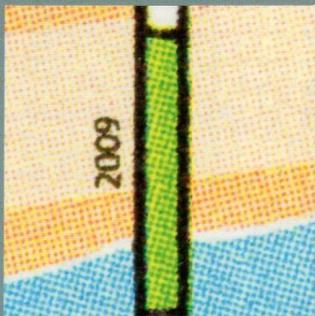
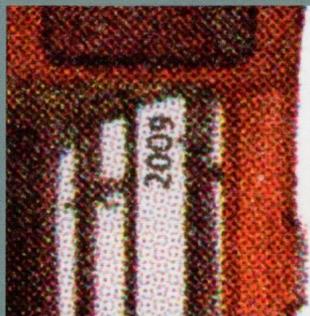


Hidden dates

Richard West reveals how to find the year of



Dates hidden on six special stamps of 2009 (from top left): Olympics Canoe Slalom stamp; Royal Navy Uniforms Admiral; St David from the Celebrating Wales miniature sheet; 1st class Flightless Cormorant stamp from the Charles Darwin miniature sheet; Pagoda stamp from the Kew Gardens miniature sheet; and Routemaster Bus from the Design Classics set.



issue hidden in the design of special stamps

DURING 2009, Royal Mail has once again secreted the year of issue somewhere on each of the designs of the special stamps. For those who want to search out these 'hidden dates' for themselves, read no further. For others, here is where to look on each of the stamps. Many are difficult to locate, requiring quite a search if you use these dates to keep your collection in order of year of issue. Happy hunting!

Design Classics Spitfire: inside of left-hand (looking at the stamp) wheel just under the aircraft body • Miniskirt: by the model's right-hand elbow • Mini: at lower right of the windscreen just above the bonnet • Anglepoise lamp: to the left at the top of the lower stem • Concorde: to the left of the right-hand (looking at stamp) wheels, just below the wing • Telephone kiosk: near the base of the right-hand side of the kiosk • Polypropylene chair: just under the seat to the front of the front legs • Penguin books: at the bottom of the right-hand side of book cover • London Underground map: to the left of the Northern Line (in black) just below London Bridge • Routemaster: to the right of lower deck front passenger window.

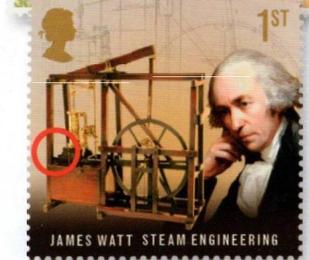
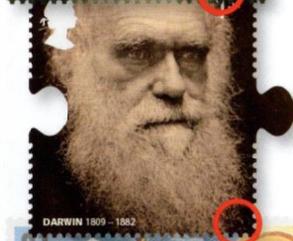
Robert Burns The date is included in the caption on the two special stamps; no dates are included on the Scottish definitives.

Charles Darwin stamps The date is hidden at the bottom of the right-hand phosphor band on each stamp.

Charles Darwin miniature sheet 1st Flightless Cormorant: at the top of bird's feet • 1st Giant Tortoise: between tortoise's shell and rear foot • 81p Marine Iguana: alongside iguana's front leg, above its toes • 81p Floreana Mockingbird: below body behind leg.

Celebrating Wales 1st Red Dragon: between the dragon's neck and wing • 81p St David: to left of cuff of St David's right hand • 81p National Assembly: to left of the lamppost by the entrance to the Assembly Building • 1st Welsh Dragon: definitive, no hidden date.

Industrial Revolution 1st Boulton: on far right chimney • 1st Watt: just inside the machinery, two thirds down the left-hand side of the stamp • 50p Arkwright: on the left-hand spindle, towards the base of the machine • 50p Wedgwood: on Wedgwood's collar just under right ear • 56p Stephenson: among the wires and pulleys, roughly halfway between the base of the Queen's neck and chimney • 56p Maudsley: just inside the machine to the right of Maudsley's left coat lapel • 72p Brindley: between the building and the tree seen through the right-hand arch of the bridge • 72p McAdam: above shoulder of far left-hand road builder. ▶





The House of Tudor On all values and on the miniature sheet, the date is below the design at bottom left of the stamp.

Plants Round headed Leek: in a gap at '3 o'clock' on the uppermost flower • Floating Water Plantain: between leaves at lower centre of stamp • Lady's Slipper Orchid: between leaves halfway down stamp, just left of centre • Dwarf Milkwort: to the right of the main cluster of leaves near the bottom of the stamp • Marsh Saxifrage: between the leaves of the smaller of the right-hand flowers • Downy Woundwort: between the leaves of right-hand flower, just above the main leaves • Upright Spurge: in the middle of the leaves to the left of the Queen's head • Plymouth Pear: between leaves of the right-hand flowers • Sea Knotgrass: just above the lowest of the left-hand cluster of leaves • Deptford Pink: between the leaves of the right-hand flower.

Kew Gardens miniature sheet 1st Palm house: on the path at lower right of stamp • 1st Millennium Seed Bank: at far left of the curved roof • 90p Pagoda: to the right of the Pagoda, near its base • 90p Sackler Crossing: in water above the branch of the tree at lower left of the design – about one inch above the 'l' of 'Sackler'.

Mythical Creatures On all values: out of the right-hand phosphor band at lower right of stamp.

Post Boxes 1st: at bottom left of collection plate • 56p: in mortar at bottom left-hand corner of box • 81p: at bottom right of collection plate • 90p: in mortar at bottom right-hand corner of box.

Fire and Rescue Service On all values: out of the right-hand phosphor band at bottom right-hand corner of stamp.

Royal Navy Uniforms 1st Flight Deck Officer: just below Officer's left hand • 1st Captain: below right upper arm • 1st Second Officer: by gas mask under the right hand • 90p Able Seaman: under right arm by wheel • 90p Royal Marine: to left of the right thigh of the Marine below rifle • 90p Admiral: below right cuff.

Eminent Britons All stamps are 1st class. Perry: just above collar, below right ear • Purcell: just above the left shoulder • Busby: just above collar of suit, below right ear • Gladstone: on collar just by the chin • Wollstonecroft: just above the dress behind the neck • Conan Doyle: just above collar of suit, below right ear • Campbell: just above sleeve above 'n' of 'Donald' • Fryd: above her right shoulder near neck, on leg of one of the dancing children • Johnson: just above collar, to the left of the wig below right ear • Ryle: just above collar of suit below right ear.

Olympic and Paralympic Games All stamps are 1st class. Canoe Slalom: to the left of the far left marker • Archery: just below the quiver at bottom right of stamp • Track: between the athlete's left hand and thigh • Aquatics: on the diver's right foot • Boccia: out of white line halfway down right hand of stamp • Judo: between the legs of the contestant in white • Equestrian: to the right of the jockey's stirrup below front left leg of the horse • Badminton: just below the shuttlecock, on grey band • Weightlifting: to the top of the weightlifter's right arm, by the weight • Basketball: at the top of the player's left leg.



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Christmas All values including miniature sheet: at bottom of phosphor band at left of stamp (except for the 2nd class where the band is down the centre of the stamp) •

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