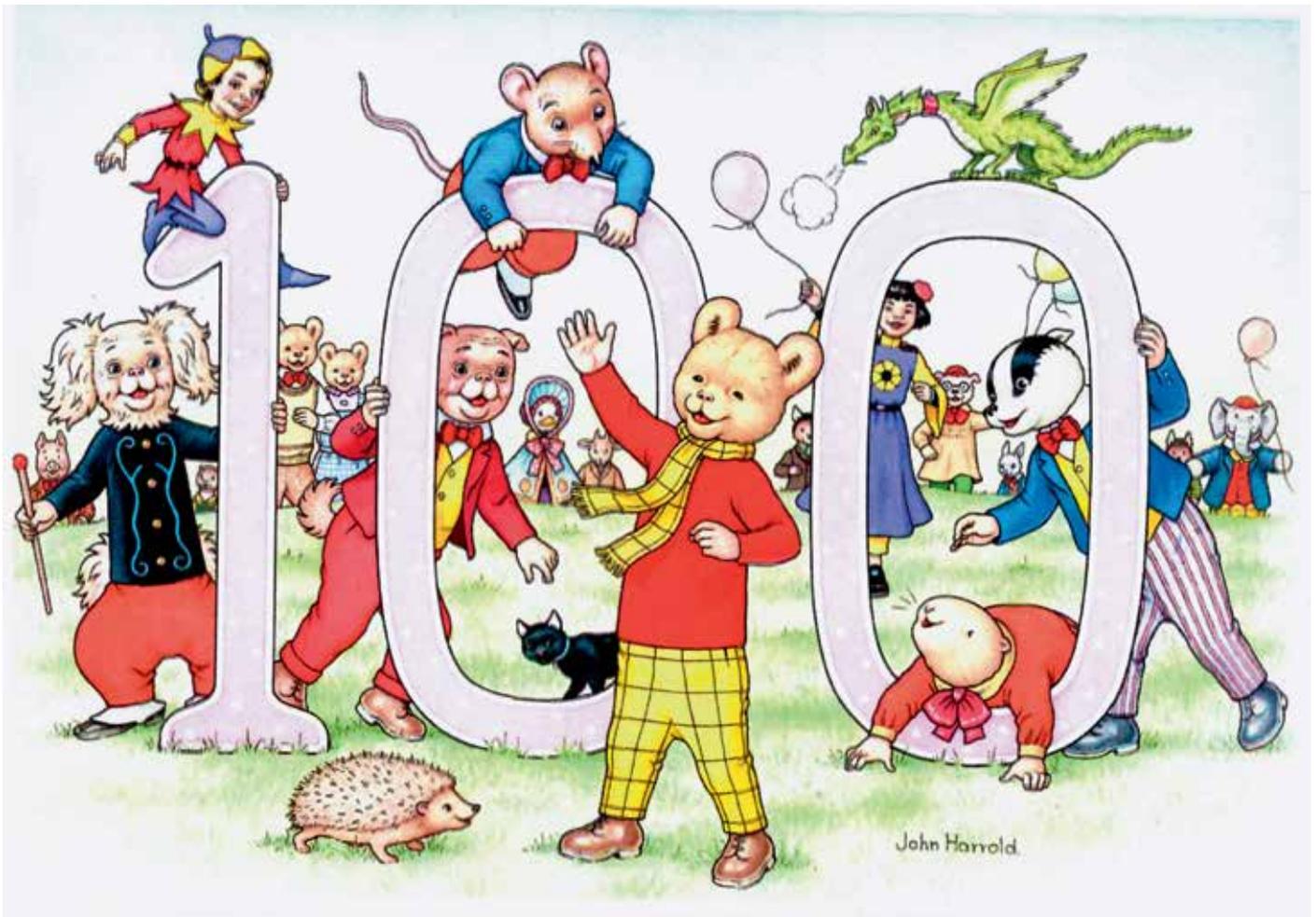


*Number 106*  
*Summer 2020*

# Nutwood Newsletter



*Celebrating 100 years of Rupert stories*

## Important Notice – Cancellation of the Annual General Meeting

It is with great regret that because of the problems posed by Covid 19, it has been decided to cancel this year's Annual General Meeting week-end, including the AGM itself. The likely revised date is next year's August Bank Holiday week-end, with the AGM itself being held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Despite Tony's sterling efforts it was proving impossible to hold a week-end in anything approaching the normal format, and even taking into account the reduced social distancing requirements, there were insuperable problems including catering, the dealers' room, the play and our talks.

It is proposed to carry over bookings to next year, although if anyone requires a refund at

this stage they should contact Tony. Similarly, the raffle will not take place at the moment.

Meanwhile, you will note that the unaudited annual accounts for 2019-2020 are enclosed. Please contact the Treasurer Phil Toze if you have any queries in this connection.

Arrangements will be made to fulfil orders for signed/illustrated Annuals.

We apologise for any inconvenience but we are sure that Followers will understand the insuperable difficulties that were faced.

**John Swan, Chairman**

*See page 12 for more information*

## Jennifer Kisler – Rupert Artist

**30<sup>th</sup> July 1935 – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

It is with sadness we have to report the death of Rupert artist Jenny Kisler (nee Miles), who contributed 15 stories to the newspaper and also titles and half-titles to Rupert Annuals after Bestall retired.

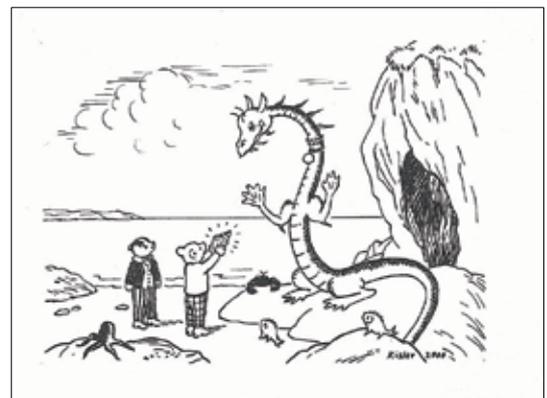
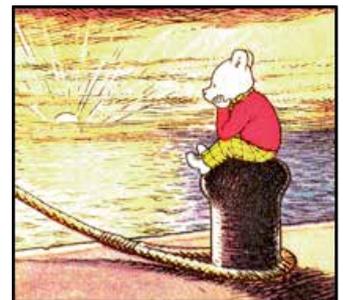


Jenny met and charmed many of you when she attended an Annual Meeting with Mary Cadogan, and she also co-contributed to Mary's 'Rupert and the Women in his World', published by the Followers in 2006. Jenny certainly enjoyed the day as subsequent correspondence to me from her revealed.

Jenny was very helpful to me, filling in details of her Rupert career for record purposes, and I remember with pleasure going to meet her and husband Albert in 1999 in their Surrey home to see items from her Rupert archive.

Rupert has lost another valued chum and recorder of his adventures, and our thoughts are with her children Matt and Kate at this sad time.

We hope to feature a more extensive report on Jenny's Rupert career in a future Nutwood Newsletter.



**John Beck**

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## Editorial

These are funny old times in the human world and we must be thankful that such catastrophic happenings always pass Nutwood by. The inhabitants survived World War 2 without anything disturbing their regular routine; the swine flu pandemic did not affect Podgy, nor did bovine TB need Bill to be culled. Medical care by Dr Lion and the Wise Old Goat's bottled sunshine keep most medical problems at bay. So, Nutwood is a safe haven to escape to, and I am sure many of you are revisiting your Rupert Annual collection to provide some sanity in your lives.

With the decision now made to cancel this year's Annual Meeting and AGM, we are not left with a lot of events to celebrate Rupert's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. You can still participate in our artwork auction postally (details about this is noted elsewhere in the Newsletter), and the John Harrold Rupert Annual signing in Lewes is planned for Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>, very close to the date of Rupert's first adventure appearing in the Daily Express. Check the website for any future changes to these plans.

On searching for notice of Rupert-related merchandise becoming available to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, we have not found a lot.

If one discounts the expensive Steiff bear, purporting to be Rupert, and the Isle of Man 50p pieces (I'm not sure Rupert has ever had any association with the I of M), which are obviously produced to extract money out of collectors, then we really have only Egmont, who are releasing a hard-backed book of selected Alfred Bestall stories, and the new Rupert Annual, as commercial items. To date there is no news of any British Rupert coins planned by the Royal Mint, but we are aware of a set of stamps planned by Royal Mail for issue in September. They will feature Rupert pictures by Alfred Bestall and will come with the usual well illustrated presentation pack and First Day cover opportunities. Royal Mail is to be praised for recognising the anniversary and importance of such an iconic character.

So it is down to the Followers to celebrate the anniversary with things of substance and the latest Rupert Index is one such thing; available now and order forms are enclosed. We also plan to offer a Nutwood map later in the year, plus produce in book format some of the Bestall stories that have not ever appeared in Rupert Annuals. This will feature 3 coloured stories previously appearing in Newsletters, plus Rupert and Dinkie. John Harrold will be colouring this extra story and also providing associated artwork for the book, so you can be sure it will become a collector's item. Further details will be noted in our next Newsletter.

In the meantime don't forget to order your copy of the latest Rupert Annual via Tony Griffin who will get copies signed and personalised for you by Stuart Trotter.

Hopefully we will see many of you at Lewes – subject to the pandemic circumstances at that time, over which we have no control.

We can only carry on as best we can, and hopefully life will return to normal in time for some other future events to happen. But we would recommend that you regularly visit our website for any updates and changes to plans.

**John Beck (Editor)**

### Followers' AGM 2020

Because of the Corona virus pandemic, this year's Followers' 2020 AGM has been cancelled. The next one will take place in August 2021.



All Officers and Committee members have indicated a willingness to serve for another year, so they will remain in post and Rules and Constitution will remain the same for a further year.

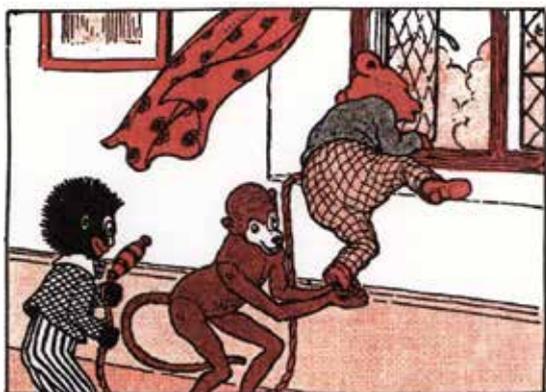
**John Beck (Secretary)**

## Pictures without Rupert

I was interested in the notes in the Freddie Chaplain Archive published in Nutwood Newsletter 104. The first instruction was 'Rupert must appear in every picture, whether as a distant speck or a close up'. This was presumably a practice introduced by Bestall, as it was not the style of Mary Tourtel.

### Mary Tourtel Daily Express Stories

In the very first story in picture 11 Rupert is not shown but, as can be seen from picture 10, he can be imagined at the other end of the rope. He does appear in 35 of the 36 pictures in the first story. Looking at the Rupert-less picture and the one before it, it would not have affected the running of the story to have had Rupert in every picture.



No. 10.—Jacko and Golli help Rupert to get away.



No. 11.—Rupert is let down by the Skipping-rope.

Then, after the short story, *Rupert's Christmastide*, where he was ever present, the second full-length story was *Little Bear's Adventures* or *Rupert gets Captured*. Of the 46 pictures, Rupert appeared only in 26. The story was the first of many Tourtel tales where Rupert is captured, a message reaches his parents or

friends, and they rescue him. It was not possible for the flow of such stories to include Rupert in every picture.

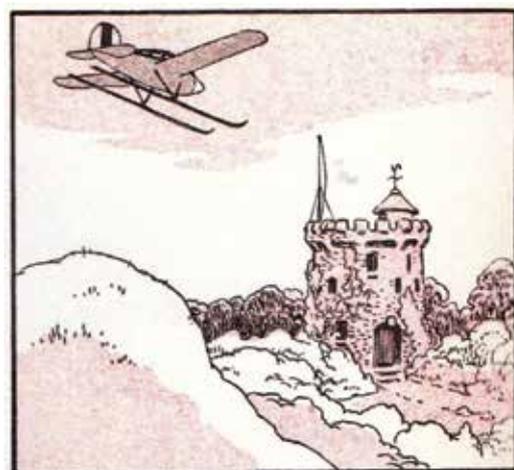
In both 1921, *Margot the Midget*, and 1922, *Margot by the Sea*, there were stories starring Margot and Algy Pug without an appearance from Rupert. Thereafter, Rupert was clearly the star in every story but usually was a few pictures short of perfect attendance. His worst performance was in story 5, *Rupert and the Ogres*, when he appeared in only 28 pictures out of 79. He was frequently captured by evil fairy tale characters of a type Bestall would not use.

### Alfred Bestall Daily Express Stories

The idea of Rupert appearing in every picture had not been thought of before Bestall took over. Indeed, whose rules were they? Perhaps it was Bestall himself, rather than Freddie Chaplain who developed most of them.

Bestall commenced his work with stories longer than Tourtel. His first, B1, *Rupert, Algy and the Smugglers*, was 108 pictures long with Rupert appearing in 101. B2, *Rupert's Autumn Adventure*, was also 108 pictures with Rupert appearing in 103. B3, *Rupert, Bill and the Pearls*, was 86 with Rupert in 81. These three stories had some pictures when Rupert was not involved in the action, but thereafter the stories were more tightly written to avoid Rupert not being in every picture.

B4, *Rupert's Christmas Adventure*, was 16 with Rupert ever present. B5, *Rupert's Adventure in the Snows*, was 85 with Rupert in 83. There were two pictures of an aeroplane and Rupert was in it but not shown.



After this, the number of pictures without Rupert became much rarer. B6, *Rupert and the Wonderful Kite*, was 108 with Rupert ever present. This story is included in the 2019 Annual. The story has another interesting feature in that Bill Badger appears in 106 pictures, a record never beaten by any character other than Rupert. Only one other character ever achieved a century, 24 years later, in 1960. To give you time to think who it was, the answer is on page 8.

Thereafter, Rupert occasionally was missing from one or two pictures up to B41 in 1939.

B8, *Rupert and Dog Toby*, 72 – 71, 1937 Annual. Rupert was watching and could have been included in the action.

B11, *Rupert and the Chinese Cracker*, 52 – 51. Rupert was watching this explosion.



B14, *Rupert and the Snow Machine*, 52 – 50, two pictures with Rupert in an aeroplane but there is no discernible 'distant speck'.



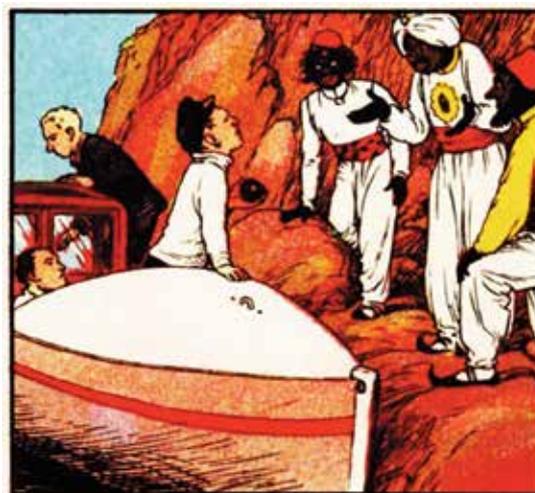
B26, *Rupert in Mysteryland*, 56 – 54. Twice Rupert is made to vanish by the waving of a wand

and the space he has just left is shown. Discernible but not a speck!

B33, *Rupert and the Iceberg*, 56 – 54, two pictures with Rupert in an aeroplane but there is no discernible 'distant speck'.

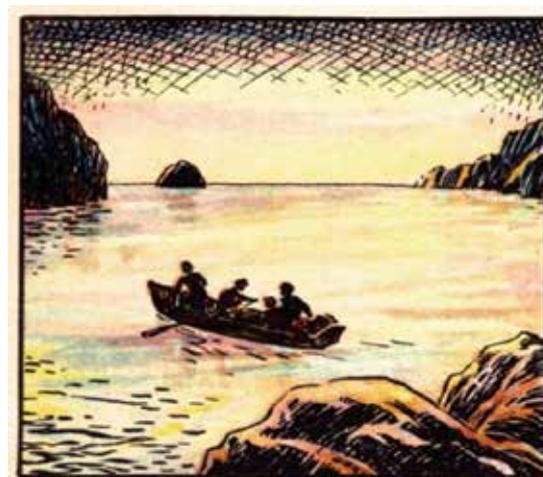
B38, *Rupert and King Frost*, 72 – 70, two pictures with Rupert in a white aeroplane but there is no discernible 'distant speck'.

B41, *Rupert and the Marvellous Bat*, 76 – 73, two pictures with Rupert in an aeroplane but there is no discernible 'distant speck'. Also, one with negotiations at the top of a cliff giving Rupert the chance to smuggle on board the motor boat.



After that there were only four such stories in the remaining Bestall years up to 1965.

B69, *Rupert and Rollo*, 56 – 55, 1944 Annual, Rupert is in the rowing boat but there is no discernible 'distant speck'.



B97, *Rupert, Algy and the Bee*, 32 – 31, 1949 Annual. This is a necessary picture with the 4 bees taking a message to Mr Bear informing him that Rupert and Algy are trapped.

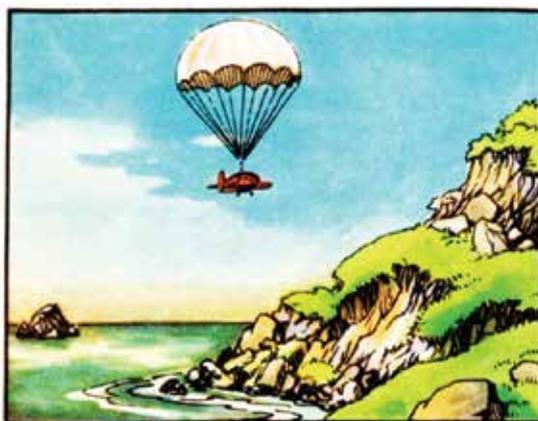
### Alfred Bestall Annual Stories

Bestall had to start producing extra stories for the Annuals during the war and there were 41 of them numbered B01 – B041. In only in 3 pictures did Rupert not appear.

B06, *Rupert and the Rocket Plane*, 52 – 51, 1946 Annual. Rupert is in the Rocket Plane but there is no discernible ‘distant speck’.



B167, *Rupert and the Fishing Rod*, 84 – 83, 1969 Annual. This is a necessary picture with PC Growler rescuing Rupert, trapped behind a door.



B020, *Rupert and the Paper Plane*, 34 – 32, 1950 Annual. There are two necessary pictures with Bill rescuing Rupert and Bingo who are locked in a tower.



B206, *Rupert and Prince Crab*, 104 – 103; one of the six Bestall stories never in an Annual. Rupert is in Noah's Ark but there is no discernible ‘distant speck’.



### Alfred Bestall Boys' & Girls' Books of the Year

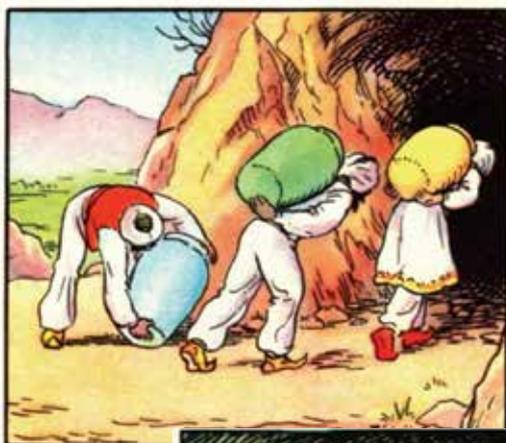
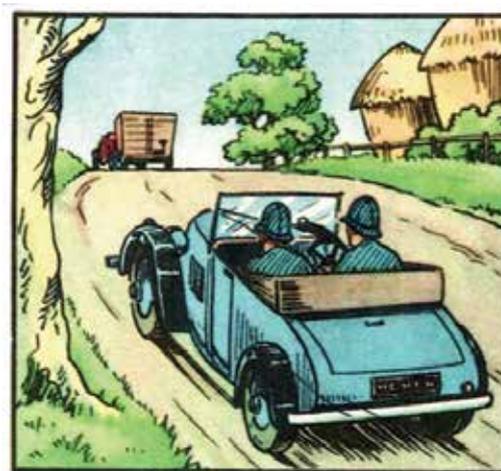
These were the stories which Bestall felt were sub-standard. There were 24 stories of six pictures each. In 21 of them Rupert appeared in all six. In the 1936 book he appeared in only three pictures in story 5, and five pictures in story 10. In the 1937 book he appeared in only five pictures in story 1.

The 1938 Book had a full-length story of 32 pictures (in Rupert Annual 1982), and Rupert was ever-present.

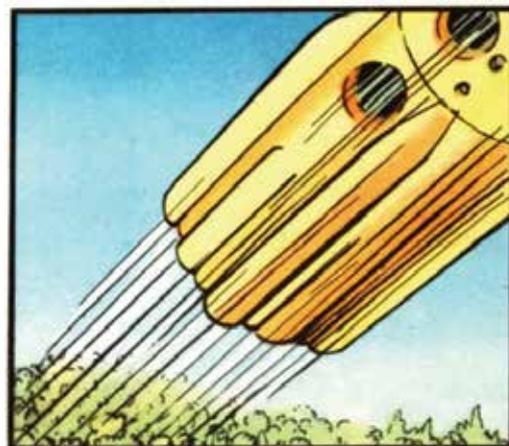


### Bestall Stories in the Adventure Series

In the Adventure Series, the first story, BA1, *Rupert and the Wicked Uncle*, was 52 pictures with Rupert in 50. In the other two pictures Rupert was being carried in a jar. Rupert was ever present in the other six BA stories.



In number 19, *Rupert and the Space Ship*, there was a picture with a rocket just after take-off where it is surprising Rupert's face was not shown in a window.



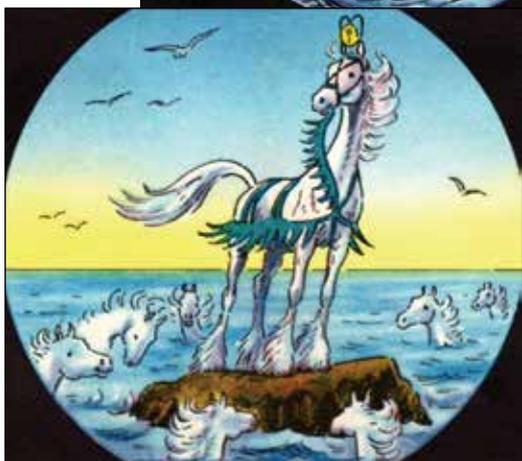
### Other Artists in the Adventure Series

In number 12, *Rupert and Neddy*, there were two consecutive pictures without Rupert because of a message being taken to the police.

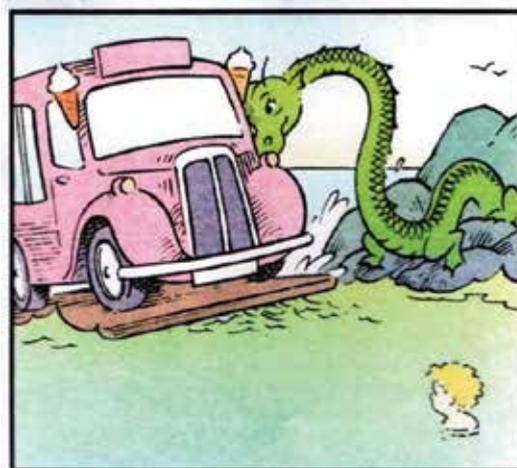
In number 25, *Rupert and the French Poodles*, there was a picture with a helicopter, again it is surprising Rupert's face was not shown in a window.



In number 37, *Rupert and the White Horse*, there were two consecutive pictures without Rupert because they showed what Rupert was seeing through a telescope.



Rupert. He was in the Ice-Cream van and could easily have been included. Perhaps Stuart had this pointed out to him because he has never done this again. His current score is 875 pictures with Rupert in 874.



### The other century maker?

Margot appeared in 103 pictures in B193, *Rupert and the Sky-Boat*, in 1960. The story is in the 1970 Annual. This was the picture in which Margot reached her century.

Surprised?



### Stuart Trotter Annual Stories

Stuart Trotter has been producing stories in the Annuals since 2008; 17 in all. I wonder if he was given the briefing? In his first story, *Rupert and the Ice-Cream Van*, there was one picture without

*Maurice Paterson*

*Look out for the next instalment of this topic in a future Nutwood Newsletter*

## More Rupert Reminiscences – Continuing Mike Williams' superb series

### Feline Frolics by Dinkie

As I wander around Nutwood and its surrounding countryside, I often come across Rupert. Sometimes, I am following Beryl who I belong to. She is a very keen Girl Guide and her best friends in the Guides are Pauline and Janet. Unfortunately, I am unable to join in games of cricket and football with Rupert and I can't even play cat's cradle with him or any of his chums. However, I sometimes walk on the common with him and can record some of the adventures we have had.

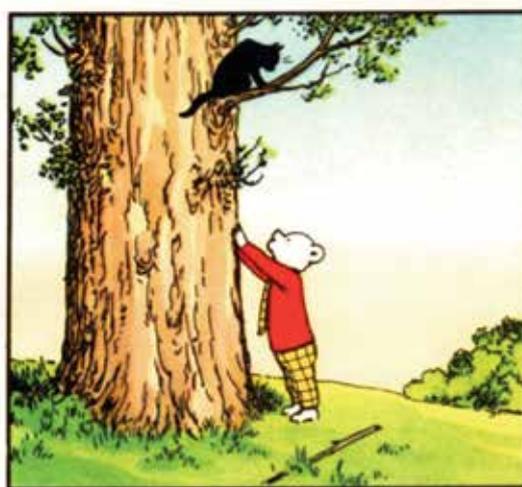
Many think I first met Rupert one Christmas (*Rupert's Silver Trumpet B104*), but I will tell you in a while about an earlier encounter. My winter adventure began when I met Rupert, Algy and Willie talking about writing their letters to Santa Claus. I led Rupert to a part of the common where there was a model airplane.

Later that day, I saw Rupert, Algy and Willie posting their letters to Santa Claus. Willie and Algy went home, but Rupert saw me looking at Golly who was hiding behind the pillar-box so nobody could see him. He told Rupert that he checked the pillar-box in order to sort out the mail and remove letters addressed to Santa Claus before the postman came. Golly then flew off in the model airplane, but Algy and Willie had wandered back and were just in time to see the plane fly off to Winter Castle, where Santa Claus lives. Rupert explained to them that Golly was delivering their Christmas letters to Santa Claus.



*Golly isn't really hidden,  
He's simply there at Santa's bidding.*

I later heard that Rupert was sent the wrong trumpet which, when Algy blew it, summoned the Winter Castle guards, as they thought Santa Claus was in danger. The corporal in charge of the guard said that they had to return to Winter Castle, as Santa Claus was without any guards. Before he left, he summoned Golly with a whistle to collect the trumpet. It was a special silver one, and Golly said that he had sent the wrong one to Rupert, and would return with the correct one.



*Rupert is sad – poor little moggie,  
Scared and chased by horrid doggie.*

When I was on the common later, a parachute descended with a box attached to it. When Rupert, Algy and Willie had opened it, they found it was full of musical instruments for Rupert and all his chums. Rupert now had the correct trumpet and Algy had a trumpet as well. Willie had a drum and drumsticks, Rex and Reggie Rabbit had flutes and Freddy and Ferdy Fox had tin whistles. There were also cymbals, a triangle and woodwind instruments for the other chums. They made an impromptu orchestra and marched into Nutwood and I led the whole band. I do not know what tune they were playing but I would have liked 'What's New Pussycat'. As I was going home to Beryl, I heard Mr Bear saying to Rupert that it would be a good idea, when the band next played together, if they all played the same tune.

Before that adventure, I had met Rupert on the common (*Rupert and the Half-Crowns B23/AS15*). I was living with Farmer Bull and a vicious dog

chased me up a tree. Rupert drove the dog away and showed me two half-crowns he had just found on the ground. He said he would look for the rightful owner, but I said that would be far too difficult and that we could travel to Nutchester on the train with so much money.

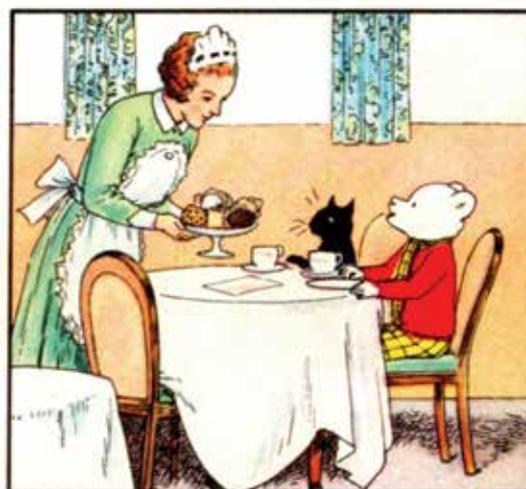
Rupert replied that his parents had just gone to Nutchester to meet his Uncle Bruno and bring him back to Nutwood for the weekend. We reached the big town, but everything was so busy that I suggested that we went into some public gardens which were quieter. Unfortunately, we got into trouble with the park-keeper as we climbed a tree to get a good view of the big town. He told us that tree climbing was forbidden and so was walking on the grass, which we had done to get to the tree.



*The man grabbed Rupert by the arm,  
The pair, though naughty, meant no harm.*

Rupert then had a cream tea in a cake shop and treated me to a cup of milk and cream buns. The fresh cream was rather rich for Rupert who had a stomach pain. I suggested that if he had enough money left that we went to a picture house to watch a film until the pain had gone. We watched two films and forgot all about the time, so we had to run to the station. The roads were much busier than in Nutwood and we were nearly run over in a car driven by a bald-headed man. When we finally got to the station, we found we had missed the last train to Nutwood. As we wandered away from the station, we passed a car park where the bald man saw us. When he heard what had happened, he offered to drive us most of the way home, as he was heading in the direction of Nutwood. It was dark by the time he dropped us at the crossroads to Popton, Robin Down,

Pussyville and Nutwood. I arrived home safely, but I later heard that Rupert had fallen into a ditch on his way back to his parents and Uncle Bruno.



*They ate some buns and were they yummy?  
But Rupert got a poorly tummy.*

The biggest town that I ever visited was London, but although Rupert went as well, we never saw each other there (*Rupert and Ozzie B144*). Because of the big procession in London, Beryl had put a lovely red ribbon around my neck, and I decided to go to see it. I passed Rupert on the common as he was on his way to play cricket, but I decided to be mysterious and did not reply when he asked where I was going.



*With posh red bow, Dinkie is haughty,  
Do not be fooled – that puss is naughty.*

I had a wonderful but very tiring day and somehow lost my ribbon. The next day I was on the common and had a chat with Rupert. I was amazed to hear that he had also gone to see the

big procession, but he had returned by Mr Mole's Underground Railway. Although I was feeling very tired, I helped Rupert find a cricket ball that his friend Ozzie had lost on the day that I had seen Rupert with his cricket gear. Rupert carried me back to Nutwood as I was so tired, and Ozzie had just arrived at Rupert's cottage to tell his parents that he had lost Rupert in London. He was delighted to see that Rupert was safe and sound and while they had tea, I was given a saucer of milk by Mrs Bear.



*Dinkie helped Rupert find the ball,  
A good result, then, after all.*

I once had a very peculiar adventure which really worried Beryl (*Rupert and Dinkie B159*). She was looking for me with Janet and Pauline but could not find me anywhere. Rupert had not seen me either but both Rupert and his mother had felt an animal like a cat near them but had not seen anything. Rupert wondered if Tigerlily was responsible as she had been making birds and animals vanish but had then lost her wand. I had not realised that I was invisible and could not understand why even Beryl was ignoring me.

Suddenly I could be seen again, and I drew Rupert's attention to a magic wand that I had seen in the long grass. While Beryl cuddled me and Janet stroked me, Rupert said that he would return the wand to Tigerlily. Janet asked Rupert if he knew where Tigerlily was and as Rupert swung the wand to show where Tigerlily was on the common, the movement made Janet, Beryl and me disappear!

Pauline and Rupert could not see us anywhere and Tigerlily said that they should tell her father, the Chinese Conjurer, as he would know what to do. Fortunately, he did, and he used Indian magic

to create a rope standing up by itself. He asked Rupert to climb up it into a tree, and there were Beryl, Janet and me stuck up the tree! They hung the rope over a bough of the tree to get down, but I just ran down the trunk.



*Dinkie was only being chummy,  
Didn't mean to startle Mummy.*

Beryl carried me home, but later the three Guides and I went to tea at Rupert's house while he told his mother that I had been to Vanish-land twice, and that it had been me who had jumped on her earlier, when I was trying to attract attention as nobody seemed able to see me.



*The Guides, the cat, all filled with glee,  
Rupert rescued them from the tree.*

Although I enjoy exploring the common by myself and following Beryl and her friends around, I always have amazing adventures when I meet up with Rupert, even if I am unable to play team games with Rupert and his chums.

## The Nutwood Map

This is an official notice received from the Nutwood Ordnance Survey Company.

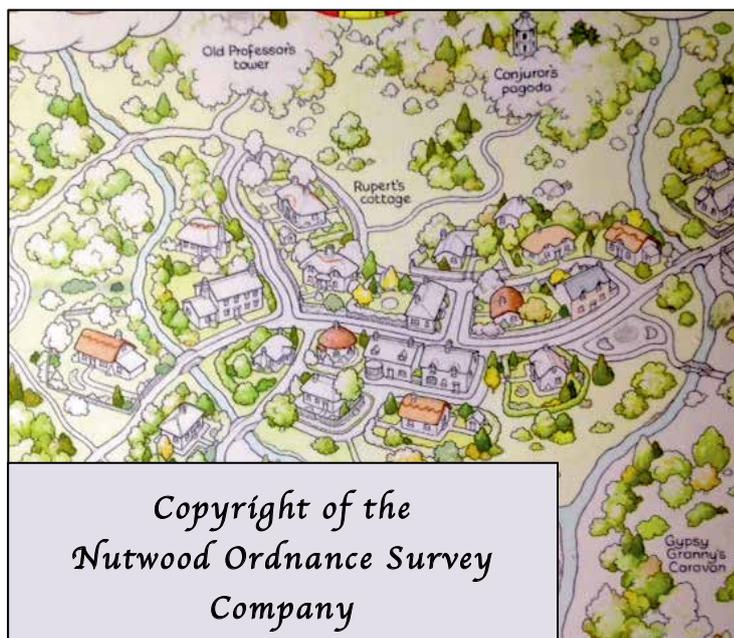
You have probably seen mention in previous Nutwood Newsletters about the production of the definitive map of Nutwood.

It has taken our surveyors a lot longer than expected to do all the mapping as it covers such a large area, so the actual production has been delayed. We can now report it is nearing completion. We hope you will find that it has been well worth waiting for (here is a peep).

It is planned to have copies available for sale at the John Harrold signing at Lewes on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November, so that is another incentive for you to come along.

If for reasons beyond our control the event is delayed, then copies will be available by post.

We will make an announcement on our website if this is the case and then you will be able to order from there.



## A Message from our Chairman

Well, fellow Followers, as you'll read elsewhere in the Newsletter this year's AGM has, very unfortunately, had to be cancelled.

It's obviously a great shame particularly in Rupert's Centenary Year and Tony had worked so very hard to make the event worthy of the occasion.

But, as Rupert people, we have to be positive and I do hope that you'll all be able to come along when we reconvene next year – and remember that Rupert will still be 100, so the excuse to make it a very special event will remain.

Also, depending on how things are going nationally, we could, hopefully, celebrate in some way on the big day, 8<sup>th</sup> November – maybe with some local events – but also I'm delighted to say

### 2020 Accounts

The Followers' annual accounts would usually be presented at the AGM.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the accounts. Please note, these are not audited – it has not been possible to arrange that in time for this newsletter. If any member would like a copy of the audited accounts, please send a large SAE to Phil Toze, Treasurer, and he will send a copy once they are ready.

that Louise Hopkins has agreed to facilitate a Zoom birthday event, so if you'd like to be invited to participate, please contact Louise on:

[l\\_h\\_hopkins@hotmail.com](mailto:l_h_hopkins@hotmail.com)

This would also be open to e.members, so it will be a unique opportunity for some of our overseas members to be involved.

I'm sure I can rely on your understanding given these difficult and unprecedented times, but let's make the best of it!

And despite everything, Keep Following – and keep safe too.

*John Swan*

### Fun Day and AGM – solving issues

If you have already booked for Warwick this year, please consider keeping with our proposal of leaving your payment over for next year. Apart from a lot of extra administration for Tony, if your current accommodation reservation is cancelled and refunded, and you later book afresh for 2021, we cannot guarantee your room, as all accommodation is booked on a first-come first-served basis.

There is a 2021 registration form enclosed, for anyone wanting to make an early booking.

## Auction – original John Harrold Artwork



To help celebrate Rupert's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday we specially commissioned John Harrold to produce the delightful special picture that appears on the front of the Newsletter.

The original artwork for this will be auctioned by post on 29<sup>th</sup> August with sealed bids which will be opened by John Swan in the presence of independent witnesses at mid-day on the 29<sup>th</sup> August.

The auction is open to all Followers.

Colour Rupert artwork like this by John Harrold, seldom becomes available and can fetch in the region of £1000 when it does appear on the market, so it could be a good investment as well as an attractive item to hang on your wall.

The starting price, and reserve, will be £500 and bidding increments will be by £20 so if your maximum written bid is not achieved then you will win the artwork for the price it reaches.

All profits will go to Followers' funds, so by bidding in this auction you are supporting the Society.

### What to do:

Please write your bid on a piece of paper with your name, address and any other contact details, in a sealed envelope and write 'Auction Bid' on the front. John will date the envelope when he receives it and in the event there are two or more tied bids the earliest one received will be deemed the winner, so it is in your interests to submit your bid as soon as possible.

Send your sealed bid, addressed to the Chairman:

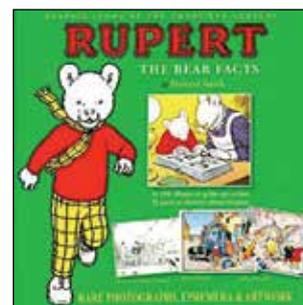
John Swan  
26 The Crescent  
Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear  
NE26 2JG

All bids must reach John by 26<sup>th</sup> August please – and good luck with your bidding.

**John Beck (Secretary)**

## Something to look out for in the Autumn

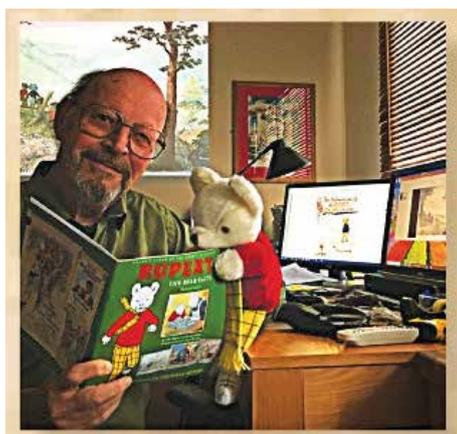
Those of you who have attended our recent Annual Meetings at Warwick will be familiar with Howard Smith and his interesting *Graphic Icons of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* lectures, and will have probably have seen his presentation, *Rupert the Bear Facts*, that he showed members a few years ago.



Howard has revisited this original feature and revamped it, updating some parts, and is prepared to share the new presentation with all Followers via the internet during the Autumn. It will be an exclusive private listing for Followers to view, and will be available for just two weeks.

The release date has not yet been decided but as soon as we know, we will be posting a direct link to the lecture on the Followers' website for all members to access.

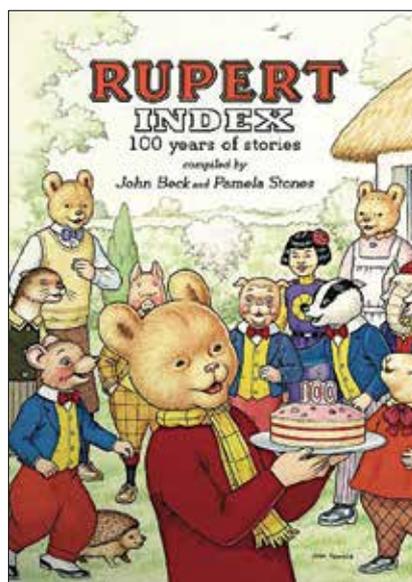
Maybe the 2020 lockdown led to a few more of our members honing (or learning from scratch) their internet skills? If not yet, there's plenty of time to get computer savvy and look what other things the Followers' website has to offer.



## Rupert Index 2020 – a review by Roger Coombes

Do you have a Rupert Index? Of course you do. How could one be a Follower of Rupert and not have a Rupert Index? Furthermore, there are probably lots more Rupert enthusiasts and collectors out there who possess a Rupert Index even though they are not Followers, strange as that may seem. Perhaps your copy is the first edition produced in 1979 by Bill Lofts and Derek Adley on a typewriter. (Remember those? The sort of thing made by Remington in the BC era [Before Computers] and possibly printed on a Roneo machine). Or you might have upgraded to the 2nd edition, which John Beck brought out in 1991, updating both content and the method of production to give it a more professional look, including illustrations, suited to the times and the fact that interest in Rupert was blooming, thanks largely to the formation of The Followers and the transmission of Terry Jones' TV documentary. Ten years later, in 2001, John updated it again, this time with spiral binding, which I shall unofficially call the 3rd edition. All three editions, together with occasional supplements, were essential to Rupert collectors and to those who wanted to know more about Rupert books and ephemeral items. The latter included Followers like myself who, in the way of learning more of the history of Rupert publishing, were enticed or cajoled to write articles for the Nutwood Newsletter and elsewhere. In all its editions, the Index has enabled prospective writers to cross-refer and verify information.

Whichever of these editions you possess can now be archived because in front of me as I write I have a copy of the brand new **Rupert Index 100 years of stories**. Unofficially this is the 4th edition. **'Bigger and Better than Ever!'** is how many magazines and other products have been branded when they underwent revision or re-launches, but at the risk of seeming sycophantic I have to stand by my word for this latest edition of the Index. It has more information than its



predecessors, with 19 years' worth of updates added, more illustrations than before, and it is in colour throughout. It is easily identifiable by a full colour front cover painted by John Harrold, and it credits Pamela Stones as co-author with John Beck.

The chapters, or sections, of the previous edition are there, expanded with updated information, as well as some new ones, which together will enable collectors and Rupert

historians to continue their pursuits better equipped than ever. The new sections include biographies, with photographs, of key Rupert editors, writers, colourists and, of course, artists. Space does not allow me to mention



everything but I hope that I have whetted your appetites for what you are about to receive .... and as I understand that half of the limited print-run has been pre-ordered I advise those of you who haven't done so to get your orders off **today**.

**Roger Coombes**



"I must hurry to order my Rupert Index before it's too late"

## Rupert in the Boys' and Girls' Books of the 1930s

As this year's enforced isolation led to so much more time at home, I thought it would be a good idea to spend some time re-evaluating the Boys' and Girls' Books of the 1930s, and looking again at these books, with particular regard to Rupert Bear.

There were four books in this short-lived series, the first released in time for Christmas 1935 (the 1936 book), then 1937 1938 and 1939.

Getting down to an in-depth examination of Rupert in these books is immediately to discount the 1936 and 1937 books, because all Rupert stories in these editions were fully re-printed by the Followers over two decades ago and the continuing availability of these works is well known. In the later two books, an original Rupert adventure of some 64 frames was printed in each, and these were subsequently re-printed in the Rupert Annuals of 1950 and 1982.

There is a major surprise when encountering those 64-frame stories for the first time. The stories are told exclusively in rhyming couplet and picture, which is totally in the tradition of the older Mary Tourtel Rupert adventures, as first introduced in 1920. The generous amount of additional written text, which the (then) more recent and modern Rupert Bear Annual majored in, is totally missing. Perhaps the editor of this particular parallel Daily Express production had a hankering for past times. If so, this may have accounted for the concomitant determination to publish solely in black and white – a la Tourtel – rather than in the (then) more recent and innovative red, black and white. Both B&GBs

were resplendent in pages produced using the three-colour process that were given wholly to the comic strip featured on each page. Sadly for Rupert Bear fans, the book editor did not see fit to feature any of the episodes from the Rupert adventure on any of these coloured pages.

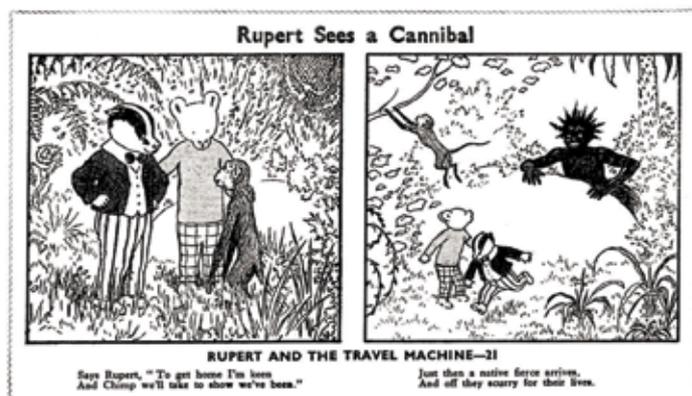
Still, on a positive note, the decision to limit the printing to two images per page meant that each frame measured in excess of three inches square, which was much larger than images to be found in the Rupert Annual and more in keeping with the size of image adopted when the latter switched to a larger format in 1980.

Both stories omitted the first two frames when repeating the adventure in the respective Rupert Annuals, together with one further pair of frames mid-way through. The missing frames from *Travel Machine* are shown here, and readers might like to have fun consulting their own Rupert Annuals, with a view to working out exactly where in the narrative process the mid-way excised images belong.

However, as far as the last story to appear in the B&GB is concerned, *Rupert and the Red Box*, no less than a further eight frames were omitted from the original when it was repeated in the 1982 Annual.

These missing frames will be examined in the next episode ...

*John Kobylecky*

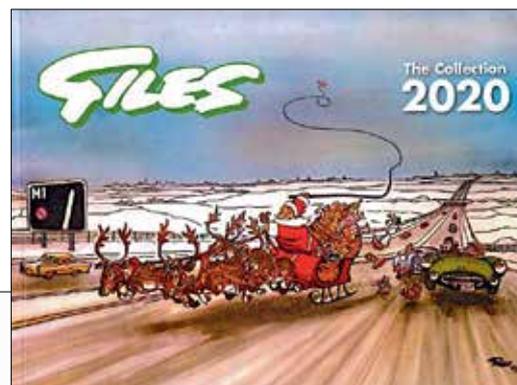


## Giles and Rupert ...

Follower Keith Pugh wrote in to the Nutwood Postbox about instances of Rupert's cropping up in various places – as in the Express feature on William Roache's fondness for Rupert mentioned in NN105, and a Radio Times article about the late Terry Jones being a great fan.

Keith also commented on the 2020 Giles Annual, that includes a number of panels in which Rupert appears. We replied to Keith to say we have decided to feature the Giles images in the Nutwood Newsletter, so here goes ...

Contents	
Foreword	5
Introduction: Hidden Jokes	8
The Parrot	10
Stinker (with camera)	40
Rupert Bear and Teddy Bears	64
Bewildered Baby George	80
Butch the Dog	108
Frogs	128
Mice	140



Giles had a reputation for not having particular affection for his employer, the Daily Express, probably based on his political leanings. Although he had an office at the Express, most of his work was done at a studio on his Norfolk farm from where he sent his finished works to Fleet Street.

He often had little prods at his paymasters, and occasionally featured their icon character Rupert in states of parody. The Giles Annual for 2020 (published in 2019), featured a selection of his cartoons where Rupert is suffering usually at the hands of the Giles children.

The book collection features seven Giles characters that are not usually part of the main storyline but do feature as little jokes within the

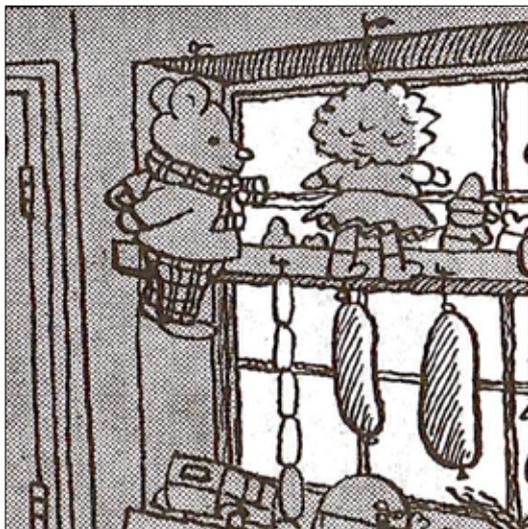
composition. Bears are one such feature and 50% of the unfortunate bears included as examples in this book are definitely Rupert.

We show here the ignominy to which Rupert was subjected in this collection, where Giles' dislike of the character avoided any censorship from his employers.

Examples of Rupert abuse also occurred in others of his Express cartoons, and if you care to send us examples we will be pleased to print them.

**John Beck**





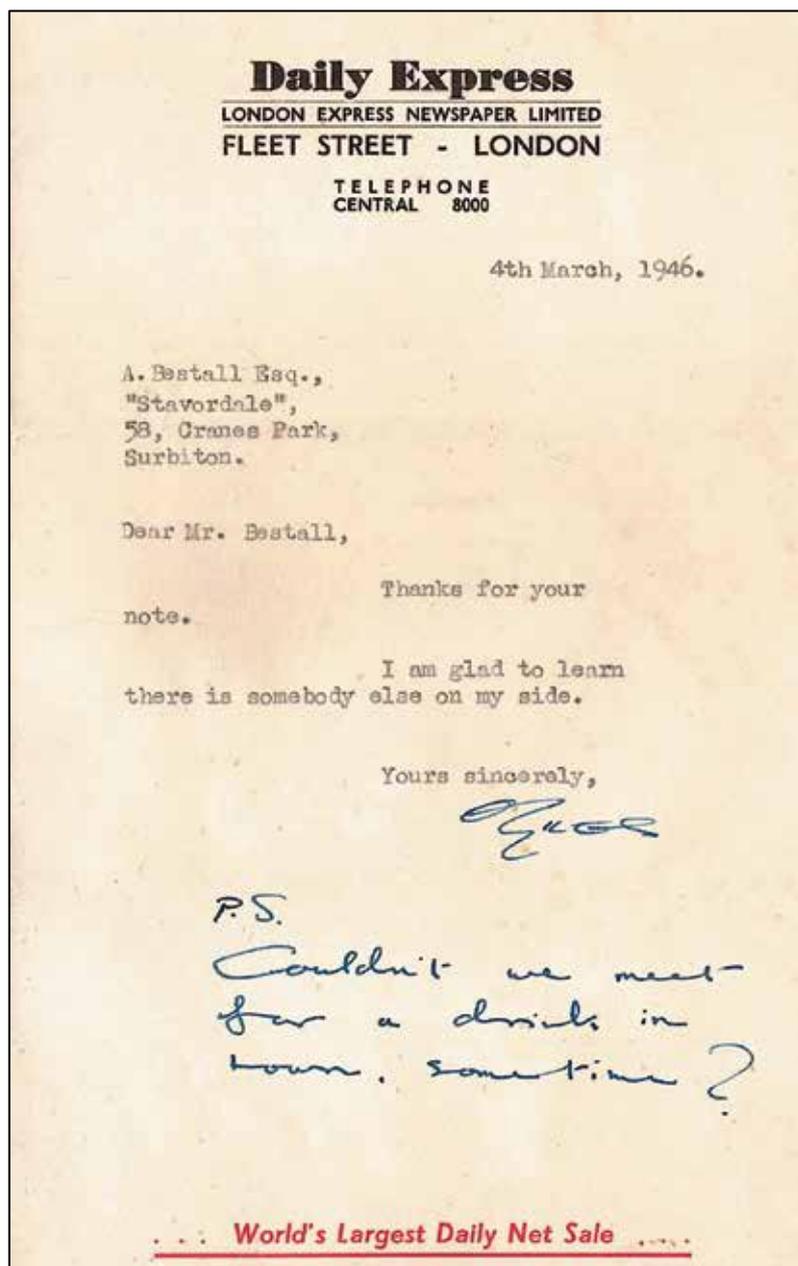
## Giles and Bestall – did they ever meet?

The article featured in this issue shows Giles's cheeky treatment of Rupert.

I wonder if he ever did meet Alfred Bestall because, in the Caroline Bott archive of his correspondence, there is a note to Bestall thanking him for his note of support, though for what is not known.

It also has a PS about meeting up for a drink and although it is unlikely Alfred would have taken that up, perhaps they did meet up face to face for a cup of tea sometime.

*John Beck*



### Bestall and the ITV Puppet Show

Included in our last issue, the Archive Elf featured some ephemeral items from the Bestall archive about the ITV show. We wondered whether Alfred had attended the children's party at Great Ormond St Hospital and Alfred's God-daughter, Caroline Bott, has checked his diary for that date. In it, he notes that he did!

He records that on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1970, he went to town to see colour work at Florence Studio with Doris Campbell, as well as choosing the winner of the Rupert Annual colouring

competition. He further noted 'Then to party at Gt. Ormond St. Hospital 3.30.'

Earlier, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 1970, he recorded 'To Mildred's 4 p.m. to see the first of the Puppet Ruperts on Colour T.V. (4.17)'. Mildred Baird, (nee Rampton), was a great family friend of the Bestalls and looked after AEB when he came out of hospital after he broke his hip aged 90.

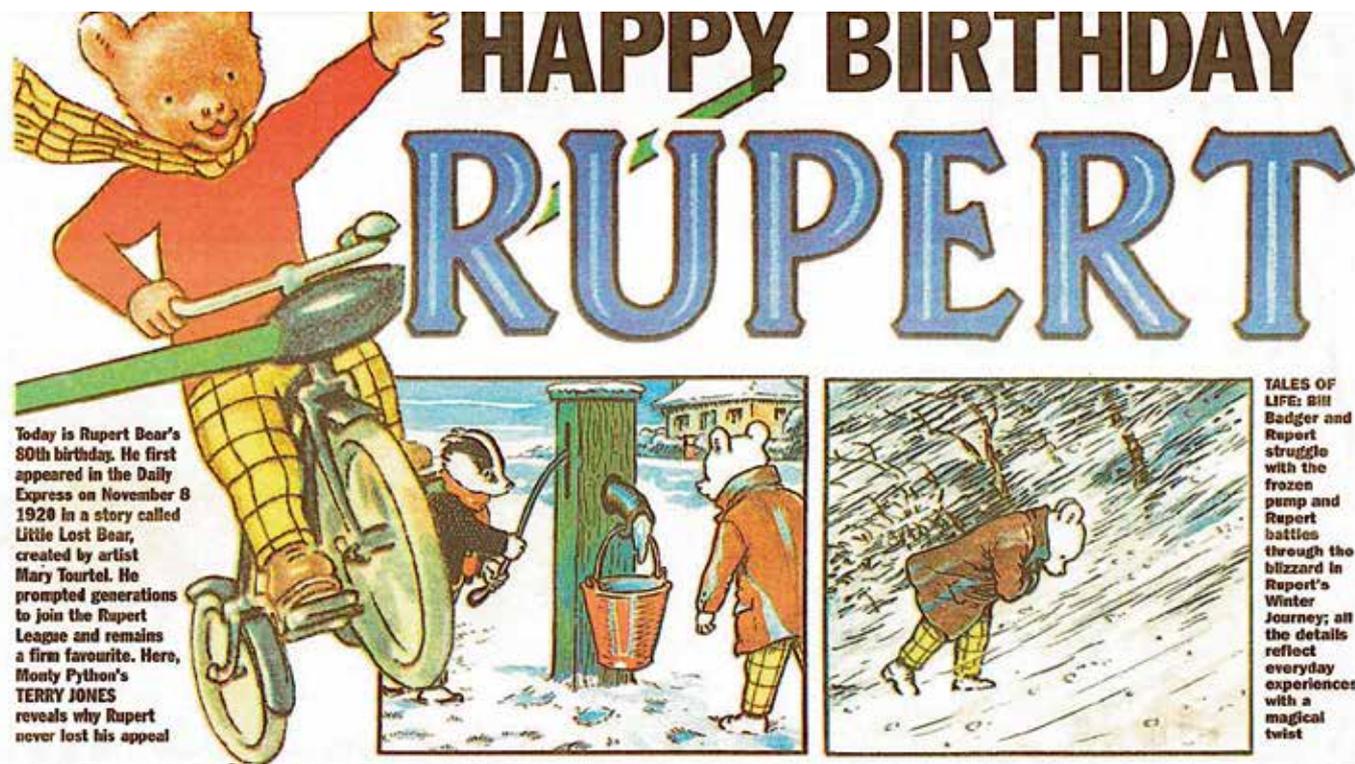
My thanks to Caroline for providing this information.

*John Beck*

## A Celebration of Rupert's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

As Rupert's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday rapidly approaches, Followers may be interested to read this piece, which appeared in the Express on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2000, written by Terry Jones for Rupert's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It is very sad that Terry passed away earlier this year, and we feel sure he would have had some wonderful things to say to celebrate the Centenary.



Today is Rupert Bear's 80th birthday. He first appeared in the Daily Express on November 8 1920 in a story called Little Lost Bear, created by artist Mary Tourtel. He prompted generations to join the Rupert League and remains a firm favourite. Here, Monty Python's TERRY JONES reveals why Rupert never lost his appeal

TALES OF LIFE: Bill Badger and Rupert struggle with the frozen pump and Rupert battles through the blizzard in Rupert's Winter Journey; all the details reflect everyday experiences with a magical twist

**T**AKING the 1945 Rupert annual in my hands, I feel the same thrill and tingle of excitement that I did as a child. As I turn the cover, I know I am entering a different world, one where the characters' experiences become my own and I am swept along by their adventures. The secret is that the pictures do not simply tell a story. Full of observation and detail taken from real life, they create a credible alternative world. To me, they are not just cartoons, they are little works of art.

There are so many images — no images is not the right word — so many moments from Rupert that have stayed with me ever since I first experienced them. Take the story Rupert's Winter Journey: In the second frame, Rupert slips on the icy garden path. The angle at which he is drawn somehow conveys the feeling of slipping with magical precision. It becomes an archetype of slipping over. From the moment I first saw that picture, it has been the thing I relate to every time I tread on an icy path.

As the story continues, Rupert hunches up his coat as he makes his way through the snow and, once more, I can feel exactly what it's like to fight your way through a blizzard. Then there's the way Bill Badger is standing as he attempts to turn on the frozen tap, Rupert discovering that the village pump is frozen — each little cameo is a perfectly observed and executed icon of the

act, so full of life that they almost breathe.

In addition to the magic of Rupert was the mystery. Who wrote them? Who drew them? While other books carried the author's name, Rupert annuals said: "A Daily Express Publication." My four-year-old mind raced. Was there somebody called Mr A Daily Express Publication? Or was it the name of some strange syndicate who gathered to work out these amazing adventures? I wanted to know who made all this wonderful fantasy. I wanted to put a name to the invisible creator behind Rupert.

Then came a clue. On the back cover of the New Rupert Book for 1946, in the bottom left hand corner,

was a name. I could read, quite clearly, the word "Bestall".

The following year Bestall's name appeared once more, however it was not until 1949 that my suspicions were confirmed. Carefully going through the annual as I did every Christmas Day I stopped in my tracks. There, in the fourth frame of Rupert And The Twins, was the name Bestall. So Bestall, whoever he, she or it was, did indeed draw all the Rupert books. At last I knew something, although the creator of Rupert was still a mystery to me.

Wind forward 32 years. It's 1981 and the BBC had asked me to chair a series of programmes called Paperbacks, in which I interview authors I'm interested in. One

programme is to be dedicated to children's books. Suddenly I see a chance to solve the long-standing riddle of Bestall. Enquiries are made and I discover the man who had written and drawn Rupert from 1936 to 1976 was one Alfred Bestall. At the grand old age of 88, he was happy to be interviewed.

And so, finally, I had the privilege of talking to Alfred Bestall. He described how, for 40 years, he had sat in his kitchen in Surbiton, London, executing two or three drawings a day and sending them to the Daily Express. It was his contribution to the newspaper that persuaded Churchill to allow the Express extra paper through the war just so it could carry on printing the

Rupert strip. Good for morale! Bestall was charming and courteous, with a rather wicked sense of humour.

One of the best-selling authors of all time, his books sold a million and a half copies a year throughout the Forties and yet this was the first time he had ever been interviewed. To all intents and purposes, the first time he had ever been celebrated.

The following year, I made a documentary about him called The Rupert Bear Story: I was only just in time. Alfred died the next year.

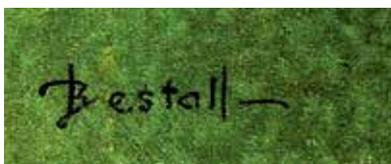


CLUE: This drawing from Rupert And The Twins confirmed that Alfred Bestall was the author

**HE MAY** be getting on a bit, but Rupert is still hard at work. Since 1991, Britain's favourite cartoon character has helped raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. As official mascot, Rupert is currently spearheading a fundraising drive in schools. Muscular dystrophy weakens and wastes muscles and can reduce life expectancy to 20 years. Last year, the charity provided wheelchairs for almost 200 sufferers and financed research. A wheelchair costs £2,000-£15,000; to help improve more lives, please make a credit card donation by dialling 0800 037 6036 or call 020 7720 8655 for more details. ● The Daily Express has created a website which includes games, puzzles, recipes and original drawings which can be downloaded to colour in. The address is: [www.allaboutparents.com/rupertbear](http://www.allaboutparents.com/rupertbear) ● Free Rupert badge for every reader. See page 32.

**A**LFRID BESTALL'S reticence about his authorship came about because he was not the originator of Rupert The Bear. That was Mary Tourtel, who produced the strip for 16 years before sadly going blind. When Alfred took over, he didn't sign his work because he didn't want the readers to feel there had been any break in the continuity; in any case, he hoped Mary Tourtel would recover and carry on the good work. But she did not, and it was Bestall who took Rupert forward, expanded him and turned him into the work of genius that illuminated so many children's Christmases for the next 40 years.

Today, Rupert is 80. I congratulate him and I thank him from the bottom of my heart for giving me such companionship, hope, fun and adventure all these years.



## Masters of British Comic Art by David Roach – a Review by John Swan

Yes, the cover of this impressive tome will look familiar as it was featured in Newsletter 104. As you can see, it features a pastiche of the legendary Beatles' Abbey Road cover, with the Fab Four replaced by Dan Dare, Judge Dredd, Rupert (in the place of Ringo, incidentally) and Tank Girl.

However, I should imagine that only the more keen-eyed of readers will have noticed Kolvorok – a character in Sydney Jordan's classic Jeff Hawke series – lurking next to the taxi on the right-hand side of the road. The cover art is by Brian Bolland, so his name can be added to the canon of occasional Rupert artists.

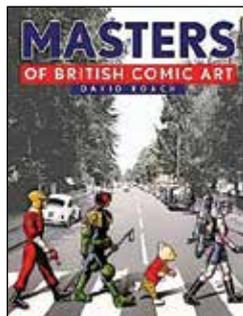
The book is now available and it's a very impressive tome running to 385 pages. Of these, the first 140 are text followed by an 'Artist's Gallery' of a further 194 pages. This is followed by the 48 pages of Chapter 14 on '21st Century Masters' which may be of less interest to Followers – although that's where you'll find Tank Girl.

The author is himself an artist, beginning his career as a Judge Dredd artist, and his intentions are succinctly set out in his introduction, entitled 'The Good Stuff'. He begins by bemoaning the fact that in Britain comics have often been dismissed as "somehow childish, vulgar impolite and crude".

Having gone on to summarise his early encounters with comics old and new, his closing words positively set out the author's stall, saying that the book is "in many ways a celebration of artists who deserve to be appreciated, admired, loved and remembered and in many cases rescued from anonymity and obscurity".

The text section comprises fourteen chapters, the titles of which give a good overall flavour of the book's contents as follows:

1. Evolution of an Art Form
2. It's a Funny Old World
3. Comics in the Nursery
4. The Language of Adventure
5. The Golden Age
6. The Rise of the Agencies
7. Comics for Girls
8. Newspaper Strips
9. This is America Calling
10. Underground Alternatives
11. The Galaxy's Greatest Comic



12. Birth of the Cool
13. The British Invasion
14. 21st Century Masters

The first Rupert reference is in Chapter 3, which briefly traces the origins of Rupert in the context of the other anthropomorphic newspaper heroes like Teddy Tail and Pip, Squeak and Wilfred. This leads to a long paragraph on Rupert, described as "the most successful of all the animal strips" (of course). Both Mary and Alfred are eulogised. Mary "brought an elegant simplicity to the strip" while Alfred "shared her delicately precise pen and ink style and was if anything an even more subtle draughtsman, able to convey emotion and action through the smallest of pen strokes. He also had a gift for composition and an aesthetic sensibility...". "Under Bestall the strip transcended comics to become a genuine British icon...". The piece is accompanied by an illustration of the overlay version of page 42 of the 1971 Annual – Rupert and the Popweed.



The piece goes on to refer in particular to the Annuals; that they "increasingly became a showcase for Bestall's exquisite water-coloured artwork on their covers and endpapers, which have become far better known than any specific strip or storylines".

I'm sure Followers will agree with these admirably expressed sentiments.

Finally in this section, Alfred's successors, Alex Cubie, John Harrold and Stuart Trotter are mentioned, although none of their artwork appears in the volume.

Alfred is referred to again in the chapter on "Comics for Girls", where the cover of the 1923 Schoolgirls' Own Annual is illustrated.

Rather strangely, the chapter on Newspaper Strips, while again going over the history of the introduction of Teddy Tail and his successors, doesn't make any reference at all to Rupert.

For the purposes of this review, I have concentrated on the Rupert content, but, for comic fans generally, there is a great deal more of interest; covering the obvious candidates like Beano, Dandy and Eagle, but also a very comprehensive panoply of comics over the last 100 years and more – from Gillray and Ally Sloper – until the present day. It is likely, however, that the later chapters will be of limited interest to Followers. In this regard, Chapter 11, teasingly entitled 'The Galaxy's Greatest Comic', is devoted to 2000 AD featuring Judge Dredd! As mentioned above, the book's author began his career as a Judge Dredd artist.

More than half the book comprises the 'Artist Gallery', and it is a truly sumptuous selection of artwork, arranged alphabetically by artists' surnames. The pages are a healthy 9 inches by 12, so large enough to do justice to the illustrations. The author himself states that he sees this as "the essence of the book", and it does not disappoint.

Alfred commands four pages, more than most of the artists. On the first of these there are four annual covers, 1953, 1960, 1971 and 1972, followed by a pleasant surprise; a full page devoted to the lovely Selfridge's Christmas poster of 1982 as featured in number 95 of the Nutwood Newsletter. The final treat in the Bestall section is a reproduction of the double page wrap-around cover of the 1961 Annual showing Rupert on a swing. This is taken from the original artwork rather than from a copy of the Annual, so we see two rather lovely blue butterflies, which are obscured by the Rupert title on the Annual itself.

Mary also contributes a page, comprising two illustrations from *Rupert and the Little Prince* in volume 11 of the Little Bear Library.



The total variety on show is extensive and there's bound to be some non-Rupert work that evokes great memories. Of course there are bound to be some artists who you feel have been unjustly omitted, but as the author himself says, "if your favourite artist is not here, let me get my apologies in, straight away: As voluminous as this book is, we had to draw the line somewhere and inevitably many talented individuals have missed out".

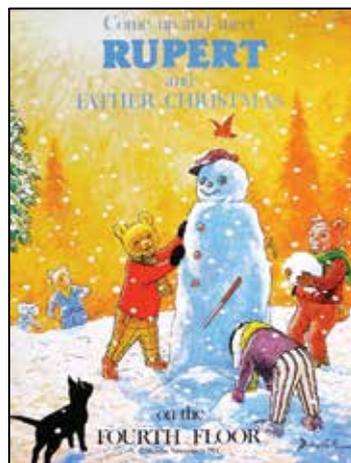
Quite so, and one of the attractions of selections like this is disagreeing to an extent with the author's choice.

However, (reviewer's privilege!) for what it's worth, my

omitted essentials would be Herbert Foxwell (Tiger Tim and Teddy Tail), Jimmy Clark (Willie Waddle and Pansy Potter in Wonderland) and Edward Jeffrey (Toby Twirl). So there you go, that's off my chest.

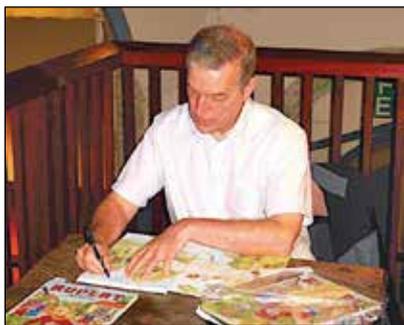
But despite such inevitable differences, I must say that I consider this a landmark work and a worthy tribute to the artists by someone who patently has a passionate appreciation for the genre.

The price, by the way, is £39.99. Might sound a lot, but it's worth it.



**John Swan**

## John Harrold Rupert Annual Signing Event – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020



One of the many casualties of the Corona Virus lockdown was the cancellation of the John Harrold signing event that had been planned for Easter Saturday (and detailed in NN105).

I am pleased to confirm that the event will now take place in Lewes on

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November** from 10.00am to 4.00pm. John will personally sign Rupert Annuals that he was involved in, from 1978 to 2007.

If you want to buy a copy of an Annual on the day there will be a range of MINT previously unsold copies available at £5 per copy. Please note, John will not be signing any Egmont Annuals, even though a good number of his stories are reprinted there, so do not ask.

**Howard Smith**, a leading Lecturer, Historian and Author will be coming along to give a presentation showing of his 'Rupert, the Anthropomorphic Bear' feature during the day. For further details, please see the two-sided flyer that is included with this Newsletter.

If for any reason the event has to be postponed, details will appear on the website. Alternatively contact John Beck 01273 477555 if you have concerns about the event taking place.

*John Beck*

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## Young Lily Duckling?

How about this delightful piece of Mary Tourtel artwork? We believe this is a young Lily, in her pretty spotted dress, in the foreground of the picture, which shows her with her mother and five brothers in Mrs Baa's shop.

Thanks to Howard Smith, we have been given access to the full series drawn by Mary, all featuring working animals and titled 'When Animals Work'. These appeared in the Daily Express during 1919, before Rupert stories started in 1920. The series ran to 30 episodes until 6<sup>th</sup> June 1919 and on the last episode it was noted that "An animal drawing for children by the same artist will continue to appear in each issue of the Sunday Express".

These animal drawings were a story entitled 'In Bobtail Land' and had commenced on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 1919 and ran for 28 episodes. A footnote encouraged children to cut out the pictures and paste in a scrapbook.

A number of the 'When Animals Work' characters would be similar to those that feature in the Nutwood stories, and some of the images did appear in the 1920's *Rupert Little Bear's Adventures* and *Rupert Little Bear Series*.

We plan to include other images from this lovely series in future Newsletter Supplements.

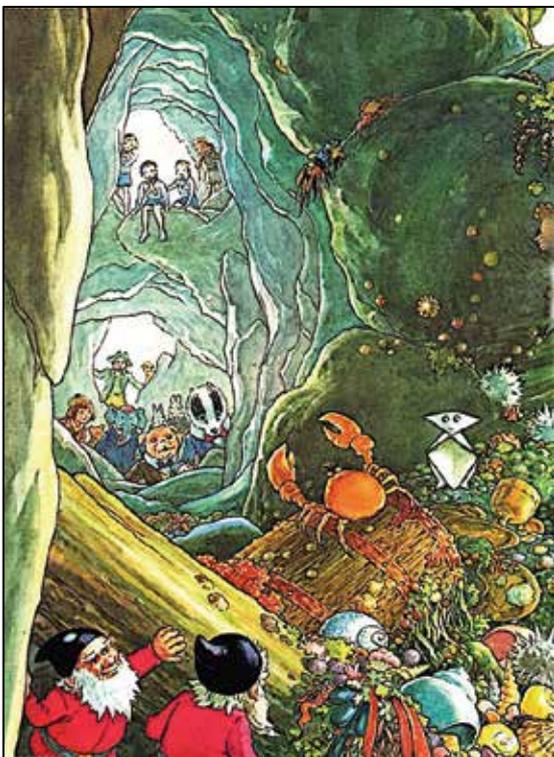


It seems that (although sounding improbable) Mrs Baa's suggestion of woolly socks got the ducklings through their nasty colds – and what a beauty Lily grew into!

# Rupert Annual changes to Bestall pictures

On page 109 in her comprehensive book 'The life and works of Alfred Bestall', Caroline Bott mentions that Bestall consulted his solicitor in 1973 about changes that the Express had made to his 1971 and 1973 Rupert Annual covers.

Everyone is by now familiar with the whitening of Rupert's face on the 1973 Annual, but there is no record of what Alfred objected to on the 1971 Annual cover. I suspect however what happened was that someone at the Express added the image of a paper Hobgommie on the rear of the cover to his original artwork.

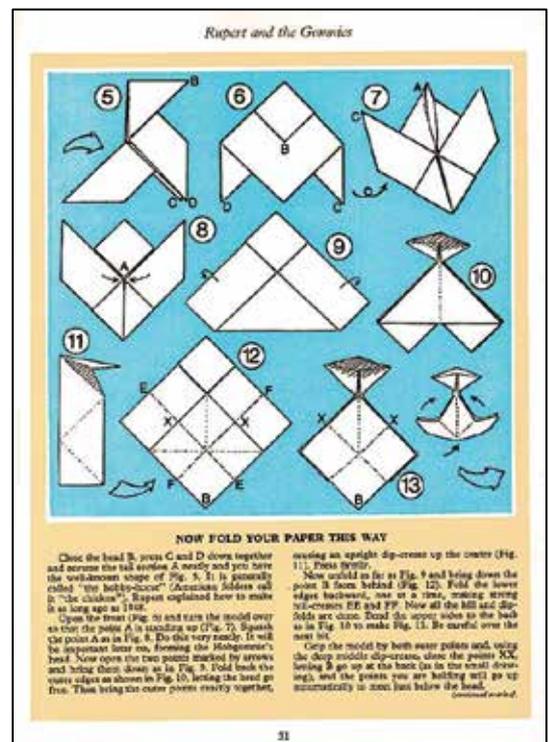
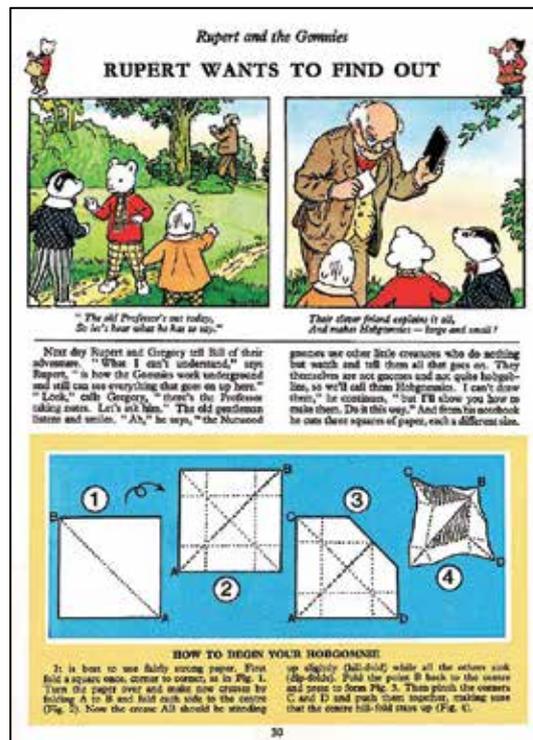


Why did they do it? Probably because it was being included as the paper fold featuring in the Annual that year which was linked to the **Rupert and the Gommies (B192)** story.

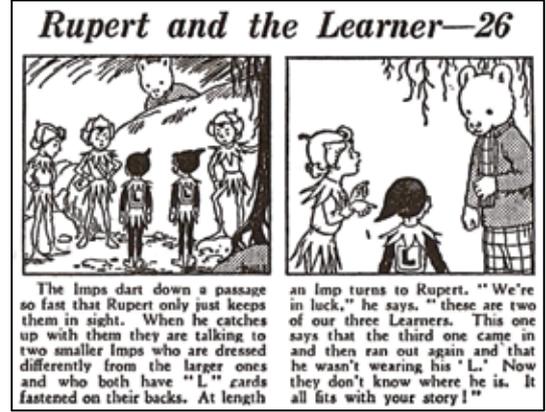
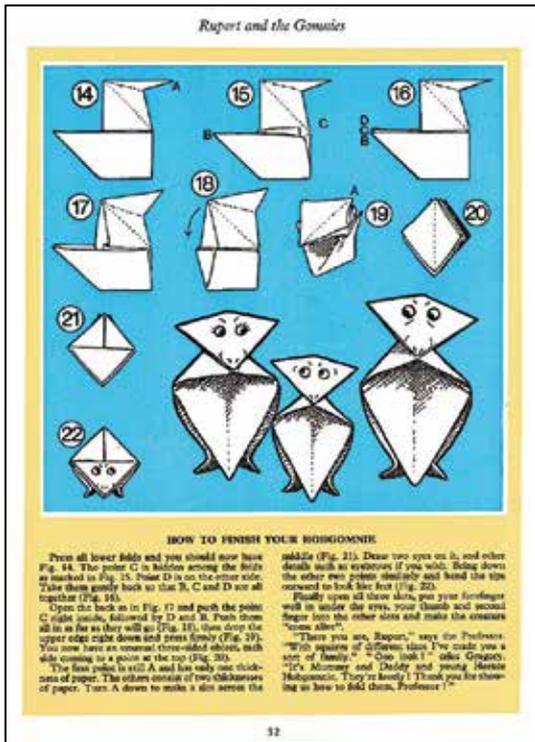
Alfred was an Origami enthusiast, so he probably provided the Hobgommie fold for the Annual production.

Interestingly, he also drew two extra panels, shown here, for the Annual so that the end of the **Rupert and the Gommies** story would lead into the Origami page.

As you can see, from the illustrations shown, the Professor explains what a Hobgommie is and how to make one.



Some person at the Express then presumably altered his cover artwork to include the Hobgommie on the rear cover without reference to Alfred.



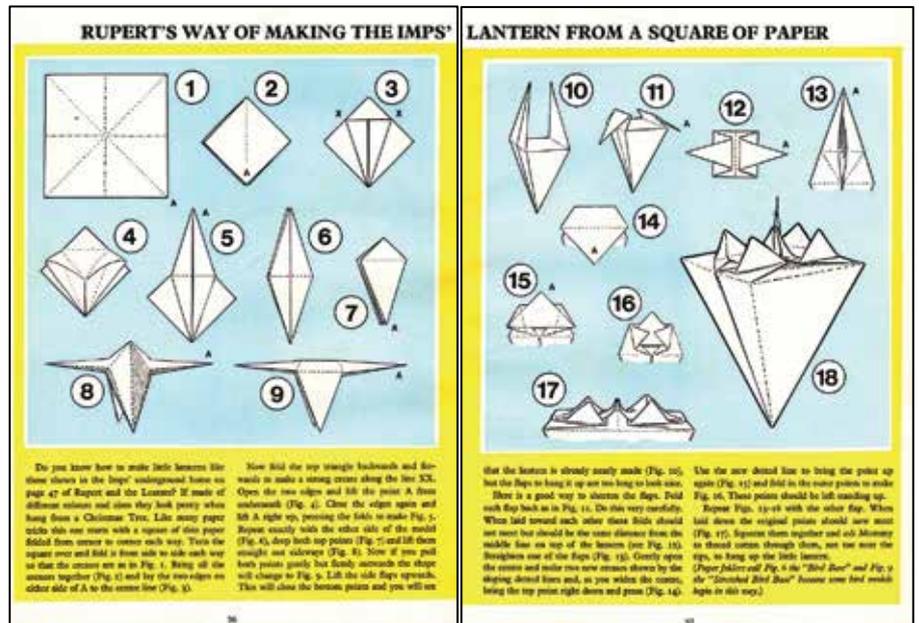
After getting away with these changes to Bestall's original artwork in 1971 and 1972, I suppose those at the Express were then quite comfortable to desecrate his 1973 cover. It is strange that they should have become so cavalier about his Rupert artwork given that Freddie Chaplain, the Rupert Editor at that time, ensured the Rupert stories and characters maintained a high standard during his reign.

I wonder if Alfred ever received a proper apology.

John Beck

The Express also made alterations to Bestall's original artwork in the *Rupert and the Learner (B204)* story when it was reprinted in the 1972 Annual. This was done for much the same reason, as by adding lanterns to episode 26 they could then refer to it in their fold instructions for, 'Rupert's way of making the Imp's Lantern'.

This addition to his pictures was probably missed by Alfred as there is no record of him making any objections about it.



## Rupert's Lockdown Alphabet

*This year's lockdown has affected all of us.  
Here's how Mike Williams eased his lock-down blues:*



**A**lgy and Rupert aren't able to play,  
Hopefully the lockdown will end one day.

**B**ill Badger used to enjoy playing cricket,  
Staying in is not like hitting a wicket.

**C**onstable Growler has to enforce the laws,  
He tells all of Nutwood to stay safe indoors.

**D**r Lion tends all the village ill with his nurse,  
He hopes that apart from colds they'll get nothing worse.

**E**dward Trunk is as strong and brave as can be,  
He helps Mr Chimp with home delivery.

**F**reddy and Ferdy are no longer cheats,  
They assist the butcher selling his meats.

**G**irl guide Pauline is out helping with her friend Beryl,  
They check the old like Granny Goat are not in peril.

**H**ugo Hare who lives in Popton is doing all he can,  
To get medicine fast from Nutchester he really ran.

**I**mps of Spring do all that their woodland king asks,  
While out in the forest they have to wear masks.

**J**ester sits in his maze eating and getting fatter,  
He has found out this illness is no laughing matter.

**K**ing Frost in his Ice-Palace does not know his fate,  
Because of his age, he has to self-isolate.

**L**ily Duckling is all of a panic and flutter,  
Mr Chimp has sold out of toilet rolls and butter.

**M**rs Tiger in Rocky Bay sips gin with a frown,  
Due to the virus all her normal bookings are down.

**N**utwood School is quiet with no pupils there,  
Dr Chimp sadly looks at each empty chair.

**O**zzie is glad to live such a long way away,  
'Til the pandemic is over that's where he'll stay.

**P**odgy Pig's now thin and beginning to worry,  
The takeaway is closed so no chips and curry.

**Q**uickly Girl Guides are organized by Janet,  
Still she worries for the fate of the planet.

**R**ex and Reggie race round – no one is fleeter,  
They've helped Gaffer Jarge and Mr Anteater.

**S**ir Jasper Cadde has never been at all bored,  
Essential items he has started to hoard.

**T**o get more supplies, Sailor Sam has sailed his boat out to sea,  
The marine police told him it was not an essential journey.

**U**ncle Bruno helps Dr Lion look after the ill,  
Prescribing medicines, potions and even a pill.

**V**iruses like this keep everyone at home,  
Rupert stays indoors – he's unable to roam.

**W**ise Old Goat tries for a cure with his flowers,  
He's had no luck yet – after countless hours.

**X**mas gets closer with relaxation of laws,  
Soon Nutwood will be visited by Santa Claus.

**Y**um the yeti in the mountains, far, far away,  
When the lockdown is over, in Nutwood he'll stay.

**Z**eph the wind finally brings good news from the Queen,  
The Old Professor has invented a vaccine.

*Mike Williams*

As mentioned in NN105, Doreen James recently sent us a couple of Followers' puzzles. Here's the second one:

### Who am I?

Fill in the first clue then change one letter in each of the following words to reveal one of Rupert's chums.

- |   |                             |       |   |                   |       |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|---|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | Auction offer               | ---   | 4 | Ages              | ----- |
|   | Place to sleep              | ---   |   | Roof coverings    | ----- |
|   | Colour                      | ---   |   | Prepares soil     | ----- |
|   | Who am I?                   | ---   |   | Taxes             | ----- |
|   |                             |       |   | Small loaves      | ----- |
| 2 | Fashion                     | ----  |   | Who am I?         | ----- |
|   | Skin blemish                | ----  |   |                   |       |
|   | Distance                    | ----  | 5 | Oxidises          | ----- |
|   | Grinding machinery          | ----  |   | Weaklings         | ----- |
|   | Who am I?                   | ----  |   | Rails of ladder   | ----- |
|   |                             |       |   | Metal circlets    | ----- |
| 3 | Companion                   | ----  |   | Drummer of renown | ----- |
|   | Minute creature             | ----  |   | Who am I?         | ----- |
|   | Form of religious procedure | ----- |   |                   |       |
|   | An educated girl?           | ----  |   |                   |       |
|   | Who am I?                   |       |   |                   |       |

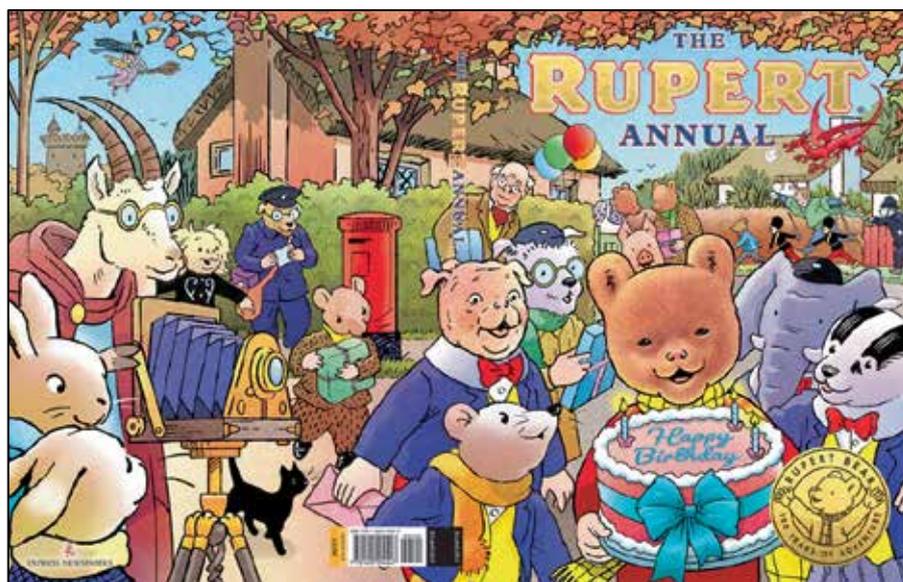
Answers on page 31

### If only ...

we could have been at Warwick as usual, and had the Annuals signed on 'The Day'.

Well, signed copies can still be ordered, to be posted out later on.

Meanwhile, here is an image of the beautiful cover:

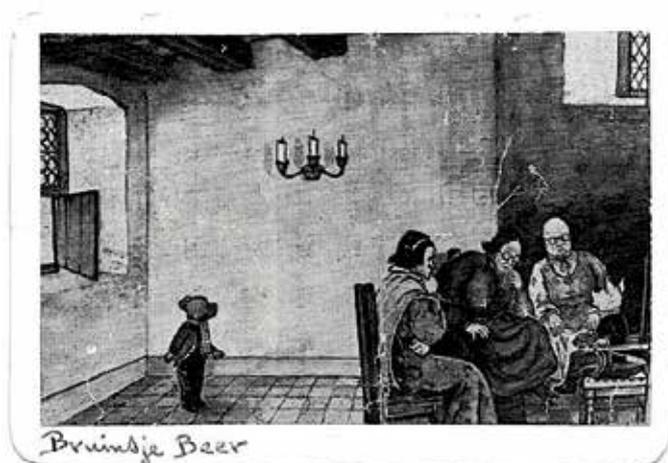


### An unusual Dutch Rupert item

I recently came across this card featuring Brintje Beer. It is a black and white picture and the same size and style as a playing card. The rear of the card is clean and blank, and there are no indications of what it was originally produced for. The image seems to be the same as that which was used on some early postcards.

Is the card part of something, like a card game? Can anyone provide enlightenment on where it came from and what it might be?

John Beck



## Your Newsletter – Your News

It's not called the Nutwood **Newsletter** for nothing.

The purpose of a newsletter is to share among members news of their activities, generally (but not exclusively) in relation to our shared interest – Rupert.

We have been delighted to receive some wonderful tales of what some of you have been up to, from birthday pizzas to your musings about Rupert's chums and such like – which make wonderful articles.

Here are some great contributions:

My wife's birthday came,  
What did she get?  
Something Ruperty?  
You bet!  
Our children from  
An on-line shop  
Bought for her  
A Rupert top!  
So here's my wife,  
All Ruperty,  
And birthday brew,  
One, too, for me.

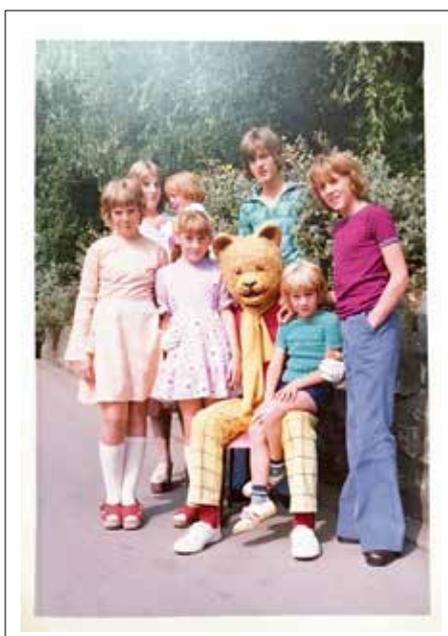


In the centenary year of Rupert I wondered if you'd be interested in some Rupert nostalgia.

The attached photos are of me when I was a child meeting Rupert in Scarborough in the early 1970s. The first photo (chronologically) shows me in the background being held by one of my older sisters, crying after just meeting Rupert. I remember being startled by his size and colour as I was used to seeing Rupert on a black and white TV! I was born in 1971 so these are from the mid '70s I'd say. The second one shows me a little older sitting on Rupert's knee with my brother (I'm the one in red shorts).

I was being a very brave boy that day.

**M Gardner**



**David Bradley**

*More photographic memorabilia and Members' contributions on the following pages ...*

## Where are they now?

### Memories of past Annual Meetings from Caroline and Christine Dobbin

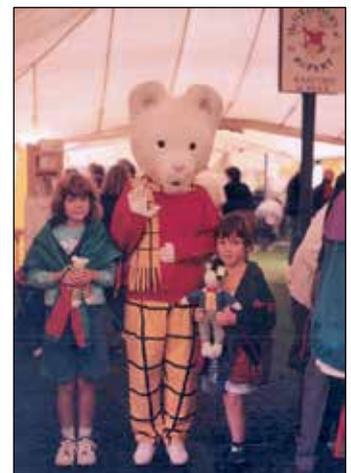
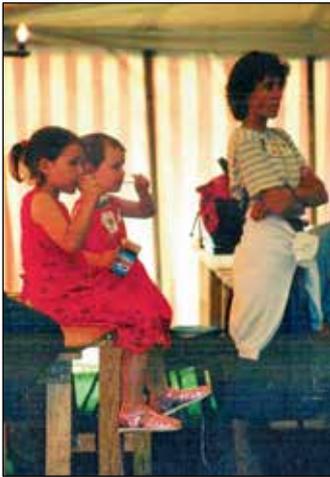


Who are these youngsters?

Are they still members?

Are you in one of the pictures?

Please let us know.



## Rupert's Cottage in Lego

Hey all, new member here. Thought I'd share a little something I've been working on, on and off during the past several months in honour of Rupert's 100th birthday. It was only recently, as this neared completion, that I discovered the Followers – so you can imagine my surprise. I didn't really expect to share this anywhere!

As a kid in the 90's I grew up with the cartoon series, and two or so years ago I rediscovered Rupert in the form of the Annuals. After collecting a few of those and re-watching the series I came up with the idea to recreate the Bear family's cottage in Lego, which quickly expanded to the surrounding property. I used pictures from my annuals and screenshots from many different episodes of the cartoon to recreate it as accurately as I could. I'm quite pleased with how I managed to find basically the perfect pieces to make Rupert himself. Although I still need to paint the three Panda heads as they

don't come in white and there's a few other small things I'd like to improve or add.

I added the little doorway in the back, accessed by a path leading from the back door to kind of represent the beginning of Rupert's many adventures as he leaves home and heads out in search of fun. This has been a real labour of love that's taken about 9 months off and on, half of which time I've spent off work after hand surgery. The second half of this was done entirely one-handed which really slowed the process down.

In the future I'd like to take a crack at the Professor's home/tower. Anyway, I'm happy to have found and become a member of the group and I hope you enjoy this little model!

**Matt Dafoe**



*Matt originally posted this on the Followers' Facebook page and is happy for us to share it in the Newsletter for non-Facebook-using members*



## Did you have a Rupert Dark Age?

An expression I have come across in several different enthusiast groups is one's 'Dark Age'. It is used to refer to the time between a childhood enthusiasm in something (be it toy trains, LEGO, Ninja Turtles, or possibly Rupert) and the time when as an adult that enthusiasm was rekindled. I certainly admit to a dark age for me for both toy trains and Rupert (too old to have had LEGO as a child though enjoyed playing with children and now grandchildren, but never Ninja Turtles!!). I wonder though if this is the case for many Followers or was Rupert never completely put away for you?

In my case both these dark ages ended with picking up a book. Not a Rupert Annual, though I

had kept those from my childhood, and more had been acquired for my children and were popular bedtime stories for them. Rather than, just before Christmas 1985 I was in my local W H Smith's picking up something last minute when I caught sight of a copy of 'Rupert – A Bear's Life', by George Perry. Had a quick flick through, and I was captivated. I seem to recall I had a Book Token in my pocket (a recent birthday present) so decided this was a suitable way to dispose of it.

I fear I may have spent a little too much of the Xmas festivities with my nose in that book or rediscovering the Rupert Annuals – but my dark age was over!

**Tony Stanford**

## More Followers' contributions ...

I have been meaning to send you these photos for a very long time, but have only now got around to it.

I bought this splendid waistcoat at a car boot in Norfolk from a lady down-sizing her Rupert collection (why would you want to?!) It's very well made – the label declares 'Charles Tyrwhitt, Makers of Fine Shirts'. Even the buttons are covered in Rupert fabric! I'm not sure if it was mass-produced or a one-off – do any other Followers have one?

Although no doubt meant for a man, I happily wore it to our village Christmas 'do' last year and it was much admired.

I'd also like to offer my commiserations to everyone who has made such efforts to ensure Rupert's Centenary does not pass without exciting events and celebrations, only to be scuppered by the measures introduced because of Covid 19.

Ah well, let's hope something is resolved before the year is out, and perhaps we can get something organised in time for 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you for continuing to produce such an enjoyable diversion in the Nutwood Newsletter.

Best wishes,

**Val Franklin**



## A Coronavirus Lock-down mention:

Follower **Sue Willets** reported to us that in their May newsletter, the charity 'Campaign to Protect Rural England' included Rupert books (along with Beatrix Potter stories, Flower Fairies and Swallows and Amazons) as recommended reads for youngsters, being stories that sparked a love for the countryside.

Daniel Carey-Dawes of the charity, was quoted as saying:

"I suppose my memories of the Rupert stories are a mixture of the books and the animated cartoon series from the early 1990s. What I liked about the stories was the sense of adventure about them. They were always set in the outdoors and I think this definitely contributed to my looking upon the outdoor world as a place of adventure. At the end of every tale, Rupert would always return home to his family. There was always a sense of mischief to that, in that his parents were always completely unaware of whatever scrapes he had got himself into during that day's adventure. Its rural English setting also connected me with the childhood holidays I had in East Anglia, where I too was allowed out from a young

age to explore the countryside with minimal supervision. Sometimes, like Rupert, I would disappear on my bike for several hours and only show up for dinner. When in London, that was never possible, so I suppose I liked the stories because they reminded me of the freedom that comes with being in the countryside."

We know that Gyles Brandreth is a long-standing lover of Rupert, so were delighted to hear from Follower **John Lester** that Gyles gave a mention to Rupert's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary recently, when he was the guest in Countdown's Dictionary Corner.

Has anyone ordered the Isle of Man Rupert and Chums 50p pieces? **John Kobylecky** was delighted with his, and hopes other Rupert collectors don't miss out.



Followers **Ian and Janet Walley** wrote to HM The Queen, in the hope that she would fondly remember the Little Bear from her childhood and acknowledge his Big Birthday this year.

They were thrilled and delighted to receive a reply, on behalf of Her Majesty, which sent to all we Followers good wishes on the occasion of Rupert's Centenary.



*This letter was received from a renewing member:*

Apologies for delay – yes, I am wavering a bit in my commitment – it's hard to see where Rupert can go if legal owners don't want to take it somewhere.

I'm afraid I find the newsletter a bit banal sometimes, often padded out with rather meaningless features to bulk it up. I have submitted a few things in the past so I'm not just moaning (or am I?)

Anyway, I'll give it another year and see I anything happens for the Centenary – sorry.

**Grumpy Gomie**

*Remember, everyone, a that a newsletter can only as good as the contributions we receive so please keep your news and articles coming – Ed*

*From a new member:*

Thank you for the membership package, especially the scarf. I love the picture on issue 104, such a lovely scene. I do hope Egmont have lots of things planned for Rupert's 100th year and that they can do a special Annual this year. My love of Rupert began when I watched the TV puppet series in the early '70s as a child, now I watch the series again on DVD. I do hope the Nutwood map will be available to buy through the Followers.

Thanks again.

Best wishes,  
**John Gittings**

## Membership Renewals – payment methods

If your membership of the Followers is due for renewal it will have said so on the address label of your Newsletter, and a renewal form will have been enclosed.

### Renewal methods:

- ♦ By post with a cheque
- ♦ On-line banking: Set up the Followers as someone to pay money to, using the Sort Code, Account number and Reference below
- ♦ PayPal: Go to our website [www.rupertbear.co.uk](http://www.rupertbear.co.uk) and log into the Members' area.

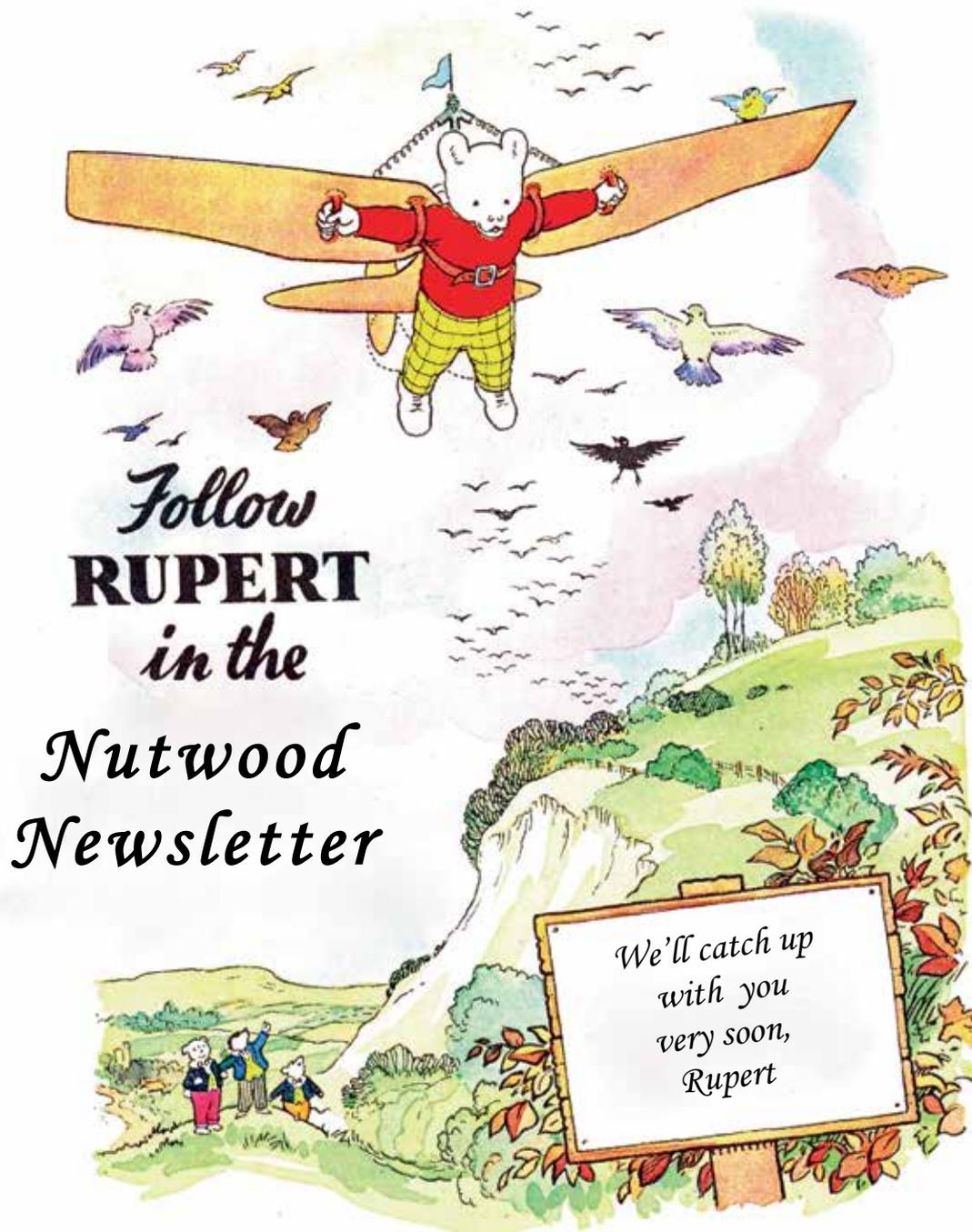
If you do not yet have a password, please e-mail Tony Stanford at [membership@rupertbear.co.uk](mailto:membership@rupertbear.co.uk) and he will e.mail one to you.

Bank: **Barclays** Branch: **Business Direct Support Central** Sort Code: **20-45-45**  
Account number: **23593940** Account name: **The Followers of Rupert membership**  
Reference: **Your membership no.** (This is printed on the NN address label)

Answers to page 26 puzzle:

- 1 Bid, bed, red, REX
- 2 Mode, mole, mile, mill, BILL
- 3 Mate, mite, Rite, Rita, RIKA
- 4 Times, tiles, tills, tolls, rolls, ROLLO
- 5 Rusts, runts, rungs, rings, Ringo, BINGO

**Send your letters, articles and pictures to:**  
**The Editor, Nutwood Newsletter, 29 Mill Road,**  
**Lewes, Sussex. BN7 2RU**  
**or email to [beck3861@gmail.com](mailto:beck3861@gmail.com)**



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*The image on the cover is an original piece of John Harrold artwork  
 The image above is from the 1953 Annual*

