

Thought for the week

By Reverend Jon Gore
Dayspring Church

MY THREE sons made the most of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by busking in Canterbury.

With a clever choice of patriotic tunes – liberally sprinkled with the National Anthem – they returned home happily with a whole heap of coins.

As young lads do, the ten-year-old studied his coins and set them up in date order.

He noticed that the older coppers from the 1970s read: "One New Penny" or "Two New Pence" where the more recent coins just say a plain "One Penny" or "Two Pence".

Have you ever noticed how new things don't stay new for very long?

All the "New Romantics" are now getting old.

I have just bought a new car – new as in new to me. But it was first registered in 1996 and as with most "new" second-hand cars it needs a whole lot of work doing on it.

One of the "oldest" things in Britain – even older than the monarchy – is the Christian Gospel, otherwise known as the New Testament.

The funny thing is that Christianity has been "old" and "out" for so long it is now becoming almost avant-garde.

The desire and hope of believers is that when Jesus returns they will all be resurrected and become like Him – the "ancient of days" who "makes all things forever new."

Novelist intrigued by Dicken's unfinished Drood mystery

Author's tale inspired by Ceylon clues

Report by Lowri Stafford

lowri.stafford@KRNmedia.co.uk

A TRAIL of clues like in the best-seller, *The Da Vinci Code*, led author Truda Thurai to Chilham Church to find inspiration for her short story.

Truda was intrigued by a reference to Ceylon in Charles Dickens' last, unfinished novel *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

Having spent nine years researching Ceylon – now Sri Lanka – for her own novel *The Devil Dancers*, Truda decided to discover what the Dickens it meant.

She said: "It was an obscure reference when the British Empire extended around the world. I would have expected a reference to Africa, India or even the North West frontier but not Ceylon."

The trail began in Rochester

Cathedral which is where Edwin Drood is set and the place where Dickens wanted to be buried.

Truda's detective work drew a blank but when she stumbled upon Chilham Church it was a different story.

She admitted: "I had become a bit obsessed with trying to find 19th century references to British people serving in Ceylon.

Extraordinary

"I was visiting Chilham and just on the off-chance wandered into the church.

"On the wall I found a memorial which told an extraordinary story.

"It described how Frederick Lacy Dick, a district magistrate serving in Ceylon, 'went to a lone house in the country to recapture a notorious criminal' where he was ambushed and killed.

"It also describes the impact the

tragedy had on his pregnant wife.

"I was so fascinated by this story I decided to incorporate it into a short story."

The *Cinnamon Peeler's Daughter* is that story, told from the viewpoint of Helena Landless, a character in Dickens' *Edwin Drood* who provides the connection with Ceylon.

Truda said: "Of course, I could not write anything related to Dickens' book without trying to solve the central mystery of how it ended as well.

"I wonder if readers will agree with my solution?"

The *Cinnamon Peeler's Daughter* was published to commemorate the anniversary of Dickens' death on June 9.

It can be downloaded free from the reviews and links page of Truda's website www.thedevildancers.com



DETECTIVE WORK: Truda Thurai found a mystery at Chilham Church

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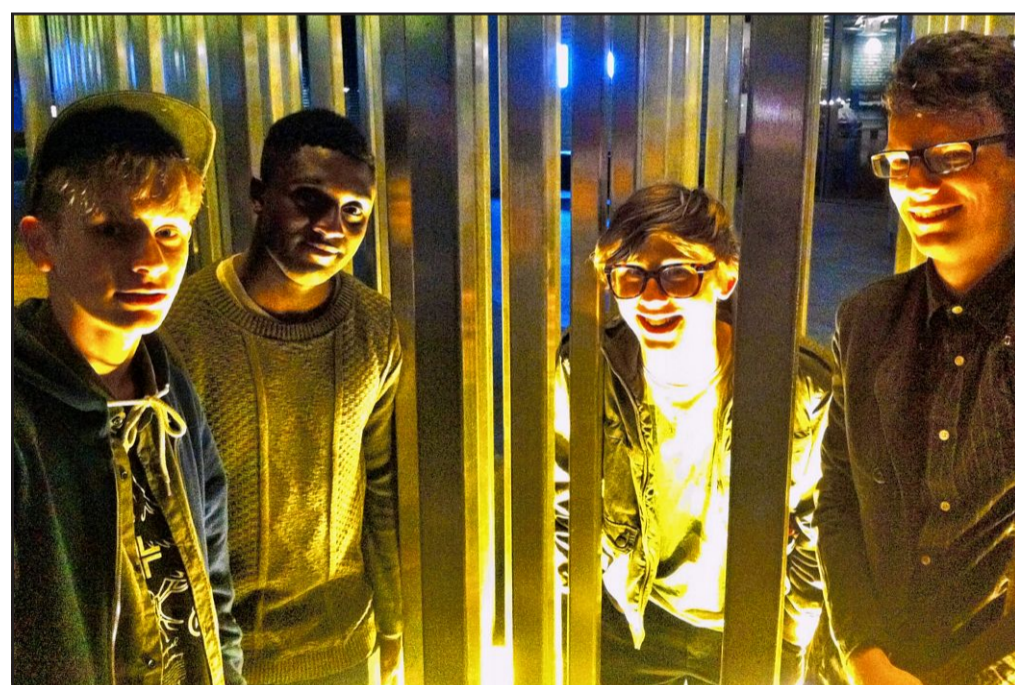
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PENNY PLAYERS: Project Plenty were among the bands in the Canterbury College charity show

College students play for Change

MORE than 300 music fans packed into the Penny Theatre when Canterbury College's record label held a fundraising gig for children's charity Change.

The student-run Formant Records show raised £165 for the Folkestone-based charity last month.

First to play were folksy alt-rockers Project Plenty who channelled the sounds of Neil Young, Dry The River and The Dave Matthews Band.

Next up was experimental rock outfit Eddie Falco who melded genres as diverse as post-hardcore, art rock and pop.

Rounding off the evening were

Zorzilla, whose brand of psychedelic rock and roll kept the audience transfixed.

Georgia Willan, 23, a Year 2 HND Music Technology student who helps run Formant Records, said: "Everybody was keen to use the event to support a good cause.

"The night was full of good vibes and everyone had a great time."

The Year 2 students were in charge of all aspects of the show from promotion to sound engineering. They organised it as part of their course and were assessed on their music industry management skills.

They raised money from entry

fees, collection buckets and CD sales of bands on Formant Records, including Project Plenty, 7 Day Conspiracy and Belleville.

The success of the event impressed Change's director Maxine Chandler. She said: "We appreciate the effort that went into raising the money which will be used to work with young people in Folkestone to help get them get on the right track."

The charity works with teenagers who have had disruptive upbringings and aims to stop them developing low self-esteem or destructive behaviour.

For more details visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/music or www.changeuk.org