



# Off with their heads

As I write this, it's the 12th November and a thousand *Precious Metals* Christmas cards have just been delivered to Ged-the-husband's shop. Every year we set up a family production line for sending the cards out. Ged and I put them in the envelopes, Zoe attaches the address labels and Joe does the stamps. He loses 5p of his £5 payment for every time he sticks the Queen's head on upside down. Last year he experienced a gross deficit, bless him.

Pictured is our 2011 Christmas card. That lovely young man in the top picture is Ged in his workshop in 1976 (with hair) and below is the 2011 Ged (when he'd lost it). Many of his customers do remember him with hair but there were a good number who had no idea who the younger bloke in the picture was. Some even thought that Ged's goldsmithing daughter Sarah must have left and he had taken on a new, male apprentice.

One of our customers, Sandra Butterworth, told us that her teenage son had made much mischief with this Christmas card. Jake cut out the bald-head Ged and took it on a sort of festive tour of the household. One minute Ged-

head was stuck on the end of the turkey baster, the next he was smiling up from the sprig of holly in the Christmas pudding. During dinner when Sandra said she may use her Christmas money to ask Ged to make her a bracelet, Jake told her to forget it.

"Ged hasn't time to be making jewellery for you, mum. Look, he's too busy playing with his toys." And there was the Ged-head attached to the body of a baby in the Argos catalogue. God only knows what Jake will get up to with this year's card.

We've actually been very excited about our

stamps. I've been telling customers for weeks now to expect a gift of something to wear from us in the Christmas post. Then Ged pointed out that this could backfire as the ladies may be very upset when they find a party hat instead of a real item of jewellery. At the 11th hour

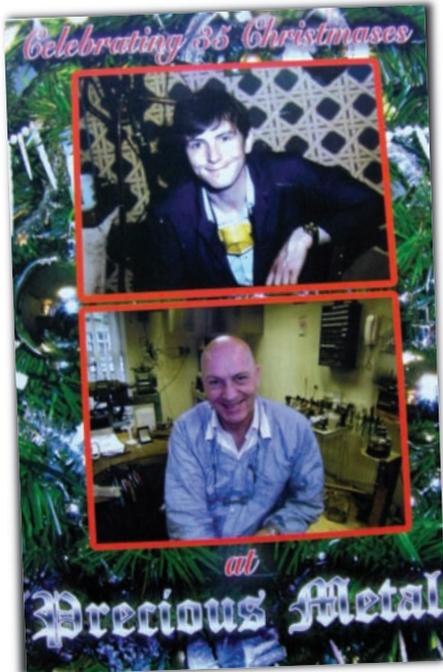
we had to 'phone the printers and ask them to add a message alongside our Christmas greeting. It reads, 'email a picture of yourself, wearing this tiara and eating your Christmas dinner to enter

*"Some thought that Ged's goldsmithing daughter Sarah must have left and he had taken on a new, male apprentice"*

our prize draw? Now we just have to think up a suitable prize for Ged to make.

While I have your attention, those of you who read my blog will know that I've been working with the Grassroots charity to supply local schools with top-up food for children who have nothing more than a slice of bread or a couple of biscuits in their lunchboxes. 1.2 million children in the UK are living below the poverty line and do not get free school meals and these are children from working families. This Christmas please do something to help them. It won't cost you a penny; just sign the petition at [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk) to ask the government to ensure every child living in poverty gets a free school meal. You can also sign through a link on

my blog at the new address of [www.gillwatson.co.uk](http://www.gillwatson.co.uk). Thank you and have a wonderful Christmas!



2012 card because it's not just a card but a wearable cardboard reproduction of the Queen's diamond diadem - the tiara she wears on all those upside-down