

Royal Mail First Day Cover



*The Diamond Jubilee*

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## Six royal decades Next month a very special stamp issue marks The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

**On 31 May** there will be a special eight-stamp issue featuring photographs that portray The Queen performing her official duties at home and abroad over the past 60 years. Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II is now the longest living British monarch in history. During her reign Her Majesty has met every world leader, conferred more than 400,000 honours, had two million people to tea, travelled millions of miles and shaken hundreds of thousands of hands. She is without doubt the most famous monarch in the world.

Because this year marks the 60th anniversary of her accession in 1952, an extended weekend of national celebrations is planned: the Diamond Jubilee celebrations will take place around 2 June, the date of the Coronation in 1953. This will be only the second Diamond Jubilee in the whole history of our monarchy (the one other British monarch to have celebrated a Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria in 1897).

**To mark this momentous anniversary** Royal Mail has worked closely with Buckingham Palace to select the archive photography used on the forthcoming stamps. The images portray The Queen performing her official duties at home and abroad from the 1950s to the present day, reflecting her roles as world leader, head of state, Head of the UK's Armed Forces and Head of the Commonwealth.

### The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II special issue, stamp by stamp:

Please note that stamp tariffs for May have not been confirmed at the time *Bulletin* goes to press, so the prices shown on illustrations may change.

*Golden Jubilee 2002, First Class* The Queen is shown at the Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral, which was attended by the



Above: pictorial design  
Talents House First Day  
postmark and the alternative  
pictorial 'Windsor, Berkshire'  
diamond-shaped mark

Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen Elizabeth II - Specifications	
Issue date	31 May
Number of stamps	Eight
Designer	Kate Stephens
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	De La Rue
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Above: these eight stamps designed by Kate Stephens and shown far left on the First Day Cover, reflect different aspects of The Queen's role and capture some of the flavour of every decade of her 60-year reign. NB postage rates for May may be subject to change



entire Royal Family on 4 June 2002. During the year that marked the 50th anniversary of the Accession, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh travelled 40,000 miles to attend official celebrations.

*Trooping the Colour 1967, First Class* The Trooping of the Colour celebrates the monarch's official birthday every June. Queen Elizabeth took the salute on horseback until the retirement of Burmese, her favourite charger, in 1986. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police presented Burmese to Her Majesty in April 1969 and The Queen rode her in 18 consecutive birthday parades.

*The Royal Welsh, 2007* The Queen is Head of the UK's Armed Forces and is seen here inspecting the 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh at Lucknow Barracks in Tidworth, Wiltshire on 1 March 2007.

*First Christmas TV Broadcast 1957* Queen Elizabeth II was the first UK monarch to embrace television – the new technology of the 1950s – by being filmed giving the Christmas address to the nation. The programme was filmed at Sandringham House in Norfolk (and today can be seen and

heard on radio. *Silver Jubilee Walkabout 1977* When the nation celebrated 25 years of the Queen's reign in 1977, Her Majesty made a number of royal walkabouts and the scene on this stamp reflects the enthusiasm of the crowds that gathered to greet her across the UK.

*Garter Ceremony 1997* Resplendent in the full robes – including black velvet hat with white plumes – of the Order of the Garter, founded by King Edward III in the early 14th century.



Right: Stamp Book, with two First Class stamps from the new issue, showing The Queen celebrating her Golden Jubilee in 2002, and four First Class Diamond Jubilee definitives



### Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen Elizabeth II – Retail Stamp Book

Number of stamps	2 x 1st Commemoratives 4 x 1st Diamond Jubilee Definitives
Design	Kate Stephens
Special Stamp Size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printing
Print process	Gravure
Gum	Self-adhesive

*United Nations Address 1957* Cementing her position as a world statesperson, The Queen addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations, as a young woman in 1957.

*Commonwealth Games 1982* The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, is featured at the 1992 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, Australia.

**Additional philatelic products** Royal Mail is producing a First Day Cover, Presentation Pack,

Stamp Book, Prestige Stamp Book, Coin Cover, Silver Proof Coin Cover, Gold Proof Coin Cover, Stamp Cards and special handstamps to accompany the Diamond Jubilee stamp issue. As this edition of *Bulletin* goes to press, new tariff rates remain unconfirmed so we are not able to give accurate prices for stamps issued in May. We suggest that collectors contact Tallents House nearer the date of issue to confirm prices.

*The First Day Cover* is designed by Silk Pearce and carries an insert with an overview of the 60 years of The Queen's reign, written by *Daily Mail* royal correspondent and journalist Robert Hardman.

*The Stamp Book* has a distinctive blue cover with cursive script and features two First Class Diamond Jubilee commemorative stamps with four First Class Diamond Jubilee definitives, as shown above.

*A beautifully illustrated Presentation Pack* contains the eight Diamond Jubilee

pictorial stamps. Inside the pack Robert Hardman looks back over 60 years of the Queen's reign. He is one of Britain's best-known observers of the monarchy, having covered royal life for more than 20 years, both as a Fleet Street royal correspondent, and written several internationally acclaimed royal documentaries. The pack was designed by Silk Pearce and printed by Walsall Security Printers.

*The Prestige Stamp Book* is also written by Robert Hardman and contains four unique stamp panes (as shown on the facing page).

*The Diamond Jubilee Coin Cover* is available as a strictly limited edition of 15,000. Tastefully designed by Demographik, it carries stunning



Above: pictorial postmark for Coin Covers

### Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen Elizabeth II – Prestige Stamp Book panes

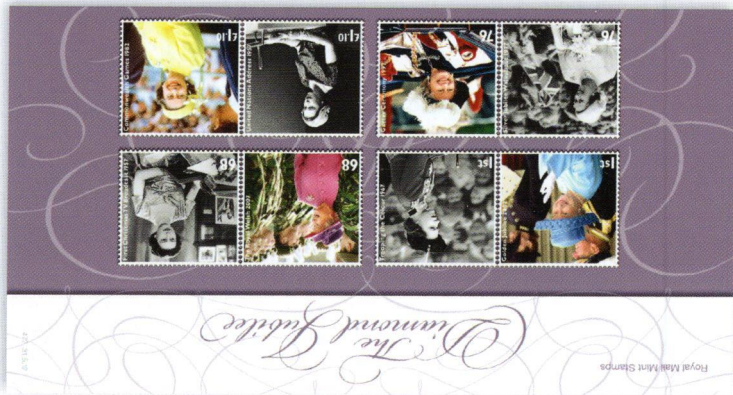
**Pane 1** shows The Queen laying a wreath at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London on Remembrance Day and contains four 1st Class Diamond Jubilee Machins and four 1st Class Wilding definitives

**Pane 2** carries an image from 1996, when The Queen welcomed President Nelson Mandela on his visit to London, and includes four Diamond Jubilee Stamps: United Nations Address 1957, Golden Jubilee 2002, Silver Jubilee Walkabout 1977 and Garter Ceremony 1997

**Pane 3** has a picture of Trooping the Colour in Horse Guards Parade, London, with two Diamond Jubilee Stamps: Trooping the Colour 1967 and The Royal Welsh 2007

**Pane 4** shows Her Majesty at home and carries two Diamond Jubilee Stamps: First Christmas TV Broadcast 1957, Commonwealth Games 1982





Above: the four stamp panes of the Prestige Stamp Book, Number 472. Please note, all May values may be subject to tariff changes

imagery of Queen Elizabeth II in different eras of her reign. All eight mint stamps are cancelled with a unique mark, alongside the cover incorporates an official £5 Brilliant Uncirculated Commemorative Diamond Jubilee Crown, produced by Royal Mint. Also part of the Diamond Jubilee issue, a Silver Proof Coin Cover and Gold Proof Coin Cover will also be available in limited editions. Please see next month's *Bulletin* for full details ●

