

October update

Philatelic celebrations of London 2012 conclude in style with a new stamp set and commemorative cover – and a role in the Victory Parade

MEMORIES OF LONDON 2012

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games produced some truly remarkable performances in a magnificent display of sporting endeavour and achievement.

Sebastian Coe

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Memories of London 2012 Under wraps and with no details confirmed until two weeks before its issue on September 27, the four-stamp set entitled Memories of London 2012 is Royal Mail's final set of stamps marking the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

A Games Maker stamp highlights the role of the 70,000 Games Makers in making the London 2012 Games such a great success. The first-class stamp features a group of the Games Makers – all volunteers – in their distinctive purple and red uniforms, walking towards the London 2012 stadium.

The Paralympic Games feature on two of the stamps – the £1.28 with an image of the spectacular firework display during the Paralympic Opening Ceremony and a first-class stamp showing the ParalympicsGB team entering the stadium to conclude the procession of the participating athletes.

A fourth stamp, another £1.28 value, shows a memorable scene from the Closing Ceremony, in which the athletes and officials of all the participating countries formed a spectacular human version of the Union Flag in the Olympic Stadium.

The four stamps are printed within a border featuring a quote from Lord Coe.

The lavishly illustrated Presentation Pack (£4.30) contains the Memories of London 2012 Miniature Sheet and text by Richard Rae. The envelope and filler card of the First Day Cover (£4.99 by mail order) were designed by The Chase, Manchester, and feature the names of the gold-medal-winning GB athletes. A set of five Stamp Cards is also available (£2.25).

'We want these new stamps to remind people of the truly iconic moments of the London ▶

Memories of London 2012, clockwise from top left: Fireworks at the Paralympic Opening Ceremony, ParalympicsGB team, Memories of London 2012: Games Makers, Closing Ceremony

Memories of London 2012 Miniature Sheet

Number of stamps	2 x 1st and 2 x £1.28
Price	£3.76
Size of Sheet	192mm x 74mm
Design	The Chase, Manchester
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp Size	60mm x 30mm
Printer	Walsall Security
Print Process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Above: Andrew Hammond at Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles Department, London 2012

Olympic Games and Paralympic Games,' said Andrew Hammond, Managing Director of Stamps and Collectibles. 'Royal Mail has been delighted to mark the build-up to the Games and each success of TeamGB and ParalympicGB's gold-medal-winning athletes with a series of stamp issues. It is fitting that we conclude the special issues by marking some of the stand-out memories that have helped to make London 2012 one of the most successful Games ever.'

To find your nearest Post Office branch selling London 2012 stamps, visit www.postoffice.co.uk and select the 'branch finder' option ●

Bulletin Manager on the Victory Parade William Doherty, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles Magazine Manager, leapt at the opportunity to take part in last month's London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic victory parade.

William gathered with other Royal Mail employees on 10 September to join some 800 athletes in the Our Greatest Team Parade in the capital. They marched three miles from Mansion House in the City of London to the Queen Victoria Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace. The Royal Mail contingent comprised Royal Mail, Romec and Post Office employees. They represented the teams who helped issue the Gold Medal Winner stamps, painted more than 90 gold post boxes in winners' home towns or towns where they trained, processed and delivered 7.5 million tickets, and delivered mail to the Olympic Village. They walked alongside the 21 victors' floats, proudly carrying giant versions of the 63 Medal Winner stamps Royal Mail has produced to mark Olympic and Paralympic victories.

The parade rounded off an amazing 'Olympic summer' for William. First, his son Patrick, along with classmates, sang at the Olympic Torch Relay in Ayr, his local town. 'Then to be selected to take part in the Athletes Parade was such a privilege and an honour,' said William. 'As soon as the Brownlee brothers spotted me with the giant stamp they immediately wanted their photo taken with it!

'Our placards featured large on the BBC's coverage, with rowers Katherine Grainger and Anna Watkins signing theirs live on TV. And David Weir, who won gold four times in the Paralympics, was interviewed against the backdrop of one of our stamp placards.'

Also taking part in the parade was Andy Neale, a postman in Stroud, Gloucestershire. 'The stamps were nearly as popular as the athletes!' he said. 'As we walked round, people were shouting: "Royal Mail guy, give us a wave".'

Another participant, Romec technician Darren Stranks, added: 'I would like to say a big

Below: William Doherty with a giant version of the stamp showing Alistair Brownlee, Gold Medal Winner of the Men's Triathlon

