

Editorial for Journal 40.

It is with pleasure and sadness that I write this editorial for the 40th Journal.

The pleasure comes from preparing the Society's 40th Journal; the sadness from hearing of the death of my good friend of some 20 years, the Rev. Wilfred Mbatha of Rorke's Drift. Wilfred was the rock of Rorke's Drift, the man who held the community together for all those years. Members who accompanied me to the battlefields will remember his warmth and enthusiasm at his services in that little church made famous by events on the 22nd January 1879.

The idea of a journal and the Society came to me while staying with David Rattray in the early days of his Fugitives' Drift Lodge. Neither of us could have guessed how successful the Society and Journal would become. The Journal is now listed on the approved list by Oxford University. Twenty years ago our membership commenced with some 200 members, from names kindly provided by David from his Lodge guest list, and this has risen to today's membership of about 1,000 in the UK with some 200 overseas.

In support of the Society, and in response to so many requests, the Society inadvertently launched me onto a different path, that of public speaking – as you will see from the following article. Although now 'retired' from the speaking scene, I did recently help Dr David Payne with two lectures which resulted in the inevitable requests from other interested groups. These will now be taken up by David who has proved to be a competent and knowledgeable speaker.

We propose to hold an exhibition of 'Art from the Zulu War' towards the end of summer 2017 in Kent. This will include art from the British, Boer and Zulu sides. The dates and venue will be advertised in the next Journal, June 2017.

With Christmas fast approaching I wish all members a peaceful and happy end to the year and a healthy and prosperous 2017.

Adrian Greaves

Dr Adrian Greaves