

BRITISH PHILATELIC

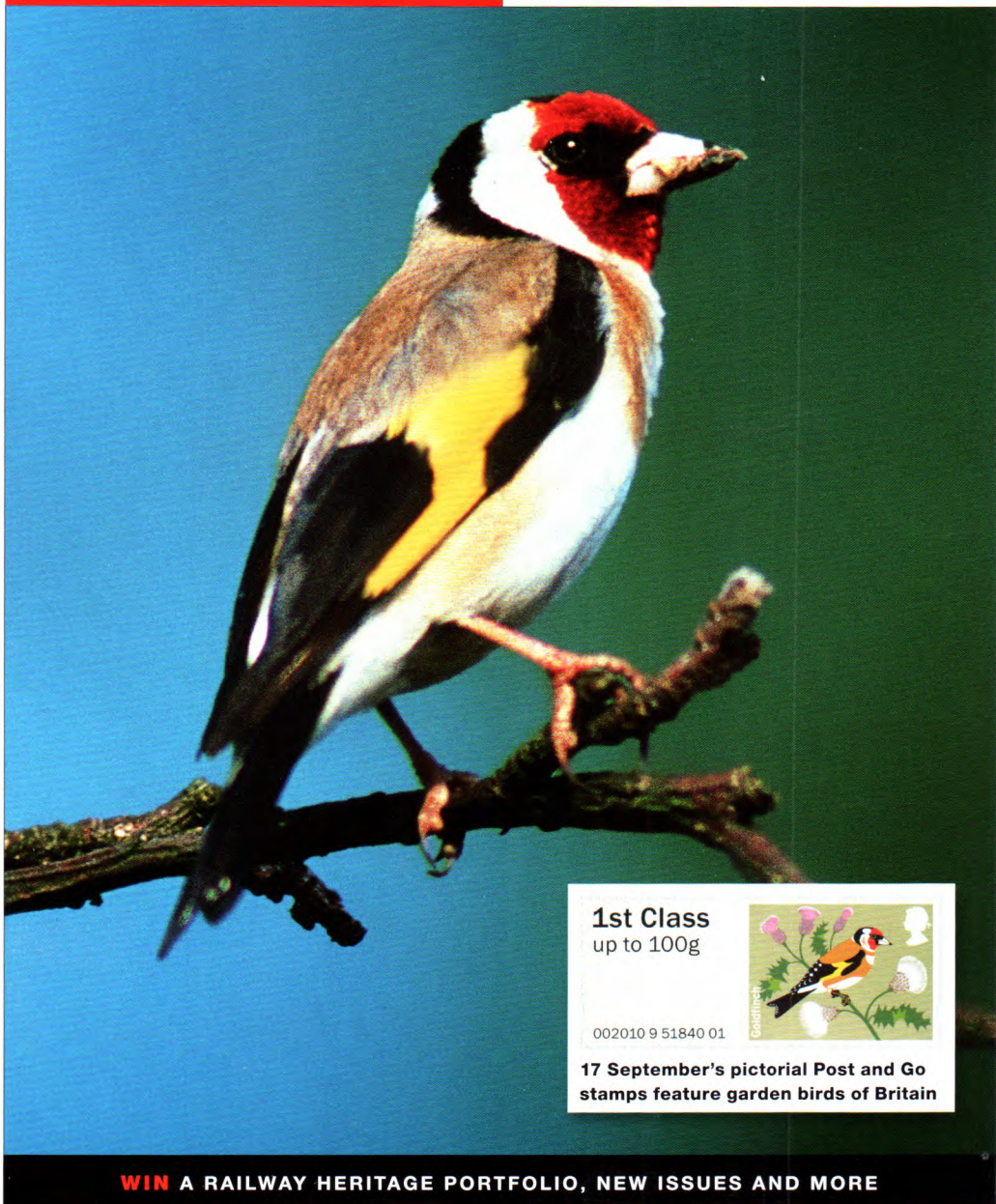
The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 48 Number 1

SEPTEMBER 2010 £1.20

Bulletin

Travelling Tales • Postmark
Focus • New Post and Go's



1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



**17 September's pictorial Post and Go
stamps feature garden birds of Britain**

WIN A RAILWAY HERITAGE PORTFOLIO, NEW ISSUES AND MORE

Issues and withdrawals



Cover image: Goldfinch on Twig © Herbert Zetti/Corbis; Zefa Collection. Bulletin highlights the first pictorial Post and Go stamps – Birds of Britain (1) issue, illustrated with frequently observed garden birds

Royal Mail Tallents House
21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order and subscriptions line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/shop



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15 September

Issue Battle of Britain generic sheet • British Design Classics stamp book No 5, including Spitfire stamps

16 September

Issue Medical Breakthroughs stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards • Great British Railways Name Plate cover • Railway Heritage Portfolio

17 September

Issue Birds of Britain Post & Go stamps

Withdrawal British Army Uniforms, RAF Uniforms, Royal Navy Uniforms stamps, Presentation Packs, Stamp Cards, Prestige Stamp Books, Cachet Covers, Territorial Army Commemorative Sheet, Military Uniform Collection

7 October

Withdrawal Eminent Britons stamps, Presentation Packs, Stamp Cards

12 October

Issues Winnie The Pooh stamps, Presentation Pack, Miniature Sheet and Stamp Cards.
• The Olympic & Paralympic Games (II) Stamp Book No 4 including 6 x 1st, including Football & Cycling BMX stamps)

20 October

Withdrawal Italia 2009 Exhibition Sheet

26 October

Issue Special Delivery stamps, Presentation Pack

28 October

Issue Arboretum Commemorative Stamp Sheet

Re-issue Lest We Forget 'Poppy' Stamp Sheets, 3 x 1st class, se-tenant, available only through Post Offices

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Postbag The Editor answers readers' questions

Remember Florence Nightingale

While it is gratifying to see that Royal Mail has recognised medical science's contribution to society (Medical Breakthroughs stamp issue) it is disappointing that it's failed to acknowledge the centenary of the death of Florence Nightingale, who is recognised as a genius, not just for nursing but for medicine.

She is one of many nurses who have influenced the medical profession: Ethel Bedford Fenwick, founder of the International Council of Nurses in 1899 and the world's first registered nurse. Edith Cavell, nurse and humanitarian executed by firing squad while still in uniform for aiding the escape of British, French and Belgian Soldiers during World War One. Not to mention Mary Seacole a Jamaican nurse who provided care to injured soldiers in the Crimean War.

While it is true that Alexander Fleming made an accidental discovery of penicillin, it was Howard Florey and his team of scientists who produced the life-saving drug. Fleming's role in the commercial production and its usefulness is secondary to say the least.

John Howe, Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Mr Howe,

Thank you for your informative letter. While Miss Nightingale was not a subject of a stamp in 2010, we are commemorating the centenary of her death with a series of items. These include an illustrated Florence Coin Cover, with a specially struck Royal Mint Florence Nightingale silver £2 coin (pictured right) A smaller Coin Pack has a limited issue of 25,000 worldwide.

Mr Howe receives a set of *Bulletin* binders and a Penny Black tie.



How to lobby for a stamp issue

I am a committee member of an organisation that will be celebrating a significant anniversary in 2014. As the only philatelist on the committee I have been tasked to find out how an organisation contacts the person who decide on the subjects for commemorative stamps. Please could you advise us?

John M. Allistone, Poole

Dear Mr Allistone, please send your request to: The Stamp Programme Manager at Philatelic and Collectibles, Royal Mail Centre, First Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ, setting out the nature of what you would like us to commemorate.

There's an earlier football stamp

I read Hunter Davies' football article with interest and am writing to say I have found an earlier stamp featuring a footballer issued in Hungary in 1925. This stamp was one from a set of eight issued to raise funds for sports groups in Hungary.

These stamps are unusual, as they sold for 'double' the face value, as indicated on the back of each stamp. The surcharge was given to different sporting groups and one of these was football. They were issued on 27 April 1925 and were only valid for postage until 31 December 1925. The total face value of these eight stamps, with a 100% surcharge, made it the most expensive set ever sold, in Hungary at the time.

If there are any *Bulletin* readers who know of an earlier 'proper' football stamp, I would be pleased to hear from them. Also I'm looking for ANY of the maximum football cards produced for the Nicaragua series featuring the 11 players in their set of 1970 World Football Hall of Fame Poll Winners. Can you help?

Bryan Horsnell, Reading

Hon P.R.O. Football Postcard Collectors Club



India shines at London 2010

I was very glad to to receive the current issue of *British Philatelic Bulletin* Vol. 47 No.11. I always find it most informative and timely. My son and I visited and participated in London 2010. And I was fortunate to win a Gold Medal and Best of Class Award for my one frame exhibit 'The Development of Airmail Route between Cairo and India until 1929.' Here I am pictured with Brian Trotter at London 2010. My award and my son's exhibit on archery were also covered by *The Times of India*.

Pradip Jain, Patna, India

Dear Mr Jain,

Many congratulations on your success at 2010. It is wonderful that your son is following in your footsteps and continuing to enjoy the hobby of kings.



Unaddressed first day covers

I started collecting first day covers quite recently, and enjoyed the first day of the London 2010. I have seen dealers offering covers posted at the Exhibition for sale, however they're not addressed. I thought that covers submitted in this way had to have an address, otherwise how will Royal Mail know who to return them to? Could you explain how this works?

Paul Drohan, Brighton

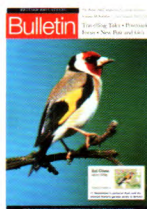
Dear Mr Drohan,

Many commercial cover producers send their request for the envelope to be handstamped with the address in pencil which can then be erased. Alternatively, they put the address on a repeelable label, which again can be easily removed.

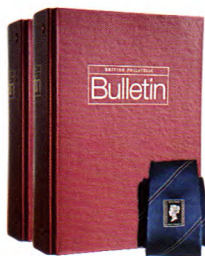
Archive of Bulletins on offer

I have many years, perhaps as many as 20-plus, of *British Philatelic Bulletins* on file. As I am advancing in years I would like to pass this archive on to any interested parties. Would any of your readers be interested in providing a new home for my collection?

Eric Teale, Warwickshire



Would you like Mr Teale's collection? If so, please write to the *British Philatelic Bulletin* at Redwood Publishing, 7 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4HA or send an email, entitled Mr Teale's collection, to royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net



Surprise us and we'll surprise you!

Karin Ward, Editor of the *Bulletin*, welcomes your letters and has a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to the senders of those published. Please note, however, that Royal Mail cannot reply to all letters and reserves the right to edit for length. Please include an email address if possible. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Redwood Publishing, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA or email royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net.

What's new? Issues, products and events

New next-day definitives Two new Machin definitive stamps are to be issued on October 26, for customers using the Royal Mail Special Delivery™ Next Day service in Post Offices. (This service guarantees delivery by 1pm the following day.)

The new stamps will be available for items up to 100g, priced £5.05, and for items up to 500g, price £5.50 – the two most frequently used weight steps. A Presentation Pack (£11.05) and First Day Envelope (30p) are also available on the issue date, as illustrated below ●



The Special Delivery™ issue features distinctive combinations of silver and blue and carries two phosphor bars



Both the Presentation Pack, left, and First Day Cover, below, will be issued on October 26



Special Delivery™ stamps - Technical Details:

Feature Type	Detail
Stamps	1 x up to 100g, 1 x up to 500g
Price	Mint Stamps - £10.55 Presentation Pack - £11.05 First Day Cover - £12.87
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	Die Cut Simulated perforations
Phosphor	2 Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

Autumn Stampex More than a hundred dealers and postal administrations are gearing up for this month's Stampex exhibition at London's Business Design Centre from Wednesday 15 to Saturday September 18. At the Royal Mail stand visitors can benefit from the exclusive posting box facilities available each day, to obtain the special Stampex FDI handstamps and other First Day marks on new issues (see below and pages 26 and 32), while the Village Green welcomes the return of the National Competitions run by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (www.abps.org.uk). The National Youth Championship entries will also be on display ●

Full steam ahead for splendid collectors' items. 'Evening Star' is the first of five enamel miniature nameplates issued to accompany the Great British Railways series, available from September 17 at £14.95. Also released this month, on the same day and just in time for Stampex, is the Limited Edition Railway Heritage Portfolio (pictured right). Its attractive presentation box contains high-quality illustrations of the six engines featured on the August issue of Great British Railways, with the corresponding stamps affixed and cancelled with a special postmark. It also includes an informative booklet that describes each locomotive in detail and six Stamp Cards ●

Collector's trip : the Limited Edition Railway Heritage Portfolio, price £24.95, purchase code PP001



Bird stamps get egg marks All first-day-of-issue postmarking offices will be supplied with the alternative pictorial postmark for the first issue of Post and Go Birds of Britain stamps (see page 26), available from September 17. All First Day Covers posted at a Post Offices® counter will be cancelled with the same pictorial postmark, regardless of where posted. On the issue day these pictorial Post & Go stamps will only be available from the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and the Post and Go terminals in the following 30 Crown Post Offices®:

BELFAST: 12-16 Bridge Street, BT1 1LT
 BIRMINGHAM: 1 Pinfold Street, B2 4AA
 BRISTOL: Castle Gallery, Broadmead, BS1 3XX
 CAMBRIDGE: 9-11 St Andrew Street, CB2 3AA
 CARDIFF: 45-46 Queens Arcade, Queen Street, CF10 2BY
 COLCHESTER: 68-70 North Hill, CO1 1PX
 CROYDON: 10 High Street, CR9 1HT
 DURHAM: 33 Silver Street, DH1 3RE
 EDINBURGH: 8-10 St James Centre, EH1 3SR
 EXETER: 28 Bedford Street, EX1 1GJ
 GLASGOW: 47 St Vincent Street, G2 5QX
 GRIMSBY: 67-71 Victoria Street, DN31 1AA
 HARROGATE: 11 Cambridge Road, HG1 1AA
 LIVERPOOL: India building, Water Street, L2 0RR
 LONDON:
 Trafalgar Square, 24-28 William IV Street,

WC2N 4DL
 205 Old Street, EC1V 9QN
 111 Baker Street, W1U 6SG
 Unit 6, West End Quay, 4 Praed Street, W2 1JE
 City of London: 12 Eastcheap, EC3M 1AJ
 LUTON: 42-44 Smith Lane, LU1 2LP
 MILTON KEYNES: 17-19 Crown Walk, MK9 3AH
 NORWICH: 84-85 Castle Meadow Walk, NR1 3DD
 NOTTINGHAM: Queen Street, NG1 2BN
 PLYMOUTH: 5 St Andrews Cross, PL1 1AB
 PORTSMOUTH: Slindon Street, PO1 1AB
 SOUTHEAST-ON-SEA: 199-201 High Street, SS1 1LL
 STEVENAGE: 22-23 Westgate, SG1 1QR
 TRURO: High Cross, TR1 2AP
 WALSALL: Darwall Street, WS1 1AA
 YORK: 22 Lendal, YO1 8DA ●



The First Day of Issue alternative postmarks created for the Post and Go Birds of Britain 1 stamps features a speckled egg

What's on at the BPMA

September events

include a Discover Session on King George V Letter Boxes, on 18 September, noon until 4pm at The British Postal Museum Store, Unit 7 Imprinto Park, Lenthall Road, Loughton, Essex.

What does the postal service mean to you?

Have your views recorded for posterity at the Oral History Drop-in Session on Tuesday 21 September, 10am to 3pm at the Phoenix Centre, next to The BPMA, Phoenix Place, London WC1.

Changes to the BPMA's opening hours

are being considered. If you have a view on this, please fill in the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/XKHYYLN.

Follow the BPMA on Twitter

at twitter.com/postalheritage



Spitfires Smilers Sheet New Smilers Sheets due out in mid-September include the Battle of Britain Generic Stamp Sheet (GS-076, shown above), which features images of Spitfires in commemoration of the Battle of Britain and its pilots •

Uniform departure time Illustrated by Brian Turner and in se-tenant strips of three first-class and three 81p stamps, the series of stamps depicting military uniforms are to be withdrawn this month – for those wishing to complete their collections, September 17 is the last day for purchasing RAF Uniforms, Royal Navy Uniforms, British Army Uniforms and the Military Uniforms Collection. The Benham customised sheet of Royal Navy Uniforms is still available at www.royalmail.com •

Stop press: Wigan Wonderland The sunny summer days of August this year saw the town of Wigan getting excited about Christmas, following an important announcement from two of the town's most famous sons: Wallace and Gromit (whose official address is at 62 West Wallaby Street, Wigan) are to feature on Royal Mail Christmas stamps.

More details of philatelic festive highlights – including a Presentation Pack Advent Calendar – will feature in a later issue of *Bulletin* •



Above: an Able Seaman of 1880 on one of the stamps in Royal Mail sartorial series on service dress, which comes off sale on September 17



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

Mark my words John Newcomb of the British Postmark Society on postmarks at counters

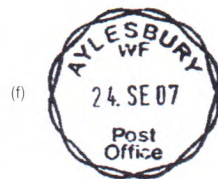
ALTHOUGH THE MAIN SOURCE of today's postmarks is through Royal Mail, Post Office counters form another area of interest to postmark collectors. Recent years have seen a drastic reduction in the number of offices and changes in their functions. Date-stamp inscriptions do not usually reflect the type of office in question... but there are always exceptions.

The two familiar types of outlet are the larger counters at Crown Offices – premises owned or leased by the Post Office and operated by its own staff (a) – but the vast majority are run by Subpostmasters who are not Post Office employees and are paid according to the volume of business transacted, hence the term SP50 – Scale Payment Sub-office (b) and (c).

It's all change In recent decades the old-fashioned 'plonkers' (b) and (c) have been mostly replaced by self-inking date-stamps aka SIDs (a). While increased automation offers a dwindling harvest for the collector, interesting possibilities remain, including Special Delivery items, stamped letter packets, certificates of posting, car tax discs, receipts for purchase of some financial products and payments for redirection. Cost constraints occasion new categories of post office: many former Crown Offices were converted to MSPOs (d) run by Subpostmasters on modified contracts, and further large outlets have become Franchised Offices (e). Examples are the CFPOs (Company Franchised Post Offices) taken on by W H Smith, the W prefix indicates such an office (f).

Latest developments The concept of 'OUTREACH' meets customer demand in areas that no longer have a post office. In the 'Hosted' service, a Subpostmaster uses premises owned by a third party eg a shop, pub or village hall and sets up a post office there (g). In the 'PARTNER' service the "core" Subpostmaster appoints "partners" operating in their own premises (h). There are also 'MOBILE' services (apart from temporary counters at notable Events) where a specially adapted vehicle makes short visits on a regular timetable to communities in need (i). And lastly a new type of outlet has appeared: 'POST OFFICE ESSENTIALS' now re-styled 'POST OFFICE LOCAL'. These offer a slightly reduced range of services, often in a shop with very long hours (j).

The *British Postmark Bulletin* is published fortnightly and is only available from Tallents House on subscription. Write to Yvonne Hamilton at Tallents House at the address on page 2 or phone 08457 641641



(f)

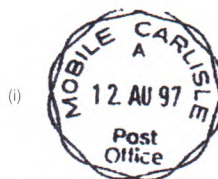


(g)



(h)

... interesting possibilities remain for the collector, including Special Delivery items



(i)



(j)

Stamp Scene the *Bulletin* team keep you posted



Lundy wildlife Lundy is famous for having the world's oldest private postal service. Since 1929 it has issued 350 different stamps. The latest set released on 15 May is dedicated to island wildlife. Printed by Cartor they show seals, goats, sheep, a rabbit and deer priced in the island currency of Puffins. Sets cost £3.25 mint, or £3.95 for a Presentation Pack or FDC (plus £1.80 P&P to UK addresses). Available from The Lundy Shore Office, The Quay, Bideford EX39 2LY, visit www.lundyisland.co.uk, or email info@lundyisland.co.uk ●

Opposite: Most Revd. Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, with the miniature sheet and presentation pack commemorating the state visit of Pope Benedict XVI

Below: David Beech of the British Library, with John Powell and Jeremy Martin authors with a copy of the new WASC book

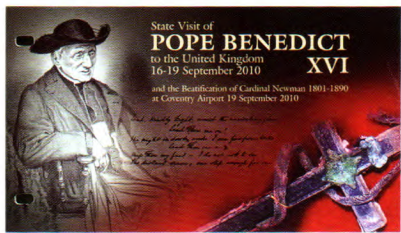
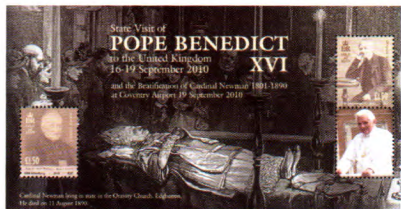


West Africa in the British Library Philatelic Collections The West Africa Study Circle (WASC) has published a new book, *West Africa in the British Library Philatelic Collections* by Jeremy Martin and John Powell. It catalogues material contained in 20 collections or archives, including The Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive which has seven sections. The contents itemises the collections in which West African material was found followed by an alphabetical listing of the countries in each of the collections. Each category is set out chronologically using catalogue dates and Crown Agents requisition numbers are recorded. There is an extensive index.

The book is available for £45 (or £36 for WASC members) plus postage at £4.30 UK, £6 overseas surface, £6.50 Europe and £11.50 rest of world by air. Orders to Ian Anderson, 57 Manse Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7SR with a cheque payable to WASC, or by email with a payment using PayPal to wasc treasurer@aol.com. Go to www.wasc.org.uk ●

Papal visit commemorated Pope Benedict XVI's historic State visit to the UK this month and the beatification of Cardinal Newman at Cofton Park Birmingham are commemorated in a miniature sheet, a presentation pack and a first day cover from the Isle of Man Post Office. Issued on 11 August, the 120th anniversary of the death of Cardinal Newman, the miniature sheet was launched by Archbishop Bernard Longley (pictured below).

The sheet carries a stamp label showing Pope Benedict XVI and two postage stamps, both depicting photographs of Cardinal Newman. The left hand stamp depicts a previously unknown original photograph, taken by HJ Whitlock of New Street, Birmingham, and signed by Cardinal Newman at the age of 82, at the Oratory House on Passion Sunday, 11 March 1883. The right hand stamp shows an original photograph of Cardinal Newman taken in the 1860s by McLean & Haes of Haymarket, London. The picture of Pope Benedict XVI was taken by Peter Jennings FRPSL, who had the original concept and also wrote the copy. The two £1.50 special stamps received Royal Approval from HM The Queen and include the Royal Cipher. For pricing details call +44 (0)1624 698430 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm GMT, or via email at enquiries@iompost.com ●



Modern GB Mike Holt, a specialist in modern GB material has recently released his latest price list. The publication comprises 84 A4 pages, 16 of which are in colour. So if basic British stamps or specialised British philatelic material is of interest, be sure to download a copy at www.mike-holt.com ●

Eastern Angle The East Anglian Postal History Study Circle continues to inform its members of all that is happening postal-wise in that part of England through its interesting quarterly journal *Eastern Angle*. It is especially good at highlighting a period of intense change underway to our Post Office network, acting as a microcosm of the whole of the UK. Go to www.freewebs.com/eaphsc for details of membership and to view PDFs of recent newsletters ●

This month in history



September's stamp gem was chosen by Vincent Green of Sandafayre

Having won the contract from Waterlow & Sons, De La Rue issued their 2s 6d brown and 5s carmine 'Seahorse' high values in September 1915, with the 10s blue following in December. Rated as one of Britain's most iconic issues the 'Seahorses' were produced by three different printers between 1913 and 1919. A favourite among specialised collectors, these issues offer myriad distinctive shades for each value and you can spend a lifetime hunting for proofs, colour trials, plate flaws, water-mark varieties and different papers. Waterlow had to hand over their printing plates to De La Rue who used them to print all three values.

Publishing Seminar On 13 October at the Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL from 1.45pm to 4.40pm, two experts on publishing and writing for the philatelic press are to lead a seminar for the National Philatelic Society (NPS) entitled *How to Publish a Society Journal*.

Both Richard West and David Alford have been instrumental in producing the NPS journal *Stamp Lover* in the past. Both have strong views on how a philatelic society magazine should be produced and what these journals should contain.

They maintain a club journal should keep members informed and tell non-members what they are missing. Richard and David will be giving practical advice and exchanging ideas with the audience. The meeting is open to members and non-members of the NPS. There is a charge of £5 (£3 for members of the NPS). Places are limited and the deadline for applications is 1 October 2010. For further details and a booking form, please send a stamped addressed envelope to Christopher Oliver, National Philatelic Society, c/o The British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, or visit www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps •

Global News



USPS Emergency Rate Increase The United States Postal Service is seeking approval to increase postage rates, including raising its first class letter and postcard rates by two cents, to bring in an extra US\$2.3 billion in revenue. These increases are in addition to plans to deliver only five days a week and to close many Post Offices and sorting facilities across America •

Analyse That The Institute for Analytical Philately has been formed with the aim of 'solving philately's puzzles through science'. It has produced its first newsletter and has a web presence at www.analyticalphilately.org, so if subjects such as photomicrography, colorimetry and x-ray diffraction are of interest, then this American group is for you •

Green Stamps The Finnish and Moroccan Post Offices have issued stamps that meet all of the 'green' credentials necessary to ensure that the product can be termed 100% recycled and carbon neutral. They deem this to be a world first for stamps and, although currently more expensive to produce than normal gummed stamp paper, it is hoped that as volumes increase, costs will decrease until the paper becomes the same price as current non-eco friendly substrates.



Finland's stamp uses 100% recyclable OBA-free paper

attempt to reduce the impact of stamp production on the environment. The stamp also carries an extra fee of EUR 5 cents. The assets accrued from the fees will be allocated to support the construction of the first solar power plant in Finland.

One collector who specialises in stamp production regards this as a commendable development, but feels that greater attention must now be paid to the ever-increasing use of self-adhesive papers by the world's postal authorities. These use twice the amount of paper because they need a disposable waxed liner that works as a 'release sheet', and they also employ a gum that invariably prevents the stamps from being recycled after use. Recycling considerations are the next challenge, and one that scientists are bound to overcome in due course •



British India gems to be auctioned One of the most comprehensive collections of Indian philatelic material, the Sapphire Collection, is set to go under the auctioneer's hammer in September/October in the US.

The auction will be conducted by Spinks Shreves of Texas whose sale of the Floyd Risvold Collection, which is one of the finest collections of philatelic material cataloguing 'America and the Journey West' fetched around US\$7 million in January of this year. For details of the philatelic items in the Floyd Risvold Collection, and a preview of the Sapphire Collection, go to www.spinkshreves.com/calendar •



1856 ½a Blue, die 1, imperforate, a mint top right plate no. '1G' full pane of 80, a gem of British India philately; catalogued as hinged pairs. Est £17,000

Events

UK

15-18 Sept 2010

Autumn Stampex,
BDC, Islington,
London, UK

4-6 Nov 2010

Philatex, Royal
Horticultural Halls,
London, UK

ABROAD

2-4 Sept 2010

Sberatel 2010
International Trade
Fair, Prague,
Czech Republic

1-10 Oct 2010

Portugal 2010,
Lisbon, Portugal

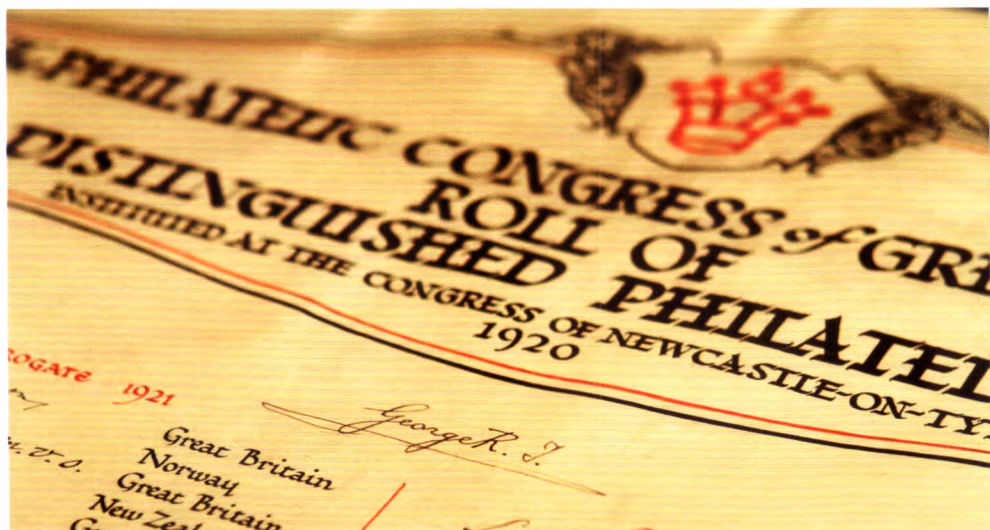
27-31 Oct 2010

Jo'burg 2010,
Johannesburg,
South Africa

21-25 Nov 2010

Jerusalem 2010
Multinational
Stamp Exhibition,
Jerusalem, Israel

The ABPS Congress



Above: George V's signature on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, established at the 1921 Congress in Harrogate. Since 1922 the selection of the signatories has been annual, except for breaks during the years of World War Two

For four days and three nights over a sunny weekend in July, the Holiday Inn at Kenilworth was swarming with philatelists of all stripes and specialism for the 2010 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Organisers were charged with the difficult task of following the momentous celebratory Congress in Manchester last year, in the knowledge that representatives of Scottish associations had proudly packed their kilts, anticipating an occasion of tone worth the long journey.

Barring some mercifully brief but sharp parrying between revenue fans and thematic faithfuls, the event moved seamlessly between inspiring talks, displays and banquets at the Holiday Inn venue near Kenilworth and the signing ceremony for the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the grandly Victorian Leamington Spa Town Hall.



Words of wisdom To choose key talks from the run of erudite presentations that ran back to back during the Congress would be misleading, for in their areas of speciality each imparted philatelic pearls that rose above any problems with the sound system. Douglas Muir spoke on the work of Bertram Mackennal, designer of stamps, coins and medals during the reign of King George V, in keeping with the 2010 Festival of Stamps theme of the

Kenilworth 2010

anniversary of the accession of King George V, the 'Philatelist King'.

On the penultimate day of the Congress, breakfast was followed by an incisive and prophetic address from Distinguished Philatelist John Sussex, entitled 'Are Stamps Dead'? The audience seemed to come down firmly on the side of resuscitation; defining and promoting the appeal of stamp-associated activities is an important if perennial subject. John's talk might well augment debating material for many philatelic associations this winter.



Static displays were changed at least once a day, and all of a high standard. The *Bulletin* team was most impressed by the immaculate handwriting of Eric Rust's History of Congress display and found it had more to commend it than some of the innovative typefaces used on other displays, arguably at the expense of clarity. A display of Travelling Post Office

hand stamps from award-winning Clive Jones of the Solihull Philatelic Association inspired the *Bulletin* article on page 16.

Honours This year's Congress Medal was awarded to Ian Crane, as pictured below right and reported in April *Bulletin*. For the first time since 1950 more than five people were selected as signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDPs), in recognitions of their assisting the progress of philately through research, expertise or devoting time.

The British signatory was Brian Trotter, the indefatigable Chairman of London 2010. Look out in futures issues of *Bulletin* for interviews with the other new RDPs, pictured right: Wade E Saadi (USA), Kees Adema (Netherlands), Dr Hugo Goeggel (Switzerland), Dr Giancarlo Morolli (Italy) and Dr Wolf Hess (Germany).



For more information

To find out more about this year's signatories on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, there is a detailed download available at <http://feapanews.com/node/50> • For details of The Association of British Philatelic Societies visit www.abps.org or email chair@abps.org

Snapshots



ABPS Congress Committee Secretary, Colin Searle, greets Karin Ward, Editor of *Bulletin*



Brian Trotter signs the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, watched by his Sponsor Francis Kiddle and Keeper of the Roll, Christopher King



ABPS Chairman John Baron presents Ian Crane with the coveted Congress Medal at the RDP ceremony in Leamington Spa Town Hall



Travelling tales

Clive Jones' insights into postal markings that represent the 24-hour heartbeat of postal history

IF WE THINK HARD, most of us can picture mail bags piled high at mainline railway stations, even in the daytime. And, as evening approached, the volumes of mail and the pace of activity would increase, because, even as late as 1990, two-thirds of all mail in this country was making some of its journey by rail. However, during January 2004, Mail was transferred to the skies or the roads and the work of the Travelling Post Offices (TPOs), which had formed a huge communications network for 166 years, providing the rarely heard heartbeat of UK mail circulation, ceased.

Above: fig 1 – a mourning envelope carrying what is believed to be the finest known copy of the MST (missent) mark, as applied on the Caledonian Railway post office. Only four known examples of this mark exist. The unclear handwriting of 'Hawick' in the address probably caused this mis-sending; Hawick is in Scotland but mail for the borders should have been put out at Carlisle, and not carried forward by the Caledonian Railway

Sorting on speeding trains The advent of passenger rail travel in about 1830, allowed mail to be carried much quicker than by the old method of a road-going mail coach pulled by horses. However, there was a snag: when horses were changed at each stage of the journey, the 'cross' post or 'bye' (branch) post letters could be sorted, but rail travel was too fast to deal with mail away from the trunk routes.

So the idea of sorting mail on the move was born. Successful trials were carried out in 1838 between Birmingham and Warrington, using a converted horse box. As the main railway routes were built, a TPO service

was set up (or 'Railway Post Office' – RPO, as it was first named). This service offered quicker mail-sorting than former methods and sometimes used its own postmarks.

The earliest marks used inside the sorting carriages were 'missent' marks, to indicate the reason for delay and, by implication, blame the sending office. These appeared up to about 1860 only, and survivors are extremely scarce. An example of one used on the Caledonian Railway, which ran north of Carlisle, is shown on the left on the mourning envelope in *fig 1*. This mark was used in 1857, its first year of issue. Although Hawick is in Scotland, mail for the Borders should have left the mail coach at Carlisle and not continued towards Perth, but it appears to have been misdirected because of the unclear handwriting.

Marks on the move Gradually other postmarks were introduced, to indicate a 'missort' or to frank a postage stamp without a cancellation. An example of this type of 'star' mark is shown in *fig 2*, marked in the Portsmouth Sorting Carriage in about 1870. This duty dealt with the royal correspondence sent from Osborne House direct to the TPO, so there's a possibility that it came from the Royal Household.

The railways allowed a great speeding up of communication, and the Post Office took full advantages of this: a Late Fee service was introduced, allowing the late posting of mail. An extra 1d or 2d (or exceptionally 6d) was charged, on top of the normal postage, if someone missed the last mail sorting and wanted to post their letter straight onto the train. Instead of being 'bagged up' for a specific destination, late mail was sent directly to the TPO for sorting. Such mail had a special hand stamp applied in London, as in the example in *fig 5* on the following page, where 2d extra has been paid on a letter sent to Worcester in 1866.

By 1880, the Late Fee was reduced to a halfpenny for all inland mail, and this amount remained unchanged until ►



Left: *fig 2* – the star mark used to frank an uncanceled stamp was applied in the railway sorting carriage between Portsmouth and Southampton
Below: *fig 3* – a rare example of the concessionary Late Fees on mail sent to Germany on a Sunday in 1901
Bottom: *fig 4* – the bottom left of this envelope shows the Late Fee stamp, postmarked on the Continental night mail on its way to Algeria





Above: *fig 5* – The circular hand stamp on this envelope addressed to Worcester was applied by the evening shift of the North Western Railway post office (the 'E' denotes evening' and a red 'M' would denote morning)

Right: *fig 6* – A nice clear item from a piece showing the Liverpool and London TPO postmark



1969. A great innovation occurred in 1882, when it was decided to fit posting boxes on the sides of the TPOs, so that mail could be posted right up to the departure of the mail train, and also at stations en route. Mail posted directly into the carriage letter boxes was always postmarked with a special TPO postmark. *Fig 7* (opposite) shows an example from the Cornwall Railway Sorting Tender, posted in

1889 – note the halfpenny orange stamp paying the Late Fee.

The Post Office made even more money on Continental mail, as *fig 4* shows. In addition to the 2½d postage, a Late Fee of 4d has been charged. In such cases, the extra postage stamps are usually applied at the left of the envelope, but this is not always the case. In one annual report, the Post Office rather boasted that it had made in excess of £1,000 in Late Fees.

Continental charges The Late Fees on Continental mail sorted in a TPO changed from 6d to 4d to 2d, over a 30-year period, and these can be interesting to collect. The postmarks also reflect different starting points at London rail termini, for example Charing Cross (CX) and Cannon Street (CS). While studying a specialised book about Late Fees, I found that there

was a special concessionary rate on Sundays of only 1d, instead of the usual 4d. Imagine my delight when I find such rare items in dealers' stocks – I have found only two different ones in six years of serious searching. An example of this rare rate is shown in *fig 3* on page 17 on a cover to Germany, sent in 1901 – on a Sunday, of course! The concessionary surcharge rate was charged at selected London railway stations but was not available at General Post Offices – which is why these marks are hard to find.

The First World War caused many cutbacks to be made to the TPO network, owing to staff shortages. Many men never resumed their work at the end of hostilities. More suspensions of services occurred during the Second World War but by then the TPO workforce had an assured place in history, owing to the release of the iconic film documentary entitled *Night Mail*, produced for the Post Office in 1936.

In 1938, the TPO and Seapost Society was formed by enthusiastic collectors of TPO postmarks. Without their efforts, some of the scarce and short-lived postmarks would not be available. An example in this category is a 'Last Day Cover' of the Leeds to London TPO from 1932 [*fig 8*]. Many more modern 'philatelic' covers are available quite cheaply, and these often have very short-lived postmarks, reflecting the several occasions before 2004 when the TPO network contracted.

Voyages of discovery Even if a collection is formed just of more common TPO postmarks on stamps or pieces, the golden age of the TPOs, moving and sorting the mail 24 hours a day, can still be captured. Some of the rarest postmarks have never been found surviving on complete covers, and new discoveries are still turning up over a century after their use. So it is always worth checking your collections.

Clive Jones has been a member of the Solihull Philatelic Society for around 25 years. He recently began collecting postal history and, following his two award-winning displays this year – on 'Halifax Postal History' and 'Early Mails by Anglo-Scottish Rails' – was invited to exhibit at the 92nd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain (see page 15).

Below: *fig 7* – Mail posted directly into the carriage letter box had its own stamp, like this one, from the Cornwall Railway Sorting Tender, posted in 1889
Bottom: *fig 8* – A 1932 Last Day Cover of the Leeds to London TPO, which only ran for two years



For more information

• The definitive reference book for TPO postmarks is *The Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain and Ireland* by H S Wilson (RPG, 1996) • New members are always welcome at the Solihull Philatelic Society. Visit www.solihullphilatelicsociety.org.uk or call Paul Woodness on 01564 776879



40 Island Years of *Eileanan Samhraidh*

John Holman sets his philatelic sail for Cromarty

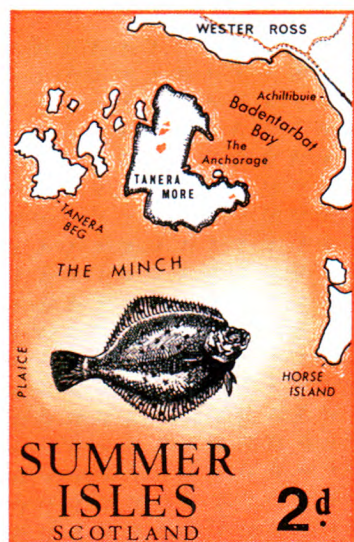
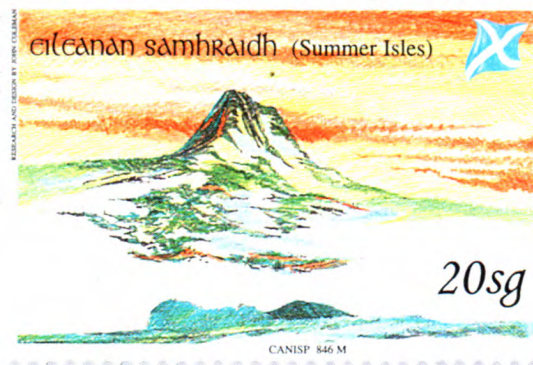
Above: the Summer Isles, off northwest coast of Scotland.
Below: a modern view from the Visitors of Today stamp in the Centuries of Survival issue

THE SHIPPING FORECAST vocabulary of 'Cromarty' is familiar to many Radio 4 listeners, but perhaps fewer people are aware that Ross and Cromarty is a variously defined area in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, in which lies Loch Broom, in which lie the remote and rugged islands that issue their very own stamps: the Summer Isles – or *Eileanan Samhraidh* in Gaelic. Only Tanera, the largest of the Summer Isles, is permanently inhabited, and for 40 years the people of Tanera have used their own stamps to carry mail to the mainland village of Achiltibuie, where it enters the Royal Mail system for onward transmission.



Summer Isles definitive stamps In September 1970 Kenneth Frampton, then the owner of Tanera, issued the islands' first stamps in six values. They depicted a map of the islands and fish found in the waters – Atlantic mackerel, plaice, red gurnard, Atlantic cod, skate, and salmon – all the work of a well-known stamp designer of the time, Gordon Drummond.

After just five months the first Summer Isles definitives were surcharged with new values when decimal currency was introduced. Further surcharges in 1977, for increased postal rates, were used until the second definitive issue, featuring birds, went on sale in May 1980



to coincide with the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition. These attractive 1980 stamps depicted Arctic tern, red-breasted messengers, gannets, barnacle geese, heron, and golden eagle (see following page), and were designed by Robert Gillmor, the Chairman of the Society of Wildlife Artists, and produced by famous stamp printers The House of Questa. The stamps had a long life – in use until 1996, when they were replaced by a third definitive series featuring a composite map of the islands based on the 1855-61 Ordnance Survey of the area. For the first time, stamps were inscribed in Gaelic as well as English, and valued in *sgillinn* and *pund sasannach*, equivalent to UK pence and pounds.

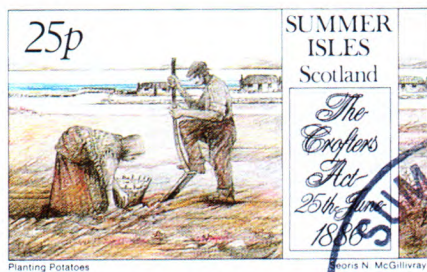
The current definitives started in 2005, with further instalments in 2008 and May this year. Printed on self-adhesive paper, they feature tartans of the Far North of Scotland. Three stamps feature Ben Mor Coigach and Coigach District tartan. Others show clan tartan and badges, such as Ross, Sutherland, Gunn, and Sinclair. They make an interesting, colourful issue.

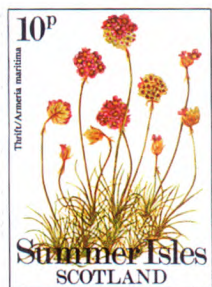
Special issues The first special issue of the Summer Isles comprised three Map and Fish definitives overprinted 'Europa 1971', thankfully a practice not repeated. Several commemorate Royal events: Princess Anne's Wedding in 1973; The Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilees of 1977 and 2002; the 25th Anniversary of the Coronation, 1978; and marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981 (see page 22). The Silver Jubilee stamps were by Gordon Huntly, designer of the 3d Scottish regional stamp of 1958, and the Coronation Anniversary issue by Stuart Rose, the Post Office's distinguished Design Director.

Most special issues are directly related to the islands, their wildlife and history. The Wild Flowers stamp series of 1979 was followed by Butterflies, Sea Mammals, and Creatures of the Sea Bed in 1981, 1983, and 2006. The 1984 ▶

Above: Summer Isles stamps showing, left, Canisp (White Hill) in North-West Highlands and, right, a map of the isles with plaice, a local catch.

Below: Planting Potatoes in the 1986 Crofters Act issue





issue devoted to Salmon included two stamps showing salmon farming in the bay off Tanera.

Highland Clan coats of arms and tartans featured in se-tenant pairs of stamps in 1981; two versions exist of the Macleod tartan stamp, the first had a major error in the printing of the tartan sett. One of the Prince Charles Wedding stamps features 'Balmoral', the Royal Family tartan.

Perhaps the best sets are those showing the islands – the 'Centuries of Survival' set of 2000 depicting visitors from Dark Age Wanderers to the present; the 'Sea Road' stamps of 2003 feature the boats that have served the islands, and the 2004 'Land of the Gael' set captures the history, livelihoods, skills and musical talents of the Gaelic-speaking inhabitants of the parish of Coigach which includes Achiltibuie and the Summer Isles. Crofting, an important activity in the Highlands, was recorded in evocative images of collecting seaweed, gathering peat, planting potatoes, and spinning wool in Victorian times on stamps marking the centenary of the Crofters' Holdings Act in 1986.

The Summer Isles have issued just 144 stamps, serving a genuine postal need for residents and visitors. Collectors are served by a Philatelic Bureau which can arrange for covers to be postmarked on Tanera, or by the Bureau's own cancel ●

Above, from top: thrift from the Wild Flowers set of 1979; 1978 issue, celebrating the Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation; 1981 Royal Wedding stamp; current definitive with Gunn tartan. Above right: the golden eagle illustration by Richard Gillmor, the artist chosen to depict British garden birds on the new Royal Mail Post and Go stamps

● **The Summer Isles Philatelic Bureau** is at West Croftnuisk, Edradynate, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2JU, e-mail summerislesbureau@btinternet.com A regularly updated handbook about the stamps is available - find out more at www.summer-isles.com

● **The Island Years** was published in 1940, written by Tanera's most famous resident – the naturalist Sir Frank Fraser Darling.

● **Visitors to the Summer Isles take the supply boat** from Achiltibuie or the excursion boat from Ullapool, which allows enough time on Tanera for refreshments in the cafe and to send postcards using the local stamps.

All aboard for history

Railway philatelist

Matthew Toomey visits a site that runs on rails

Who is it for? www.railwayphilatelicgroup.com is for anyone who wants to find out more about any aspect of postal history connected with railways or wants to join the Railway Philatelic Group (RPG).

What's the heritage? The site has been created over a period of six years by group of experts who have pooled their extensive knowledge and planned the website to leave no stone of their specialisms unturned.

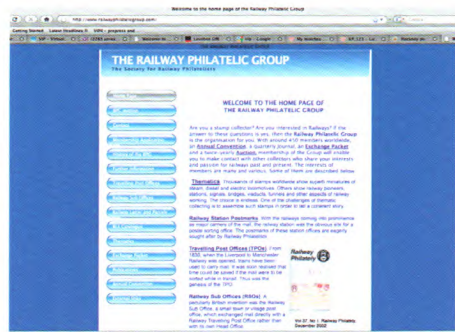
How is it organised? The site is simple in structure and straightforward to navigate. It is clearly laid out and the home page has a list of options (see screen-grab, above right) that will take you straight to information on your area of interest.

What are the best bits? The site has good introductory sections on the travelling post office, railway sub offices, and railway letters and packets. There is a lot of sound, clear information that would enable a new collector to start understanding what this area is all about, quickly. It's easy to join and get details of RPG's publications and Circulating Packet facility, whereby 'spare' philatelic material is circulated by post, with each recipient keeping something they fancy and adding something to the envelope before reposting.

What could be improved? If the RPG want to interest a new generation and to spark and retain interest for existing members, then it is important to make better use of graphics and interactive technology. They have a great quarterly publication and yet there is not evidence of this on the site, nor even leads to articles. I should think that all involved would agree that it needs an update and a topical home-page section that changes on a regular basis. Having put in so much work to get the site to this point, the webmaster needs additional insight from members and users to continue developments and for the site to become more dynamic.

My view At the moment I would describe this website as an extensive 'brain dump'. I think this area of philately is absolutely fascinating and I'd love to see funding made available to help place railway philately in an involving and dynamic context of postal history. ●

The RPG welcomes development ideas from *Bulletin* readers and their associates via the contact address at www.railwayphilatelicgroup.com



The home page of railwayphilatelicgroup.com gives a good idea of the vast amounts of authoritative info at your fingertips, but it's under-designed and not interactive. Perhaps *Bulletin* readers have their own ideas they'd like to contribute?

More online resources for railway history

www.GBPS.org.uk gives GB collectors ten very good reasons for joining. www.tpo.org.uk is very user-friendly but needs a bit of help keeping the diary section up to date. www.joyce.whitchurch.btinternet.co.uk/tpos.htm is an intriguing 'part of Joyce's World of Transport Eclectica'. www.tpo-seapost.org.uk/tpo2/tpointro.html covers travelling post office history in more than 40 countries. www.mailrail.co.uk is all about how, 'deep down beneath the choked streets of London, there was railway which once ran busily for 19 hours a day.'

Briefly Edward

Martin Robinson visits the era of George V's son and heir, King for a year

This year, in May, we celebrated the centenary of the accession to the throne of that best known of stamp collectors, George V. The King died on 20 January 1936 and was succeeded by his eldest son David, who became Edward VIII. In his brief reign from January to December 1936 stamps were issued and post boxes made with his cipher. Some of the post boxes, contrary to popular belief, are not difficult to find, but others are very rare indeed.

According to Jean Farrugia's book *The Letter Box* (Centaur Press, 1969) some 271 letter boxes were cast with the new King's cipher. Of these 161 were pillar boxes, six were large (size A) wall boxes and the remainder

Ludlow letter boxes, used at sub post offices. No lamp boxes were made. Today there are still almost 150 pillar boxes with the EVIIR cipher, but only 15 of these are of the larger A size, like the one in Maidstone, pictured right.

Bawdsey Post Office in Suffolk boasts this unique Ludlow with EVIIR cipher



Changing doors

The doors of a number of the other EVIIR letter boxes were replaced in 1937 with new ones bearing the cipher of George VI. There are no known survivors of the large wall boxes, but there is an interesting story to tell about the Ludlow wall boxes which, with their distinctive white enamel plates, were made for use at sub post offices between 1885 and 1965: only one Ludlow with the EVIIR cipher is known to have survived, and this is to be seen at Bawdsey Post Office in Suffolk (pictured left). However, in the early days of the reign, before the King's cipher had been approved, some Ludlow boxes were made bearing the ER cipher of his grandfather, Edward VII. These are easy to distinguish from the original EVIIR boxes, because the size of the smaller



Left: in later ER boxes the royal cipher has more space around it. Below: a rare Ludlow box showing an 'E' that has been changed to a 'G'

Ludlow boxes was changed from 27 x 14 inches to 29 x 14 inches during the reign of George V.

The most obvious difference in the later ER boxes is that the royal cipher above the aperture has more space above and below it (see below left). The larger ER Ludlow boxes are harder to type, but later ones have an improved escutcheon and a vertical strip of metal by the lock.

Lettering modifications

In two other surviving small Ludlow boxes the enamel plate was changed from Edward VIII to George VI's cipher, and the cast cipher above the posting aperture was modified, with the 'E' changed to a 'G' and the 'VIII' blocked out. The resultant 'block' cipher looks very different from those made in due course with George VI's own 'script' cipher. The example shown (below left) is at the former post office at Barnhill, Perth, and the other, formerly at a village post office near Caernarfon, is in the British Postal Museum store at Debden. It is possible to find other Edward VIII letter boxes, for example those specially made for the frontages of Crown Post Offices. I have a photograph of one of these with the date 1936, from Bangor, Co Down (see right), and there is another with a plain 'sans serif' cipher in Royal Mail's heritage collection.



Above: this Maidstone pillar box with EVIII cipher is one of only 15 known examples of the larger A size

Left: a handsome Edward VIII detail, on a letter box specially made for a Post Office frontage

Readers' photos

This month we have two Victorian wall boxes: Alan Pike's is at Weybourne station in Norfolk (right), and Roger Hall's (below right) in Clipston on the Wolds, a village in Nottinghamshire with a population of around 50. The Weybourne box dates from 1881 and is an example of the smallest (Type C) wall box; the other box is basically the same but with a modified posting aperture. Early post boxes had a small aperture, unsuitable for modern mail, and many were replaced. But by 1956 30,000 such boxes were still in use, mainly in country areas, and a plan was drawn up to provide at least one box with a larger aperture in each village. This still left 5,000 boxes to be dealt with, and a contractor was engaged to modify boxes in situ by cutting out the aperture and fitting a new casting over it. The work was done between 1959 and 1965 and fortunately examples of unmodified boxes still survive.

Roger Hall wins a copy of 'Old Letter Boxes' (£4.95 Shire Books) and 2009 Miniature Sheet Presentation Pack. Please send your entries by post or email to the 'Bulletin' address shown on page 3.



Flights of fancy For the first time, Post and Go

1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



Almost any garden with a peanut feeder will attract blue tits. In winter they form flocks with other tit species and a garden with four or five at a bird table at any one time, may be feeding 20 or more

1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



Smaller than blackbirds, with a short tail, pointed head, triangular wings, starlings look black at a distance but are very glossy with a sheen of purples and greens

1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



The UK's largest and commonest pigeon is shy in the countryside but can be tame and approachable in towns and cities. Its cooing call is a familiar sound in woodlands

1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



The house sparrow is noisy and gregarious and has colonised most of the world. The ultimate opportunist is now struggling to survive in the UK along with many other once-common birds

A LITTLE COLOUR HAS BEEN INTRODUCED to the 'self service' Post and Go stamps with the new illustrated issue, launched on 17 September. Birds have long been one of the most popular themes issued by Royal Mail and this set takes its inspiration from the birds most commonly seen in UK gardens, as revealed by the results of the RSPB's Great Garden Birdwatch: the blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Each stamp will be vended from the Post and Go machines in the Crown Offices listed on page 7.

Key creatives Kate Stephens has designed more stamps than any other female designer. To date she her work has included the 2005 Yearbook, 2004 Woodland Animals stamps, 2004 RSA Presentation Pack, 2003 Coronation stamps, the Golden Jubilee stamps of 2002, and the RSA presentation pack, 2009 Kew Gardens Miniature Sheet.

The illustrator Robert Gillmor is an ornithologist, artist, author and editor. He is a founder member of the Society of Wildlife Artists (SWLA) and he has also contributed to more than a hundred books.

A favourite theme There have been many previous issues of GB stamps featuring birds, and they are popular among thematic collectors the world over. For anyone who is beginning a thematic bird collection and everyone who enjoys recalling special issue stamps from different eras, here is the full list, guaranteed to take you on a philatelic flight

Post and Go Birds of Britain (1) details

Number of stamps	Six
Design	Kate Stephens
Illustration	Robert Gillmor
Stamp Format	Landscape
Stamp Size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printing
Print Process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated perforations
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

stamps are sporting illustrations, of Birds of Britain (1)

1st Class
up to 100g



002010 9 51840 01

Male and female robins look identical, and young birds have no red breast. They sing nearly all year round and are aggressively territorial. They also sing at night next to street lights

1st Class
up to 100g



002010 9 51840 01

A highly coloured finch with a bright red face and yellow wing patch. Sociable, often breeding in loose colonies, they have a delightful liquid twittering song and call

back in time. Birds first popped up in 1966, the year that the Beatles' *Eleanor Rigby* topped the charts, and the British Birds issue portrayed the black headed gull, blue tit, robin and blackbird. The next birds on stamps appealed to the children of the Beatles generation in 1980, by focusing on conservation: the Centenary of Wild Bird Protection Act stamps showed the kingfisher, dipper, moorhen and yellow wagtail. Two years later a couple of Galapagos finches appeared to commemorate the Centenary of the Death of Charles Darwin, and the 1983 Christmas stamps showed various birds including doves.

Europe, conservation, Christmasses and science Since 1985, when Sea Pictures depicted a gull's wing, birds have made frequent appearances on stamps: the 1986 Europa Nature Conservation, Endangered Species issue had a barn owl on the 17p stamp. Then, in 1989, came the modern classics of the Centenary of the RSPB, featuring a puffin, avocet, oystercatcher and gannet. 1990, the 150th Anniversary of the RSPCA had a duckling, and 1992 saw the 33p Wintertime stamp with a redwing and the Protection of the Environment 39p with a bird of hope. 1993 was a bumper year with the 600th anniversary of Abbotsbury Swannery, Greetings with Long John Silver and his parrot, Europa Contemporary Art showing St Francis and the birds, and a turkey for Christmas stamps. 1995's Christmas stamp featured robins.

In 1996, the year of the birth of Dolly the Sheep and the heyday of the Spice Girls, Centenary of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust stamps showed muscovy duck, lapwing, white-fronted goose, bittern and whooper swan. The 1998 Endangered Species issue showed a song thrush on the 31p; a hummingbird on The Settler's Tail 63p and Galapagos finch on the 26p The Scientist's Tale stamp. The 2000 Millennium Projects issue had a barn owl on the 19p and gannets and the 64p. In 2001, the Weather issue showed a goldfinch on the 65p), and Christmas had robins. 2002's Birds of Prey featured a kestrel and barn owl, and the 2003 Pub Signs had a black swan. 2004 saw a duck on the Occasions issue and Khaki Campbell ducks, Light Sussex chicks, Norfolk Black turkeys, Embden geese on the Farm Animals issue. 2007 Action for Species Birds showed a set of birds. 2009 Charles Darwin stamps and Miniature Sheet featured five more species ●

Post and Go Birds of Britain (1) prices

Set of stamps	£2.46
First Day Envelope, unstamped	30p

Twitchers' choice *Bulletin* asked six RSPB



Goldfinch: *Carduelis carduelis*



Andre Farrar, Campaigns Manager

'A flock of goldfinches is known as a 'charm' and when they visit my garden, it's not hard to see why.

They can brighten the dulllest day as they arrive, feed busily and depart in a flurry of gold, red and white. A century ago this was a rare event, as trapping confined these free spirits to cages – now goldfinches are a sight we can all enjoy. 'They feed on thistles and teasels, dandelions and dock and are increasingly common at garden feeders and birdtables. While they look delicate, they often fight off other species for food.'

Wood pigeon: *Columba palumbus*



Val Osborne,

Head of Wildlife Enquiries

'I've always had a soft spot for wood pigeons. They were the first birds I could see as a very young child and ever since I've been amused by their waddling gait. While they're not the most elegant of birds, they are rather colourful which is beautifully portrayed on the Post and Go stamp. To me they also have a distinctive call which seems to epitomise an English woodland on a warm summer's day.'



Robin: *Erithacus rubecula*



Gemma Rogers,

Media Officer

'I've chosen the robin as I admire these busy little birds, especially in winter when they need to eat almost half their body weight per day to survive. They'll take all sorts of food from feeding stations. Although widespread, their numbers have declined by over a quarter in the last 30 years so our feeding could help them get back on track.'



ornithologists to pick their favourite stamps



Sparrow: *Passer domesticus*



Tim Webb, Media Officer

'Working in London, I'm drawn to the sparrow stamp, as I see fewer of these than I should. They're the bird worlds' equivalent of people; noisy and sociable, but often taken for granted. They'll devour food scraps and need seeds and bugs to stay healthy. Almost extinct in some parts of central London, sparrows are vanishing everywhere. I'd like to ask readers to sow wild flowers and leave some long grass to help save them.'

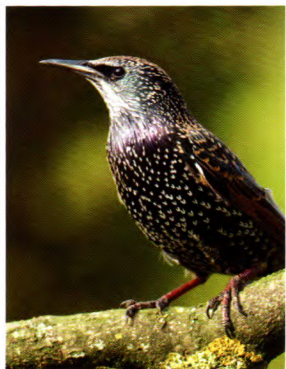


Blue tit: *Cyanistes caeruleus*



Bryan Bland, Team Leader

'Blue tits can be seen almost anywhere that there are bushes and trees, which is why I love them and was drawn to their stamp. They cheer me up, especially when they are hanging upside down from the peanut feeder outside my kitchen window. They look like little fat men in blue jackets and yellow waistcoats. They are some of the easiest birds to help by putting up a traditional nest box in your garden.'



Starling: *Sturnus vulgaris*



Gabrielle Layzell, Homes for Wildlife Project Manager

'I love the starling's coloured plumage that shimmers with purples and greens. They have a very boisterous nature and are great to watch as they waddle around the garden. Although still common in gardens, the past 29 years have seen their population decline by more than 70 per cent making it a red-listed species.'

WIN an easy-clean feeder

As bird-lovers know, a dirty bird-feeder is a dangerous thing, so this easy-clean bird-seed feeder is great news: simple and safe to use and recommended by the RSPB. We have one to give away – along with a 5.5k bag of sunflower hearts – to one lucky reader.

To enter the prize

draw: answer the following question on a postcard, add your address, post to 'Birdfeeder Draw' at the address on page 30.

Q Name a bird that sits on a 2001 UK stamp as well as the new Post and Go's.

Clue: you'll find the answer in this *Bulletin*.

Closing date: 1 October 2010.



Commemorative covers and sheets

Orders and enquiries

Buckingham Covers.

Warren House, Shearway
Rd, Folkestone CT19 2BF
Phone 01303 278137
Email betty@buckingham
covers.com

CDS Covers Direct.

148 Hayes Chase, West
Wickham, Kent BR4 0JE
Phone 020 8776 0820
Email enquiries@
cdscoversdirect.com

The Cambridge Stamp

Centre, 29 Hobson Street,
Cambridge CB1 1NL
Phone 01223 363980
Email sales@cambridge-
covers.co.uk

Rheilffordd Ffestiniog Railway Letter Service.

Rosebank, 1 Kepax
Gardens, Barbourne,
Worcester WR3 7LBN
Phone 01905 28233
Email railwaypost@festrail.
co.uk

The Methodist Philatelic Society

Ronnie MacMillan
'Clunty', 11 Cullaloe Court,
Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 9NW



Britain Alone stamp cover CDS Covers Direct produces limited-edition first day covers cancelled with the counter date stamps (CDS) of appropriate post offices. For this one they produced 14 covers with a WARBOYS CDS; four remain for sale.

Price: £9 per cover inc postage worldwide. ●



Falklands Remembered This commemorative cover shows scenes recalling the conflict, including *HMS Hermes*' return to Portsmouth in July 1982. The envelope, postmarked for the 14 June anniversary of Argentina's surrender, is signed by Rear Admiral Richard Melly who served onboard. **Price:** £26.90 inc p&p. To order, contact the Cambridge Stamp Centre. ●



Great Western Railway Stamp Sheet

GWR, which celebrates its 175th anniversary this year, not only ran trains but also the most advanced passenger ships of their day. It comes in an informative presentation pack.

Price £26.95 inc p&p from Buckingham Covers. ●

The Ffestiniog Railway Company has a First Day Cover depicting historic views of the stunning countryside around Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways. **Price:** £5 plus p&p from the address shown. A Stamp Sheet is available at £2.50. Contact Robert WF Smallman at the address, left. ●



Marking the 2010 Methodist Conference in

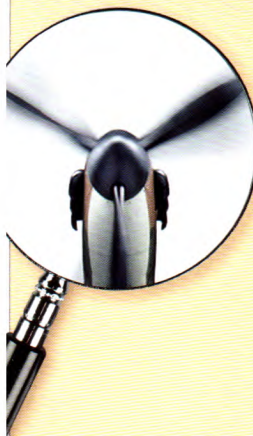
Portsmouth, this cover carries a stamp showing Winston Churchill inspecting a parade of soldiers, cancelled by a special Portsmouth postmark with an Elizabethan Man-of-War ship. **Prices:** £2.50, including p&p (cheques payable to The Methodist Philatelic Society) from The Methodist Philatelic Society, address left. ●



Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 1.10.2010. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd and Redwood, 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 service 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 Sharon May *The British Philatelic Bulletin*, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Competitions Philatelic puzzles to perk up your grey matter



IDENTIFY To win all parts of the latest *Medical Breakthroughs* issue, give the name and issue year of the stamp detail on the left.

KNOWLEDGE To win the *Railway Heritage Portfolio*, please answer the following questions.

- What letters represented Cannon Street on TPO Late Fees stamps?
- What vegetable starred in a 1986 stamp from the Summer Isles?
- Name the Keeper of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists?

Please send your answers on a postcard, marked *September Identify*, *September Knowledge* or *September Crossword* (see

below) to *The Philatelic Bulletin*, Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA by 1 October, 2010. The senders of the first correct answers drawn after the closing date will receive the prizes. For terms and conditions, see p30 •

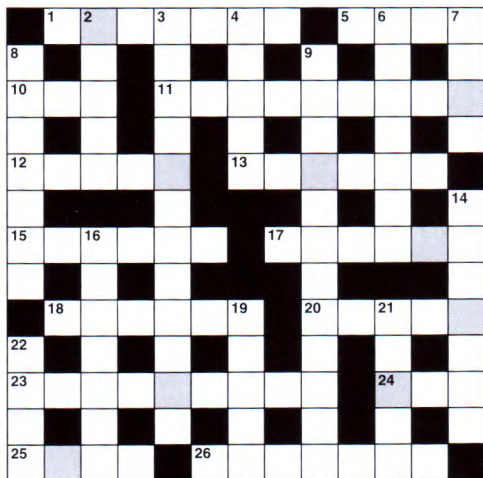
July answers and winners

Identify answer: 1938 World Cup in Paris issue. Winner: Mrs M Cardwell, Bristol.

Knowledge answers: a) Alan Holyoake. b) Selfridges. c) 2nd class Christmas stamp 2008 Ugly sisters. Winners: 10 names were drawn and won George V mug and coaster set. *Crossword answer:* commemorative. Winner: Revd T R Harper, Ambleside. Hunter Davis Book draw: K Williams, R J Hard, I G Bendall, P F Welburn and G Hewitt.

PRIZE CROSSWORD

UPON COMPLETING the puzzle, rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word and send this, with your name and address to the address above. The first correct entry drawn from the postbag after 1 October wins Zoom Digital USB Microscope (rrp £79.95)



CLUES

Across

- Academic mark about short break (7)
- Man, for example, in taxi, sleek (4)
- Paddle alternatively heard (3)
- Mixing dirt with earth, poor quality (5-4)

- Fetch bishop, then phone (5)
- Changes points made by woman (6)
- Damned awful request (6)
- Begins and jumps (6)
- Gail or different girl (6)
- Enthusiasm got us in trouble (5)
- Hot aspic I pour over nut (9)
- Make a garland in free time? Not certain (3)
- Gull in wind, up-ended (4)
- Party leader has to stay and officiate (7)

Down

- Big rock holds up dog (5)
- Croatian gone off with older person (12)
- Name a consumer said (5)
- Ruin the star turn (7)
- Find large jug in brewery (4)
- Sort of beard that's prohibited (7)
- Distributed and gave out as beneficial (12)
- Notes I edited by a country (7)
- Wimp takes advantage of operation (7)
- Loathe a taste of crab hors d'oeuvre (5)
- Thus cover appears to be firm (5)
- Copied a quiet journalist (4)

Stampex 15-18 September



Season of mists and mellow perforatedness, close bosom-friend of the maturing philatelist...

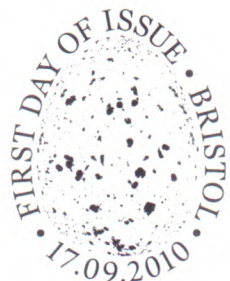
with apologies to John Keats, we welcome this month's big event for stamp collectors in what promises to be an autumn to remember: the Stampex exhibition in London runs from Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 September.

For general information, phone 01252 628006.

Don't miss the Royal Mail stand where you can see the best in Modern Great Britain, including the chance to obtain the Stampex FDI handstamps and First Day Covers for two special issues released during the exhibition:

- Medical Breakthroughs stamps are released on Thursday 16 September, with three alternative handstamps available (shown above). In addition to the posting box available throughout the exhibition, a second box enables visitors to obtain special Stampex FDI handstamps for this Royal Mail issue on the Thursday.

- The following day, Friday 17 September, sees The Birds of Britain (1) pictorial Post and Go stamps fly in for their debut – see page 6 and 26 for details and a list of Post Offices where you can buy them from Post and Go machines. Birds of Britain (1) alternative handstamps are shown right.



Society meetings

A number of Societies including the Great Britain P.S., Egypt Study Circle, the Concorde Study Circle, the Ceylon Study Circle, the Aden, Yemen & Somaliland Study Circle and the Ascension Study Circle have booked meetings at Stampex on the Saturday.

The Village Green

Another Stampex Business Customised Smiler will also be available. Shown above right, the Smiler sheet features 'Iconic Trains of the World'.

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