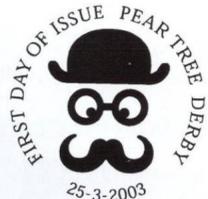
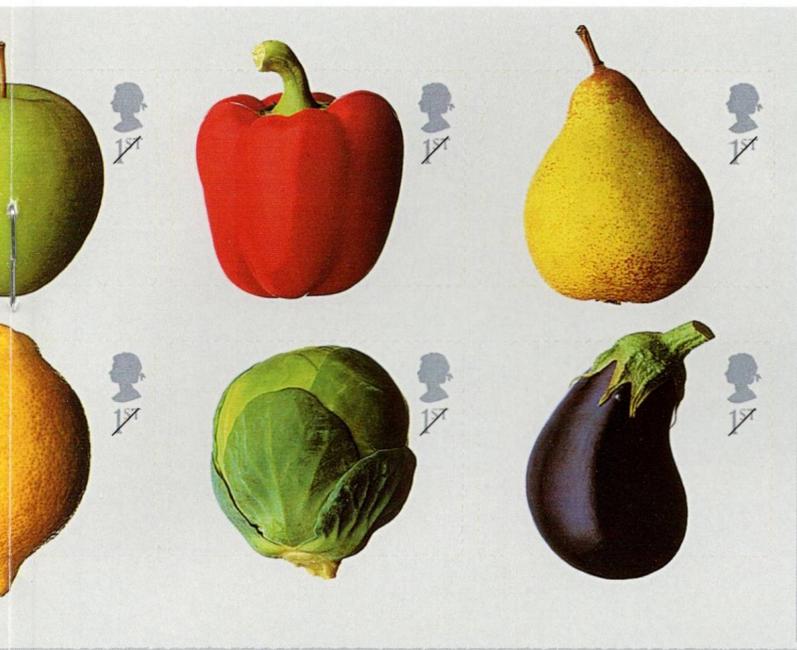


present an opportunity to 'design-it-yourself'



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 25 March, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Pear Tree, Derby must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.59 UK or £3.06 overseas. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA (Pear Tree postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0307' (Tallents House), or 'FD0308' (Pear Tree). Covers posted at main Post Office branches will receive the Pear Tree postmark.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 25 March will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. Please note the new prices given at right.

British Postmark Bulletin

£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere. For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.





The stamps and labels will be sold in sealed packs (shown above), price £2.70.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated presentation pack containing the 10 stamps and labels (top, price £3.05) and stamp cards (not shown, 25p each) will be available from Tallents House and main Post Office branches. The pack was designed by Morgan Radcliffe ●



Fruit and veg on stamps Somewhat surprisingly owing to their importance to our diet, the forthcoming set is the first devoted to fruits and vegetables. Indeed the number of stamps on the subject is very limited: 1989 one of the first issue Greetings stamps (bowl of fruit, top left), 1989 Food & Farming 19p (above left), 1993 Autumn 24p and 39p (blackberry and pear, top centre and top right), 1999 Millennium Settlers' Tale 26p (fruit, above centre) and Farmers' Tale 44p (peeling potato, above right).

Britain's farmers produce a wide range of fruit and vegetables – especially traditional crops such as apples, pears, currants, berries, salad plants, onions, leeks, cauliflower, broccoli, tomatoes, Brussels sprouts, peas and beans. In recent years several more exotic items have been grown in increased quantities, for example sweet peppers, aubergines, kohlrabi, mooli, pumpkins and squashes •