

Rose Mary Sales BSc(Hons) HonFSGT

1924–2020

Rose Mary Sales, always known as Rosemary, passed away on the 19th April 2020 from Corona virus, in a care home where she was undergoing rehabilitation. Rosemary was a doyenne of the Society of Glass Technology having been a member since 1950.

She was a leading member of the Yorkshire Section, and despite holding down a full time job served as its Secretary and general dynamo for many years. Rosemary was a Vice President of the SGT from 2000–2003 and again from 2007–2010. She was made a Fellow in 1969 and an Honorary Fellow in 2001.

In 1941 Rosemary left her family home in Rawmarsh and went to Bedford College for Women, University of London, to study geology. This shows both the faith and support of her mother and father and speaks volumes for the lady herself, as it was not usual in those days for young ladies to go far from home to study. As the onset of World War 2 made itself felt the College was briefly evacuated to Cambridge, but then returned to London where she graduated in 1945 with a BSc(Hons). She followed this with a one year Special BSc(Hons) course in Chemistry, graduating in 1946. After some laboratory work in London she returned to her parents' home.

Initially, Rosemary lived with her parents in Rawmarsh where it is thought that her father worked in the mines. Every week day she would take the bus, then tram and then bus up the valley to the city centre through the smoke and grime of the industrial Don Valley. She saved as much as she could and managed to get a mortgage, quite an achievement for a single woman in the 1950s. The bungalow in Lodge Moor on the western edge of Sheffield was her home for the rest of her life. She also moved her parents to the bungalow and they spent the rest of their days in the clean air.

Rosemary's first job, on returning from London, was in the Department of Glass Technology, at the University of Sheffield, as a Research Assistant doing raw materials chemical analysis. Violet Dimpleby was her immediate boss, a formidable woman, who was, nevertheless an outstanding teacher and in those days the Department was run by its founder Professor W. E. S. Turner.

In 1954 the British Glass Industrial Research Association was set up as a separate commercial entity, directed by Professor R. G. Newton. It shared laboratories with the University Department of Glass Technology and Rosemary became one of its founder members of staff as Research Chemist.

She was an active member of the of the Society acting as Secretary for the Chemical Analysis and Chemical Durability Committees, whilst also representing the Society on several BSI committees.

In the 1960s and 70s two factors tended to domi-



nate the glass world, "Light-weighting" and the "Globalisation of raw materials" both of which affected glass composition and control. It is not surprising therefore that Rosemary published two papers, one in 1959 on the "Rapid analysis of Glass and Raw Materials using EDTA" and another in 1966 on "Methods of Batch Analysis Parts 1 and 2" in conjunction with Walter Fletcher.

In 1977 she was one of only 30,000 people in the whole of the United Kingdom to be awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal.

After the death of her father Rosemary and her mother became regular fixtures at the dinner dances which were held by the various Sections, some as far away as the Bridge of Allan hotel in Stirling and the Prince of Wales in Southport.

Ever the "go to" organiser she facilitated and participated in many conferences including "The International Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy Conference" in Sheffield and the Ladies Committee for ICG meeting hosted by the Society in 1968.

Rosemary joined the Yorkshire Section Committee in 1975, becoming Honorary Secretary in 1977 until 2013. During this time she organised the Yorkshire Section Dinner and Dance, usually held in the Cutler's Hall where her announcement, immediately after the "Loyal Toast", "Gentlemen you may now smoke, if you must!" always lightened the mood.

The Society of Glass Technology Yorkshire Section annual dinner dance in December 2010 saw a special presentation to Rosemary Sales, marking her 60 years contribution to the glass industry. Her lifetime of ser-



The Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal

vice to the glass industry and the SGT was recognised with the presentation of a special medal.

Rosemary was a staunch supporter of her local church and took part in many of its activities. She represented St Luke's church on the Council of Churches for over 20 years, travelling far and wide to attend Baptist Church meetings. She also took part in activities within the church, Bump and Babies group, Mother and Toddler group and because Rosemary was always fond of her food the Lunch Group. Here she would help in any of the roles which were needed, from ferrying the elderly to and from home to cooking and serving. Until last year she was still assisting with this group making and serving lunch for "the old people".

Rosemary will be sadly missed by all her friends and colleagues in both the glass industry and her church and it is with great regret that none of them could be at her funeral which was conducted in isolation, by the vicar, a close friend. When the current restrictions are lifted it is intended to hold a "Service of Thanksgiving" which is sure to be well attended.



Rosemary Sales sat with SGT Honorary Secretary at the 2006 Yorkshire Section Dinner and Dance



SGT – Alastair Pilkington Award

The SGT - Alastair Pilkington Award is designed to encourage and recognise excellent work in glass research achieved by someone who has come into the field of glass studies relatively recently.

Not restricted to hard science or engineering - this award spans all dimensions of glass studies, creativity and research; the arts as well as the science, conservation and museum studies as well as engineering, history and design as well as molecular dynamics.

Entries are now being sought for the 2022 Award. This will be presented during the International Congress on Glass in Berlin, Germany, 3–8 July 2022.

Details and entry requirements are on the Society of Glass Technology website: www.sgt.org