FIRST DAY COVERAGE

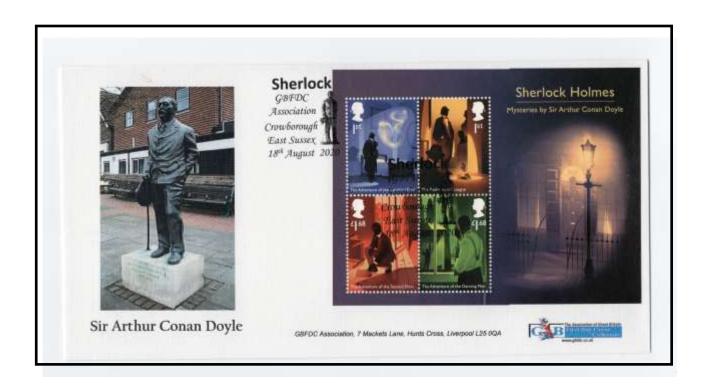
The Newsletter of the Association of G.B. First Day Collectors

Issue No 153

September 2020



Sherlock FDC 18th August 2020 Produced for 2020 AGM



GBFDC, 17 Elderberry Drive, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 3ST

September 2020

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Association Officers

Subject	Contact		
Association Chairman All matters concerning GBFDC Auction Newsletter	Richard Park, Hon. Chairman, 2 Chaffinch Close, Horsham, W. Sussex RH12 5HA E-mail: rjpark@btinternet.com		
All membership matters & National meetings organiser	Terry Barnett, Hon. Secretary 7 Mackets Lane, Hunts Cross Liverpool L25 0QA E- mail: terryhuntsc@yahoo.com		
Editorial, Letters to the Editor, Advertising. Leaflets / inserts. Newsletter queries / editing.	Peter Herring, Editor 17 Elderberry Drive, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 3ST E- mail: herringp@btinternet.com		
Official Cover Producer / Cover dispatch	Terry Barnett, Hon. Secretary 7 Mackets Lane, Hunts Cross Liverpool L25 0QA E- mail: terryhuntsc@yahoo.com		
Hon. Association Treasurer	David Cohen Hon. Treasurer 24 Penshurst Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 9TP Email: david@cohenfamily.co.uk		
Hon. Association Publicity Officer Official Cover Co-ordinator	Ian Balcombe Hon Publicity Officer, 21 The Marlowes London NW8 6NB Email: ianbalc@gmail.com		

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Members.

It is with great regret that after weighing up all the pros & cons and the government guidelines the committee has made the decision to cancel the AGM & fair at the Collingwood Centre on Sunday 4th October 2020.

We feel that as the majority of our members are of a certain age which would put them in the at risk category. We felt the turn out for the AGM would be very low. In addition we would have to cancel the buffet, and there was a question as to whether any refreshments would be available at the Centre. At this point in time we are unable to contact the Collingwood Centre. who are currently closed due to the Covid19, to establish whether or not the Hall would be available.

We are planning to have an AGM online via Zoom, details can be found in this newsletter of the date, time and how you can join in. I know there are members who do not have internet access, so those who have questions can contact the secretary Terry Barnett in writing with your question(s), and these will be read out at the AGM meeting.

Kind regards

Richard Park

REMINDER

Annual subscripts are now due. Please see slip enclosed with the newsletter.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO MEMBERS

When renewing your membership, please can you let us know your postal address and email address if applicable. We have recently had mail returned from a member who has moved and failed to advise of their current address.

By providing this information, we can ensure that our records are up to date.

Thank you.

AGM to be held on Sunday October 4th via Telecommunication.

Chairmans Welcome

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM
- 3. Matters Arising
- 4. Chairmans/Auction Report (RP)
- 5. Newsletter Report (PH)
- 6. Treasurers Report (DC)
- 7. Publicity Officers Report (IB)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AGM ZOOM CODES

lan Balcombe is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: GBFDC AGM

Time: Oct 4, 2020 12:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84849984792? pwd=VTNhd1orTkhvZGRyQWo3bXZIRHNxdz09

Meeting ID: 848 4998 4792

Passcode: z4iL05
One tap mobile

+12532158782,,84849984792#,,,,,0#,,598941# US (Tacoma)

+13017158592,,84849984792#,,,,,0#,,598941# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 848 4998 4792

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NOTE From the Editor

Welcome to the September newsletter.

Firstly I would like to remind members that the AGM and Cover Fair has been cancelled at the Collingwood Centre. The AGM will be held on Sunday 4th October at 13.00 on-line via Zoom. Details of how to access Zoom and the AGM appear on Page 4.

You need to download Zoom prior to the meeting and will be asked if you wish to join a meeting. You then need to insert the Code 848 4998 4792.

It is that time of year when annual subscriptions are due and you should have received a separate note to this effect along with the newsletter.

This issue has two articles written by Ian Balcombe regarding FDCs he prepared for D-Day and Cricket issues. Miles Roe has written about some signed covers in his collection. Peter Lindley has also sent in details of some unusual covers he has. Finally, Selwyn Goodacre has written a piece about the Stamp Centre and raises some questions regarding cds covers sent from Buckingham Palace.

GBFDC Auction

Dear Member,

The GBFDC Club Auction is now available if you have not received a catalogue and would like one posted to you. Please contact Richard Park on email rjpark@btinternet.com or by phone 01403 241825.

You can also find the auction catalogue on the club website https://www.gbfdc.co.uk/auction and click the image of the catalogue will take you straight to the auction listing with over 80 images of cover lots.

The Club website has also been refreshed to bringing it up to date, making it more secure and safe to use. The Old website had served the club well for over 8 years, and was becoming out dated.

Regards

Richard Park.

COVER OF THE MONTH - Reprinted from Stamp Magazine

The Association of Great Britain First Day Cover Collectors (GBFDC) sponsored a special handstamp and produced an attractive cover for the Roman Britain stamp issue which was released on June 18.

The cover has a colour illustration of a Roman legionary soldier in armour, with a spear and a shield, and the pictorial handstamp incorporates a motif based on his shield.

The postmark is of St. Albans, the Hertfordshire city known to the Romans as

Verulamium.



<u>AGM Cover 2020 - Sherlock Holmes miniature sheet - a limited edition of 45 covers</u>

As you will have read elsewhere in the newsletter the AGM has been cancelled for this year.

For continuity, we have decided to proceed with an AGM cover for 2020.

The biggest problem that we had was how do we distribute it fairly to the membership.

We decided to go back through the visitor book and to initially off an AGM cover to those that have attended every AGM since 2014.

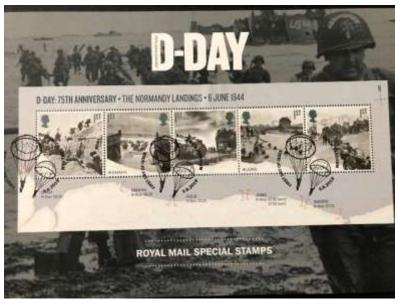
We now have a limited number of covers available at a cost of £11 each. These will be offered on a first come first served basis.

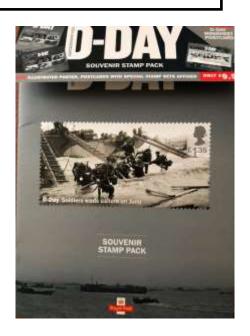
Payment / cheques should be payable to "GBFDC" and sent to myself.

Terry Barnett Hon. Sec.

D Day Stamp Issue - Ian Balcombe

I don't know if members have come across the Souvenir Stamp Packs produced by Royal Mail but only available in W H Smith. They cost £9.99 and contain the stamps mounted on a post card which also includes a free minisheet postcard. However they are neither mint or used. To a non-philatelist a souvenir or possibly something to be framed; but to a philatelist of no use unless they are sent for a first day postmark, which I did as shown and make nice First Day Cover cards.

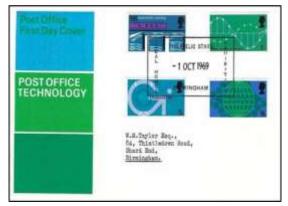




Realisations from GBFDC Auction 37 June 2020



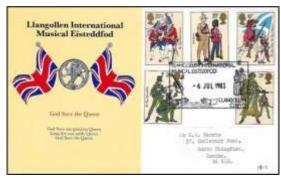
1929 £1 PUC £9,500



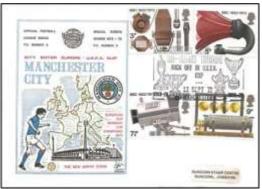
1969 PO Tech. Philatelic Stand Ideal Home Exhibition Birmingham H/S £250



1972 BBC Dawn Man. City Official £1500



1983 British Army Llangolleb International Eisteddfod Official £170



1969 Gandhi Trade Fair Exhibition Llanelli H/S £800



1975 Charity Stoke Charity cds £175



1981 Royal Wedding TV Times FDC £40



1994 Golf HCEG Muirfield Official £1300

T20 Cricket World Cup 2019 - Ian Balcombe

Whilst we are enjoying beautiful weather but not able to watch any live Cricket, my mind is cast back to the T20 World Cup Final last Summer at Lord's.

I was lucky enough to have a ticket for it and a seat at the front of the pavilion. Having arrived early I went for a walk around the ground where postcards were being given out to record the day, which I thought may come in useful.

When the stamps were issued for the England Victory, I was able to use the cards for First Day Handstamps, as shown. Including the St John's Wood CDS. Having previously been given free postcards on a previous occasion, and kept once again in case they became useful, I was able to use these for both the Men's and Women's victory stamps as there was enough room to include them together with a very fine painting of the Pavilion.





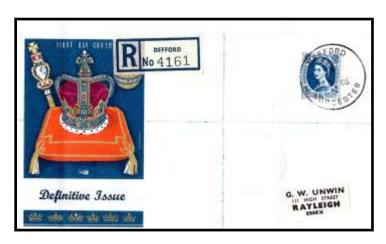


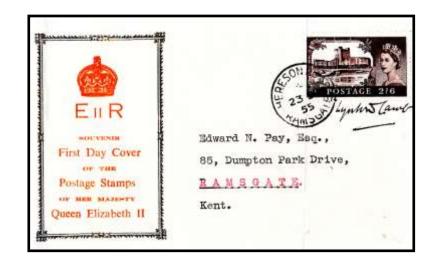


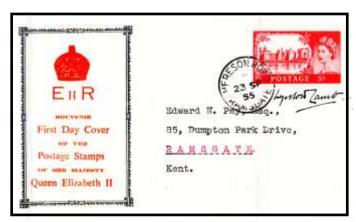
Autographed Covers Miles Roe

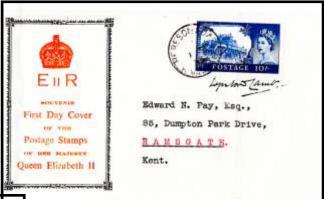
Having read Junes issue of FDC I noticed that you were featuring Autograph issues. So whilst we are all in lock down, I looked up a set of FDCs that I purchased some years ago well known to GBFDC Member, which I thought might be of interest. These FDC are signed by the designer Lynton Lamb, who designed the 1955 Castle issue and are all addressed to the same person. I.m not sure whether this was a limited edition or what, but would be interested to find out more.

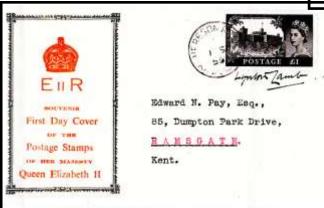
The next cover I am sending is stated as unknown in all catalogues, but I purchased this about a year ago and again would like to know more. This was issued 12/12/1966 and presumably quite rare. However, I think that the 9d issued on 29/12/66 was sold at an auction last year and unfortunately I missed it. There was also 1/3d issued 5/6/61, again unknown. If anyone can shed any light on these or even better wish to sell the 9d or 1/3d, or both, I would be delighted to oblige.











POST OFFICES OPEN DURING THE 1971 STRIKE

Further to the list of offices which appeared in June FDC magazine, may I add the following serviced covers that I have in my collection.

London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks (stamps printed in this town)

Arbroath, Angus (town has connections with Chalmers adhesive postage stamp invention-I have a spare copy for sale if anyone is interested!)

Thanks

Steve Lawton

Brian Reeve Stamp Auctions

Press Release

Our 27th May Stamp Auction was our first auction since Covid 19 completely changed our lives. We were preparing this sale at the end of March when the lockdown was introduced. This was a particularly large sale with a large room full of boxes so it looked as though we had two alternatives - either postponing the sale until customers could come along to view or going ahead as a postal auction with the usual live internet bidding.

If we went ahead without any viewing then results would probably have been poor so we thought of videoing the larger lots that could not be illustrated. Fortunately one of our staff was happy to come in and try this. It soon became obvious that it needed two people to do the job sensibly so she recruited somebody from her household and together they produced over 500 videos of the albums and box lots.

This turned a potential disaster into one of the best sales we have had in 32 years of stamp auctions with a record number of online bidders and a record number of new customers.

Vendors and buyers were generally delighted with the results and so we have committed to doing the same again for our next sale on 26th August so that every lot has either a video or a picture. The videos will be even better this time as we have learnt through trial and error the first time.

We are always looking for material for our auctions. Items for this sale are needed at least five weeks before the auction date.

The Stamp Centre - an Appreciation

By Selwyn Goodacre

I am sure many of us receive the fine catalogues issued by the Stamp Centre (79 Strand, London WC2R ODE). This firm began over 60 years ago as a collection of small dealers. It certainly looks as if they have been producing catalogues for a goodly number of years - having reached No. 569 this year.

I am fairly late on the scene, but their catalogues have always delighted me - Mike runs the firm these days - his listing of FDCs is lovely to read - he often comments on the quality or rarity of individual covers - with much enthusiasm - urging us to buy or bid. I have been able to buy some choice items over the last 10 years or so.

As I have commented elsewhere in this issue of First Day Coverage, he occasionally delights in listing a whole host of similar covers at the same time – as with the Buckingham Palace covers. It can be daunting – but then that is the fun of the whole business, is it not.

The Buckingham Palace FDCs - some queries

By Selwyn Goodacre

Covers with a Buckingham Palace cancellation are not common, as we all know, and any examples are desirable. Adrian Bradbury pointed out that the facilities are 'only available to members of the Royal family or staff of the Royal household'.

The excellent firm of 'The Strand Centre' recently issued a catalogue (their No. 569) with a whole host of Buckingham Palace FDCs. They listed covers dating from 1969 through to 2009 (whether the folk at the Palace produced covers before or after these dates I have no idea).

The question that springs to mind is - just how many of each issue were processed?

I have five Palace covers in my 'Halley's Comet' issue (1986), and all are registered - the numbers are 278589; 278628; 278658; 278610; 278743. i.e. covering a range of 154. This seems rather excessive to me - surely they did not process so many? Or were other issues included within this numbering? One wonders.

I also have four Palace covers in my 'Year of the Child' (1979) collection. Now the curious thing here is - they are not registered. We know that the registering of letters with CDS cancellations with numbers stopped between 1993 and 1994, to be replaced by 'recorded delivery' etc. So - why are these 1979 covers not registered, whereas ones produced in 1986 are?

I asked Adrian Bradbury about it, and he said 'my theory is as follows:

Proper registered items would be addressed with a registered label (and in the old days with blue lines) and travelled through the post to the addressee.

Those not registered might well be done 'by favour' and once franked, handed back to the person, who handed the item over the counter for franking. These would also probably be unaddressed. As to how many were done for each issue is anybody's guess!'

Royal Mail Roman Britain FDC and selection of handstamps





Rock Legends- Queen handstamps and Royal Mail cover

Postmarks curtesy of Postmark Bulletin.





Sherlock FDCs and Handstamps







Palace of Westminster FDCs.





Date for your Diary

The 2021 AGM and annual cover Fair has been set for Sunday October 24th. At the Collingwood centre, Birmingham.

First Day Cover Numbers

Whilst researching for special handstamps for recent covers, it was interesting to see that the number of sponsors has reduced.

Bradbury's Collecting British First Day Covers book shows that at various times, about 30 different company's produced FDCs and/or sponsored handstamps. Looking at the issues shown here, I found 4 for the Sherlock issue, For the Queen issue, 5 producers sponsored handstamps, although some did sponsor multiple handstamps.

The Roman Britain issue only seemed to have 4 sponsors. Please note that these numbers exclude Royal Mail.

As collectors, we have seen the cost of new issues and First Day Covers has increased over the years. This is presumably due to lower sales and increased printing and production costs.

Another possible problem is the cost of intellectual property, i.e. the use of images such as Coronation Street, James Bond etc. With the increase in the price of covers, the number of collectors reduces which again affects production costs.

Some years ago, Royal Mail used to publish details of the number of stamps produced by denomination. I have not seen such information for a while, and would be interested to learn what current production numbers are. I would think the number of stamps printed would have reduced, especially as commemorative stamps are not on sale in sub-post offices and postage labels appear to be used more and more.

Looking at the prices achieved in the recent GBFDC Auction, there are collectors willing to pay high prices for rare or scare FDCs. At the same time, many covers produced prior to around 1990, can be purchased cheaply at stamp fairs or popular internet sites.

It will be interesting to see if recent covers maintain their value, but with fewer collectors entering the market place the long term future of the hobby must be in question.

Peter Herring

GBFDC Official covers - Peter Herring

The Association issue 3 covers per year plus a cover for the AGM. This year covers were or will be produced for Romantic Poets, Roman Britain, Sherlock and Brilliant Bugs.

The decision making process for these issues was not straight forward, as the committee have to consider the cost of the stamps or miniature sheets and possible copyright problems. When doing this, we only have brief details of the issues and dates. We do not have any details as to the number or face value of the stamps.

This year stamps were produced by Royal Mail for James Bond, Coronation Street, Music Giants - Queen, Sherlock, Rupert Bear and Star Trek, all of which would have involved trying to get a cover and postmark design approved by the owners of the subject. This can be a long process and also involve extra costs.

For our AGM cover this year, we decided upon the Sherlock issue miniature sheet. To avoid possible copyright issues with the use of Sherlock Holmes, we choose to feature Sir Arthur Colne Doyle, who has a statue outside Crowborough Museum. Being in the street, anyone can take photographs of the statue, which we thought would not involve any problems. However, when the special handstamp was sent to Royal Mail for approval, they wanted the Association to obtain permission from the sculptor of the statue before they would allow us to use the image. I am pleased to say that this was obtained without too many problems.



If any member has covers they wish to sell, please send or e-mail a list to the Editor.

There is no charge for members to do this.

SOME INTERESTING FIRST DAY COVERS IN MY COLLECTION

Peter Lindley 13/08/2020

email: peterdlindley@yahoo.co.uk

1. **British Technology 19 September 1966, Dover CDS.** Unlisted but relevant. Fifty years to the day after the historic flight from Calais to Dover by Bleriot, the world's first hovercraft crossed from Calais to Dover on 25 July 1959, with its inventor Sir Christopher Cockerel on board. On arrival, a historic ceremony addressed by Sir Christopher was held on the beach in Dover to mark the occasion. Subsequently, Hovercraft passenger services, starting for a short period in 1966, operated out of Dover until October 1st 2000, when the last Hovercraft was brought up onto the beach outside the former Churchill Hotel, at the spot where the first hovercraft had landed in Dover on 25 July 1959. Dover thus occupies a special place in the history of this major British invention, making Dover CDS very relevant to

the issue.



2. **Christmas 1 December 1966, BF 1000 PS official.** Number 1 in the series addressed to Major General Viscount Monkton of Brenchley Chief of Staff HQ BAOR.



3. Christmas 1 December 1966 Children's Paintings. Two maxi cards signed by the children whose paintings the stamps depict, Tasveer Shomza and James Berry.





4. Winston Churchill 9 October 1974. Scarce RAF Honnington SHS D-Day Landings cover (No. 31 of 34 issued). Looks like an official but isn't because it was not produced by the sponsor of the SHS. The official is only known as a single stamp cover. The cover includes three interesting backstamps and a flight itinerary on the reverse.





5. Green Issue 15 September 1992. Royal Mail sponsored cover with a Northern England Special Handstamp Centre special handstamp. Not classed as a Royal Mail official by Bradbury because it was apparently a Permanent Special Handstamp, i.e. a changeable date postmark, although it incorporates First Day of Issue with the correct date - 15 September 1992 - on its face.



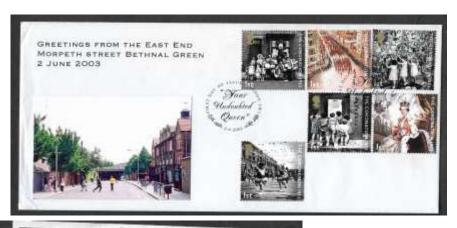




6. Pioneers of Communication 5 September 1995.

A Royal Mail cover with a First Day of Issue, British Post Office Singapore '95 SHS dated 5 September 1995. Issued by the British Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh. It is not the No. 5 SHS in the Bradbury catalogue, but nevertheless it is a Royal Mail official in the sense that it is a special Royal Mail cover with a Royal Mail sponsored SHS. Its exact status is unclear to me, but I presume it is of interest to FDC collectors of officials for this issue.

7. Coronation 50th **Anniversary 2 June 2003.** A special Greetings from The East End Morpeth Street Bethnal Green cover issued for Lorraine Cross and June Roffey, the two children enjoying a street party in Morpeth Street Bethnal Green to celebrate the Queen's coronation, depicted on one of the stamps.







8. Trafalgar 18 October 2005. Great Yarmouth Stamp Club first day cover with its own (not Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre listed) special handstamp. Scarce (no. 2 of 20).





Richard Park

Specialist Philatelic Dealer

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STEVEN RILEY 37 BADGER GATE, THRESHFIELD, SKIPTON BD23 5EN

and other Special Event Covers

Deadline for next Issue — 15th November 2020

Letters and articles

The Association welcomes readers' letters, tips, and views, and we look forward to hearing from you. The Newsletter is only as good as the material that is sent in for publication, so please continue to do so. However, views expressed in *First Day Coverage* do not express the views of GBFDC Association or its officers. Material published is the copyright of the person who writes it.

It is worth remembering that items published may also express controversial views and opinions, which may well stimulate equally controversial replies. It is only to be expected, and individuals are advised that such views may well prompt ongoing debate.

In the next issue we are featuring autographed covers. Please send any interesting facts, features, and photographs you would like us to publish.

The editor has complete discretion over what is, or is not published in *First Day Coverage*.

Please send all items for publication to:

The Editor, GBFDC Association, 17 Elderberry Drive, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 3ST

Name and address of contributor is printed with each item, as it is assumed members do not object to this information being given to other members through the newsletter. Members' details will not be sold onto other members or dealers.

Your name and address may be supplied to another member if we think it is a genuine enquiry. If you object to this then please advise the editor. Only your name, address & membership number is recorded on the computer.

All material published in the newsletter is the copyright of the writer of the item concerned

Fees

Non-commercial advertising rates - members only			Membership Fees			
Covers wanted advert: Covers for sale advert: Two or three items (no illustration)		FREE FREE	U.K. U.K. Junior	£14 £7	To receive Newsletter by post To receive Newsletter by post	
		Full page amps accepted	£7.50*	U.K. U.K. Junior	£12 £6	To receive Newsletter by email To receive Newsletter by email
Member com	nercial	advertising ra	ates	Europe	£17	To receive Newsletter by post
Full page Half page	£20 £10	plus artwork plus artwork	£13	Europe	£12	
Third page Quarter page Fifth page	£7 £5 £4	plus artwork plus artwork plus artwork	£7			To receive Newsletter by post To receive Newsletter by email
Non-Member	128	Market State	100000	Other major	r curre	ency to the value of
Full page Half page Third page Quarter page	£30 £15 £10	plus artwork plus artwork plus artwork plus artwork	£35 £18 £12.50	Junior rates apply for children up to 16 years of age Est. 1995		