



Rita's *Sparkling Times*



A lovely lady - Rita, what a fantastic life you're having. You were born in 1931. It was in the year of your birth that The Abbey Road studios in London were opened by Sir Edward Elgar.

Growing from baby to child you were full of fun. By 1941 you were a beautiful young girl of 10. That year, George Formby joined ENSA to entertain the British troops.

At 21 you finally got the 'key to the door.' How did it feel to become an adult at last? Pretty good I hope. It was 1952, the year Harry Corbett's Sooty and Sweep first appeared on BBC TV.

During your adult life you worked hard and did well as a cleaner & housewife. You reached the age of 30 in 1961. It was the year Elvis Presley had a string of hits including 'Wooden Heart'.

Rita, you are most proud of raising 3 daughters. What a lot of joy and happy memories you have to treasure.

In 1971 you reached the splendid age of 40. 1971 was also the year The U.K. currency went decimal, getting rid of the shilling.

Your 50th birthday, the great half-century, came in 1981. Was it party time? That was the year Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's, London.

This year you are 89. What a full life you've led. All those special memories of painting pictures and eloquent poetry, the Church and shopping trips. Rita, what a wonder you are.

Painting

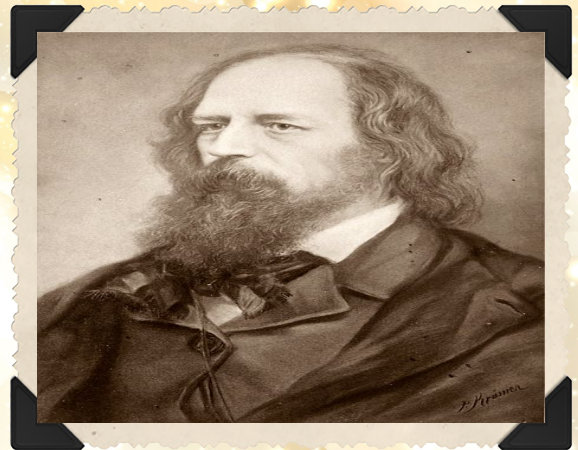
One of the greatest pleasures in life is being creative. Painting gives expression to that creativity. You have to use both the eye and the imagination to create a work of art.

They might not have gone into a gallery, but your friends genuinely appreciated your paintings. You may have hung them on the walls of your house or given them away. Or you may have exhibited them - what a thrill that would be.

Rita, do you prefer using oils or watercolors? What subjects do you like best? It is such a lovely feeling, sat at your own easel, brush in hand, with all the freedom in the world.



A Love Of Poetry



There is beauty and magic in poetry that prose can rarely match. A good poem embraces an idea or an emotion with so few words.

Did you learn a lot of poetry by heart at school, Rita? At the time, it probably seemed a bit of a chore, but those poems are often a great comfort through the years. Can you still recite them, even now?

One poem from those days, loved by many, has always been Tennyson's 'The Lady Of Shalott'. The romantic poets, Wordsworth and Keats have also been many people's favourites over the years. Their words still delight us. Which poet do you like best?

Worship and Prayer

A strong and enduring faith is such a blessing, Rita. It is about much more than attending church or chapel every Sunday. Prayer and reflection occur every day. Knowing that a loving God is always there gives strength and comfort to your life. It is a steady and helping hand: ever present and ever comforting.

The words of scripture can light up your life, and inspire you to be a better person. They encourage you to do good and reach out in the world: do unto others as you would have done to you.

Singing hymns to the Lord gives voice to your faith. A rousing hymn cheers the spirit. It confirms Jesus as Lord and Saviour.



Shopping



Shopping for clothes can be great fun. Tracking down a bargain or finding a perfect match for a favourite outfit is very rewarding. It's nice to look smart and it doesn't have to cost a fortune. Sometimes you can even strike lucky in a charity shop.

At times, it really does pay to buy quality. Do you still have old favourite outfits that have stood the test of time, Rita? Sometimes, all you need to jazz up a well-loved outfit is a new brooch. And it's true what they say, that if you wait long enough everything will eventually come back into fashion!

Shopping can be tiring, but then it's time to go for a cuppa and a piece of cake!

Sparkling Times



The Lovely Rita - we love you very much!