

Themes on GB Stamps

Original manuscripts of Jeff Dugdale's long running series in *STAMP Magazine*



Order of Presentation

2016 January	Brit themes: Music
2016 February	Brit themes: Explorers
2016 March	Brit themes: Birds
2016 April	Brit themes: Football
2016 May	Brit themes: Scientists
2016 June	Brit themes: Automobiles
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2016 August	Brit themes: Bridges
2016 September	Brit themes: Social reformers
2016 October	Brit themes: Poets
2016 November	Brit themes: Prehistoric Animals
2016 December	Brit themes: Astronomy
2017 January	Brit themes: Dogs
2017 February	Brit themes: Cathedrals and Churches
2017 March	Brit themes: Cinema
2017 April	Brit themes: Landscapes
2017 May	Brit themes: Artistic portraiture
2017 June	Brit themes: Boats & Ships
2017 July	Brit themes: Folk Customs
2017 August	Brit themes: Television (A blend of two I did)
2017 September	Brit themes: Gardens
2017 October	Brit themes: Postal Sputnik 60th anniv
2017 November	Brit Themes: Beside the Seaside
2017 December	Brit Themes: Horses
2018 January	Brit Themes: Castles and Palaces
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2018 April	Brit Themes: Farming (and Forestry)
2018 May	Brit Themes; UK World Heritage sites
2018 June	Brit Themes: Battles & Campaigns
2018 July	Brit Themes: Institutions, public services
2018 August	Brit Themes: Flowers & Plants
2018 September	Brit Themes: Politics

Pending at August 2018 (dates submitted)

Forever England Urban Renewal (22.6.16) Railways (16.3.17) Aircraft (29.3.17) (Architecture (5.4.17)
 Novelists (22.8.18) Inventors (23.8.18) Industry (23.8.18) Dance (24.8.18) Fish (25.8.18)

Castles and Palaces

This theme is highly unusual in that the earliest stamps to be found for it are definitives, not commemoratives, issued in 1955 as the first QEII high values and reimagined in 1988 from photos taken by Prince Andrew then tweaked four years later with a Machin head.

These four high value definitives show an important castle from each of the four nations which make up the United



Kingdom: 2/6 Carrickfergus in Co Antrim, built by John de Courcy in 1177, 5/- Caernarvon in North Wales reconstructed by Edward I in the late 13th C., 10/-

Edinburgh, most of it as it now stands dating from the 16th C and £1 the 13th C. Windsor Castle.

Top Sets

Of these four important castles only Carrickfergus appears on no other stamps than the high value definitives with both



Edinburgh and Windsor featuring in a total of five designs and Caernarvon on seven, with the set for the Investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969 providing views of three other aspects of the castle on 5d stamps in silver: The King's Gate (shown) The Eagle Tower and Queen Eleanor's Gate.

The royal building which has received most exposure on our stamps is unsurprisingly Buckingham Palace shown in single



stamps in 1980 and 2007 and then in all its glory with ten stamps in 2014: six showing its development from when it was simply Buckingham House early in the

18th C. and a further four which show its luxurious interior, for example, The Grand Staircase, designed by John Nash in 1825-30 for the "dilettante" King George IV.

Two other London buildings which appear on a handful of stamps each are the Palace of Westminster and The Tower.



The Palace of Westminster is of course the official name for the Houses of Parliament, shown on stamps with exterior views in 1965, 1973, 1975 (shown) 2007 and 2012 and an interior (The

House of Lords) in 2012 as a tribute to the work of architect and designer Augustus Pugin, a "Briton of Distinction".

The site of the House of Parliament were a royal palace dating back a thousand years and for ceremonial purposes, the palace is deemed a royal residence and belongs to The Crown.

The Tower of London of course has many more sinister stories to tell. It appears on our stamps in 1978, 1980, 1992 and 2008 (shown). Like the House of Parliament, The Tower also has an official name, "Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress



of the Tower of London" and it famously dates back to the Norman invasion. The White Tower which is the aspect which appears on all stamps was built on the orders of William the Conqueror in c.1078, represented the military authority of the new regime and has been an important icon in the History of London and indeed England. Originally a great palace and royal residence, it was used as a prison, notably during WWII, until the middle of the 20th C. Famously it houses the Crown Jewels, themselves featured in eight stamps in 2011

Outside of London the most featured castle lies in Scotland's capital and is shown most



dramatically under floodlight in the 2006 Celebrating Scotland minisheet.

This historic fortress has the reputation of being the most besieged place in Britain, the site having been occupied by castles of various grandeur for nearly 2000 years. It has been a royal residence since the 12th century and today is best known to tourists as the site of the Royal Military Tattoo which runs as part of the Edinburgh Festivals each August.

Other important buildings which would fall into a collection of this theme include the entertainment venue now known as Alexandra Palace, Urquhart Castle from which one might catch a glimpse of the Loch Ness Monster, Sir John Vanbrugh's Castle Howard in North Yorkshire and the ruin of Robert the Bruce's castle which now is part of the Donald Trump acquired Turnberry Golf Course in South Ayrshire.



An American's home is his Castle ??

1955 High Value definitives;

Carrickfergus, Caernarvon, Edinburgh, Windsor

1965 700th anniv of Simon de Montfort's Parliament

1966 Landscapes; Harlech

1969 Investiture of Prince of Wales: Caernarvon

1973 19th Parliamentary Conference : Palace of Westminster

1973 Christmas: Castle of Good King Wenceslaus

1975 62nd Inter-Parliamentary Conf.—Palace of Westminster

1978 Tower of London, Caernarvon, Palace of Holyrood,
Hampton Court Palace

1980 London 1980 : Tower of London in skyline

1980 Buckingham Palace. Kensington Palace, Hampton Court

1986 Domesday Book: castle on skyline

1988 Australian Bicentenary

1988 High Value definitives redrawn : Wilding head

Carrickfergus, Caernarvon, Edinburgh, Windsor

1990 Alexandra Palace

1992 Gilbert and Sullivan: Tower of London

1992 High Value definitives now with Machin head

Carrickfergus, Caernarvon, Edinburgh, Windsor

1994 Scottish golf courses: 9th hole Turnberry— Robert the
Bruce's castle

2002 Bridges of London: Palace of Westminster

2005 High Value definitives : 50th anniversary

Carrickfergus, Caernarvon, Edinburgh, Windsor

2005 World Heritage Sites: Blenheim Palace

2006 Celebrating Scotland minisheet: Edinburgh C

2007 Queen's Diamond Wedding : minisheet shows
Balmoral, Buckingham P, Windsor and Clarence House

2007 Celebrating English minisheet: Palace of Westminster

2008 Handover of Olympic Flag : Tower of London

2007 Celebrating Wales minisheet shows Harlech C (in
margin)

2010 House of Stuart minisheet shows Castle Howard

2011 Centenary of Aerial Post (2nd issue) Windsor

2011 UK A-Z: Edinburgh and Harlech

2012 UK A-Z Narrow Water, Stirling, Urquhart

2012 Paralympic Games : Palace of Westminster

2012 Britons of Distinction: Interior of Palace of
Westminster

2014 Buckingham Palace

2017 Windsor Castle

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January 2018, but since then additionally....

2018 Hampton Court Palace

Insects

Collecting all British stamps that reference insects would produce a relatively small display of around 50 stamps across 20 issues. Unsurprisingly the most featured insects are arguably the most attractive and most valuable as pollinators with some two dozen stamps showing butterflies and half that number referencing bees. Five stamps show various beetles—the stag beetle appearing twice - three show crickets, three ants and two depict dragonflies.



Butterflies are the focus of two sets, over thirty years apart. **The earlier one in 1981** features four of the most familiar and widespread species: The Small Tortoiseshell currently in worrying decline most likely through attack by parasitic flies; The Large Blue, extinct in Britain in 1979 but reintroduced successfully; The Peacock (shown)

whose spectacular “eyes” on its hind wings will frighten predators and the Chequered Skipper found widely in Northern Europe but no longer in England with a few colonies in Western Scotland.

Butterflies have been around for more than fifty million years and today their presence indicates a healthy ecosystem as where there are strong populations other invertebrates also thrive. Butterflies are important in the food chain, predated on by bats and small birds like Blue Tits. Ecologists use them as model organisms to study the impact of climate change and loss of habitat. The decline in their numbers is down to a number of factors such as a reduction in coppicing and parasitism whereby a fly will lay its eggs in a caterpillar’s body and eventually the growing fly larva will kill its host. Butterflies also seems to produce a “feel good” response in those who encounter them, which might explain why they outnumber other insects on our stamps.



The later set, issued in 2013 shows a further ten familiar butterflies most named on account of obvious characteristics, like the Orange Tip, the Small Copper, the Swallow Tail and the Marbled White. To understand why

others are so called you have to delve. The Comma is so-called because it has small white “C” markings on its underside; The Chalkhill Blue is often found in chalky downland; the male Purple Emperor is one of the most beautiful and spectacular—yet elusive, and confined to Southern England; the Brimstone’s name is attributed to its yellow colouring like butter with “butter coloured flies”

possibly what butterflies were first called; the name of the Red Admiral is also a contraction, originally called the “Red Admirable” on account of its striking colours.

A very large percentage of wild plants depend on butterflies and bees for pollination and decline in the population of bees is one of many threats to the biodiversity of our planet.

The often spectacular colouring of butterflies and their being harmless may explain their popularity but this can’t be said of bees, so possibly **the 2015 Bees set** and mini-sheet was an attempt to educate and encourage interest, explaining to the uninitiated that there are many species of bee, each with its own markings, rather less

obvious than on butterflies. Our stamps depict three kinds of bumblebee—The Large Earth, the Great Yellow and the Bilberry. Bumblebees differ from most honey bees as they don’t live in hives but may colonise holes in the ground, dung heaps or in trees or other suitable cavities like bird boxes. The other bees in the set - Scabious, Northern Colletes, Large Mason and Potter Flower—are mostly rare or virtually extinct honey bees. The accompanying mini-sheet explains over four stamps the process of making honey.



Two

other sets reference a dozen different insects, some beneficial and others pests, dependent on your viewpoint. **The 1985 Insects set** features (as well as a bumble bee) a seven spotted ladybird, a bush cricket, a stag beetle and a Blue Emperor dragonfly. So nuisance or useful—what do you think ?

Ladybirds are appreciated by the gardener as they destroy aphids which infect plants. Bush crickets (aka katydids) have a strident mating call and being largely nocturnal may be regarded a source of noise pollution. The adult stag beetle (also featured in the 2008 set) has a lumbering motion and is important in the food chain being predated on by cats, foxes, magpies, crows and kestrels. The Emperor dragonfly harmless to humans and aesthetically very attractive—often a model for jewellery—predates on butterflies and mosquitoes.



In our final set the **2008 UK Insects in Recovery** the focus of the ten insects featured is that pest or beneficial they are threatened by for example changes in grazing, land drainage and water abstraction. Indeed, some have protected status with the location of colonies of the rarest closely guarded secrets. Each is regarded either as *Endangered* (The Blueberry Carpet Moth, the Hazel Pot Beetle, the Red Barbed Ant and the Field Cricket), *Vulnerable* (The Purbeck Mason Wasp, the Noble Chafer), *Rare* (The Stag Beetle, Southern Damselfly and Silver Spotted Skipper) or *Nationally Scarce* (the Adonis Blue butterfly).

1963 National Nature Week : Brimstone butterfly on flower posy

1981 Butterflies (4)

1985 Insects: bee, ladybird, bush cricket, stage beetle and dragonfly (5)

1989 150th anniv of Royal Microscopical Society: fly under lens

1991 Greetings Good luck: one shows heart-shaped butterflies

1993 Greetings Gift Giving: William Brown with spider in jar

1998 Endangered species—mole cricket

2000 Life & Earth : South American leaf cutter ants

2000 Mind & Matter : head of an ant greatly enlarged

2001 Face Paintings : one stamp shows generic butterfly design

2001 The Weather: two stamps show Peacock butterfly and another generic butterfly on barometer

2001 Europa—Pondlife: great diving beetle and Southern hawker dragonfly

2002 Centenary of Kipling's *Just So* stories—The Butterfly that Stamped is possibly a Swallowtail

2006 Animal Tales—*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

2006 Smilers Occasions: champagne, flowers and butterfly

2008 Action for Species (10 different insects)

2009 Darwin Birth Bicentenary: stamp showing the bee orchid flower

2010 Winnie the Pooh with balloon surrounded by flies

2011 50th anniv of World Wildlife Fund: blue butterfly in selva of mini-sheet

2013 Butterflies (10)

2015 Bees (6 + 4 on mini-sheet devoted to the honey bee)

Published in edited format in *STAMP* in February 2018, but since then additionally....

2018 Reintroduced Species: Large Blue Butterfly

Toys and Comics

Ideal for interesting young collectors, this theme could equally work as a trip down Nostalgia Street for an adult.

Whilst a limited number of children's toys appear on our stamps, a presentation of this theme can easily be extended by sourcing stamps for a large number of children's favourite comic or TV characters who have been merchandised on the shelves of toy shops.



The first set to show toys is the **Christmas issue for 1968** in which—in pre-PC days— a girl is shown with a doll's house and dollies, a boy with a trainset and construction kit and a boy and a girl with a rocking horse. In the **1987 Christmas issue** a child of indeterminate gender is shown in bed surrounded by



soft toys like an elephant, a jester, a snowman, a monkey and a teddy bear and in a second stamp playing a toy flute. Then in the **1989 Europa Games & Toys issue** the train set (shown) and doll's house reappear alongside an aeroplane, building bricks, board games and dice, a robot and a boat. The toys you played with as a child like



model cars, marbles and bucket and spade appear in a **1992 Greetings** issue. Up to this point all the toys shown have been generic but in **2003's Classic Transport Toys** issue propriety brand names such as Meccano, Hornby, Dinky and Mettoy appear. Across these five sets, the trainset is the toy most referenced, then the doll's house and model plane.

Comic characters

Looking at sets which don't set out to show toys but children's TV and Comic Characters the list of toys that can be referenced can be greatly expanded. Merchandising of copyrighted characters and related props seems to have taken off in the early 1970s and looking through the **2014 Classic Children's TV** set we can all probably recall toys inspired by the following series—The Wombles, Bagpuss, Paddington



Bear, Postman Pat, Bob the Builder, Peppa Pig and Shaun the Sheep.

In two Greetings issues in 1993 and 1994 classic characters like Rupert the Bear, Peter Rabbit, Paddington Bear, The Bash Street Kids are shown and Enid Blyton's Noddy is featured in her 1997 Birth Centenary set.



Other inspirations for toy models or puppets, making their creators or their relatives rich would include Sooty, Stingray, The Clangers and Dangermouse all of whom appear in the **1996 50th anniversary of Children's TV** set, the 2011 issue for Gerry Anderson's creations like Thunderbirds—remember Tracy Island and Fireball XL5 and of course Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends (also 2011).

And let's not forget the merchandising related to the *Harry Potter* books (celebrated on stamps in 2007).

Equally, more grown up series like *Dr Who* (on stamps in 1999 and 2013) and *Star Wars* (2015) have spawned many toy models of Daleks, Cybermen, the TARDIS and the various Doctors and Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Han Solo, the Millennium Falcon and light sabres etc.

Comic characters in their own right first appear on issues in 1990 with a Smile from Dennis the Menace, who first appeared in *The Beano* in July 1938. But the oldest comic character on our stamps is wild west hero Desperate Dan, the world's toughest man who eats cow pies including the horns. Dan appeared in the first issue of *The Dandy* in December 1937.

Front covers of ten famous comics such as *The Eagle* with sci-fi hero Dan Dare (also on a 1994 stamp) on the cover, *The Topper*, *Tiger*, *Bunty* and *Twinkle* are shown in a 2012 set.



1968 Christmas : Rocking horse, doll's house, train set

1979 International Year of the Child : Peter Rabbit

1987 Christmas: dollies, teddy, flute

1989 Greetings: Teddy Bear

1989 Europa: Games & Toys—Trainset, aeroplane, building bricks, dice & board games, robot, boat, doll's house

1990 Greetings: Smiles—teddy bear, Dennis the Menace

1992 Greetings: Memories—model car, marbles, bucket and spade

1993 Greetings: Gift Giving—Bash Street Kids, Rupert Bear, Peter Rabbit

1994 Greetings: Messages—Dan Dare, Peter Rabbit, Rupert Bear, Paddington Bear

1996 50th anniversary of Children's TV

1997 Birth Centenary of Enid Blyton—Noddy & Big Ears

1999 Entertainers' Tale : Dalek

2003 Transport Toys: Meccano plane, clockwork double-decker bus, Hornby locomotive, Dinky Toy car, Mettoy spaceship

2007 *Harry Potter* characters

2006 Beatrix Potter character: Jeremy Fisher, Paddington Bear

2011 Gerry Anderson characters

2011 *Thomas the Tank Engine* and friends

2012 Comics (10)

2013 *Dr Who*—Dalek, Cybermen, TARDIS, Dr Who models

2014 Classic Children's TV characters (12)

2015 *Star Wars* characters (12) and spaceships (4 in MS)

2016 Beatrix Potter characters

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2016 Mr Men, Little Miss books

2017 Classic Toys

Cz

Farming & Forestry

An efficient and productive farming industry is vital to the national economy and to how we live our lives. Our often stunning countryside—the farmers' workplace—also provides many opportunities for recreation and relaxation, so this is an important theme, which can be illustrated with many examples.

Stamps related to farming mainly fall into five categories, showing Animals, Landscapes, Crops, Environmental issues and Vehicles. (No prizes for guessing what the handful of Forestry stamps show !)

The animals most frequently depicted, in descending order are cattle, then horses, dogs, dormice, badgers, hedgehogs and sheep, with surprisingly only one stamp showing pigs. The three types of farmland—arable, pastoral and mixed—can be illustrated mainly thanks to the British Journey (2003-6) series. The crops shown most often are wheat and corn but there are also references to potatoes, apples, pears and blackberries etc. Environmental issues are addressed mainly through the Action for Species issues, where a number of creatures, insects and plants which are declining because of changes in farming practice like water and air pollution, monoculture and the use of pesticides are highlighted. Finally you can spot a handful of farm vehicles like a tractor or combine.

Two sets address four aspects of farming, allocating a stamp



to each. The **1989 Food and Farming Year** issue promotes the subject very well showing in mouth watering detail the variety of farm produce, laid out on a kitchen table. The 19p shows a cornucopia of Fruit and Vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, sprouts,

leeks, apples, pears, strawberries, green beans and tomatoes whilst the 27p Meat products, 32p Dairy Produce and 35p Cereal Products represent their contributions in equal fine detail.

Ten years later the four stamps in the **Farmers' Tale** set simply



show an example of Strip Farming (19p) begun in medieval times, a potato introduced from South America in the late 16th century (44p), a horse drawn rotary seed drill (26p) invented during the 18th century Agrarian Revolution and an aerial view of combine

harvesting touching on 20th Century technology developments which have provided yield analysis through remote sensing by orbiting satellites (64p).



A second set which provides an historical perspective of farming and forestry is the **1991 Ordnance Survey** set which shows incursion of human settlement and other aspects of progress onto farm and woodland with four snap-shots of the Kent village of Ham Street in 1816, 1906, 1959 and 1991.

The most frequently referenced aspect of farming is cattle rearing seen in the 1994 Summertime issue showing the Royal Welsh Show, 2005's Farm Animals and the 2016 Pink Floyd set where one record sleeve shows the photogenic cow, Lulubelle III. However, one set is devoted to five types of **British Cattle in 1984**.....

The Highland Cow (16p) is famous for producing prime beef even in harsh conditions. The Chillingham Wild Bull (20½p) is an example of a species which will kill any of their number handled by man. The Hereford Bull (26p) is the world's most widely distributed beef breed. The Welsh Black (28p) is famed for its docility and a strong mothering ability to rear fine beef calves. The Irish Moiled (31p) is a dairy and beef breed, whose name means "hornless".



In contrast the **Farm Animals** set issued in January 2005 shows a variety of life from the small-scale farm, drawn in a delightfully naïve style, perhaps with the intention of capturing the attention of children seeking a new hobby at the start of the new year. Over the set of ten stamps we see six chicks, six sheep, five pigs, three cows, three turkeys, three ducks, two geese, two Suffolk horses, a goat and a sheepdog puppy. Most of the birds have never appeared on our stamps before, though you can find sheepdogs on three other stamps and farm horses on a further couple.

Better represented than many of the bred animals above are two creatures which farmers regard as pests, mice and badgers, the latter currently being culled in their thousands in the hope of reducing bovine TB. Mice are referenced in stamps for Robert Burns and Action for Species issues.

The **companion theme of Forestry** can be illustrated with a small number of stamps showing forested areas in the British Journey stamps, British Trees (Oak and Horse Chestnut in 1973/4) but is best served in the 2000 Tree and Leaf Millennium Project issue which shows Tree Roots, Sycamore seeds from the national seed bank and a Scottish forest.

1946 Victory—tractor on 2½d

1963 Freedom from Hunger: stalks of wheat on 2 vals

1963 National Nature Week : badger on 4½d

1964 Beddgelert Forest, Snowdonia on 8d

1966 Robert Burns: wheat sheaf on 1/3

1966 Landscapes : arable farm land on 4d and 6d, forest on 1/6

1971 Ulster 71 Paintings : Tollymore Forest Park, Co. Down on 9p

1973 British Trees—Oak

1974 British Trees -Horse Chesnut

1977 Wildlife: Hedgehog, brown hare, red squirrel, otter, badger

1978 Horses: Shire horse and plough

1979 Dogs: Old English Sheepdog

1979 Spring Wild Flowers : four varieties on farm land

1981 Folklore: Lammastide—corn dolly and cornucopia

1983 Commonwealth Day: Temperate farmland on 26p

1984 British Cattle: five types (5)

1984 Europa: Abduction of Europa by Zeus disguised as bull

1985 Insects including pollinators: bee on 17p

1985 350 years of post service: rural postbus on 22p

1986 Industry Year: Loaf of bread & cornfield on 34p

1986 900th anniv Domesday book: peasants working in fields on 17p

1989 Food and Farming Year: fruit & veg, meat, dairy and cereal products (4)

1991 Ordnance Survey Bicentenary: incursion of housing onto Ham Street farm land and forestry (1816-1991)

1992 Four seasons : Winter—fallow deer in Scottish forest and Welsh Mountain sheep in Snowdonia

1992 Protect the Environment: Acid rain on 24p

1993 Four seasons : Autumn—fruits and leaves (5)

1994 Paintings by Prince Charles showing arable & moor land (5)

1994 Four seasons: Summertime—Royal Welsh Show on 19p

1995 National Trust Centenary : oak seedling on 25p

1996 Robert Burns: *To a Mouse* and field mouse on 19p

1998 Endangered Species: six endangered possibly through changes in farming practice.

1999 Farmers' Tale: field, horse, potato, harvester

2000 Tree & Leaf: roots, sunflower, sycamore sees, forest

2003 Fruit & Veg : several farmed crops

2003 British Journey #1 Scotland: Rothiemurcus— forestry Dalveen Pass-arable land

2003 Pub Signs : The Barley Sheaf

2004 British Journey #2 N.Ireland—arable land at Slemish, Glenelly Valley, Islandmore

2004 British Journey #3 Wales—arable land at Rhewl, Dee Valley

2004 Woodlands Animals (10)

2005 Farm Animals (10)

2005 British Journey #4 SW England—arable land Horton Downs, Wiltshire

2006 British Journey #5 England—arable land at Brancaster, Norfolk and Chipping Campden

2007 Century of Scouting: Scout planting tree

2008 Working Dogs—sheepdog

2009 Action for Species—Endangered plants (10)

2010 150th anniv Battersea Dogs Home—Border Collie

2010 Action for Species—Endangered Mammals e.g. dormouse, hedgehog

2013 Auto legends—Land Rover in Mini-sheet

2014 Classic Children's TV—Windy Miller, Shaun the Sheep

2014 Prime Ministers—Robert Peel, repealer of The Corn Laws

2015 Bridges—Row Bridge, Mosedale Beck (farm land)

2016 Pink Floyd—cow called Lulubelle III on album cover

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No further issues

UK World Heritage Sites

Since 1986 some two dozen sites have gained considerable extra kudos as tourist attractions when successfully approved under the criteria set by UNESCO as being important to the country's "cultural or natural heritage".

Within the list of British sites there are obvious attractions to have such status in 1986 like Stonehenge, the Giant's Causeway and a year later the Palace of Westminster and perhaps a few surprises, for example Saltaire, the model village (2001) and Liverpool Maritime City (2004). The most recent addition to the UK list was the Forth Road Bridge in 2015.

Their status is supported by being shown on our stamps with almost all having appeared at least once. The Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey (a combined site) have appeared respectively on thirteen and four stamps and Kew Gardens on nine, but St Kilda, Saltaire and Canterbury Cathedral only once. A few—Liverpool Maritime City, Derwent Valley Mills and Studley Royal Park/Fountains Abbey are as yet uncommemorated.

There are around seventy stamps to collect together in a presentation which could be organised in several ways such as alphabetically, chronologically, geographical or on municipal basis or by type for example having military, religious industrial, horticultural or prehistoric heritage. Non-philatelic illustrations could include mailed postcards, particularly if the collector has visited sites in person.

Falling into the **military** category are Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd, illustrated by stamps for Harlech Castle and Caernarvon Castle, Hadrian's Wall, Edinburgh Castle and The Tower of London—see checklist.

Sites relating to **religion** would include Durham Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral, Neolithic Orkney (Ring of Brodgar), St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh's Old Town, Westminster Abbey, Stonehenge and Avebury and in the **municipal** category would be The City of Bath, Edinburgh's Old and New Towns and all the London sites.



There is a large number of stamps for sites of **industrial** history, like Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscapes, Ironbridge Gorge, New Lanark, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Saltaire and the newest site on the British list—the Forth Bridge.



Horticultural heritage is represented by the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, Blenheim Palace and Studley Royal Park and **prehistory** the Giant's Causeway and the Dorset and Devon (Jurassic) Coast (right from 2002 Coastlines).



You would be hard pressed to find a thematic subject with more spectacular sights within their designs and this should be a delight to research.

1955 High Value definitives : Edinburgh Castle on 10/-

1961 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference—Palace of Westminster—interior and exterior

1964 Opening of the Forth Road Bridge

1966 900th anniversary of Westminster Abbey (2)

1966 Landscapes: Harlech Castle

1969 Cathedrals— Durham, St Giles (in Edinburgh's Old Town) Canterbury

1969 Investiture of Prince of Wales: Caernarvon Castle (3)

1973 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference—Palace of Westminster

1975 European Architectural Heritage Year—Charlotte Square (in Edinburgh's New Town), Royal Observatory Greenwich

1975 Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference—Palace of Westminster

1978 Historic Buildings: Tower of London, Caernarvon Castle, Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh's Old Town

1980 London 1980: Tower of London, Palace of Westminster

1981 National Trust, Giant's Causeway, St Kilda

1983 Gardens: 18th century garden at Blenheim Palace

1984 Centenary of the Greenwich Meridian: Royal Observatory, Greenwich

1988 Bicentenary of Australian settlement—Palace of Westminster

1988 High Value definitives: Edinburgh Castle on £2

1989 Industrial Archaeology: Ironbridge, New Lanark, Tin Mine in Cornwall, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

1990 150th anniversary of Kew Gardens

1990 Astronomy : Stonehenge, Royal Observatory, Greenwich

1992 Gilbert & Sullivan: *The Yeomen of the Guard*—Tower of London and *Iolanthe* Palace of Westminster

1993 Contemporary Art—Kew Gardens

1993 Roman Britain—bust of Emperor Hadrian

1999 The Workers' Tale—Saltaire Mill

2002 British Coastlines—Studland Bay, Dorset (Jurassic Coast)

2002 Bridges of London—Palace of Westminster

2003 50th anniv of Coronation—Westminster Abbey

2004 British Journey #2: N.Ireland—The Giant's Causeway

2005 British Journey #4 SW England—Old Harry Rocks, Studland Bay and Wheal Coates Tin Mine, St Agnes

2005 World Heritage Sites: Hadrian's Wall, Stonehenge, Blenheim Palace, Heart of Neolithic Orkney (The Ring of Brodgar)

2006 Celebrating Scotland MS—Edinburgh Castle

2007 Celebrating England MS—Palace of Westminster

2008 Celebrating N.Ireland—The Giant's Causeway

2008 Handover of Olympic Flag: Tower of London

2009 250th anniv of Creation of the Kew Gardens

2011 A-Z of Britain #1 : Edinburgh Castle, Forth Bridge, Harlech Castle and Ironbridge

2012 Britons of Distinction: Palace of Westminster (interior)

2012 A-Z of Britain #2 : Roman Baths, Bath

2012 Welcome to London (Olympics mini-sheet) —Palace of Westminster

2013 Great Britons : David Lloyd George—Palace of Westminster

2015 Bridges—Pulteney Bridge over Avon at Bath

2016 Landscape Gardens—Blenheim Palace

2016 Ancient Britain: Skara Brae, Orkney, Avebury Stone Circle

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No further issues

Battles & Campaigns

The earliest two sets in this theme feature two battles almost nine hundred years apart—The Battle of Britain (1940) in 1965 and the Battle of Hastings (1066) the following year. Designer David Gentleman was mainly responsible for the stamps for each occasion and there are stylistic similarities with protagonists portrayed in colour against a white background on eight stamps.

Stamps for many of the most important battles in British history are typically marked with long sets: The Spanish Armada (1588), The English Civil Wars (1642-51), Trafalgar (1805), Waterloo (1815), The Crimean War (1853-56) and The Battle of Britain (1940 and 2015) whilst others like Bannockburn (1314), Agincourt (1415), Tewksbury (1471) Naseby (1645), and Jutland (1916) are referenced with single stamps whilst the Somme (1916) and Passchendaele (2017) are given mini-sheets. Other important battles such as Flodden (1513), The Boyne (1690) and Culloden (1746) remain uncommemorated, perhaps for political reasons.

A collection or display this material could well be supported with stamps showing some of the people and hardware involved. For example, the battle honours of The Royal Green Jackets referenced on issues in 1983 and 2007 include Waterloo. So certain stamps showing Military Uniforms (1983, 2004 and 2007-9), Maritime Heritage (1982) The History of the RAF (1986) and the 150th anniversary of The Victoria Cross (2006) and others in the checklist could be considered after research.

The Norman invasion in 1066 led by King William the Conqueror was commemorated with an issue of eight stamps



in 1966 on the 900th anniversary of the battle fought on Senlac Hill just north-west of Hastings at which Harold, the last of the Saxon kings was defeated on 14th

October. The designs of the stamps were inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry which depicts the events leading up to the battle and many aspects of the bloody conflict itself.

The 6d value shows the Norman ships approaching the shores of England in Viking style vessels packed with men and horses. The 1/3 stamp shows the Norman cavalry charging a solid phalanx of King Harold's infantry, "so packed that the slaughtered could not fall" and six 4d stamps in a se-tenant row show various aspects of the battle itself. In the section of tapestry referenced for the two stamps second and third from the left the words "Haroldus Rex Interfectus Est" are embroidered above the figures one with an arrow sticking

out of his head and a second lying on the ground beneath a Norman knight on horseback, though the exact nature of Harold's death has been disputed by historians.

A total of six stamps reference the **English Civil Wars** of 1642-51 with four in 1992 and one each in 1999 and 2010. Although all show uniformed militia, none depict actual conflict with only the Battle of Naseby name-checked in 2010. This battle in June 1645 saw the defeat of Royalists near Leicester by the New Model Army of Sir John Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell.



The set showing the attack and defeat of the **Spanish Armada** at the end of July 1588—defining moments in the reign of Elizabeth I—is handsomely illustrated in a **1988 se-tenant** strip of five stamps showing the demise of the invasion force of 130 ships and 30,000 men sent by King Philip II to revenge the execution of Catholic Mary Queen of Scots. English forces destroyed much of the fleet and the bad weather accounted for many more enemy vessels. All the stamps are superficially similar but are captioned with date and location of events portrayed, like the Armada's failure to establish secure anchorage in The Solent and the English attack on their anchorage at Calais.

The bicentenary of the two most important British victories of the Napoleonic Wars, Trafalgar (1805) and Waterloo (1815) are celebrated with a selection of paintings based on word of mouth reports, so even if some details are fanciful, they all capture the drama and energy of the events.



The **Trafalgar issue (2005)** uses long landscape format, necessary because the painting faithfully replicated is *A Panorama of the Battle of Trafalgar* by William Heath (1794-1840) completed some twenty years after the event. An early version, 10½ft wide by 2ft tall was originally mounted as a complete circle for viewing by one or two people at a time.

When placed side by side starting with the left 1st class stamp in the pairing through to the right 68p value showing the Franco-Spanish fleet leaving Cadiz harbour, the six stamps give an imperfect chronological sense of the main events, but confusingly in reverse order, reading from right to left! The left 68p stamp shows Nelson's most unconventional attack approach, in two columns at right angles to the enemy fleet and the death of Nelson (1st right) is out of sequence. One ship *HMS Entreprenante* (1st left and 42p left) is shown on two stamps.



The six **Battle of Waterloo stamps (2015)** in landscape format also use large paintings showing major events on Sunday 18th June 1815. Three by Dennis Deighton date to 1815-17, but the others were painted by Alfred Northern and Sir William Allan between thirty and fifty years later. The choice of paintings from the 1st Class *The Defence of Hougomont*, which began before noon through to *The French Imperial Guard's Final Assault* commencing around 5.30pm on a £1.52 value is intended to give a sense of the decisive events in the battle, in chronological order.

- 1951 2/6 Definitive *HMS Victory*
- 1964 Shakespeare : Henry V praying on The Eve of Agincourt
- 1965 25th anniv of Battle of Britain (8)
- 1966 900th anniv of Battle of Hastings (8)
- 1974 Medieval Warriors on horseback (4)
- 1982 Maritime Heritage : Commanders and battleships (5)
- 1983 British Army Uniforms (5)
- 1986 History of the RAF: Marshalls and aircraft (5)
- 1988 400th anniv of The Spanish Armada (5)
- 1992 350th anniv of The Civil War (4)
- 1994 50th anniv of D-day (5)
- 1997 Aircraft Designers and their planes (5)
- 1999 Soldiers' Tale : Robert the Bruce, English Civil War (2)
- 2001 Centenary of the Royal Navy Submarine Service (4)
- 2004 150th anniv of Crimean War (6)
- 2005 Bicentenary of Battle of Trafalgar (6)
- 2006 150th anniv of The Victoria Cross (6)
- 2006 90th anniv of Battle of The Somme (5 in mini-sheet)
- 2007 Military Uniforms—Army (6)
- 2007 90th anniv of Battle of Passchendaele (5 in mini-sheet)
- 2008 Houses of Lancaster and York: Agincourt and Tewksbury (2)
- 2008 Military Uniforms: RAF (6)
- 2009 Military Uniforms: Royal Navy (6)
- 2010 Britain Alone—Dunkirk (4 in mini-sheet)
- 2010 House of Stuart: Battle of Naseby
- 2013 Merchant Navy : Battle of Atlantic (4 in mini-sheet)
- 2014 Centenary of World War I: Private Tickle on 1 of 6
- 2015 Bicentenary of Battle of Waterloo (6)
- 2015 Military Uniforms: Battle of Waterloo (4 in mini-sheet)
- 2015 75th anniv of Battle of Britain (6 in mini-sheet)
- 2015 Centenary of World War I: Gallipoli Campaign on 1 of 6
- 2016 Centenary World War I: Battle of Jutland Commemorative medal on 1 of 6
- 2017 Centenary World War I:
- Published in edited format in *STAMP* in June 2018, but since then additionally....
- 2018 *Dad's Army* TV sitcom

British Institutions

Many hundreds of these long-established and revered bodies, which exist to support and protect aspects of the public life of our nation and of our heritage have been officially honoured with the granting of a legal instrument called a Royal Charter. Some of these organisations are learned societies in the realms of the Arts, Sciences and Medicine, whilst others are in the business of defence of our nation, advanced learning and sport and some have unique roles like The Scouting Association, The RSPCA and the BBC.

Royal Mail has honoured many of them in major anniversary years with sets depicting their activities and illustrious members. Many others can be referenced indirectly through sets illustrating the buildings they use, some of their activities and famous founders or advocates. For example, many of Britain's 120 or more universities have been granted Royal Charter status like the four in the 1971 Modern University Buildings set, St Andrews in the 2010 House of Stewart mini-sheet and the Open University, via the image of promoter Harold Wilson in the 2014 Prime Ministers series.



One of the oldest institutions with a Charter is **The College of Arms** (founded by King Richard III in 1484) whose 500th anniversary was celebrated **with four stamps in 1984**. The College's heralds have delegated authority to act for the Crown, for example, by granting new coats of arms and permissions for the flying of flags. The stamps illustrate the College's own arms, those of Richard III, the Arms of the Earl Marshal of England, The Duke of Norfolk, who oversees the corporation and those of the City of London, its head-quarters being located in Queen Victoria Street, EC4.



The work of **The Royal Society of Arts** (chartered in 1847) was **marked in 2004** on its 250th anniversary with an issue of six stamps commemorating Sir Rowland Hill (for his postal reforms, left), William

Shipley (its founder), the Society's Commercial Examination, George Smart for his chimney sweeping invention, Eric Gill's famous typeface and the RSA's modern policies in stimulating enterprise, expanding education and eliminating waste.

Balancing The Arts, ten stamps in **2010 celebrated 350 years of The Royal Society** (granted a charter by King Charles II) from Seventeenth Century scientists Robert Boyle and Sir Issac Newton to Dorothy Hodgkin and Sir Nicholas Shackleton

of the modern era, for their ground breaking work in chemistry, optics, crystallography and earth sciences respectively. The stamps were praised for their design as above the monochrome faces of these famous people were ingenious and colourful illustrations of their thoughts.



Commemorated for only its 50th anniversary in **2011 was The Royal Shakespeare Company** (Chartered in 1961). Ten stamps show RSC acting stars who appeared between 1962 and 2009 such as Paul Schofield and David Tennant with quotes from six plays and a further four in a mini-sheet illustrating the company's four theatres in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre building in Stratford upon Avon.



The Tower of London under the aegis of a body chartered in 1978 called **Historic Royal Palaces** which looks after a small number of Royal buildings appears on four stamps and the Royal Observatory, Greenwich on three. Many stamps can be found to illustrate the work of our Armed Forces, in which The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force have charter status but within the Army only certain regiments like the Royal Regiment of Artillery and the Royal Welch Fusiliers have that status, which is why we don't speak about "The Royal Army".



Some of these chartered organisations do work which will have limited impact on the general public, like The College of Arms and The Royal Observatory but many other august institutions have promoted scientific or medical discoveries and advances that



will have saved countless thousands of lives for example The Royal Society, The Royal Microscopical Society and the Royal Institute of Chemistry. This could equally be said about the work of the RNLI, Trinity House, The Red Cross and the RSPCA. The role of our military is vital in protecting us, whilst other chartered bodies like the R & A and the MCC have merely regulated the laws of popular sports which millions have enjoyed actively or from their sofas watching

television, which brings us to the chartered organisation most in the public eyes, the BBC.

The “Beeb”, previously a private company called BBC Ltd.,



became a Corporation on 1st January 1927 and sported its own coats of arms and motto “National Shall Speak Unto Nation”, approved of course by the College of Arms. Four stamps issued in 1972

depict equipment which brought technological advances to broadcasting from an 1897 oscillator and spark transmitter, through various redesigns of microphone to a contemporary TV studio camera.

This large theme is an unusually erudite one, requiring much enjoyable research in order to write up presentations but has a fascinating potential for those taking it on.

Chartered Institutions referenced directly or indirectly by stamps...

1957 World Scout Jubilee Jamboree : *The Scout Association*

1963 Lifeboat Conference, Edinburgh : *The Royal National Lifeboat Institution*

1965 Battle of Britain 25th anniv: *The RAF*

1971 British Anniversaries: 50th anniv of *The Royal British Legion*

1971 Modern University Buildings : *Universities of Leicester, Southampton, Wales, Essex.*

1972 Broadcasting anniv: 50th anniv of *The BBC*

1975 European Architectural Heritage Year : *The Royal Observatory, Greenwich*

1977 Centenary of *The Royal Institute of Chemistry*

1978 Historic Buildings : *Historic Royal Palaces*: Hampton Court, Tower of London

1980 London Landmarks : *Historic Royal Palaces*: Hampton Court, Kensington Palace

1980 London Landmarks : *The Royal Opera House*

1981 International Year of the Disabled : *The Royal National Institute for the Blind*

1981 International Year of the Disabled : *The Royal National Institute for the Deaf*

1982 Youth Organisations : *The Scout Association*

1983 Uniforms: *The British Army*

1984 500th anniversary of *The College of Arms*

1984 Centenary of the Greenwich Meridian: *The Royal Observatory, Greenwich*

1984 50th anniversary of *The British Council*

1985 Safety at Sea: *The Royal National Lifeboat Institution* and *Trinity House*

1986 History of *The RAF*

1989 Centenary of *The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds*

1989 150th anniversary of *The Royal Microscopical Society*

1990 150th anniversary of *The RSPCA*

1990 150th anniversary of *The Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew*

1990 Astronomy : *The Royal Observatory, Greenwich*

1994 Scottish Golf Courses: *The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews*

1994 Summertime—Test Match at Lord’s : *The MCC*

1998 Lighthouses: *Trinity House*

2001 Centenary of the RN submarine service : *The Royal Navy*

2004 Bicentenary of *The Royal Horticultural Society*

2004 250th Anniversary of *The Royal Society of Arts*

2007 Centenary of Scouting : *The Scout Association*

2007 Uniforms: *The British Army*

2008 Rescue at Sea: *The Royal National Lifeboat Institution*

2008 Uniforms: *The RAF*

2009 Uniforms : *The Royal Navy*

2010 250th anniversary of *The Royal Society, London*

2010 Age of Stewarts: *University of St Andrews* and *The College of Surgeons, Edinburgh*

2011 50th anniversary of *The Royal Shakespeare Company*

2014 Prime Ministers—Harold Wilson : *The Open University*

2015 Battle of Britain 75th anniv: *The RAF*

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2018 RAF Centenary

2018 Royal Academy of Arts

2018 Hampton Court Palace

Flowers & Plants

This lovely theme which may well appeal to philatelists who are also gardeners is unique because flowers and plants appear on our commemoratives *and on definitives*. Because of this there are potentially hundreds of stamps to identify.

You can find laurel leaves, for example, on a few Victorian definitive values from 1887 (as left), on KEVII definitives from 1901 and KGV from 1910. The design of KGV definitives from 1937 include the national flowers of the four nations—rose, thistle, daffodil and shamrock with laurel leaves added to the 10/- and £1 values. The QEII Wilding definitives also carry these emblems whilst the four high value Castles definitives show possibly birch saplings growing out of the four corners of the broken grotto in which the castles are framed.



Regional definitives have also included national flower emblems from time to time: Scotland's thistle, Northern Ireland's flax plant, Guernsey's lily and generic foliage from Jersey (left)—all firstly appeared in 1958. Wales' daffodil firstly appeared in 1999 and England's Tudor rose in 2001.

The flowers and plants which appear most often across our stamps are holly (Christmas issues), laurel (as a symbol of celebration), orchids, roses—and poppies (referencing World War 1). Thereafter scores of different species of both wild and cultivated flowers and plants can be found, there being a very good balance of the two.

Beginning with the issue for the **10th International Botanical**



Congress in 1964 there are several sets of between four and ten stamps, five of which are featured here. The choice of flowers on the four stamps

designed by Michael and Sylvia Goaman was influenced by how common each was. Spring Gentian (3d) is common across Europe but rare in Britain. The dog rose (6d) by contrast is found widely in our hedgerows, honeysuckle (9d) is common in gardens and the wild and the fringed water lily (1/3) is often found in garden ponds and meandering water courses.

An interesting aspect of this theme would be to research superstitions related to certain flora. For example bringing Spring Gentian into a house is said to be unlucky and can invite lightning strikes (!) whilst it was believed in classical

times that the root of the dog rose cured a person bitten by a rabid dog. (The 1967 issue of Wild Flowers would afford plenty of scope for such research as it illustrates twelve species).

Amongst the most striking of our flower stamps is the **1976 set for the Centenary of the Royal National Rose Society** where four roses dominate the designs by Kristin Rosenberg:

Elizabeth of Glamis (8½p) is a salmon pink floribunda named after the Queen; on the 10p we see a lemon yellow Hybrid Tea rose called *Grandpa Dickson*; the shrub rose *Rosa Mundi* (11p) has semi-double light crimson flowers whilst the *Sweet Briar* (13p) has single pink flowers and aromatic leaves. This quartet is amongst the most formal of all the sets within this theme.



The 1979 Spring: Wild Flowers issue features four of the

most popular of British specimens—primrose, daffodil, bluebell, and snowdrop. Designer Peter Newcombe has established a pleasing identity across the set with each plant displayed in the left foreground, behind which a grassy knoll rises towards the top left corner of the stamp. The accompanying presentation pack notes emphasise how all four flowers are in decline in the wild



either through over picking by the public—it has been an offence to uproot wild plants for over 40 years—or changes in land management, so that, for example, woodland carpeted with bluebells is much less prevalent than in the past.

Flowers are presented very differently in our next set from **1987—Flower Photographs** by the Austrian born perfectionist photographer

Alfred Lammer (1909-2000) who presents colourful head only studio portraits of four flowers against a black background. Only one of the plants featured—the fatally poisonous Meadow Saffron (34p) is native to Britain with two imported from North



America—the Blanket Flower (18p) possibly so named because of its resemblance to brightly patterned native American blankets—and the Echeveria (31p) whilst the Globe Thistle (22p) grows wild in eastern Europe and central Asia.

1887 Laurel leaves on 1½d, 2d and 2½d
 1901 Laurel leaves on ½d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 7d
 1911 Laurel leaves on 1d
 1912 and 1934 Laurel leaves on 1d, 2d, 5d and 9d
 1935 Silver Jubilee : laurel leaves and olive branch (4)
 1937 National flower emblems: all definitives except 2/6, 5/-
 1946 Victory: olive branches (2)
 1948 Olympics: laurel leaves (2)
 1952 Wilding definitives: national flower emblems (all)
 1953 Coronation : laurel leaves, national symbols (4)
 1955 High value definitives: birch saplings (?) growing in corners of broken grotto (4)
 1958 Empire & Commonwealth Games: laurel leaves in dragon's mouth on 1/3
 1960 Tercentenary of General Letter Office : oak apples and leaves on 1/3
 1961 Centenary of PO Savings Bank : fanciful nut tree (3d) and thrift plant (1/6)
 1963 Centenary Paris Postal Conference: various foliage
 1963 National Nature Week: posy of buttercups and daises (3d) common arum and hart's tongue (4½d)
1964 10th International Botanical Congress: Spring Gentian, Dog Rose, Honeysuckle, Fringed water lily (4)
 1965 700th anniv Parliament: plants in design of seal
 1965 20th anniv United Nations: laurel leaves on 1/6
 1966 Burns Commem: wild rose in background of 1/3
 1967 Wild Flowers : 10 species shown over 6 stamps
 1975 Jane Austen: plants in background of 10p and 11p
1976 Centenary of Royal National Rose Society: roses on 4 stamps
 1977 Wildlife: various plants/grasses in background (5)
 1979 Dogs: various plants/grasses in background (4)
1979 Spring: Wild flowers—primrose, daffodil, bluebell, snowdrop (4)
 1980 Christmas: Mistletoe on 13½p, Holly on 17½p
 1981 Butterflies : plants in background (4)
 1982 Textiles: flower designs (2)
 1982 Christmas : *The Holly & the Ivy* song
 1983 Gardens: various plants shown in design

1985 Insects : various plants in background (5)
 1986 Europa: Endangered Species—plants in background (4)
1987 Flower photo's by Alfred Lammer: North American Blanket Flower, Globe Thistle, Echeveria, Autumn crocus.
 1988 Bicentenary Linnean Society : Yellow Water Lily
 1989 Greetings stamps : Rose
 1991 9th World Rose Congress (5)
 1992 Greetings—Memories: Flower spray
 1992 Protection of environment—acid rain killing flower (24p)
 1993 World Orchid Conference (5)
 1993 Four seasons—Autumn (4)
 1995 Greetings—Art Booklets: leaf in Shakespeare Love Poem
 1995 Four seasons—Springtime: 5 plant sculptures
 1995 Christmas : Holly sprigs on 25p and 60p
 1996 Burns Death Bicentenary : wild rose on 25p
 1997 Greetings—19th Century flower paintings (10)
 1998 Endangered Species: Lady's Slipper Orchid
 2000 Water & Coast : water lilies, reed beds, hydroponic leaves
 2000 People & Places : Daises
 2000 Stone & Soil: Bluebell wood
 2000 Tree & leaf: sunflower
 2001 Face painting: generic flower
 2002 Greetings—Occasions : Flowers (Best Wishes)
 2002 Christmas Plants (5)
 2004 Centenary of the Royal Horticultural Show : dianthus, dahlia, clematis, miltonia, lilium, delphinium (6)
 2005 Smilers booklet stamps: Gazania Splendens
 2006 Smilers booklet stamps: champagne, flowers and butterflies.
 2006 90th anniv The Somme—Poppies
 2007 90th anniv Passchendaele—Poppy
 2008 90th anniv Armistice—Poppy
 2009 Darwin Birth Bicentenary : Bee orchid
2009 Action for Species : plants (10)
 2010 Classic Albums Covers: flowers on New Order album
 2011 50th anniv of World Wildlife Fund: various flora shown across composite mini-sheet



Like the Wild Flowers issue thirty years before the **2009 Action for Species: UK Species in Recovery** issue focusses on wild flora which have experienced decline. Of these, only one has appeared on our stamps before—the Lady’s Slipper Orchid (in the 1998 Endangered Species set). Happily all ten plants featured are examples of recent conservation success, supported by new laws and the creation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves. This too is a particularly attractive set with each plant in front of a creamy white background dominating its stamp.

Further intriguing aspects of this very attractive theme would be to identify the flora which appear in the *background* of sets which focus on other topics, such as the 1977 Wildlife, 1981 Butterflies and the 2015 Bee stamps and to research the reasons behind each flower’s formal Latin botanical name, which often reference its discoverer or cultivator.

2011 150th anniv William Morris : plants in five textile designs

2012 Britons of Distinction : Mary Morris textile designer—
Orange Tree blossom in design

2012 Christmas : holly on £1.28 value

2014 Centenary of First World War—poppy on 1st class

2015 Smilers : flowers on “Mum” stamp

2015 Centenary of First World War—poppies on 1st class

2015 Bees taking pollen from various plants (6)

2016 Centenary of First World War—poppy on 1st class

2016 Christmas—holly in paper sculptures

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2017 Centenary of First World War—poppy on 1st class

2018 Reintroduced Species: Stinking Hawk’s Beard

2018 Captain Cook’s *Endeavour* voyage

Politics

Not the most inspiring of themes perhaps, this can nevertheless be an intriguing one if you are prepared to use your imagination and research skills.



The most frequently addressed subjects are Winston Churchill (commemorated with nine stamps), the Palace of Westminster (also nine, including two interior views) and the Women's Suffrage movement (with four, two of which honour Emmeline Pankhurst). Almost all politicians depicted became Prime Minister, the exceptions being Lord Shaftesbury, William Wilberforce, Barbara Castle and John Archer, the first mayor of a London borough (Battersea) of African descent. Only one other politician, William Gladstone, has been commemorated with two stamps and only two from a foreign country, the American statesman Benjamin Franklin and the Indian activist Mohandas Gandhi.

Few of the stamps showing Prime Ministers, the earliest being Robert Walpole and the most recent Margaret Thatcher give any clue to their achievements relying simply on studio portraits, painted or photographed.

There are some exceptions to this rather dull approach. The 1980 set for the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway could be used in connection with former colonial secretary William Huskisson (MP for Liskeard) who was knocked over and killed by the locomotive on its inaugural journey on September 15th, 1830. Similarly, the 2006 British Journey : England showing Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, could be included as a reference to Joseph Chamberlain, Mayor of Birmingham 1873-6, MP for Birmingham from 1876 and colonial secretary between 1895 and 1903.



The 2007 stamp for the Abolition of the Slave Trade shows William Wilberforce (MP for Hull) in front of an anti-slavery poster. A 2010 Britain Alone stamp shows Churchill inspecting troops and a stamp in the 2013 Great Britons set shows local politician John Archer before the façade of Battersea Town Hall, from which he served as Mayor.



So two ways of expanding the theme would be to identify stamps, postcards, postmarks, meter marks etc relating to

Prime Minister	Dates	Party	Constituency	Examples of Achievements
Robert Walpole	1724-42	Whig	Castle Rising, King's Lynn	First PM
William Pitt (the Younger)	1784-1801	Whig	Appleby	"Saviour of Europe"
Charles Grey	1830-4	Whig	Northumberland	Reform Bills, Abolition of Slave Trade
Robert Peel	1834-5	Tory	Cashell, Tamworth	Reform of London Police, Inventor of income tax
William Gladstone		Con/Lib	Newark, S. Lancashire, Midlothian	Universal male suffrage, Irish Home Rule
Benjamin Disraeli	1868	Tory	Maidstone	Purchase of 50% of Suez canal
David Lloyd George	1916-22	Lib	Carnarvon Boroughs	WW1, Peace Negotiator, Irish Free State
Winston Churchill	1940-5	Lib/Con	Oldham, Epping, Dundee	Battle of Britain
Clement Attlee	1945-51	Lab	Limehouse, Stepney	NHS, Indian Independence
Harold Wilson	1964-70	Lab	Ormskirk, Huyton	Open University
Margaret Thatcher	1979-	Con	Finchley	

part of the constituency of those politicians whose portrait only has been used. Stamps (not necessarily British) could also be sourced to identify important areas of interest and achievement or significant events during their terms of office. For example William Gladstone was Conservative MP for Newark, then the University of Oxford, then South Lancashire and finally Midlothian and is remembered for his work on universal male suffrage and Irish Home Rule. Liberal David Lloyd George represented Carnarvon Boroughs and served as PM during World War One, later passing important legislation relating to Merchant Shipping and the Irish Free State.



"Suffragette" was a term coined by the *Daily Mail* as a derogatory label for members of the late 19th and early 20th century movement for women's suffrage in the

United Kingdom, in particular members of the Women's Social and Political Union. Emmeline Pankhurst (shown on stamps in 1965 and 2006) was a political activist and leader of the British suffragette movement which helped women win the right to vote.

There is handful of issues for Parliamentary Conferences between 1957 and 1986 which show the Palace of Westminster from different viewpoints. Whilst commemorating such august meetings may seem odd today, the stamps were probably intended to raise public awareness at the time, but now they could be used to illustrate a small display on Westminster.

Finally two other groups of stamps provide an historical perspective to the theme. In 1999 and 2015 stamps were issued to commemorate King John's reluctant signing of Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215.

Royal power ceded by King John was further weakened if only for a while with the creation of the first directly elected English Parliament in 1265 (700th anniversary issue 1965).



The man responsible for this was ironically a Frenchman, Simon de Montfort when he was *de facto* king of England for a year and a half from 1264-5.

- 1957 46th Inter Parliamentary Union Conference
- 1961 Seventh Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Palace of Westminster
- 1965 Churchill Commemoration
- 1965 700th Anniv of Simon de Montfort's Parliament
- 1968 Anniversaries: The TUC and Emmeline Pankhurst
- 1969 Gandhi Centenary
- 1973 19th Parliamentary Conference, Palace of Westminster
- 1974 Birth Centenary of Winston Churchill
- 1975 62nd Inter Parliamentary Union Conference, Palace of Westminster
- 1976 Bicentenary of American Revolution : Benjamin Franklin
- 1976 Social reformers: Lord Shaftesbury.
- 1977 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
- 1980 Opening of Liverpool & Manchester railway—William Huskisson MP killed by train
- 1986 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
- 1992 Gilbert and Sullivan: *Iolanthe*, Palace of Westminster
- 1999 The Citizens' Tale: Suffragette, Magna Carta
- 2002 Bridges of London: Westminster Bridge and Palace
- 2006 British Journey #5 England: Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, named after Joseph Chamberlain.
- 2006 150th anniv National Portrait Gallery: Winston Churchill, Emmeline Pankhurst
- 2007 Bicentenary of Abolition of Slave Trade: William Wilberforce
- 2008 Women of Distinction: Millicent Fawcett, Barbara Castle
- 2009 Eminent Britons: William Gladstone
- 2010 Britain Alone : Winston Churchill inspecting troops
- 2011 House of Hanover : Robert Walpole in mini-sheet
- 2011 A-Z of Britain: 10 Downing Street
- 2012 Britons of Distinction: Interior of Palace of Westminster
- 2012 A-Z of Britain: Manchester Town Hall
- 2013 Great Britons: David Lloyd George and Palace of Westminster, John Archer and Battersea Town Hall
- 2014 Prime Ministers (8)
- 2015 800th anniv of Magna Carta
- Published in edited format in *STAMP* in September 2018, but since then additionally....
- 2017 Scottish and Welsh parliament buildings
- 2018 Votes for Women

Unique Cover : Opening of the Scottish Parliament Building at Holyrood



To mark the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the Parliament Building, designed by Enric Miralles, regular correspondent Jeff Dugdale purchased a cover signed in October 2004 by The Rt Hon Jim Wallace QC (the then Deputy First Minister in the Lab-Lib Coalition government). Jeff then asked his daughter Kezia who was at that time the Leader of the Labour Party in Scotland to seek a few more signatures of M.S.P.s who had been present on the historic occasion ten years earlier. The signatures are from top left :

Johann Lamont, Jackie Baillie, Michael McMahon, Elaine Murray, Ken Macintosh, Iain Gray and Malcolm Chisholm.

Below Scottish Parliament stamp fdc signed by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

