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THE ARCHER



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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Small change

It is a madman who messes about with the money, but whoever said that governments were full of people with a grip on sanity? And, guess what, they've decided to prove me right.

According to the maniacs, our coins need changing because they are out of touch with modern Britain. When were coins in touch with modern Britain? Did the sixties swing because the backside of the half-crown looked funky? Was punk the result of universal distaste at the design of the 10p coin? I think not. But that hasn't stopped someone deciding that the backside of everything apart from the £1 and £2 coins needs modernising and, just to make life more weird, they're going to hold a competition to find new cool designs for the twenty-first century. OK, that's a challenge made for me, because when the going gets that weird, it's time for the weird to turn pro.

Let's start at the top with the 50p, complete with its picture of a bored Britannia. What better (and suitably foreign) thing to replace her with than a drunk in an Ibiza gutter. The 20p has a rose, that symbol of England, but as no one plants roses any more, it needs to be replaced with a smoking BBQ. You can ditch the lion on the back of the 10p for the kind of 'pet' today's Brit recognises. Since you're never more than ten feet from a rat, it seems only fair to stick one on the back of the 10p. The 5p has the thistle, that pride of Scotland, so why not ditch it in favour of something everyone understands, like a mobile phone, and change the design every other week as a new model comes out.

The coppers are easy, though. They are the last place where pounds and ounces still rule the roost. The 1p coin weighs exactly one-eighth of an ounce and the 2p exactly a quarter ounce. As anyone who's ever smoked something stronger than Marlboro knows, your friendly neighbourhood dealer sells his wares in quarters and eighths. So why not join the modern world and do something really cool and twenty-first century and put a cannabis leaf on the backs of both of them? You know it makes sense.



13th January 1929: "Members of the Ken Wood Regulars Club yesterday broke the ice in order to have their morning dip, and as the photo shows seem to thoroughly enjoy it."

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Breaking the ice

By Brian Timms

What could be nicer than breaking the ice at Kenwood Ladies' Pond and plunging in for a swim to build an appetite for Christmas dinner, as pictured here in 1929? Such breathtaking leaps into freshly cracked ice are no longer permitted under health and safety regulations, which is a pity, says Wyn Cornwell, who has swum in the pond for the past 50 years. "It's a shame we aren't allowed to do it any more. It didn't do

us any harm," said Wyn, who is 92, still swims in the pond twice a day, summer and winter, and sometimes even cycles there from her nearby home.

Ice breaking is, of course, not relished by all, including East Finchley's Frieda Schweizer, 90, who regularly swam in the pond from 1930 until a couple of years ago. "No way would I break ice and jump in. Too cold. That can't be pleasurable," said Frieda, who still swims twice a week in the Tottenham Court Road Oasis pool, mainly because walking to

Hampstead is a bit far for her these days. But at least swimming, with or without ice, must be healthy, proven by Wyn and Frieda's combined ages - 182.

The uncovering of the Christmas 1929 image in an attic in Australia was prompted by recent articles about the pond in *THE ARCHER*. The Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association would love to have more historic photos so please rummage through cupboards, lofts and drawers, dust off your finds, and then contact the association's archivist, Mary Cane, on 020 7485 8233 or mcane@globalnet.co.uk.

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