BRITISH PHILATELIC

# Bulletin

*The magazine for collectors of UK stamps*

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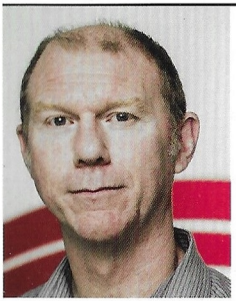
Six British Humanitarians

• Scottish comic strip icons




# Five centuries of Royal Mail

J HOLMAN STAMP SCENE • C BAKER MULREADY ENVELOPES • WIN PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK



# February 2016 update A message from Royal Mail Editor William Doherty

WE CAN SAFELY SAY that this is a great month for UK stamp collectors! At the time of Spring Stampex there are always interesting new stamps, but this month's Royal Mail 500 collection is a historic landmark issue, marking our 500th year of providing the country's postal service.

As well as the Special Stamps, Post & Go's and Penny Reds – all previewed on page 132 in January *Bulletin* – there are some special Royal Mail 500 items available at Stampex: the Exhibition Pack contains the Royal Mail 500 Miniature Sheet with Stampex overprint; the Exhibition Postcard also features this Miniature Sheet; and a number of special exhibition postmarks enable collectors to create their own unique philatelic souvenirs.

Our postal network has been connecting families and friends since Tudor times, serving business communications and driving innovation across the country. In 1516, Henry VIII knighted Brian Tuke, the first Master of the Posts, and from these origins the postal service has survived 21 monarchs and two World Wars, and employed hundreds of thousands of people. Perhaps its most famous innovation is the Penny Black stamp, the world's first postage stamp introduced in May 1840, which paved the way for the prepaid, one-price-goes-anywhere postage system we use today.

To mark this momentous 500th anniversary, Royal Mail has launched a special website showcasing the people, objects and events that played a key role in the development of the world's first national postal service.

Take a step back into five centuries of UK postal history at 500years.royalmailgroup.com.

W Doherty

Below: Royal Mail 500 Exhibition Postcard, Exhibition Pack and special handstamps marking first days of issue of Royal Mail 500, Heritage Post & Go stamps and the 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red. There are also dated special postmarks for each day of Spring Stampex


















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● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Annual subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail 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 world ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

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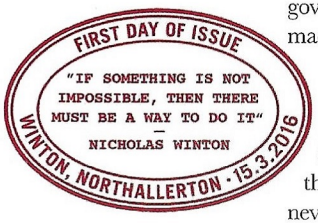
**Issues and withdrawals** At-a-glance dates of new issues and a last call for some greats of 2015 **192**

# **Kind-hearted heroes** An early glimpse of next month's special issue of stamps honouring six remarkable home-grown humanitarians

RELEASED ON 15 MARCH, the British Humanitarians stamp set salutes men and women who carried out good works to protect the vulnerable – including championing workers' welfare, saving Jews from the Nazis, and promoting women's and children's rights.

**Stamp by stamp** The British Humanitarians issue, comprising six stamps in square format, features three First Class stamps and three £1.33 valu

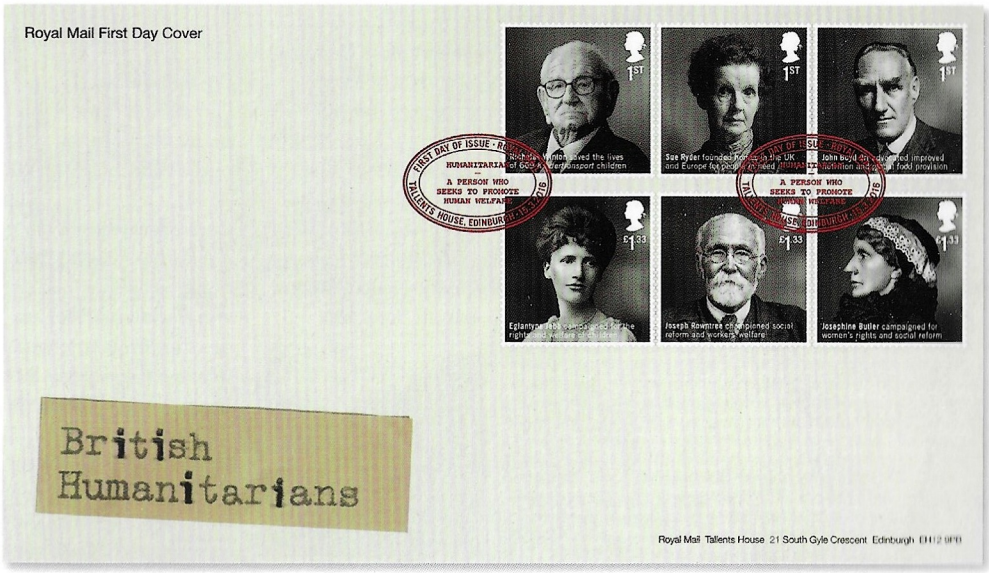
NICHOLAS WINTON (1909-2015) saved the lives of *Kindertransport* children on the eve of the Second World War. In late December 1938, Winton, a young stockbroker, received a call from a friend in Prague who was helping refugees fleeing the Czech Sudetenland after the Nazi invasion. Winton became involved in the aid operation, and conceived the idea of moving endangered children to the UK. He found foster parents, arranged transportation and lobbied governments. Some 669 children were saved from certain death. Winton was made an MBE for his charity work and knighted in 2003. First Class




FD1606-PL

SUE RYDER (1924-2000) Former nurse and special agent, Sue Ryder founded homes in the UK and Europe for people in need after witnessing deprivation in Britain as a girl and the devastation of a defeated Germany at the end of the Second World War as an adult. Though educated privately, Ryder would never forget the childhood visits she made to the slums of Leeds with her social worker mother. As an agent for the Special Operations Executive, she was posted to North Africa and Italy. Finally in the wreckage of Germany, Ryder

Royal Mail First Day Cover






began her odyssey as a social worker, campaigning on behalf of concentration camp survivors, the displaced, orphaned and the unjustly punished. In 1953 she established the Sue Ryder Foundation and more than 80 homes for those with physical or mental problems would be set up worldwide. First Class

JOHN BOYD ORR (1880–1971) This son of an Ayrshire quarry owner and his wife, both devout Christians, advocated improved nutrition and global food provision and made a significant contribution to food security. In 1945, as the first director-general of the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation, Sir John Boyd Orr – a physiological nutritionist – urged the creation of a new body which would fund worldwide development of agriculture and ensure food supplies to developing countries. In 1946, in an attempt to address the post-war food crisis, he set up an International Emergency Food Council. During the Cold War, Boyd Orr urged both sides to agree on the 'common cause' of providing 'sufficient food for all mankind'. First Class ▶

| British Humanitarians Stamps - Prices | |
|---|---|
| Stamps | £5.88 |
| Presentation Pack | £6.40 |
| First Day Cover | £7.54 |
| Stamp Souvenir | £7.54 |
| Stamp Cards (set of 6) | £2.70 |

| British Humanitarians Stamps – Specifications | |
|---|---|
| Date of issue | 15 March |
| Number of stamps | Six |
| Stamp design | Hat-trick Design |
| Stamp format | Square |
| Stamp size | 35mm x 35mm |
| Printer | International Security Printers |
| Print process | Lithography |
| Number per sheet | 30/60 |
| Perforations | 14.5 x14.5 |
| Phosphor | Bars as appropriate |
| Gum | PVA |

◂ EGLANTYNE JEBB(1876–1928) The fourth child of a socially committed Shropshire landowner, social worker Eglantyne Jebb was a tireless campaigner for children's welfare. In 1919 she launched the Save the Children Fund. Jebb would become its honorary secretary and vice-president of Save the Children's international arm. Save the Children later evolved into the world's largest independent organisation for children.

In the early 1920s Jebb drafted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which declared that 'we should claim certain rights for the children and labour for their universal recognition'. Adopted by the League of Nations, it was one of Save the Children's first breakthroughs in improving the lives of children across the globe. £1.33

JOSEPH ROWNTREE (1836–1925) Born into a prosperous Quaker family in York, businessman Joseph Rowntree championed social reform and workers' welfare. In 1869 he became a partner in his younger brother's confectionery company where he helped to transform the wellbeing of its employees with the introduction of welfare programmes, medical services, pension schemes and sickness benefits for the workforce.




FD1601-TH

In 1904 Rowntree used half of his wealth to set up three trusts: the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, to give support to social research, adult education and the Society of Friends; the Joseph Rowntree Social Service Trust Ltd, focusing on social and political activities; and the Joseph Rowntree Village Trust, to build affordable housing for the working classes. The work of these Trusts continues to this day. £1.33

JOSEPHINE BUTLER (1828–1906) campaigned for women's rights and social reform in Victorian Britain, where men legislated but voteless women were subjected to inequality. This was a country where, in the words of Butler – devout Christian feminist, activist and democrat – 'murderous cruelty' was being imposed on her sex. In 1852 she married George Butler, an Anglican clergyman and university teacher. They had three sons and a daughter Eva.

Devastated by the death of Eva in 1864, Butler flung herself into work, striving to improve life for the destitute women of Liverpool. She was also pivotal in the battle against the Contagious Diseases Acts. This legislation 'legalised' prostitution in some garrison towns but denied women their civil rights. Women labelled as prostitutes could be forcibly examined and faced imprisonment if they refused to submit to such treatment.




Butler's ardent campaigning led to the repeal of these Acts in 1886. She also battled for women's suffrage, education for women and against child prostitution. £1.33

**Also in the British Humanitarians issue** is a Presentation Pack laid out in an intriguing scrapbook-style design (see below) that echoes the scrapbook Nicholas Winton compiled during his pre-wartime humanitarian work. For any philatelists inspired to learn more about the British Humanitarians, the Presentation Pack is a fact-packed starting point for further reading.

'If something is not impossible, then there must be a way to do it'
Nicholas Winton

**Order for serviced First Day Covers** should reach Royal Mail by 15 March. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House (address on page 192), quoting the *Bulletin* media code 16CDM for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. The Stamp Souvenir cover, bearing the date of issue, is available for 90 days, until 14 June.

Alternative postmarks are shown on these pages and in the *Postmark Bulletin*, now free to download at www.royalmail.com/postmarkbulletin. They are designed in the style of a passport or identity card stamp, in reference to the documentation used by the children of the *Kindertransport* organised by Nicholas Winton. The Tallents House postmark also features a short definition of the word humanitarian. The pictorial alternative includes an inspirational quotation by Nicholas Winton (see above right), with the location WINTON, NORTHALLERTON ●

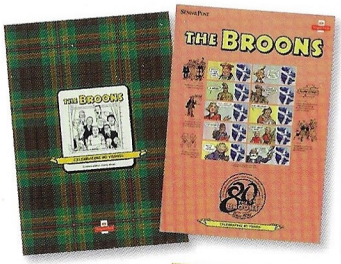


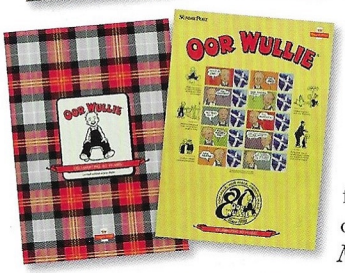
# **Hilarious heroes** Side-splitting Stamp Sheets out next month applaud the 80th anniversary of Scottish comic strips *The Broons* and *Oor Wullie*

CLASSIC SCOTTISH CARTOON strips *Oor Wullie* and *The Broons* celebrate 80 hilarious years in 2016 and Royal Mail is marking this mirthful milestone with two limited edition Stamp Sheets presented in specially designed folders dedicated to the world-famous funnies.

The Sheets, produced in collaboration with strip publishers DC Thomson & Co. Ltd, are released in a limited edition of 10,000 on 8 March. Each Sheet contains imagery of the characters set fittingly next to ten First Class Scottish Saltire stamps, as well as renowned sayings synonymous with the cartoons that first appeared in the *Sunday Post* newspaper on 8 March 1936. The official tartan of each is reproduced on the front of the folder while inside you can read the background story to the lovable comic series as well as view illustrations of extracts published over the past 80 years. The back of each folder contains the first strip printed in the *Sunday Post.*

Below: the Oor Wullie and The Broons Sheets are held in folders designed with specially commissioned tartans for the family branches




The Oor Wullie folder introduces the mischievous but lovable nine-year-old boy and his pals. The lad has a big heart, is full of tricks and is an inspirational leader of his gang, which consists of Fat Bob, Wee Eck and Soapy Soutar.

Wullie lives in the fictional town of Auchenshoogle and his adventures always start and end with him sitting on his upturned bucket. Wearing his famous black dungarees, Wullie wages war on boredom or embarks on get-rich quick schemes, sometimes with his occasional girlfriend Primrose Paterson, and often coming up against his old adversary PC Murdoch. The folder explains each of the colours that make up the Oor Wullie tartan, a woven sample of which is held for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland.

The Broons family, billed as the 'happy family that makes every family happy', lives at 10 Glebe Street in the fictional Scottish town of Auchentogle, and comprises the following members:

*Maw* The formidable mother of eight who has to run every aspect of the Broon household we well as keeping her husband Paw in check.




*Paw* He is working man who occasionally tries to keep enough of his wages back for a bit of 'baccy' (tobacco) and a bet on the horses.

*Granpaw* lives in a cottage near Glebe Street but when he is not with his family he can be found sitting on a park bench with his cronies or on his allotment.

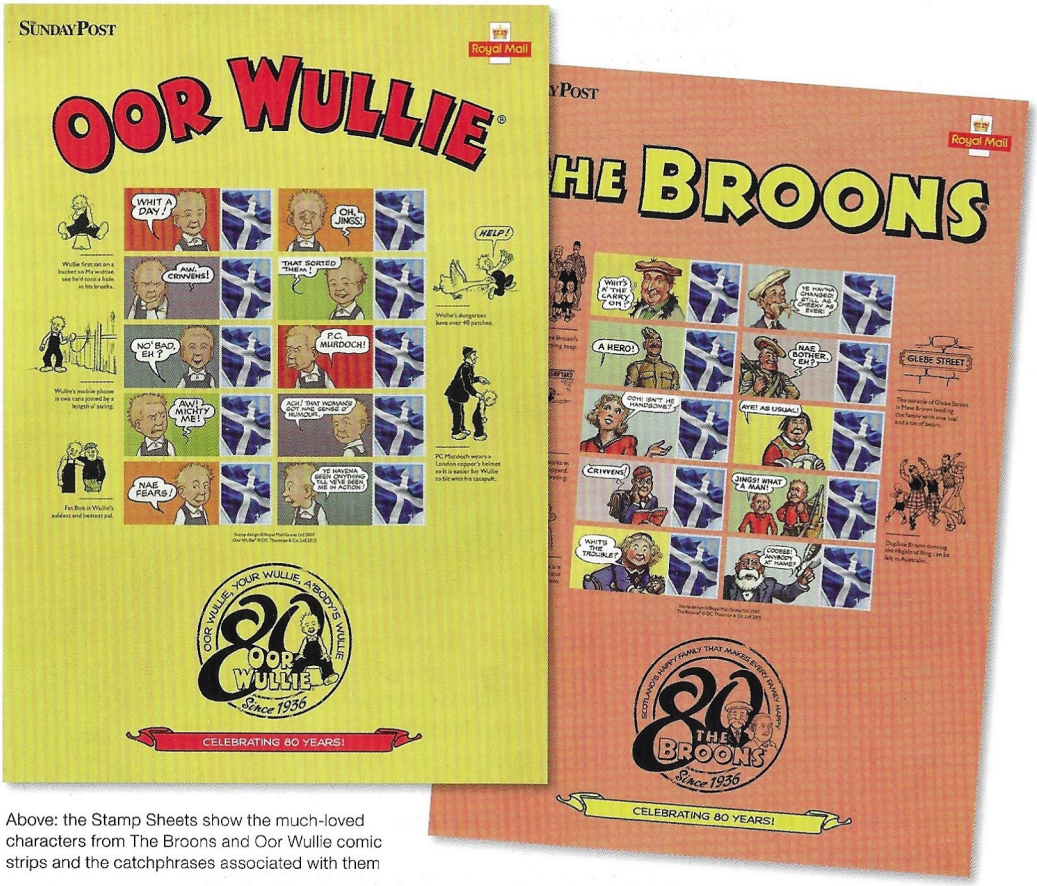



*Hen* The eldest son, a lanky lad who rarely gets the girl.

*Joe* The good-looking and sporty one who loves boxing.

*Horace* The brains of the family, a bookish and bespectacled teenage schoolboy forever trying to learn French or poetry.

*Daphne* She always play second fiddle to her beautiful




Above: the Stamp Sheets show the much-loved characters from The Broons and Oor Wullie comic strips and the catchphrases associated with them

sister Maggie on double dates, but every now and again strikes it lucky when the dates get mixed up and she gets Maggie's man.

*Maggie* The gorgeous, glamorous daughter with blonde hair and fashionable clothing.

*The Twins* The boys are usually referred to collectively, with the exception of Granpaw who calls them 'ae twin' and 'the ither twin'.

*The Bairn* The youngest at seven years of age, she is a smaller version of Maw, who points out the foolishness of the male Broons.

All the Broon family members are shown on the folder, which also includes reproductions of original illustrations from various years Order the Sheets from the Tallents House address on page 160 or visit www.royalmail.com/specialsheets, quoting the Bulletin code 16CDM ●

| Oor Wullie and The Broons Stamp Sheets | |
|---|---|
| Date of issue | 8 March, limited edition 10,000 |
| Number of stamps | Ten |
| Sheet design | Royal Mail and DC Thomson |
| Folder design | Zenith Print and Packaging |
| Union Flag Stamp design | Original by Dick Davies, reformatted by Roy Size |
| Stamp format | Portrait |
| Stamp size | 20mm x 24mm |
| Printer | International Security Printers |
| Print process | Lithography |
| Perforations | Die-cut simulated |
| Phosphor | As appropriate |
| Gum | Self-adhesive |
| Price | £14.99 each (£24.99 for both) |

Acknowledgements: © Royal Mail Group Ltd and DC Thomson & Co.Ltd.

STAMP ACTIVE




## SEE YOU AT STAMPEX

Persuade your parents to take you to Spring Stampex and they could win a great prize. Tell them that anyone visiting Stamp Active's Kids Corner stand with a youngster under 18 at this month's show is automatically entered into the Bring a Child to Stampex draw – and the first prize includes a Royal Mail Year Book, containing every Special Stamp of 2015.

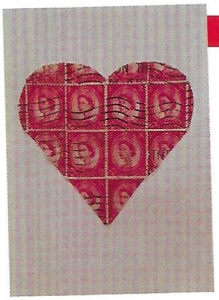
So what is in it for you? Well, there are loads of fun philatelic activities to enjoy at Kids Corner every day at Stampex, which runs from 17 to 20 February at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London. Entrance to the exhibition is free, there is a lot to see, and by joining in the Stamp Active crowd you can win points to bid for stamps in the children's auction on the last day of the show ●



## KING OF COLLECTORS

**Fab philatelist Tom Lawson starts another exciting year of discovering amazing new stamps – but this time he has a fancy title!**

**He was voted Stamp Active Young Collector of the Year 2015 during a special ceremony at Autumn Stampex. Tom, from Sittingbourne, Kent, was presented with the coveted Anne Dummer Trophy. He also received the gift of a Dinosaur Canvas Print and T-shirt from Royal Mail's Fraser Chisholm for his collecting efforts ●**



## WILDING AT HEART

You love stamps with a passion – so why not give a romantic philatelic gift to someone you love this Valentine's Day?

This gorgeous Wilding stamp heart card by London artist and *Bulletin* reader Suzanne Rae is for sale at www.etsy.com/shop/artstamped. But as a labour of love you could create an even more personal Valentine using spare stamps from your own collection.

Need help? Suzanne, who creates art from kiloware stamps on a variety of subjects from flags and maps to animals and the Statue of Liberty (see her gallery at www.artstamped.com), is happy to share her crafting tips with you on Twitter – @ArtStamped ●

## JOIN THE CLUB

**Kidstamps** is a postal stamp club run by Stamp Active. It is easy to join at www.stampactive.co.uk and you get free stamps and activities (only if you are aged between five and 19 – no oldies please!) There are over 2,000 members so far!

Fancy starting your own club? Stamp Active can help by giving you a starter pack bursting with philatelic goodies ●

## ZOO CLEVER

**Three talented artists have won prizes in a Royal Zoological Society of Scotland competition to create a picture around a wildlife stamp. The brief was to mount a stamp onto A4 paper then around it produce an illustration of the natural world inspired by the stamp.**







**The winners in the three competition categories are... Lower Primary: Kinnon MacDonald, Levenvale Primary (robin); Upper Primary: Christina Matheson, Sgoil nan Loch Primary (polar bear); Secondary: Meda Kondratcikoute, Peterhead Academy (bobcat) ●**

Stampex photography: Dane Garrod, Dan Froude

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



## UK diary dates

**12 February** The Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

**13 February** National Philatelic Society display: Overseas for a Halfpenny 1879-1949, by Peter Mellor. The Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE, 2.45pm (members' auction 12.45pm). Enquiries: Peter Mellor, 01582 762284, www.philately.org.uk/nps.

**17-20 February** Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1. Enquiries: 01342 830225, info@thepts.net.

**20 February** GB Philatelic Society meeting at Spring Stampex, 2.15pm. Display: Spoon Cancellations of GB & Ireland by Graham Booth.

**11-12 March** Southern England Stamp Show, Farnborough, Hampshire. See below for details.

**17 March** Royal Philatelic Society London display: Ireland by Des Quail, John Sussex and Peter Wood: RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 1pm. Non-members are welcome by prior arrangement – phone in advance on 020 7486 1044.

**18 March** Strand Stamp Fair: see 12 February for details.

**19 March** GB Philatelic Society meeting: Edward VII by David Milsted, 11am, Ireland-British Connection by John Sussex, 2.15pm, at Grosvenor Auctions, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LT. Enquiries: P Tanner, 01753 887755 ●

## See you at Stampex

Spring Stampex, at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London from 17 to 20 February, will include the National Competitions of all FIP classes as well as cinderellas and picture postcards. In addition there will be the Seven Nations Challenge – this is an invited competitive exhibition comprising, in different classes, four entries each from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, the UK and USA.

There will be around a hundred trade stands at Stampex, including Royal Mail with its usual sales stand and Post & Go area. New Special Stamps and Post & Go stamps will be issued during the exhibition (see page 176 and philatelic preview on pages 132 to 139 of January *Bulletin*). Spring Stampex is open Wednesday 11.30am to 7pm, Thursday and Friday 10am to 6pm, and Saturday 10am to 5pm. Admission is free. The Business Design Centre is a short walk from Angel underground station in Islington (Northern Line) and it is also served by bus routes 4, 19, 30, 38, 43, 56, 73, 153, 205, 214, 274, 341, 394 and 476. For more details about Stampex call 01342 830225 or email info@thepts.net ● ▶



**2016 exhibitions**



The Southern England Stamp Show, billed as the biggest and best two-day stamp show in southern England, will be held at the Farnborough Leisure Centre, Westmead, Farnborough, Hampshire on 11 and 12 March. It is open Friday 10am to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm. There is free admission, programme and raffle tickets, and extensive parking nearby.

The event, formerly the Salisbury Stamp Show, will include nearly 60 dealers covering most aspects of philately. See www.southernenglandstampshow.com.

The Scottish Philatelic Congress will be held at Dewars Centre, Perth on 15 and 16 April. It is organised by the Caledonian Philatelic Society, which is celebrating its 110th anniversary.

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the Belfry Hotel, Cambridge from 21 to 24 July.

Major international exhibitions will be taking place in 2016 in New York (28 May to 4 June) and Taipei, Taiwan (21 to 26 October) ●

**The Postal Museum (TPM)**




The Postal Museum (formerly BPMA), located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on the second Saturday of each month (10am to 5pm). A temporary exhibition, Unstitching the Uniform, is on show until 30 June. The long-running Post Office in the Community exhibition can be seen at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire (see the May 2012 *Bulletin*), and a temporary exhibition, Pop it in the Post: Your World at the End of the Street, is on show at Havering Museum, 19-21 High Street, Romford, Essex until 26 March. Some 25 online exhibitions can be seen on The Postal Museum website (www.postalheritage.org.uk), including Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

Tours of the The Postal Museum (TPM) Archive at Freeling House take place on 3 February, 6 April and 1 June, and there are tours of TPM Museum Store at Debden, Essex on 2 March, 6 April, 4 May and 1 and 6 June (see the August 2013 *Bulletin* for a feature on the Museum Store). A talk, Mail Obsession: A Journey Around Britain by Postcode, will be given by Mark Mason on 11 February. For details of all events see the TPM website, call TPM on 020 7239 2570, or email info@postalheritage.org.uk, for a copy of its What's On events guide or to book for tours or talks.

Joining the Friends of TPM is a practical way of helping the Museum. Membership benefits include the well-produced *Cross Post* magazine. Visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/friends or write to Friends of TPM, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL for more details ●

**Special Stamp-related events and exhibitions**

In January 2015 Royal Mail issued stamps marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. An exhibition entitled Alice In Wonderland is at the British Library in London until 17 April, includes Carroll's original manuscript with hand-drawn illustrations. Visit www.bl.uk/alice-in-wonderland for further information.

Stamps marking the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare

go on sale in April. A display, By Me William Shakespeare: A Life in Writing, at the Inigo Rooms, Somerset House (East Wing), London from 3 February until 29 May, will include documents relating to Shakespeare's life and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to see the playwright's will. Visit www.shakespeare400.org for details of anniversary exhibitions, performances, talks and more.

Royal Mail will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter in July. An exhibition called Romance & Realism can be seen at the Beatrix Potter Gallery, Hawkshead from 12 March until 30 October, open daily 11am to 4.30pm. It will include original watercolours by Potter. Another exhibition, at Wordsworth House in Cockermouth, opens the same day and runs until 30 June – daily, except Friday, 11am to 4pm. Details at www.lakesculture.co.uk.



1666 oil on cavas portrait of Samuel Pepys by John Hayls © National Portrait Gallery

Special stamps out on 2 September commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London, famously reported by Samuel Pepys in his diary. An exhibition, Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire, Revolution, is on at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, south-east London until 28 March (open daily 10am to 5pm, admission £12 adults, £10 concessions, £6 children). To book tickets call 020 8858 4422.

An exhibition, Fire! Fire!, opens at the Museum of London on 23 July and will run until April 2017. Visit www.museumoflondon.org for further information and to book tickets.

Mary Seacole featured on one of ten stamps issued in 2006 to mark the 150th anniversary of the National Portrait Gallery. Later this year, a 15-foot bronze statue of Seacole is to be placed on the south bank of the Thames, opposite the Houses of Parliament, the first public statue in London to honour a named black woman.







The Jamaican-born nurse treated the wounded during the Crimean War. The statue will stand near the Florence Nightingale Museum in the grounds of St Thomas' Hospital. Florence Nightingale was shown on the 9d stamp in the 1970 Anniversaries set ●

**Forthcoming auction**

Grosvenor will auction the Kiddle Brothers Collection – cinderella and revenue stamps amassed by Charles and Francis Kiddle – on 24 February. For details call 020 7379 8789, email info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk, or visit www.grosvenorauctions.com. An obituary of Francis Kiddle, a leading British collector who died last October, was published in last month's *Bulletin*. Francis was a past President of the Royal Philatelic Society London and was elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1995 ●

**Society news**

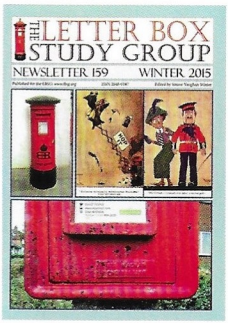
The November/December 2015 issue of the Great Britain Philatelic Society's *GB Journal* includes articles on various aspects of the stamps and postal history of the pre-Elizabethan era. The main article concerns Dubarry advertisements in stamp booklets containing Edward VIII and George VI stamps. Sent out with the *Journal* is the *GBPS Newsletter* which includes meeting reports, book reviews and an obituary of Leslie Wilkinson, a ▸




noted collector of George V stamps and a former President of the Society. Members of the GBPS, founded in 1955, presented a Jubilee Display to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 10 December. The displays were mostly of postal history material, ranging from pre-stamp items to mail carried by the short-lived TNT/whistle delivery service in London, Manchester and Liverpool which ceased in May 2015. For details of the GBPS visit www.gbps.org.uk or contact Peter Tanner – 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross SL9 7EN or phone 01753 887755.

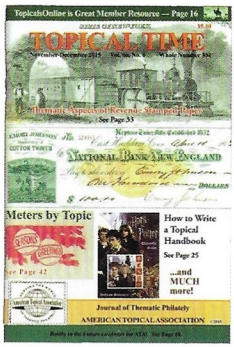



The Winter 2015 issue of *TPO*, the journal of the TPO & Seapost Society, includes features on New Street Station, Birmingham; Caledonian Railway Post Office; Missent Marks; 'Posted York Railway Exhibition' cachet; and Transatlantic Post Office, as well as articles on overseas TPO and Seapost services. The Society is proposing to take a table at the Southern England Stamp Fair at Farnborough on 11 and 12 March and at Worpex in Worcester on 14 May. A meeting will be held in London during the summer. For details see www.tpo-seapost.org.uk or contact the Secretary Tony Nicholson on 01278 662702. The Society has recently published *The Maritime Mail Cancellations of Great Britain*. Running to nearly 150 pages, the book is available from Mike Dovey, 118 Mill Lane, Dorridge, Solihull B93 8NZ (price £24.95 plus UK postage £2.80).




The Winter 2015 edition of the *Letter Box Study Group Newsletter* is packed full of interesting articles, notes and illustrations. There is a feature on the special stamp plaques affixed to mail boxes, Machan Engineering (until 2014 the main supplier of cast iron boxes to Royal Mail), the return of an Edward VIII box to Gibraltar, postboxes shown on postcards, and the targeting of post offices and boxes by the Suffragettes.

For details about the Letter Box Study Group visit ww.lbsg.org or contact Val Scott – 38 Leopold Avenue, Birmingham B20 1ES or email membership@lbsg.org.




The Summer 2015 issue of the *Newsletter of the British Royal Portraits Stamp Group* included reports on Penny Black anniversary stamps (showing Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II), stamps marking The Queen becoming the longest-reigning British monarch, and other monarchs who reigned for 50 years or more. Earlier monarchs also featured on some of the stamps issued in 2015 to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

To find out more about the Group, contact Allan Rendle on 020 8741 8857 or email allanrendle@gmail.com.

Features in the November-December 2015 issue of *Topical Time*, journal of the American Topical Association (ATA), include bears on postmarks, how to write a topical (thematic) handbook, revenue stamped paper and meter marks bearing Christmas greetings.

For ATA details see www.americantopicalassn.org or write to ATA Office, PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008, USA ●

## From the islands

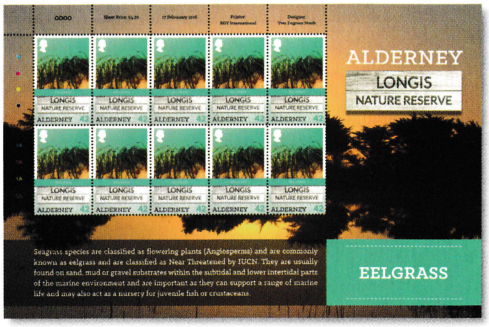
On 6 February Jersey Post issues a six-stamp set and souvenir sheetlet marking the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the RAF Search and Rescue (SAR) Force in 1941. The stamps highlight the different elements of the Force's service, as defined in its missions statement is: 'To generate and sustain a world-leading Search and Rescue capability, including Command Control and Coordination, helicopters and Mountain Rescue Service Force elements, to be a force for good and contribute to the Ministry of Defence's mission.'

Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, or visit www.jerseystamps.com.




Guernsey Post's next stamp issue, Longis Nature Reserve, is released on 17 February. The six pretty stamps are all of different values and each design is issued in a sheet of ten. They highlight important bird, plant, mammal and butterfly species nurtured in the 105-hectare Longis Nature Reserve, managed by the Alderney Wildlife Trust: the near-threatened Eelgrass (shown left); the vulnerable Glanville Fritillary butterfly; the rare Yarrow Broomrape plant; the Meadow Pipit – a bird found in Alderney uplands; the wild Sand Crocus – rare and vulnerable in the UK but relatively common in the Channel Islands; and the Greater White-toothed Shrew, found nowhere in the UK but well established in Alderney.

Enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS, or email philatelic@guernseypost.com.




The Isle of Man Post Office's recent issue of Innovation in Aerospace stamps showcases cutting-edge technology over 150 years – from the conquest of air in 1783 to current developments of the Trent engine and Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2015. The eight stamps are printed four-colour with two metallic inks.

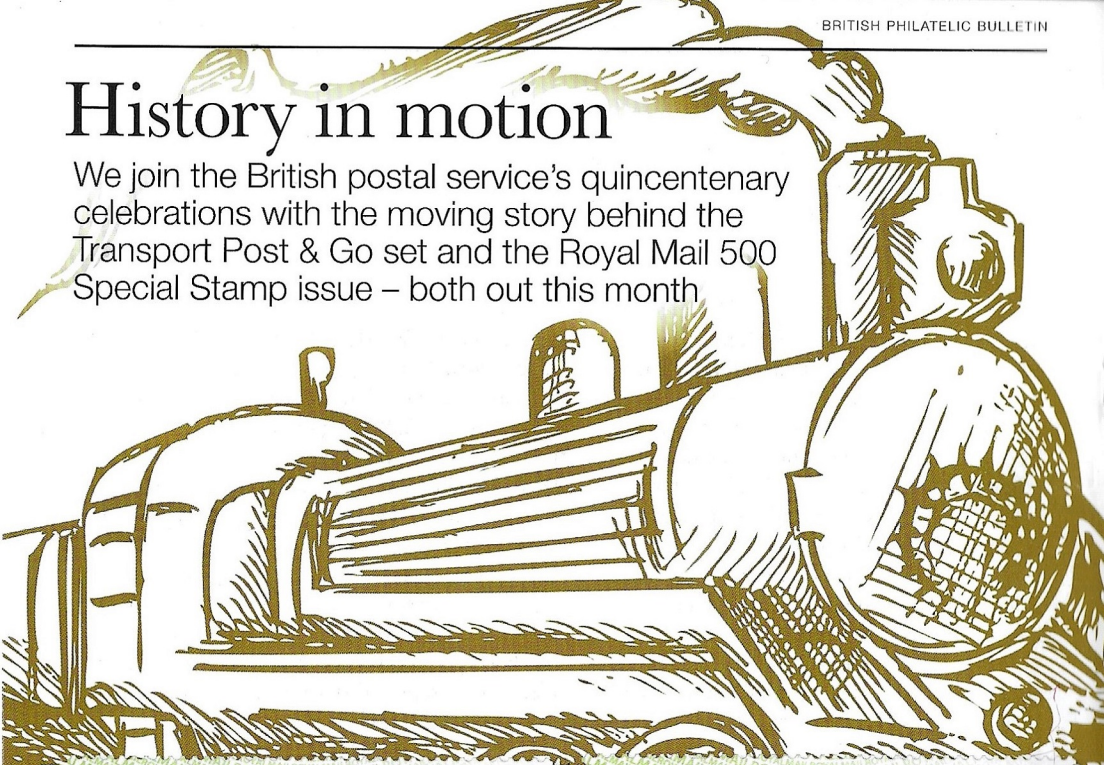
Before their issue date the stamps had already begun a unique journey in the International Space Station with British astronaut Major Tim Peake. On 12 January, the actual date of the 150th anniversary of the Aeronautical Society (RAes), Peake signed seven special first day covers and sent them all the way back from space to Earth in a supply rocket.

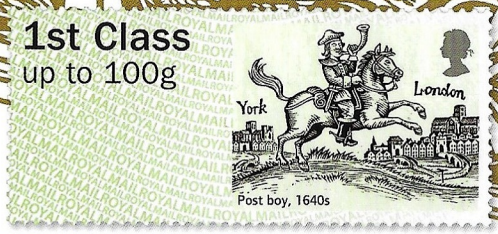
Enquiries: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, or visit www.iomstamps.com.



# History in motion

We join the British postal service's quincentenary celebrations with the moving story behind the Transport Post & Go set and the Royal Mail 500 Special Stamp issue – both out this month









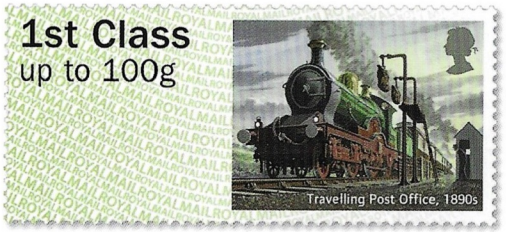
**Transport type** Post Boy 1640s
**Need to know** Post boys on horseback originally carried mail to and from The King and these were relayed from 'post' to 'post' – a post was a special stable for mail horses, and towns had to house three mounts in their post, ready to transport royal letters and packets at a moment's notice. The posts were around 20 miles apart.
**First-class fact** In the 17th century post boys who were deliberately late delivering the mail or took on a passenger faced a jail sentence of one month's hard labour ●

**Transport type** Mail Coach 1790s
**Need to know** The first mail coach run took place on 2 August 1784 between Bristol to London and cut the usual journey time by 36 to 13 hours. Coaches managed an average speed of around 8mph in summer and 5mph in winter. Horses were changed every ten to 15 miles.
**First-class fact** Mail coaches were targets for highwaymen but in 1816 an Exeter-London coach was attacked by a very unusual bandit on Salisbury Plain – a lioness escaping from a zoo. The passengers hid inside a local pub until the beast was recaptured, then continued their journey (they arrived only 45 minutes late) ●




**Transport type** Falmouth Packet Ship 1820s
Privately contracted packet ships operated from the Tudor area until 1823 when the Admiralty and the Post Office started sharing the operation. They carried mail 'packets' – hence the name – to British embassies and colonies. The ships ran from ports called packet stations, such as Falmouth, Dover and Harwich.

**First-class fact** In the early days of operations the ships were prone to attack by pirates so compensation was offered to sailors injured in a raid: £8 for a limb and £4 for an eye ●




**Transport type** Travelling Post Office 1890s
**Need to know** Travelling Post Offices (TPOs) where mail was sorted on special train carriages were launched on 20 January 1838 and greatly speeded up delivery times. By 1963 49 mail trains were operating, with dedicated complete TPO trains running between London and Aberdeen and Penzance.
**First-class fact** In the early days of the TPOs, post bags were collected and delivered at non-stopping stations with via a pole between platform and train. The method proved dangerous; at least one employee almost lost an eye. A new and much safer process replaced it, which used automatic trackside bag exchange equipment ●




**Transport type** Airmail 1930s
**Need to know** The postal service truly entered the modern age with the maiden flight of the world's first scheduled airmail service on 9 September 1911. Celebrating the coronation of King George V, the flight carried mail between Windsor and Hendon.
**First-class fact** Post by plane went from strength to strength in the 1930s, and on 2 April 1931 the first airmail flight from Britain to Australia took to the skies. To mark Britain's close ties with Australia, an airmail flight from Sydney to London on 2 June 1953 was made to celebrate The Queen's Coronation. On board was a commemorative mail bag displaying Elizabeth's crown and the message: 'Postmaster-General / Australia / Sydney London / Coronation Day Flight /June 2 1953 / Air Mail' ●




**Transport type** Royal Mail Minivan 1970s
**Need to know** The Morris Minivan was the small postal delivery vehicle of choice in the 1970s after the much-loved Morris Minor was phased out. Able to carry a quarter-ton load, the Minivan had a compact build ideal for narrow urban streets, but its low clearance made it a challenge to use in rural areas. Some models had a security bar on the back doors.
**First-class fact** Today Royal Mail's road fleet stands at around 49,000 vehicles and the Minivan is just one of many different types of mail vehicles deployed over the years – some of them rather unusual. They include an 1882 Pentacycle mail bike – a kind of Penny Farthing with one large wheel and four support wheels, a traction engine in 1904, electric tricycles, and quad bikes for the tough terrain of the Scottish Isles ●







Above: the Royal Mail 500 Presentation Pack includes an illustrated century-by-century history of the postal service. In the background of the Mail Coach £1.52 stamp is a letter written by John Palmer in 1782, discussing the introduction of mail coaches in Portsmouth.
Right: the home page of the new Royal Mail 500 website

# Milestones in postal history

## This month's special issue is momentous

The Royal Mail 500 Special Stamps arrive in style on 17 February. They celebrate 500 years of the UK postal service and their issue follows an enthusiastic introductory fanfare in our national as well as philatelic press.

To commemorate this important moment in our shared social history, Royal Mail has worked in partnership with the British Postal Museum and Archive to create an online gallery telling the story of five centuries of the postal service. There is wealth of history to explore, including the stories behind the new stamps, at 500years.royalmailgroup.com.

Moya Greene, Royal Mail's CEO, said: 'Royal Mail has been responsible for a number of world firsts – the Penny Black stamp and the first ever airmail flight to name just two. It has also changed almost beyond recognition, from a small group of English King's Messengers to a national network connecting consumers, companies and communities across the UK today.

'Against this backdrop of continued change, Royal Mail's people have been a constant presence. They are the heart of this company. I hope that, through them, we will continue to deliver the universal service and play an instrumental role in people's lives for many years to come.' ●



# The real Steel



## Plans for a new national postal museum are finally becoming a reality. Andrew Neish brings you the latest in an interview with its Director Adrian Steel

The BPMA is dead. Long live The Postal Museum. Yes, the British Postal Museum & Archive has shed its skin and has a gleaming new moniker, logo and look from 1 February. The official name change signposts the fact that finally The Postal Museum will soon(ish) be a reality after an epic £25 million fundraising drive.

It was not ever thus. Spiralling inflation of building costs put back the opening from this year to next. And added a whopping ten per cent to the total bill for the new museum and the Mail Rail ride. Senior BPMA executives began hunting for an extra £2.5 million. Even BPMA Director Adrian Steel (above) had the minor heebie jeebies.

'There are obviously moments when you wonder whether you'll be able to deliver it all,' he admits. 'When you are hit by things like construction inflation costs, in the last year, the awful chasm you are looking into is that you might not be able to do it. That's definitely a pretty bad moment.'

But Steel showed his, ahem, mettle. A flurry of negotiations secured extra funds from Royal Mail and the Post Office, and a top-up to the grant already awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Now the Postal Museum project is within an ace of full funding for the project and is still raising money: Director Steel understandably believes in added security.




Above: the new Postal Museum logo following the BPMA rebranding that went live on 1 February. The BPMA's Post & Go overprint will also change to reflect the new name

### 21st century attractions

Now you can expect some real philatelic gems when The Postal Museum opens its doors next April at Phoenix Place in central London, close to the (former) BPMA's Freeling House HQ on the Camden-Islington borders. Building work was set to begin last month and the finishing touches are being put on the Mail Rail ride's design. This is a public museum billed to attract almost 200,000 visitors in its first year so clearly its offer must be broad. A stamp museum it will not be. But collectors are promised rarity and beauty on the philatelic front as they move through the Museum's five interconnected interactive exhibition spaces and 500 years of postal history. Exhibits include Penny Blacks, a Penny Red, the proposed Edward VIII coronation issue, Dockwra Penny Post letter, David Gentleman material, and a very special Machin display. And you can even design your own stamp!

The philatelic research facilities will be vastly improved, too. They will also be open every Saturday as opposed to their present weekend hours of one Saturday a month. The archives will be closer to the Search Room so you get your material a lot more quickly. The Museum's exclusive collection of Penny Blacks is the celebrity exhibit. As Adrian Steel says: 'The Museum is bright, it's exciting, there are certainly parts of it where it's like seeing the ▶

Photograph: Conor Masterson

Crown Jewels. When you go to the only place in the world where you can see sheet upon sheet of Penny Blacks, you know you're seeing something special.'

Rather than appearing separately and out of context, stamps are given due prominence throughout the Museum as they help tell the story of our mail service. This narrative unfolds through the five exhibition spaces which focus on the following topics:

### The 'Royal' Mail

The star here is a 200-year-old sparkling red mail coach in the space that maps the postal service's first days. Early pre-Penny Black mail is on display, as well as a dramatic, interactive special focus on the famous attack against a mail coach by an escaped zoo lion in Wiltshire in 1816 (see page 176). The battle to defend the mail coaches and packet ships against highwaymen and pirates is also related in colourful detail, with a coach guard's blunderbuss and a Nock flintlock pistol used on packet ships being exhibited.

### Mail for Everyone

In this zone following the growth of the Post Office in the 19th century, the Penny Black sheet display takes centre stage. The Museum will show one of its eight sheets at a time to prevent light damage. (Each sheet can only appear for three months before it needs to be 'rested'.) Anthony Trollope material is featured here, including a 1852 Channel Islands pillar box, the first one he introduced. (Also showing in the Museum is a rare Edward VIII box, one of 160 made with his cypher before the abdication of 1938.)

### The Post Office in Conflict

Courage amid calamity is a powerful theme in this zone. Of major interest is the Victoria Cross won in 1917 by Sergeant Alfred Knight, the only soldier in the Post Office Rifles to do so. You will also learn about the Post Office's Salvage Squad, whose members braved the Blitz to save mail from bombed

**The Postal Museum in numbers...**

**25 million** The cost of The Postal Museum and Mail Rail experience ride in pounds.

**186,000** The number of visitors expected during the first year.

**10,000** The number of school children predicted to use the Museum's educational facilities in the first year. (A 'Jolly Postman' learning trail will run in the Museum exhibition spaces.)

**32** The maximum number of passengers on each Mail Rail train.

**15** Mail Rail rides last an average of 15 minutes (at an average 5km/h).

**4** The shelving in the Museum's new archive facility stretches for four fascinating kilometres.

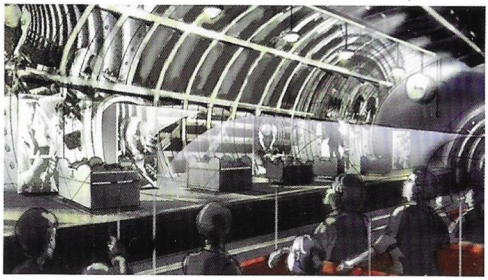
**1** The Mail Rail circuit is approximately one kilometre long.

The Postal Museum/Feilden Clegg Bradley




post offices and pillar boxes. Much of this story is based on scrapbooks kept by squad veteran Frederick Gurr. On show will be postage stamps carbonised in an air raid and rescued from Post Office safes at Moorgate.





Above: how the exterior of The Postal Museum, its courtyard and the Mail Rail ride might look

## Designs on Delivery

Machin fans will be in heaven when they reach this zone. The story of Arnold Machin and the development of his eponymous stamp is revealed in glorious colour. Exhibits include the 1963 'Dressed Head' plaster cast (which provided the iconic portrait of Queen Elizabeth II for use on British stamps from 1967 to date), 1966 'Diadem Head' plaster cast and diadem essays, and 1968 Machin £1 intaglio master die, Bradbury Wilkinson printing plate, transfer roller and high-value stamp sheet.

And you can emulate the great man with a special machine, likely located here, on which you can design your own iconic stamp. The details are still being worked on, but it is possible you will be able to take a photo of yourself with the device to use on your design. Various frame styles and options to 'age' the stamp are also being considered. Featuring too is the story of the Special Stamp Programme, the work of influential Post Office public relations guru Stephen Tallents, and iconic posters that promoted the postal service. The GPO Film Unit is also remembered here, with classic films showing to visitors.

## Communication and Change

This exhibition space takes a trip back in time to a gentler area when the Post Bus service delivered mail but also took passengers in rural and remote areas. The story is told via a glorious red and yellow Dodge Highline Post Bus that operated in the 1970s. You will hear the recorded memories of those who used, and worked on, the Post Bus service. It promises to be an intriguing slice of social history ●

# Letters I haven't read

## A box of letters discovered in an attic inspired this intriguing artwork by Emma Rawson

WHAT IF YOU CAME ACROSS a hidden bundle of intimate letters written by your father to your mother in the first flush of love and during the early, exciting days of marriage? Surely you would be tempted to read them. To peel open the envelopes that contain whispers of passion. And discover the devotion that flourished between them before you were even born. Not artist Emma Rawson. When she stumbled across the letters in her parent's attic, her first reaction was to freeze them forever in shrouds of glass. Without reading so much as a single line.

'I found a box of correspondence in the attic of my parents' house,' Emma explains. 'I think they are the love letters of my father, sent to my mother when they were courting and newlywed.

'He was a North Sea trawler man and she was a potter. There are telegrams and some letters from Norway and Iceland. I only think that they are love letters because I have not read them yet.'

Not read them? It is indeed a tantalising dilemma. Do you preserve your memory of your parents after they have gone and not read? Or read, and risk discovering something that changes everything?

'In a way not to read them is more powerful, because there is always this realisation that once read they cannot be unread,' says Emma, a graduate of Central St Martins UAL (University of Art, London), who works in printed and cast glass from her studio in Sussex.

'The envelope hides an interior the way a text message can't. I wanted to transfer the envelopes to glass to suggest this unseen content – the words are literally 'not there' in these transparent objects.'

Emma printed images of the letters onto pre-cut float glass with ceramic enamels using silk screens. Next she fired the enamel into its surface and bent the glass in moulds in a kiln at a temperature of 780°C. The image then becomes permanent. The result is a touching pile of envelopes, a piece Emma calls Letters I Haven't Read Yet.

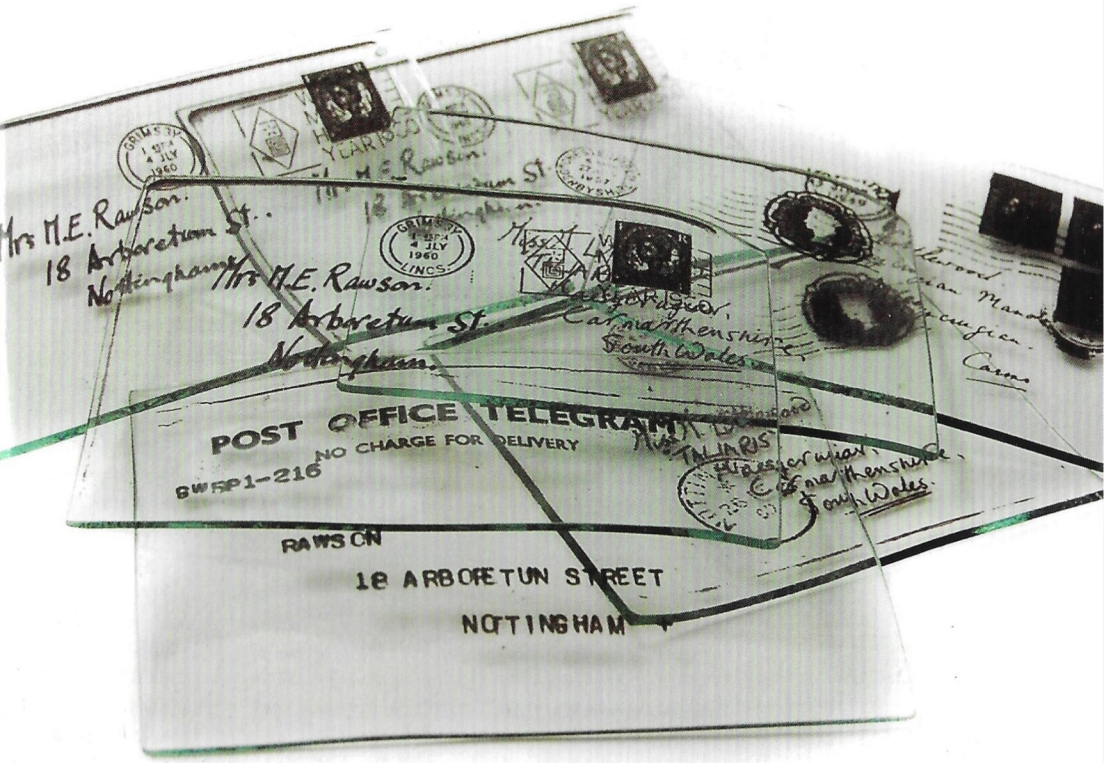


Below: Stella and Trevor Rawson, whose love letters remain a private affair, preserved by their daughter in her artwork, intransient yet unread

For Emma, part of the work is the dilemma of whether to read the letters or not; in the glass version they remain permanently unread.

'Glass is an incredible material,' says Emma. 'It's full of contradictions. Fragile and strong, it looks soft but is hard, and it can be transparent or opaque or

Images © Emma Rawson




everything in between. Glass has an exterior and an interior. You can't form it with your hands like clay but you can cut and construct.'

Glass is the material relevant for the core ideas in her work. How physical objects can come to carry memories of people, which in time can change and fade, occupies Emma in the creation of her hand-crafted artwork. For her, glass is the material that suggests the fragmentary nature of memory: 'I could arrange the real letters, or maybe use plastic, but glass has both permanence and fragility. The challenge of glass as a material to work and shape is crucial, the process and the material are equal.'

The work also made Emma reflect on the value of the letter. 'Today emails and texts are much more difficult to preserve. What will be found in the future, a batch of emails? It seems that the power of a letter is increased now by the effort to hand-write it, get the stamps, and go to the letterbox.'

Like the effort her father made to perhaps declare his love, via letter, for his girlfriend then wife, even though he was hundreds of miles away in foreign lands or battling the storm-boiled seas of the north. And, of course, the dilemma of reading or not, of knowing or not knowing, remains for Emma. She still has the original letters. Will their contents, windows into her parents' love, ever be read again? *Emma occasionally writes about her work at emmarawsonglass@wordpress.com* ●

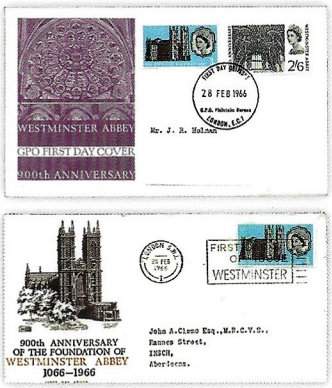
# *This month* in history

## Half a century after they rolled off the presses, John Holman examines the many layers of interest in these stamps celebrating the history of Westminster Abbey

ON 28 FEBRUARY 1966 the Post Office issued two stamps to commemorate the 900th anniversary of Westminster Abbey, more accurately the Collegiate Church of St Peter Westminster. The stamps were of contrasting designs using two distinct methods of printing. The 3d stamp, designed by Sheila Robinson, features an exterior view of the Abbey with its famous towers. The 2s 6d stamp – designed and engraved by stamp printers Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co – depicts the exquisite fan vaulting of the Henry VII Chapel. At Bradbury Wilkinson, The Queen's head was engraved by Nigel Alan Dow and the rest of the design by Frederick Warner (I am obliged to Glenn Morgan for this information).

Both stamps carry the Wilding portrait of The Queen at right, contained within an ornate scrolled frame on the 3d and against a white background on the 2s 6d. On the latter the portrait includes The Queen's neck and shoulders, whereas the image is cropped closer on the 3d. This was the final set of commemorative stamps bearing the Wilding portrait before the silhouette head was introduced in May 1966.

Both stamps were captioned '900TH ANNIVERSARY WESTMINSTER ABBEY' and bear designer/printer imprints. The different design styles and printing methods of the two stamps, reminiscent of the Shakespeare set of 1964, was disliked by some. In his book *Royal Mail Stamps* (1980, Phaidon Press Ltd) Stuart Rose commented: 'Such a pity, for they are both very good stamps individually, but cannot possibly make a good pair.'




Above: GPO first day cover with Bureau postmark and cover with Westminster First Day slogan

The 3d was the first stamp designed by Sheila Robinson (born 1925) who also designed the 1s and 1s 6d stamps in the 1970 Rural Architecture issue. Bradbury Wilkinson are noted as printers of George V Seahorses in 1918, Postal Union Congress £1 (1929), Castle high values (1963), Machin high values of 1969 and 1970, Shakespeare Festival 2s 6d of 1964, and Parliamentary Conference stamps of 1973.

Some 21 unadopted designs for this issue were shown in the *Bulletin* of June 1966. They included some rather spectacular imagery. One of the designs by Bradbury Wilkinson featured the Annigoni portrait of The Queen, another showed her full-length standing in the Abbey (somewhat similar to the recent £3 stamp from Jersey).

The Westminster Abbey 3d was photogravure printed by Harrisons in sheets of 120, in three colours and using one set of cylinders – 2A (New Blue) 1B (Black) 1C (Red-brown). The stamp was issued in both plain and overprinted with one 8mm-wide phosphor band in the centre of the stamp. Sheets were discovered with two phosphor bands in the first vertical column only, the additional line to the left of the normal central band. The two-band variety is priced at £10 in the *Stoneham Catalogue*, which also lists the 3d with a 1mm leftward shift of the red-brown colour at £20. The *Woodstock Catalogue*

Stamp designs © Royal Mail Group Ltd




Above: two different methods of printing were used for the two contrasting stamp designs in the 1966 issue marking the 900th anniversary of Westminster Abbey

recorded that a sheet was found with the bottom two rows doubly perforated. Two constant varieties – a diadem flaw and retouch on The Queen's cheek – are listed in the Stanley Gibbons *GB Specialised Catalogue.*

The 2s 6d stamp was printed in black in a plain (non-phosphor) version only, in sheets of 40 bearing plate numbers 1 and 1A. The *Woodstock Catalogue* noted that plate 1A was the scarcer owing to a wastage of 1A sheets during a lengthy printing glitch. It is said that the Post Office salvaged the upper half of some of the spoiled sheets to achieve adequate supplies of the stamp. No significant varieties are recorded. Both stamps exist imperforate as imprimaturs from National Postal Museum sales in the 1980s.

The Post Office produced an attractive first day cover, designed by Bradbury Wilkinson. Covers serviced by the Philatelic Bureau received the Bureau's 'First Day of Issue' postmark. Local First Day postmarks were provided at some 73 offices; covers are mainly sought with the London SW designation, the Abbey being located in the SW1 postal district. No special handstamps were used. A Westminster Abbey 900th Anniversary slogan postmark was used at the South Kensington SW7 office from 1 December 1965 until 30 November 1966 and is prized on FDCs. Also worth looking out for is the 'FIRST DAY/OF ISSUE/ WESTMINSTER' slogan, first used for the Churchill stamps in July 1965, mostly found on 'medical mailing' covers addressed to doctors. Covers are also collectable with the standard wavy line machine cancellation of London SW1.

The presentation pack cost 3s 9d, or 3s 3d each for orders of 100 or more. A special feature on Westminster Abbey, together with details of the stamps, was published in the *Bulletin* in February 1966. The stamps were on sale at the post office at Stampex in March 1966. Supplies of the 2s 6d stamp became exhausted in April, but the 3d remained on sale from the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh and the Philatelic Counter at London's Chief Post Office until 31 August 1966. The *GB Specialised Catalogue* notes that it was, in error, put back on sale again in Edinburgh and London for an unspecified short time – as was the Robert Burns issue withdrawn on 29 July 1966. The 3d stamp was sold at the temporary office at the GB Philatelic Society exhibition at London's Guildhall in July. Sales of the 3d stamp totalled 48.7 million plain and 5.2 million phosphor. Some 2.8 million 2s 6d stamps were sold, and 24,272 presentation packs.

A souvenir sheet depicting the 2s 6d Westminster Abbey stamp printed on gold-surfaced paper by typography was sold for 80p at the Showpex exhibition at the Café Royal, London in September 1973 •

# M is for... Mulready stationery

## Colin Baker charts the brief life of William Mulready's illustrated envelopes, commissioned to grace the first ever prepaid stationery of 1840

ONE OF THE INNOVATIONS that came with the postal reforms of 1840 was the introduction of prepaid envelopes and letter sheets; the 1d values were printed in black and the 2d values in blue. These could be used for letters sent anywhere in the UK, weighing up to half an ounce and one ounce respectively.

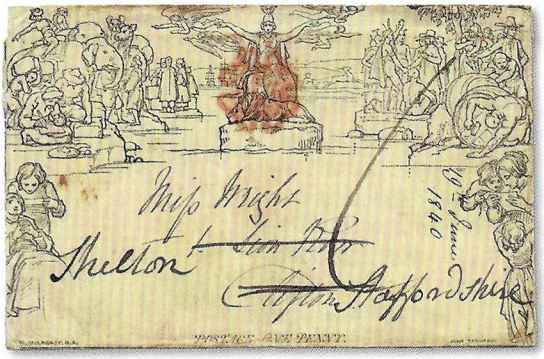



Fig 1

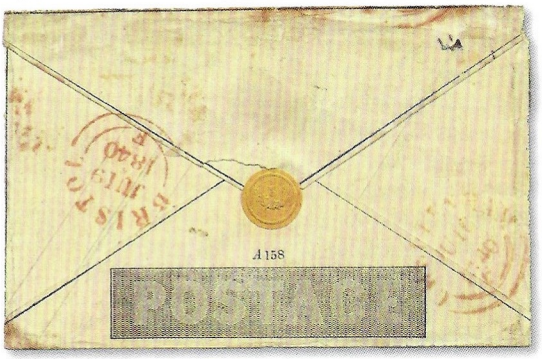



Fig 2

Neither the envelopes nor the letter sheets were gummed (it would be another five to ten years before that was possible) and they had to be folded by hand and sealed with a blob of wax or fastened with a wafer seal – a small piece of paper carrying a design or message that was stuck over the point of the flap to hold it in place. They were launched on the same day the new 1d and 2d adhesive stamps – the famous Penny Black and Twopenny Blue – came into use.

It was assumed that the convenience of prepaid stationery would make it an instantly popular choice. So, while the printed envelopes and letter sheets were stocked in large numbers at every post office, the adhesive stamps were harder to find – on the issue date of 6 May 1840, there were only limited supplies of the Penny Black and none at all of the Twopenny Blue.

The stationery was illustrated by William Mulready, a talented artist and member of the Royal Academy, influenced by Rowland Hill and Henry Cole (the two men in charge of introducing the postal reforms). 'The Literary World' journal of March 1840 enthused in anticipation: 'The idea, of calling in the powers of art as auxiliary to the philanthropic agency of the Penny Post, is a happy one'.

The public disagreed – with vigour. The common consensus deemed the prepaid stationery far too ornate. Mulready's illustrations were lampooned by other artists and ridiculed in letters to newspapers. Prepaid envelopes and letter sheets were shunned from the start in favour of the Penny Black, most people



Fig 3




Fig 4

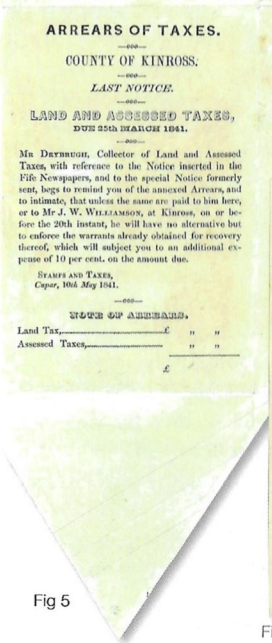



Fig 5




Fig 6

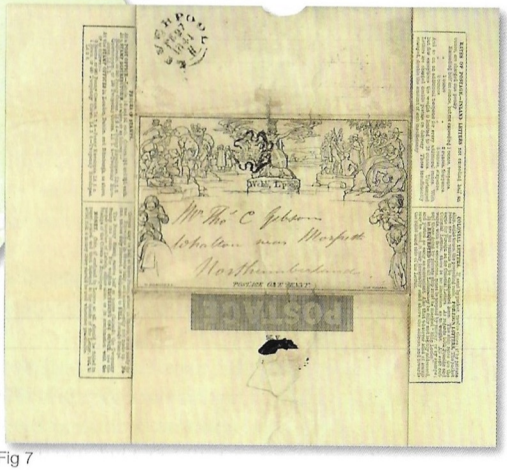


Fig 7

Fig 1 A 1d envelope used on 18 June 1840 and then redirected to Staffordshire. The curved stroke shows a further 1d has been paid for the redirection. On the reverse, in Fig 2, is a small wafer seal which reads 'Dinna Forget' – the writer wanted a reply

Fig 3 A caricature envelope by Southgate, showing how ladies of all classes can receive letters now that postage is only 1d.

Fig 4 The late use of a 2d envelope in 1844.

Fig 5 An opened out 1d envelope for use by the County of Kinross to collect unpaid taxes.

Fig 6 A 1d letter sheet used 27th February 1841, unusually overprinted on the front with the sender's name 'Webb L'pool'.

Fig 7 The same letter sheet opened out, showing information tablets on each side and the engraved 'postage' motif, an anti-forgery device.

preferring to use plain paper and adding one of the new stamps. Within a few weeks of Mulready stationery being put on sale, Rowland Hill acknowledged that a new design would have to be chosen for the prepaid envelopes.

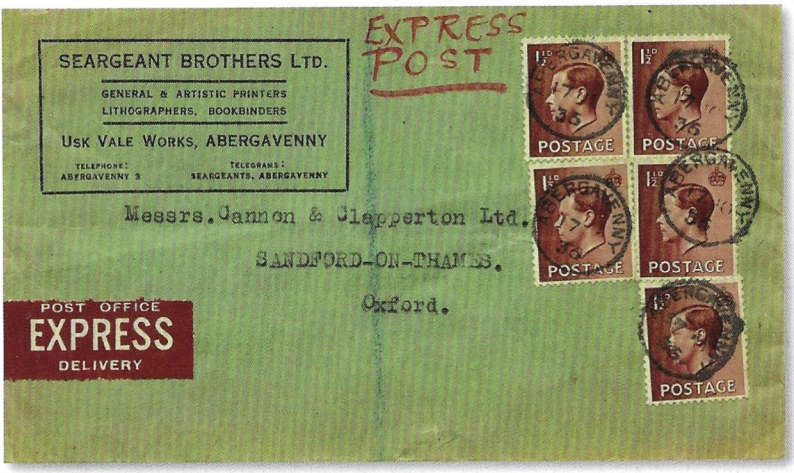
And that is a story for another letter of the alphabet ●

*Next in Baker's A to Z of Postal Stationery: N for Newspaper Wrappers. The Postal Stationery Society welcomes enquiries by email at pss.secretary@gmail.com*

# **Marks of an urgent letter** Inspired by a busy 1936 cover, collector Dane Garrod explores the use of Express Post facilities

TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF CORRESPONDENCE needing additional security or speed of delivery, Royal Mail and its predecessor the General Post Office have devised and developed special postal facilities for over a century.

Today's well-established Express Post service, which guarantees next-day delivery and signed-for letters, packets or parcels, has its roots in the 19th century. Back in March 1891 the first special postage service was put in place in response to a growing number of private messenger companies that were making inroads into the Post Office monopoly. It began as a London-only service and by August 1891 it had been extended to provincial offices.




Above: there is ample information on this cover to give a clear idea of its journey from Abergavenny in 1936

The fee for registered letters was two pence (2d) plus postage for delivery within one mile or part mile, and three pence (3d) for every succeeding mile or part thereof. By the time the cover shown here was posted in 1936, the 2d tariff had risen to an additional 6d beyond the normal postage rate.

Like most of the franked covers that have survived from the 1930s, this one shows a franking for postage to the office of delivery, then for express delivery by messenger within one mile. Hence, the five King Edward VIII penny-ha'penny (1½d) stamps cover the sixpence fee and the penny-ha'penny postage rate.

The sender, at Seargeant Brothers Ltd in Abergavenny, wrote the manuscript words 'EXPRESS POST' in red, and the receiving post office added a maroon label, together with the blue vertical line indicating that the express service was required from the receiving post office – in this case Sandford-on-Thames, about three and a half miles south of Oxford city centre.

When this envelope arrived in Sandford-on-Thames, a messenger is likely to have leapt on his bicycle and cycled with it to Clapperton's paper mill, which was situated nearby on the River Thames. Although the enclosed letter is lost, we might assume that the printers in south-east Wales had an urgent order for delivery of paper •

*Please email your questions or comments to info@CoverDetective.london*

# Correspondence

## Postcard planet

**Running parallel with my hobby of collecting stamps is my interest in collecting the relevant set of PHQ cards, and like many other collectors over the years I have accumulated a large spares/swaps box.**

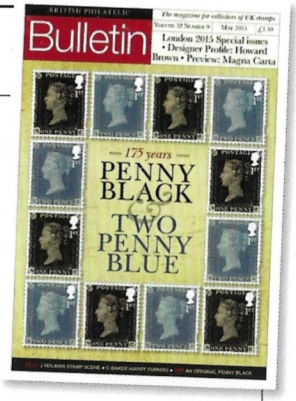
**I have been using these to send to other like-minded people through the pastime of 'postcrossing'; this is where people exchange postcards with each other at random around the world. Although you do receive cards, with stamps, from across the globe I cannot recommend it as a source of stamps to build a collection on. But what I have found most amazing is the interest in the cards (and stamps) that were issued 25 to 35 years ago, with 46 cards out of the 60 cards I have sent being selected as favourites by the people they were sent to or by browsers. The Bees issue is also a big favourite.**

***Steve Wedgbury, by email***

*Bulletin* readers might enjoy finding out more about the postcrossing project (see www.postcrossing.com). It has around 600,000 members in 213 different countries and, apart from the cards and stamps you send, it is free to register and take part – a lot of stamp fun ●




**VOTING TIME** The closing date for the Favourite Stamp Poll 2015 is extended to 29 February, following a delay in the distribution of the January edition of the *Bulletin* which contained the voting forms. We value your opinions so please vote – and you could win the 2015 Royal Mail Year Book!




## Tuppenceworth

I am an editor of *Britannia News*, the quarterly of the Dutch Association of Collectors of British Stamps. Obviously we are paying quite some attention to the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black and the Penny Red.

Interestingly, when I studied the cover of the May 2015 issue of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, with its beautiful display of the One Penny Black and Two Pence Blue first-class facsimiles, I was struck by the fact that it says 'Two Penny Blue' rather than 'Two Pence Blue' (or 'Twopence Blue'). In our magazine, we want to use the English language as properly as is possible. Therefore I would very much appreciate knowing whether both 'Two Penny Blue' and 'Two Pence Blue' can be used more or less interchangeably in this context.

***Dik Bakker, Netherlands***

Twopenny, Two Penny, Twopence and Two Pence Blue are all acceptable, being used variously by Royal Mail, The Postal Museum, Stanley Gibbons and other authorities. And British people who grew up with pennies before the decimalisation of UK currency often say 'tuppenny blue'!

The wording 'Two Penny' was chosen for our May cover because it suited the design ●




## Keep the letters coming...

**The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive a 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red Stamp Book as a token of our thanks. Send your letters to: The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12**

# Get puzzling for your chance to win the latest PSB and a *Bulletin* box file...




**NAME THAT STAMP** Can you identify the name and year of issue of the stamps beneath the magnifiers?




**How to enter** Send your answers and contact detail to 'Feb Name That Stamp/Xword', Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

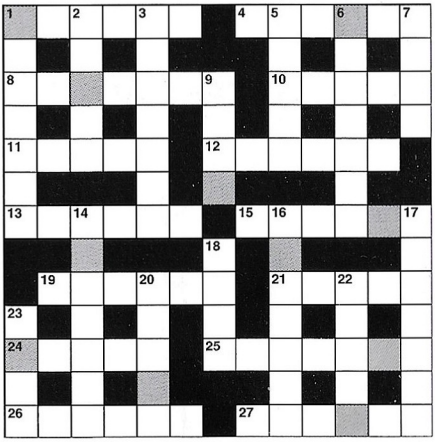
**Closing date** 17 March 2016.

**Prizes** The senders of the first correct entries drawn for each puzzle after the closing date win a Bulletin box file and the RM500 Prestige Stamp Book. Ten runners-up receive the RM500 PSB ●

**November 2015 solutions and winners** *Robins Name That Stamp solution* 2001, 2014, 1995. *First prizewinner* PH Wood, Southampton. *Crossword solution* Lest We Forget. *First prizewinner* J Mackin, Co Tyrone. *Answers-Across* 1 Sister. 4 Sinbad . 8 Later on. 10 Oriel. 11 Nepal. 12 Lesion. 13 Enough. 15 Clutch 19 Weasel. 21 Arson. 24 Rhino. 25 Avenges. 26 Styled. 27 Astray. *Down*: 1 Silence. 2 Sit up. 3 Earplug. 5 Irons. 6 Bail out .7 Dale. 9 Null. 14 Obesity. 16 Leader. 17 Honesty. 18 Flea. 20 Slope. 22 Sugar. 23 Iris.

**Prize draw rules and regulations** 1 Promotions are open to all readers, 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. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD** Do the puzzle, then rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a philatelic term – missing roulettes?



**ACROSS**

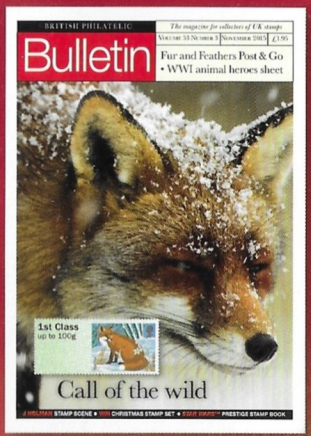
**1** Bandit ban (6)
**4** Went round in circles when journalist passed away (6)
**8** Dad and I entering park abroad for a red pepper (7)
**10** Group of notes in church, ordinarily (5)
**11** The eruption holds back liquidised product (5)
**12** Female warrior, the South American flower (6)
**13** Ammunition needed for tours of inspection (6)
**15** Concurred it's a selfish trait (6)
**19** Cuts back on firm plaster (6)
**21** Cotton thread left by little piece of land (5)
**24** In favour of church having power (5)
**25** Composer covers very English port (2,5)
**26** Make holes in puzzle (6)
**27** Loves so dear should be developed (6)

**DOWN**

**1** Working daily? In theory (2,5)
**2** Caught a piranha devouring animal (5)
**3** Article denies tampering with liquorice flavour (7)
**5** Had a chat inside Russian dwelling (5)
**6** Crude stuff written in biro? No really! (4,3)
**7** Two parties – one extinct (4)
**9** A barrier for the man (4)
**14** Unopened spread, it's said (7)
**16** Festival held for Arthur's knight (7)
**17** Slimmers desire nuts, accepting tea, we hear (7)
**18** South of Indian province, left destination (4)
**20** Large number with angling equipment and lobster pot (5)
**22** Cut off south for all time (5)
**23** A flying service rising in the distance (4)

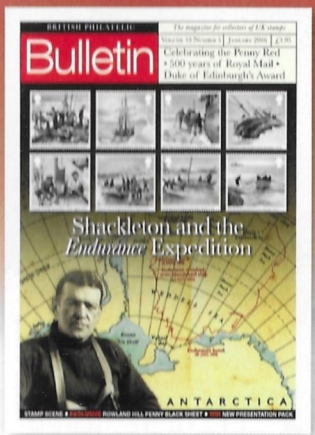
**You can browse Royal Mail Special Stamps by decade at www rmspecialstamps.com**
















# A good read and a good deal

**Just £1.95 per issue and £18.95 for 12 issues** – that is the current cost of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*. We hope you agree that £1.95 is a low price for a 32-page journal, yet it costs even less when you subscribe to 12 issues for just £18.95 including postage and packing. For readers outside the UK, an annual subscription of £24.95 includes worldwide postage.
**It is easy to subscribe** by mail to Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.
**Or online** at www.royalmail.com/bulletin.

## *Coming next month*

**Philatelic previews of Special Stamps to be issued in April • Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday celebration issue, including three coin covers • Shakespeare issue – the words of The Bard • Plus: John Holman's Stamp Scene • Win a theatre break**

# Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

**17** February



**Issue** Royal Mail 500: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (11 in set). Details: page 132. Exhibition products: limited-edition Miniature Sheet with Stampex overprint; Stamp Card featuring the Exhibition Miniature Sheet. Details: page 132.

**17** February — **Issue** Post & Go Royal Mail Heritage – Transport: six designs, Collectors Pack. Details: pages 138 and 176.

**18** February — **Issue** 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red: Generic Sheet (20 x 1st Class Penny Red); Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class Penny Red); Smilers® Personalised Sheet of 20 stamps; Smilers® Personalised Sheet of 10 stamps. Details: page 136.



**18** February — **Issue** Royal Mail 500: Prestige Stamp Book. Details: page 136.

**18** February — **Withdrawal** Post & Go Working Sail: Collectors Pack. Details: Vol 52, page 137.




**19** February — **Withdrawal** Inventive Britain: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards. Details: Vol 52, page 134.



**5** March — **Withdrawal** Bridges: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards. Details: Vol 52, page 167.



**8** March — **Issue** 80th Anniversary of The Broons: cartoon-strip Stamp Sheet and Folder. 80th Anniversary of Oor Wullie: cartoon-strip Stamp Sheet and Folder. Details: page 168.




**15** March — **Issue** British Humanitarians: Stamps (two se-tenant strips of three – 3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (6 in set), Stamp Souvenir. Philatelic Preview: page 164.



**To order philatelic items**, including all those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. We would advise you to quote **16CDM**, the *Bulletin* media code. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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Information about Royal Mail products is the latest available at time of going to press. Issue dates shown in advance may be subject to change. Stamps are not shown to scale. Stamp sizes are listed on Royal Mail Preview pages.

Royal Mail

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