

2012



## The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are almost here. Prepare to celebrate!

**Sporting souvenirs** Royal Mail has been looking forward to London 2012 for more than three years. The philatelic countdown to the Games began in October 2009 with the release of the first set of ten stamps, with the sub-set title of 'The Journey to 2012'. The stamps were issued in two se-tenant strips of five first class stamps, setting the format and high artistic standard to be echoed in the subsequent sets of 2010 and 2011. This year has seen the issue of unique London 2012 definitive stamps, as well as the Sports Cover Collection, the series of London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Countdown Coin Covers and Torch Relay Cachet Covers. Now Royal Mail is delighted to announce that the last couple of years have also been spent preparing to celebrate gold medal success for Team GB in every sport.

While the winners cannot, of course, be predicted, philatelic tributes to gold medallists are ready and waiting: a series of commemorative First Class

Right: London 2012 Gold Medal Winners Miniature Sheets are already prepared – minus the images.  
Top: the official London 2012 Compendium (£20) makes an informative companion to the Games and is tailor-made to hold your Team GB Gold Medal Winners Stamp Collection





London 2012, Olympic Park, London E20, d.m.2012

Left: First Day Cover  
 London 2012 Gold Medal  
 Winners Miniature Sheets  
 will contain a fact-packed  
 insert. Due to the unique  
 next-day timing, the covers  
 will not be personalised  
 but will feature the Olympic  
 Stadium address and the  
 unique postmark shown  
 above. These Miniature  
 Sheets and Covers can  
 be pre-ordered by phone  
 on 08457 641 641

**The London 2012 Olympic Gold Medal**

**The design**  
 The obverse of the London 2012 Olympic medal features an image of the Greek goddess of victory, Nike. The reverse contains five symbolic elements:  
 The curved background suggests a bow in honour to that of an archery athlete.  
 The core emblem is an architectural expression and acts as a metaphor for the modern city.  
 The grid implies radiating energy that represents the athletes' achievements.  
 The wavy line symbolises the River Thames (and through it, London) and also suggests a fluttering ribbon.  
 The square is a balancing motif, emphasising focus on the centre and reinforcing a sense of place.  
 The edge of the medal is engraved with the name of the sport and the discipline.

**Gold medal facts**  
 The 2012 Olympic medal has been designed by **David Weir**.  
 The gold medal is 85mm in diameter and weighs 400g. It contains **8g of gold**.

**Approximate number of medals presented at the London 2012 Olympic Games**

205 Number of countries represented at London 2012  
 80,000 Capacity of the Olympic Stadium  
 19 Days of competition  
 34 Number of victory ceremonies

**London 2012 British Olympic Gold Medal Winner Royal Mail First Day Cover**  
 Olympic Stadium, Olympic Park, London E20 2JF

Miniature Sheets have been printed in advance, using special gold inks, and almost as soon as the results are announced they will be finished with the name, sport and image of every Team GB Gold Medal Winner.

**First-ever 'next day' stamps** Images of each Team GB win will be sent to Royal Mail, where designers will have about an hour to choose the one that best defines the winning moment and create artwork to send to our printers. A number of printers across the country will work overnight to print the stamps ready for Royal Mail to put on sale by noon the next day – in less than 24 hours after the featured athlete or team has won gold for Team GB! Unique First Day Covers will comprise the Miniature Sheet affixed to a special cover featuring a unique postmark, the Olympic Stadium address and a fact-packed insert.

An Official London 2012 Compendium is also available, with a foreword by Sir Steve Redgrave and designed to keep your Team GB Gold Medal Winners Stamp Collection safe for posterity ●

**London 2012 Olympic Gold Medal Winners Miniature Sheet – Specifications**

Number of stamps	Six
Size of sheet	192mm x 74.25mm
Design	True North and Royal Mail
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Printer	Walsall Security Print and six regional printers
Print process	Lithography + digital overprint
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Screen
Gum	Self-adhesive