

The main event of the Shroud year so far was without doubt the airing of David Rolfe's new documentary on BBC2 on Easter Saturday. I happened to be in the UK over Easter and was able to see the programme together with David and the producer. Nowadays we see so many programmes and documentaries that are padded out to reach the statutory length of 50 minutes or so, but in this case it was the opposite. There was so much information, so much data in just one hour that it left me with the feeling that there could have been a whole series of programmes to do justice to the amount of work and research that is being done on the Shroud of Turin and the Sudarium of Oviedo. The most difficult task in editing must have been what to include and what to leave out – I was present in Turin for part of the filming and saw how much valuable material was captured and then just did not fit in due to time constraints. My heartiest congratulations to David and all his team – I have never been involved in such a professional Shroud project and yet had the feeling that everyone enjoyed their work so much.

On a sadder note, there are various obituaries included in this edition of the newsletter. Our previous newsletter editor Ian Wilson knew the people in question (Luigi Gonella, Giovanni Riggi and Norma Weller) and kindly acceded to writing some lines about their respective contributions to the world of Sindonology.

Luckily enough there is also young blood in the BSTS. 15-year-old Benjamin Morrell recently had to write a persuasive speech as part of his GCSE English studies and chose as his subject the Shroud of Turin. I have included the speech in this newsletter and at the same time extend the warmest welcome to Benjamin to the British Society for the Turin Shroud. Finally, I would like to thank our previous newsletter editor Ian Wilson for providing so much material for this edition of the newsletter, which involved a lot of work. Many thanks Ian!