

# EVENTS

JAN—

JUNE

2011

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The British Postal  
Museum & Archive  
Exhibitions & Events  
*January—June 2011*

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THE BRITISH  
POSTAL  
MUSEUM  
& ARCHIVE

# WELCOME

Welcome to The British Postal Museum & Archive's (BPMA) Exhibitions and Events guide for January to June 2011. Our packed programme includes walks, talks, tours and family fun days held at venues across the country.

**Please note:**

Unless otherwise stated, exhibitions and events are free of charge, but places for events must be booked in advanced. Group bookings are welcome. All bookings must be made by 5.00pm on the day before the event you wish to attend. If the event is at the weekend, please book by the previous Friday.

**To book:**

Call 020 7239 2570

or email [info@postalheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@postalheritage.org.uk)

Please call, email or check the BPMA website for the latest news and updates on all our events and exhibitions.

# TREASURES OF THE ARCHIVE

**BPMA Search Room**

*Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DL.*

Open during Search Room opening hours – See Locations and Opening Hours section for details

An exhibition of treasures from the BPMA. From a pistol carried by a Mail Coach Guard in the 1800s, to a bag of evidence from the Great Train Robbery of 1963, the objects on display represent the great wealth of material looked after by the BPMA in The Royal Mail Archive and Museum Collection.

Special highlights of the exhibition include one of the only complete sheets of Penny Blacks in the world, and the Old Original die of 1840 from which all Penny Blacks and many Penny Reds were created.

*No booking necessary for individuals or small groups. For groups of 10 or more, please contact us to discuss arrangements.*



# MUSEUM OF THE POST OFFICE IN THE COMMUNITY

## **Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire.**

*Open 7 days a week, 10.00am to 5.00pm  
(4.00pm in Winter months)*

Located above the re-created Victorian Post Office at Blists Hill Victorian Town, this exhibition explores the vital role the Post Office has played in the lives of generations of Britons – from opening up long-distance communications to the masses, to providing essential services in the most remote communities in the country.

Highlights include a bright red BSA Bantam – the most well known make of motorcycle used by the Post Office – a Hen and Chicks pentacycle, an early example of a telegram, a range of letter boxes, home safes and Post Office Savings Bank books.

*Entry to the exhibition is included in the Blists Hill admission fee. For more details about visiting Blists Hill, please contact the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. See [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk) or telephone 01952 884391 for general enquiries.*



Image courtesy of Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust.



## DESIGNS ON DELIVERY

General Post Office (GPO) posters by some of the most celebrated artists and designers of the 1930s to 1960s.

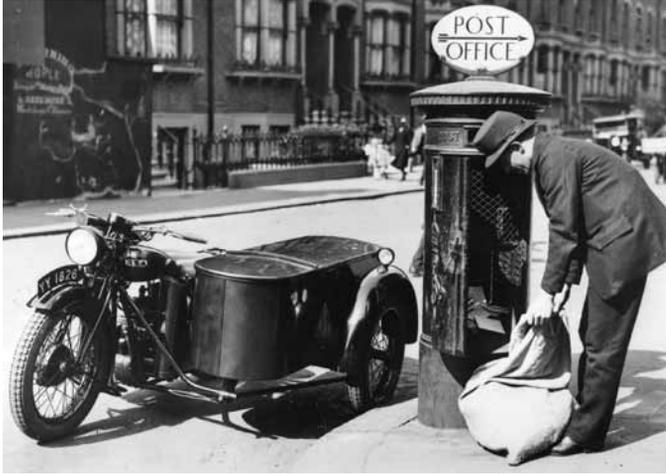


## LAST POST: REMEMBERING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

This exhibition explores the vital role that the Post Office played during the First World War, delivering mail and providing communications technology both on the battlefield and at home. It is touring the country throughout 2011.

*The above exhibitions are touring the country throughout 2011. Check the website [www.postalheritage.org.uk](http://www.postalheritage.org.uk) for their current locations.*

# FROM PILLAR TO POST: GPO LONDON



## Farringdon Station

*Walks start at Farringdon Station (main entrance) at 11.00am, last around 2 hours and end near Bank Station.*

*Sunday 23 January / Saturday 19th February / Sunday 20th March / Saturday 23rd April / Sunday 22nd May / Saturday 25th June.*

*Cost: £6 per head, £5 for concessions\* and £4 for BPMA Friends.*

*No need to book, just turn up and meet your guide who will be wearing a Cityguides badge.*

Discover 350 years of London's postal history from the coffee houses of the 1600s to the electronic communication of today. All GPO walking tours are led by trained and accredited guides for Clerkenwell and Islington, and the City of London. Walks include the story of Victorian postal reform, the growth of the GPO, the post underground and the development of post boxes and telephone kiosks.

\*Concessions 60+ (accompanied children under 12 free). Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association working with Cityguides.

# THE ENGLISHMAN WHO POSTED HIMSELF & OTHER CURIOUS OBJECTS



## Phoenix Centre

**(next door to the BPMA Search Room)**

*Thursday 31st March, 7.00pm to 8.00pm*

John Tingey, author of *The Englishman Who Posted Himself and Other Curious Objects*, will introduce the eccentric habits of W Reginald Bray who enjoyed testing the official Post Office Regulations to their limits by posting items including a frying pan, a turnip, seaweed and even himself on more than one occasion. He also tested the postal service's patience by experimenting with ways of addressing letters and cards, using drawings, collage and codes.

*A selection of Bray's work, collected by John Tingey, will be on display from 6.00pm. Talk starts at 7.00pm.*

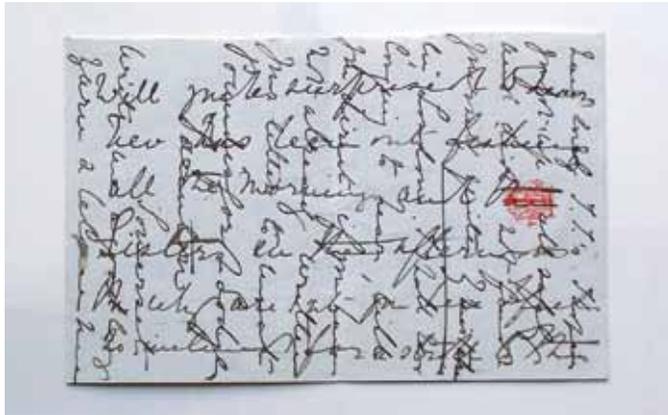
## YOUR VERY LOVING MADELINE

**Phoenix Centre**  
(next door to the BPMA Search Room)

*Thursday 21st April, 7.00pm to 8.00pm*

Follow the philatelic and postal history trail of a love story spanning the Victorian and Edwardian eras, pieced together by collector Dane Garrod. Madeline Clifton, widowed at 32 and left with 7 children, later met and married a man 10 years her junior. The story that follows takes in military conflicts, overseas travel and relations with the high society of the time through a series of letters, diaries, photographs, telegrams and cards.

*The collection will be on display from 6.00pm, talk starts at 7.00pm.*



## POSTCARDESE — CODED LOVE & TILTED STAMPS

**Phoenix Centre**  
(next door to the BPMA Search Room)

*Thursday 26th May, 7.00pm to 8.00pm*

As part of Clerkenwell Design Week 2011, artist Guy Atkins will be exploring the design innovation in messages written on Edwardian postcards. Guy will reveal the beauty and ingenuity to be found on the backs of vintage cards - from their encrypted declarations of love to the curious positioning of stamps.

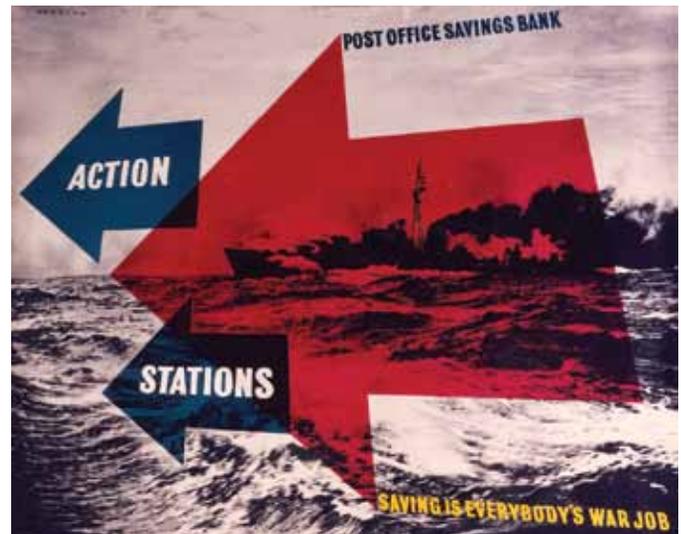
*For an early glimpse of Guy's collection, visit [www.postcardese.com](http://www.postcardese.com).*

## THE POST OFFICE AND THE BLITZ

**Phoenix Centre**  
(next door to the BPMA Search Room)

*Thursday 12th May, 7.00pm to 8.00pm*

Marking the 70th anniversary of the last day of the Blitz in London and the 'Longest Night' of the Second World War, BPMA Curator Vyki Sparkes reveals the real stories of postal workers and buildings that were affected. An illustrated talk with images and diary extracts from the BPMA's extensive collections.



## TOURS OF THE ARCHIVE

### BPMA Search Room

*Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DL.  
Tuesday 29th March 2.00pm to 3.00pm and Monday 6th June  
3.00pm to 4.00pm*

Come along for an introduction to The British Postal Museum & Archive and a behind the scenes tour of our collections – which fill over 2.5 miles of shelving and cover social, postal, and design history from 1636 to today.



## TOURS OF THE STORES: BPMA MUSEUM COLLECTION

### BPMA Museum Store

*Debden, Essex, IG10 3UE  
Wednesday afternoons, 1.00pm to 3.00pm  
2nd March, 6th April, 4th May, 1st June  
Monday evening, 6.00pm to 8.00pm, 6th June*

Join us for a special behind the scenes tour of the BPMA Museum Store. Highlights include a fleet of postal service vehicles illustrating the long history of moving the mail, and over 50 pillar boxes of different types, from one of the first boxes trialled in the UK to modern designs and prototypes.

Visitors will enjoy two 30-minute curator-led tours, separated by a break and complimentary refreshments, followed by time at the end of the visit for self-led exploration of the collection. Please note that each 30 minute tour will involve standing for this time.

The Store Tour on 6th April is part of the 2011 Loughton Festival, which this year is raising money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. A collection will take place during the event, with all proceeds being donated to this worthy cause.



## EASTER FAMILY DAY

### Royal Mail Archive Search Room

*Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DL.*

*Monday 11th April, 10.00am to 4.00pm*

**Drop in – no booking necessary**

Join in with activities all day for family visitors: explore our exhibition Treasures of the Archive, try on real uniforms, touch objects and get creative with our huge collection of badges and buttons. Find out about animals in the Post Office in story time at selected times throughout the day.



## FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE BPMA MUSEUM STORE

### BPMA Museum Store

*Debden, Essex, IG10 3UF*

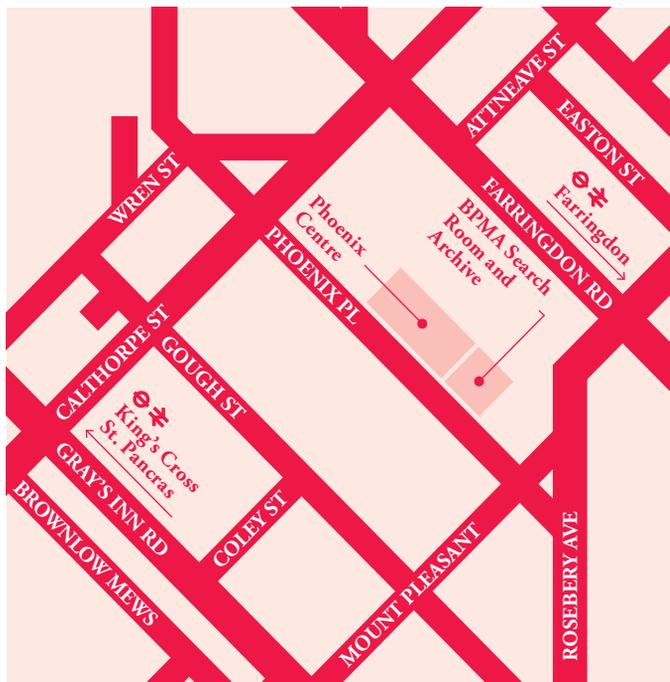
*Saturday 28th May, 10.00am to 4.00pm*

**Drop in – no booking necessary**

A day of activities especially for family visitors: explore our Museum Store with tours of the objects, film screenings and craft sessions, including the chance to touch objects from our handling collection.



## LOCATIONS & OPENING HOURS



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### **BPMA Search Room and Archive and BPMA Head Office**

*Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DL.*

Tel +44 (0)20 7239 2570

Fax +44 (0)20 7239 2576

Minicom +44 (0)20 7239 2572

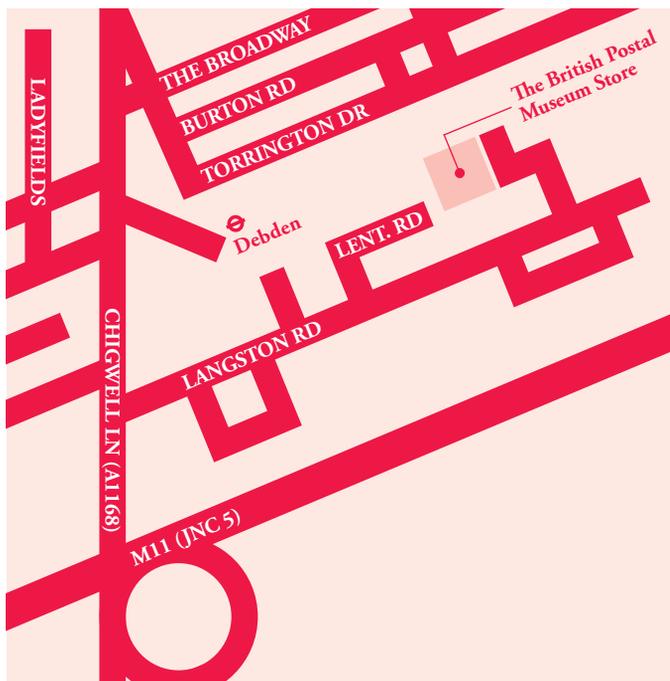
Email [info@postalheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@postalheritage.org.uk)

### **Opening Hours**

Mon-Fri, 10.00am to 5.00pm (7.00pm on Thursdays)

Selected Saturdays, 10.00am to 5.00pm: 8th Jan, 12th Feb, 12th Mar, 9th Apr, 14th May, 11th June

No appointment is required to use the archive, but researchers must bring ID. Closed to researchers on Mondays immediately following Saturday openings (see above) and on all public holidays.



### **The British Postal Museum Store**

*Unit 7, Imprimo Park, Debben Industrial Estate,*

*Lenthall Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3UF*

### **Opening Hours**

Open on selected dates throughout the year for afternoon/evening tours and open days – see inside for details.



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## Get involved

You can help more and more people to enjoy Britain's postal heritage and to preserve it for future generations by supporting the work of The British Postal Museum & Archive.

To find out more about the many ways you can get involved visit [www.postalheritage.org.uk/support](http://www.postalheritage.org.uk/support)

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The information in this guide is correct at time of going to press – please call, email, or check the BPMA website for the latest news and updates on all our events and exhibitions.

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All our information is available  
in large print on request.