

The Queen's 80th Birthday Eight stamps



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé

Security Print

Process Gravure

Stamp size 41 × 30mm

Sheets 30 and 60

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs

EIGHT STAMPS featuring portraits of HM The Queen go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 18 April to mark Her Majesty's 80th birthday on 21 April. The eight stamps will be printed in four horizontal se-tenant pairs showing: The Queen in 1972 and 1985; The Queen during a visit to Heathrow Airport and as Princess Elizabeth with her mother in 1931; as Princess Elizabeth in 1951 and Queen in 1960; and as Princess Elizabeth in 1940 and with Prince Philip, 1951. The stamps were designed by Sedley Place.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 30. However, sheets of 60 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

Stamp values Values of the stamps were not confirmed at time of printing. These details, including cost of the FDC and pack, will be announced in the March *Bulletin*.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 18 April, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Windsor must reach Tallents House by the day of issue.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Windsor postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FDO617' (Tallents House), or 'FDO618' (Windsor). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark. A non-pictorial Windsor postmark is available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FDO618 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 18 April will be given in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

to celebrate the decades in Her Majesty's life



A coin cover will also be available for the Queen's Birthday issue. This will bear the eight Royal Mail stamps cancelled by a special Windsor postmark, and has the Royal Mint £5 coin issued for The Queen's 80th birthday (shown above) encapsulated. The obverse shows the current coin portrait of The Queen by Ian Rank-Broadley. The reverse of the coin, by Danuta Solowiej-Wedderburn, features state trumpets with the inscription '1926 VIVAT REGINA 2006'. The cover will be priced £17.95.



A well-illustrated presentation pack and stamp cards (30p each) will be available at main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Tallents House. The pack, shown left, was written by Fay Sweet and designed by Sedley Place. It features some 85 pictures of The Queen – alone, and with family, politicians, overseas monarchs and statesmen, sportsmen and entertainers.



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More stamps portraying The Queen were shown in an article by the late Daniel Cooke in the February 2002 *Bulletin*, published to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Royal issues This is the latest in a long line of stamp issues marking events and anniversaries in The Queen's life. Four stamps were issued the day after her coronation in 1953 and stamps marked the 25th, 40th and 50th anniversaries of her accession in 1977, 1992, and 2002. Stamps marking the 25th and 50th anniversaries of the coronation were issued in 1978 and 2003. As Princess Elizabeth, The Queen married Prince Philip (Duke of Edinburgh) in 1947 and stamps for their silver and golden wedding anniversaries were issued in 1972 and 1997. A further issue is planned next year for their 60th (diamond) anniversary. Her Majesty's 60th birthday was marked by two designs (each in two denominations) in 1986 and her 70th birthday by a label pane in 1996, and Her Majesty also featured on one of the four stamps in the miniature sheet marking the 100th birthday of The Queen Mother in 2000. Stamps for all these events were also issued by many Commonwealth countries, making for an extensive Royal collection •