

THIMBLE TREASURES

Pat's move into thimble collecting came about on the birth of Prince William in June 1982. At the time she was collecting china bells, and during a search for a bell to commemorate the birth, she was introduced to these little treasures. *Words and Pictures by Stéphanie Durrant*

Figuring that they take up less space than the bells, and the bell wasn't available, she purchased the first one.

With the first one in the collection she was soon bitten by the bug, on days out and holidays she could be found in all of the gift shops scanning the shelves for another find, car boot sales were a rich source for the collection as well. Soon after her husband, David designed and built wooden display racks, and he also turned his hand to turning some thimbles on a lathe to make a distinctive design.

Pat has made many trips to Stoke-on-Trent to visit the local pottery museums and factory shops; she is also a member of "The Welsh Thimblers" run by her friend in Bridgend Denise Jenkins.

"They are just so interesting, all the family keep a look out for one on their travels" she told me. "Each one has a story or memory attached to it." And from what I seen there are plenty of stories to tell. ■

