

RUSTIC RHYMES

from Southern Somerset

Gordon Rendell

Gordon Rendell used to write lyrics for the Yetties. One night he was at their music club, and singing with them, "Away down to Lamorna," when a completely different rhyme came into his head and he started composing and writing a poem in a different metre to the musical metre he was singing in. That's the sort of mind he has!

For many years he built and designed sets for Dorset Opera. In one post-performance get-together, he came out with a rhyme about one of the stage crew and was challenged to make one up about each person in turn, which he did on the spot.

He prefers to call his verse rhymes as poems sound more serious and possibly stuffy. His mother was the headmistress at the local school and as an aid to his learning to read, gave him a book called *Runabout Rhymes*. The metrical flow of the words, the number of syllables and the rhyming of the word at the end of the line, is something that he has never forgotten. Since that educational start he has put a rhyme to every event or occasion, even sessions in hospital or a lady finding a spider in the bath.

Gordon can always be relied upon to lighten any atmosphere with his rhymes. Now, happily, they can reach a wider audience, but the reader will have to imagine Gordon's talent for speaking in the Somerset dialect, and his infectious laugh. His subject matter is wide ranging, but his poems are invariably funny and always enjoyable.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gordon Rendell was born in Hardington on 19 June 1936. At the age of ten he won a scholarship to Crewkerne Grammar School where he spent his time, when possible, gazing out of the window, wishing he was on one of his father's tractors.

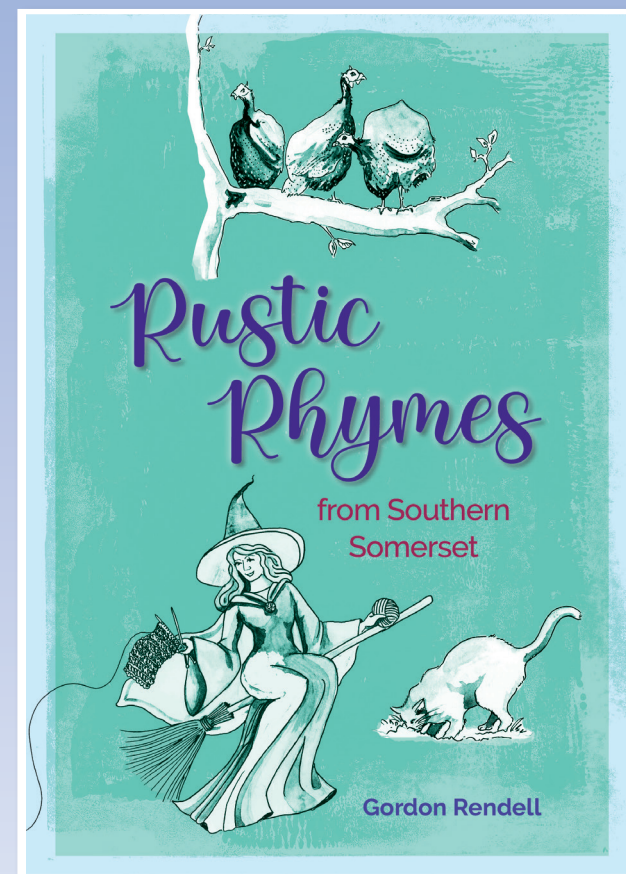
On leaving school in 1952, this wish came true, until he was called up for National Service in 1953 and entered into the RAF. He finished up in Coastal Command at St Mawgan in Cornwall with a squadron of Lancasters. He actually flew in the last Lancaster to leave the service. While there, it was at a dance in St Ives where he met his future wife, Una; they were married at Hardington in 1958.

Whilst resuming work with his father he started restoring antiques in his spare time until he bought premises in Montacute in 1963. He and Una secured a contract with the National Trust looking after furniture and furnishings for the whole of the Wessex Region, covering Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire and part of South Gloucestershire. Having got the National Trust tidied up, he then concentrated on the industrial woodwork side of his business, making moulds for nose cones of rockets and cab roofs for airfield crash tenders among other things.

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