

# THE BEANO & DANDY COLLECTORS' CLUB

Founder Year 2006-7

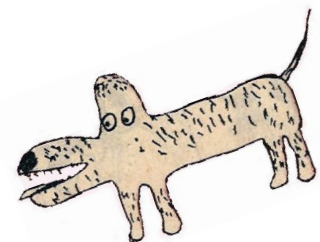
October 2006

Issue 1



## Contents

- 2 Editorial
- 3 Caption Competition
- 4 The Dandy-Beano Story
- 6 Pets' Corner
- 6 Day Dreams of Dundee...



## COLLECTORS' CLUB INFORMATION

### The Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club

PO Box 3433  
Brighton  
BN50 9JA  
United Kingdom

### Annual Subscription

UK £18.00  
Europe £21.00  
Worldwide £24.00

Articles for publication will be gratefully received and should be sent to the PO Box address as should any other correspondence.

Tel 01273 673462 Mob 07739 844703

Email phil@phil-comics.com

Web www.phil-comics.com

**The BEANO and The DANDY logos are © DC Thomson & Co. Ltd., 2006. All associated characters are © DC Thomson & Co. Ltd.**

**Used By Kind Permission of DC Thomson & Co. Ltd.**

---

## EDITORIAL

Hello, and welcome to the very first newsletter of 'The Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club'. My first editorial will tell you my story which I hope will raise a few memories of similar experiences that you may have had.

It was in 1991 that I had my first encounter with The Beano and The Dandy. On a visit to a school friend's house I was immediately struck by a bookcase in his bedroom that was bulging at the sides with Beano and Dandy annuals. Most were well loved 1970s and 80s annuals which he had amassed from school fetes and jumble sales, but on the end was his prized item - a 1967 Dandy Book, albeit with half its spine missing. A big pile of comics lay beside his bed and the 1991 Beano calendar hung on his wall.

For over 65 years The Beano and The Dandy have been cherished by millions of children and adults the length and breadth of the country. My pal had clearly caught the comic bug and it was about to be passed on. Sure enough the weekly Beano comic was soon being delivered to my door and the Beano and Dandy annuals became as much a part of the Christmas festivities as Santa Claus himself.

Like many others, I was keen to find out where my comic heroes had their roots. As luck would have it, D.C. Thomson & Co., Ltd, the comics' publishers, had begun producing a series of special books celebrating the first fifty years of the Beano and Dandy. The first title, 'Fifty Golden Years', was an inspiration and provided a first glimpse of the Number One Beano and Dandy annuals and comics.

An immediate love of the earlier styles of the comics and artwork led to an eagerness to acquire the original comics and annuals. But I was faced with two problems; where do you find old books and comics and, once found, how would an eleven year

old without a penny to his name afford them? To answer the latter point, paper rounds were the only option, and some pocket money thrown in for good measure. Come rain or shine, 6am alarm calls it was to be for the next five years! To address the former issue I secretly hoped the publishers kept back issues and a letter was sent to the DC Thomson HQ in Dundee.

It turned out that they did keep back issues, but only to 1987. Alas, I wanted them back to 19thirty7! Nevertheless, they recommended a book search service and confirmed my suspicions that secondhand bookshops were the most likely means of acquiring the early books and comics.

It was around this time that my parents told a couple of tales that felt like a thorn in the side. Firstly, my father described his weekly treat during the 1950s of the Beano and Dandy comics, and compulsory gift of the annuals in his Christmas stocking. As was most usually the case, the comics were read several times, swapped around the schoolyard and thrown out, but the annuals were all kept - in tip-top condition. To this day, the cupboard that housed them still stands in my grandmother's living room, but alas, no precious Beano and Dandy annuals - they were all given to a young girl down the road in the 1960s in one foul swoop, never to be seen again. The second tale involves my grandfather from my mother's side, who was a newsagent from the late 1960s to early 1980s, and would have sold multiple (MINT) copies of all the annuals and comics I was now keen to acquire. Two tales of misfortune, or were they...?

My collecting began proper in two secondhand bookshops in Birmingham city centre, both called Reader's World. Sadly, neither shop still stands and consequently those early memories are particularly nostalgic.

You have probably heard of and may have paid a visit to Hay-On-Wye, a small market town on the English-Welsh border. Home to some thirty plus secondhand bookshops, it became an enjoyable annual trip and I distinctly remember the summer of 1993 and parting with six weeks hard-earned paper money (£63) on nine books including a 1963 Beano Book, my then oldest annual and most prized possession. Trawling local jumble and car boot sales, school fetes, antique, collectors and book fairs became the norm, but the biggest source of books came from further afield. The Book and Magazine Collector significantly increased my list of dealer contacts, including several who specialised in children's books and comics. My SAE was soon on their doorsteps and for the most part that meant entering the world of mail order.

It soon became apparent that part of the excitement of collecting is the seeking out of those elusive items. If I had inherited a thirty year run of annuals and comics in another foul swoop, my collecting interest may not have blossomed and the chances are you wouldn't be reading this now.

Despite having received the majority of my collection courteous of Royal Mail, I believe the most exciting way to buy is in person. Not only can you actually handle the item and let the sense of smell have its say too, you also get the personal touch. Be it with a dealer, collector or general member of the public, discussing one's passion is an enjoyable experience. In recent years I have been privileged to meet a handful of collectors and view their beloved collections.

In the 21st Century collectors have been increasingly using the internet, including online auction houses such as eBay, to source their books and comics. I joined the rat race and have been buying and selling on eBay for

over five years dealing with people all over the world. From Alnwick Hill to Australia, Cambridge to Canada and Newport to New Mexico, the interest in the Beano and Dandy is phenomenal. Having contact with hundreds of collectors gave me the idea of founding The Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club, so we can all share our passion. I know of several people who have a love of Rupert Bear and 'The Followers of Rupert', a society founded in 1983, has catered well for their needs with over 1,000 members worldwide today. I hope that The Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club will be an equal success.

My first hand experiences of the comic date back only to the early 90s, but already the club has a member base who would have read the comics in all its eight decades. Perhaps one

or two lucky members actually bought a copy of the very first editions in the late 1930s? If that was you, did you keep them?! My intention has always been to make the club interactive with its members, which is why I am seeking your help! If you have any compelling stories, newspaper articles about the comics over the years, unusual or rare material or anything you would like to share with other members, we would be delighted to hear from you.

It has taken much planning and preparation over the last twelve months to get the club off the ground. My thanks go to the publishers of the Beano and Dandy, D.C. Thomson & Co., Ltd, for providing kind permission to reproduce images for the club logo and newsletters. My special thanks go to Martin Lindsay, Roddie Watt,

Gordon Tait and Bill McCloughlin of DC Thomson with whom I have liaised. From day one I have bounced ideas off my long term collector friend David Jones, so I am indebted to him. Other notable thanks go to Ray Moore, who has kindly contributed an article for this newsletter, Ian Downes of Start Licensing, John Swan, and Andy Oakley, whose company Coventry Silvercraft Ltd produced the badges.

Finally, a BIG thank you to you, the Founder Members, for joining the club. I hope you enjoy this first newsletter.

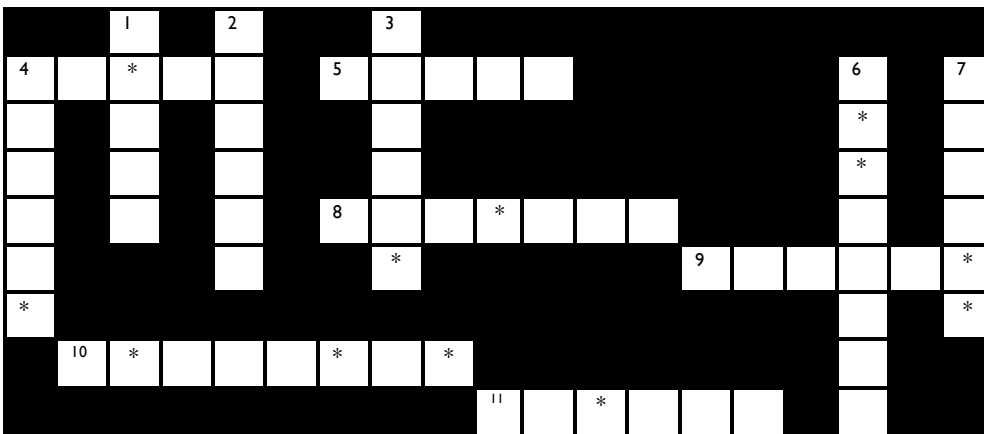
Best wishes,

Phil Shrimpton

## TEASER TIME

### Part 1—Cross word

Complete the crossword and then take the letters from those boxes marked \* and rearrange them to form a name related to the comics that is mentioned in this newsletter.



### ACROSS

4. The UK's favourite comic
5. The Topper's version of Minnie
6. The first Beano cover star
7. Edible item with horns!
8. The Dandy Wonder Dog
9. Home of DC Thomson

### DOWN

1. The first of DCT's 'Stable Four'
2. Comic with Mickey the Monkey
3. The world's wildest boy!
4. Comic first published in 1956
5. DTM's weapon of choice
6. Biffo's Pal

### Part 2—Caption Competition

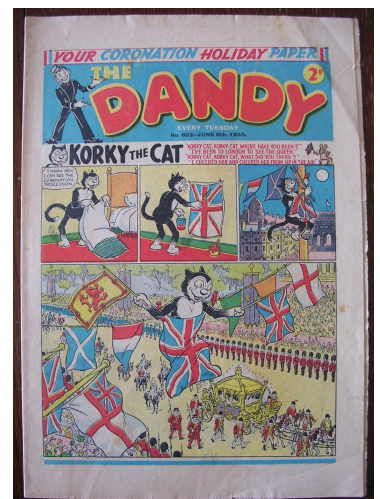
We are seeking fun captions for the Collectors' Club logo artwork, below.

### Competition Guide

Please write, telephone or email with the name to Part 1 and your caption from Part 2. Entries to be received by December 1st, 2006. Captions will be judged by an independent adjudicator. The name of the winner will be published in the next newsletter.



**The prize!**  
Dandy comic  
Coronation Issue  
1953  
Super cover artwork



## JUST THE TICKET OR A SLAP-UP FEED!

### THE STORY OF HOW THE DANDY AND BEANO GOT THEIR NAMES

by Ray Moore

In 'The DC Thomson Bumper Fun Book' published by Paul Harris in 1977, a volume devoted to various essays on the firm and its literary output, historian Owen Dudley Edwards contributes two pieces; the first discussing the Thomson boys papers and the second 'Cow Pie and All That' devoted to the Dandy and Beano.

The general tone of both these articles, it has to be said, seems to be one of smug condescension and a desire to find fault by trying to analyse the material under consideration with a high-minded intellectual approach that simply isn't appropriate. But, having said that, when he comes to discussing the actual naming of the two comics and being perplexed as to why two such 'utterly archaic' words had been chosen, I do think he is right in his assessment that the titles 'Dandy' and 'Beano', however they came about were, ultimately, in relation to the fate of the comics themselves, 'a matter of total irrelevance to their success'.

Indeed, now that the 'Dandy' and 'Beano' have been with us for nearly seventy years, surely the opposite is the case. The comics have become so famous that they have endowed the words they were given as titles with a fame and a longevity far beyond anything their etymological obscurity in the 1930s would ever have seemed likely to command.

This is true to such an extent that, today, the 'Dandy' and 'Beano' are largely synonymous only of themselves. Say the words dandy and beano to anyone the length and breadth of Britain and you will almost certainly conjure up images and memories of DC Thomson's comic duo rather than a Regency fop or something that is just the ticket, as in the phrase 'fine and dandy', or in the case of beano a beanfeast or slap-up feed. The comics' success has taken these two words, particularly beano, and virtually stripped them of any other meaning.

But pre-1937 this wasn't the case. Before the arrival of the two comic papers that Thomson's chose to christen 'Dandy' and 'Beano' these two words were just that, two rather obscure, old-fashioned words. That being the case, this beggars the question what made these two words so appealing to the creators of the

two comics?

Hopefully the following legend, of the Thomson Meadowside building in Dundee and its editorial staff, will provide the answer.

Before the arrival of the 'Dandy' and 'Beano' DC Thomson & Co had become famous for the juvenile literature they published for boys, namely their line of boy's story papers dubbed 'The Big Five'. The first of these, 'Adventure', had appeared in September 1921 and at the time any thoughts that it might be the start of a successful dynasty of such titles was secondary to the pragmatic consideration that it was a good way to fill spare printing time on the Thomson presses. Still, dynasty forming it turned out to be and, in the next decade or so, it was followed by 'The Rover' and 'The Wizard' in 1922, 'The Skipper' in 1930 and 'The Hotspur' in 1933.

By the late 1930s the continuing success of these papers and of the comic supplement 'The Sunday Post Fun Section', included in the paper of that name since March 1936, encouraged RD Low, the Managing Editor of Thomson juvenile publications, to suggest to the Thomson directors that it might be worthwhile taking the expertise that they had gained in producing these items and tentatively branch out into the realm of comic production. This project was duly given the go-ahead and a dummy comic paper was ordered into production with R D Low in overall charge of proceedings, supported by his lieutenant Bill Blain, editor of 'The Wizard', and several other up and coming recruits from the boys paper department, in particular a sub-editor on 'The Hotspur' called Albert Barnes.

In the summer of 1937, as the strips and stories that the new comic would contain were being assembled, it was natural, for reference purposes at least, that it should be given a working title, something throw away that might well be discarded for something better before production was finalised. But what title to choose?

One option for inspiration would be to check out the opposition. In the late 1930s most of the competition that Thomsons would face if they went into comic production would come from the *Amalgamated Press*, their adversary of old in the boys paper field. At the time its array of comic titles in-

cluded 'Chips', 'Comic Cuts', 'Crackers', 'Film Fun', 'Funny Wonder', 'Jester', 'Joker', 'Jolly', 'Larks', 'Puck', 'Sparkler' and 'Tip-Top'. The only other competition of note came from *Target Publications* in Bath who more often than not favoured the agent noun approach to the title choice 'Chuckler', 'Dazzler' and 'Rattler' and *Willbank Publications* who had had no trouble putting a name to their single comic success as it featured an obvious star who deserved top billing, Mickey Mouse in Mickey Mouse Weekly.

In the end the working title that Thomsons chose for their new venture virtually chose itself, as the project that had initially been known simply as 'the comic' became, by a form of editorial osmosis, 'The Dandy Comic'. So why was the word dandy such a common coin around the Thomson editorial offices in the late 1930s?

One red herring in this regard is Dandy McLean, the Scotland Yard detective who had featured in stories in Thomsons magazine-cum-newspaper 'The Weekly News' for a number of years and had even had his own pocket library running to ten issues in 1933. This Dandy was certainly around but he is not the Dandy we are looking for.

In the 1930s the staff at Thomsons Meadowside building instigated various gatherings and social events that were graced with a variety of colourful names including a rather elegant dinner dubbed 'The Roosters', a hill-walking group called 'The Prancers' and, what is of most interest to us here, something called 'The DB Club'.

'The DB Club' was a tongue in cheek solemnization of the food and drink fuelled jaunts in and around Dundee, with the occasional game of golf thrown in for good measure, of a dozen or so Thomson employees, mostly from the editorial department, led by 'Chairman' Managing Editor R D Low. The initials DB, standing for several things including 'Dirty Bugger', are an indication of the esteem in which the club held itself and its members and the equally descriptive but slightly more high tone Dandy Beano. The 'Dandy Beano Club's' 'beano's' or meetings were certainly 'dandy' and as a result the word dandy became part of the general vocabulary of the Thomson offices, where anything good might be de-

# THE LAST SUPPER OF THE D. B. CLUB Belmont Arms, 25th January, 1936

## PROGRAMME

The Chairman will belch a few unnesheshary remarksh.

Company will be upstanding (if able) to chant the D.B. Anthem.

DARTS CONTEST—2d sweepstake.

No STICKING darts in the wrong place.

ANDY MCHUNTER'S idea of a Humorous Reading.

LOUSY LIMERICKS—Sing up, you cadsh!

### Key Notes

The above are snippets from the Programme for the evening. Illustrations opposite were by John R. Mason. The Chairman was R.D. Low, the Managing Editor of the Thomson juvenile papers. He is in the kilt at the right hand end of the table. Andy McHunter refers to Andy Hunter, the editor of 'The Skipper'.

scribed as dandy, including a proposed new comic.

As time passed and the launch date for the new 'dandy comic' drew near it dawned on R D Low, and the rest of the staff putting the new paper together, that this makeshift title had a certain ring to it and that it was, perhaps, as good as anything else they might come up with. And so it was that when Thomsons first comic title was launched in December 1937 it was christened 'The Dandy Comic', with the main title Dandy still retained as a descriptive adjective in the overall title just as it had been in the days of its preparation.

Once 'The Dandy Comic' had been

successfully launched a companion paper was immediately out into production. As a talisman of good fortune it was, in turn, given the title 'The Beano Comic' and published for the first time in July 1938. The rest, as they say, is history.

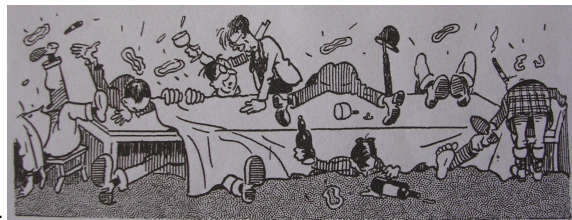
After nearly seven decades 'The Dandy' and 'The Beano' (the word comic was dropped from each title in June 1950) are still going strong but what of the DB club that provided them with their names? Sadly, it is long gone and the men who were its members with it. Its heyday was in the late 1930s and early 1940s when, as well as its regular meetings, its members also organised a yearly dinner, or Last Supper as they referred

to them, at some suitable hospitable location with special joke menus printed for the occasion by cartoonist John R Mason and the legendary Dudley Watkins. The first of these, no doubt convivial affairs, taking place on Burns Night, January 25<sup>th</sup> 1936, and the last, as far as can be ascertained, eight years later, on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1943.

And as the original members of the DB Club might well have done here's three cheers and lets raise a glass to 'The Dandy Comic', 'The Beano Comic' and the members of the brand new 'Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club'!

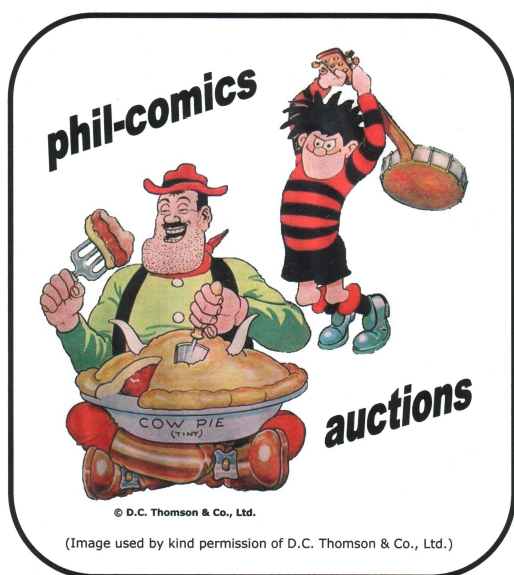


"KICK OFF 7.15"



"Ambulances 11.45"

## LOOKING TO SELL A SINGLE ITEM OR COLLECTION OF COMIC BOOKS?



We commission the sale of pre-1980 British comics, annuals, books & artwork and achieve consistently high prices. Let us do all the work of grading, imaging, marketing, advertising, customer service, banking, packaging and posting and send you payment in installments or as a final total. We also buy items if you are looking to sell direct.

**Beano, Beezer, Broons, Dandy, Eagle, Film Fun, Giles, Hotspur, Knockout, Lion, Marvelman, Mickey Mouse, Oor Wullie, Rupert Bear, Radio Fun, Rover, Superman, Topper, TV related, Victor, Wizard and more**

For more details please visit the website below.

Alternatively, you can write, telephone or email for a fast, efficient and courteous response.

We hope to hear from you soon!

**phil-comics auctions, PO Box 3433, Brighton, BN50 9JA, UK  
Tel 01273 673462 Email phil@phil-comics.com  
Web www.phil-comics.com**

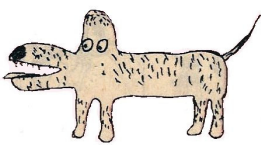
# PETS' PICTURE GALLERY

by Phil Shrimpton

A couple of years ago I listed a batch of Beano comics on eBay from the mid 1970s. During the auction I received the following email:

*"I don't know if you can be bothered to check this out, but I'm keen to know whether one of these comics contains my drawing of 'Bruce', a dog, in the 'reader's pets' section. I won a 50p postal order which I still have, but I lost the comic! It was in an April issue I think, possibly 12th or 14th, something like that. Hope its not too much trouble. Many thanks, Glyn Hinchliffe."*

This was definitely worth checking out, not only to help out the customer, but to have a jolly good chuckle at the readers' pets. Fortunately Bruce was found in issue 1603 and a scan was sent the same day. Glyn was delighted to be reunited with Bruce and kindly provided us with a

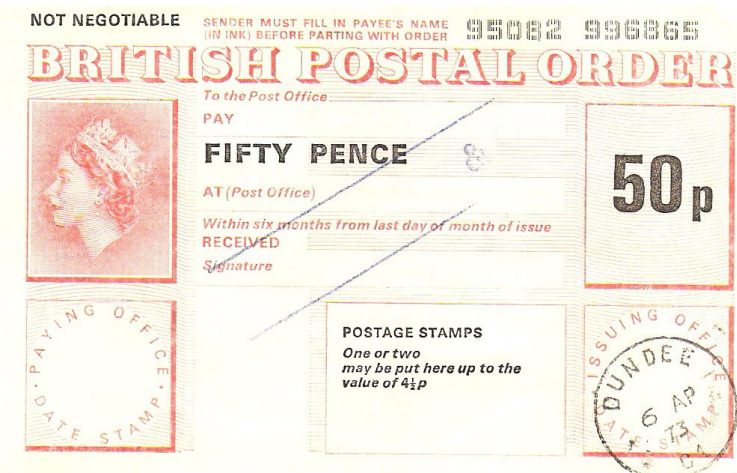


"BRUCE"  
Glyn Hinchliffe,  
Mumbles, Glam.

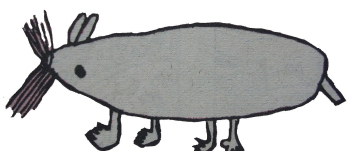
scan of the original date stamped postal order and a picture of the real Bruce on Blackpool beach in the 1960s. Pictured opposite is the infamous artist's impression!

During my search for Bruce I found a few others which were worth reproducing below. Could I do better? Probably not! The Pet's Corner feature really captivated the comic's audience. As a child reader it must have been, and still is, a real privilege to appear in the Beano comic in any capacity.

Now we aren't going to invite our members to send us pictures of their pets (although we'd happily accept them and maybe publish the odd one!), but we would like to replicate the Beano comics' attempt to get its audience involved. In the next newsletter we intend to feature a 'Letter to the Editor' section with your questions, views and thoughts on the Beano & Dandy, its associated titles and any matters related to the Collectors' Club, so please write or email. We aim to publish as many as possible but if writing, please supply an SAE if you would like a reply.



"Albert"



"Hatty"



"Jimmy"



(Another) "Bruce"



"Micky"



"Marcus"

## DAY DREAMS OF DUNDEE, DANDY & DESPERATE DAN

by Phil Shrimpton

As revealed in the editorial, it became apparent at an early stage that DC Thomson's pre-1987 back issues were out-of-print. Never one to give up, I sent another letter to Dundee, this time enquiring as to whether there was a public display of comics and annuals. If I wasn't able to buy them, the next best thing would be to at least view, and hopefully handle, some early examples. Their reply read, "Though we have a complete set of our annuals

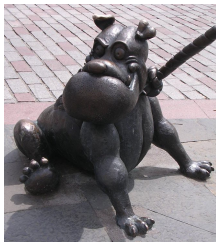
in our Dundee Offices, I'm afraid we have no exhibition or showcase facility." This was at a time when the only real source of annuals were bookfairs, the Book and Magazine Collector and the odd specialist dealer. I recall a trip to a local book fair where Cliff Fox (Eunice and Cliff Fox, the then widely renowned Rupert Bear specialists) had a stall with some fairly worn Dandy Monster Comic annuals. The one that sticks in my mind was the 1944 is-

sue, with the classic football cover. Price wise it was out of my league, but it provided hope that these early annuals were actually obtainable.

Around this time, and in the months and years that followed, I would often day dream about viewing DC Thomson's collection deep in their 'vaults', as I imagined them to be. In July of this year I was invited to attend a 'Beano Event' in Dundee as

part of the summer wide city festival. Having been in recent discussions with DC Thomson over the setting up of the Collectors' Club, it came as a genuine surprise and a real delight when I was granted permission to view the archive that had been mentioned in their letter all those years ago.

You may yourself have visited Dundee before, perhaps in recent years. If so, you will have inevitably come face to face with three imposing bronze statues in City Square. Most striking is the ten foot masterpiece of the Dandy legend Desperate Dan. He can be seen striding with his well-pronounced 'Albert Barnes' stubbled chin, back arched, chest puffed out and tightly grasping his copy of the Dandy. His faithful mutt 'Dawg' is close by, apparently star-



led by a crouching Minnie the Minx, catapult in hand aiming at his master's rear! Much like the Robert Harrop character figurines, the attention to detail is highly impressive and the statues are a testament to the comics' popularity and success and a real pride of Dundee.

A short distance away lies Albert Square, of which the most notable feature is a large sandstone building. Named the Courier Building, this forms the DC Thomson



headquarters and the place of my next visit.

Just as I had imagined, as I entered the building, the foyer area appears very old fashioned with marble floor, which was to the liking of my 'traditionalist' nature. I was met by

Bill McCloughlin, my 'tour-guide' for the afternoon and one of the three employees working in the archive. We were soon on the second floor and entering the 'vault' that was the DCT archive. At first glance it appeared to be a large office but with a door leading off at the far end. Instantly spotted was an open bound volume of early Beano comics. They were well worn but that could be excused – the top issue was, after all, number 6 from 1938! On another desk lay the two vol-



umes of Ray Moore's 'The Beano Diaries' next to original 1940 and 1941 Beano Books. On a third desk were scattered a series of original pieces of artwork, including Dudley Watkins' Biffy the Bear and Davey Law's Corporal Clott.

In my mind, two things were clear. Firstly, a lot of research went on in this room and, secondly, I was in for a real treat!

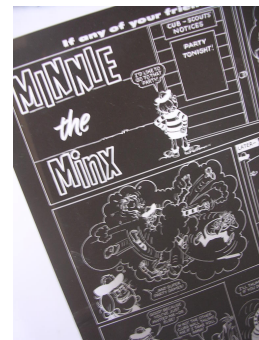
Before we entered the far end door which was to be the archive proper, I glanced out of the office window. Opposite the Courier Building lies Dundee High School with a large playground and school gates. In late 1952 Leo Baxendale had begun working for DC Thomson but his initial strips failed to galvanise. Inspired by a Giles cartoon in the Daily Express, Baxendale drew and sent George Moonie, the then Beano Editor, a crowded picture of dozens of school children scuffling about on the pavement outside their school, bashing and thumping each other. He hoped the picture would inspire a new strip. Unfortunately nothing came of it but within days, unrelated to this drawing, Little Plum was created. Three months later Minnie the Minx appeared and Thomsons, wanting to capitalise on their newly found artistic talent, required Baxendale to produce a third strip. But of what, or of whom? Looking down on the antics of those youngsters in the playground of Dundee High School from the editorial offices, something must have triggered in George

Moonie's mind whilst thinking of Baxendale's crowded picture. In an instant, The Bash Street Kids (originally 'When the Bell Rings') were created!

Entering the archive, a series of shelf units presented themselves with large brown paper envelopes containing various colour separations, mainly from the 1970s.



Much like an x-ray, they appeared as sheets of film with black areas



positioned according to the original artwork.

The number of film sheets present depended on the number of colours in the original strip; effectively,

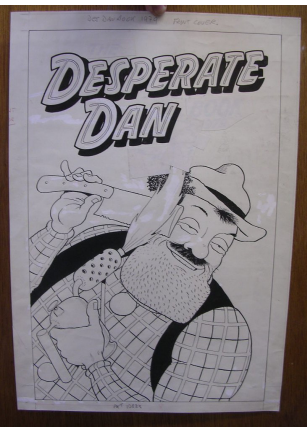
one for each colour. Imagine a classic mid-50s Dennis the Menace strip with only black and red present – one film would be used to produce the red colour, another for the black.



It quickly became apparent that this relatively small room could not possibly house the entire archive. Indeed, Bill stated that there are various locations throughout Dundee housing the full collection. The task facing Bill and his colleagues has been, and still is, to record and collate the entire collection. In the

early years no real attempt was made to note which pieces of artwork led to which comic issues. The painstaking process continues...

I enquired as to the whereabouts of the original cover artwork of the 1963 Dandy-Beano Summer Special, from which the Collectors' Club



logo art is derived. A quick file check revealed it was housed in a separate location.

Not to worry, on top of a filing cabinet I noticed a large

loose pile of artwork. Hopefully you will recognise the item that was derived from the piece pictured. In case not, it is cover artwork from the 1979 Desperate Dan Book, complete with original tippex corrections!

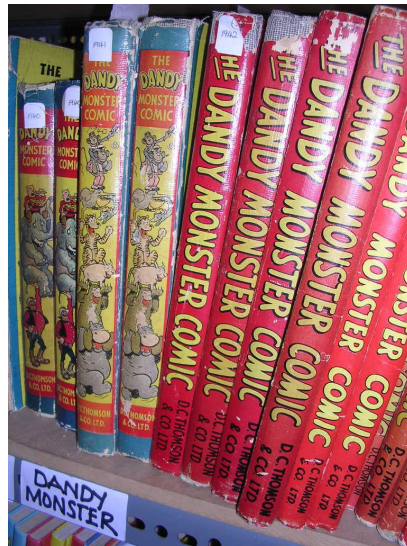
Unlocking a door off the main archive revealed a small store room and the one I had been looking most forward to visiting. Yes, this contained the comics and annuals (1930s through 1970s) that I had day-dreamt of viewing a decade earlier. In many ways it was similar to how I had imagined. Three narrow walkways with shelves literally to the ceiling, packed with neatly filed bound comic volumes and the main Thomson annuals. Of most interest were two shelves labelled 'MAGIC - MAGIC FUN - DANDY MONSTER' and 'BEANO - MAGIC BEANO'.

It was quite surreal. I have spent years to date, and continue to ac-



quire my own collection of the annuals and here was the publishers full set right before my eyes. There were on average two copies of each annual and most in pretty nice shape, although they were clearly

used for reference purposes, some



with a white sticker to the spine depicting the year. Notoriously hard to find are the 1941 and 1944 Dandy Monster Comic annuals, and here were two of each!



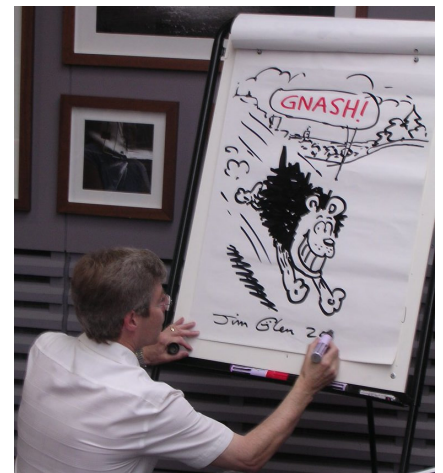
The collecting world is opening its eyes and beginning to accept bound volumes of comics in recent years. Present were most years from the late 30s/early 40s although the early issues, as mentioned above, were fairly worn.

An experience well worth waiting for and my sincere thanks go to Martin Lindsay and Bill McCloughlin for making it happen.

The Beano Event itself was held at the Apex Hotel, Quayside, close to the city centre. I had taken a selection of vintage Beano & Dandy comics and annuals for sale and was hoping that Scottish collectors would arrive by the coach load to fill gaps in their collections. It turned out to be a fairly quiet affair, indeed, the vast majority of people browsing were local Dundee residents but a couple of my eBay customers introduced themselves. It was the first time I had 'exhibited' at a live event, and what struck me most was the number of people who stopped to either glance or

flick through the comics. Faces lit up, favourite childhood characters were quoted and some even spoke of their current and past employment working on the comics' at DC Thomson, drawing odd strips and completing speech bubbles. Ray's statement, 'say the words dandy and beano to anyone the length and breadth of Britain and you will almost certainly conjure up images and memories of DC Thomson's comic duo', was certainly being evidenced here.

The former Beano Editor, Euan Kerr, was present and gave an interesting talk on the Beano, adding some of his personal experiences working as the Editor. The highlight for me though, apart from the com-



plementary full English breakfast, was the presence of the Thomson staff artist Jimmy Glen. He gave a demonstration of how a comic strip develops, using Gnasher as one example. It was fascinating to watch - only when a couple of quick lines were drawn beneath and behind the hound was it that the 'sprinting' effect came to life.

The event had an exhibition of Beano and Dandy screenprints by John Patrick Reynolds ([www.thecomicartwebsite.com](http://www.thecomicartwebsite.com) / 07980 844906). John uses the original colour separations mentioned above, from DC Thomson, to produce the screenprints. Martin and Susan Cleghorn of 'Fine 'n' Dandy' were selling Beano merchandise ([www.fineanddandy.co.uk](http://www.fineanddandy.co.uk) / 01382 778989) and David Brown of 'Rugby Plus...' showed off his rugby balls with Dennis the Menace designs ([www.rugbyplus.com](http://www.rugbyplus.com) / 01382 226761).

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend was had, one which I hope can be replicated in the future.