

# DREAMING OF A white CHRISTMAS?

Well, this *Kent Life* reader, blogger and novelist certainly is and with our shifting seasons, scenes like these could become familiar again this winter

WORDS AND PICTURES BY: TRUDA THURAI



## Truda Thurai

I am a writer living near Ashford. My first novel *The Devil Dancers* was published a few months ago. Novelists need a



strongly-developed visual sense to write descriptive passages and quite a few of them are talented painters. Unfortunately, I do not have that skill, so I rely on a camera. I love the Kentish countryside and its wonderful seascapes. I had never really taken many photos before getting a camera-phone, but that really liberated me. I took so many pictures that my husband decided to get me a proper camera last Christmas – a Nikon Coolpix S6150 – complete with a mini studio for taking indoor photos for my *Kent Life* blog

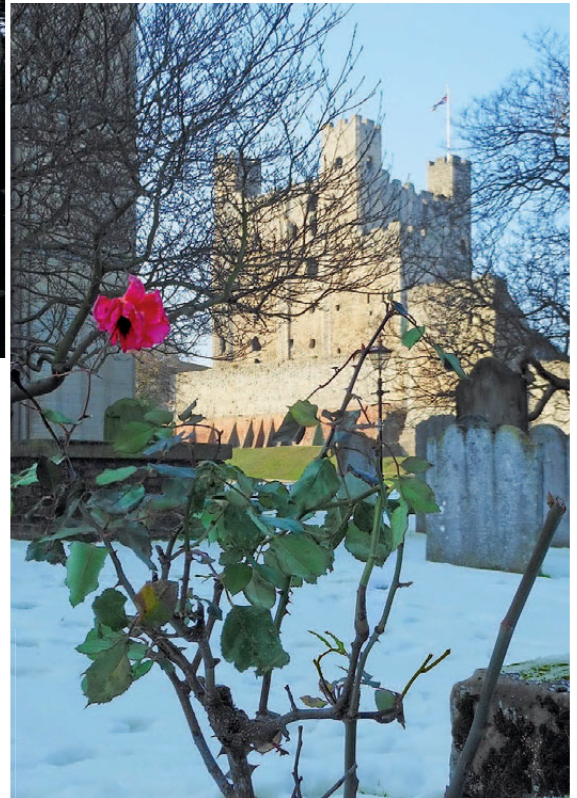
## Magical memories, Ashford

This scene at Eastwell Manor transported me back to childhood. The ornamental fountain had frozen and a stone dolphin was peering out through sheets of ice. It reminded me of a Czech fairy story I saw on television years ago about a magical fish trapped in a frozen lake.



### Winter beach, Sandgate

I take the camera with me everywhere. It trains me to look for images, things I would otherwise miss or forget – like this winter seascape. We saw it driving home from Folkestone, pulled over and took the shot. You have to be quick with scenes like this because they are ephemeral



### A frozen rose, Rochester

Having seen a BBC adaptation of Dickens's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, we visited Rochester (aka Cloisterham in the novel). It was absolutely freezing and my fingers were numb, but we spotted this single rose in the Cathedral graveyard. It added a touch of colour – and poignancy – to the picture, providing a perfect contrast to the neutral tone and stern lines of the Castle.

Readers might like to download my short story, *The Cinnamon Peeler's Daughter*, which was inspired by *Edwin Drood*, as a pdf or Kindle version from the Reviews and Links page on my book's website: [www.thedevildancers.com](http://www.thedevildancers.com)

### Sunset walkers, Folkestone Leas

This photograph was taken near to the Grand Hotel. It was a bleak day and the walkers were muffled up against the cold and biting wind. Silhouettes can really tell a story. They heighten the dramatic impact of a spectacular backdrop like this winter sky at sunset



## WIN READER COMPETITION

To win one of six Kindle or three paperback versions of Truda Thurai's novel *The Devil Dancers*, an epic historical novel set in 1950's Ceylon with elements of fantasy and an absorbing central love story, just answer this question (clue: the answer can be found on the first page of *The Devil Dancers* website at: [www.thedevildancers.com](http://www.thedevildancers.com))

**Q: Who steals her ride to work on a commuter train?**

Send your entries by post to *Kent Life*, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn,

Hythe Road, Smeeth, nr Ashford TN25 6SS or email your entry to: [editor@kent-life.co.uk](mailto:editor@kent-life.co.uk). Please mark your entry *The Devil Dancers* Competition and include your name, address, daytime contact number and also state whether you want a paperback copy or Kindle version (please also include the email address to which the Kindle is registered).

**Closing date: 14 December 2012**

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