



MORE HISTORY IN YOUR POCKET

 I have become so addicted to looking at my change that I have amassed quite a small fortune in commemorative coins. I have also set others onto the hobby (if it can be so described)! With the approach of the London Olympics next year, I have found several 50 pence coins, two of which I am showing here. They are a gymnast on a bar and a game of volleyball. All the designs were chosen from those entered by members of the public.

I continue to be more attracted to the historic subjects though. I was thrilled to come across the Charles Darwin £2 coin minted in 2009. As you can see, it not only shows Darwin but also facing him, a picture of a chimpanzee that appeared in the press at the time.

A portrait of the engineer, Brunel is quite a find. There are several £1 coins showing his most famous creations such as the Paddington Station and some of his bridges but this portrait has The Royal Albert Bridge in the background with Brunel, in his very tall hat and smoking a pipe. The rim gives his life details.

 Two others that I found a couple of years ago are the two versions that commemorate the founding of the Victoria Cross in 1856. One shows the Cross in two views and my favourite which I find quite moving, shows a soldier in battle dress, who is carrying a wounded comrade while under fire. It was this coin that caused Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to ask for a revised picture. He felt that the original image of a British soldier apparently about to be shot in the back would not be acceptable to many people, particularly to the families of fallen servicemen and women.

I have others that I must save for another time.

EDITH DAVIS

For detailed information about the village don't forget to visit the Society's very own website at www.mardensociety.org.uk

The Parish Pump is distributed free to Members of The Marden Society every two months



For details of Membership please contact the Membership Secretary Aileen Hill on 01622 831418

The Parish Pump

The Journal of the Marden Society

September 2011

CANTERBURY - THE HIDDEN CITY

So you thought you knew Canterbury? Well Anthea Bryant took us to this familiar city and showed us more of it and its former inhabitants. With the cathedral site covering a quarter of the city this towering building dominates all.

We were told so much that I'll just concentrate on some of the people connected with it. You may have heard the story of Pope Gregory being so fascinated with the slaves who were Angles that he sent St Augustine to Kent as a missionary. King Ethelbert was married to a Christian, French princess named Bertha. St Martin's is our oldest church and named by the Queen after St Martin of Tours. Eventually Ethelbert converted to Christianity and gave land to St Augustine for an abbey. Later on arose the Cathedral nearby.

One rarely seen roof boss shows St Dunstan (a silversmith) being tempted by the 'devil' in a red dress but with cloven hooves instead of feet.

The biggest 'crowd puller' over the centuries has been the shrine and death place of Thomas à Becket, murdered by knights in 1170 after Henry 11 had declared, "Who will rid me of this meddlesome priest?" Sixty four people gave witness on oath to his death and evidently when he died, having had the top of his head sliced off, rivers of lice departed the hair shirt worn under his fine clothing. The King then repented of his argument, and its consequences, with his old friend and walked barefoot from Harbledown to the tomb of Thomas, where he was beaten by monks until his back was a bloody mess. Pilgrimages are remembered by anyone who has heard The Canterbury Tales by Chaucer, "*Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages ---- to Caunterbury they wend, the hooly blissful martir for to seke, That hem hath helpen whan that they were seeke!*" By 1503 there were dormitories containing 100 beds in the City, no more than 6 people allowed in each bed.



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Many childless couples came for their miracles and St Thomas wine was a popular buy. The largest ransom ever paid (the equivalent of 13½ million pounds) was that for the return of Richard 1 – who only spent 9 months of his 10 years reign in England. Much of this was held by the Jews of Canterbury until it went to Leopold of Austria and was used to rebuild the walls of Vienna.

Archbishop Simon of Sudbury is buried in the cathedral. He met his end by being beheaded by rebels on Tower Hill in the time of Richard 11. However his head can be found in a cupboard in a church in Sudbury. Anthea was actually shown this and experienced a very strange feeling and can understand something of what was experienced by pilgrims viewing relics. There are plans to return the head to Simon's coffin and take out the lead ball in place at the moment. Also another Archbishop, Stephen Langton, who divided the Bible into chapter and verses, is buried in the Warrior Chapel – only his feet protrude outside, as Lady Margaret Holland wanted to be buried between her two husbands!

Another head, which is in Canterbury at St Dunstan's Church, is that of Thomas More, brought there by his daughter Margaret Roper who retrieved it from its spike on London Bridge.

The only king to be buried in the Cathedral is Henry 1V. He was warned about Jerusalem and cancelled his visit there, only to die of a stroke in the Jerusalem Chamber.

Being the birthplace of dramatist Christopher Marlowe has led to the naming of the Marlowe Theatre there.

Finally a Victorian character emerged who built the Beaney Institute, in the High Street, for working men. James Beaney, 'Diamond Jimmy', went as a doctor to Australia and then brought back a fortune acquired by various means. One Australian visitor described him as 'one of the great rag bags of Oz'.



EUNICE DOSWELL

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER at 8 pm

Chris McCooey

"Kent Scandals" - Sensational, salacious and sad!

Birds and humans are the only creatures on earth who regularly walk in the upright position. Protect the birds, the dove brings peace and the stork brings tax exemptions! Among the artistic hierarchy, birds are probably the greatest musicians to inhabit our planet. (Composer Olivier Messiaen)

AIR AMBULANCE OPEN DAY

All roads led to Marden for Open Day
Thousands of visitors saw the Kent Air Ambulance called into action on Sunday (July 24) as they flocked to the life-saving charity's annual Open Day.

The helicopter was launched four times during a busy day for the pilot, specialist doctor and critical care paramedic. Crowds were able to watch as the aircraft took off and landed at its base at Marden following incidents in Dartford, Brenchley, Tunbridge Wells and Hythe.

Among the visitors was schoolboy Luke Titmuss, 10, who was airlifted to hospital after a road traffic collision in May but has since made a good recovery.

Air Ambulance Fundraiser Bridget Pepper said: ***"We were blessed with really good weather and were very impressed with the turnout. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our supporters and volunteers who helped out on the day and made it such a success. It was heart warming to see some of our former patients coming back and showing their support."***

New attractions at this year's family fun day out included helicopter rides courtesy of AV8 in Rochester, quad bike rides and a Lamborghini Aventador.

There were emergency service displays from partner agencies Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and South East Coast Ambulance Service.

Storm Troopers and Daleks patrolled the Wheelbarrow Park Estate while Air Ambulance mascot Dr Dudley greeted the children and posed for photographs. There was also a police dogs demonstration, classic car displays, a funfair, live music and dancing from the Maidstone Dance Studio.

Funds raised from this year's Open Day, more than £8,000, will go to the charity, which relies almost entirely on public donations and receives no National Lottery funding.

The Air Ambulance takes A&E to the scene of an accident or medical emergency and the highly skilled medics can carry out advanced life support, giving patients the best chance and quality of survival.

The Air Ambulance service in Kent, Surrey and Sussex costs around £3.4 million annually to stay airborne. Receiving no funding from the National Lottery the charity relies almost entirely upon the generosity of the public to support the two helicopters, based at Marden and Dunsfold.

If you would like to make a donation to the Air Ambulance please call 01622 833833. Alternatively cheques can be made payable to Kent Air Ambulance Trust and posted to Wheelbarrow Park Estate, Pattenden Lane, Marden, Kent, TN12 9QJ

