BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Horse stamps: the inside story

• Preview: Remarkable Lives





New stamps this month: Working Horses and Post & Go Spring Blooms

THEMATIC HEARTS AND MINDS • JOHN HOLMAN DIARY DATES • COLLECTOR CONFIDENTIAL

Issues and withdrawals



Cover image: © Maxim Kazitov/Shutterstock
Working Horses feature on the special stamp issue on 4 February. For background details, turn to page 176 and see the preview on page 138 of January *Bulletin*.
Spring Blooms begin the Post & Go stamp series of seasonal flowers and foliage on 19 February. The issue is previewed on page 135 of January *Bulletin*.

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4 February	**Issue** Working Horses: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x 88p, 2 x £1.28), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
19 February	**Issue** Post & Go British Flora 1 – Spring Blooms: Stamps.
20 February	**Issue** Classic Locomotives of Wales: Miniature Sheet (1st Class, 78p, 88p and £1.28 Stamps), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards. [Stamp Book issue date changed to 18 September].
20 February	**Issue** Classic Locomotives of the United Kingdom: Prestige Stamp Book.
20 February	**Issue** Football Heroes Stamp Book: 6 x 1st Class (4 Machins, 2 Heroes – John Charles and Dave Mackay).
21 February	**Withdrawal** The Work of Jane Austen: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
25 February	**Issue** Middlesex County Cricket Club: Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Firework Stamps).
25 March	**Issue** Remarkable Lives: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Facsimile Pack of the 1951 Festival of Britain stamps designed by Abram Games.
25 March	**Issue** By Sea, By Land, 350th Anniversary of the Royal Marines: Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Union Flag stamps).

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

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Stampex

The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets (see opposite) ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address opposite) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.25 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of the world
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Correspondence

Science on stamps PhD

It has been two years since I met Philip Parker, Head of Royal Mail Stamp Strategy, and the *Bulletin* team in London to talk over my thesis on stamps. So I am delighted to be writing to let you know that my PhD project at the Australian National University was judged by my examiners as good enough.

The university department in which I have been working, the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, could not have been more supportive; I am humbled by the experience and proud to have got to this point. It helped that two of the professors on my advisory panel had been stamp collectors, and were keen to assist me to make something of my chosen topic! In the thesis, I have pursued Philip Parker's idea of looking at the stamp's 'message' as a mirror or a lens for the age in which a stamp is produced. This proved a good pointer.



The ANU E-Press will be publishing my rewritten thesis with the title *The Representation of Science and Scientists on Postage Stamps*.

I shall also submit a paper to The Public Understanding of Science publication. So it looks as if I will be sitting at the computer for some time to come!

I have observed the development of the Royal Mail stamp programme with a keen interest since we met. Royal Mail remains the innovator and sets the standard for philately.
Chris Yardley, Australia

Congratulations on the success of your brave PhD project! We look forward to reading your paper. Readers can expect to hearing more about Chris Yardley's thesis in a future *Bulletin*.



Very Pleasant

I write in regard to Sarah Fordham's article about the work of the Handstamp Centre at Mount Pleasant and the letter from Steward Kempster on page 100 of Volume 50.

I came back into saving stamps a few years ago (though I had never stopped collecting altogether) and decided to dedicate more time and money to something that I really enjoyed. I had thousands of stamps to sort out, all GB, with half of them to be cancelled. So I contacted Mount Pleasant Handstamp Centre for their help. And I just had to write to tell you how grateful I am to the Mount Pleasant team of five. I call them the 'A Team', because they have done so much to help me with my hobby.

Last year I made an appointment at the Centre to meet the team and thank them for all their help, which went far beyond their duty. I asked them all to sign a first day cover and have made a copy of the result, which I hope you can show in *Bulletin* [see above], as a token of appreciation for all the good work carried out at the handstamp centres all over the country.
A H Maloney (Berty), Hampshire

Special subjects voting now closed We would like to thank readers who used the form supplied with November *Bulletin* to vote on subjects for the Special Stamp programme of 2016. Royal Mail 2013 Yearbooks are on their way to the senders of the first five voting forms drawn from the postbag.

Keep the mail coming...

The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. You can also send emails to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

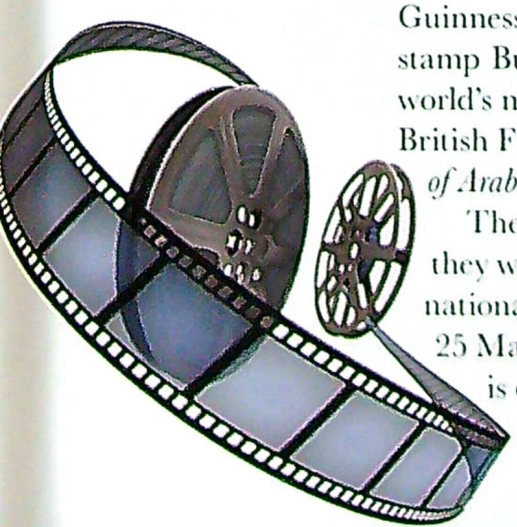


Above: can you spot your favourite movie? Unforgettable scenes from a selection of the best of British cinema appear on the Great British Film stamp issue, including *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Bend It Like Beckham* and 2001: *A Space Odyssey*

Royal Mail News Spring is a fruitful philatelic season for GB collectors – with issues on British films, Buckingham Palace and national heroes

Royal Mail salutes the very best of British with no fewer than three stirring stamp issues celebrating national icons this spring.

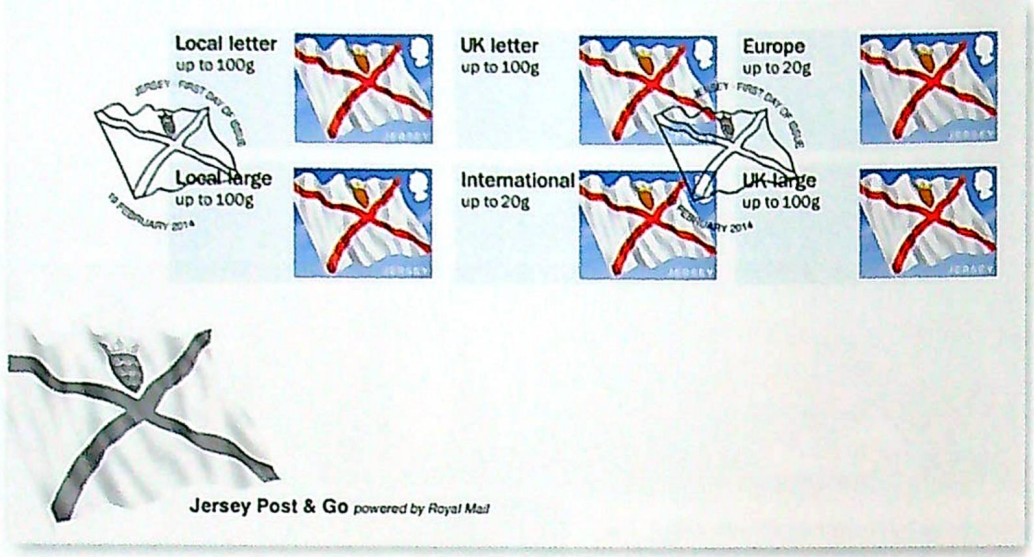
Remarkable Lives pays tribute to ten great Britons, including Sir Alec Guinness and Dylan Thomas, whose birth centenaries fall in 2014. The six-stamp Buckingham Palace issue traces the 300-year history of one of the world's most famous buildings (see Preview in next month's *Bulletin*). Great British Film showcases six key movies from the last 60 years, with *Lawrence of Arabia* and *2001: A Space Odyssey* among them.



These forthcoming stamp issues have already hit the headlines after they were announced to the press in advance of their release, with several national newspapers running the story. Remarkable Lives launches on 25 March, followed by the Palace set on 15 April, and Great British Film is coming to a Post Office near you on 13 May •

ROYAL MAIL DEFINITIVE STAMPS

As this February edition goes to press: there is no word of any new 2014 definitive stamps. If there are any changes, we will feature in the *British Philatelic Bulletin* full details of 2014 Machin definitives and Country definitives as soon as possible •



Stop Press A set of Jersey Post & Go stamps will be issued on 19 February. First day covers, as shown here, will be available at Stampex with the first-day-of-issue Jersey postmark.

For more details and to order, write to Jersey Philatelic Bureau, FREEPOST JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey, JE1 1AF or visit www.jerseystamps.com •



Second Football Heroes Stamp Book Scottish and Welsh football fans will be raising their glasses to the new Football Heroes Stamp Book to be issued on 20 February. It contains the stamps of John Charles (Wales) and Dave Mackay (Scotland), and four first-class Machin definitives (with the code MA13).

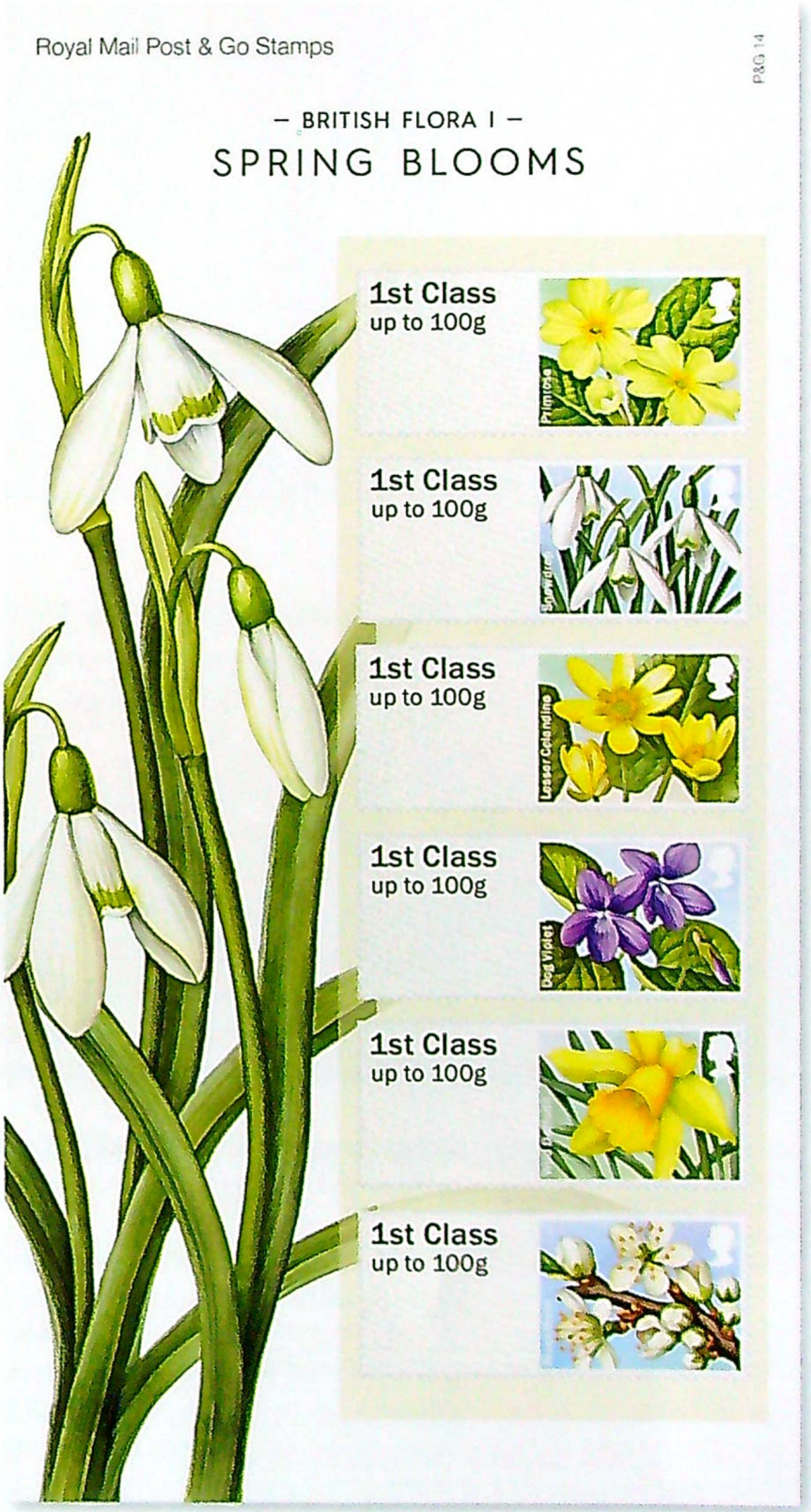
The original Football Heroes issue of May 2013 included a retail booklet featuring the stamps of Bobby Moore (England) and George Best (Northern Ireland) and four first-class Machin definitives •

Be an early bird for new stamp sets when they are launched at Spring Stampex. The Post & Go British Flora I – Spring Blooms (left), the Classic Locomotives of Wales set and the Classic Locomotives of the United Kingdom Prestige Stamp Book (previewed on pages 133 to 134, January *Bulletin*) will be released at the show at London's Business Design Centre this month (see back cover for details). If you are bringing your children or grandchildren to Stampex, go to the Stamp Active stand for a chance to win philatelic goodies. Anyone taking a child to the stand will be entered into a prize draw by Stamp Active, which encourages youngsters to get into collecting. Prizes include a Royal Mail Yearbook. Also issued this month is the Working Horses set (see pages 138 and 176) •



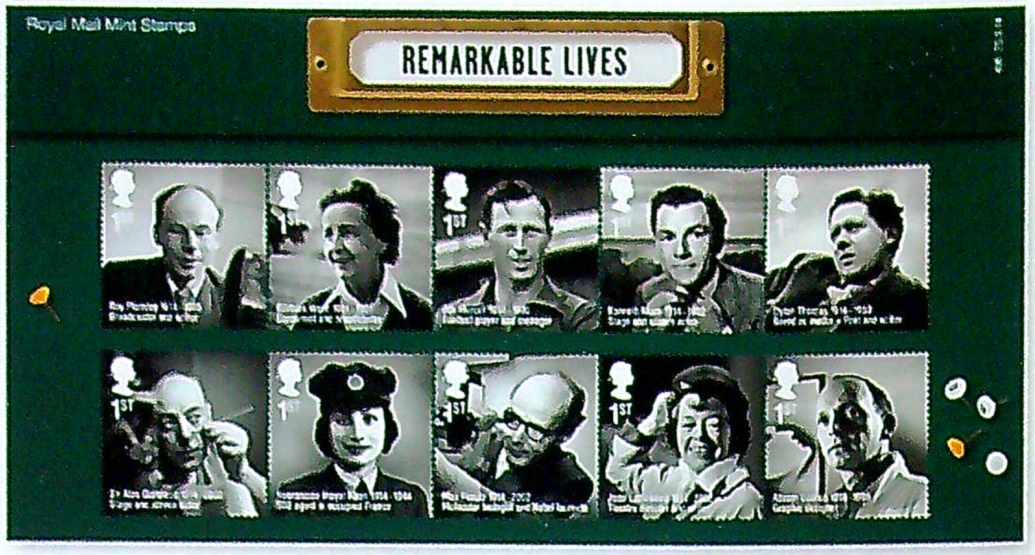
Fundraising or hair-raising? Both actually! Royal Mail employees raised £300,000 by growing Movember moustaches. The charity cash will go to Prostate Cancer UK •

Remember to catch the Jane Austen issue before it is withdrawn on 21 February, or you might well end up as miserable as Mr Darcy •

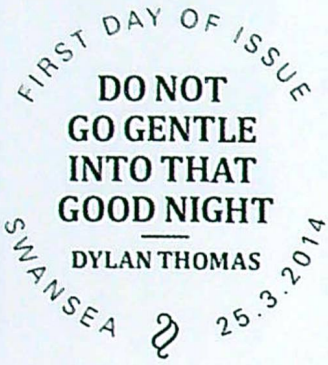




Right: the Remarkable Lives issue Presentation Pack was designed by Purpose



Remarkable Lives Next month Royal Mail honours ten extraordinary people who made a significant contribution to the British way of life



Above: the alternative Swansea issue postmark bears the title of the famous poem by Dylan Thomas – a native of the city

Released on 25 March, the Remarkable Lives special issue celebrates a selection of high-achieving individuals who have triumphed in sport, design, economics, heroism and the arts. Sir Alex Guinness, Dylan Thomas, Joe Mercer – some of their names are legendary, while others are less well known, but all of their lives and careers have inspired the nation and the world. And they were all born 100 years ago in 1914. The Remarkable Lives issue comprises ten First Class Stamps, Presentation Pack, First Day Cover, Stamp Cards and special handstamps.

Stamp by stamp The set features ten powerful black and white portraits, with background designs that reflect each person's achievements.

Roy Plomley (1914-1985) created *Desert Island Discs*, the UK's longest-running radio entertainment show, in 1942. The programme's guest list has included royalty and five prime ministers. Plomley was born in Kingston, Surrey. He was awarded an OBE in 1975.

Barbara Ward (1914-1981) helped to inspire the European Union and is known as a pioneer of global environmental issues. She was a powerful intellectual, a prolific writer and a passionate lecturer. Ward worked tirelessly to influence policy makers, persistently reminding them of the importance of economic relationships between established and emerging countries. She was born at Heworth, Yorkshire, and studied in Paris and Oxford. In 1974 she was made a Dame of

Remarkable Lives Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	25 March
Number of stamps	Ten
Stamp design	Purpose
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

the British Empire and two years later became Baroness Jackson of Lodsworth. Ward also received the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding from the Indian government.

Joe Mercer (1914-1990) epitomised sporting values of humble good humour and great skill throughout a 50-year career in football as player and manager. Born in the Wirral, the son of a professional footballer, he played for England, Everton and Arsenal, captaining the latter team in two FA Cup finals and two League championships. After retiring from the pitch, Mercer managed Sheffield United, Aston Villa and Manchester City, leading City to victory in the FA Cup, European Cup Winners' Cup and Football League Cup. Joe Mercer won three championship medals, an FA Cup winners' medal, and five full and 22 wartime international caps. He was Footballer of the Year in 1950 and awarded an OBE.

Kenneth More (1914-1982) was one of the world's most popular actors from the late 1950s through the 1970s. Born in Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and educated on the island of Jersey, he honed his ability to distil the characteristics of the Englishman. He appeared in several highly regarded films – he was Second World War pilot Douglas Bader in *Reach for the Sky* – and television series including *Doctor in the House* and *The Forsyte Saga*.

Dylan Thomas (1914-1953) In his short life, poet and writer Dylan Thomas made a unique contribution to modern literature. With rich imagination he crafted poems, prose and drama presenting universal visions of everyday lives. Thomas's most well-known text is the radio drama *Under Milk Wood* and his poetry includes such acclaimed pieces as *And Death Shall Have No Dominion* and *Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night*. Dylan Thomas was born in Swansea to a teacher of English literature and a seamstress. He died in New York while on a performance tour, aged 39.

Sir Alec Guinness (1914-2000) first acted on screen in 1946, in *Great Expectations* for David Lean, beginning an extraordinary film career that would see him cast in a multitude of roles, including eight related characters in *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, a Jedi Knight in the original *Star Wars* trilogy and John le Carré's master spy George Smiley in two television series. Guinness's many memorable performances range from a colonel in *The Bridge on the River Kwai* to several mischievous personalities in dark comedies made by the quintessentially British Ealing Studios.

Born in London, Guinness began life in poor circumstances, but his determination to act was encouraged by John Gielgud. By the late 1930s, he was regularly appearing in classic plays under great directors. He continued to act on stage – embodying characters created by Shakespeare, Dickens, Dostoyevsky, TS Elliot, Arthur Miller and Evelyn Waugh, among others – but by the mid-1950s, film roles were starting to take up more of his time. Guinness won an Oscar in 1957 and then an Academy Honorary ▸

Remarkable Lives – Prices

Stamps	£6.00
Presentation Pack	£6.50
First Day Cover UK	£7.68
First Day Cover overseas	£6.40
Stamp Cards	£4.50
Facsimile Pack, 1951 Festival of Britain stamps designed by Abram Games	£5.95









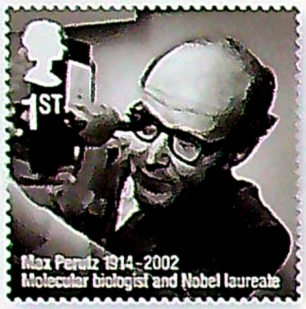






Above: the Tallents House postmark says 'Liberté' (freedom) – the last word that Noorunissa Khan spoke before the Nazis killed her. The date is that of her death at Dachau









Award in 1979. Guinness was made a CBE in 1955, knighted in 1959 and made a Companion of Honour in 1994.

Noorunissa Inayat Khan (1914-1944) was one of the silent heroes of the Second World War. She worked as a wireless officer for the British Special Operations Executive in Paris during 1943 (she had escaped to Britain after the fall of France in 1940). She evaded capture by the Nazis and continued to send important messages to London for far longer than expected. She was betrayed, arrested and interrogated, but refused to give up secrets. She was executed at Dachau in September 1944.

Born in Moscow to a Sufi teacher and an American mother, and descended from the 18th century Tipu Sultan of Mysore, Khan was educated in Paris. She was posthumously awarded the French Croix de Guerre and was one of only three women to receive the British George Cross for service during the Second World War. A memorial to her in Gordon Square Gardens, London, was unveiled by the Princess Royal in 2012.

Max Perutz (1914-2002) devoted most of his working life to the study of haemoglobin. Interned as an enemy alien at the outbreak of the Second World War, Perutz was sent to Canada but released in 1941 to continue his work. He became the chairman of the Medical Research Council's Unit for Molecular Biology, and later in life Perutz turned to the study of Huntington's Disease. For demonstrating how X-ray crystallography can be used to determine protein structure, he shared the Nobel Prize with John Kendrew in 1962.

Perutz was made a Companion of Honour and received the Order of Merit; he also won the Lewis Thomas Prize for his writings on science.

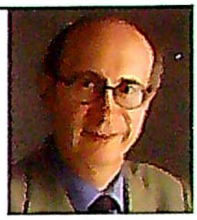
Joan Littlewood (1914-2002) revolutionised British theatre by making the classics immediate and by turning raw material relevant to its time into productions of international acclaim. Chief among the latter were the First World War entertainment *Oh What a Lovely War*, *A Taste of Honey* and *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be* – all created in close collaboration with her actors.

Littlewood was born in a working-class district of south London. She left the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art early to develop her writing and directing talents at the agitprop-inspired Theatre Union in Manchester, (which she founded with Jimmie Miller, later known as Ewan MacColl).

Abram Games (1914-1996) designed almost 300 posters, which became artworks for all. Born in Whitechapel, London, to an émigré Latvian-born photographer and a seamstress, Games trained as a commercial artist, became the only official War Office Poster Artist and attained the rank of Captain. He was awarded an OBE in 1957 and appointed Royal Designer for Industry in 1959. Games had a passion for product innovation, designing a coffee maker, a circular vacuum cleaner and a portable duplicator. Next month's *Bulletin* examines Games's designs on stamps (including ones for the 1948 Olympic Games and the 1951 Festival of Britain), with a focus on the facsimile pack that forms part of the Remarkable Lives issue.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 25 March. You can also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House at the address on page 162 •

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



UK diary dates

14 February Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1, 9am to 4pm. 20 to 30 dealers. Tel 020 8946 4480, www.stampshows.net.
19-22 February Stampex, Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1.
22 February GB Philatelic Society meeting at Spring Stampex, 2.15pm. Display: 'Late Fees' by Julian Tweed.
1 March Streetly Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4.30pm. 16 dealers. Admission 20p. Information: B Hyner, 0121 357 5340.
13 March Inverness Philatelic Society display on the Solomon Islands by Robin Munro, Haugh Community Centre, 7pm.
14-15 March Salisbury Stamp Fair, Five Rivers Leisure Centre (shown right), Hulse Road, Salisbury SP1 3NR, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm.
21 March Strand Stamp Fair, as above.
29 March GB Philatelic Society joint meeting with Cinderella Stamp Club, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 11am.
30 March Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society Stamp & Postcard Fair, Langley Park School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham, 9.30am to 3.30pm •
Correction The second York Stamp Fair of 2014 takes place on 18-19 July (and not April, as printed in the Royal Mail News Post & Go Round-up on page 137 of January *Bulletin*).





Exhibitions

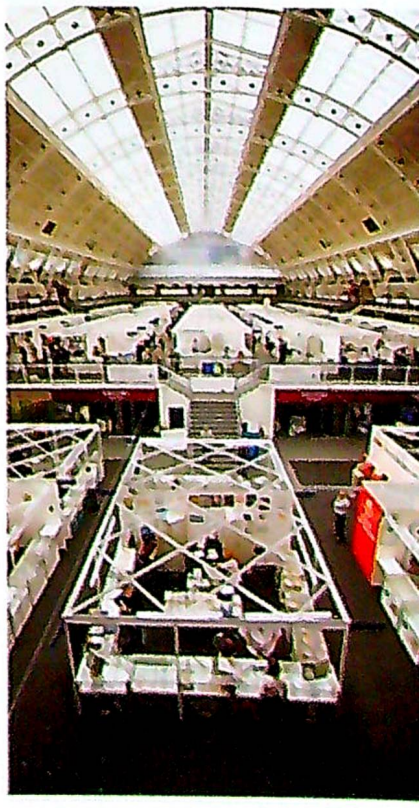
Spring Stampex – at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH from 19 to 22 February – includes displays of 'pictorial' material – thematics, 'open' and postcards. As usual Royal Mail will have a stand offering the full range of stamps and philatelic products.

The Spring Blooms Post & Go and Classic Locomotives of Wales stamps will be issued on the first and second days of the exhibition, respectively. Stampex is open Wednesday 11.30am to 7pm, Thursday and Friday 10am to 6pm, and Saturday 10am to 5pm (admission free). Visitors receive a useful programme of the exhibits and standholders, which contains a free postcard that can be posted to receive the exhibition postmark.

At the Stampex enquiry desk, visitors can buy the latest Stampex business customised Smilers® sheet which bears ten first-class Union Flag stamps with adjoining labels showing Working Horses (see page 140, January *Bulletin*).

Stampex started as the Coronation Year National Stamp Exhibition in January 1953: the name Stampex was adopted three years later. Since the Eighties, Stampex has been held twice a year, the Autumn show incorporating the former British Philatelic Exhibition. Stampex information: Stampex Ltd, PO Box 981, Southsea PO1 9PG, office.pts@btinternet.com.

The popular Scottish Philatelic Congress will be held at the Dewar Centre, Perth, on 11 and 12 April. The first Congress was held 90 years ago in Glasgow, and this will be the 85th Congress. It is hosted by the Scottish ▸



Photographs: Michael Krawiek, Andrew Dunn

Postal History Society, which was formed in 1978 and has some 200 members. The Congress includes the National Exhibition, Open and Pictorial Postcard class competitions, and a range of dealers in stamps and postal history. A Congress cover will be available commemorating Gleneagles Hotel and a postcard marking the centenary of the start of the First World War. Royal Mail will provide Post & Go machines and it is expected that the usual special postmark will be available.

The 2014 Philatelic Congress of GB will be held in the Belgian city of Ypres from 11 to 14 July, making a rare excursion outside Britain. The only international stamp exhibition in 2014 will be held in Seoul from 7 to 12 August •

Stamp-related exhibitions





The main anniversary of 2014 will of course be the centenary of the start of the First World War, with Royal Mail issuing stamps on 28 July. The Imperial War Museum is leading over 1,600 local, regional, national and international organisations in an impressive series of exhibitions, talks and events – details of which can be found on the Museum's website: www.iwm.org.uk. Exhibitions include 'Trent to Trenches' (about the nurses of the First World War) at Mansfield Museum, from 8 February to 29 March, 'Stanley Spencer: Heaven in a Hell of War' at Pallant House, Chichester, 15 February to 1 June, and 'Great War in Portraits' at the National Portrait Gallery in London, from 27 February to 15 June. A talk, 'The Arrival of the Postman – Hope Mingled with Fear 1914-18', will be given by Derek Beattie at the Much Wenlock Museum, Shropshire, on 17 March.

Royal Mail issued a stamp featuring Benjamin Britten in the Great Britons set in April 2013 and a coin cover marked the centenary of his birth on 22 November. A small display, 'Benjamin Britten: A life in Pictures', can be seen in Room 31 at the National Portrait Gallery until 30 June.

A suit designed by Sir Paul Smith was shown on one of the ten Great British Fashion stamps issued in May 2012. An exhibition, 'Hello My Name is Paul Smith', is on at the Design Museum, London SE1 until 9 March. Call 020 7940 8783 to book. See article in the May 2012 issue of the *Bulletin* for more on the work of Sir Paul •

Society anniversaries

The British Thematic Association (BTA) celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. It will hold a members' meeting at Stampex, starting at 2.30pm on Friday 21 February. There will be a guest presentation by Jorgen Jorgensen from Denmark, noted for his gold-medal collections of fisheries and fishing. Entrance for the meeting is £5. For information about the BTA contact Peter Denly at 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford CM23 2BY or peter.denly@uwclub.net.

The Sunderland Philatelic Society is 90 years old in November. It meets on alternate Wednesdays at 7pm, from September to May at the Roker Methodist Church, Park Parade, Roker, Sunderland. The meeting on 12 February is Competition Night plus bourse, followed on 26 February by 'View Competitions' and bourse. Details are available from the Society Secretary at 7 Devonshire Road, Belmont, Durham DH1 2BQ.

The Exmouth Stamp Club marks its 75th anniversary this year. The display on 19 February will be 'World's First Issues' by Bryan Short, followed

Portrait: Peter Pears; Benjamin Britten by Kenneth Green, On display in Room 31 at the National Portrait Gallery

by Club Auction on 5 March. The Club meets in the Meeting Room at the rear of Bastin Hall, Elm Grove, Exmouth at 7.15pm •

New stamp auction operation

Cavendish Auctions are opening a new office at Putney in south-west London, which will be called The Cavendish Gallery. Located near Putney and Putney Bridge stations, this new venture will bring Cavendish's expertise to a wider clientele, providing enhanced viewing facilities. The Putney auction room will also be available for society meetings. (Derby will remain the centre of Cavendish operations.) Information: www.cavendish-auctions.com, 01332 250970 •

February and March at the BPMA

The British Postal Museum & Archive is introducing new commemorative stamps to its Post & Go machine at Freeling House on 19 February to mark the centenary of the introduction of Postage Due labels. They will be available until 5 April.

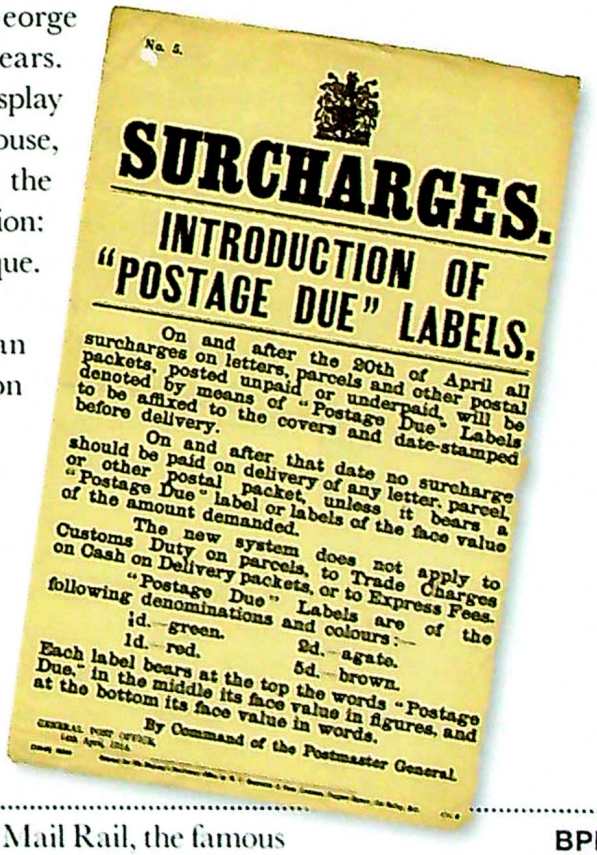
The current Machin and the Union Flag designs will bear the inscription 'The B.P.M.A./Postage Due 1914' and a limited number of BPMA-specific first day covers will be available for purchase at Freeling House and through the online shop: simply visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/shop.

Introduced in 1914, Postage Due labels helped to combat the problem of uncollected revenue that had been a source of concern for some time to the Post Office. GB Postage Due labels were designed by George Eve, with the design remaining the same for over 50 years.

The centenary will be marked by a small two-panel display in the BPMA's Search Room Foyer at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1 until 5 April. After that, the display will be available to groups for free hire. Information: Dominique Gardner, Exhibitions Officer at dominique.gardner@postalheritage.org.uk or 0207 354 7287.

The 1st Class Union Flag stamp is based on an original design by Dick Davies, featuring an illustration by AntonMorris •




No. 5.

SURCHARGES.

INTRODUCTION OF "POSTAGE DUE" LABELS.

On and after the 20th of April all surcharges on letters, parcels and other postal packets, posted unpaid or underpaid, will be denoted by means of "Postage Due" Labels to be affixed to the covers and date-stamped before delivery.

On and after that date no surcharge should be paid on delivery of any letter, parcel, or other postal packet, unless it bears a "Postage Due" label or labels of the face value of the amount demanded.

The new system does not apply to Customs Duty on parcels, to Trade Charges on Cash on Delivery packets, or to Express Fees.

"Postage Due" Labels are of the following denominations and colours:—

½d.—green. 2d.—agate.
1d.—red. 5d.—brown.

Each label bears at the top the words "Postage Due," in the middle its face value in figures, and at the bottom its face value in words.

By Command of the Postmaster General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE
[illegible] April, 1914.

BPMA

On show at Freeling House is a display of photographs of Mail Rail, the famous Post Office Underground Railway built to carry mail between sorting offices beneath the London streets in the Twenties. The 'Post Office in the Community' display can be seen at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire, and 25 online exhibitions on the BPMA website include: Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

The Great Train Robbery, one of the most famous crimes of the ▸

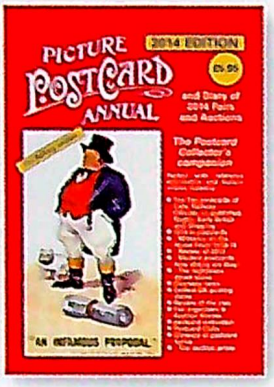
20th century, occurred on 8 August 1963. Material relating to the event is held at the BPMA and a touring exhibition can be seen at the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire, from 30 March to October. For more on BPMA displays and events contact the BPMA for a copy of its comprehensive Events Guide: call on 020 7239 2570, email info@postalheritage.org.uk, or visit the BPMA's website at www.postalheritage.org.uk.

The BPMA's Christmas 2013 Newsletter includes a review of the year by its Director Adrian Steel, Dominique Gardner looks at Christmas material in the BPMA collections, and there is a section showing some of the many items available from the BPMA shop – ranging from special covers, postcards and books to tea towels and oven gloves showing Machin stamps. The Newsletter is available free from the BPMA.

The Friends of the BPMA run an interesting programme of events and publish Cross Post, a well-produced magazine with many articles on British stamps and postal history. For information about the Friends, see www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/friends or email friends@postalheritage.org.uk. Membership costs £21 per annum with a reduced rate for those over 65.

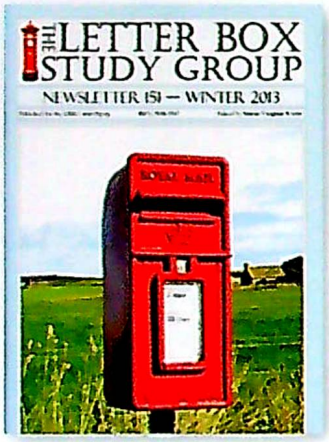
The British Postal Museum & Archive, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm (7pm Thursdays) and on certain Saturdays •

Picture Postcard Annual



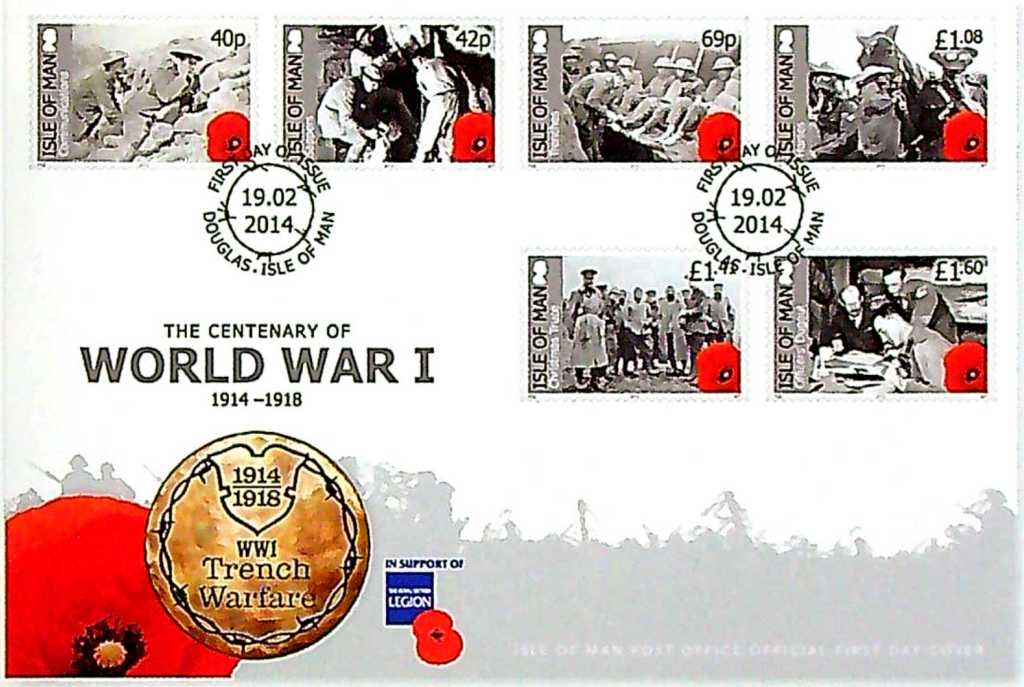
The 2014 edition of this popular publication is now available. It includes a postcard dealers directory, feature articles, lists of fairs and auction houses, websites, and much else of value to postcard collectors. This year the main features cover railways, shipping, rugby, cats, the publisher 'LL', and social history 1910-14. The 2014 Annual is, as always, well-produced and profusely illustrated in colour. Whether you are a novice or experienced postcard collector, you will find much of interest and to enjoy. Price £5.75 (postage £1.40 UK, £3.50 Europe, £4.50 rest of world) from Reflections of a Bygone Age, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Call 0115 937 4079 or email reflections@postcardcollecting.co.uk. Reflections also publish Picture Postcard Monthly •

Letter Box Study Group



The LBSG has for many years recorded details of British and overseas letter boxes and publishes a very well-produced Newsletter (in fact a handsome, full-colour A4 magazine) as well as other publications and postcards. The Winter 2013 Newsletter (No. 151) includes a feature on the work of designer Sir Kenneth Grange, well-known for the Bantum post box as well as livery for British Rail's Inter-City trains, Kodak Instamatic camera, and much else. Other articles include posting boxes on Manchester trams, boxes in Bournemouth and Caithness, Gibraltar, Trinidad & Tobago, and Western Australia, lamp boxes, and news of all sorts of memorabilia in the shape of post boxes of one sort or another. The high-quality colour photographs make this magazine a pleasure to read and I wish many philatelic society journals could match it for presentation, the enjoyment it offers and the sheer enthusiasm of its contributors. For details of LBSG membership, contact Val Scott at 38 Leopold Avenue, Birmingham B20 1ES, email membership@lbsg.org or visit website www.lbsg.org •

New from the islands



The Isle of Man opens its four-year commemoration of the Great War with the Life in the Trenches stamp set and World War I Trench Art miniature sheet on 19 February. On the same day it will be publishing a set for the 50th anniversary of the RAF Red Arrows. The stamps feature photography from the spectacular display over Douglas Bay in the Red Arrows' 25th year of visiting the island. Information: www.iomstamps.com.



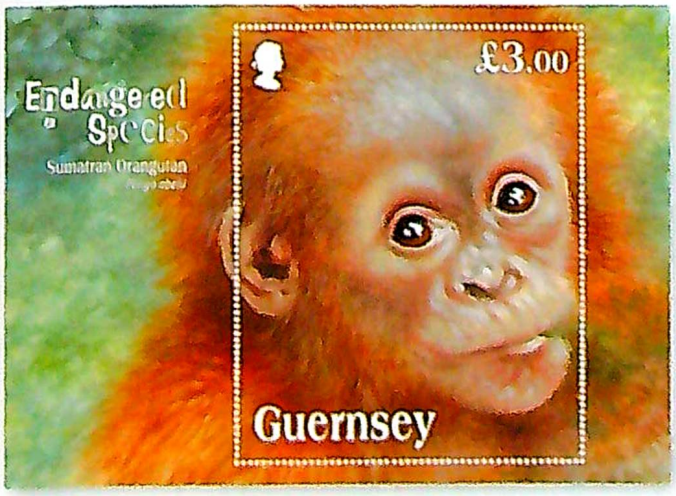
Guernsey's new issues comprise the Endangered Species – Orangutan miniature sheet and the Alderney Ladybirds six-stamp set and souvenir sheet released on 12 February. Information: www.guernseystamps.com.

Jersey's next issue will be four Europa stamps depicting musical instruments, designed by Mark Wilkinson, on 25 March. The 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth will be commemorated by six stamps and a miniature sheet on 23 April. Jersey launched its 2014 programme with the release of its Manor Houses set on 7 January. Information: www.jerseystamps.com •

Top: the filth and terror of front line life is depicted in the Isle of Man trench stamps

Above: Jersey's 2014 opener was the Manor Houses issue

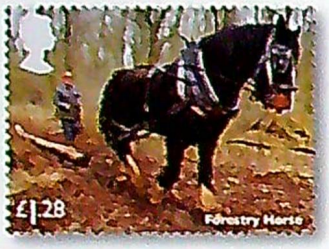
Below: sets from Guernsey and Alderney celebrate nature







Right and below: the strength and reliability of the horse is much respected – in working life and on postage stamps



Might & mane

Big, powerful and people-friendly – as the Working Horses issue is released Simon Ball trots through the history of our working with the mighty steed

This year's Working Horses stamp issue can be seen as a sequel to 2008's Working Dogs. While dogs are probably our oldest animal companions and offered early humans friendship along with help hunting, herding and protection, the domestication of the horse was one of the foundations of civilisation. Early hunters on horseback were able to range further in the quest for game, while horsepower in the fields increased farmers' productivity. With the horse as a means of transport, goods could be moved across greater distances – so opening up overland trade routes – and armies

Photograph: iStockphoto

were able to deploy rapidly to defend or conquer territories. Representations of horses in Palaeolithic cave art are well known, but these are thought to have been viewed as food animals. Until recently it was believed that the domestication of horses dated back to around 2000BC in the borderlands of southern Russia and Kazakhstan. Here the remains of 16 chariot burials were discovered in cemeteries belonging to the Bronze Age Sintashta and Petrovka cultures. Only impressions of the spoked chariot wheels remained in the graves, the material long since decayed. But alongside them were the skulls and hooves of pairs of sacrificed horses, each with carved antler cheek pieces from a primitive bit on either side of their skulls.



More recent finds in the Akmola province of Kazakhstan suggest that humans' partnership with the horse may be even older. Excavations of villages of the Botai culture, dating back as far as 4000BC, have revealed thousands of horse bones. Most of these remains show evidence of butchery for meat, but some of the teeth show wear consistent with use of a dental bit to control a horse when being ridden or driven. The presence of fat deposits from mare's milk in pottery shards suggest the Botai reared their own horses.



Above: horses have a major crowd control role to play for police forces at sporting events and demonstrations

Stamping ground

The history of horses on stamps has, of course, been rather more recent. The first British issue showing working horses appeared in 1960 and celebrated the tercentenary of the General Letter Office. The Reynolds Stone-designed Lilac 3d stamp features a mounted postboy from 1660 blowing a posthorn. By the time the General Letter Office was created, a network of posting horses, based mostly in hostelries, was well-established in Britain, carrying private correspondence as well as state communications. But the earliest attested post horse network is that of the Persian Empire in the 6th Century BC, though Emperor Cyrus the Great's horsemen gathered military intelligence rather than carrying birthday cards and bills.

Horse-drawn mail coaches were introduced to Britain in 1784 with a trial run from Bristol to London, which cut 22 hours off the regular stagecoach schedule. With this success, services were launched across the country. Pulled by a team of four, the mail coach only stopped to change horses, and drop off and collect the mail. Protected from highwaymen by an armed Post Office guard, the mail coach was a much safer way to travel, unless of course it was attacked by an escaped circus lion – as depicted on one of the stamps in the 1984 First Mail Coach Run stamp issue, marking the service's bicentenary. Remarkably, even with the Exeter Mail passengers and crew taking refuge in a Wiltshire coaching inn while the lion was recaptured, the post was only 45 minutes late arriving at its destination.

The horses and ponies used by charity Riding for the Disabled, subject of ▸

Photograph © Andy Pettigrew





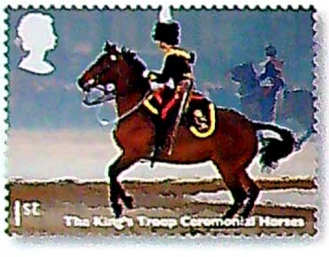
Above: four out of the five riders in the London 2012 Paralympics learned with Riding for the Disabled

the Working Horses first-class stamp, provide both therapy and pleasure to disabled people of all ages across the country. The charity has 500 volunteer groups and 18,000 instructors and volunteers who organise riding, carriage driving and showjumping for around 28,000 people a year. Doctors and therapists have long known that the interaction between horse and rider offers significant therapeutic benefits, helping to increase the individual's strength and improve their balance, posture and co-ordination. This is teamed with an opportunity to regain mobility and overcome risk that leads to a great sense of achievement. This achievement was clear in the Paralympics GB Team at London 2012 where four of the five riders representing Britain learned with Riding for the Disabled. And with a haul of five Paralympic Gold Medals they found their way into the Olympic stamp programme too.

Military mounts

From an establishment of several thousand animals in the early 20th century the British Army's equine roll call is now less than 400 mounts, and most of them are purely ceremonial. They consist mostly of the 111 animals at the stables of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery (also on a first-class stamp in this month's new issue) at Woolwich and the chargers and drum horses of the Household Cavalry. Aside from pulling the troop's First World War vintage 13-pounder saluting guns at state occasions such as Trooping the Colour and appearances at county fairs and horse shows, the horses and riders of the King's Troop take turns with the Household Cavalry to stand sentry outside Horse Guards in London. The King's Troop also provides the gun carriage and team of black horses used at state funerals.

Below: traditionally elite mounted regiments have been a central part of Royal and state occasions



The Household Cavalry was formed from the two oldest regiments in the British Army: the Life Guards, whose ceremonial tunics are red, and the Blues and Royals who wear blue. It is presently split into two units – the Household Cavalry Regiment, which is a mechanised force with an active operational role and the Household Cavalry Mounted Unit who are horsed and perform state and Royal ceremonial duties as the monarch's personal bodyguard. Most of their mounts, as seen on the 26p stamp in the 1997 All The Queen's Horses issue, are black crossbreeds of Irish Draft and Irish Thoroughbred.



There, however, are some notable exceptions. The regimental State Trumpeters (as seen in the 2004 Trooping the Colour issue's 42p stamp) ride greys and the drum horses (43p in the All The Queen's Horses issue) tend to be coloured Shires or Clydesdales. Since the silver kettledrums each

Photographs: Crown Copyright; courtesy Riding for the Disabled www.rda.org.uk



Photograph: Fuller, Smith & Turner plc

weigh in at 68lb, the drum horses need to be big powerful animals. They are often piebald (black and white) or skewbald (brown and white).

The Queen takes a great interest in the drum horses and many of them have been supplied from the Royal stables. Not all of The Queen's horses are ceremonial; the Royal Stud has bred champion racehorses that have won almost every prestigious race in the UK, as featured in the 1979 issue celebrating the Bicentenary of the Epsom Derby.

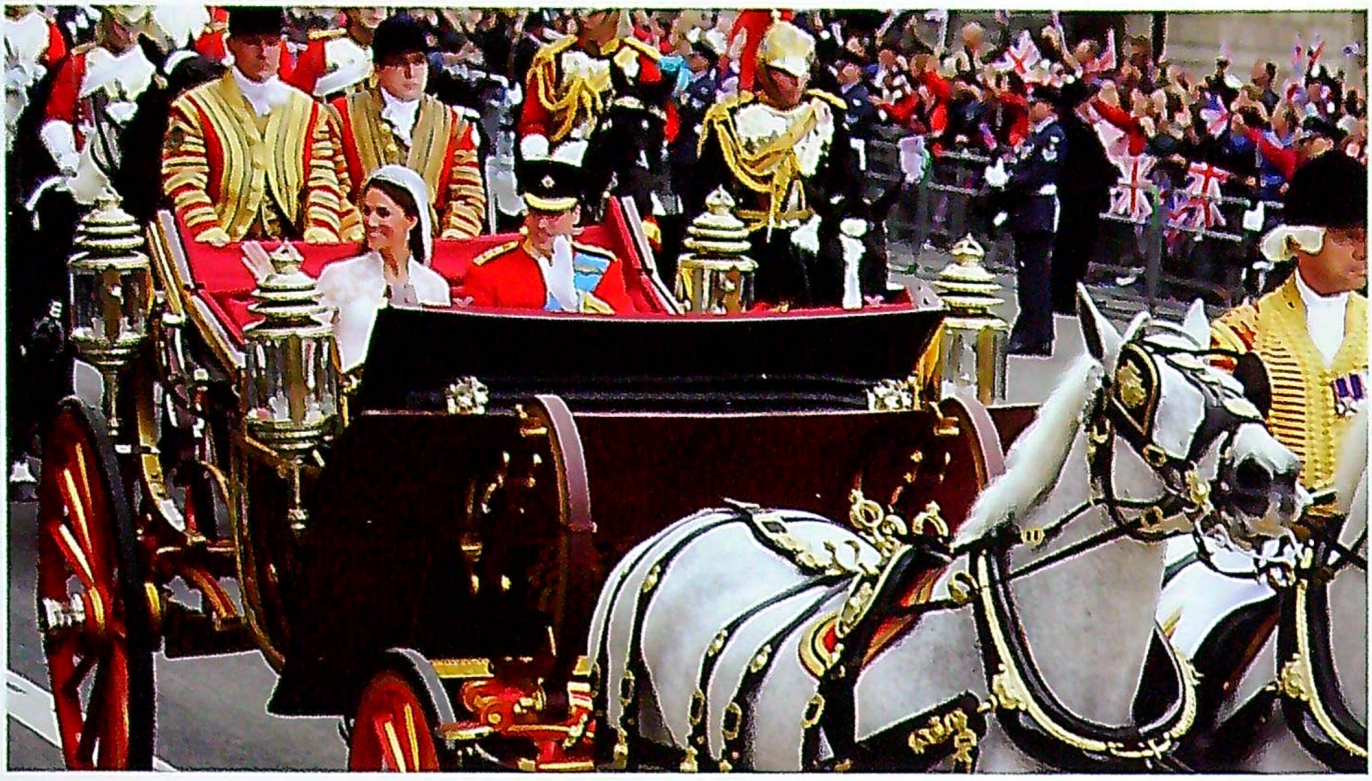
Her Majesty is a keen horsewoman herself and as Colonel-in-Chief of the regiments of the Household Division she used to take the Trooping the Colour salute on horseback. From 1969 to 1986 she attended the ceremony mounted on Burmese (the Trooping the Colour 68p), a black mare presented to her by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. However, following Burmese's retirement Her Majesty decided to take the salute from a 'phaeton' carriage drawn by horses from the Royal Mews.

The Royal Mews carriage horses shown on the new issue's 88p stamp (and also featured on the 20p from the All The Queen's Horses set) are Windsor Greys. Descended from Queen Victoria's carriage horses kept at Windsor Castle, the Windsor Greys draw Royal carriages, including the Gold State Coach at coronations. At close to four tonnes, the Gold State Coach requires a team of eight Windsor Greys (see 50th Anniversary of the Coronation issue from 2003). There are ten of these beasts at the Royal Mews along with 20 Cleveland Bays, which escort newly appointed high commissioners and ambassadors to their first audience with The Queen.

A vital element of Royal processions in London are the outriders of the ▸



Above: immensely strong dray horses add both colour and enormous pulling power to brewery operations





Above: the Windsor Greys that feature on the Royal Mews Carriage Horses stamp have the task of drawing Royal carriages

Metropolitan Police's mounted branch (the £1.28 stamp in the new issue and in 1979's 150th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Police set) who top and tail cavalcades as The Queen's escort. Formed in 1760 to tackle highwaymen, the mounted branch now helps control crowds at sporting events and demonstrations and patrols open spaces unsuitable for police vehicles. Aside from the Met there are 15 UK police forces with mounted officers.

Gleaming shires

If not as prestigious as the Royal horses, the animals that pulled brewers' drays (the 88p in the Working Horses issue) are no less impressive. Standing up to 17 hands (over 1.7 metres) high, a teamed pair of Shire Horses could pull a weight of up to 45 tonnes. As such they were ideal for making deliveries of beer to local pubs and even today some brewers like Samuel Smith, Thwaites and Wadworth still make use of horsepower for that task.

Hook Norton Brewery, whose dray is featured on the 88p stamp, is a champion of horsepower. I asked Norton Managing Director James Clarke why he chose horses over trucks. 'In this fast-paced world, where digital technology has both revolutionised communication and killed the art of conversation, there are some things that are worth conserving just because they are,' says James. 'The Shire Horse is one such example – they are regal yet hardworking, they stand tall yet are gentle giants. Our Shires are an integral part of the brewery, delivering to local pubs, but also reminding us of a bygone era. It wasn't until canals, railways and then motorways that beer could move around the country. So the horse was key to daily life in all its aspects. The Shire was a suitable breed for hauling brewery drays, and we continue to employ three of these fantastic creatures in the original brewery stables.'

It is a common misconception that the heavy horses were initially bred to

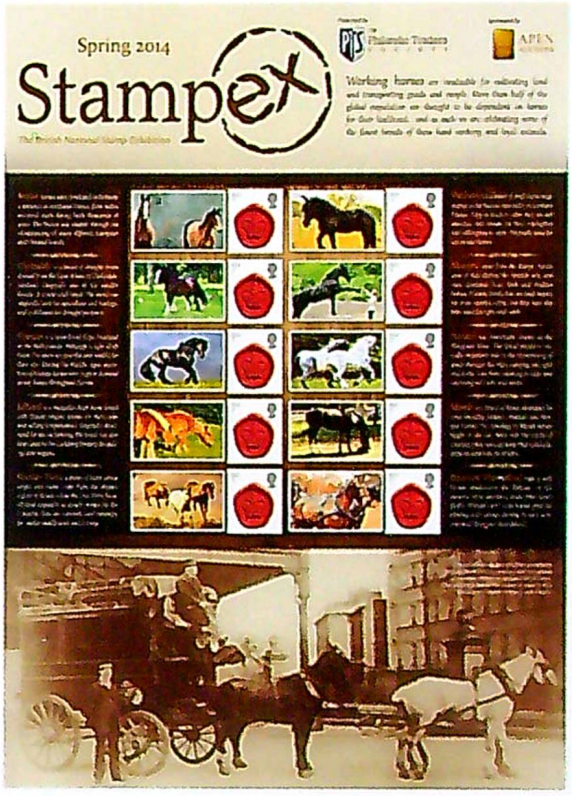
Photograph: Ian Jones

carry the weight of a knight in armour (as shown in the 1974 Medieval Warriors issue), but records show that horses 'fit for the dray, the plough or the chariot' were on sale at London's Smithfield Market as early as 1145.

However, it was not until the 18th century that heavy breeds such as the Shire or the Clydesdale supplanted oxen on British farms (see these stamp issues shown below). While horse use on farms has seriously declined since the Second World War, there has been something of a resurgence of interest in recent years. Horses have come into their own in forestry (as shown on the Working Horses £1.28 stamp, see page 176), where their ability to pull substantial weights over uneven terrain inaccessible to motor vehicles has proven invaluable.

We will leave the last word on working horses to Doug Joiner, a professional horse logger who works for wildlife trusts and woodland owners. Doug is a passionate believer in the value of horsepower: 'That they are worked commercially and productively, rather than just in historic displays, reflects how important working horses continue to be in a variety of specialist niches,' Doug says. 'Horses offer low-impact solutions to work in sensitive sites in forestry, horticulture and in other areas such as vineyards. Coupled with developments in harness, equipment and working practices, horses work cost-effectively and bring joy to all who see them.

'Native working horse breeds are all at risk or endangered according to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Continuing to work our horses will help to keep these ancients breeds alive, being bred for the job they love, true to type and fit for purpose' •



Above: Stampex customised sheet features Working Horses – including Clydesdale, Friesian, Jutland and Russian Don – on labels adjoining ten first-class crown seal stamps. For more details email info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

More horsepower on UK stamps



2005 Farm Animals



1997 All The Queen's Horses; 50th Anniversary of the British Horse Society

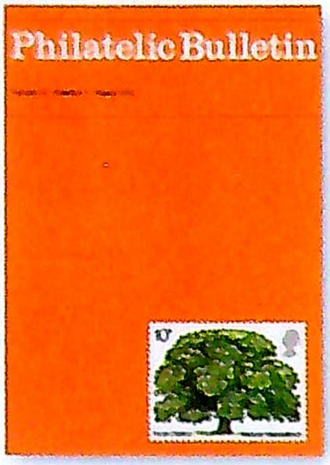


1978 Horses



1979 150th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Police

This Month in History John Holman revisits the Horse Chestnut tree stamp that featured on the front page of the *Bulletin* 40 years ago in Volume 10



Above: the Horse Chestnut stamp designed by David Gentleman featured on the front page of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* of March 1974

Below: two first day covers from February 1974. One is the Post Office cover, showing a Horse Chestnut leaf, and the other a Phillart cover with silhouettes of boys playing conkers and a Stampex first-day postmark

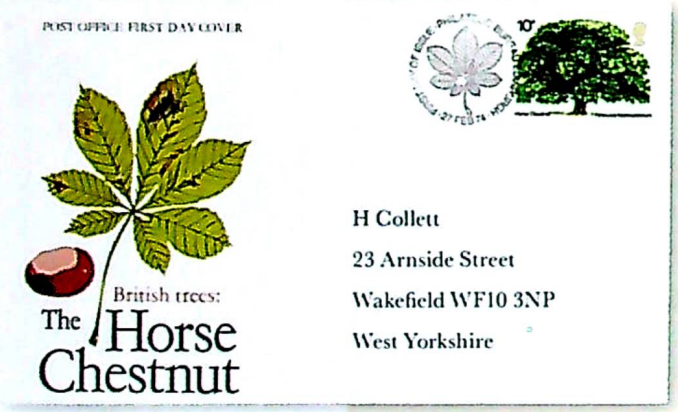
Following on from the theme of Plant a Tree in '73, the second stamp in a series of British trees was issued on 27 February 1974. It was a 10p value (overseas rate) featuring a Horse Chestnut tree in full leaf. The Horse Chestnut was introduced into western Europe from northern Greece, Albania and Turkey in the 16th Century; its fruit was said to cure horses of the cough, hence its name.

Like the Oak Tree stamp, its predecessor in the British Trees series, the Horse Chestnut stamp was designed by David Gentleman and printed by Harrisons in six colours, but unlike the Oak Tree stamp it was printed on all-over phosphor paper (rather than overprinted with two bands) and no errors or significant constant varieties are recorded in the SG GB Specialised Catalogue. The stamp went on sale on 27 February during Stampex but this time there was no Post Office Stampex commemorative cover, just the regular first day cover. Covers could be posted at the exhibition for the regular Stampex handstamp, but there was no additional Stampex first day postmark for this issue. Indeed, there were no sponsored special handstamps at all for this stamp, collectors having to make do with just the Philatelic Bureau first day of issue handstamp (showing a Horse Chestnut leaf) or the rather plain Stampex handstamp. Non-pictorial first day of issue handstamps were provided at major post offices, and covers posted at Salisbury exist with the year 1973 rather than 1974 in the datestamp.

However, there was a stamp card (PHQ Card), which is now one of the scarcest and most costly of this series. The presentation pack was also available with an insert card with text in German.

The stamp was withdrawn from sale on 26 February 1974, with sales amounting to 7,245,200 compared to 5,875,100 of the Oak Tree stamp. Presentation packs sales totalled 93,680 – nearly 1,000 more than the previous year.

The first day of issue postmark and the stamp itself were shown on the front covers of the February and March 1974 issues of the *Bulletin*. In the February issue the Editor wrote: 'At the time of going to press we are uncertain how the power shortage will affect production of the *Bulletin*. The Editor may be able to cope with the help of a candle but it is fair to assume that our printers may have problems. We shall all do our very best to ensure that the *Bulletin* reaches you with the minimum of delay.' Older readers will recall that we were, at the time, facing severe industrial unrest, in a 'state of emergency' and suffering many power cuts. The miners' strike led to the government calling a general election at the end of February •





Collector Confidential Give a child a few spare stamps from your collection and who knows what journey they might inspire. Look what happened to Michael Sefi...

I WAS FASCINATED by the article in the December *Bulletin* by Ayn Rand, written more than 40 years ago [about why she collected stamps]. It struck a chord: I came back into stamp collecting and philately in my late thirties as a relaxation and relief from my every day activities – rather than slumping down in front of a television in the evening, this was an opportunity to keep the brain active but without 'contamination' of the day job! (Note that stamp collecting and philately are conceptually different – one being the acquisitive and 'squirrel' process, the other being the study of not only what had been acquired but what else had not been and was to be found in other collections at exhibitions, or more importantly in the British Library and the then National Postal Museum.)

My original foray into collecting was when I was six or seven, and had been given my grandfather's 'thirds'. What attracted me particularly were the images on what were then colonial stamps – of objects, landscapes, flora and fauna, from places one at that time had no expectation of ever visiting, this being the very early 1950s. Little did I know that within ten years I would be on an aeroplane to East Africa, where I stayed for 15 months and saw some of the places and animals I had become familiar with on stamps. Curiously, that did not awake the latent interest in stamp collecting; I was much more interested in the actuality and still am – but that is another story!

However, the advent of boarding school at 13 – where there was no stamp club – and other distractions meant the collection, small but mine own, was buried deep. It only surfaced many years later when one of our children was given a collecting starter pack by a godfather who could not think what else to give to a girl aged seven going on 12. Daddy digging out from remote storage some of his old collection, not seen or looked at for nigh on 25 years, was a real turn-off for the daughter, but it re-awoke that embryonic interest which developed over time into a full-blown study of the Great Britain stamps of King George V and in particular the Downey Head. And the rest, as they say, is history.

I suppose one could argue that the foregoing is the factual account, and does not explain the fascination (passion?) for philately that I now have. That, perhaps, is for another time... •



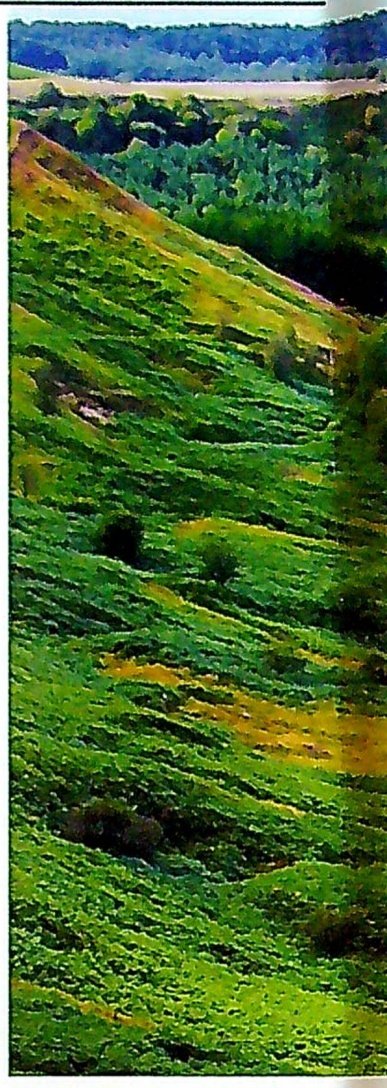
Above: young Michael Sefi, a budding collector in 1950, grew up to be the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection



Michael Sefi has been the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection since 2003 and was appointed LVO by The Queen last year in recognition of his work with the Collection. He is also a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada in 2012 and has been a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London for many years. He is currently President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society.

Steam train celebration

Martyn Fry has a personal interest in steam trains and, as Head of Production at Royal Mail, has helped drive forward with pride the Classic Locomotives stamp series



It was 1966, England were due to play in the semi-final of the World Cup at Wembley later that day but I was at Waterloo station. I was nine years old in what subsequently proved to be the penultimate year of steam in the UK, Waterloo and the south western mainline being the very last to route to relinquish its steam locomotives. Our compartment only had seats on one side and I remember getting smuts in my eyes when I looked out of the window. I would love to know the name of the locomotive – it was probably a Bulleid West Country Class Pacific, as these were the main locomotives for that route.



Above: Martyn Fry departs from Waterloo station in the 1960s? See more images of the last steam trains to leave Waterloo station at 'Waterloo Steam Sunset 1965 until 1967' on www.youtube.com

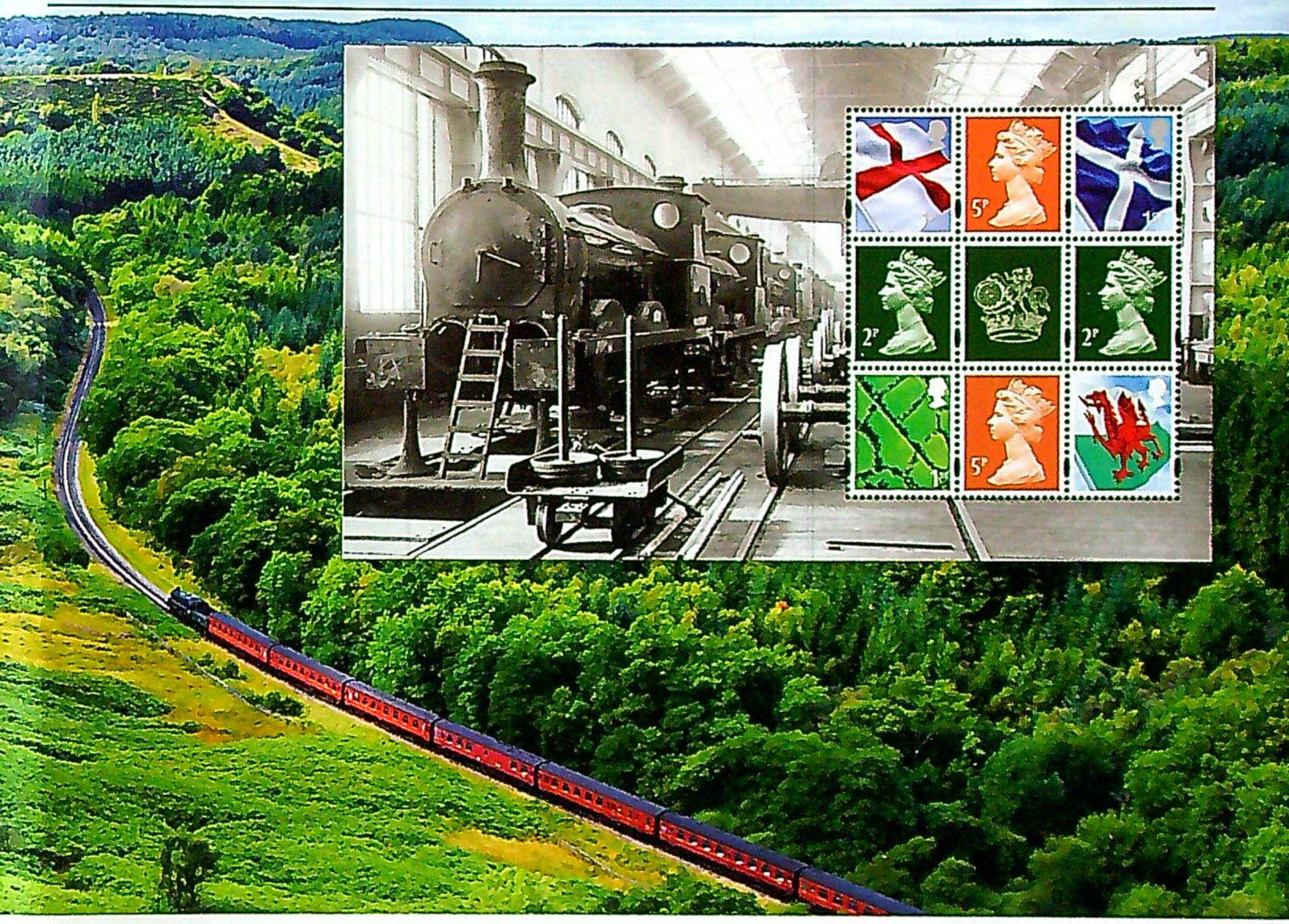
Maybe it was this memory that triggered my interest in steam locomotives in particular and the workings of steam railways in general.

Classic Locomotives of the United Kingdom, the Royal Mail Prestige Stamp Book issued on 20 February, celebrates Britain's proud heritage as the originator of the steam locomotive and draws from the recent miniature sheet series, featuring classic locomotives from the four countries of the UK. They highlight the diversity of the locomotives used, whether as a result of the work they undertook or simply the pride displayed by the individual railway companies in adding a distinctive look to their engines.

All of the miniature sheets were printed in lithography by Cartor Security Printing in France. While gravure gives a good tonal representation of an image, lithography was chosen for these designs, to bring out more of the photographic detail of the locomotives and their locations – a must for the railway enthusiast. However, even lithography cannot show at stamp-size each individual rivet.

Choosing the stars of steam One of the most challenging tasks facing the Royal Mail Stamps and Collectible team in creating the Classic Locomotives stamps was to rationalise the diverse range of UK locomotives into a series of only one miniature sheet per country. An argument could be made for a series on the Welsh narrow gauge railways alone or another on the Big Four railway companies. However, Royal Mail is mindful of the need to limit the number of

Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd. Photograph: iStock



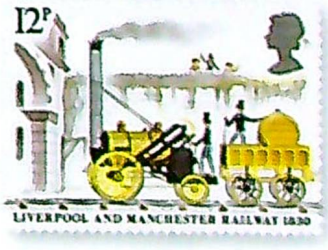
new stamps issued each year and, of course, the fact that not all collectors are avid locomotive enthusiasts. Personally I cannot help but wonder how a series on diesel hydraulics could fail to be of great interest to most people!

Once we had decided to issue the Classic Locomotives stamps series, a number of experts were consulted to help identify the most appropriate locomotives to represent each country of the UK, with the aim of reflecting, as best as possible, the variation of work these engines performed. Debates over the inclusion of one locomotive over another were to be expected, but on the whole I think there is a good logic to the selections.

Identifying the locomotives to be shown on the stamps was only the start. Designers trawled through archive photographs to find those best suited for stamp-sized reproduction, as well as background images to 'hold together' the Miniature Sheets. And we had to decide on the naming convention for the captions – not a simple task, as the individual railways used nearly as many acronyms as Royal Mail! Should we use the wheel arrangement, the class, the number or the railway company? Each has their merits but in the end it came down to which best describes the locomotive for the enthusiast.

In the England sheet we travel from the ubiquitous Great Western branch, line with a Dean Goods pulling an autocoach, to the raw power of a War Department freight locomotive. The mix of black and white images alongside the typical colour images of the 1950s and 1960s adds to the atmosphere of a bygone era. It would have been easy to have concentrated ▸

Above: The Classic Locomotives of the United Kingdom Prestige Stamp Book is issued on 20 February. It dedicates one pane to each of the four Miniature Sheets, with the addition of this definitive pane with 4 x 1st Class Country Definitives, 2 x 5p and 2 x 2p Machin Definitives



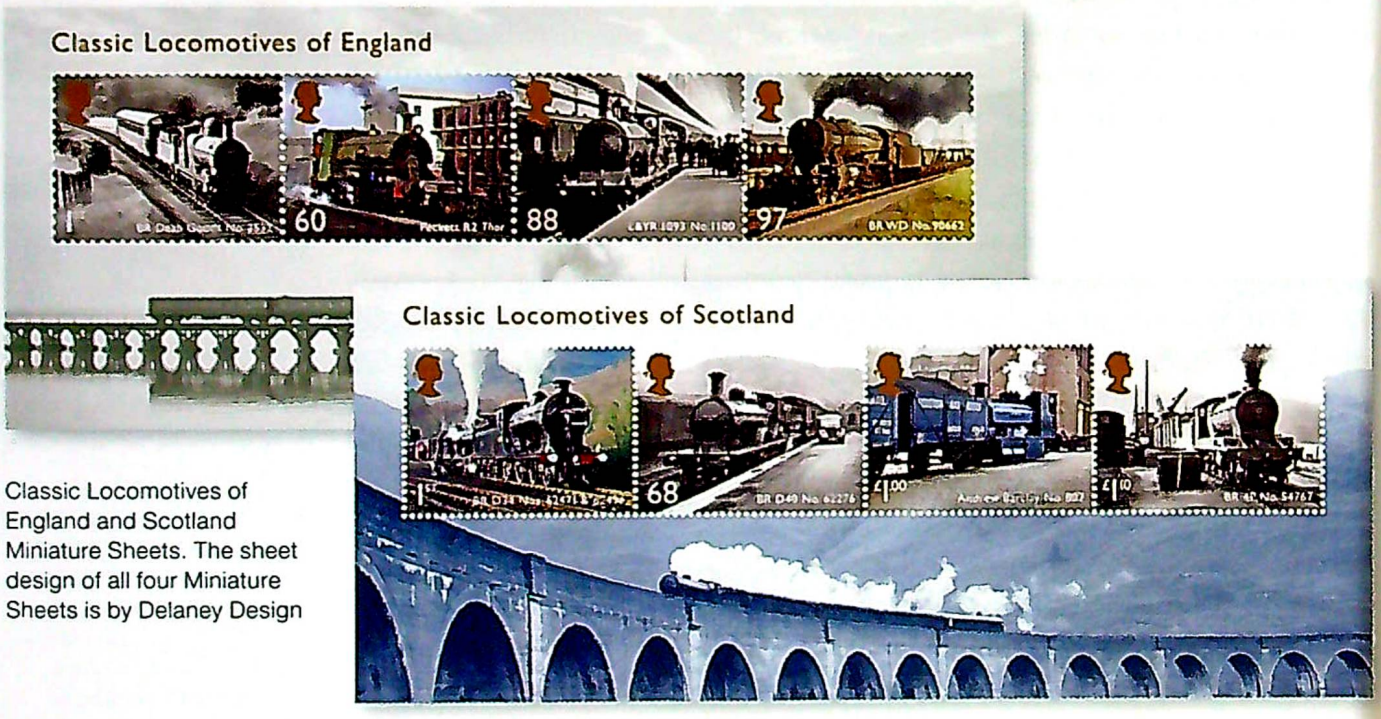
Above: the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, commemorated in a popular five-stamp set in 1980, was the world's first twin-track inter-urban passenger railway to have all the trains were timetabled and ticketed

on the Big Four railway companies but that would have over simplified the story. Bringing the whole sheet together is the wonderful image of an A1X Terrier of the Southern Railway pulling a rake of carriages over the viaduct on the Hayling Island branch. Known locally as the 'Hayling Billy' the train, with its diminutive locomotives, ran the branch until closure in 1963.

The Classic Locomotives of Scotland sheet features mainly British Rail era images but each locomotive originated from a Scottish railway. Against a background image of an LNER K2 crossing the Glenfinnan Viaduct, built by 'Concrete Bob' McAlpine in 1898, we have the BR (LNER) D34 Glen Class locomotives Glen Foy and Glen Falloch, built for the North British Railway and used extensively on the West Highland line. The BR (LNER) D40 was originally built by the GNSR and was an amalgamation of the original GNSR Classes V and F. Used mainly for the important express passenger services, they were the last 4-4-0s built by the railway before being absorbed into the LNER at the grouping in 1923. The Andrew Barclay Bon Accord was built for the Aberdeen Gas Board in 1897, replacing the earlier City of Aberdeen locomotive used by the works. Bon Accord was withdrawn in 1964 and preserved by Aberdeen Council. The BR 4P shown on the final stamp of the miniature sheet was built by the Highland Railway and formed part of the Clan Class of eight locomotives.

The railways of Northern Ireland, stand out from the rest of the UK by being built to a wider gauge than the standard 4ft 8½in used elsewhere. In much the same way as with Brunel's broad gauge in England, standardisation took some time, as each of the newly formed Northern Ireland railways promoted their own preferred track. Eventually a gauge of 5ft 3in was agreed. When the LMS was formed in 1923 the company inherited the Midland Railway holdings in Northern Ireland and became the second largest employer in the UK after the Post Office.

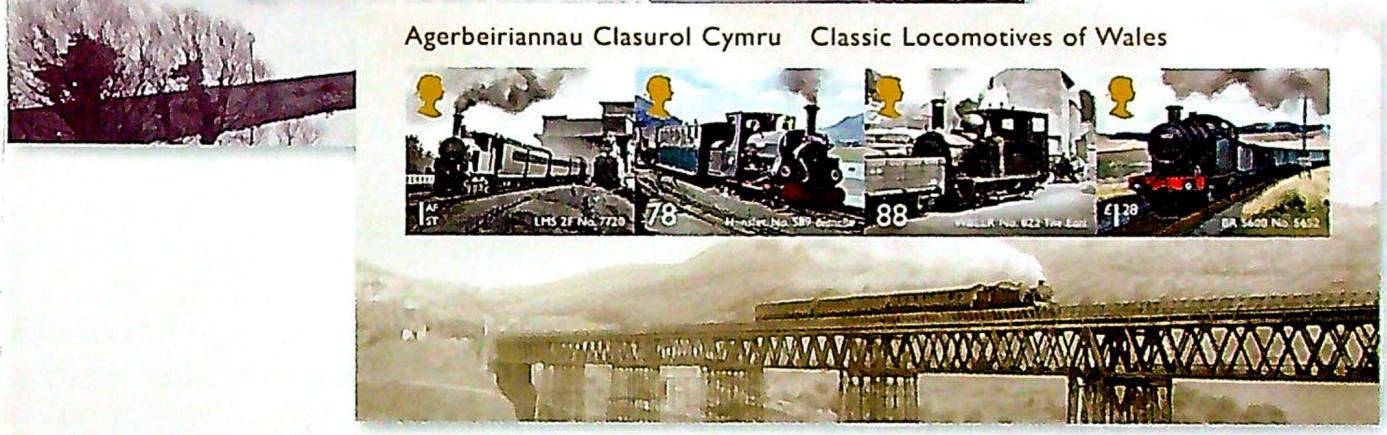
No story on railways in Wales is complete without mention of the narrow gauge. This distinctive range of engines is probably the best known and best



Classic Locomotives of England and Scotland Miniature Sheets. The sheet design of all four Miniature Sheets is by Delaney Design



Classic Locomotives of Northern Ireland and Wales Miniature sheets. For the technical details of the most recent issue, see page 133 of the January edition of the British Philatelic Bulletin.



loved aspect of the railway story. While the standard gauge lines developed around the bulk shipment of coal to all parts of the UK and beyond, it was the narrow gauge locomotives which stole centre stage. This is certainly true of the preservation era where the diminutive engines go from strength to strength. Sited mainly in the north of the country, many of the engines were designed to work in the very highest galleries of the slate quarries. Despite their purely functional development, the Quarry Hunslets possess a charm and beauty to rival any of the grand express engines of the Big Four.

Steam dream come true A couple of years ago I was fortunate enough to drive an engine, Edward Thomas, on the Tallylyn Railway, the first of the preserved narrow gauge railways. It was certainly an experience to remember and brought home to me how these railways alongside the natural landscape rather than creating an artificial one.

As a steam enthusiast I feel very fortunate that, when the threat of extinction loomed in the 1960s, a number of like-minded individuals acted to help preserve some of these wonderful machines. While we have lost some significant examples of the breed – the Brighton Atlantic springs to mind – many have been spared the cutter's torch and have been restored to a better condition than when they were earning their living up and down the country. As we've witnessed in recent years, missing locomotives can even be built from scratch.

The preservation movement helps maintain the interest in these classic monuments to the industrial power of the UK and invites a new generation to enjoy fascination of steam power. With the release of the Classic Locomotives series, Royal Mail is doing its part to celebrate the steam era and foster new interest. Stamp collectors have always enjoyed seeing steam engines on Royal Mail stamps and I'm sure they will continue to do so – although probably not as many as I'd like to see! •

Martyn Fry is Head of Production at Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles

Below: alternative pictorial postmark for this month's Miniature Sheet – Porthmadog, the is the lower terminus of the famous Ffestiniog railway, where Martyn Fry enjoyed a spell as a train driver

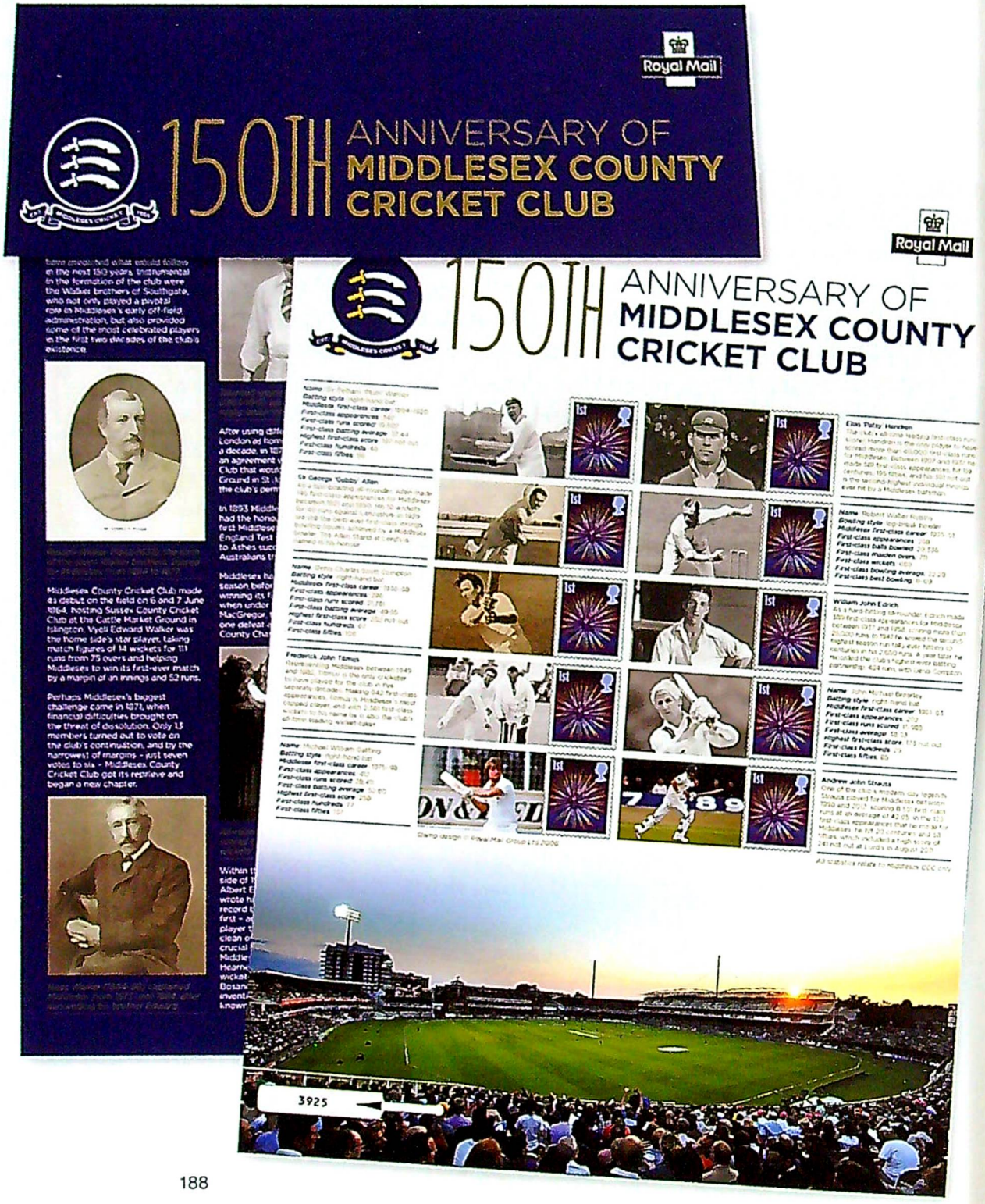


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Cricket and combat heroes Middlesex County Cricket Club and the Royal Marines are on parade in new commemorative sheets

Sporting superstars are celebrated in the commemorative sheet that marks the 150th anniversary of Middlesex County Cricket Club. The ten-stamp First Class sheet features Middlesex heroes such as Denis Compton, Mike Gatting and Mike Brearley. The pack offers a snapshot of each player's career and a history of the club, which played its first match, against Sussex, in 1864. By Sea, By Land pays tribute to the Marines, now celebrating 350 years. The sheet shows the conflicts in which they have served, from Trafalgar to the Falklands •

Below: the Middlesex County Cricket Club Commemorative Sheet shows leading lights of the team against a backdrop of its legendary home – Lord's





Left: the Royal Marines Commemorative Sheet highlights historic conflicts in which this elite unit has fought – including two World Wars and the Falklands

Middlesex County Cricket Club Commemorative Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	25 February
Number of stamps	10 x 1st Class Fireworks Stamps
Stamp design	Supple Studio
Sheet design	Supple Studio
Sheet format	Portrait A4
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Price	£14.95

By Sea, By Land – 350th Anniversary of Royal Marines Commemorative Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	25 March
Number of stamps	10 x 1st Class Union Flag Stamps
Stamp design	Royal Mail
Pack and sheet design	Royal Mail
Sheet format	Portrait A4
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Price	£14.95

Hearts and heroes A Valentines (ish) quiz for stamp lovers



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2



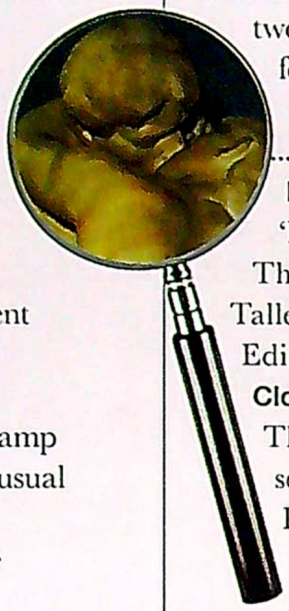
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There is a whiff of romance about some of your quiz questions this month. And if you are passionate about philately you will love the prizes – get the following questions right and you could be the winner of the Football Heroes Prestige Stamp Book and the Remarkable Lives Presentation Pack.

1 This cute Cupid stamp was released in time for Valentine's Day in 1989 – with what romantic-sounding postmark?
a) Lover, Wiltshire **b)** Cupid's Hill, Gwent
c) Truelove, Devon

2 On this 1984 Mailcoach Centenary stamp a coach is being ambushed by a very unusual highwayman. Was the attacker:
a) A leopard **b)** A lion **c)** Danny La Rue

3 This war hero is on a new stamp next month. In which war did she serve?
a) First World War **b)** Second World War
c) Korean War



Name That Stamp From the detail under the magnifying glass on the left, tell us the name and year of issue of this passion-filled stamp.

Stampstumper If you have the stamps of the Working Horses issue in a packet and pull out just two of them, what are the odds that they feature three horses in total? No prizes here – just a bit of fun! Answer at foot of page.

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'February Quiz' and/or 'February Name That Stamp' to: Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date 17 March 2014.

The first two correct entries in each section win the Football Heroes PSB and Remarkable Lives Presentation Pack. Five runners-up also win prizes •

November quiz winners *Angels Quiz* L Bowater, J Capitao, J A Paulson, J Foote, A H Harker, R Hanson. *Under the magnifying glass* C Bird, B Kassner, H M Brown, Khoo Kiat Kheng, A F Parker, J Lucas.

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ. December puzzle solutions and prizewinners are not available at time of going to press and will be published in a future issue of *Bulletin*.

Stamp images: © Royal Mail Group Ltd. Stampstumper compiled by T Kroupova

Stampstumper solution: 8/15

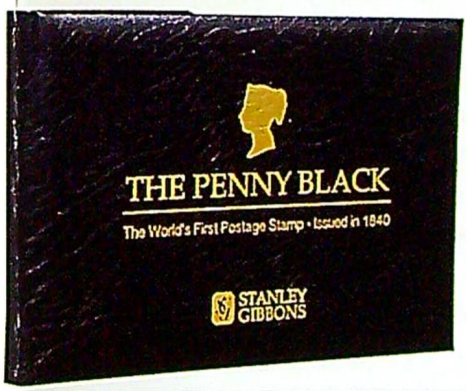


Fancy owning one of the world's most legendary stamps?

Of course you do. So remember to enter the Stamp Active prize draw if you are lucky enough to be visiting Spring Stampex, for your chance to win an 1840 Twopenny Blue, like the one show on the left.

Stamp Active is running a series of fun activities for children during Stampex, from 19 to 22 February. It's easy to take part and earn point which you can use to bid for philatelic goodies in the children's auction on the Saturday of the show.

Parents also get a chance to win! They are entered into the Bring a Child to Stampex competition if they take anyone under 18 to the Stamp Active stand. First prize for the adults is a Stanley Gibbons Penny Black Wallet worth £350. It features the legendary stamp in a premium folder along with a certificate of authenticity. The competition also has a Royal Mail 2013 Yearbook as one of the prizes. And you never know, mum and dad might share their winnings if they get lucky...



The Twopenny Blue was donated by Robin Cassell of Mulready Philatelics and Doug McGill of My Penny Blacks.

For more info on Stampex, see page 172 and visit www.stampactive.co.uk •





Royal Mail has launched a new education resources pack that features characters from the recently released Classic Children's TV issue. Created in collaboration with teaching and parenting support experts iChild, the pack offers a variety of activities and lesson plans, including Bagpuss song sheets, a posting a letter game, and a Bob The Builder stamp design template.

Royal Mail and iChild are also running a prize draw with exciting prizes for schools, nurseries or families. They include tickets to the Postman Pat Village at Longleat, and a visit to a winner's school by a Peppa Pig costume character and free Peppa Pig books. Download the resources and enter the draw at www.ichild.co.uk/royalmail.

Get the right tools for the job!



Stamp Active's starter pack for new school and children's stamp clubs has been relaunched. The Stanley Gibbons-sponsored pack features stamps, stock books, hinges, magnifiers, tweezers, a stamp drying book, a sample album and a guide to stamp collecting. Authorised club organisers can apply for the starter pack at www.stampactive.co.uk/stamp-clubs •



A trio to treasure

Visit the Royal Mail stand at Spring Stampex and you will find brilliant new stamps hot off the presses:

- Classic Locomotives of Wales Miniature Sheet, 20 February
- Classic Locomotives of the UK Prestige Stamp Book, 20 February
- Post & Go British Flora I – Spring Blooms, 19 February

All three of the first day covers shown above go on sale at this month's Stampex show, which runs from 19 to 22 February at The Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH. First day postmarks and special Stampex postmarks are available, using the special post boxes at the exhibition.

Royal Mail pictorial stamps and other philatelic items are available at Post Office branches listed on page 162. Order online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or phone 08457 641 641 (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday) and from overseas: +44 131 316 7483.

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