

## A Life in Show Business “Skribble”

Have you ever started a conversation with someone and discovered that they have lead the most fascinating life? This happened to me when I talked, over a cup of coffee, to Rosalie Cox. I have seen her several times at Shipton Fete in her guise as “Skribble” but had no idea just what a talented lady she is.



seconds, a talent which saw her appearing on Hughie Green’s show ‘Opportunity Knocks’ in the 1970s and her own series on Thames

Television. From 1967- 1976 Rosalie, her husband Ray and daughter Mandyrae toured the country in their camper van, performing at Butlins and Warner holiday camps. She was on stage at the premiers of all the Walt Disney cartoons at the Odeon, Leicester Square; her job was to ‘warm up’ the audience . Not satisfied with seeing her name in lights and appearing to packed audiences all over the country, Rosalie was also an exhibition motorcyclist and was crowned Carnival Queen, riding round the arena in a crinoline gown! This love of speed has manifested itself in her daughter Mandyrae and her two grandchildren.

### Starting young

Rosalie was born and educated in Essex. She still has her first, framed drawing, done at the age of three years on a sheet of Jeyes toilet paper. She attended an Ursuline Convent in Brentwood and at the age of 13 was inspired to become a cartoonist by Sister Bernard, who always encouraged her to ‘put something funny’ in all her drawings. At the age of 14 she started training at the Southend School of Art, working her way through several colleges before finishing at the Central School of Art, in London.

### Opportunity Knocks

Whilst still a teenager she wrote the stories, made the puppets and did all the animations for a TV series “Susan, Sam and Scratch”, about two dolls and a toy dog lost on the beach, who sailed the world on a deckchair. She presented these stories on the “Muffin the Mule Show” with Annette Mills. “Skribble” is renowned for her ability to turn anyone’s scribble into a colourful cartoon character in approximately 30

### Still Skribbling

Every summer “Skribble” is a welcome sight at Shipton Fete. This year Rosalie is celebrating her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday as well as 60 years in show business. She continues to make a great contribution to charitable causes. Her next project is to help raise money for the Citizens Advise Bureau by drawing cartoons in the entrance to the Co-op Shop in Chipping Norton. If you would like her to appear at your charity event she can be contacted through this magazine.

**Christine Halliday**