

£2 Olympic collector's edition

Designer in money with Games coin



GOLDEN MEMORIES: Jonathan Olliffe with his design for the special £2 Olympics handover commemorative coin

Picture: Mark Hemsworth

A WITNEY man has designed a new £2 coin to celebrate the end of the London Olympics.

Jonathan Olliffe designed a coin depicting the handover from London to Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, which will host the 2016 Olympics and Paralympics.

Mr Olliffe, of Early Road, previously designed two 50p coins celebrating the Olympic Games in 2010, which appeared on six million coins.

He was then asked by the Royal Mint to create a design for the centre of a £2 coin to mark the end of London's sporting celebration.

The latest design will only feature on a special issue of commemorative coins, rather than being put into general circulation, but he said it was an honour to be involved.

He said: "To have the opportunity to design the next UK £2 coin, that represents this occasion, was very special.

The coin represents the handover ceremony and features a baton, the flags of Britain and Brazil and five stripes, representing the five Olympic rings.

Mr Olliffe said: "The concept of designing on such a small scale naturally presented challenges.

"It was important that I showed all the key elements that symbolised this his-

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toric event and with such a small surface area to work with, it was a challenge I wanted to take on."

His 2010 designs featured a gymnast and a swimmer and were selected from 30,000 other entries.

He said: "To see my two Olympic 50p coin designs made and released into circulation was very exciting.

"But to then see my third design produced by the Royal Mint as the final coin in the London 2012 Olympic collection made it more special."

After winning the competition in 2010, Mr Olliffe, who is more used to producing bowls and vases, won two 5ft replicas of his 50p coins and two regular-sized ones made of gold.

The £2 coin will be sold to collectors from £9.99 for a standard coin up to £1,995, for a solid gold proof version.

Mr Olliffe said: "I'm so happy to have been involved with the Royal Mint. It does mean I'm forever checking my change in shops to see if I've got one of mine, though."

● For details of how to buy a Handover to Rio £2 coin, see royalmint.com/shop