Dale Xmas Special 1988

By Richard Sargent

During the initial run of Dale comics the idea was suggested (at a late stage!) that a Christmas special might be a good idea. Richard duly rushed out a story on the simpler A3 sheet format which he had used for the original (now lost) versions of 'Dale 1' and 'Dale 2'. Produced for Christmas 1988, it was set during a break in the storyline of 'Dale 8'. Christmas specials in the same format followed for the next two years. At the time of writing, this is the earliest work by Richard published online.

Looking back at these early comics, a steep learning curve is apparent. "The very earliest to be drawn in pen and in the comic book format was 'Dale 3', which is a bit of a mish-mash of styles, not to mention feels very scribbled" says Richard. "But I was only fourteen at the time! By 'Dale 8' I had more or less found the best way of working, even though still very rough around the edges. This Christmas special is actually better drawn than I remembered. There are a couple of crazy plot ideas which must have been thrown in for a laugh, but other than that I think it shows the potential which was developed later on..."

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