



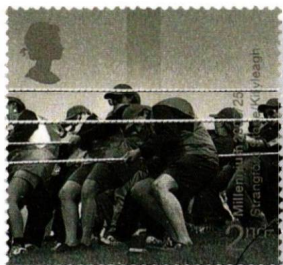
**Strangford Stone** Quarried from the Mountains of Mourne, this 25 tonne granite megalith was raised by the people of Killyleagh using ropes and muscle power.

**Trans Pennine Trail** A route used by walkers, wheelchair users, cyclists and horse riders, this trail connects Wakefield and Leeds, Sheffield and Chesterfield, York and Selby.

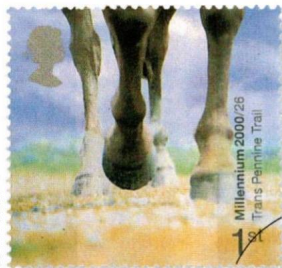
**Kingdom of Fife Cycle Ways** Aiming to promote cycling as a part of daily life, this project encourages people to cycle to the shops, school or work, and not just for recreation.

**Changing Places** Massive areas of Britain lie derelict and neglected – a waste of a precious resource. This project aims to reclaim wasteland for the benefit of local communities.

The Stone and Soil issue will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 4 July.



Dario Mitidieri



John Parker

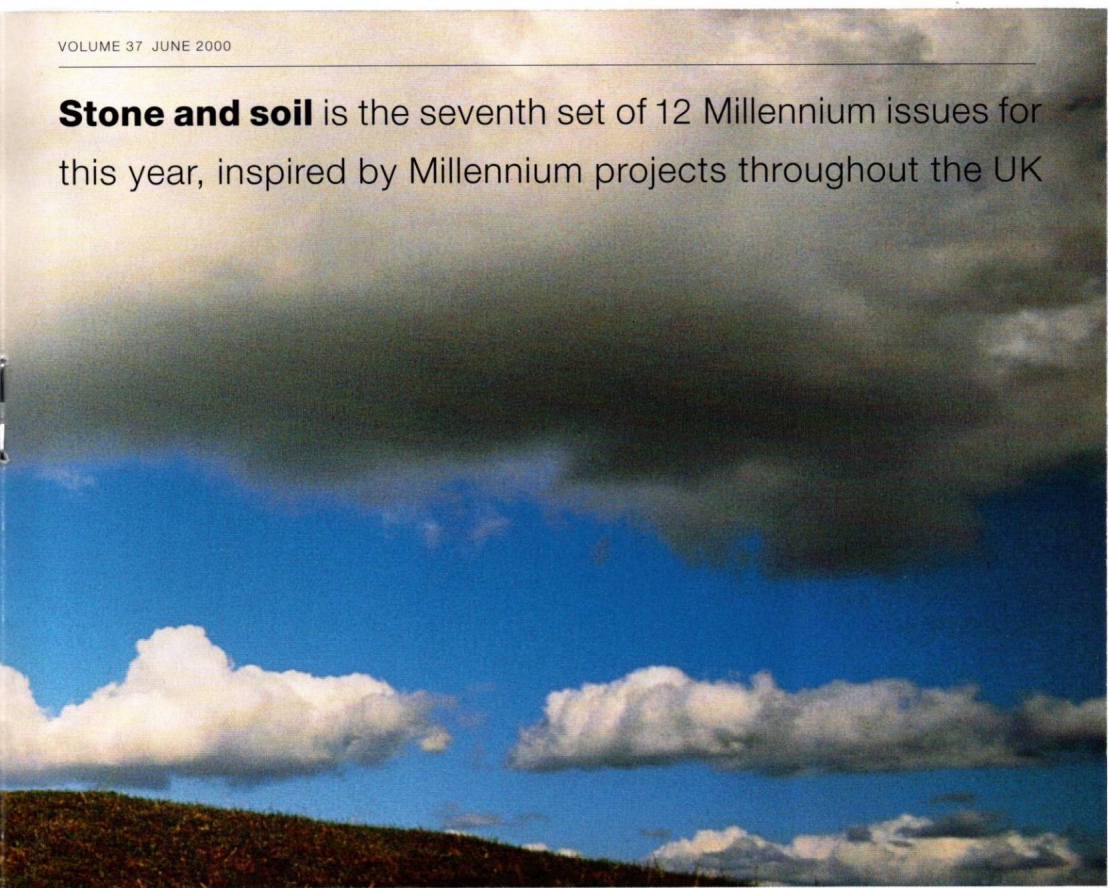


Witold Krassowski



Jo Crowther

**Stone and soil** is the seventh set of 12 Millennium issues for this year, inspired by Millennium projects throughout the UK



The 2nd class stamp depicts the raising of the Strangford Stone, the huge megalith in Killyleagh which has created a timeless landmark • The 1st class represents the 430-mile Trans Pennine Trail, enjoyed by travellers of every kind • The 45p value represents the regional networks of cycling routes now being developed in Fife • The 65p, *Changing Places*, symbolizes the regeneration of neglected land in England and Wales, led by the Groundwork Foundation.





A well-illustrated presentation pack (above, price £1.95) and stamp cards (price 25p each) will be available at main post offices and philatelic outlets.

#### Technical details

**Printer** Joh Enschedé Stamps

**Process** Gravure

**Size** 37 × 35mm

**Sheets** 100

**Perforation** 14 × 14.5

**Phosphor** One band 2nd class; two bands others

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Horizontal

#### Cylinders and colours

**2nd** 1A brownish black ● 1B grey-black ● 1C silver ● 1D phosphor

**1st** 1A greenish yellow ● 1B bright magenta ● 1C new blue ● 1D grey-black ● 1E silver ● 1F grey ● 1G phosphor

**45p** 1A brownish black ● 1B grey-black ● 1C black ● 1D silver ● 1E phosphor

**65p** 1A greenish yellow ● 1B bright magenta ● 1C new blue ● 1D black ● 1E silver ● 1F phosphor

I AFTER THE FIRST FISHY CAMPSITE WE PEOPLE THE DRUMLINS OF LECALÉ, BUILDING UNDER THE CONSTELLATIONS STONE CIRCLES TO MEASURE TIME, LEAVING BEHIND US STANDING STONES, AND FROM THIS SIDE OF THE NARROWS WE FATHOM THE VIOLENT FIORD AND LISTEN TO WATERY WINDS, TO OYSTERCATCHER AND GOLDEN PLOVER CRYING OVER OUR GRAVES.

II AGAIN WE BEGIN WITH A BIG STONE AND GATHER AROUND MOURNE GRANITE'S CONTINUOUS PRESENT TENSE TO TALK ABOUT OURSELVES AND PLAN HOW TO CRADLE FROM THE QUARRY THE COLUMN, THE MILLENNIUM, HOW TO PLANT THE TONNAGE IN THE SKY, FOR WE ARE A THOUSAND AND ONE WHO CAME TOGETHER TO BUILD HEAVEN'S GATEWAY IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

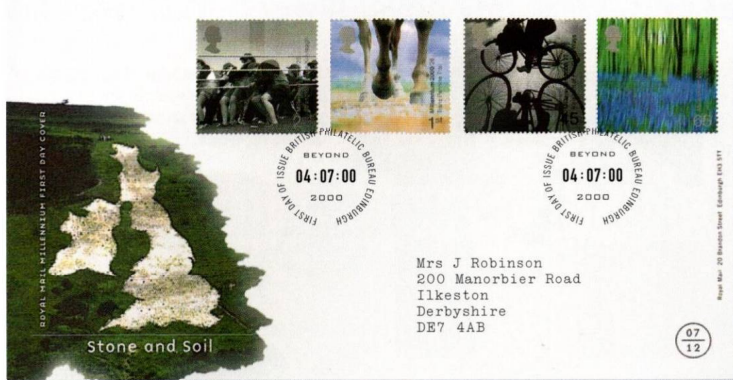
III WE PUT IT UP WITH OUR BARE HANDS IN THIS SMALLHOLDING, A HOME-MADE MEGALITH, HOPE'S BIG IMMOVABLE STANDING STONE, LANDMARK FOR THE LOST, WINDBREAK FOR THE DESTITUTE, FOR THE UNREMEMBERED AND DISAPPEARED A HEADSTONE, AND FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO PAUSE BENEATH AND LIFT THEIR EYES A SIGNPOST POINTING TO THE PAST AND ANOTHER WAY, TO PARADISE.

Last year hundreds of young people pulled together in Killyleagh, Northern Ireland to raise a 12.5m (40ft) high granite megalith using ropes and muscle power. The Strangford Stone, quarried from the Mourne Mountains, is one of the tallest megaliths in Europe, 10m of it visible above ground. The team effort has created a landmark for centuries to come.

The Trans Pennine Trail runs from Merseyside to Humber, its east-west trail crossed by north-south sections. In all it forms a route of some 700km (430 miles) through a wide variety of rural and urban landscapes, following disused railway lines, riversides, canal towpaths, minor roads and paths. Funding is by a partnership of local authorities.

One of the most comprehensive regional networks of cycles routes is being developed in Fife. Urban centres will be linked, routes clearly signed and traffic calming and reduction measures introduced where required. Work on the 500km (300 mile) network includes creating on-road cycle lanes, building protected road crossings, creating joint-use paths for pedestrians and cyclists and providing secure cycle parking facilities.

Massive areas of Britain lie derelict and neglected – a waste of a precious resource. The Groundwork Foundation's Project, Changing Places, aims to regenerate over 1000 hectares (2500 acres) in sites across England and Wales, enhancing the environment for local communities.



**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 4 July, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Killyleagh must reach the Bureau by 4 July. Price £2.25 UK (including VAT) or £1.92 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (Killyleagh postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0019' (Bureau), or 'FD0020' (Killyleagh). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Killyleagh postmark. A non-pictorial Killyleagh postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FD0020 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 4 July will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. Covers may bear just the 2nd class Stone and Soil stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 4 July.

**MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS** A well-illustrated Stone and Soil pack (price £1.95) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. Each of the Millennium packs this year includes a specially commissioned poem. The Stone and Soil poem, entitled *Strangford Stone* is by Belfast-born Michael Longley. His collections include *Gorse Fires* (winner of Whitbread Prize for Poetry), and *The Ghost Orchid*. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature ●

**Next Millennium issues** The eighth set in the Millennium 2000 series will be issued on 1 August. Entitled *Tree and Leaf*, it features Yews for the Millennium; the Eden Project, St Austell; Millennium Seed Bank, Ardingly; and Forest for Scotland – details next month. The series then continues with *Mind and Matter* (5 September), *Body and Bone* (3 October), *Spirit and Faith* (7 November), and *Sound and Vision* (5 December) ●

