

20th Anniversary of the Newsletter

by Merril Lilley

This year the newsletter will have its twentieth anniversary. The first issue appeared in June 1988 with Philomena Kennedy as Editor. The Society was only a few weeks old.

Budge Adams took on the unofficial job of what he described as 'producer, distributor and advertising executive', in effect an assistant to Philomena. Budge said, 'What a wonderful opportunity it was. I was happy as a lark.'

The Chairman of the Society was Jack Woolford and the Vice-Chairman John Gerrard. There were 110 members.

The first seven issues of the Newsletter were produced on A4 sheets, copied and bound. After this Budge and Philomena decided to introduce a new format. Budge took on the job of producing the booklet and in September 1990 with issue 8 the Newsletter appeared in its new look, which it still retains to this day, with its familiar cream cover with a black-and-white illustration.

Philomena continued as Editor until May 1991. In the summer of that year she was to visit America and would not be able to produce the next Newsletter. She asked me if I would take over in her absence. My first Newsletter as Editor was Number 11 in September 1991. Philomena did not continue on her return and I remained Editor for the next fourteen years.

Budge was still the producer of the booklet, printed at Adams Printers and we worked together to bring out each Newsletter until issue No. 27 in December 1997 when Budge, with great regret, 'retired from action', as he put it. Without Budge's help the job became a lot more time-consuming, the Editor now becoming the producer as well, collecting copy, liaising with Adams Printers and organising proofreading with May Jones and Pam Taylor, who had done this job from the beginning.

When I retired from the job in 2005 Alan Lee became the new Editor, stating in his first editorial in August of that year that he was pleased to be taking over 'one of the best society newsletters in print'. Having helped him with his first issue, I am pleased that I have been able to maintain contact by proofreading and contributing articles.

Alan has continued the tradition and is now approaching his third year as Editor. It is still said by many to be one of the best newsletters in print. This is due, I feel, to all those who have contributed to its success from its beginnings in 1988 to the present day, not only the three editors but the advertisers, distributors, proofreaders and, most of all the writers. May the Newsletter and the Society go from strength to strength!