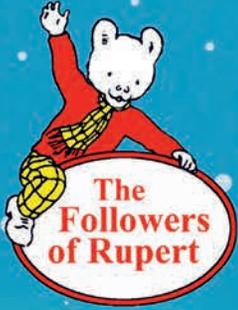


Number 123



Nutwood Newsletter

Winter 2025



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Autumn/Winter 2025 – Chairman’s Welcome

Hello and welcome to our Winter edition. I started writing but two weeks after our 2025 AGM and Fun Day while it was still fresh in the memory, reflecting on meeting old friends (let’s call them ‘chums’) and seeing some new faces. As usual you will find a review and views further on. There were some sad moments which it is fitting I should touch on, being the first gathering without John Beck and reflecting also on the passing of former Treasurer Phil Toze – we lost both FoR stalwarts early this year. We also learned shortly before the meeting started that Tony Griffin had suffered a stroke. Tony had for many years been the organiser of our gatherings at Warwick School. We quickly created an appropriately ‘Rupertesque’ sympathy card which was signed by all Followers present. Happily, as we go to print, former Chairman John Swan has spoken to Tony who is faring very well; driving again and helping his son Ben’s business almost as much as he did before. Tony was grateful for all the messages and cards. We also learned at the end of the meeting that Gina Hart, who coloured many of John Harrold’s stories in the annuals and herself illustrated Rupert in other commercial publications, has not been in good health recently. As with Tony, the gathered Followers expressed their sympathies and a card has been sent to Gina. We continue to wish both Gina and Tony well. You will find tributes to Phil further on as well as a spread of Ruperty goodies.



With all good wishes for the Christmas and New Year season.

Roger Coombes, Chairman

Report on the AGM business – edited highlights

Chairman Roger welcomed all present and asked for a minute’s silence in remembrance of John Beck and Phil Toze. Roger then highlighted the huge loss of John Beck, who was working on new publications – these are still in the pipeline courtesy of Mel and Pam.

Alan has spoken to Farshore, who are keen to use Followers’ knowledge and enthusiasm to guide new Rupert publications. Rupert is, however, ‘owned’ by Express Newspapers and DreamWorks. It was agreed to continue, for now, to produce items for sale to Followers as we have done for years.

Alan and Chris have concocted a spreadsheet-based ‘costing model’ that allows us to calculate, at any time, what every class of member (Full, Overseas, Associate, Electronic etc) is costing the organisation in terms of printing, postage and all the other items in our expenditure. This will help us to judge when and how subscriptions should be

altered to reflect rising costs or savings made. At present, the subscription rates are broadly consistent with what the model produces, indicating that John Beck’s gut instinct was good ... this was not a surprise.

The Publications team has enough material for 3 more Newsletters, but is keen to receive new material at any time. The first newsletter since John died has been widely praised.

A set of amendments to clarify the classes of membership was presented and approved.

It was agreed that the constitution has grown organically, is messy and needs tidying up. Alan offered to draft a review version for the 2026 AGM. It will not alter in substance, but operational issues will be moved to become appendices (‘Documents of Practice’), making the constitution *per se* shorter, tighter and more coherent.

Members elected to the committee:

Chairman	Roger Coombes
Secretary	Alan Murray
Minutes Secretary	John Lester
Treasurer	Charles Knape
Annual Meeting Organiser	Charles Knape
Membership Secretary	Chris Hellen

Librarian/Archivist	Lizzie Hackney
Publications Editor	Pamela Stones
Assistant Publications Editor	Mike Ward
Sales Officer	Mark Hackney
Website Manager	Jordy Schaap
Website Editor	Pamela Stones

Alan Murray, Secretary

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Editorial

This year’s AGM and annual Fun Day again took place at the Radcliffe centre, Warwick University. A pared-down event compared to previous years, it was very well received, with members having more time for relaxed socialising than in previous years, so big thanks again to our organiser, Charles Knape.

Inside this issue you will find a splendid ‘Review of the Day’ which reports on the success of the gathering. Thanks to Joy Cooper for making time to write this in addition to spending the whole day in her role as Chief Raffle Elf. We are not, though, reviewing the 2025 Rupert Annual; this is now left until Spring as many of you have said you like to keep your new Annual until Christmas Day and a review beforehand is somewhat of a spoiler.

Also inside you will find a wonderful article examining Mary Tourtel’s talent and imagination when describing Rupert’s various methods of flight, in part 2 of Ian White’s ‘Rupert Gets Airborne’ and, by contrast, an exploration by Maurice Paterson of how Bestall was instructed to change Mary’s style – and when he broke those rules; also how subsequent artists moved on from there. You will also see (and will continue to see in subsequent editions) articles that John Beck had drafted from his amazing archive and ephemera collection and passed to me to produce for you. Similarly, the stories chosen for the enclosed Supplement (and the next few) had been selected by John and the images cleaned up by we Publications Elves.

The AGM felt very strange without the mighty presence of John Beck and a minute’s silence was held in his memory. We were delighted that John’s daughter, Melanie, joined us for the day and that she will be keeping the Rupert flag flying in John’s name, with Storybook number 2 to be produced in the New Year featuring Tourtel and Bestall stories along with John Harrold’s recent new story. As with the Bestall Book and the first Storybook, this will be a private publication, available for sale only to members.

More sadness in this issue as we pay tribute to Phil Toze who for many years was our Treasurer and who submitted many fine articles for the Newsletter.



On a happier note, our Sales Officer, Mark Hackney, had arranged some new sales items for the AGM and these are now available for all – see the enclosed sales leaflet and place your orders.

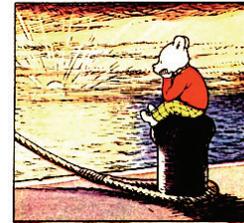
Enjoy this issue.

Season’s Greetings and a Happy New Year to you all.

Pamela Stones (Editor)

Phil Toze – Obituary

“Phil was one of the good guys” – Shirley Reeves
“Phil had a quiet sense of humour” – Mike Williams
“Phil was a lovely man, always had time for a chat and he will be greatly missed” – Mike Ward
“Want Rupert facts? Then Phil Toze knows” – Alan Murray
“Phil my friend, you’ll be sorely missed” – John Swan
“We will miss you Phil” – John Harrold
“Phil was a kind, gentle and unassuming man” – Margaret Heaton
“Phil helped me with my NN articles for 15 years” – Roger Coombes



There have been five treasurers of The Followers and Phil's 23 years, 1998 - 2021, makes him the fourth and longest serving. Shirley Reeves *“had the pleasure of working with him on the committee for several of those years and got to know him as a quiet, gentle and kind man.”* She says that his attention to detail was second to none which made him an excellent Treasurer: *“Our monthly FoR sales accounts always ran smoothly as did the annual audit”.* Former Chairman John Swan testifies that *“Followers may not have noticed, but every year at the AGM, from the rather exposed Chairman’s perch, I found myself saying that if the Treasurer was happy about our finances, then I was happy too, for he was always able to instil in me a confidence that all was well, backing it up with easily comprehensible figures, making my job so much easier”.*

Margaret Heaton describes Phil's knowledge of Rupert as *“astonishing. His wonderful book, ‘Rupert’s Who’s Who’ – a real labour of love – has been invaluable”* Others agree. Mike Williams – *“Phil was an almost inexhaustible fount of Rupert knowledge. His ‘Rupert Who’s Who’ book is an indispensable reference book for Rupert researchers and writers”.* John Swan attributes this to Phil's *“thoroughness and a love of Rupert”*, while John Harrold asserts that *“it goes without*



saying that his impressive encyclopaedic knowledge of Nutwood facts and figures proved absolutely invaluable both to me and the Followers on more than one occasion”. Alan Murray agrees, *“Phil was a bottomless well of facts, figures and wisdom about everything Nutwoody.”* Phil was in Mike Ward's opinion not only a very capable moneyman he was also a mine of information – *“If you needed to know something then Phil was your man. He had lists for everything Rupert and Nutwood – and they weren't printed lists that he sent me, they were all handwritten”.*

I can testify to Mike's last point. Between 2000 and 2015 I wrote a regular column for NN chronicling each new and repeated Rupert story as they appeared in the Express. Phil helped me on a regular basis by answering my questions and supplying copies of missing episodes edited out of re-told stories. We didn't have computers – it was all hand-written.

Outside of the Followers and Rupert, Phil was a very private person, although Shirley Reeves recalls conversations they had about their common love of tennis and she mentions that one can find references to Phil's tennis and table tennis playing on relevant Sussex websites. Shirley too applauds 'Rupert's Who's Who' which has proven invaluable to her and all Rupert devotees.

Given the several references here to Phil's quiet sense of humour, it is fitting that I should leave these final words to John Harrold reflecting on Phil's 'light touch' :

“I was very fond of Phil, whom I first met in the late 80s and who later became my long-suffering ‘minder’ at the Canterbury signing, where, year after year in St. Alphege’s, he organised the crowds and attempted to speed up the entire process by removing the inviting chairs from around my desk

and obliging the fans to stand. But it proved a futile initiative as one cannot deter a determined Rupert fan!

He also had the unenviable task of placating the irate signees at the very end of the 6 to 8-hour-long queue, which taxed his diplomatic skills. Eventually he hit upon the genial idea of advising those towards the middle or end of the line to go for a stroll and a shop in the city and to return at a specific time, whereupon he would re-insert them into the queue.

And, as if he hadn't suffered enough, at the end of a very long day the poor man was obliged to transport my stretchered remains back to the hotel or Brian Stewart's home after the signing. On one occasion, the female, Spanish hotel receptionist referred to him as "Mr. Feel"; so he was "Mr. Feel" from then on – teasing that he accepted with typical good humour."

Ah, not quite the final words because Alan has a

few more – in prose and verse – to add:

"Phil loved his Rupert collection and our Nutwood chum. He expressed that love quietly through his treasuring of us and his articles/books.

So that was Phil ... quietly passionate about our chum Rupert Bear and a solid, diligent treasurer to the organisation for many years. He was not as flamboyant as some of the rest of us, but his knowledge was deep and his commitment matched it.

So I'll remember dear Phil Toze.

Want Rupert facts? Then Phil Toze knows.

But wait a minute. Phil has gone.

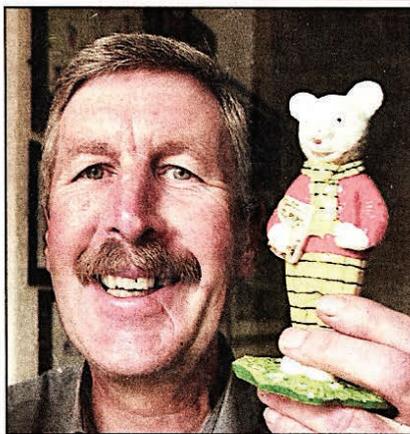
And Following must carry on.

While Phil's on his celestial deck

Deep in discussion with John Beck!

Roger Coombes, Chairman

Follower John Rothwell – a bequest



● Bear necessities: John Rothwell with part of his collection

Why John still loves Rupert

JOHNSON Rothwell has been a Rupert enthusiast for more than 50 years.

"My parents used to buy me the Rupert annuals for Christmas and I so looked forward to getting them. At night, I'd sneak upstairs with a torch and read them under the bedclothes," he says.

No such secrecy needed now, however.

John, a technology technician from Southport explains: "Later, a friend gave me some old, very battered annuals. They took me back to when I was a boy and I remembered some of the stories.

"I have always been interested in visiting antique and book fairs, and when I saw more Rupert books, I began collecting them. And it

went on from there."

John, 59, who works at Ainsdale High School, is now a member of the fan club, Followers Of Rupert, which has more than 1,200 members worldwide.

He says: "Rupert's world is just such an idyllic world. You can suspend reality and escape. It's a world where you know that when anything bad happens, good will follow.

"And it is a surreal world. After all, it is one still without TV."

But he adds: "For me it's the drawings. They have a simplicity which belies their complexity. And Rupert appeals to everyone whereas Winnie The Pooh, to me, is very middle class."

More than 100,000 Rupert annuals were sold last year – third only to Pokemon and The Beano. And John adds: "I suspect Pokemon won't be around in 80 years time like Rupert.

"Children today have so much thrown at them and it's all computers and computer games ... I can't help but feel they miss out.

John now has a collection of annuals. Rupert figure-sand the obligatory soft and cuddly Rupert.

"Some people have a laugh, but since the recent publicity about the annual which fetched £16,000 at

an auction, some attitudes have changed.

"But to me it's not about how much things are worth. And we all have to collect something don't we?"

● Rupert started life in the Daily Express in November 1920. He's the oldest children's comic character in England and the longest-running children's comic character in the world.

Singer Paul McCartney, who discovered Rupert while reading bedtime stories to daughter Heather says: "I've got a little phrase I associate with him – 'It can be done'.

"I feel that is always his attitude. He is very positive."

A deal is currently being finalised for a Rupert film to be released next year.

Follower John Rothwell passed away at the end of 2024.

This lovely little piece about John and Rupert appeared in the Liverpool Echo on Rupert's birthday weekend in 2000.

Kindly, John bequeathed a substantial part of his Rupert collection to the Followers.

We are very grateful and are using these items for Followers' Sales, Library, Raffles and Tombola.

Special thanks to John's brother, Duncan for helping us to collect John's treasures.

John, you are very much missed at our bi-annual North West Group meetings.

The 2025 Annual Raffle

Once again, our annual Rupert Raffle was a big success and has raised very welcome funds for the Followers.

Special thanks to Anita Greenaway for her

lovely knitted chairbacks and the Ninky toy – super unique Rupert items, and to Gaye Stallard for the donation to raffle funds which is very much appreciated.

The Rupert 2025 Annual Weekend – A Review *by Joy Cooper*

It's almost September, and it's another Rupert Weekend at Warwick University.

Martin and I got there on Friday to help anyone who needed extra hands unpacking their vans or cars. The first thing to do was to uncurl the Sea Serpent from our car and install him in the foyer. We had taken him home last year as he was looking a bit tired, and Martin replaced his horns, strengthened his ears and sorted out a wonky eye. Very handsome he looks too.



Poor Joy: relegated to the back seat to accommodate the Sea Serpent!

Then we were waiting to get into our rooms, or helping others, especially new sellers, to set up their stalls. Charles and his family arrived rather frazzled due to the traffic making them very late, but they set-to with surprising energy.

On the Saturday, as we entered the vestibule leading to the main hall, we were handed a programme of the day's events and our usual gorgeous badge, this year featuring Bill holding his university diploma, joining the large round disc set, starting in 2022 with Rupert throwing his mortar board in the air, followed by Bingo 2023, Edward 2024 and now Bill. I never fail to be impressed with the Followers' badges.

The hall was garlanded as usual. There were plenty of stalls selling Ruperty delights. Stuart Trotter arrived with the Annuals and, despite the fact that he received them rather late, he had signed and illustrated many and was soon busy distributing them, while catching up with old friends and new purchases.

Even now, I'm always surprised by the number of Rupert memorabilia stalls with unusual things for sale. I have been collecting for many years, but there are always one or two (or more) items I've never seen before and must have! It's fun seeing Followers with their see-through Rupert bags and catching a glimpse of their purchases.

The origami stall, always popular, was particularly delightful this year as Mike

Formstone (there with Dave Venables) had used old Rupert annual pages with which to make his models, and those giving it a try had an extra thrill to their finished articles.

Rupert, his Mum and Bill came to see us and promenaded round the bourse. It's always a pleasure to see Adam Schumacher and his family with Rupert and chums.

The first event was by Howard Smith, who gave a very knowledgeable talk about Mary's early years and her introduction to the Daily Express, with photographs. I think we all know some of it, but Howard's depth of detail regarding Mary's and Herbert's early life was remarkable.



Howard wraps up his super talk

Before the AGM, Mr Anteater read out a humorous talk about him wanting a longer snout. He asked his doctor, who couldn't help, The Professor said it was too dangerous, Tigerlily couldn't help, finally Bodkin tried and now it's too long! This was all in rhyming couplets with props and caused much amusement.



Yep, that new snout's definitely a tad on the large side

The tone then became much sombre as Roger asked for a minute's silence for John Beck and Phil Toze, two very prominent members of the Committee and the society in general, who we lost this year. Their depth of knowledge will be very difficult, if not impossible, to replace.

Matters were then addressed at the AGM, and Committee members were asked to introduce themselves for the new members' benefit. As the meeting had run on a bit, we all scrambled for lunch.

Instead of a hot buffet in the refectory, it was held in our private dining room. There was certainly no shortage of food with sandwiches of many fillings for everyone's taste, including vegetarian, gluten-free and Halal, with crisps and fruit. Non-stop drinks were available in the lounge area as usual.

Mark Manley gave the first afternoon talk about his involvement with Rupert. He now works at Waterstones and already has some new ideas for publicity for Rupert. He is also working on the new Rupert Storybook and has some sketches ready. He showed us a commission where he was asked to paint some Rupert characters, to include a young girl who looked like the Follower's mother at that age. The lady was delighted with the painting, then suddenly realised that she was in it! Needless to say, she was thrilled. Mark also does animal portraiture and works with the Wizard of Oz Club.



Mark talks of his year with Rupert

Our next speaker was Stuart Trotter. Alfred Bestall lived in Surbiton for thirty years and there is a blue plaque on his old home in Crane's Park. You will have read in your Summer Newsletter that this year Stuart was approached to do a mural of Rupert for Surbiton Station. He politely informed them that he didn't climb ladders or paint on walls, and it was agreed that he would produce ten pictures of Rupert on his journey to the seaside, to be enlarged and placed in recesses along the tunnel. He showed us all the pictures and they are wonderful. We are delighted that Stuart agreed that we can reproduce the images in this newsletter – see page 16. Not only were they ready for Surbiton's festival, but even their planters displayed red and yellow flowers.



Stuart tells all about his exciting Surbiton project

At 4:30 the raffle was drawn, preceded by Martin Cooper giving us a rhyme about who (and what) features in the titles of Rupert stories. (see page 26)

The new electronic system of picking out numbers certainly helps move along the proceedings, with one lucky man taking away the Sea Serpent's old horns! He did win a proper prize too. As always, the star prize was a beautiful piece of original artwork by Stuart.



Martin in full flow

Time for a break for refreshments in the lounge and proud showing off of the day's purchases.

Charles had already told us that the dinner was to be more informal this year, so we were not sure what to expect. Thankfully, we were still in our own dining room. The eating time was 6:30 -7:30 and the meal comprised two courses, for which we queued in the refectory. There was a choice of main and dessert to suit everyone's taste. It was pleasing to see the usual large round tables, with crisp white tablecloths, although disappointingly devoid of any decoration, but with unallocated seating, you could sit with whomever you wished, and most said that this was a nice idea.

Afterwards, people drifted off to the bar or lounge for drinks and a chat, and in some cases, games. Some went home or had an early night in their very comfortable rooms. With the informal approach this year, there was no slot for thankyou's but we'd like to thank Charles for everything he did to make the weekend a success (including about 6 hours on the motorway!)

The next morning goodbyes were said as we checked out with the usual

“see you next year...”



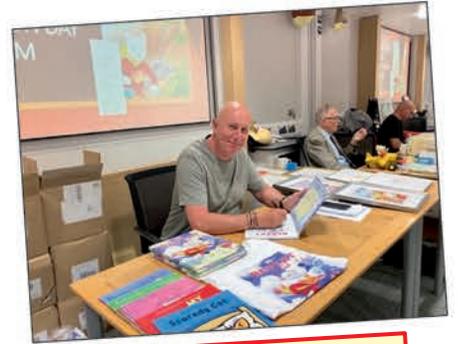
Raffle Elves and prizes



Photo Gallery 2025



Paul, Mark and Melanie



Stuart signing



The Bustling Bourse





Mike, the amazing Origami expert



AGM and Talks



chillin'

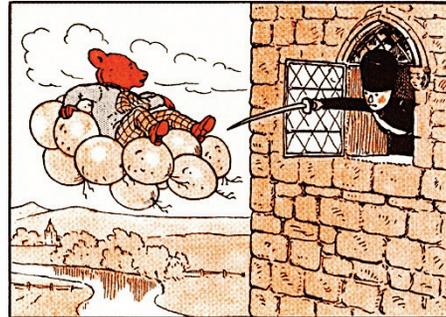


Up, Up and Away: Mary Tourtel's Rupert gets airborne

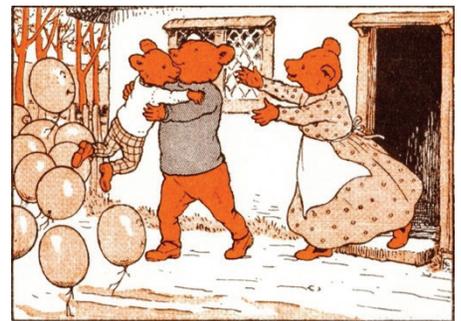
Part 2: balloons, broomsticks, baskets, boots, bowlers and brollies Ian White

In Part 1 of this series, we reviewed the several stories in which Mary Tourtel's Rupert managed to fly into, or escape from, adventures with the use of mechanised aircraft, many of which bore the hallmark of Mary's favourite airplane, the Handley Page A/400. But, more often, Rupert would utilise other less conventional forms of aerial transport. This article notes how Mary devised such methods as balloons, broomsticks, baskets, boots, bowlers and brollies (and the like) to get the Little Bear up, up and away.

First, those fickle Air Balloons. As early as frame no. 5 in Tourtel's very first story, *Little Lost Bear*, a very much lost Rupert encounters these strange, seemingly kind and helpful creatures who offer to carry him and his shopping basket home. But instead, they mistakenly deposit him down the chimney of the Toys' Nursery (where he meets Golly and Jacko – soon to become regular chums). The balloons re-appear, again as helpful rescuers in *Rupert Gets Captured* (T3), by providing our Little Bear with an airlift to enable him to escape from the highest tower of the Ogre Gruffenuff's castle, and to deliver him safely home.



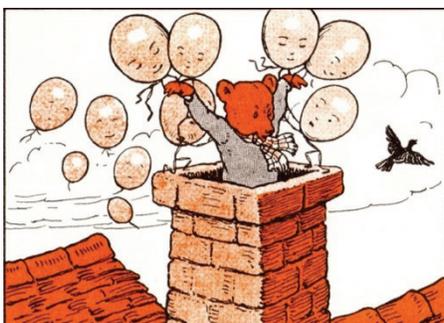
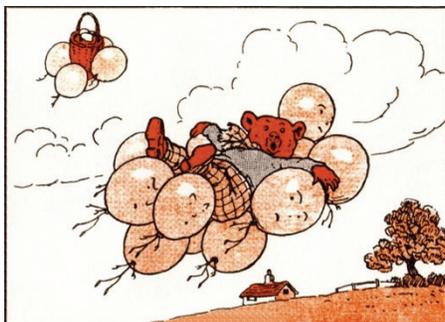
Escaping from Gruffenuff's castle



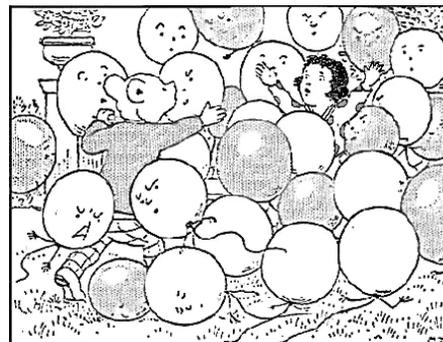
Home again

Mind you, these seemingly benevolent balloons show a somewhat inflated opinion of themselves and a much more vindictive character in *Rupert and Margot* (T35) when they carry off Margot to their Queen to be punished as an example to all children that have killed balloons by pricking them with pins at parties. But never fear, Rupert comes to her rescue with the help of Stork (more details in Part 3).

Up, up and ...



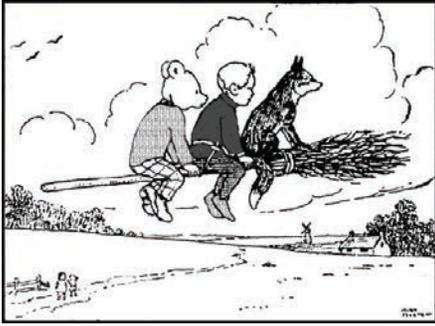
... down again



The vindictive balloons

Rupert gets airborne on a broomstick in three of Tourtel's adventures. In *Rupert and the Little Prince* (T20) our hero is charged with the task of breaking a witch's spell that has caused the eponymous prince to grow a pig's head. With the help of a friendly fox, Rupert outwits the witch and all three ride home on her broomstick – providing Mary with opportunity to draw

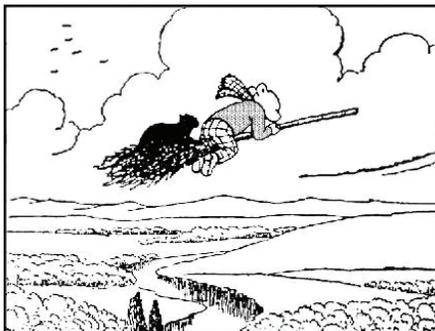
another panoramic vista of the Nutwood countryside.



However, another witch has the upper hand at the start of *Rupert in Trouble Again* (T44) when she forces Rupert to ride with her to her lonely castle. This is only the start of the Little Bear's troubles in what proves to be one of Tourtel's more gruesome stories – but rest assured, Rupert escapes from the dilemma in which he finds himself with the help of a giant bird (of which, again, we shall hear more in Part 3, in a later issue).

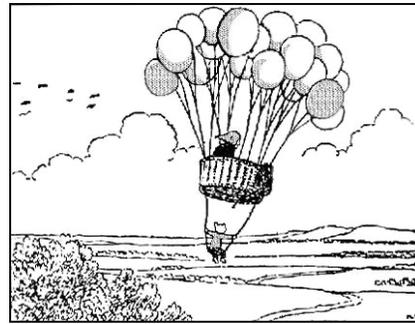


A third broomstick provides Rupert with the opportunity of a timely aerial exit in *Rupert, the Witch and Tabitha* (T67) after he has been held captive by yet another wicked witch. He manages to escape with the help of his feline friend Tabitha only because the witch is suffering a bit of a hangover after a night out with the girls at the local witches' midnight feast.

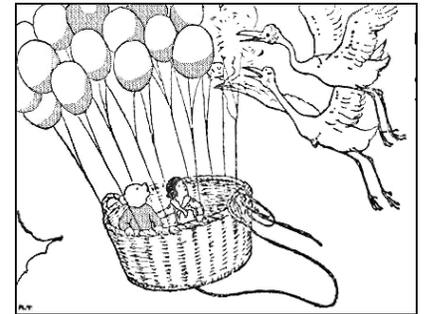


Witches' broomsticks seem to me to be a pretty precarious method of air transportation. Much more comfortable accommodation would surely be provided by a wicker basket. And, indeed,

Rupert does enjoy such relative comfort in two of Mary's later stories – although 'enjoy' might not be an entirely appropriate description of the first of these occasions in *Rupert's Latest Adventures* (later retitled as *Rupert and the Magic Drum*) (T63). This is a rather long and episodic tale in which Margot is kidnapped by an old woman (who intends her to be her giant son's next meal) and is bundled into a wicker basket borne away by a myriad of balloons (not, it should be noted, the Air Balloons that we have met earlier). Rupert gives chase and clings on to a trailing rope as the balloons carry the basket aloft. However, the same balloon/basket combination also provides the means of escape from the old woman and her son. But respite is only temporary as a pair of stork-like birds peck at the balloons (thinking they are fruit) bursting several and causing the basket to plunge into the lake below.



Rupert clings on



Don't burst my balloons!

But Rupert's aeronautical antics in this tale are not yet done. Through the combined helpful intervention of the friendly gnome Yannick and the Old Man of the Hills, the pair of adventurers are able to fly home on a magic (horseless) saddle.

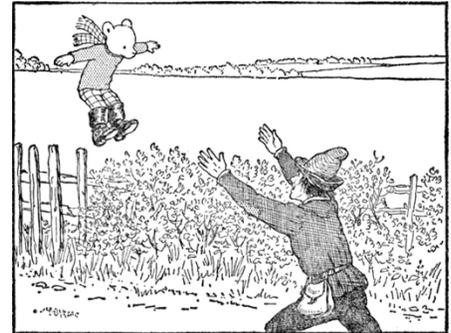


The magic saddle

Far more manoeuvrable is the basket that Rupert and fellow passenger (the eponymous princess in *Rupert and the Greedy Princess*, T82) find themselves. It has taken a number of painful lessons before the princess is able to cure herself of her avaricious greed. She is rewarded by the very same old woman to whom the princess had earlier refused to give food. Not the same old woman that featured in T63 it should be noted; instead, this old woman turns out to be a fairy and offers to fly Rupert and the princess home in her basket powered by nothing but magic – not a balloon in sight – and providing yet another opportunity for the reader to view the Nutwood countryside from Mary’s unique aerial perspective.



Soaring over the rooftops



Happy landings



Come and have a ride in my basket

In the earlier adventure *The Little Man in Green* (T16) Rupert is lent a Magic Cloak by a stranger wandering in the woods in order that the Little Bear can pursue two rather large magpies that have just flown off with the Little Man.

Nice view

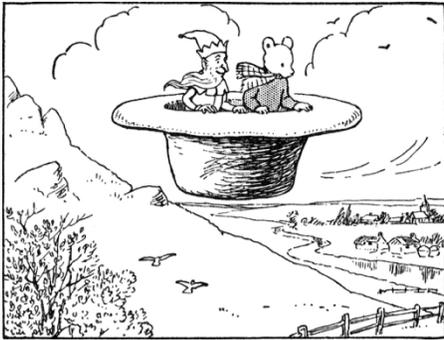


Magical clothing with the powers to transport their wearers to loftier heights feature prominently in three of Tourtel’s stories. In the classic, and oft reproduced, *Rupert and the Wonderful Boots* (T61) a visiting Cobbler claims that he has a pair of wizard’s boots in his bag that can enable the wearer to jump amazing distances and fly all over the countryside. And so, while the cobbler goes indoors to mend Mr Bear’s shoes, Rupert (naturally) tries them on and is immediately airborne, flying over Nutwood. But that is just the first of a string of escapades that ensue, involving dwarves, castles, ogres and robbers, before the Little Bear can land safely again back home, only too glad to return the amazing boots to the cobbler.

Rupert subsequently loses the cloak but manages to get back home (now accompanied by the Little Man and a Princess whom he has managed to rescue along the way) by means of a flying horse – but more about that mode of transport next time.

And then, of course, there is the magic hat. *Rupert and the Magic Hat* (T32) has got to be one of Tourtel’s best loved stories (and one of her own favourites). In it, Rupert is tricked into taking a ride in the magic hat by the wicked gnome Yanick (not to be confused with the friendly gnome Yannick to whom we have referred earlier) to a palace garden set on a far distant island. He is eventually aided by a marooned Robinson Crusoe who instructs the hat to carry the Little Bear back

home, now accompanied by Jack the monkey and yet another princess that Rupert has happened to rescue.



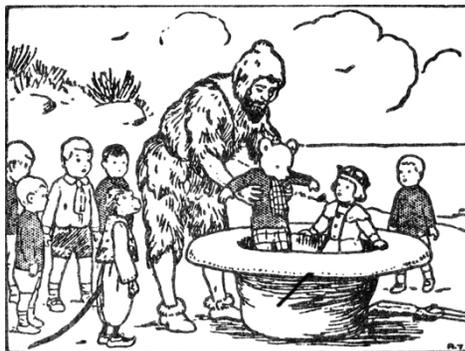
Where's that Gnome Yanick taking me?

manages to escape the clutches of the magician and return home safely.

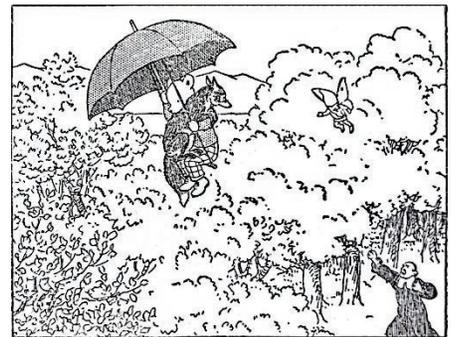


Flying over Nutwood again

Robinson Crusoe comes to the rescue



Rupert gets away just in time



And finally (for the time being at least) there is the magic brology that gets our Little Bear both into, and out of, trouble in the equally iconic *Rupert and the Magician's Umbrella* (T79). In this tale, the umbrella that Rupert buys for his father turns out to have magical flying abilities once opened, and soon the Little Bear is uncontrollably soaring above the village again, across the countryside and into deep trouble. But the Wise Old Goat and his gnome-like helper are on hand to organise a recovery, and the Little Bear – this time accompanied by a befriended fox – just

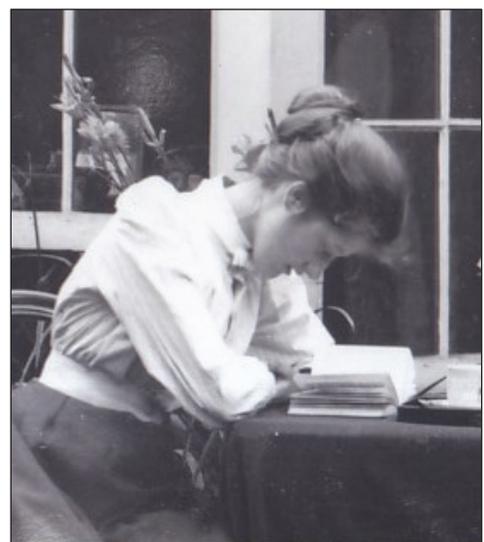
More magical and even more bizarre means of air travel are reviewed in the concluding part of this article next time.

*Details of the storylines for all of Rupert's adventures in this article can be found in the author's compendium of Mary Tourtel's Daily Express stories, **Castles in the Forest**, which is available in hard copy and to download from the Followers' website. See page 24 for details.*

A previously unseen image of Mary

To complement Ian's super Mary Tourtel articles, we thought you might like to see a picture of Mary that we believe has not been used before, showing her in an academic pose.

Image courtesy of Chris Laming



The Rarest Rupert Books

John Beck

In this short article I will try and identify commercially produced Rupert books, in no particular order, which for some reason are elusive and sought after by the complete collector. I have been asked on a number of occasions what is the most difficult Rupert book to find and I hope my observations will help answer that question.

The **brown-faced 1973 Rupert Annual**, was just a proof example sent to the Daily Express for approval and never appeared as a commercial publication, so it is outside the scope of this article. Strangely the prices that have been realised at auction for the known dozen copies of the book have been in the region of up to £20,000.

This proof book is of course iconic in that the cover changes that were made before commercial publication caused Alfred Bestall to refuse to produce any further Annual covers or endpapers, so for that reason if nothing else it is a landmark item. But all other content in the commercial version is exactly the same as that in the brown faced Rupert Annual, so it does pose the question is it really worth the sort of money it has commanded. No doubt the owners of copies feel they have something exclusive which is true, but it has come at rather a high price. Other proof copies of Rupert Annuals, (which are usually just the contents in plain card covers), change hands for under £200.

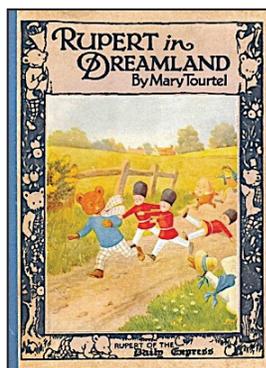
Anyway, so much for proof copies; now on to looking at commercial Rupert publications.

•**Rupert in Dreamland**, one of the 1925 to 1927 Rupert Little Bear Series is a hard book to locate. Published along with

•**Rupert and Reynard Fox** and

•**Rupert and the Magic Key/Brigands**,

it used the earlier printed pages for the Little Bear's Adventures Book 2.



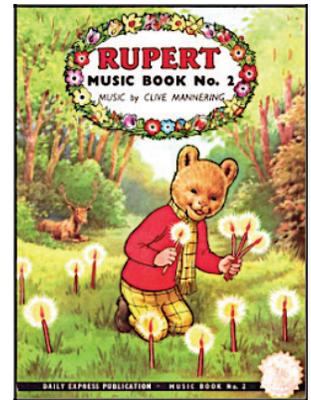
For some reason, Rupert in Dreamland is more difficult to find than its two companion volumes which are themselves far more difficult than the

first three volumes in the Little Bear Series. One can only speculate why this should be and I certainly have no explanation for the reason.

•**Rupert Activity Book No. 1** is notoriously hard to find. It is noted and illustrated on page 102 of the most recent Rupert Index and is basically Adventure Series 36 with music sheets interleaved with the story. No doubt it was a bit of an experiment as the paper sticker on the cover has probably been hand applied indicating that it was not a booklet that had a major print run.

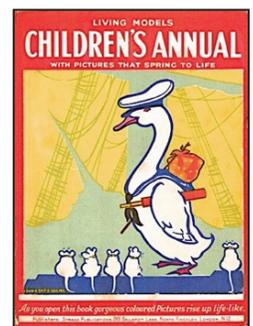
•**Music Book No. 2**

(which is easier to find), has specially printed covers, so was no doubt more widely distributed. Both booklets were produced as teaching aids presumably to schools and as no others followed, it perhaps indicates a bit of lack of interest in the project – hence the scarcity and an asking price in four figures for No.1 whereas No.2 can be purchased in the low £100's.



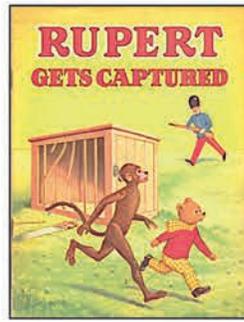
•**Living Models Children's Annual**

(circa 1935), comprises pages that had been printed for the earlier 1930's Daily Express Children's Annuals. No doubt the print run was limited due to a shortage of unused pages that were available, so it has become a very difficult book to find and can fetch a good few hundred pounds which is high when one compares it with the actual 1930's Daily Express Children's Annuals which are usually available for around £50.



Other hard to find books are:

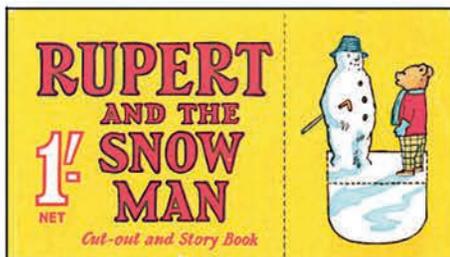
- **Rupert Gets Captured**
(I'm not sure why this should be as the proof copy I have notes a print run of 114,000),
- **Rupert and the Snowman**
(a cut-out book),
and the
- **1942 Rupert Annual.**



- **The Little Bear Library (1920's/1930's)**,
and of course, the
- **1936 Rupert Annual** where a nice copy with the dust-wrapper can be treble the price of a copy of the book without one.

Even rarer are the 1930's books that had loose wrap around bands – it can double the value of a **Little Bear Library** in dust-wrapper and could double or treble the value of an early **Monster Rupert** and the **early Rupert Annuals** where bands were used on early issues (see Index page 116 for examples).

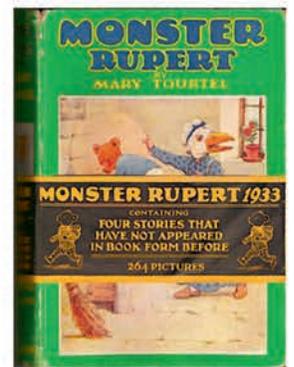
Rupert and the Snowman is probably the most difficult of the 1950's cut-out books to find because the cost for such a small sized book would have been relatively high when one considers there were other larger cut-out books around at that time



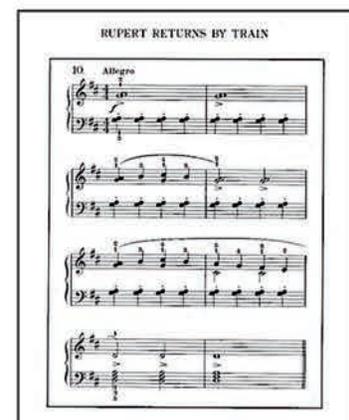
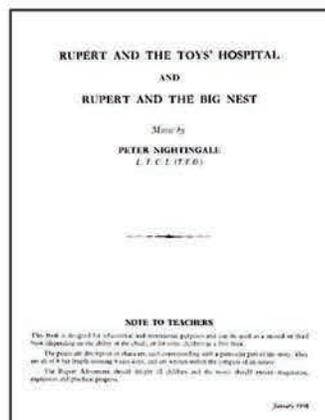
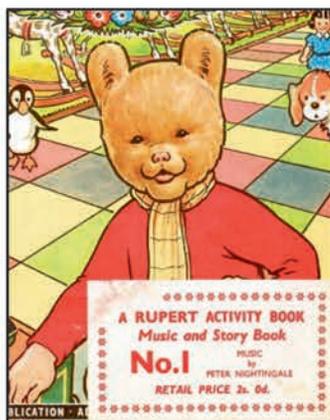
It also goes without saying that a Rupert book signed by the artist will also add value, particularly if it is signed at the time of publication. A further premium can be added if there is a dedication to a relative or personal friend or someone who was involved in the book production. Alfred Bestall signed quite a few Annuals after he was 'found' by Rupert fans and he always dated his signature when signing an earlier published volume, so books signed thus are a bit less desirable than one signed and dated at the time of publication, or if the signature is undated.

I would speculate that the difficulty with the 1942 Annual is due to a limited print run, probably because of war-time privations, and I know that the distribution of the numbers of copies sent out to retailers was limited with many not receiving the total number of copies that they had ordered. I am aware of a mother of twins, who used to buy each child a copy of the Rupert Annual, who was told by the retailer that he had been restricted in the number of copies he had been sent so could only let her have one copy that year.

There are a number of other Rupert publications that can be elusive, and a collector can pay a bit of a premium for an above average condition copy when located, but these items are still out there, so do not despair and keep searching. You never know when the elusive bargain will turn up.



Other items that prove to be difficult to find are books in their original dust-wrappers, particularly the first series of



Cover, title page and a typical music page from the Music and Activity Book 1

Stuart in Surbiton – Celebrating AEB

As mentioned in the Review of the AGM Fun Day, Stuart Trotter gave a talk about his commission to produce a Rupert artwork installation for Surbiton Station.

The installation celebrates Alfred Bestall, who lived in Surbiton while creating much of his *Rupert* work — a connection the town is proud of. Stuart was commissioned by *The Friends of Surbiton* to design the installation.

The drawings are intentionally based on Alfred’s work as a tribute to him.

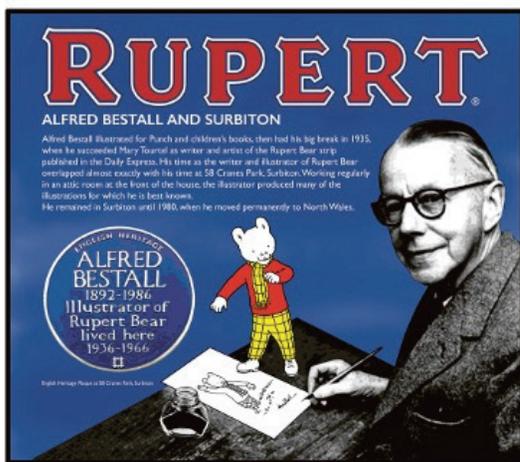
Stuart wrote a short story about Rupert going on holiday, featuring Surbiton’s Art Deco Station where the panels are displayed.

It’s not a mural, but ten 5-foot printed panels. The rhyming couplets were written by Jude Irwin. Stuart wants it to be clear that this is a celebration of Alfred, not plagiarism.



Bearing in mind the footfall through the station, it’s one of the biggest Rupert promotions for years, and Stuart is happy for us to share it with those of you who were not able to attend the AGM.

Here are the panels, set out in Annual format, so you can see how amazing it was.



*At last, our summer holiday!
Let's check the map to find the way.*



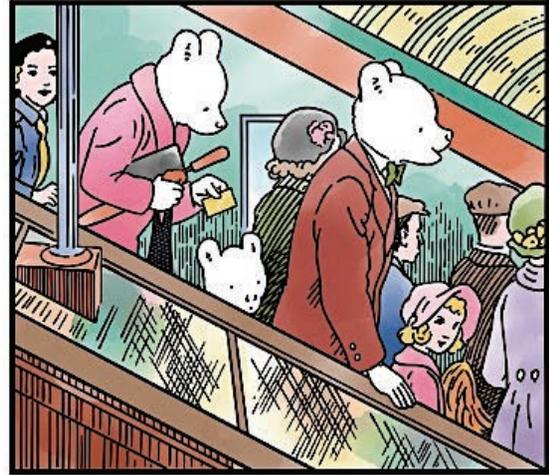
*Brimming with anticipation
They park outside the railway station.*



*"Three tickets, please – returns, that's right"
Rupert waits, his spade held tight.*



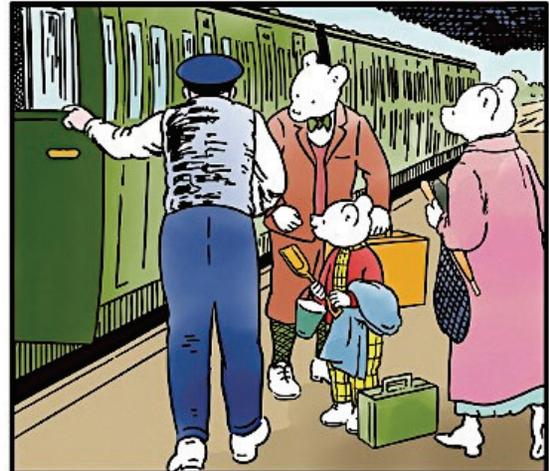
*It's Greyrocks Cove they're heading to
Mum asks a porter what to do.*



*Down moving stairs, the crowds all flow
Heading to the trains below.*



*Huffing, puffing trains wait there
Bustling people everywhere.*



*A porter beckons, holds the doors
"Come on, bears – this one's yours!"*



*"We're off!" says Daddy, with a sigh
As Rupert watches scenes fly by.*



*"At last," says Rupert. "There's the seal
I'll see you on the beach," cries he.*

Did any Followers make it to Surbiton
to see for themselves?

*The images can also be seen on the
Followers' website.*

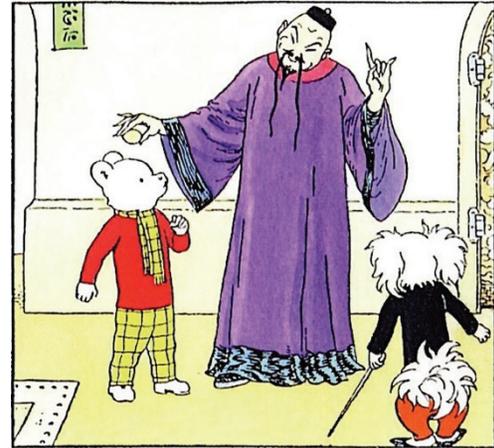
When Bestall Bent the Rules

by Maurice Paterson

When Bestall was selected to be Mary Tourtel's successor he was given guidelines as to what was suitable content for the stories. In the booklet 'In Conversation with Alfred Bestall' in answer to the question "Did you introduce the Conjuror?" Bestall said "Oh yes. That was because in 1935 I had been taken aside and forbidden to use magic because Mary Tourtel had misused it. I hadn't to use fairies because sometimes when she got Rupert into a jam and she couldn't get him home again, she'd introduce a fairy who waved a wand and he came home! I wasn't allowed to do that because it was the sort of thing that the ordinary child would refuse to accept. But I soon found it hard to write without some form of magic, so I introduced the Chinese Conjuror who might be familiar to many youngsters at a pantomime. Similarly the more powerful Sorcerers later on."

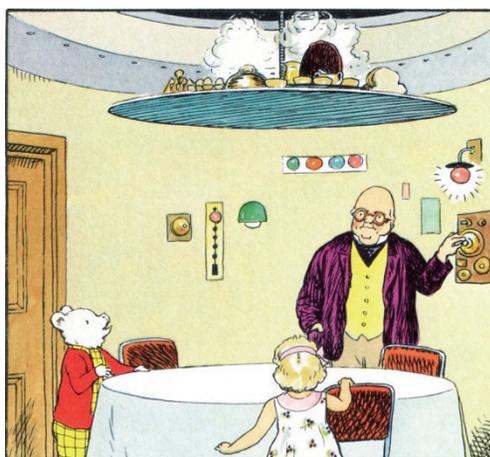
I decided to look through the Bestall stories in chronological order to see how he developed coping with the rules. *Rupert Algy and the Smugglers* (B1) was a straightforward adventure story and nothing of note, accepting the mixture of humans and anthropomorphic characters and that animals who were not anthropomorphic could sometimes speak.

Rupert's Autumn Adventure (B2) stopped short of magic by introducing the Old Professor who invented things which were just short of magical. B3 was within the rules as was *Rupert's Christmas Adventure* (B4), accepting Santa Claus is not magic. There were no further developments in B5 to B10 but *Rupert and the Chinese Cracker* (B11) introduced the Chinese Conjuror.

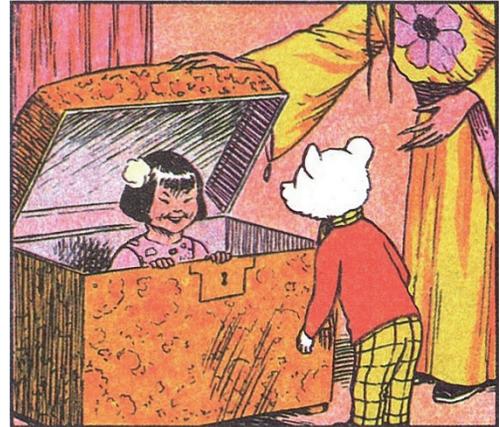


Rupert and the Little Men (B12) suddenly reverted to the Tourtel style with the appearance of a nasty ogre who ended the story trapped indefinitely in a well.

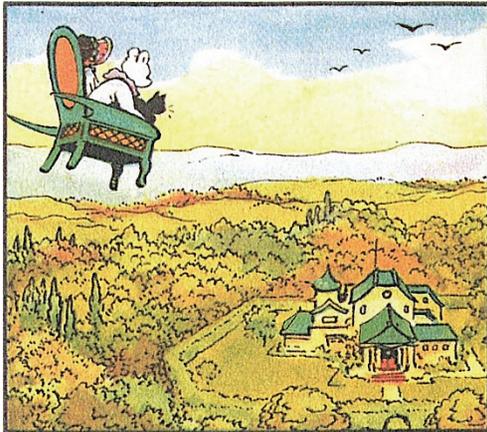
Nothing to comment on up to *Rupert, Edward and the Paper Chase* (B20) which is a good example of a Bestall story which has not used any improbable events. However, *Rupert in Mysteryland* (B26), does push the magic rules to the limit. With a swing of the wand Rupert was freed. At least no fairy was involved.



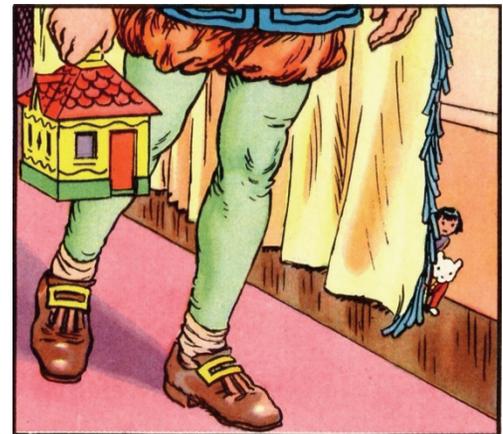
By this stage Bestall was in full flow with most adventures avoiding magic but various inventions appeared. *Rupert and Tigerlily* (B52) introduces Tigerlily with her conjuring tricks. The Mandarins at the Daily Express knew how Rupert had become much more popular so were happy to turn a blind eye.



Rupert's Strange Party (B65) was actually Tigerlily's party and the waving wand again transported Rupert to a dark wood. A black cat, a wish and a magic chair gave an instant return home.



Thereafter there was little of the disapproved Tourtel foibles 'til *Rupert and Margot* (B106), when Margot was inadvertently abducted by a giant. There was nothing very sinister and the only close up did not give the impression of being an ogre.



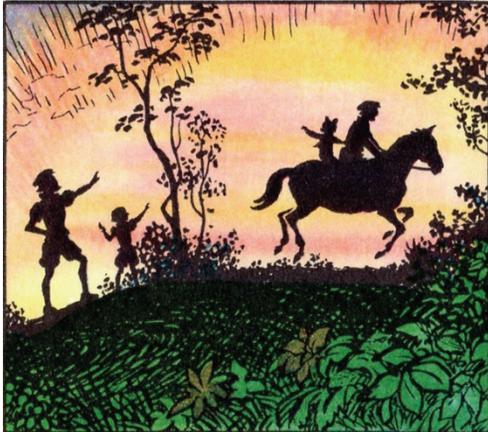
In the 1956 Annual, *Rupert and the Flying Sorcerer* (B128), is the Sorcerer's debut but no complaints about Rupert's sudden escape and return home. Children would accept the use of a flying saucer.



I suppose a rule breach once in a blue moon would not be so bad and a fairy appears on a Christmas tree by magic in *Rupert and the Blue Moon* (B031) in the 1956 Annual.



Rupert and the Pine Ogre (B130) has a creepy section when Rupert is caught by the slaves of the Pine Ogre. The Ogre is a fanatical chap but only threatening the environment, and not Rupert, who is immediately released.

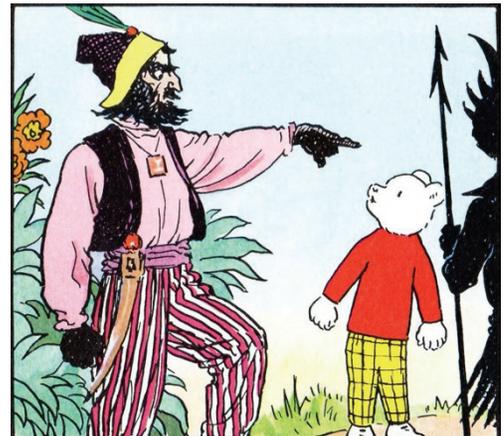


Rupert and the Gold Acorn (B161), although a relatively late story, was somewhat of a throwback to Mary Tourtel in that Rupert gets lost, and within walking distance of Nutwood is back in the Middle Ages with two large castles whose owners are two warring cousins. He manages to bring back to safety a young Lord and is then taken home on horseback. There was a similar story in *Rupert and the Waterfall* (B205).

The final scary picture came late in the day in *Rupert and the Wrong Sweets* (B219).

I am sure all Followers are glad that Bestall bent the rules in these gentle ways. Clearly, he raised Rupert to new heights of popularity.

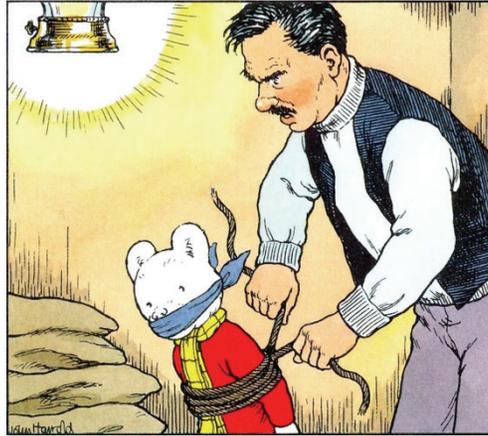
I then went on through all the stories in post-Bestall Rupert Annuals and it is clear that the subsequent authors, mainly Harrold and Trotter, operated by the Bestall rules. I will not demonstrate the ongoing magic by Tigerlily and her father aided by the Sorcerer, but here are examples of the scariest pictures.



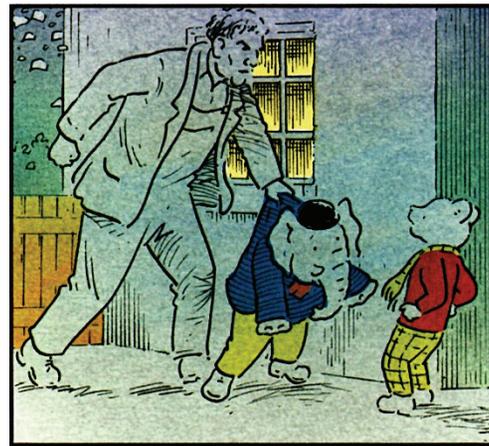
Rupert was captured by a huge Eastern man in *Rupert on Um Island* (JH22) and by two Oriental gangster types in *Rupert and Little Yum* (JH32).



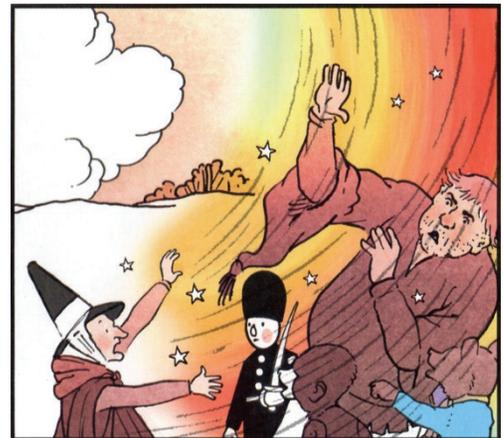
Rupert was tied up very thoroughly in *Rupert and the Wool Gatherers* (JH48), and then in *Rupert and the Forest* (JH80) he was escorted at sword point by men from the near East.



If anything, Stuart has been the gentlest of the artists. The man grabbing Edward by the scruff of the neck in *Rupert and the Branch Line* (ST03) would not have put up much opposition to the villains in earlier stories. In *Rupert and the Time Machine* (ST18), one of my favourite stories, we go full circle back to Mary Tourtel and a Witch and an Ogre return, but they would not give modern children sleepless nights,



The great charm of Rupert is the versatility of the stories, with danger and adventure and improbable magic tricks, combined with special places under the land and the sea and up in the clouds. All this to whet a child's imagination but since Bestall took over in 1935 there has been no horror.



Origami?

Alfred introduced origami to the Rupert Annuals, as we know. Could this be a piece of origami? Probably not complicated enough.

It is a Tesla Cybertruck spotted in Bradenton, Florida. It could be the sort of thing Rupert might fly around in, but apparently the real thing is unlikely to be available in the UK because, among other things, its sharp edges don't meet our safety regulations.



In the Name of Rupert – surfing eBay so you don't have to by Martin Cooper

Martin writes:

Hello. This is a new feature which, if popular, I hope to continue in future issues. I have bought a lot of Joy's collection in the bourse, but also quite a lot from eBay. She has most of the things she'd like now, and says only to buy something if it raises a squeal when I show her the picture (or the price)! Sometimes it raises a squeal for the wrong reason, and that's what this column is all about.

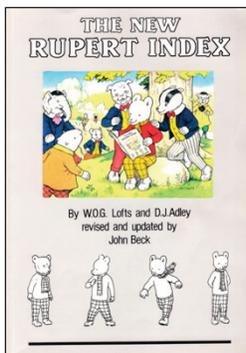
Often on eBay there are items that are way overpriced, or are really poor renderings, or where the seller is simply uninformed.

Before I begin, here is a disclaimer:

This is a light-hearted look at some of the RUPERT items I've seen on eBay throughout the year. If you happen to be one of the sellers, no offence is intended. I think that's unlikely because:

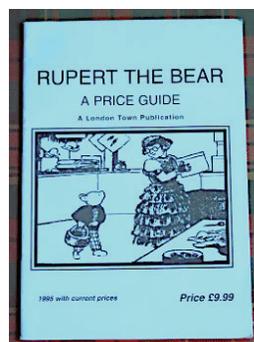
- 1 Some of these would never be in the possession of a true Follower
- 2 YOU wouldn't advertise it as Rupert *the* Bear, would you?

Here goes: I began keeping a track of these in 2023, so the first few listings are from then. The first was a copy of the Index from 1991 (the W. O. G. Loft's one, updated by John Beck) for £29.90.



This was the most pricey of 3 listings for this edition: or you could buy a 1979 one for £7; a 2001 for £7.50; or a 2020 one (29 years more up-to-date) for £18.

The next item is a different index from 1995 – there were 3 on sale (well, 2 now! I got it for £7) Unofficial, perhaps, as it includes Rupert's middle name.



I'm sure we all recognise this one, and most of us have probably got one. Several were on offer but the most expensive was \$78 plus \$27 postage!



Next are these little chaps, described as 'Vintage Bear and Pig 1994 Express Newspapers Vintage Vinyl Soft Toy'.



No mention of Rupert at all, but they were yours for £12.99. They seem to be official merchandise but I've only ever seen then once. Made by Toy Island, they look *Squeaky* clean...

I'm not sure if I'm allowed to mention this one from Italy for €6.55 – it's a DVD with 3 New Rupert stories: The Genius of Mischief / the Spacious Genius / The Spiteful Genius. One seller wanted £26.16 for it! Nice to know that Rupert popped up there.



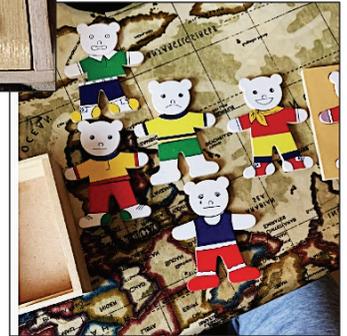
Here's a fun one: the title was 'Bundle 6 McDonald's Happy Meal Toys Plus Masked Singer Rupert The Bear Mr Men'.

A bargain for £7.99 – if you like Paddington.

The next one was described as 'Homemade Rupert The Bear Soft Toy Teddy Cuddly Plush Collectible Vintage Wool' This must have been pre-Blue Jumper!



And finally, Rupert The Bear Wooden Puzzle With Storage Case. A bit tenuous when you see the other photo.



All I will say about this one is: Rupert? Check!



Back with soft toys, this one was described as 1970s Roan Toys Dance With Me Rupert Bear Elastic on Feet 90cm Tall. A bargain at only £40. I've ordered two.

I hope you enjoyed these; maybe more to follow.

Martin

Thank you Martin for unearthing these amazing gems.

... and on the same theme, Follower Rich Kewell felt compelled to share these beauties on the Followers' Facebook page:

	<p>ROYAL DOULTON SMALL SIZE PROTOTYPE CHARACTER JUG OF RUPERT BEAR - RUPERT SERIES Brand new £2,500.00 or Best Offer +£15.00 delivery</p>
	<p>ROYAL DOULTON SMALL SIZE PROTOTYPE CHARACTER JUG OF ALGY PUG - RUPERT BEAR SERIES Brand new £2,500.00 or Best Offer +£15.00 delivery</p>
	<p>ROYAL DOULTON SMALL SIZE PROTOTYPE CHARACTER JUG OF PONG PING - RUPERT BEAR SET Brand new £2,500.00 or Best Offer +£15.00 delivery</p>
	<p>ROYAL DOULTON SMALL SIZE PROTOTYPE CHARACTER JUG OF BILL BADGER RUPERT BEAR SET Brand new £2,500.00 or Best Offer +£15.00 delivery</p>

Rich noted there was no year of creation in the description, but it stated that they were designed by Harry Sales and Modelled by Robert Tabbenor.

The comments on the Facebook post were not flattering!

Wonder if they were bought, and if so, for how much?! Ed

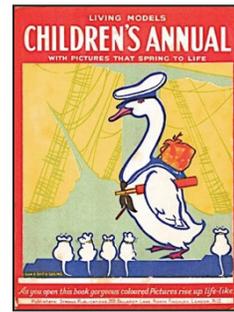
All photos except 1 and 3 © eBay

A Delighted Follower

Follower Hans Matla was recently delighted to become the proud owner of the Living Models Children's Annual, produced c1935 – especially as he had been searching for it since 1980.

Hans says:

“Besides the story **Rupert's Winter Sports**, the book also contains some wonderful pop-up illustrations, including one with **Rupert and the twins Reggie and Rex Rabbit** throwing snowballs at each other.”



and he felt that since not many Rupert fans will have a copy of this special book, he would like to share a couple of images of the pop-up illustrations with you all.

Note: this is one of the very rare books John B mentioned in his article that appears on page 14

Post Box Toppers

Many Followers will have observed the proliferation of post box toppers that have appeared over the past number of years.

We nabbed images of these fantastic Rupert toppers.

There may have been more out there – anyone had any sightings?



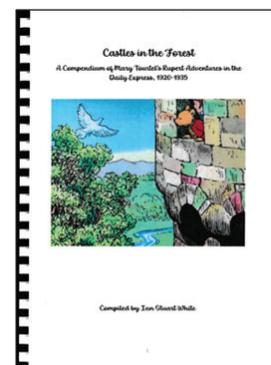
photos from the UK Post Box Toppers and More on Facebook (a public group)

Castles in the Forest

The second edition of Ian White's excellent compendium of Mary Tourtel's Rupert adventures in the Daily Express: Castles in the Forest, is still available in print and at the original price of £25.00 including UK postage and packing. We have heard some very favourable comments indeed from some satisfied Followers about this book.

It is also available for download on the Followers' website.

Enquires to Ian White at i.white1234@btinternet.com



Sampson Low – Print Runs for Early Tourtel Books

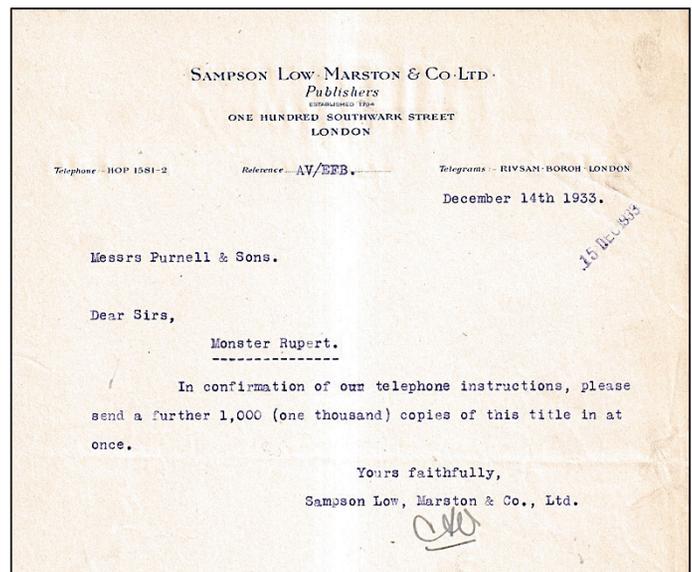
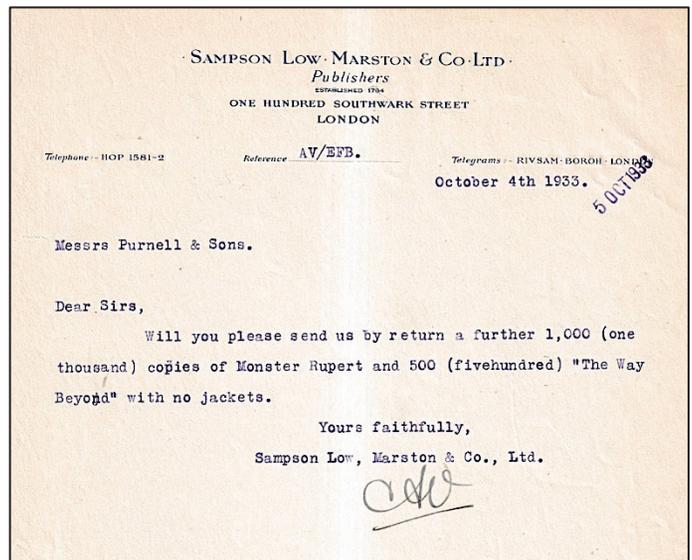
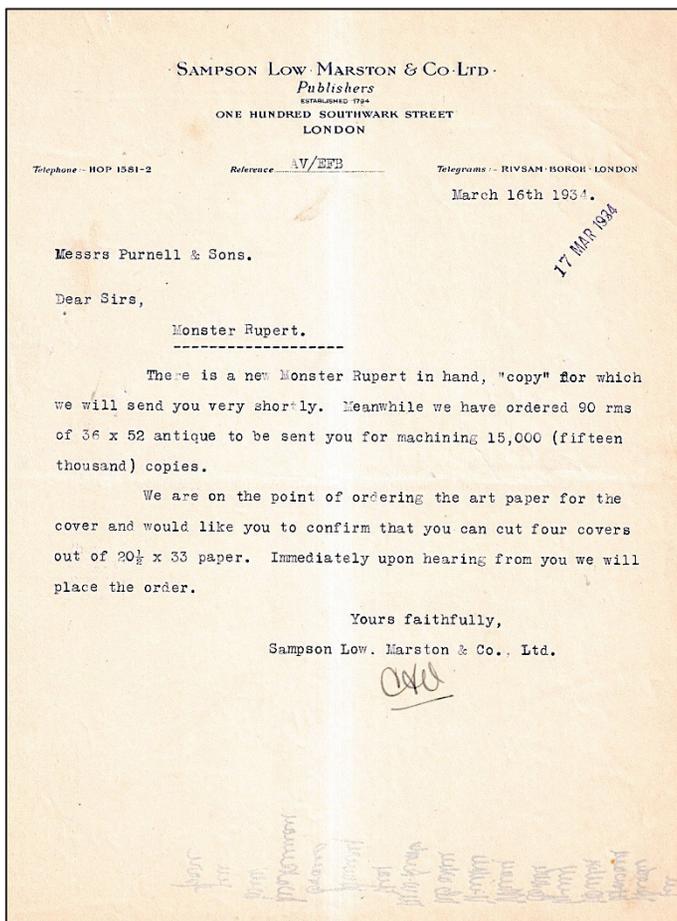
I have noted in earlier articles that the recorded print runs noted in Sampson Low's Day Books for the later numbers of the Little Bear Libraries (firsts and subsequent reprints), always seemed to be in quantities of around 15,000. It is believed that 7,500 sheets of the 15,000 were used in the production of Rupert Little Bear's Adventures No. 1 and No. 2, and then the remaining 7,500 sheets were bound up into the story volumes comprising The Rupert Little Bear Series (1925 - 1927).

Similarly, the initial printing of Rupert Little Bear's Adventures No. 3 is noted in a Sampson Low letter as 7,500. It is believed that these 7,500 sheets were bound up as Rupert Little Bear's Adventures No. 3 and the reduced print run indicates that there were no plans to produce these stories in The Rupert Little Bear Series. I have no record of there being any subsequent

reprint made despite there being at least two different issues known, one with pictorial endpapers and the other plain.

The four Monster Rupert books (1931 to 1934), were planned to have print runs of 15,000 and this certainly happened for the first three. Correspondence relating to the 1934 edition indicates an initial call for 7,500 copies and later a further 750, 250 and then 3000, so one presumes that the 15,000 were probably printed as originally planned and then batches drawn from the printed stock at a later date.

John Beck



On our Fun Day this year, Martin Cooper entertained the assembled masses as we all eagerly awaited the raffle draw:

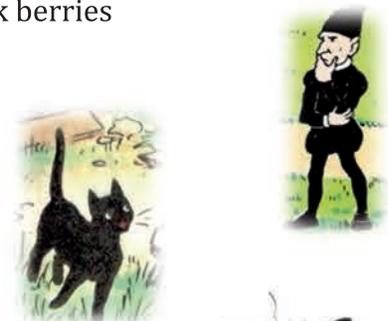
I'm not the RUPERT Follower; I leave that stuff to Joy
I'm more a DC Comics – or Heath Robinson – sort of boy
Don't get me wrong, I like the Bear and join in with the fun
But I'm the one who fixes things from eBay, when they're won
I always loved the Gala meal and interventions many
So I thought I'd add my contribution – it's my worth of penny.

It's always been a pleasure, to take a little look
At the older Rupert Indexes replaced by the latest book,
I don't know when the first came out – the one by Lofts and Adley
But considering the age of it, it hasn't done too badly,
I know it was revised in '91 by our John Beck
I think we all felt it was time for *another* one, by heck.
We keep a note of annuals and other stuff we've bought
But the Index is fantastic, to see what we've *not* got,
It's full of books and stories that we didn't know were there
It helps us look for extra bits concerning Little Bear
I owe a lot to John (and Pam) for such a splendid source
Most of what I'm about to say came straight from there, of course,
The list of stories A to Z was really useful stuff
I found so many threads in there – this isn't off the cuff!

I thought I'd look for stories that start with names of friends
Apparently, 5 start with 'Algy', then 'Bill' – he starts off 10,
'Podgy' starts off 5 of them and 'Bingo' has just 3
'Edward's' 3, 'Pong Ping' is 2 and 1 for Tigerlily.
The count with 'Beppo' goes to 6 and 'Margot' 5. Or 4
If you exclude alternative titles from the score.

'Christmas' gets a mention, in 18 stories – and
Another 4 have 'Christmastide' – you really have to hand
It to the authors – they're full of festive words:
Two 'Puddings' and 5 'Trees', as well as 'Cake', and 'Birds'
Then 4 with 'Uncle', 4 with 'Missing', 8 begin with 'Lost'
In all 13 concerned some 'Snow' but none included frost
It's no surprise that 'Magic' scored a 12 in the list of stories.
Black Cats, Black Dwarfs, Black Imps, Black Moths and even some Black berries
Appeared in tales in various tomes – and so did 'Young', and 'Old';
8 yarns began with 'Old', 4 'Young' and 12 with 'New', were told.

Considering it's the place they live, I was surprised to find
Just 2 that mention 'Nutwood', I hope the chums don't mind.
And 6 involve a Mystery but none relate to spying.
Although it's quite a common theme, only 2 begin with 'Flying'
I found 8 'Dragon' stories, plus 'Young Dragon' and a 'Snap'
There was a 'Winged Hat' too – I didn't see a Cap
You'll find at least 5 Secrets, and 6 set by the Sea
And 7 Birthday stories there – and one with a Man that's Wee



But the word that starts the stories most is 'Little' – no surprise
At over 20 – plus Little-Bear-Library – it certainly takes the prize,
So if Stuart's looking for new ideas I hope this is food for thought
So thanks again to John and Pam – without them, this would be nought!

the non-Rupert images above are freely available on the internet

A nice little call out for Rupert in the Daily Telegraph in August

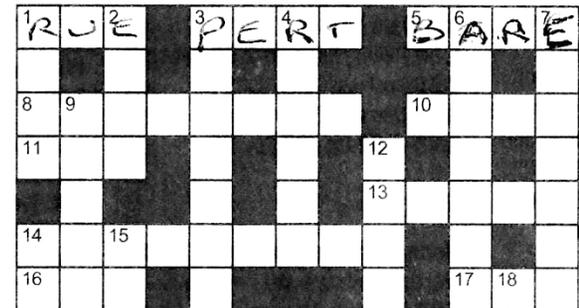
Lovely to see our Little Bear crop up in the Telegraph's Quick Crossword where the first three across answers when read together make a common phrase – or name.

Many thanks to
Valerie Haworth
for sharing this little snippet
from 25 August.

Quick Crossword

Across

- 1 Regret (3)
- 3 Lively, cheeky (4)
- 5 Unclothed (4)
- 8 Landing strip (8)
- 10 Unfeeling (4)
- 11 Put on (clothing) (3)
- 13 Bellini opera (5)
- 14 Bathroom accessory



Ray Brooks

Followers were sad to learn of the passing of actor Ray Brooks who narrated the BBC 1980s Rupert TV series. Ray had a beautiful voice which really brought the Rupert stories to life.

Ray wasn't quite so keen on Rupert as we were on listening to him: in a Daily Mirror article in 2017 (featured in NN 97) Ray was quoted as saying "I used to have a couple of pints before recording it, to numb my brain for his terrible rhymes. He's such a stupid little character."

Official media reports of your passing may have omitted to mention your Rupert connection, but we still remember you fondly here in Nutwood. RIP Ray.



photo from the BBC obit 10 August.

FOLLOWERS' SALES – BRAND NEW ITEMS

Lovely new items in Followers' Sales: all these things are **FRESH AND NEW DESIGNS**

- T shirts – brand new design
- Prints – new for summer 2025
- A3-size 2026 calendar: plenty of room to write appointments
- Notepads – new style
- 2025 AGM Badge

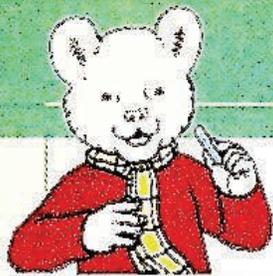
*See the Sales List enclosed in this newsletter
All these items are available on the Followers' website*



DON'T MISS OUT! All Followers' Sales items are limited editions

Something else from John Beck's amazing archive:

In the early 2000s, the Express published a small magazine called 'Puzzled?'



RUPERT'S HIDDEN COLOURS

Answers on
page 45

Rupert loves painting. Can you find the 38 listed colours hidden in Rupert's grid. Leftover letters reveal six other paintbox items

L	T	H	B	L	R	M	M	A	G	E	N	T	A	A
A	U	E	I	S	H	A	M	W	A	C	G	K	Q	S
R	T	L	R	I	E	U	E	S	O	R	N	U	A	E
O	A	I	V	R	S	V	T	E	E	I	A	G	R	P
C	R	O	C	T	A	E	E	Y	P	M	E	H	O	I
P	R	T	A	F	W	C	L	N	A	S	C	A	U	A
Y	P	R	E	F	O	E	O	R	R	O	H	A	G	D
E	D	O	L	U	L	M	I	T	C	N	E	N	E	E
N	R	P	B	B	L	N	V	A	T	L	S	N	J	R
I	Y	E	A	A	E	B	T	O	N	A	T	E	E	X
R	E	C	S	C	Y	A	N	E	S	K	N	I	T	O
A	T	O	P	A	E	S	T	A	S	E	U	S	B	B
M	I	B	E	M	M	L	S	C	I	S	T	T	L	R
A	H	A	A	N	O	R	F	F	A	S	U	N	A	A
R	W	L	V	E	R	D	I	G	R	I	S	R	C	L
T	F	T	A	C	H	E	R	R	Y	N	V	U	K	L
L	F	R	E	N	C	H	N	A	V	Y	A	B	R	I
U	O	N	E	E	R	G	E	L	T	T	O	B	S	P

CHROME YELLOW
PILLAR BOX RED
CRIMSON LAKE
BURNT SIENNA
PRUSSIAN BLUE
BOTTLE GREEN
ULTRAMARINE

TERRACOTTA
AQUAMARINE
SALMON PINK
FRENCH NAVY
HELIOTROPE
JET BLACK
VERDIGRIS

OFF WHITE
CHESTNUT
MUSTARD
MAGENTA
SAFFRON
COBALT
CHERRY

MAUVE
VIOLET
RUSSET
CREAM
CORAL
ROUGE
FLAME

SABLE
OCHRE
SEPIA
IVORY
LILAC
ROSE
CYAN

BUFF
SAGE
GREY

The magazine featured Rupert, and as it's likely not many of you will have seen this, you might like to relax after your Christmas pud. and ponder on a Rupert puzzle.

DOT TO DOT

Join the dots to find out what Rupert is doing

♣ ...next card HIGHER OR LOWER? ♣

North West Group October Meeting

It was grand to be welcomed again by Shirley Green, Eric and Paul – on the weekend before the clocks went back, this time, which gave us the benefit of more daylight.

Owing to ‘doctor’s notes’ and transport problems there were only 6 of us – and our journeys were something of an adventure. The road to Shirley’s house being unexpectedly closed for road works, we faced an obstacle course of ‘diversion’ signs – which ended some way from our destination. Presumably the Fox brothers had been up to their usual tricks and moved them but our ‘mental compasses’ worked.

Those who had been to the Annual reported their enjoyment of the day and facilities. Inevitably we were all saddened – but not surprised – by the total absence of any new commercial ‘Rupertabilia’ as children become even less aware of him, but at least some Annuals

have now appeared in T.G. Jones / W.H. Smith (already on a ‘3 for 2’ offer) and elsewhere.

After much nattering and enjoying Shirley’s scrumptious – and totally calorie-free (I lie) buffet, our hostess produced some more choice items from her Rupert collection which none of us had previously seen anywhere, including a lovely 1930’s-type curtain and other things which had Lily Duckling reaching for her phone-camera, and which might appear in future newsletters.

After saying goodbye to Tigerlily who had to leave early (and got caught in a torrential downpour on the M6) Eric produced another of his fiendish quizzes – just general knowledge this time – and some lovely shortbread was won by Wendy and Lily D.

The meeting promptly wrapped up and everyone was on the road home in time to arrive before dark.

Tigerlily

Ephemera Corner

A Rupert Money Box

There have been a number of Rupert Money Boxes produced, but this is probably one of the first.

We would like to hear from anyone who can show us an earlier example. This one is six inches high; made of tin, and is copyright dated ‘Express Newspapers plc 1982’. It also has ‘Carefully Made in Great Britain’ printed under the date. The producer is noted as ‘Goodtime Toys by Green Monk’.



The images are transfer printed and there is a plastic cover on the base to liberate any coins inserted.

It is a delightfully produced quality product that was no doubt put to good use by all thrifty Rupert collectors and fans.

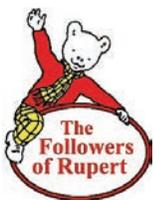
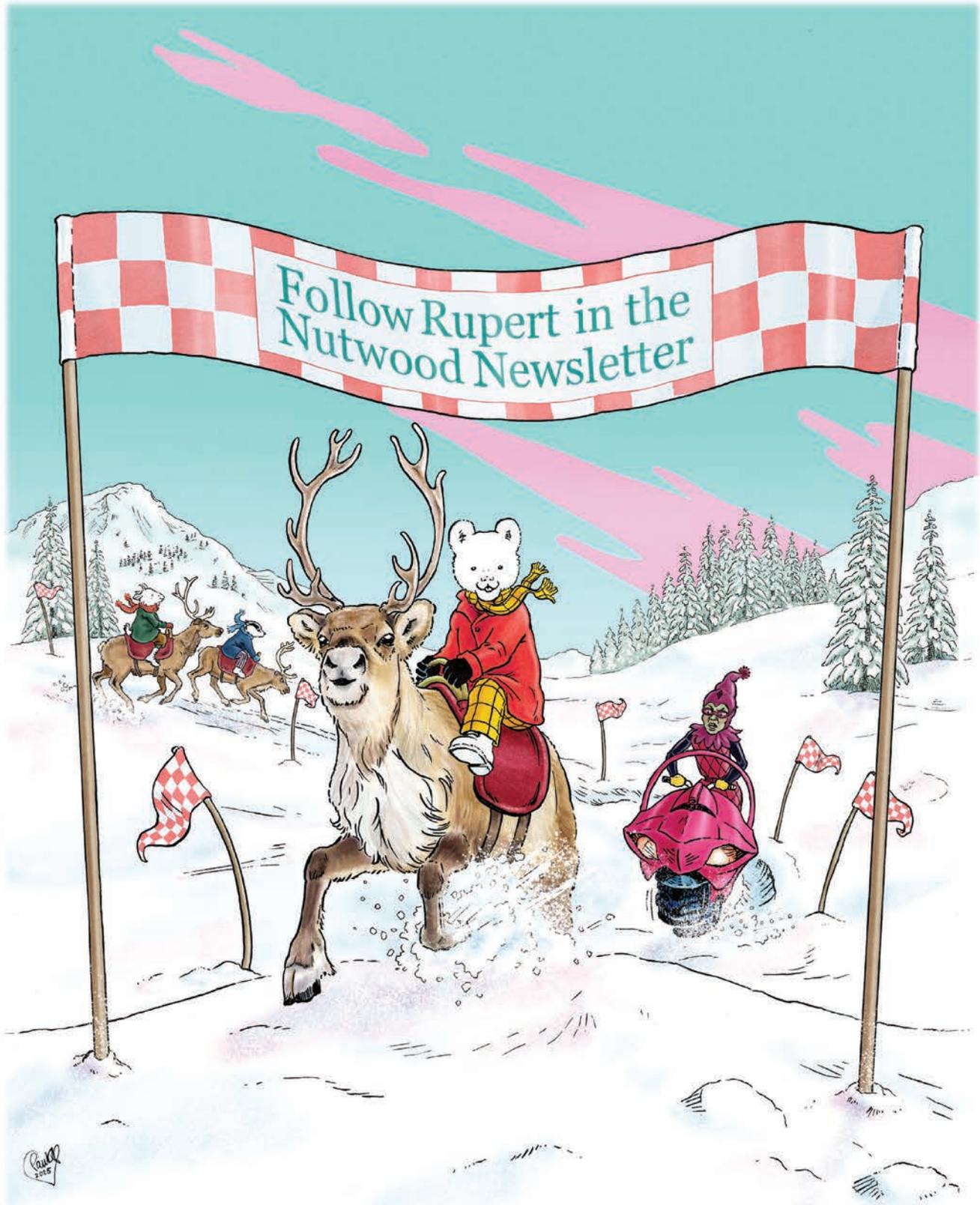
The Ephemera Archive Elf

Nutwood Postbag

It was lovely to see old friends and new at the AGM. I would like the Committee to know how much I enjoyed the event this year. As I’ve got older I’ve become less mobile so it was nice to

have the option to sit down more and I also liked the smaller meals; my stomach was a lot happier. It’s now time to start saving for next year.

Best Wishes, Anita Greenaway



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