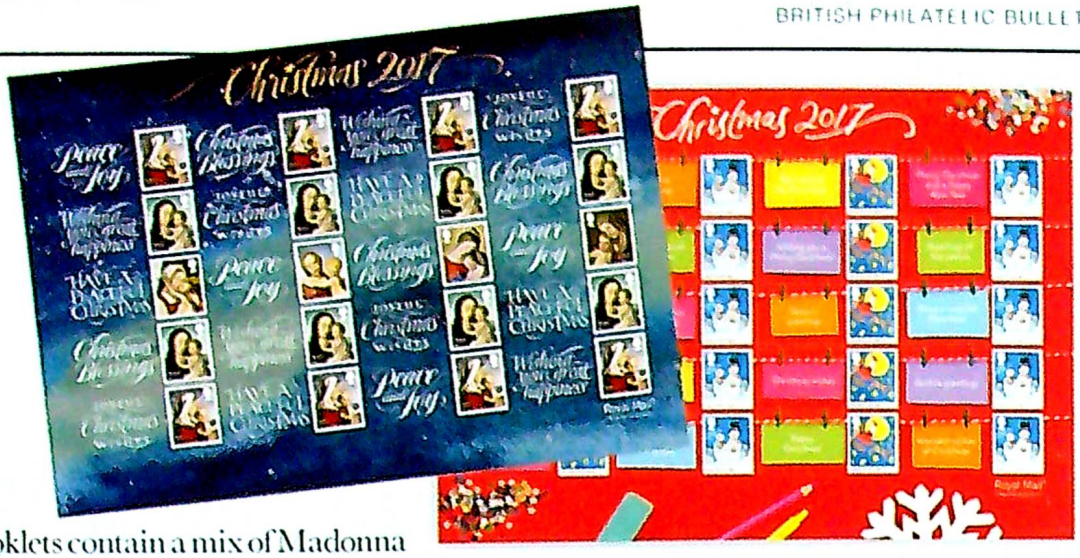
FD1722-NP





First Day Covers Orders for the Christmas Serviced (ie stamped and postmarked) First Day Covers have to reach Royal Mail by 7 November. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue – to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB – for the Tallents House postmark. Please quote the *Bulletin* media code 17BUL10. The Tallents House postmark features a picture of a snowflake. There are two alternative postmarks, which have the location of Bethlehem, Llandeilo. The pictorial alternative shows a star.

Stamp Books Four Christmas 2017 Stamp Books are printed in gravure by International Security Printers (Walsall), as shown on the following page. ▸



This page Christmas 2017 Generic Sheets and Stamp Books

Two of the stamp booklets contain a mix of Madonna & Child Stamps and Children's Design Competition Stamps. More booklets containing only Madonna & Child Stamps will be introduced as reserve stock in case demand from retailers exceeds stock levels. However, any customers who have a subscription (Regular Order) for Retail Stamp Books will be sent all four books automatically, and any ad hoc orders from *Bulletin* readers will be fulfilled •









Christmas Issue – Prices	
12 Special Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x 2nd Class Large (76p), 2 x 1st Class Large (98p), £1.17, £1.40, £1.57, £2.27)	£12.31
Madonna & Child Miniature Sheet (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large, 1 x 1st Class Large, £1.17, £1.40, £1.57, £2.27)	£9.36
First Day Cover Stamps (12 Stamps)	£15.19
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£11.65
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Souvenir	£15.19
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£11.65
Presentation Pack	£12.85
Christmas 2017 Stamp Book (12 x 1st Class)	£7.80
Christmas 2017 Stamp Book (12 x 2nd Class)	£6.72
Madonna & Child Stamp Book (12 x 1st Class)	£7.80
Madonna & Child Stamp Book (12 x 2nd Class)	£6.72
Postcards (set of 13)	£5.85
Christmas 2017 Madonna & Child Generic Sheet	£16.40
Christmas 2017 Children's Design Competition Generic Sheet	£12.60
Half Sheet of 1st Class Stamps, 25	£16.25
Half Sheet of Second Class Stamps, 25	£14



Dedication on display Frank Walton reports on displays at recent national stamp exhibitions



Above: Stampex, the stamp exhibition held twice yearly at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London

Specialist displays of UK stamps remain at the forefront of national philatelic exhibitions. Currently there are three opportunities every year for collectors to enter competitions under the auspices of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) Exhibitions and International Committee. These are the Spring and Autumn Stampex and an exhibition at York.

In the third quarter of 2017 we enjoyed very successful events in York and at Stampex in London. The York show has now become an established event on the philatelic calendar each summer, and is held at the York Racecourse Grandstand during the two-day stamp and coin fair. This year's event was ably co-ordinated by Graham Winters FRPSL; in fact, he was so successful ▸



at canvassing support from would-be exhibitors that the display space at the show was over-subscribed for the first time. There were 40 exhibits in York, entered into the Aerophilately, Postal History, Traditional, Postcard, Postal Stationery, Open and Literature classes. The standard was high, with six exhibits being awarded Large Gold medals, and six entries receiving Golds.

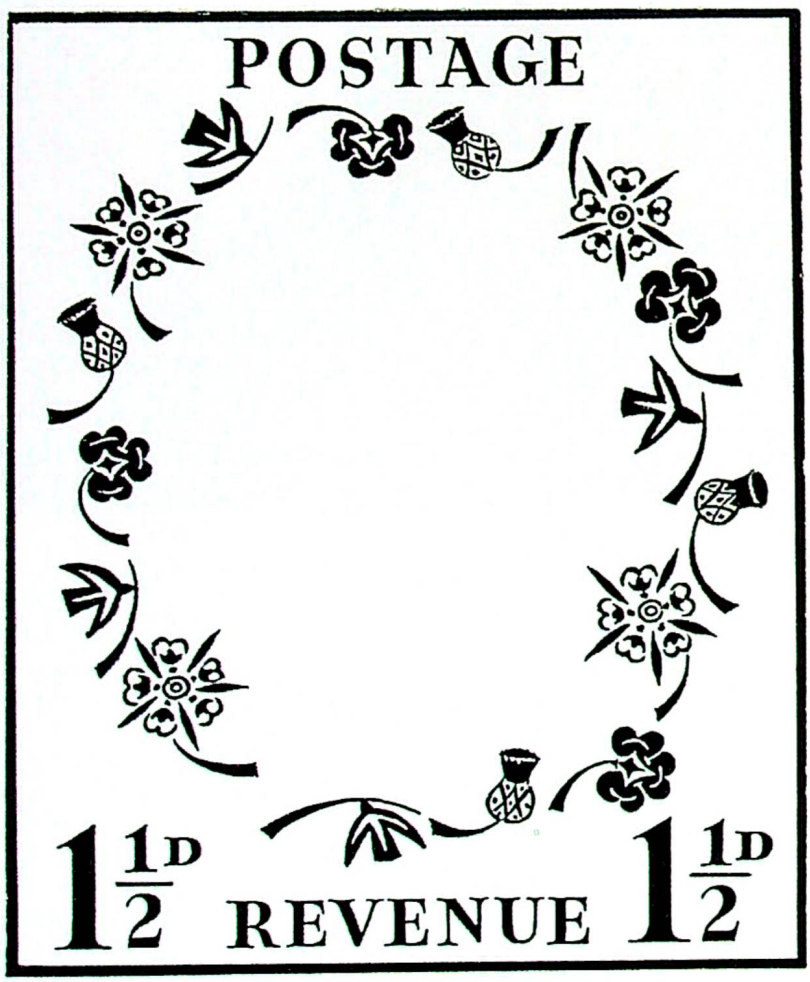
The overall Best in Show went to Colin Hoffman FRPSL for his wonderful exhibit entitled 'Rhodesia Arms Issues 1890-1909'. This was an excellent display, featuring many die proofs and essays, as well as a good range of the issued stamps. Almost half of the exhibits featured British topics, including several that achieved high awards.

Edward Klempka FRPSL was awarded a Large Gold medal for his display, 'Great Britain Penny Post Evolution 1840-1845', and I was delighted to also receive a Large Gold for my exhibit, 'Great Britain Small Format Wildings'.

Last month's Autumn Stampex at the Business Design Centre in London was as busy as ever. This exhibition was well supported by the featured society – the Sarawak Specialists Society. There were 47 competitive entries, as well as many more displays relating to Sarawak, Labuan, Brunei and North Borneo.

A total of seven Large Golds were awarded, and ten Golds. Best in Show went to Joseph Hackmay RDP FRPSL for his magnificent collection of Western Australia. As with the displays at York, there were many collections on show with British content. A Large Gold went to Phil Waud for his display, 'Great Britain 1887 Queen Victoria 4d Value'. This had fantastic essays and proofs, large blocks and fascinating usages.

Below: this essay for the border design of the Wilding definitives formed part of Frank Walton's recent display in York



Looking ahead Once again there will be three National Exhibitions in 2018 – the two Stampex shows and York – starting with Spring Stampex on 14 to 17 February. Applications are always welcome from new and experienced exhibitors; entry forms can be downloaded from the ABPS website. An innovation at this show will be an experimental Ephemera Class.

Anyone interested in taking competitive exhibiting to the highest levels should note that the London 2020 exhibition is on the horizon. The latest date to qualify is Spring Stampex 2019, so why not try a new topic and get judges' feedback in 2018? •

Frank Walton RDP FRPSL is the immediate Past President of the Royal Philatelic Society London. As well as achieving several Large Gold Medals at international exhibitions, he is an accredited FIP juror. His collecting interests include GB Wildings, Sierra Leone, Chinese Air Mails and GB Revenues.



Post in the machine Our comprehensive national guide to the locations of Royal Mail Post & Go machines – from Aberdeen to York

ADDRESS	SELF-SERVE MACHINES
Aberdeen BO, C/O WHSmith, 408-412 Union Street, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire	2
Aberdeen St Nicholas FPO, WHSmith, St Nicholas Centre, Aberdeen	3
Acton BO, 23/29 King Street, London	3
Aldwych BO, 95 Aldwych, London	4
Andover BO, 32 Bridge Street, Andover, Hampshire	2
Arndale BO, 42-44 Smith Lane Mall, The Arndale Centre, Luton	4
Ashford BO, Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent	3
Ashton-under-Lyne FPO, WHSmith, Unit 30, Arcade Shopping Centre, Ashton-under-Lyne	2
Aylesbury FPO, WHSmith, 25-29 High Street, Aylesbury	2
Baker Street BO, 111 Baker Street, London	4
Banbury PO, C/O WHSmith, 23-24 Castle Quay Centre, Banbury, Oxfordshire	2
Barnet BO, 63/65 High Street, Barnet, Hertfordshire	2
Barnsley BO, 4 Pitt Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire	3
Barnstaple BO, C/O WHSmith, 76 High Street, Barnstaple, Exeter	2
Basildon FPO, WHSmith, 27-29 Town Square, Basildon	2
Basingstoke BO, 5/7 London Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire	3
Battersea BO, 202 Lavender Hill, London	2
Beeston PO, WHSmith, 25 High Road, Beeston, Nottinghamshire	2
Belfast BO, 12-16 Bridge Street, Belfast	4
Bexhill-on-Sea BO, Devonshire Square, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex	2
Birmingham PO, 1 Pinfold Street, Birmingham	11
Blackfen PO, 3-4 Blackfen Parade, Blackfen Road, Sidcup, Kent	1
Blackfriars Road BO, 52 Blackfriars Road, London	2
Bognor Regis PO, C/O WHSmith, 10 London Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex	2
Bolton BO, Civic Centre, 124 Deansgate, Bolton	2
Bradford BO, C/O WHSmith, Unit 22, Charles Street Mall, Bradford, West Yorkshire	2
Brighton FPO, WHSmith, Unit 2, Churchill Square, Brighton	3
Brixton BO, 242 Ferndale Road, Brixton, London	3
Broadway BO, 1 Broadway, London	4
Bromley FPO, WHSmith, 132-138 High Street, Bromley	3
Bury St Edmunds PO, C/O WHSmith, 15 Cornhill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	3
Camberley BO, C/O WHSmith, 51-53 High Street, Camberley	2
Cambridge City BO, 57-58 St Andrews Street, Cambridge	5
Camden High Street BO, 114-120 Camden High Street, London	4
Canterbury FPO, WHSmith, 19 St Georges Street, Canterbury	3
Carmarthen FPO, WHSmith, 7/8 Guildhall Square, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire	2
Chelmsford FPO, WHSmith, 73-75 High Street, Chelmsford	3
Cheltenham High Street FPO, WHSmith, 192-194 High Street, Cheltenham	4
Chester BO, 2 St John Street, Chester	2
Chesterfield FPO, WHSmith, 4 Middle Pavement, Chesterfield	2
Chichester BO, C/O British Bookshops and Stationers, 9 North Street, Chichester, West Sussex	3
Chorley BO, C/O WHSmith, 6/8 New Market Street, Chorley, Lancashire	2
Cirencester PO, C/O WHSmith, 19-21 Castle Street, Cirencester	2
City Of Bath BO, 27 Northgate Street, Bath, Somerset	5
City Of Cardiff BO, 45/46 Queens Arcade, Cardiff, South Glamorgan	5
City Of Exeter Crown Office, 28 Bedford Street, Exeter	5
City Of Swansea FPO, WHSmith, 37 The Quadrant, Swansea	2
Clapham Common BO, 161/163 Clapham High Street, London	3
Colchester BO, 68/70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex	4
Corn Exchange BO, Liverpool	3
Cosham BO, 13 High Street, Cosham, Portsmouth, Hampshire	2
Coventry FPO, WHSmith, Unit 3-5, West Orchard Shopping Centre, Coventry	3
Crawley BO, 7 The Boulevard, Crawley, West Sussex	4
Crouch End BO, 28/29 Topsfield Parade, London	2
Darlington BO, Crown Street, Darlington, County Durham	4
Dartford BO, 19 Hythe Street, Dartford, Kent	3

ADDRESS	SELF-SERVE MACHINES
Derby City BO, Babington Court, Babington Lane, Derby, Derbyshire	4
Doncaster BO, 24 Priory Place, Doncaster, South Yorkshire	3
Dorking BO, 175 High Street, Dorking, Surrey	2
Dundee BO, 4 Meadowside, Dundee	2
Dunfermline BO, C/O WHSmith, 111/113 High Street, Dunfermline, Fife	2
Dunraven Place BO, 4 Wyndham Street, Bridgend	2
Durham PO, C/O WHSmith, 22-23 Market Place, Durham, County Durham	3
Ealing PO, WHSmith, 21-23 The Broadway, Ealing, London	3
East Ham FPO, WHSmith, 125 High Street North, London	3
Eastbourne BO, C/O WHSmith, 110 Terminus Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex	3
Eastleigh BO, C/O WHSmith, Unit 34, The Swan Shopping Centre, Eastleigh, Hamilton	2
Eccleston Street BO, 6 Eccleston Street, London	3
Edinburgh City CO, 5/6 Princes Mall, Waverley Bridge, Edinburgh	3
Exmouth BO, C/O WHSmith, 19 Chapel Street, The Magnolia Centre, Exmouth	2
Fareham BO, C/O WHSmith, 4 Savoy Buildings, Fareham, Hampshire	3
Farnham BO, 107 West Street, Farnham, Surrey	2
Faversham BO, East Street, Faversham, Kent	3
Finsbury Park BO, 290 Seven Sisters Road, London	2
Five Ways BO, 18 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent	2
Folkestone FPO, WHSmith, 57-59 Sandgate Road, Folkestone	2
Frederick Street BO, 40 Frederick Street, Edinburgh	2
Glasgow BO, 136 West Nile Street, Glasgow	6
Gloucester BO, Kings Square, Gloucester	3
Golders Green BO, 879 Finchley Road, London	2
Grantham BO, 18/20 St Peters Hill, Grantham, Lincolnshire	2
Great Greenford BO, 400 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex	2
Great Portland Street BO, 54/56 Great Portland Street, London	7
Great Yarmouth FPO, WHSmith, 183 King Street, Great Yarmouth	2
Grimsby BO, 67/71 Victoria Street, Grimsby, Lincolnshire	3
Guildford Town BO, 171-173 High Street, Guildford	3
Halifax PO, WHSmith, 5 Market Street, Halifax, West Yorkshire	3
Hammersmith PO, WHSmith, 16 Kings Mall, Kings Street, Hammersmith, London	3
Hampstead BO, 79/81A Hampstead High Street, London	3
Harborne PO, C/O WHSmith, 95 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham	2
Harlow BO, 1 Stone Cross, Harlow, Essex	2
Harold Hill BO, 17 Farnham Road, Romford	2
Harpenden PO, C/O WHSmith, 29 High Street, Harpenden, Hertfordshire	2
Harrogate BO, 11 Cambridge Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire	3
Harrow BO, C/O WHSmith, Unit 14, St Anns Shopping Centre, St Anns Road, Harrow	3
Hastings FPO, WHSmith, Priory Meadow, Hastings	2
Hayes FPO, WHSmith, 6-8 Station Road, Hayes	2
Haywards Heath BO, 59-63 South Road, Haywards Heath	2
Hereford BO, 14-15 St Peters Street, Hereford	3
High Holborn BO, 181 High Holborn, London	6
High Street BO, 10 High Street, Croydon	8
Hoddesdon BO, 72 High Street, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire	2
Honiton PO, WHSmith, 109 High Street, Honiton, Devon	2
Horsham PO, C/O WHSmith, 14-15 Swan Walk, Horsham	3
Houndsditch BO, 11 White Kennett Street, London	4
Hounslow FPO, WHSmith, 201-205 High Street, Hounslow	3
Huddersfield BO, Northumberland Street, Huddersfield	3
Hull Prospect Centre PO, WHSmith, 10-20 Prospect Centre, Prospect Street, Hull	2
Hyde BO, 30-32 Market Place, Hyde, Cheshire	2
Ilford FPO, WHSmith, Unit 50, Middle Level, The Exchange, High Road, Ilford	3

Please turn over for more Post & Go machine locations ▶



ADDRESS	SELF-SERVE MACHINES
Inverness BO, 14/16 Queensgate, Inverness	3
Ipswich BO, C/O WHSmith, 12/14 Westgate Street, Ipswich	2
Islington BO, 160-161 Upper Street, Islington, London	3
Kennington Park BO, 410 Kennington Road, London	2
Kensington BO, 208-212 Kensington High Street, London	3
Kettering BO, 17 Lower Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire	2
Kilburn BO, 79A Kilburn High Road, London	2
Kingsland BO, 118/120 Kingsland High Street, London	2
Knightsbridge BO, 6 Raphael Street, London	3
Leicester Gallowtree Gate FPO, WHSmith, 39 Gallowtree Gate, Leicester	4
Leighton Buzzard BO, 7/9 Church Square, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire	2
Lewisham FPO, WHSmith, Unit 59, Lewisham Centre, London	3
Liverpool FPO, WHSmith, 1-3 South John Street, Liverpool	4
London Bridge BO, 19A Borough High Street, London	4
Lowestoft BO, C/O WHSmith, 87/89 London Road North, Lowestoft, Suffolk	2
Maidenhead PO, WHSmith 16/22 The Nicholson Centre, Queens Walk, Maidenhead, Berkshire	2
Maidstone Town BO, WHSmith, 38/42 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent	3
Manchester BO, 26 Spring Gardens, Manchester	6
Manchester Mount Street BO, Town Hall Annex, Mount Street Wing, Albert Square, Manchester	2
Middlesbrough FPO, WHSmith, 17-19 Centre Mall, Cleveland Centre, Middlesbrough	2
Milton Keynes BO, Unit N1, 802 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire	4
Model Office, Andrew Perkins, Finsbury Dials, 20 Finsbury Street, London	2
Mount Pleasant BO, Rosebery Avenue, London	2
Muswell Hill BO, 420 Muswell Hill Broadway, London	2
Nailsea BO, Crown Glass Place, Nailsea, Bristol, Somerset	2
New Malden BO, 150 High Street, New Malden, Surrey	2
New Street BO, 102-104 New Street, Huddersfield	2
Newbury PO, C/O WHSmith, 87-89 Northbrook Street, Newbury	2
Newcastle upon Tyne PO, WHSmith, 36 Northumberland Street, Newcastle upon Tyne	5
Newport BO, 19 Sovereign Arcade, Kingsway Centre, Newport	3
North Finchley BO, 751 High Road, North Finchley, London	3
Norwich BO, WHSmith, 31-33 St Stephens Street, Norwich, Norfolk	4
Nottingham BO, Queen Street, Nottingham	5
Old Street BO, 205 Old Street, London	4
Oldham BO, 5 Lord Street, Oldham	3
Orpington BO, C/O WHSmith, 189-193 High Street, Orpington, Kent	2
Oswestry BO, 17 Willow Street, Oswestry, Shropshire	2
Oxford BO, 102/104 St Aldates, Oxford, Oxfordshire	4
Paddington Quay BO, Retail Unit 6, West End Quay, 4 Praed Street, London	3
Paignton BO, 34 Torquay Road, Paignton, Devon	3
Paisley PO, C/O WHSmith, 14-16 High Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire	2
Penzance PO, C/O WHSmith, 96 Market Jew Street, Penzance, Cornwall	3
Perth PO, WHSmith, 91-97 High Street, Perth, Perthshire	2
Peterborough City PO, WHSmith, 32-36 Bridge Street, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire	2
Petersfield BO, 29 The Square, Petersfield, Hampshire	2
Plymouth PO, C/O WHSmith, 73/85 New George Street, Plymouth, Devon	3
Poplar BO, 22 Market Square, Poplar, London	2
Portsmouth BO, Slindon Street, Portsmouth	4
Pudsey BO, 37 Church Lane, Pudsey, West Yorkshire	2
Raynes Park BO, 1A Amity Grove, London	2
Reading BO, 21/22 Market Place, Reading, Berkshire	4
Redditch BO, Threadneedle House, Alcester Street, Redditch, Worcestershire	2
Redhill FPO, WHSmith, 5 The Belfry, High Street, Redhill	2
Richmond FPO, WHSmith, 16 George Street, Richmond	3
Romford PO, WHSmith, 8 The Liberty, Romford	3
Rotherham BO, 3-5 Bridgegate, Rotherham, South Yorkshire	2
Sauchiehall Street FPO, WHSmith, Unit 18-19, 179 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow	3

ADDRESS	SELF-SERVE MACHINES
Scarborough BO, 11-15 Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough, North Yorkshire	2
Sevenoaks BO, South Park, Sevenoaks, Kent	3
Sheffield BO, C/O Wilkinsons Store, 1st Floor, 36 Haymarket, Sheffield, South Yorkshire	2
Shepherds Bush PO, C/O WHSmith, Unit 1087-1088, Westfield Shopping Centre, Wood Lane, London	2
Shrewsbury FPO, WHSmith, Upper Mall, Darwin Centre, Shrewsbury	2
Sittingbourne BO, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent	3
Slough FPO, WHSmith, 176 High Street, Slough	2
Solihull BO, 44C Drury Lane, Solihull, West Midlands	3
South Shields BO, Keppel Street, South Shields, Tyne And Wear	2
South Woodford BO, 139 George Lane, London	2
Southall BO, 38 The Broadway, Southall, Middlesex	2
Southampton FPO, WHSmith, 32-34 Above Bar Street, Southampton	3
Southend-on-Sea BO, C/O WHSmith, 207 High Street, Southend-on-Sea	3
St Helens BO, 39 Bridge Street, St Helens, Merseyside	2
St Johns BO, 116 Albion Street, Leeds	4
St Johns Wood BO, 28/32 Circus Road, London	2
St Peters Street BO, 14 St Peters Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire	4
Stamford BO, 10 All Saints Place, Stamford	2
Stevenage BO, C/O WHSmith, 95 Queensway, Stevenage, Hertfordshire	3
Stockport BO, 36-40 Great Underbank, Stockport, Cheshire	3
Stroud BO, 16/17 Russell Street, Stroud, Gloucester	3
Sunderland City BO, 45-47 Fawcett Street, Sunderland	4
Sutton BO, 19 Grove Road, Sutton, Surrey	3
Swindon FPO, WHSmith, 10-12 Regent Street, Swindon	3
Swiss Cottage FPO, WHSmith, 9-10 Harben Parade, Finchley Road, South Hampstead, London	2
Sydenham BO, 44 Sydenham Road, London	2
The City Of London BO, 12 Eastcheap, London	7
The Galleries BO, Castle Gallery, Bristol	5
The Markets BO, 6/16 New York Street, Leeds	4
Tonbridge PO, C/O WHSmith, 35-37 High Street, Tonbridge	3
Trafalgar Square BO, 24/28 William IV Street, London	6
Trowbridge BO, Temporary PO Unit, Lovemead Car Park, Duke Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire	2
Upper Holloway BO, 14 Junction Road, London	2
Uxbridge FPO, WHSmith, 148 High Street, Uxbridge	3
Wakefield PO, WHSmith, Trinity Walk Shopping Centre, Wakefield, West Yorkshire	2
Walsall BO, Darwall Street, Walsall	2
Walthamstow Central BO, Central Library, High Street, London	2
Walworth Road BO, 234 Walworth Road, London	2
Wandsworth BO, 54-60 Wandsworth High Street, London	2
Warrington BO, C/O WHSmith, 18 The Mall, Warrington, Cheshire	4
Watford Harlequin FPO, WHSmith, 165 The Harlequin, Watford	3
Wealdstone BO, 4/12 Headstone Drive, Harrow, Middlesex	2
Westbourne BO, 10/12 Seamoor Road, Bournemouth	2
Wigan BO, 28 Wallgate, Wigan, Lancashire	2
Winchester FPO, WHSmith, 110 High Street, Winchester	3
Windsor BO, 38/39 Peascod Street, Windsor, Berkshire	4
Woking FPO, WHSmith, 41-43 Commercial Way, Woking	3
Wokingham BO, 16 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire	2
Wood Green BO, C/O WHSmith, 110 High Road, Wood Green, London	2
Woolwich FPO, WHSmith, 68-72 Powis Street, London	3
Worcester FPO, WHSmith, 65 High Street, Worcester	3
Worlds End BO, 351/353 Kings Road, London	3
Worthing BO, Chapel Road, Worthing, Sussex	2
Wrexham BO, WHSmith, 1st Floor, 58 Hope Street, Wrexham	2
Yeovil BO, King George Street, Yeovil, Somerset	3
York BO, 22 Lendal, York	4

Correspondence



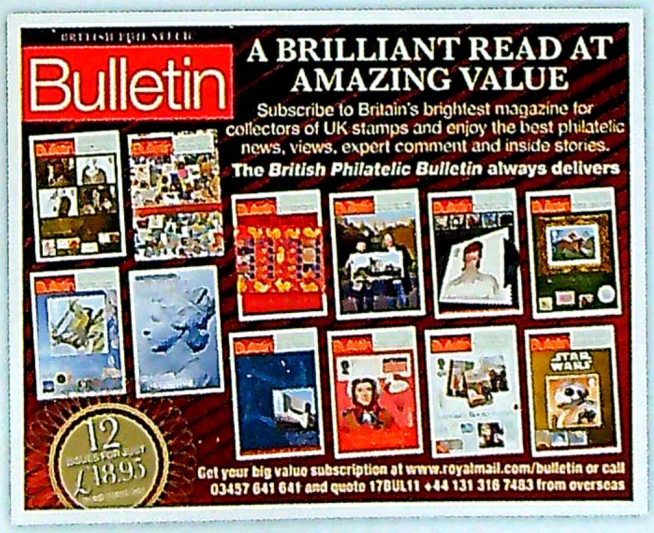


Remember Folkestone to Cologne

I wrote to you earlier this year to ask whether Royal Mail and/or the *British Philatelic Bulletin* would be marking the 100th anniversary of the first airmail between Folkestone and Cologne.

Then in August's *Bulletin* I was delighted to see that Royal Mail has featured this anniversary on one of the Mail by Air Post & Go stamps. I do not subscribe to Post & Go issues but I will endeavour to obtain a set of these stamps when they come out next month. I do hope that you will also mark the anniversary of the death of Rowland Hill in 2019 as you did with a set in 1979.
Jacqueline Pearce-Gervis, by email

Thank you for very much for your correspondence about this interesting anniversary. We are certainly hoping to make mention of it in 2019. And if you can be tempted to look further into collecting Post & Go stamps, you might find the list of Post & Go machine locations on the previous pages helpful.
Andrew Neish, Deputy Editor



Missed mags? We can help

I have been a *Bulletin* subscriber for about 30 years, and have a full-bound run back to Volume 1 Number 1. But I have been caught out by the change in Royal Mail policy whereby my *Bulletin* subscription is no longer automatically renewed. Like hundreds of other subscribers who, I understand, are in the same position, I did not read the Royal Mail letter carefully enough that said I had to ring up or write to renew.

I rang the Philatelic Bureau and was told I can only order back copies for three months, from July 2017. Thus I will be missing from November 2016 (Volume 54 Number 3) to June 2017 (Volume 54 Number 10). Do you have any idea how I can get copies of these?
Frank Walton, South Yorkshire

This is sad news indeed. We are happy to supply your missing editions. Any other readers with a similar problem should email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com and we will do our best to help.
Kate Shaw, Publishing Editor

It's good to hear from you...

The Editor welcomes your correspondence either by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com or by post to Tallents House (see address on page 64). Senders of letters that are published will receive one of the latest Royal Mail Presentation Pack as a thank-you.



WIN Unique new *Star Wars* Collectors' Sheet



Are you top of the bots? To mark the arrival of the new *Star Wars* issue released on 12 October we have programmed this special robot-themed stamp quiz. Correctly compute the answers and you could win the *Star Wars* Ultimate Collectors' Sheet, which is coming out in December.

1 This robot and sailing boat appear on a stamp in which Royal Mail issue?
a Yachts and Bots
b Dinghies and Droids
c Games and Toys

2 Cute droid BB-8 debuts in the *Star Wars* issue out this month. Who is his human companion?
a Poe Dameron
b Poego Stik
c Edgar Allen Poe

3 A bionic hand featured on a stamp in the 2015 Inventive Britain issue. What was it called?
a cyber-palm **b** i-limb
c robo-hand

4 Also in the new stamp issue is dear old C-3PO. Where was he made?
a Tatooine **b** Tattoo
c Tatton, Cheshire

5 The third robotic superstar of the 2017 *Star Wars* set is the former Imperial droid K-2SO. What was his speciality in the service of the Empire?
a Juggling
b Dog-walking
c Security

Name That Stamp From the detail on the right, identify the robot, the name of the issue and the year it was released.



How to enter Send your answers, marked 'Robot Quiz' to Bulletin Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.
Closing date 18 November 2017.



Prizes The senders of the first three correct entries in each section drawn from the postbag will receive the *Star Wars* Ultimate Collectors' Sheet, and four runners-up in each section receive the *Star Wars* Presentation Pack.

August Action Quiz solutions and winners

Action Quiz solution 1c, 2a, 3b, 4c, 5b, 6a, 7c, 8b. *Winners* A Adcock, Northamptonshire; J Blackledge, West Midlands; R Crown, Kent; M Strange, Cornwall; C T Van Gennep, Netherlands. *Name That Stamp solution* Classic Toys, Action Man/ Red Devil, 2017. *Winners* E Bowater, Worcestershire; T Bowater, Worcestershire; J Constantine, Buckinghamshire; Rev P T Hanna, County Cork; P P Moulton, East Sussex.

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) 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.

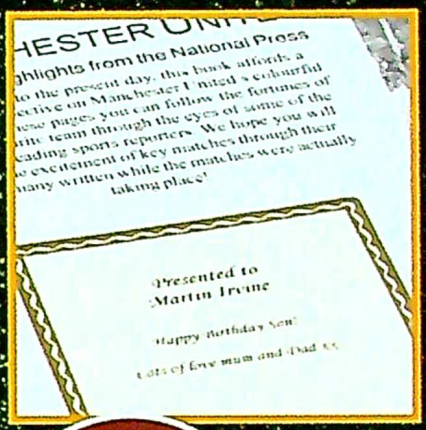
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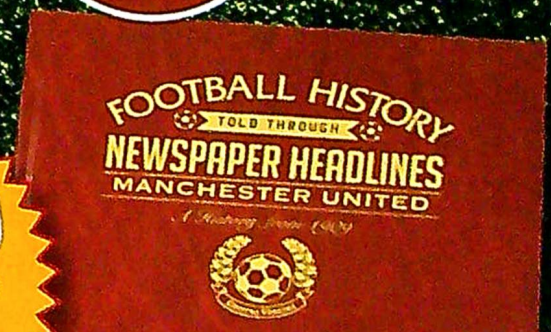


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Royal Mail stamp Issues and Withdrawals

12 October





Issue *Star Wars*: Stamps (8 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, 3 x Display Stamp Sets, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards, Stamp Souvenir Ultimate Edition, 2 x Medal Covers, 3 x Stamp Sets (Creatures, Droids and Aliens), Collectors' Sheet, Ultimate Collectors' Sheet, 2 x Retail Stamp Books, 2 x Full Stamp Sheets (Aliens and Droids), 2 x Half Stamp Sheets (Aliens and Droids), Framed Droids and Aliens Stamps, Framed Ultimate Collectors' Sheet, 2 x Bundles (BB-8 and C-3PO), R2-D2 Selection. Preview: page 4; feature: page 47.

15 October — **Withdrawal** Battle of Hastings Coin Cover.

16 October — **Withdrawal** Donald Campbell Commemorative Sheet.

20 October — **Withdrawal** Retail Stamp Books with change of phone number.

20 October — **Withdrawal** Mr. Tickle Souvenir Cover, Mr. Men Little Miss Generic Sheet. Details: Volume 54, page 20.

24 October — **Reintroduction** of Poppy Stamps: 1st Class definitive-size Lest We Forget Poppy, in self-adhesive sheets of 50. Post & Go 1st Class Symbolic Flowers Poppy. At Post Offices and selected sites.

7 November — **Issue** Christmas 2017: Stamps from Royal Mail Children's Design Competition (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large, 1 x 1st Class, 1st Class Large), Madonna &





Child Miniature Sheet (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x 76p, 1 x 98p, 1 x £1.17, 1 x £1.40, 1 x £1.57, 1 x £2.27), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Postcards (13 in set), Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class Madonna & Child, 6 x 1st Class Design Competition), Stamp Book (6 x 2nd Class Madonna & Child, 6 x 2nd Class Design Competition), Stamp Book (12 x 1st Class Madonna & Child), Stamp Book (12 x 2nd Class Madonna & Child), Madonna & Child Smilers® Generic Sheet (8 x 2nd Class, 8 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.17, 1 x £1.40, 1 x £1.57, 1 x £2.27), Design Competition Smilers® Generic Sheet (10 x 2nd Class, 10 x 1st Class).

8 November — **Withdrawal** Christmas 2016 Stamp Books, Generic Sheet, 50 Years of Christmas Stamps Generic Sheet.

13 November — **Reintroduction** of 2014 Post & Go Winter Greenery: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x 2nd Class). POL SSK offices and selected sites. POL only. Details: Volume 52, page 39; feature: Volume 52, page 115.

14 November — **Withdrawal** Post & Go Hibernating Animals: Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large). Details: Volume 54, page 36.

16 November — **Issue** Lunar New Year – Year of the Dog: Smilers® Generic Sheet (20 x 1st Class).

20 November — **Issue** 2017 Annual Collections: Yearbook, Leatherbound Yearbook, Yearpack, Year of Miniature Sheets, Year of Presentation Packs.

Order all philatelic items, including the stamp products listed above, at **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from **Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles** PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote **17BUL10** the *Bulletin* media code. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices.

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