

My favourite bears Sue Pearson



Sue Pearson
Bears & Bygones

LEFT: My beloved Tubby
CENTRE RIGHT: Sue in a sea of teddy bears
BOTTOM LEFT: Baby Achillea

SUE PEARSON



Sue started trading in 1975 in The Lanes in Brighton

Sue has been restoring dolls and teddy bears for over 40 years

Sue lives and works in Sussex

Sue can be contacted at
www.suepearson.co.uk
sales@suepearson.co.uk
www.suepearsonrubbylane.com



sisters who are pictured in the photo with "Baby Achillea" who got the bear's name from the flowers their father grew in his garden. She stayed at home with me for many years, and then sadly I parted with her, but have always rather regretted my decision.

My beloved Tubby was one of my all time favourite bears, he was a 28 inch blond Steiff, and was given to a little girl called Diana in 1912,

Tubby stayed with her all her life and he was sitting on her bed when she died. He was passed down to her son, who sold him to me, and of course he came to live in our house. He arrived with lots of lovely photos of him and Diana playing in the garden. Tubby used to sit in a chair on our landing and I always patted his head when I passed by. He is now happily living

I have been very lucky to have owned many wonderful bears and during my years as a dealer I have had so many different bears through my shop when I was trading in the Lanes in Brighton. I have always specially liked bears with a history, and some have come home and stayed with me for many years. One in particular was a darling little mechanical Bing circa 1910 whose head moves from side to side, she still had her silver button ID. She belonged to two

in America and I still miss him! Several years ago I had to go to a hospital in London with my husband. The surgeon knew of my interest in bears and while we were waiting to see him, he tossed a carrier bag onto my lap and said "have a look at this it belonged to my father". Imagine my surprise when I slowly pulled him from the carrier bag, and saw a beautiful cinnamon bear looking at me. He was a large bear and as I looked more closely, I saw an elephant button in his ear, and then as I felt his limbs and body I realised he was jointed with metal rods, he also had the sealing wax nose, I had never seen such a large size cinnamon rod bear in this condition. These are some of the earliest bears that Steiff made.

The surgeon was pleased as he had two sons to educate at university. We then took this very valuable bear home on the train, still in its





carrier bag! Sadly I had to part with him. The connection between President Roosevelt and the teddy bear is well known, so I was delighted to be offered this extremely rare bear called Teddy Loring, he is a small Steiff bear 13 inches in height. Included was a framed photograph stating this bear was

given by Roosevelt to John Alden Loring at a dinner in New York on their return from their trip to Africa in 1910. Pinned to his suit is a delicate little bear that was used as a mascot in Roosevelt's 1904 election campaign. He also has a rare Roosevelt plate made between 1906 and 1908. I felt privileged to own a great piece of history, of course it was not for very long. The bear is now on display in a museum where it can be enjoyed by many bear lovers. I am looking forward to the Woburn Teddy Bear Festival and seeing if I can spot any new gems for my next article!

Sue

ABOVE: Teddy Loring - 13" Steiff bear
LEFT: My Surgeon's bear - a very early Steiff