

# Nutwood Newsletter



*Number 77 - Winter 2010*

# Chairman's Report and Seasonal Greetings

I pen these words just a few days before Rupert's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I am sure you'll agree that Tony and his team did him proud with all the celebratory events at August's AGM.

My personal highlight was probably the honour of bestowing on the Followers' behalf Life Membership on Mary Cadogan and Caroline Bott, and although Caroline was unable to join us on this occasion, Mary was with us both during the day and at our celebratory Dinner where as always she spoke with warmth and eloquence. Two marvellous ladies who have given us such support over the years and who truly merited their awards.

It was also excellent to have Ian Robinson present to speak to us about his new Rupert Companion and I trust that most of you will now have received your copies of this sumptuous publication – a worthy tribute to our little nonagenarian chum, as is the new Annual with its array of Rupert artists among whom Stuart Trotter looks increasingly at home.

You may remember that in my last ramblings I mentioned that the Gooseberry Fool was to have a worthy companion and I'm sure everyone who was there will have been suitably impressed by Terry Webster's marvellous model of Podgy. I'm sure he'll be a regular attender.

On the business side of the AGM I'm grateful to all for their support for the changes that we are making as a result of the financial situation, not only those who were present, but also those who couldn't be there but took the trouble to respond to my invitation to let me have their views.

While on the business side of things, those who were there will know that the Officers were all re-elected for a further year except that Shirley is to stand down as Sales Officer although continuing to fulfil orders until the end of this year. However, since the meeting, Ray has decided to stand down as Membership Secretary. Shirley and Ray have been real stalwarts of the Followers for many years, as recognised at last year's AGM when Shirley was elected as an Honorary Life Member. I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to them and I hope and trust that we will continue to see them at future events. Meanwhile matters relating to membership are, at the moment, being dealt with by Tony Griffin and his family to whom we are, as always, very grateful.

Returning to Rupert's 90<sup>th</sup> I'd like to share with you a letter I've received from Follower Stephen Turner. Stephen's mother, Mildred, (nee Rampton) was pushed in her pram by Alfred and he went on holiday with her parents in the 1930's. Stephen and the other children in the family received an Annual from Alfred every Christmas as did the Three Guides who were in the same circle and graced us with their presence at our AGM in 2005. In later years, Alfred stayed at Mildred's home. Most remarkably, Mildred was born the day before Rupert's first appearance – on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1920. However, I'm sure that the first copies of the Daily Express would have started rolling off the presses before midnight on the 7<sup>th</sup>.



*Mildred, Beryl, and, of course, Rupert*

Anyway, I know you'll all be pleased to know that I'm sending a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday card to Mildred on behalf of us all - and that one of the Guides, Beryl, will be at Mildred's party!

At the other end of the age range, we also have a member of the Junior Club – Luke Storey – who will be 8 years old on 8<sup>th</sup> November. So Happy Birthday all round, how succinctly this all illustrates Rupert's timeliness and his appeal across all generations.

So, on that happy note, let me end my wishing you and yours all the best for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

*John Swan*

## Contents

Chairman's Greetings .....	2
Editorial, AGM report and news .....	3
Meeting 2010 A Follower's View .....	4
Pictures of a Fun Day .....	6
Ian Robinson talks to the Followers .....	7
Raffle report .....	7
Hello from Jackie Lee .....	8
Junior club update.....	9
Birthdays in Nutwood.....	10
Making Golly .....	14
Rupert at Police Conferences.....	15
Rupert in Daily Express .....	17
Why I joined the Guides.....	19
Review of the 2010 Annual.....	20
Nutwood Postbox .....	22

## Editorial

Well, Rupert's 90 now and still going strong. There was a small feature on BBC Breakfast on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> November with Stuart Trotter, and of course there was the excellent feature in the BBC South East programme Inside Out that evening, (if you didn't see it we hope to be able to send everyone a DVD copy in NN78), plus a few mentions on local radio. The Daily Express carried a two-page spread on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, presumably in time to remind those who had forgotten to send Rupert a birthday card. Still, with Ian's welcome Rupert Companion, and the 1966 facsimile plus the new format Rupert Annual, there are a number of quality publications available to buy someone for Christmas.

The Chairman has noted in his Report the changes agreed at the AGM. It is our aim to continue to provide you with value for your subscription, and we would hope you can also do your bit to support the Followers by enrolling new members, something which will help us to afford to be able to provide extra pages to the Newsletter.

In the meantime the Committee and the Editorial team wish you a happy Christmas and a Ruperty New Year.

## Followers' News



### AGM report

It was agreed at the 2010 AGM that subscriptions should increase to £28 for single UK membership with other rates pro rata. To save postage costs it was agreed to reduce the number of Newsletters to three larger ones per year and the membership period would be for 12 months. As well as the Newsletters subscription would include the Calendar plus other offerings from time to time.

The 2011 AGM will be at Warwick on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August, so please note it on your calendar.

### Bestall Exhibition

Caroline and Alan Bott have passed the archive they inherited from Alfred Bestall to the Bodleian Library. The Bodleian are putting many items on show at an exhibition which will run from 13<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> January, and if you have never had the pleasure of viewing the Bestall pictures at Rake Court, then this is a great opportunity to admire Alfred's talent. The exhibition coincides with a re-launch of Caroline's book, *The Life and works of Alfred Bestall*, now reissued with enhanced images.

### New Membership Secretary

Just to confirm that Tony Griffin has taken on the post of Membership Secretary. His contact details, and those for all Committee members, are noted on your Rupert calendar.

# Annual Meeting 2010

## A Follower's View of the Day

It was lights, camera and action at the AGM this year as the BBC were invited to film events and interviews for inclusion in a programme to help celebrate Rupert's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Producer David Richardson and his assistant Sarah Brinicombe were fascinated by the whole event and along with their crew were kept busy all day. It was all very professional and very discrete and apart from a couple of alterations to the regular schedule we hardly knew they were there.

They filmed interviews with Stuart Trotter, Ian Robinson and Follower's chairman John Swan as well as other aspects like the origami table and the play. We're all fascinated to see how it all turns out when shown on the Inside Out programme due to be screened on 8<sup>th</sup> November along with hopefully a mention on the national news programme in this special year for Rupert.



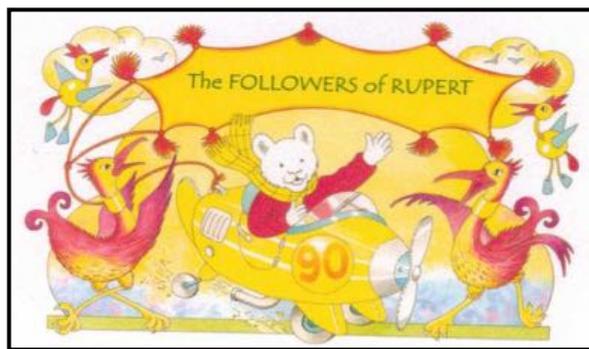
The day was as beautifully organised as ever and with more Follower's in attendance than last year it was time to greet old friends and hopefully

make new ones.

*Stuart signs for an eager Follower*

It was certainly a busy trading day although there were fewer stalls than last year. Still plenty of opportunities to add to your Rupert collection with annuals from Chris and Maria of Stella And Rose's Books (regulars at the AGM) and it was great to have book dealer Sarah Key back with us after a gap of about fifteen years. Followers' Secretary John Beck had his usual stall too and he always seems to have rare and exciting items on offer.

For many of the other regular dealers it was bargain basement day, particularly on annuals from the eighties, nineties and noughties which were being offered between three and five pounds each. Many



traders like Ralph Gill also offered other collectable items like Betty Boop, vintage Wade and tin toys as well as Rupert. One notable absentee was the Royal Doulton stand as they have now ceased trading. Many people have been collecting their fine Rupert figures so their loss will be felt although it seems they had rather flooded the market.

Current Rupert author Stuart Trotter had his usual extensive annual signing. A fan of Rupert since 1958 he was more than happy to make personal dedications and spoke of his love of writing and illustrating the annual. Each story is regulated to forty panels and the rhyming couplets are supplied by editor Beth Harwood. Later he came into the trading hall and was delighted to receive a special pewter model of Clara Cat from Classic Rupert Bear Miniatures as a special gift. Clara was introduced in Stuart's first Rupert story so he was quite overwhelmed with the presentation. Ian Robinson and Mary Cadogan were also floating in our midst and happy to talk to anyone about their association with Rupert.



*John Hunt explained all about modelling Rupert*

During the official section of the AGM we were asked to vote on the cutting down of the Nutwood newsletter from four issues to three a year. The high

standard of production and the use of colour will be retained, but presented in three bigger issues to save on postage costs as these are the biggest expenditure of the society. An increase in membership subscriptions is also necessary so both motions were carried.

Life memberships were awarded to author Mary Cadogan and Alfred Bestall's Goddaughter, Caroline Bott. Mary was delighted with the award and was keen to point out that she's not as old as Rupert although she was born in the same decade! She's still a big fan of Rupert and loves the way he represents all the good values of life. Sadly Caroline was unable to attend but her books on Alfred and his Punch and Tatler art work are much appreciated and important parts of the Rupert story.



*Ian and our own Wise Old Goat*

After lunch Nick Ladbroke of the Rupert Bear Shop took to the stage and informed us that the fabulous Steiff adaptations of Rupert and his chums are still as popular as ever. The forthcoming model will be Rupert dressed in winter wear and in celebration of Rupert's 90<sup>th</sup> they are looking at producing Mr and Mrs Bear. Other new items available include prints from Lollipop, a Rupert notebook/journal and loads of very reasonably priced Rupert Christmas cards. He also talked about the new Wade Whimsies models of Rupert and chums as they look like becoming a very popular item, tiny but quite beautiful.

Ian Robinson gave a talk about his new Rupert Companion book that is due for publication sometime before Christmas. Egmont approached him to produce it and he really enjoyed the research which involved going to visit the Daily Express archives. He looked at the newspaper right back to 1919, the year before Mary Tourtel's Rupert appeared for the first time, and it helped to show what an impact the Little Bear

made. The Rupert panel was placed on the domestic pages along with home adverts so it was a cosy setting for a mother to read to her children. He looks at the development of Rupert over the years and at some of the paraphernalia and products that surround him. He also commented on how the merchandise always seems to come in waves as interest is heightened and then wanes.

This is often linked with TV coverage of course and recently there's been much more emphasis on items aimed at the collectors.

John Hunt presented a fascinating talk on modelling a 3D Rupert from the flat images of a picture. The covers are the most useful as they include shading so give some references of depth but mainly Rupert himself is kept as simple as possible. This means he remains the centre of interest and the bold use of red, white and yellow for him ensures that he dominates the scene regardless of light source. It certainly gave us all food for thought. This year's dramatic production was well produced with a more complex story line than usual. It required the chums to rescue a princess from a wizard who had turned evil and imprisoned her. They had to find a magic stream and take some of its water back to the wizard and trick him into drinking it so that his evil side was released. Fortunately all was achieved and the princess was delighted. All too soon it was time for the raffle with the usual eclectic mixture of T-shirts, artwork



*Mary Cadogan at the Followers' Gala evening*



*The exquisitely set tables*

and unique items, then as the traders packed up their stalls it was time for those of us not attending the evening meal to head home again. Once again out heartfelt thanks to all concerned for their fantastic efforts in making this such a special event each year.

**Roger Newell**

## Followers were greeted by Rupert and his Chums



## All enjoyed the sellers' bourse



## The Origami, balloons and face painting proved very popular

## The Great Barloni worked his magic ...



and the play, filmed by the BBC, was, as ever, a joy and a delight!



## Ian Robinson talks to the Followers

Ian is a very amiable person and was delighted to explain how he joined the Express in 1989 as James Henderson was about to retire. During his interview with James he was given some panels and asked to produce some rhyming couplets. This took him by surprise but he did so and as Henderson claimed they 'weren't bad' he was given that job too. John Harrold, who had illustrated a Rupert cookbook that a friend had been asked to do, was asked to take on the main job of illustrating the stories. John liked to work at night and he later went to live in France so most of the story developments were done between them by fax. Ian would send John the episodes and would receive rough sketches back. Once he had these he could finish the story properly but there was always high pressure to complete on time.



*Ian addresses the meeting watched by a large dragon*

The Express gave him and Harrold total creative freedom and Ian said how much he enjoyed his time working on the Rupert stories and working closely with John. They always had good fun together and often picked up story ideas from common phrases like the sands of time and April fool. The real challenge was to make things happen differently. John's work was cinematic in character, like a film storyboard, and he would often suggest changes to the stories to keep the general flow consistent.

When Eve Pollard became editor she wanted new Rupert stories in full colour for the new magazine supplement. This necessitated using artist Marjorie Owens in tandem with John Harrold in order to keep to the deadlines. Marjorie had a more open style of picture panels that was really good for the younger

readers. As for TV developments it seems that Paul McCartney's Frog Chorus production set a very high benchmark. When Nelvana took up the reins they had never heard of Rupert so Ian went to Toronto to fill them in.



*Ian meets some dodgy characters*

Ian loved writing the stories and *Rupert and the Magic Chalk*, where they were able to push the boundaries on what could be done, stands out in his mind. He enjoyed introducing new characters but has an obvious fondness for Ottoline. There's no story left untold, he says, but although he could come up with something new if asked, he would still want it to be with John Harrold. However if they did, he feels that it just wouldn't be the same after such a long time so is perhaps best left alone. Ian feels lucky to be a part of it all particularly as part of the team he worked with. His new book is a chronological overview and he feels that a lot of Rupert's values persist and is optimistic about people relating to Rupert stories today.

*Roger Newell*

## Rupert Raffle

We are pleased to report that the Rupert raffle was again very successful. Thank you to those who gave prizes and all who bought tickets. All prizes have now been sent out.

Stamps are being recycled and all tickets and forms are going for compost.

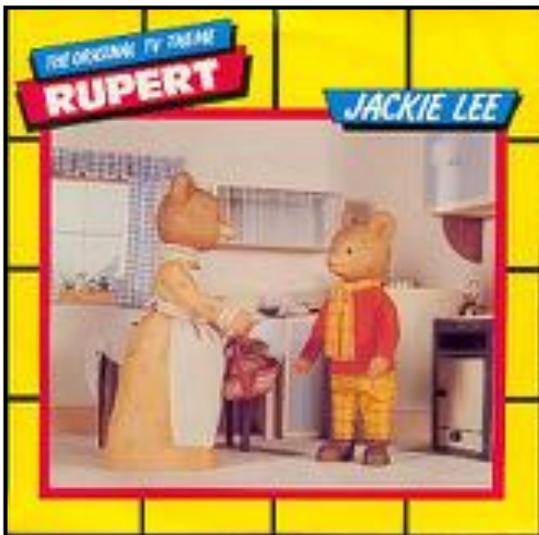
We enjoyed meeting you all and look forward to next year.

*The Raffle Elves*

# A big hello to all Followers from Jackie Lee

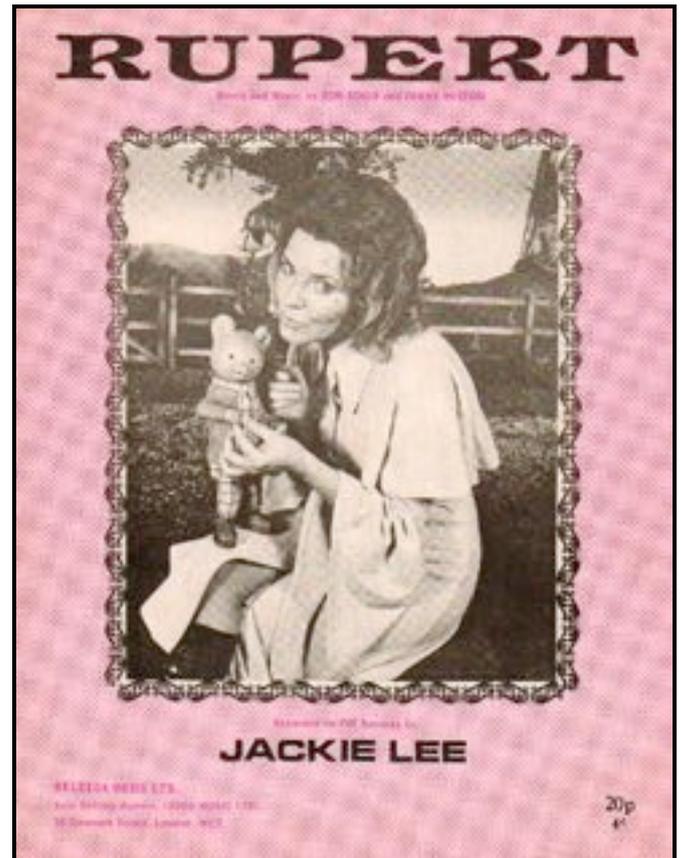
*Follower Richard Ball has sent us an interesting item by Jackie Lee who, in 1970, recorded the iconic Rupert song which accompanied the ITV television programmes featuring Rupert as a puppet. We are sure many of you have sung along with Jackie when you have heard her singing this song.*

A big hello to all you wonderful people who are members of the Followers of Rupert. I had no idea that this society had been in existence for such a long time until I was contacted by Richard Ball. Of course, I did not hesitate to inform Ron Roker\* with this information. He was as thrilled as me to hear about it. Unfortunately Len Beadle\* (aka Frank Weston) passed away some time ago. I know that he would also have been delighted to hear about The Followers of Rupert were he still alive.



I must say I was delighted to have been part of the Rupert series from the very start. I remember recording it with Len and Ron at the Pye Studio. They both did a fabulous job making the single and with Len's arrangement of the recording and myself doing the vocals, we were delighted with the final outcome. When I started to record the song I wanted it to sound happy, light and carefree. I think I succeeded in doing that. The clip clop sound was also a funny addition and a perfect sound for the recording. I remember Len used to make that noise by clapping his hands in front of his open mouth.

We were both part of a vocal group called The Raindrops and when we travelled across the country there were times – just to make us laugh and keep us amused – that he would make that same sound.



We would fall into fits of laughter and in fact he could actually play a tune by making that same noise.

It has amazed me how that sweet little song has lasted through the years and has evoked such happy memories for so many people. I do enjoy reading and answering all the comment I receive on my "Golden Shot" You Tube in which I appear miming to my recording of Rupert and incidentally, on all the "White Horses" You Tube as well – another of my affectionately remembered TV series hits. I feel so honoured to have been associated with both songs.

I also recorded Rupert in German and that was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. It took me some time to get it right as the German language doesn't lend itself to sounding happy.

I did the best I could with my accent. I wrote all the lyrics down phonetically and found it rather hard getting the pronunciation correct and it took more Studio time than we thought it would. However, I got through it as best I could in the end! Both the German version and the English original version can be heard on a recent CD of mine called “End of the Rainbow” that was released by Roker Records. (Cherry Red Records)



A lot of people have recorded Rupert since I sang the original and there was a Music for Pleasure (MFP) budget label recording which was made in the 70's by someone else trying to sound like me. A few people have confused it with my original but on that Rupert recording some of the lyrics are wrong. For instance the line “Little Tiger Lily” the lyrics have been changed to “Lily Tiger Lily” and also the arrangement is slightly different. I suppose to be aped is a form of flattery, but it is definitely not my voice!

I hope you all enjoy reading this little insight into my involvement with Rupert and if and when I next get to the UK I would love to meet some of you in person. Maybe Richard could set that up for me.

Last but not least, I hope you all enjoy celebrating along with Rupert the achievement of him reaching his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!!

*Jackie Lee*

*\* Ron Roker was the song-writer who – in conjunction with Len Beadle (Jackie's husband at the time) – co-wrote the lyrics and musical composition for the Rupert song.*

## ***Junior Club update***

The Painting Contest was a great success. Winners chosen by Stuart Trotter were:-

Group 1 (4-6 years) – 1 <sup>st</sup> Amy Watson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jack Webster	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ellie Watson.
Group 2 (7-9 years) – 1 <sup>st</sup> Jack Tarbuck	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thomas Main	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rowan Brearly.
Group 3 (10-14 years) – 1 <sup>st</sup> Megan Tarbuck	2 <sup>nd</sup> Emille Storey	3 <sup>rd</sup> Hannah Caine

Highly commended prizes were awarded to Ben Sidaway and Anthony Bravo.

We would like to thank Stella Books for their continuing support in providing generous prizes for the winners.

Our thanks go to all of the children who took part, and also to those adults attending the AGM who made supportive comments to both Eddie and me.

We now have 125 members, with five recruited on the day, but would ask those family sponsors of children to ensure that we are sent the annual subscription of £3 (cheques payable to Followers of Rupert) and also advise us when there is a change of address.

*Valerie Tarbuck (Aunty Val)*

# Nutwood Birthdays - Any Happy Returns?

*In Rupert's special birthday year, a look at when to send the other cards!*

One of the key features of Nutwood is status quo, particularly demographically. No-one dies; nobody gets born - each new adventure begins with the same starting point both in time and space.

Given this constant, anniversaries need to be soft-pedalled. Seasons and festivals are not individual specific so summer and Christmas stories can abound every year with perfect safety.

This is not true of birthdays. Birthdays are specific to individuals and it is unsurprising, therefore, that they should appear rarely in the canon. How many can you think of? The Rabbit Twins, I recall, had one in Mary Tourtel's time. In *Rupert and the Twins Birthday Cake*, the nice birthday cake that has been baked for the occasion is stolen by two of Mary's regular rogues, Hubert Hippo and Wally Wolf. Acting on information received from a friendly squirrel, Rupert and Bill find where they have hidden it,



*They find a tree in which to hide  
The cake, they shove it deep inside*

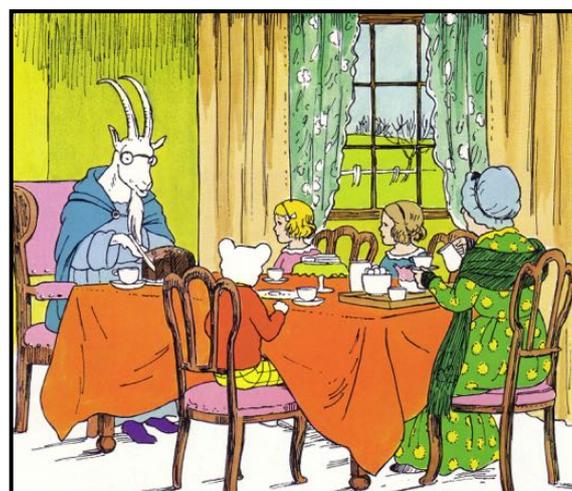
but Hubert and Wally blame them for the theft and, with the cake in their possession, Rupert and Bill are accused by the baker's boy and arrested by a passing policeman. The squirrel and Willie Hedgehog (a precursor of Horace, presumably) enlist the aid of the Wise Old Goat and a

deputation to the police convince them of the pair's innocence. Missing from the happy (Tuesday) birthday gathering in the final frame - big cake prominent - are, unsurprisingly, Hubert and Wally. The story appeared in the Daily Express from 18 May to 11 June 1934 so perhaps we can note the Twins' birthday as occurring in this period, though 11 June 1934, when the party takes place, was actually a Monday.



*A lovely "do", the Rabbit Twins  
Especially love the shortbread thins.*

Another Tourtel birthday cake that runs a gauntlet of thieves is the one Mrs Bear makes for the Wise Old Goat's birthday in *Rupert and the Birthday Cake*.

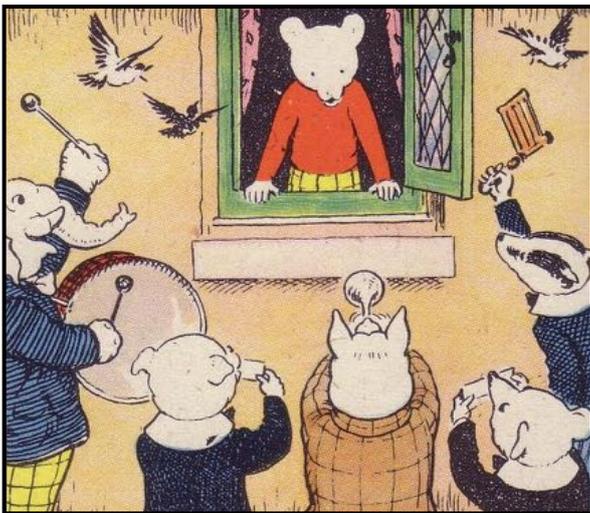


*The party swings with Aunt Belinda,  
Despite the efforts made to hinder.*

Rupert discovers that the Wise Old Goat has gone to Betty Belinda's and a trio of those of whom he asks the way have designs on the cake. Rupert easily outruns Tommy Stout but is deceived by the Beggar Dog, who is tripped by Mr Reynard as he tries to get away. Reynard also deceives the little bear and makes off with the cake, but the Gamekeeper comes up while he is gloating and restores it to Rupert. Two little girls, Selina Jane and Millicent, prove more reliable and guide Rupert to the house of Betty Belinda (their aunt). This story ran from 8 January – 2 February 1926 so Rupert hands the Wise Old Goat his cake and wishes him 'many happy returns of the day,' on or about 30 January. He stays to tea and the girls, almost the only ones who didn't try to steal the cake, are the ones who share in its consumption.



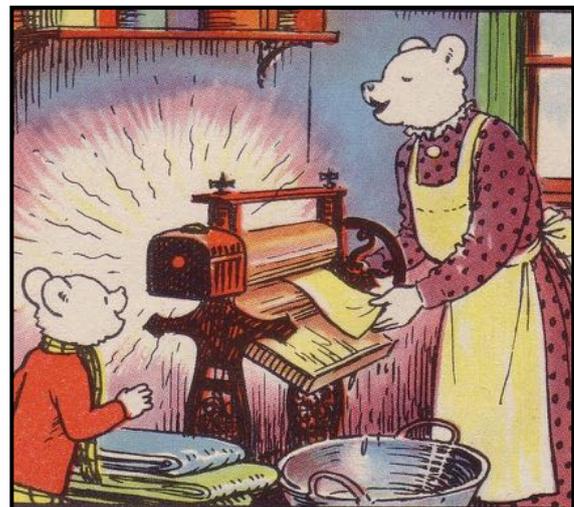
*Ring-a-roses, all dance round,  
"Atishoo" and they hit the ground.*



*The chums a huge effort have made,  
For Rupert's birthday serenade.*

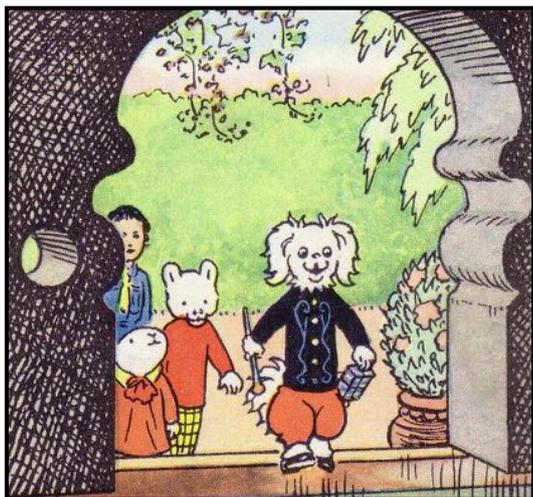
Rupert's own birthday is centre-stage in the story called (appropriately) *Rupert's Birthday*. Most of the action in this occurs actually on the birthday (which took over a month – 6 January to 15 February 1941 - in the newspaper) but the first picture of the birthday morning, with Rupert peering from his window to be greeted by his enthusiastic friends outside, appeared in the Daily Express on 7 January 1941. So, deep in winter during one of the bleakest periods of the Second World War with the Battle of Britain just a few months past and air-raids a nightly menace, Rupert celebrated his birthday – a little light of cheer to set against apparently unrelenting darkness.

True, Lord Beaverbrook tried to keep the front page as upbeat as possible but the first picture of Rupert on his birthday shared a page dominated by eulogies in pictures and prose for Amy Johnson, whose fatal air crash was reported on that day.



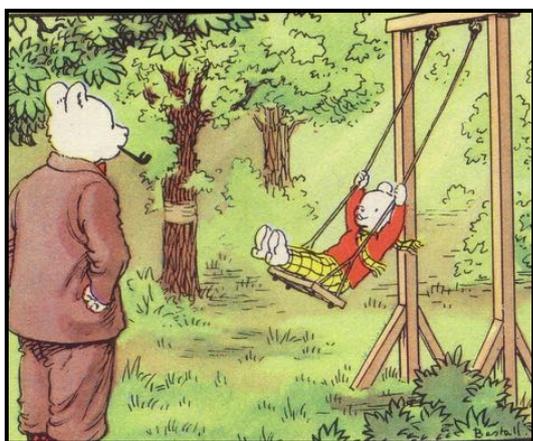
*Mum's voice is very sweet, not strangled  
Singing, while the clothes she mangled.*

Two years later it took its place in the 1943 annual. We could then, I suppose, proclaim this date, 7 January, as Rupert's birthday as a result. True the weather in the story is a good deal brighter than it would have been for its readers (no coats are worn, for instance) and no seasonal indications are given, but winter is when it appeared and with winter it would have been associated by its readers.



*The party's on, let's not be late,  
Follow me through this fine gate".*

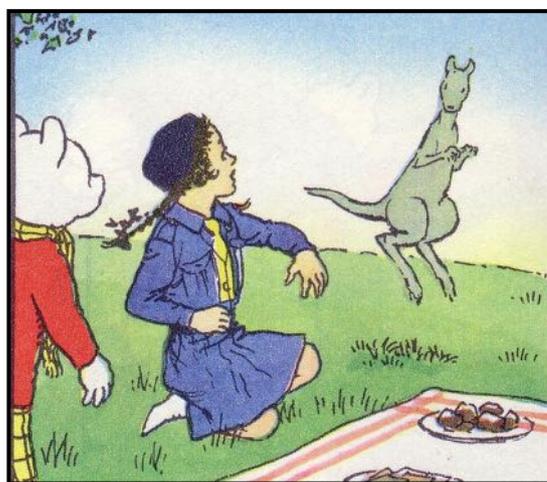
Rupert, it will be recalled, has his height measured in the first frame on the eve of his birthday and, next morning, is disappointed that he hasn't grown in the night. The old Professor comes to his aid with a magic belt that will put this right but it tickles too much for Rupert to keep on and is actually a better fit for the bulkier Podgy. Podgy grows all right, so much so that the shed he is in becomes too small and he finishes up walking with the shed around him smack into the lake. The Professor arrives to reverse the process. With Podgy restored to his normal size, Rupert and Bill see him home and Mrs Pig notes (with remarkable stoicism) that she has some seams to stitch in his clothes. Farmer Giles is amazed that his shed should have moved to exactly the place he wanted it to be but laughs at Rupert's explanation and gives him a new shilling for his birthday.



*Though Rupert thinks his swing is cool,  
He's pestered by a Gooseberry Fool.*

Some years later *Rupert and the Gooseberry Fool* begins 'Mr. Bear has been busy making a fine new swing for Rupert's birthday' and, since the Imps of Spring are involved in this adventure, Spring is the likely season for the tale. It was written specially for the 1950 Annual so there is no newspaper date to check on this time. It does seem to confirm, though, that Rupert's birthday comes in the early months of the year but this clashes with *Rupert's Birthday Adventure* in the 2001 Annual, which begins 'It is Autumn in Nutwood and nearly time for Rupert's birthday.' In this story Rupert and Bill inadvertently win a balloon race and receive a cup from the King of Birds.

Edward's birthday takes place in a story written specially for the 1948 Annual (*Rupert and the Rainbow*) so we have no newspaper date to guide us here, though Edward's determination to have his birthday party out of doors suggests a Thursday in late spring or summer. Thanks to the good offices of the Wise Old Owl and a Courier Bird, Rupert pays his first visit to the Clerk of the Weather. He agrees that Rupert's present to Edward of a warm sunny day is a good idea, which seems to confirm the season.



*"Wallaby flummoxed - who are you?"  
"Actually, I'm a kangaroo".*

There are a number of parties (Rupert hosts one in *Rupert in Mysteryland* and Tigerlily in *Rupert's Strange Party*) but with no mention of there being a birthday attached. Similarly the many gifts Rupert receives from Uncle Bruno come randomly (like the cricket bat in *Rupert, Algy and the Cannibals*) rather than for a specific occasion.

Mrs Bear has a birthday in *Rupert and the Music Man*. Mrs Bear likes music while she works and, at Rupert's request, the Music Man attaches a box to her

mangle that will play all her favourite tunes while she puts the clothes through. The season is not mentioned there (the final frame appeared on 31 March 1944) but, in *Rupert and the Summer Roses* in the 2004 Annual, it is specific, since the adventure happens the day before Midsummer's Eve when (so Sprig the Imp explains) 'the Imps hand over the management of Nutwood to the Autumn Elves.'

*Rupert's Elfin Bell* begins with the news that 'Bill Badger has had a birthday present, a large book of beautiful pictures, and Rupert has gone to look at it.' This appeared in the Daily Express on 21 September 1948, so Bill's birthday must be only a few days before this. Cards for Bill please from mid-September then.

In *Rupert and the Copper Bird*, another 'annual only' story, Gregory Guineapig longs for some magic at his birthday party but with Tigerlily unwell it looks as if he will be disappointed. Instead a Copper Bird seems to be magicked into wishing Gregory a happy birthday and informing him where presents are to be found. In the event this proves to be some Girl Guide trickery, with

Pauline and Beryl making use of a microphone borrowed from the Professor to give the effect. Gregory is delighted, declaring that 'Tigerlily's own magic wouldn't have given us more fun' and a happy last picture shows him enjoying his party with his guests: Rupert, Pauline, Beryl, Bingo and Pong-Ping.

Beryl is about to be the birthday girl in *Rupert and the Birthday Present*, produced for the 1963 Annual. Janet and Pauline are discussing her present with Rupert and Algy when Beryl herself appears with a parrot and a monkey on her shoulders. Sailor Sam is the owner, and is so grateful for their return that he decides to give her a birthday present. Pauline explains that Beryl wants a scarf and a jumper but the other guides can only afford the scarf. Sam undertakes to provide the jumper and does – a kangaroo! Algy thinks this is just a joke but, prompted by Rupert, Beryl accepts the gift and they all picnic happily over the birthday tea.

Mrs Bear has found her birthday book at the start of *Rupert and the Jumping Men* in the 1976 Annual but the only birthday to be mentioned is that of Cousin Luella; not a regular character.



*The birthday party really swings,  
With hats, balloons and cakes and things.*

If we had a birthday book for Nutwood, therefore, it wouldn't be so very full. We would be confused over Rupert and have some indications for Bill, Edward, Gregory, Beryl, Rex and Reggie, The Wise Old Goat and Mrs Bear. There are probably some others I have failed to locate, especially amongst Mary Tourtel's stories. As it is, though, this is not an extensive list. Birthdays are an irregular occurrence in Nutwood and, consequently, there are far from many happy returns in that otherwise happy village.

*I am indebted to The Rupert Index by W. Lofts (updated by John Beck) for the dates some of these stories appeared in the Daily Express, which saved me long treks to Colindale.*

*John Lester*

# Making Golly

I am not sure who suggested I make Golly as a prize for this year's raffle. It was a lovely idea and I spent some very happy hours going through the annuals we had to see what sort of little creature he was.

Golly comes into quite a few adventures in a number of annuals. The earliest I could find in our collection was 1940 "Rupert and the Wrong Presents" and the latest was 1973 "Rupert and the Bouncers". I suspect by that time the anti-Golly brigade was making its mark and he may not have appeared again. As we do not have a complete collection of



annuals, it would be interesting to hear from Followers if he appeared in any more adventures.

My first problem was finding a pattern. It was suggested that I try the internet, but before that I found a pattern in one of my Teddy Bear Times magazines; Golly as a companion to Teddy.

The instructions were to enlarge the original pattern by 50%. I tried making him out of some black material I had, but the pattern proved too small and difficult to turn Golly right side out.

Further experiments with doubling the size were again not satisfactory but by enlarging again, it gave me a much better size to work with.

I tried making the final size in the black material. It really did not seem to be very good at all. The "look" seemed wrong. I decided to use to black felt. This proved to be much easier to work with and looked better. By placing the two body parts together and sewing the felt round the edge on the outside, it gave a very acceptable and golly-looking Gollywog! It was also much easier to handle and eventually stuff with filling as there was no turning the body inside



out. I stuck the facial features on whilst the fabric was flat. It was interesting experimenting with glues; Uhu shrank the felt I was using so I tried Copydex successfully, although you do have to be very neat and careful. By leaving the top of head unsewn, this enabled me to create his spiky hair with black knitting wool and then close up the opening. This was covered by the "hair".

Clothes proved quite tricky. Golly's jacket was always black, but in some annuals the lapels and front edge appeared to be edged in turquoise. There was always a large yellow button on each coat tail. It took more experimenting to get his tailcoat right. The waistcoat was also yellow but his bow tie varied in colour.

His trousers were either striped or checked, again in various colours. The problem was to find stripes or checks in proportion to his size. This meant various visits to fabric shops to see what I could find. Eventually, Roger found the perfect material in the patchwork shop in Hunstanton.

I had to design the waistcoat myself. Fortunately, I had a pattern of a teddy bear's waistcoat and by scaling this down, with various adjustments, I got it correctly sized.

I also had to design the spats. Again, this just took time experimenting with various shapes and sizes to get it right. I did try to make some boots/shoes for Golly, but I just could not get them to look in keeping with him, so abandoned those.

I had great fun making him and was very pleased with the end result. It is not difficult, but does require time, patience and care.

If you would like a copy of the instructions to make one for yourself, please send a large, stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Golly Pattern, St. Catherine's, 3 West Hall Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn PE31 6JG.

I hope you enjoy making Golly.



*Christine Bemrose*

# From Blackpool to Bournemouth Rupert at the Police Conferences

The Police Federation of England and Wales Annual Conference brings together policing representatives and bodies from across the UK, providing the opportunity for discussion and debate, and the sharing of good practice to ensure policing in the twenty first century is able to meet the increasing challenges and expectation it faces. The first annual conference was held in 1919 at Methodist Central Hall in London. It then alternated between Blackpool and Scarborough for a number of years before it was decided the venue at the latter was not up to modern standards so was replaced with Bournemouth with the odd one in Brighton.

The issue of the Mk badges in the early days was timed to coincide with the Conference each May to maximise sales although they were not specifically related to each conference. As we saw with the Christmas issues which first appeared in 1992, another event specific issue, the Conference badge, was added to Brian's catalogue in 1997, almost all being issued on cards depicting the venue for that year and having a seaside theme related to the venue. This meant that there were at least 3 issues per year from that time, the original Mk, the Christmas and the Conference, all accompanied by a small limited edition run and all helping to swell the 'Rupert Fund'.

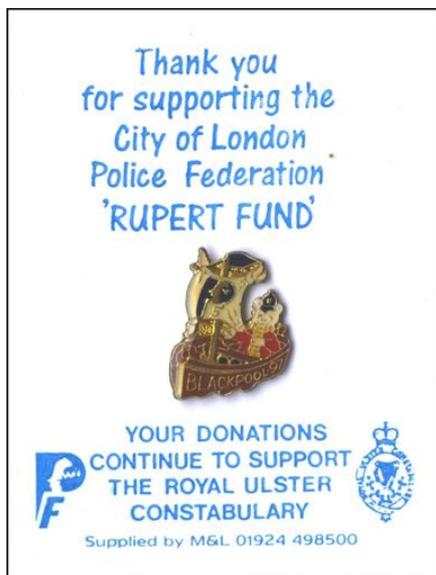
With a couple of these badges we are able to admire Rupert sporting rather more unusual attire in a very modest all-over striped costume and later a very natty wet suit, although in the latter he has not been prepared to give up his scarf! He is also obviously a non-swimmer. 2006 gives us a rare glimpse of his bare legs and feet, a sight not often encountered even in his stories.

In 2000 there were 3 badges issued, the standard (blue helmet) and limited edition (white helmet) plus one with a green ice cream being done on a rerun. In 2005 we had two standard colours plus the limited edition. Please note that the cards for the 2000 standard & limited edition badges carry the words 'limited edition'; being produced for only that year even the standard run was in effect limited. The wording was later dropped to avoid confusion

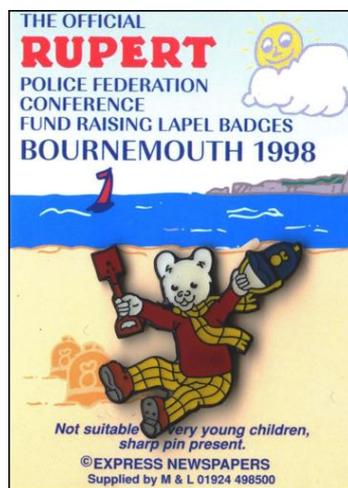
As previously we have pictured the **standard** versions of each badge with the limited edition details noted in brackets where applicable. Limited editions are 150 in number, apart from 250 green boat in 1997 which was done as a rerun, not a limited edition and 100 of the bucket (helmet) & spade in 1998.

*Shirley Reeves*

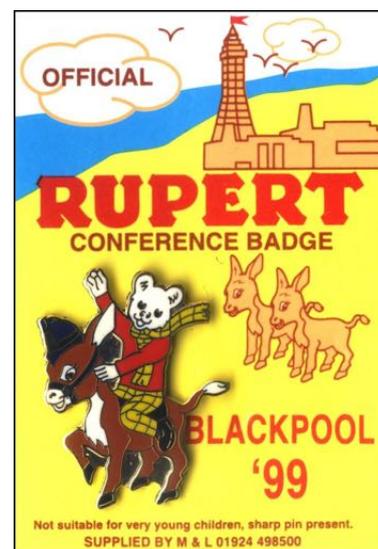
*with thanks to Brian Adkins & Gareth Willcock*



1997 (rerun: green boat, no card)



1998 (ltd ed: white helmet)



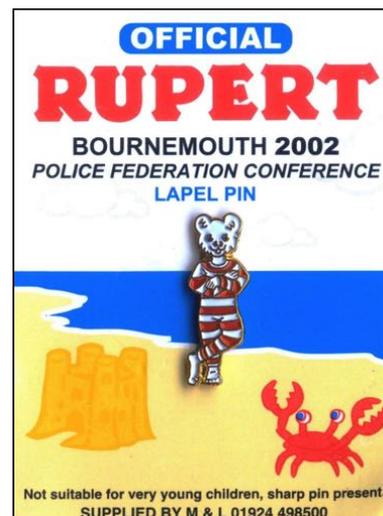
1999 (ltd ed: white helmet)



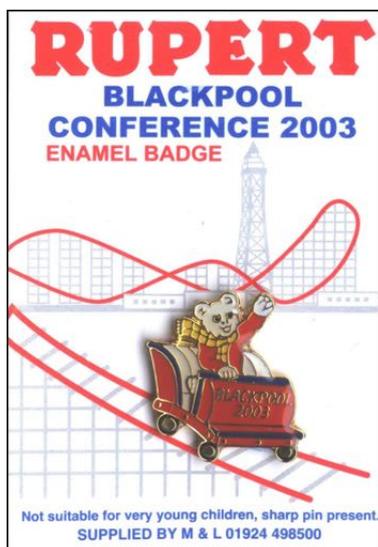
2000 (ltd ed: white helmet, rerun: green ice cream)



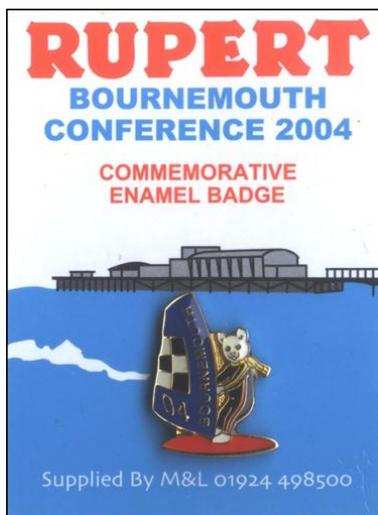
2001 (ltd ed: blue jumper, white trousers & scarf)



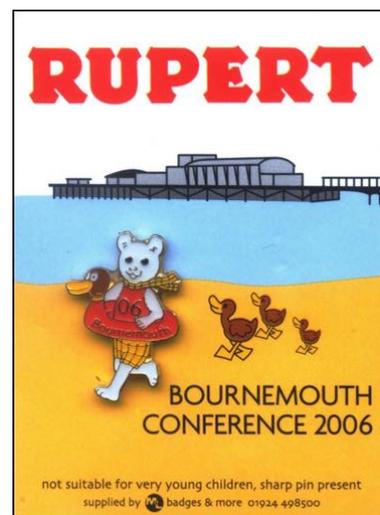
2002 (ltd ed: blue/white suit)



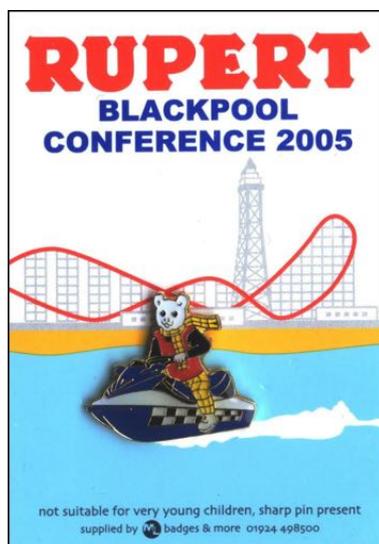
2003 (ltd ed: green car)



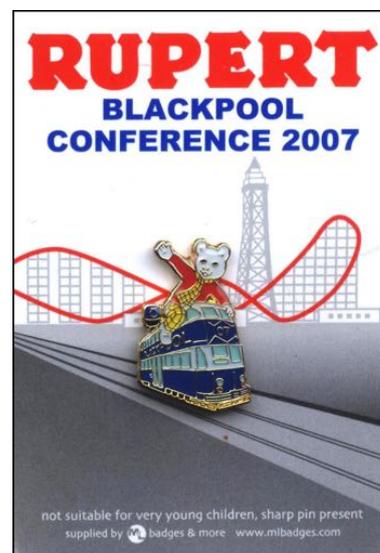
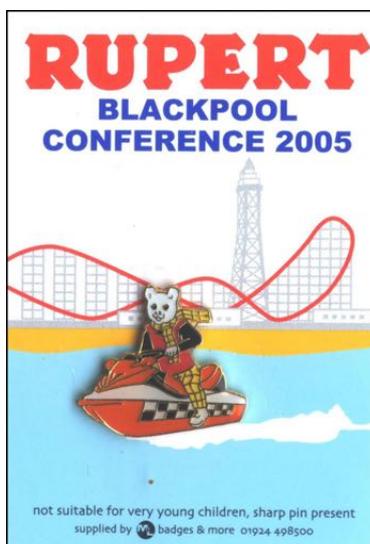
2004 (ltd ed: yellow sail)



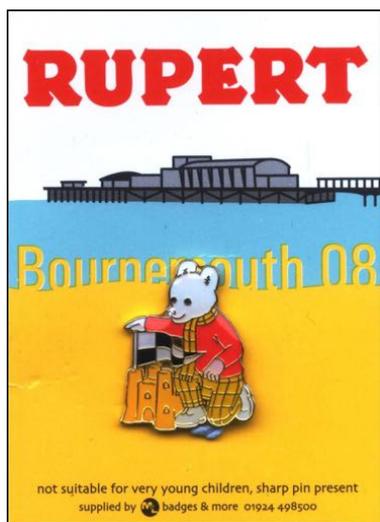
2006 (ltd ed: blue vest, white shorts)



2005 (ltd ed: blue jet ski, red & white checks)

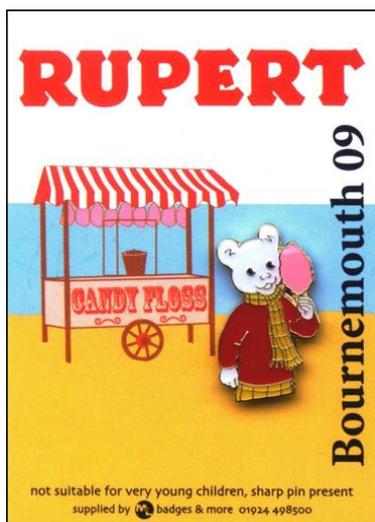


2007 (ltd ed: green tram)



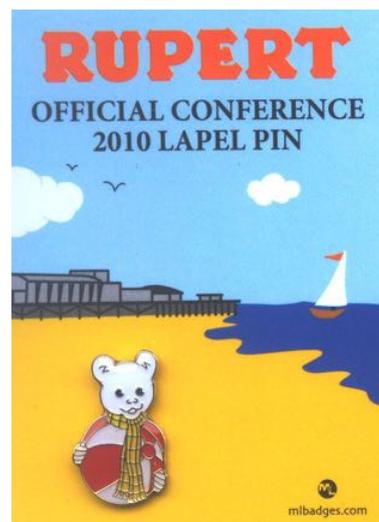
not suitable for very young children, sharp pin present  
supplied by mlbadges & more 01924 498500

2008 (ltd ed: blue jumper)



not suitable for very young children, sharp pin present  
supplied by mlbadges & more 01924 498500

2009 (ltd ed: blue jumper, white scarf)



mlbadges.com

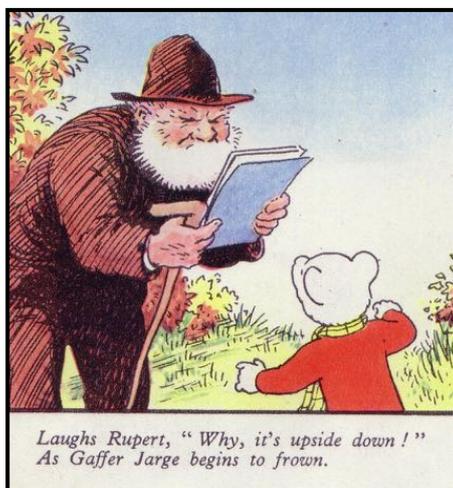
2010 (ltd ed: blue & white ball)

### rogues faults & errors

None known in this series but if you have come across anything please let us know

## Rupert in the Daily Express and the Sunday Express

Since this column last appeared, all the reprints in the newspapers have been from Alfred Bestall's era. Way back in February Rupert was involved in the first reprint of *Rupert and the Cold Cure* (B157) since its original appearance in the daily paper in 1955. This was where we had left him in NN75. All 34 episodes were reprinted, concluding on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

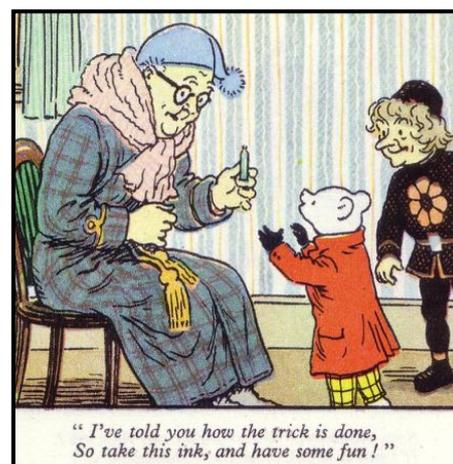


Laughs Rupert, "Why, it's upside down!"  
As Gaffer Jarge begins to frown.

Between 13<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April we had all 32 episodes of *Rupert and the Sketchbook* (B120) which dates from 1950 and the 1954 Annual. Happily, this was its first reprint.

*Rupert and the Spring Adventure* (B135) followed on 14<sup>th</sup> April. All 44 episodes of the 1952 original were reprinted, although they were probably taken from the 1958 Annual, as seems now to be the Express's standard

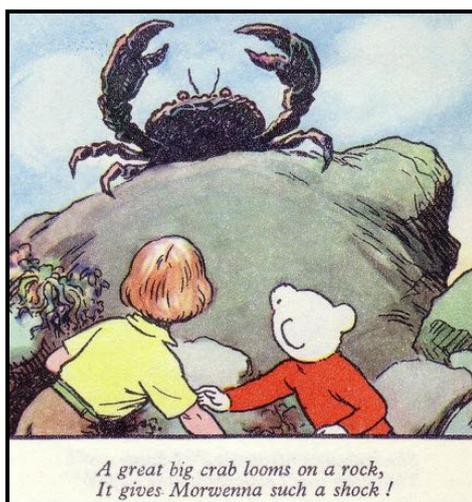
practice. Originally titled *Rupert's Spring Adventure*, it was severely abridged to just 17 episodes and retitled *Rupert and the Frisky Dragon*



"I've told you how the trick is done,  
So take this ink, and have some fun!"



The dragon gobbles very fast,  
And Rupert captures him at last!



for a 1995 reprint, and then given the current title for a less severe abridgement of 43 episodes in 2003. The latest retelling (its third) concluded on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Not to be outdone by the previous tale reaching its third reprint, albeit with variations in the title, *Rupert and Morwenna* (B138) followed with its record-breaking (so far) 4<sup>th</sup> reprint on 28<sup>th</sup> May. It first appeared in the daily paper in 44 episodes in 1952 and can be found in the 1960 Annual. It had a full reprint in 1988 and two abridged reprints of 28 episodes in 1993 and 2001. This time we had another full version which ended on 10<sup>th</sup> July. I for one feel that Morwenna should now be given a long rest!

A much less familiar tale, *Rupert and the Pepper Rose* (B143) followed on 11<sup>th</sup> July with its first reprint since its original appearance in 1953. Its permanent home is in the 1961 Annual. The full retelling of all 32 episodes concluded on 11<sup>th</sup> August.



From 12<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> October another tale had its welcome first reprint in the newspapers, although it has appeared widely in St. Michael's Rupert 1983, Some Adventures of Rupert 1984, Rupert Weekly, Pippin and Rupert Summer Special 1990. This was *Rupert and the Iron Spade* (B212) which dates from 1963 and the 1974 Annual. All 52 episodes made it the longest tale so far this year.

The tale currently being retold as this column is written is *Rupert and the Flying Bottle* (B10) which began on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and is due to end on

28<sup>th</sup> October if the full run of 26 episodes (or 52 frames) is reprinted. As the code suggests this is a very early Bestall tale, having first appeared in the Daily Express in 1936 and subsequently in the 1937 Annual. For the Annual red was added to give a third colour. So far, all the Monday episodes of the reprint have been in full colour, which has obviously been done specially. The selection of such an early story is very welcome.

In this batch of seven Bestall reprints there have been five first reprints alongside two which have been reprinted extensively, often heavily cut. As I have previously made a point about reprints quite forcefully I am pleased by the selection of the "five", but with so many stories that have not as yet been reprinted I strongly maintain that the "old favourites" ought to be given a well-earned rest.



**Roger Coombes**

*Because the Daily Express reprints are always so indistinct and over cropped to remove Alfred Bestall's signature, we feel it does his artwork greater justice to produce the images in colour from the Rupert annuals. What do our readers think? Ed*

# Why I joined the Girl Guides

Firstly, I must write to say thank you so much for the wonderful book of Alfred Bestall's early drawings. I have in my possession an old set of leather-bound Punch that I must peruse to see if there are any A.B.'s fabulous drawings within. I will let you know!



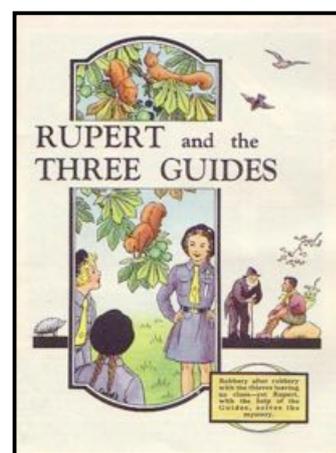
All this nostalgia reminds me that 2010 is the centenary year of the Girl Guide movement and how I came to join the Girl Guides through my love of Rupert annuals. I received my first annual in 1949 as a present from my Grandad, this was the first of many. I joined the Trinity Methodist pack in Wolverhampton in 1955 and we met once a week in the church hall. Coincidentally this was the church where A.B.'s father had been the Minister several years earlier, although I did not know this at the time. However it was due to reading Rupert and seeing A.B.'s lovely drawings that encouraged me to join the Girl Guides.



Whilst staying with an 'honorary' aunt for a month in Devon during the summer of 1956, I learnt how to knit a Girl Guide doll. This I kept for over 20 years until it became very tattered. Unfortunately I had lost the pattern, which was from Woman's Weekly, but I did keep an almost finished Brownie's doll I had also knitted from the same pattern. This was also rather tattered so about two years ago I decided to unpick

this to enable me to count the stitches and to knit a new Girl Guide doll. The result you can see from the photo – along with several other Rupert characters that I have knitted. Most are from various published patterns as well as a few of my own variations. Apart from my knitted Ruperts I also have several manufactured soft toys, including the two shown above.

Of course a green-sweater Rupert has been seen previously on the front cover of Rupert Weekly No. 33, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1983 – *Rupert goes to the seaside* – where he is seated in a railway carriage with Mrs Bear. The other one in the photograph I purchased for my eldest daughter in 1980, while living in Cornwall. At a quick glance in the shop I thought his outfit was of the Cornish tartan, but soon realised that it is in fact the Macleod of Lewis tartan. So, therefore I have a Scottish Rupert and an Irish Rupert – I wonder if there is a Welsh one out there? Or is A.B.'s much-loved red-sweater Rupert, the Welsh variant? If so, is perhaps Mary Tourtel's original blue-sweater Rupert, the English one? The mind boggles..... Although I think I will knit a blue-sweater one regardless, just to complete the set! (Mentioning Wales, I visited Bedgelert last month and had the customary photograph taken outside Penlan – a lovely spot and hope to stay there someday).



Alas, Trinity Guides folded as numbers dwindled, and sadly Trinity Methodist church and hall were demolished in 1975. All that is left is a very nice War Memorial that marks the site and on the land stands modern apartments.

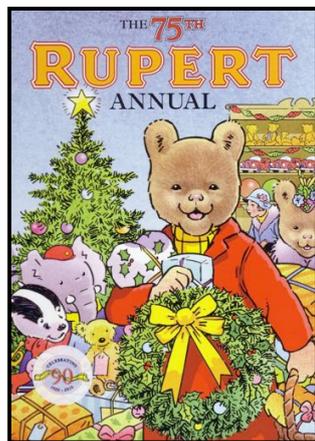
On a happier note, the lady who showed me how to knit the Girl Guide doll is now 93 and is still very busy knitting for various charities around the globe. She is always interested to know how my knitting is doing and is pleased that some of her teaching from 55 years ago actually sunk in!

*Diana Robinson*

# A Review of the 75<sup>th</sup> Rupert Annual 2010

Writing this review in October, I am aware that many Followers will have had their copies since the AGM in August, whilst others will have bought them once they appeared in the shops around the end of September, so reading this may be rather late. I am equally aware, however, that many like to preserve the childhood tradition of opening the annual on Christmas Day, so it is highly likely that you may have held off reading this article until you have read the annual. Perhaps this review should therefore contain what in modern parlance is called, I believe, a “spoiler alert”!

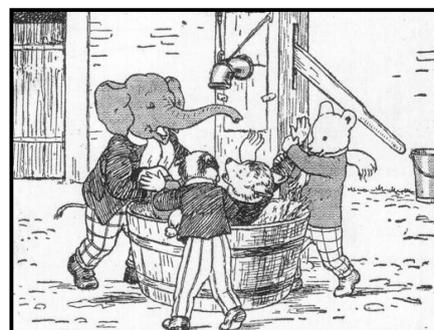
By the time you read this, Rupert’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in November will have come and gone, but the celebrations began earlier this year and may well continue into 2011, in terms of articles and special publications. This annual is of course special, not only because it celebrates the double anniversary of Rupert’s creation (90 years) and of the annual (75 years), but also because of the manner of the celebration, with stories taken from 1933, 1949, 1995 and a new one for 2010. This gives readers, young and old, an opportunity to compare the styles of storytelling and illustration and to reflect on those 90 years.



Let’s begin with the basics. It is another slimline volume with just four stories and several pages of games in 68 pages (unlike Egmont I do not include the covers as pages!). The price is held at £7.99. The cover, by Stuart Trotter, depicts Rupert with several chums and Nutwood adults in the Nutchester department store, which is part of the story *Rupert and the Snowbird*. Rupert’s face on the front cover is very like Alfred’s cover faces. The endpapers are of the frog chorus in the 1958 Annual, a scene which of course famously inspired Sir Paul McCartney. The contents page is also adapted from the same annual. The title page heralds this being the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual and the occasion of 90 years of Rupert, 1920 – 2010. There is a small vignette of Rupert lying on his tummy reading a book. An introduction, “From Tourtel to Trotter, 90 years of Rupert Bear”, fills two pages with a potted history of Rupert’s origins and

landmarks, including brief details of the four main artists and each of the four stories selected to represent their eras. Reference is also made to Alex Cubie and the small group of artists that bridged the period between Bestall and Harrold.

The first story is *Rupert at School* (T73a) by Mary Tourtel, originally published in the Daily Express in 1933, which was towards the end of her era. Mary’s depiction of Rupert and his chums had evolved significantly by this time and the change to AEB is less striking than a comparison with her earliest work. The story is in black and white, and Followers’



*Rupert, Bill and Edward duck Wally in a tub of water in revenge for inking their books*

Secretary John Beck is acknowledged for providing the images as well as the front cover of *Monster Rupert 1932* which is on page 8. The story, as implied in the title, is set in school on the first day of term after Christmas holidays. Rupert, Bill and Edward deal with Hubert Hippo, Wally Wolf and Reynard Fox who are bullying and playing tricks on other pupils.

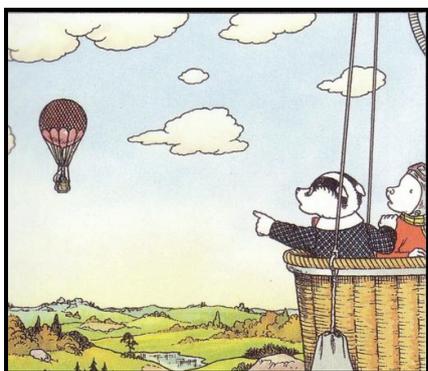
This is told in 22 frames, the equivalent of 11 modern episodes, so it is quite a short tale. It is, incidentally, the second story to carry this title and was also in RLBL no 32, and was redrawn for inclusion in the *Rupert Story Book* c1950 and the 4<sup>th</sup> *St Michael Book of Rupert* 1980.

The second story is *Rupert’s Queer Path* (B112) by Alfred Bestall, originally published in the daily paper in 1949 and in the 1951 Annual. We are now in colour. Tigerlily casts a spell over the Bears’ new garden path, which then leads Rupert and Bill to Crazy Land, until it is rectified by the Chinese Conjuror. It comprises 60 frames, or 30 episodes.



*Rupert feels the effect of Tigerlily's spell on the path*

The third story takes us into John Harrold's era with *Rupert's Birthday Adventure* (JH85). Written by Ian Robinson, it was originally published in the paper in 1995. This is wrongly credited in the annual as 2000, but this was in fact a reprint. Even so, it is a big jump of almost 50 years between the Bestall and Harrold examples. Bill Badger and his cousin Beatrix join Rupert for a ride in a hot air balloon, but accidentally without the Balloonist! They visit the Kingdom of the birds, take part in a balloon race and return home in time for Rupert's birthday tea. With 64 frames (32 episodes) it is the longest story in this annual, and has had one episode removed for this and its appearance in the 2001 Annual.



*Rupert and Bill spot another balloon*

The final story is *Rupert and the Snowbird*, illustrated by Stuart Trotter especially for this annual. The Introduction credits Stuart with devising the story, whilst the contents page acknowledges Beth Harwood with the text and couplets. It is just before Christmas and Rupert and his mother take the bus into Nutchester to do some Christmas shopping. In the department store Rupert meets Bill and several other chums and they queue to give their Christmas lists to Santa Claus. Before they reach him, however, Rupert and Bill are taken away by their mothers to catch the bus home because it is snowing heavily. The bus gets

stuck and Rupert and Bill attempt to walk back to Nutchester to get help. They obtain it in an unusual way. They find a large egg in the snow and encounter the Snowbird, a giant bird who lays her eggs only when it snows. Grateful to the chums for finding the egg she dropped, she carries them to Santa's castle whereupon he uses his sleigh to rescue the passengers marooned in the bus. On Christmas morning Rupert finds in his stocking a whistle which makes a sound like the song of the Snowbird, and the Snowbird and her newly hatched chick arrive outside the window.

This is told in 40 frames, equivalent to 20 episodes, so it is quite a short tale.



*Santa greets Rupert, Bill and the Snowbird*

In addition to the stories there are vintage puzzles taken from 1944, 1978 and 1989 Annuals (the latter originally painted by Alex Cubie for an Adventure Series), origami from 1958, 1949 and 1969 Annuals, and a memory test created for this Annual from the four stories. More origami than have ever appeared in a single annual, so that should keep some people busy folding!

Finally, we sadly no longer have a "Follow Rupert Every Day in the Daily Express" page, and its place in this Annual is taken by an advertisement for the 1966 Facsimile and Ian Robinson's Rupert Companion, offered with a discount.

So, lots of goodies from the past with a sample of the present to commemorate the double anniversary. It is not often that a Tourtel story is reprinted in its entirety and for that reason alone I imagine that Rupert collectors will be keen to add this annual to their bookshelves. It would be interesting to discover whether awareness of this volume will spread sufficiently among the wider public to boost sales this year. Perhaps Egmont will share this with us in due course? They are certainly to be applauded for making this year's annual so representative of Rupert's long history.

**Roger Coombes**

# Nutwood Postbox

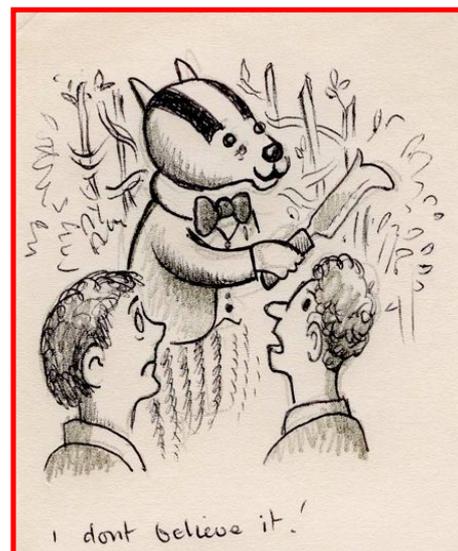
## Is this how Rupert's best friend earns his pocket money?

I couldn't resist sharing with The Followers this cartoon which appeared in a recent edition of "The Lark" - the magazine of the Countryside Restoration Trust - to mark a successful hedge-laying course run by one of their stalwart supporters "Badger" Walker. It's nice to know how Nutwood's hedges are so well-kept but

I wonder if Mrs Badger knows what her son Bill gets up to with that dangerous-looking implement.

Thank you to the artist, Roger Phillippo, for kindly allowing the reproduction of his work and to "The Lark" for supplying the jpg.

**Valerie Haworth**



Just a short note to thank you and all the Committee for the work you put into making the Gathering such a success. A truly happy time was had by all – and, of course, for me there was the added thrill of being awarded a lifetime membership of the Society! I'll try (soon-ish) to write up some of the thoughts I voiced at the dinner, as you have suggested.

Best regards,

**Mary Cadogan**

Does the Chinese Conjuror have a hand in the "Nutwood Newsletter"? I ask because NN is a bit like the proverbial Chinese meal.

An hour after finishing one, you want another.....

**Robert Bull**

Yet again the Followers' Committee has done us proud. I thank especially Tony and his band of helpers for a wonderful weekend. It was good to see you all.

I look forward to next year and have already started saving as each year I find something else to buy.

Once again, thanks to everyone.

**Anita Greenaway**

Further to the North West Group's report in NN76, Lily Duckling has a confession to make – she clearly won the "What colour are Bingo's trousers?" quiz by fluke as subsequent examination of several annuals reveal that he changes his pants quite frequently!

In 1947 they are a prickly-looking tweed; green in 1950, tan in 1952, green again in 1957, brown (itchy-looking suit) in 1958 then green again in 1959.

Do any other chums change their outfits so frequently?

**Lily Duckling**

**Send your letters and pictures to  
The Editor, Nutwood Newsletter, 29 Mill Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 2RU  
or e.mail to [RupertSecretary@btinternet.com](mailto:RupertSecretary@btinternet.com)**

### ***A New Member writes***

I am finally applying for membership and wish I could have joined years ago but only became aware of The Followers six months ago. A fellow Follower from my local church in Swanage lent me some back issues of the Nutwood Newsletter on finding out my interest and I was so impressed with the articles and information that I wanted to join. Being 48 years old I well remember the '70's TV puppet show although I did not receive an Annual

every year, then a friend, who named his daughter Rika after one of Rupert's friends, showed me some of his and I was hooked. I started to collect and now have a full set with many being facsimiles though I must confess I have yet to read them all. Being an artist myself I was keen to know about Rupert's illustrators with Alfred Bestall being my favourite. It amazes me the amount of detail he includes in each frame. I am currently eagerly awaiting the return of some of the Annual cover prints

that are at the framer's. Anyway that is a little bit of background on how I found Rupert and I am looking forward to receiving future Newsletters and being a Follower of Rupert.

**Paul Schilling**

*Ed note: Welcome Paul to the world of Rupert. If all members introduced someone it could not only make their day, but also help to swell our ranks. Why not enrol a friend as a Christmas present?*

## **BEST OF BRITISH**

Followers may be interested to hear that the magazine 'Best of British' featured a Rupert piece in its November issue. If any members would like a copy of this issue, the publishers will supply one for £3.75 post free. Contact their back issues department by ringing 01778 342 814. Further they have offered to send any 3 back issues for £5.00 post free. Members can obtain further details about the magazine from their website [www.bestofbritishmag.co.uk](http://www.bestofbritishmag.co.uk)



We recently came across this photograph taken at our 1995 Annual Meeting at Wroxall in 1995. We wonder if these children, who will now be grown up, are still Rupert fans?



A Christmas Greeting from the Editor and Lily the Elf

### ***Christmas Present Problem solved***

A nice Christmas gift for someone special would be a subscription to the Followers. As well as sending them this latest Newsletter and 2011 calendar we will also include a free Rupert scarf and a Christmas card noting it is your gift to them. So a Christmas present problem solved and you are also helping the Followers by recruiting a new member. A form for your use is enclosed.

# Follow Rupert



*every day in the Daily Express*

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