# FIRST DAY COVERAGE

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

Issue No 151

March 2020





Video Game FDC and some of the special handstamps available.



Visions of the Universe FDC with some special handstamps.

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

# **March 2020**

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To advertise in the newsletter please contact the Editor. See advertising rates on Page 24.

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### 2020 Special Stamp Issues

March 7th James Bond

April 7th The Romantic Poets

May 8th End of the Second World War

May 28th Coronation Street

June 18th Roman Britain

July 9th Music Giants: Queen

July 30th The Palace of Westminster

August 18th Sherlock

September 3rd Rupert Bear
October 1st Brilliant Bugs

November 3rd Christmas 2020

November 13th Star Trek

#### Editor's Comment

Having looked at the list above, I wonder whether Royal Mail have run out of ideas for future issues. There have been issues for Roman Britain, Sherlock Holmes, James Bond, Rupert Bear and Star Trek before.

Also, with the current subjects: James Bond, Coronation Street, Sherlock, Rupert Bear and Star Trek, it gives cover producers a major headache, as these are subject to copyright. Whilst major cover producers maybe willing to pay for the right to use the titles and suitable pictures, it limits smaller cover producers and individuals from coming up with their own covers.

Looking back on previous stamp issues, why have Royal Mail decided not to continue with themes such as British Flowers, Classic Loocs, Cathedrals, Britain's Coastlines, etc.

Is it time for the public and stamp collectors to have more of a say in subjects, or is it a case of these organisation pay Royal Mail to promote their businesses?

What do you think?

# **GBFDC** Auction 36 Realisations



Lot 6, 1929 PUC Low Values, 7d Flight Rate, Gosport cds. £350



Lot 14, 1940 Centenary, Registered James Chalmers FDC, Carnie St. Arbroath £235



Lot 48, 1953 Coronation, Sandringham Norfolk cds. £2,500



Lot 119. 1965 Parliament, Parliament St. SW1 cds. £105



Lot 167, 1966 Winners, Opening of the Tay Bridge Official FDC £1300



Lot 349, 1974, Churchill, Harrow School FDC, Harrow & Wembley FDI. £100

## GBFDC Auction 36 Realisations



Lot 552, 1982 Youth, Rank M6 Forton Official FDC. £260

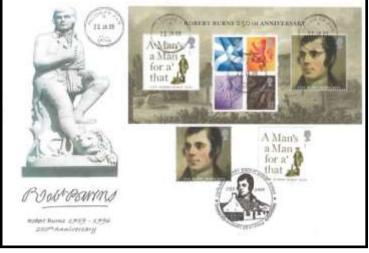
Lot 453, 1978, Shire Horses, Lawn Tennis Championships Wimbledon H/S. £160





Lot 538, 1981 Butterflies, Rotary Club of Southport FDC, Lancashire FDI. £320

Lot 1086, Robert Burns, Lothian Postcard Club FDC, Alloway Ayr cds. £80



# A reply to Mr Goodacre's comments concerning The Collect GB First Day Covers catalogue from Jeffrey Booth.

To The Editor.

#### The Collect GB First Day Covers Catalogue - 33rd Edition.

I must admit to being a little vexed when I read Mr. Goodacre's comments on my latest catalogue in the December Issue of 'First Day Coverage'. I say comments because I don't feel that one could call it a review of my catalogue.

Let me start by pointing out that the Booth catalogue is entitled 'Collect GB First Day Covers' and has been for many years, not 'Collecting British First Day Covers' as written by Mr. Goodacre...

His reference to mis-spelling the name Harry Furniss is a mystery to me since the name Furniss does not appear in the catalogue as far as I am aware and has not done since the 30th Edition, where it was spelt correctly I might add.

Mr. Goodacre then moves on to criticise the fact that the 'Gems' pages are not listed in the Index. There is a good reason for this in that I want to encourage the reader to look through the catalogue to find the 'Gems' pages and thus see other things on the way through.

On the question of the Palitoy sponsored cover, it should perhaps be listed as the postmark already is. Back in 1979 the catalogue did not specifically reference sponsored covers. I feel Mr. Goodacre's comment 'Perhaps he reckons he lacks the space to include such information' is really both gratuitous and rather unnecessary.

Finally, the same comments apply for the 1973 Lewis Carroll sponsored cover as for the Palitoy cover. The postmark is listed. Sponsored covers, however, were not listed separately in the catalogue back in 1973. Given the value now associated with the sponsored version its inclusion in a future catalogue will be reviewed.

In closing I would just mention that I do not know Mr. Goodacre but had he written to me personally at some point in the past his comments could have been reviewed and resolved in a more amical way. After all the catalogue does invite readers to write in with their comments.

Jeffrey Booth

The Collect GB First Day Covers catalogue.

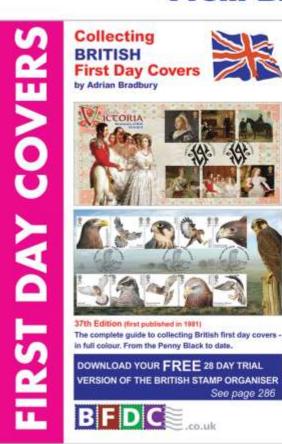


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See page 286

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# The 1971 Postal Strike And The Low Value Definitive Issue Of 15 February

Many of us recall the postal strike of 1971. Postal workers had demanded a pay increase of 15-20% and when management made a lower offer they walked out and were on strike from Wednesday 20 January until Sunday 7 March, returning to work on Monday 8 March. This was the first full national strike in the history of the Post Office.

A number of local mail deliveries were possible in some areas where workers did not strike or returned to work before the official end of the strike and a number of post offices, mainly small village offices, remained open providing an opportunity for collectors to acquire authentic 15 February CDS cancellations for the low value definitives issued on that date.

Few dealers serviced their covers at any of the offices that remained open although probably the most often seen CDS which was used on dealers covers is the Oldland Common, Bristol CDS where Cotswold serviced a number of covers (figure 1).

It is common for the cancellations from some of the offices still open to be on plain covers and almost certainly this is due to supplies of the Post Office FDC envelope not reaching those offices during the strike. It follows that as most CDS covers were serviced individually by collectors many are hand-addressed.

Therefore if any of us are looking to form a comprehensive collection of 15 February definitive FDCs with CDS cancellations we will have, in some cases, to accept hand written plain covers because that is all that exists. In any such CDS collection pride of place must surely go to the Buckingham Palace CDS (figure 2) which is rarely seen on this issue.

The monopoly the Post Office had to carry mail was suspended for the duration of the strike and many private posts were established throughout the Country. A number of first day covers exist bearing the definitives and private post stamps (figure 3) although these are not easy to find.

One area of the postal system which, of course, did not go on strike was the forces postal service and definitive first day covers can often be found with a FPO CDS – probably the most unusual of these is the Fleet Mail Office, Singapore (figure 4). A collection of 15 February CDS covers could include all of the many FPO CDSs.

# The 1971 Postal Strike And The Low Value Definitive Issue Of 15 February









If you are really looking for a challenge why not include booklet panes and postal stationery with first day CDS.

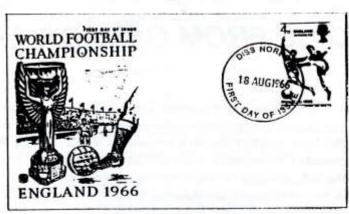
Some while ago at a stamp fair a dealer told me that he had seen a list of all those post offices open during the strike although he did not know whether that had been issued by the Post Office or produced by a collector.

It would be interesting to know if any GBFDC members have seen, or have knowledge of, such a list which I suspect would be rather lengthy but nevertheless of considerable interest.

Ken Brown

# Reprinted from October 1995

# **Diss-gusting**



by Richard Park

This is probably one of the better known attempts at forging a British first day cover. They came to light when an advertisement was placed in "Stamp Collecting" magazine by the Worldwide Stamp Sales of Diss Norfolk in September 1966. Offering the above first day cover with the Diss Norfolk FDI on the World Cup Winners Stamp. Apparently the postmark was produced without the agreement of the Post Master General at the time, and collectors who purchased the FDC through the advertisement had no reason to doubt its genuineness. It was only later that the Diss Post Office confirmed that they had never used a First Day of Issue handstamp.

Subsequently, the same dealer offered other unaddressed illustrated FDC's, for instance the Westminster Abbey 28th Feb 1966, this had no office name only First Day of Issue in the lower segment of the date stamp. Others included the World Cup stamps on the World Cup Winners cover, dated 1st June 1966 with a Manchester FDI, this was obviously a forgery as the results of the matches were not then known! Other forgeries were found for the Battle of Hastings issue with a Manchester FDI, Technology and Christmas 1966 with a 33mm Norwich Norfolk FDI, instead of the official 35mm handstamp used by the Post Office.

These activities resulted in one Henry Maurice Harman of Pulham Market Norfolk being charged with 13 offences concerning forging cancellations on British commemorative first day covers and with intent to defraud by accepting payment for said items. The case was heard at the Magistrates Court on the 6th and 7th March 1967, where evidence was given by collectors, representatives of "Stamp Collecting" magazine, Post Office Headquarters, and the Postmasters of Diss and Pulham Market. Evidence was also given by the Police who had previously raided the defendant's home and seized franking dies and quantities of blank special illustrated covers of previous issues. Henry Harman was committed to appear at Norfolk Quarter Sessions where he pleaded guilty to the charges given and was fined £400 or nine months imprisonment.

These Diss forgeries are now widely sought after, and you may well have one in your collections without realising it! If you would like more information on the Diss forgeties it can be found in "Twenty Years of First Day Postmarks" by Brian Pask & Colin G. Peachey

2 CHAFFINCH CLOSE - HORSHAM - WEST SUSSEX RH12 5HA

#### NORFOLK CONSTABULARY.

Criminal Investigation Department, Constabulary Headquarters, 69 Thorpe Road, NORWICH. NOR O7T.

5#January, 1967.

22/66/105.

Dear Sir,

#### Worldwide Stamp Sales, Diss, Norfolk.

Enquiries are being made into the conduct of the above Company following advertisements in chilatelists publications.

The advertisements refer to stamped envelopes bearing a franked stamp which purports that each envelope and postage stamp was issued under the first day cover system. It is suspected that the G.P.O. franking stamp is not authentic.

The first day cover system was introduced by the G.F.O. to enable philatelists to obtain new issues of stamps, franked on special commemorative envelopes, on the first day of issue only.

In instances where the first day cover stemps appear to have originated at Manchester - Norwich - Diss (Norfolk) Post Offices, it is suspected that the franking stamp has been forged.

Your name is shown as a customer with this Firm and I should be grateful if you would complete the attached questionnaire and return it to me as soon as convenient. At this stage of the enquiry I do not intend taking possession of any covers you have purchased but would point out that any further sale of them as genuine may amount to an offence.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Chief Constable.

NORFOLK COUNTY CONSTABULARY.				
. FULL NAME				
ADDRESSOCCUPATION				
***************************************				
1. Details of Great Britain First Day Cover(s) purchased from Worldwide Stamp Sales, Diss, Norfolk:-				
1Cost				
2Date purchasedCost				
3				
4				
2. Did you believe the postmarks on these covers to be genuine G.P.O. impressions?				
3. By what means did you make contact with Worldwide Stamp Sales?				
4. Should proceedings result from your purchase of alleged first day covers, would you be willing to attend Court to give evidence?				
5. Do you agree to have offences disclosed taken into consideration at any subsequent Court proceedings?				
(Signed).				

Editors Comment—I wonder whether any member has one of these forged covers in their collection.

#### Pictures of the handstamps used and article in Stamp Collecting









#### Dealer Faces Forged F.D.C. Cancellation Charges

Henry Maurice Harman, aged 59, of The Hall, Pulham Market, Norfolk, who trades as World Wide Stamp Sales and Avon Stamps Ltd., at nearby Diss, was charged at a special sitting of the Harleston Magistrates' Court, held in Norwich on March 6th and 7th, with 13 offences concerning forging cancellations on British first day commemorative covers and with uttering forged documents or, alternatively, with intent to defraud, causing postal orders, cheques or cash to be paid for forged first day covers. Harman was committed on bail of £50, to appear at Norfolk Quarter Sessions on April 10th. He reserved his defence. The case was brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Evidence was given that Police raided the defendant's home and seized franking dies and cancellation stamps which would enable him to produce forged first day covers. Some of the covers produced in evidence bore a "First Day of the covers produced in evidence bore a "First Day of cancellation for Diss, which is not on the Post Office at of places at which facilities exist for philatelic posting of st day covers when new issues are released. Another thibit was an "England Winners" souvenir envelope the original World Cup stamps cancelled "June lat 1966", which, the prosecution claimed, must have been forged since the "Winners" envelope could not have been printed by June 1st, two months before the win took place. Covers bearing Manchester "First Day of Issue" cancellations and others with Battle of Hastings stamps cancelled at Hastings were alleged by the prosecution to be forgeries as they differed in size from the official hand-stamps used at those offices on the occasions in question.

Miss Eileen Marguerite Appleyard, a Post Office executive officer, gave evidence that in February 1966 Avon Stamps Ltd. asked for first day posting facilities, including a "First Day of Issue" cancellation, at Diss. The request was turned down because of facilities available at Ipswich and

Detective Sgt. Frank Stanley Allen said that he had seen Harman at his home in January this year, when Harman said: "I cannot understand how the G.P.O. did not do something about this before if it is so serious. They knew I was using a Diss postmark ages ago and rang me up about it. If they had said to me, 'Pack it up', I would have done so there and then." Sgt. Allen said he had been unable to find anyone in the G.P.O. who had made such a call.

Over 20 witnesses, among them professional and amateur dulatelists from all parts of the country, gave evidence.

STAMP COLLECTING, March 17th, 1967



#### Forged First Day Cancellations

During the recent case when a Norfolk dealer was fined for forging cancellations on first day covers, prominence was given to the entirely fictional "DESS, FIRST DAY OF ISSUE" cancellation which drew attention to the forging.

However, other cancellations were produced in evidence and three examples are illustrated by courtesy of the Chief Constable of the Norfolk County Constabulary who undertook the prosecution.

Covers were also produced in court showing a forged Norwich F.D. cancellation dated "1 ptc 1966" on the Norwich F.D. cancellation dated "1 DEC 1966" on the 1966 Christmas stamps; a forged Manchester cancellation dated "15 Nov 1966" on the LT.U. commemoratives issued that day and a forged Norwich cancellation dated "25 OCT 1965" on the 20th anniversary of U.N. stamps.

The most blatant forgery was the World Cup "England-Winners" stamp postmarked 1st June, 1966, the day of issue of the original World Cup stamps.



# A Selection of Forged Covers



















## Help Required

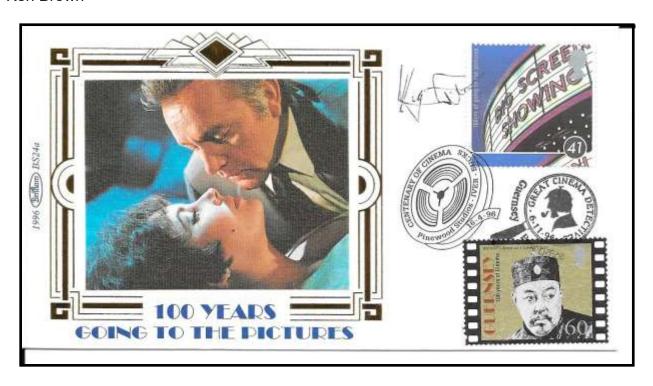
I attach a scan of a Benham cover produced for the 1996 "100 Years Of The Cinema" issue and wonder whether you can include this in a future issue of First Day Coverage to see if any member can help in identifying who has signed the cover.

The cover came out of a James Bond collection so it is almost certainly signed by someone who has some connection with the James Bond films.

Any help will be much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Ken Brown



# **GBFDC** Auction Dates

Please note the following deadlines for future auctions.

Autumn Auction 31st August 2020 Spring Auction 31st January 2021

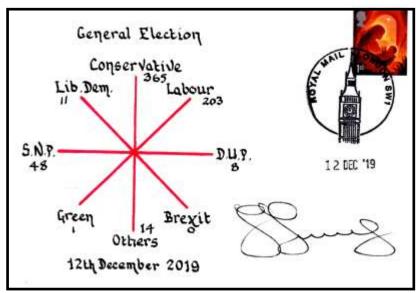
## An Update from Bob French on his Brexit Collection

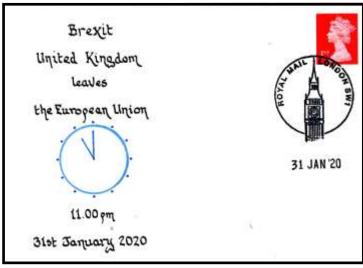
#### Brexit Update

With reference to my 'Different Collecting Theme' in Issue 150 – December 2019, I have made it to 82 years old and have seen Brexit happen. The collection now stands at 74 covers but I think/hope it will slow down now, it has been an interesting journey.

The cover depicting the General Election is signed by Ian Levy the elected Member of Parliament for Blythe Valley, this was the first constituency to 'change hands'.

I would like to mention the staff at the London Special Handstamp Centre who have been first class in dealing with my numerous requests.





#### SAJAL PHILATELICS COVER AUCTIONS

The star item in our  $16^{th}$  January sale was a 1912 2d royal cypher watermark FDC which sold for a remarkable £15,500 (Cat £1000). The reason for this was that several collectors have the other values in this set but have been waiting years or even decades to find this value, of which perhaps only 2 or 3 are known, to complete the set.

Other results included: 1870  $\frac{1}{2}$ d printed postcard (larger format) with Llanelly CDS £160 (Cat £1000), 1900  $\frac{1}{2}$ d blue-green with Towcester CDS £625 (Cat £1000) & 1902  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d blue with Malvern duplex £190 (Cat £250).

These postal auctions are held monthly. There is no Buyer's Premium.



1912 2d royal cypher watermark FDC £15,500



1870  $\frac{1}{2}$ d printed postcard (larger format) with Llanelly CDS £160



1900 ½d blue-green with Towcester CDS £625



1902 2½d blue with Malvern duplex £190

#### **Future Issues**



A collectible souvenir celebrating the London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition and marking the 180th anniversary of the Penny Black. Issued on 10 March 2020.

#### James Bond - to be issued 17 March

In celebration of the 25th James Bond film due for release in April 2020, Royal Mail is delighted to launch the official James Bond stamp issue.

The Bond films are the longest running film series in film history with James Bond known all over the world. The films are renowned for many features, including the musical accompaniment, with the theme songs having received Academy Award nominations on several occasions, and two wins. Other important elements which run through most of the films include Bond's cars, his guns, and the gadgets with which he is supplied by Q Branch.

The summary in the *Philatelic Bulletin* lists the following elements:

**Stamps**  $3 \times 1$ st class,  $3 \times £1.60$  in two se-tenant strips.

Miniature sheet -  $2 \times 1$ st class,  $2 \times £1.55$ 

Presentation Pack, First Day Covers, Stamp Cards

Retail booklet, Prestige Stamp Booklet (PSB), Press Sheet (of MS);

Generic (aka Smilers/Collectors) Sheet, Limited Edition PSB





# HIDDEN WORDS Video Games Issue 21st January 2020



Supple Studio were commissioned to create the video Games stamps, my son in law, who is a graphic designer suggested I looked at their website where I found the following

# Plus there's a little hidden 'Easter egg' on each stamp for collectors to discover - only visible with a UV Light

I was unaware of this prior to going to the web site and other articles I had read leading up to and after the date of issue made no mention of the hidden u/v wording/ images.

I therefore share my findings.

On examination of the stamps under a UV light and in reference to Supple Studio's website established the following.

2nd class - Elite -- shows the wording 'Right on Commander'

2nd class - Worms -- shows the wording 'Incoming'

1st class - Sensible Soccer - - shows the word 'Goal!'

1st class - Lemmings - shows the wording 'OH NO!'

£1.55 - Wipe Out - shows the wording 'Congratulations'

£1.55 - Micro Machines - shows the wording 'Challenge Champion !!!'

£1.60 - Dizzy - shows the wording 'Congratulations ! Dizzy has rid Katmandu of the evil Wizard Zaks'

£1.60 - Populous - shows the wording 'Well done you have conquered evil'

Geoff Childs - GBCC www.gbcovercollector.co.uk

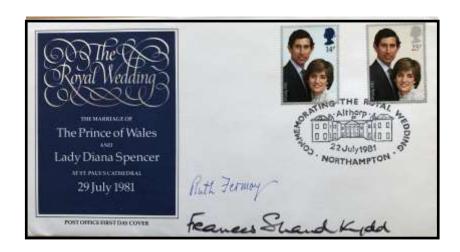
#### Autographed Covers

I particularly enjoy collecting autographs on FDC's although quite a few of my older ones are on Royal Mail First Day covers.

My favourites are from my Royal Family collection of FDC's and I am always looking for interesting ones.

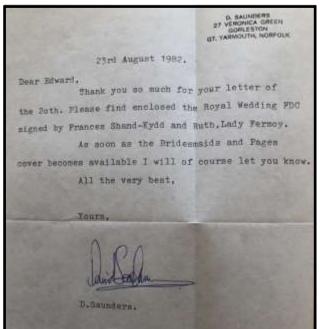
I have attached some of my favourite ones. One of my most recent acquisitions, which I believe a member may have sent in a photo of a year or so ago, was signed by Prince Charles on an Investiture cover.

I particularly like the two Royal Mail covers of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer wedding in 1981 signed by four of the bridesmaids and one pageboy and the same cover signed by Lady Diana's grandmother and mother (Accompanied by a letter sent by the dealer).





Julie Shaw



I have quite a few signatures of prime ministers but this is another favourite cover of the Queen's 60th Birthday signed by 8 of her prime ministers.





I would be interested in members thoughts on Royal Mail FDC's. I often see ones I would like to collect that are interesting because of the postmark or signatures but realise that the quality of the covers does not equal those issued by others and in smaller numbers.

I have a very large collection of Royal Mail FDC (none with interesting postmarks) from 1970 all addressed to me that were sent by my Father until his death in 2016. Worthless but priceless to me and which has given me my interest in FDC collecting.

Julie Shaw

# Brian Reeve Stamp Auctions

Our Public Stamp Auction dates for 2020 are:

Wednesday April 29th

Wednesday July 29th

Wednesday October 28th

All auctions start at 2.00pm with viewing in the morning and the day before. These are all Public Auctions with Live Internet Bidding.

#### David Millership

It is with sadness to hear that David Millership passed away suddenly on 7 January 2020.

First day Covers was an interest that gave him much pleasure over the years and although he was unable to attend many recent exhibitions, he was still very much committed to his catalogues and valued the interaction with other collectors.



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.



#### Richard Park

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and other Special Event Covers

# Deadline for next Issue — 18th May 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	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 comr	nercial	advertising ra	ates	Europe	£17	To receive Newsletter by post	
Full page Half page	£20 £10	plus artwork plus artwork	£25 £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 emai	
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Non-Member				Junio	r rate:	s apply for children	
Full page Half page Third page Quarter page	£30 £15 £10 £8	plus artwork plus artwork plus artwork plus artwork	£12.50			6 years of age Est. 1995	