

Distinct Possibilities, April

I realise that the more I write, the more I seem to remember, forgotten acquaintances, a tale told that somehow leads me down the path to another forgotten memory. Names, events and possible consequences of those I supported in care as always have been adjusted

April 1st

Aunty Babs was the person who truly introduced Marmaduke into my world. As memory serves, we were watching a sci-fi programme and one of the characters was named Marmaduke, he wasn't evil or bad, he was just a person who we both laughed at as his lines were awful. Later that evening I was messing about and she turned to me and said, "Be careful or Marmaduke will come and get you" it was an off the cuff statement that had us both laughing and for the next few weeks it was repeated often in our conversations. My room being at the top of the house was also a few yards opposite the attic entrance which was above the stairs. My little sister had a habit, as little sisters do, of wanting to see what their elder brother was up to and as most families do, the eldest child is often asked to include their younger siblings in whatever they're doing. I remember playing with the toy soldiers and my sister was seven years old. I don't remember ever saying what he did or why she needed to beware of him, just that he lived in the attic. It was enough. Mission accomplished. Marmaduke also came to the fore whenever Bee and Jaqs were visiting. We'd be up in the room playing Monopoly or whatever, and Maxine and their little brother Greg, would be on the landing below, debating whether to risk the wrath of Marmaduke to get to my room. It didn't always work, but Marmaduke is still fondly remembered and made a final appearance at my sister's wedding in the speeches

April 2nd

EBay helped me relive my childhood in so many ways. I'd mentioned to Diane before we were married that at Christmas I always got an annual and so for a couple of years afterwards she'd get me one for my Christmas also. Then along came eBay and for my 50th birthday she bought me a Beezer annual from the year I was born and from that moment, I began monitoring eBay