

A pre-raffle rhyme by Martin Cooper Followers' AGM and Fun Day 2025

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!