

The Election, and the New Committee

The full details of the elections are set out in the report of the AGM (page 15). Briefly, the results were that John Williams and Griffin Beale were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for 2000–2001.

So that you can get in touch with the new Committee, all their addresses and telephone numbers are printed on the last page.

On page 35 you will also find a table of all the elected Officers and Committee for this and the previous six years. You will see that of the present Committee only four were on the Committee six years ago, and only one an Officer.

Gerard Casey

We are sad to report that Gerard Casey died at Mappowder on October 21st 2000. We will print an obituary in the next *Newsletter*.

Derek Wilton Langridge 1925–2000

All Powys scholars owe a debt to Derek Langridge, whose *John Cowper Powys A Record of Achievement* (Library Association, 1966), provided not only a list of its subject's publications in his lifetime but also a most useful parallel coverage of reviews and commentaries on the books as they appeared. Making for ease of consultation this was Derek's own idea, one of which he was rightly proud.

Nonetheless, Derek was modest about his achievements, though he had no

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cause to be. He was a man of many talents, especially in the fields of librarianship, cataloguing and, rather incongruously, of traditional jazz, of which he was a highly knowledgeable historian and critic. He was enthusiastic about many things and shared that enthusiasm with you, being full of ready humour, with a relaxed attitude to life and an endearingly boyish charm. I never heard him say an unkind word about anybody. His unexpected and far too early death will be a cause of real sorrow to many of us and he will be very greatly missed.

Glen Cavaliero

Like many other Powysians, I was saddened to hear of the death of Derek Langridge. We corresponded in the 50s about the Powyses and I can remember, at that time, walking with him through London's Berwick Market talking non-stop about the Powys brothers. Much later he was to publish his indispensable guide to JCP.

In 1991 I wrote to Derek for permission to quote from his book for my JCP/Glyn Hughes letters. He replied, 'Of course it is all right to quote the item you mention. I certainly do remember our meeting – back in the fifties. It seems like another lifetime ...' It was. Derek R.I.P.

Frank Warren

Derek's death was totally unexpected and a great shock to his friends in the Society. Many would have wished to be able to pay their last respects by attending his funeral, the theme of which was 'Say not in grief that he is no more, but in thankfulness that he was.' The service was a celebration vibrant with the rich variety of music which had meant so much to Derek: Elgar, Bix Beiderbecke, Sibelius, Louis Armstrong, Fred Astaire and more. There was an address by Ken Bell, who had been a student, colleague and friend of Derek, and contributions from granddaughters who had loved him dearly. The order of service included quotations from Eliot, 'Time past and time future' – Shelley, 'Music, when soft voices die' – and Groucho Marx, 'Hello, I must be going'.

We left the church bemused by the diversity and contrasts of the ceremony, only to be halted at the porch by the truly incredible sight of Derek Langridge being born away in a glass coach drawn by a pair of perfectly matched black horses, each be-plumed and draped in purple, preceded by an undertaker in top hat with black crepe.

Characteristic of Derek was his boyish grin. We remembered it vividly as we thought, 'What a wonderful way to go'.

Three Friends

Your subscription may be due: please see page 17.

Visions of Wessex *A Personal Account of the Annual Conference*

I arrived at the Dorchester Museum on Saturday evening just in time to see what appeared to be the 'complete set' of Powys members arriving by coach, many familiar faces, all full of expectation and happy to be there.

Once in the Museum, Roger Peers held forth in true archaeological style. His performance was matched by the slides and epidiascope – the very ones John Cowper Powys and Phyllis Playter would have seen at the lecture given by Sir Mortimer Wheeler at the Corn Exchange in Dorchester in March 1935. The quality of the photographs of Maiden Castle gave a very special sense of time, whilst the epidiascope whirred and clanked in the darkness as the huge glass slides were pushed and pulled across. What a feast for the senses! The scene was set.

Next morning back at Kingston Maurward Rob Timlin opened with a lecture entitled 'Jimmy Plays Hopscotch – The Role of Redfern in *Wolf Solent*'. What a notion, that someone was ever present yet never there! The very title extracted from *Wolf Solent* suggests a game being played out – perhaps even through a present situation?

This led on naturally to Greg Bond's 'Patience Unto Eternity'. Greg reminded us of T. F. Powys's enjoyment of monotony, as with *Wolf Solent* lengthening his journeying time. Recurring themes were the loss of the significance of death in our time, and the thought that God is a process.

Henning Ahrens then explored "Light and Darkness in *Wolf Solent*", where *Wolf* explores between and beyond the hedge. Using flight as an example of withdrawal, as a drug, Henning showed the need for wilderness to escape into, so making return possible. The question therefore arises: Are we lost because we have no wilderness?

At the end of the first full day we came at last to Maiden Castle, that place where eventually we were going! Ian Hughes gave a lecture setting out some of Dud No-man's confusion with sensuality and philosophy, and how self belief becomes the new 'ism'.

Four superb lectures making one very good day, and initiating a whole series of ideas – ideas of subversion; lack of understanding; of wilderness; of games being played; of undercurrents; of process and its importance. With these thoughts we proceeded to the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

AGM's are well-known for being dry and somewhat tedious – people usually have to be encouraged to come. To my amazement people actually arrived for the AGM and nothing else. Was the world turned upside-down – or at least back to front? After all, I had travelled from east to west myself. I had of course heard 'rumblings' within The Powys Society but my thoughts were, as I was to discover, ridiculously naive.

The atmosphere of this meeting was always confrontational and aggressive – sides were taken, battle lines drawn. I felt mounting confusion and sadness. Emotions escalated into a tragedy of which all in the room became participants. Was it fate – or simply the First Cause?

I now find that I am on the Committee of the Society I had originally joined because I read and was interested in the writings of JCP, and later of TF and Llewelyn. A dictionary definition of Society is ‘an association of persons united by a common aim or interest’. This seemed to be a Society at war with itself and its aims, but ‘it is hard to be impersonal in a cosmos that runs to personality’ (*A Glastonbury Romance* – written about Dave Spear who is trying to stay with his ideas whilst he knows his wife Persephone is being seduced by John Crow).

It was all extremely disturbing, and as an immediate result I overslept and missed our new Chairman’s lecture of the Poetry of Francis Powys. After coffee Constance Harsh ‘Wrestled with Nietzsche’ and took us on a whirlwind ride through JCP’s first few years lecturing in America.

Most of those remaining then walked in the afternoon with Roger Peers around Maiden Castle. At last she had been attended to. The Dorset landscape rose to the occasion and the encircling group were cosseted and restored by the sky, the horizon and the sense of being together.

Once again Chris Gostick organised this Conference, and although we have all come to assume that he organises without apparent effort, in fact much time and energy has to be expended, and I thank him for this Conference.

So what did we gain from the experience? High quality lectures without doubt. Tragedy of Shakespearean if not Powysian proportions. Visions of Wessex to be contended with and entered into. Could the ideas in literature and the lectures become part of this Society? There is no doubt that Jimmy has been playing hopscotch for the past year at least – ever present yet not there. So, will The Powys Society ‘Enjoy and Endure’?

Sonia Lewis

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Powys Society
held at Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester
at 8.00 pm on Sunday 20 August 2000*

Present The President, Honorary Officers and 46 Members of the Society.

In the absence of the Chairman, Paul Roberts, the Vice-Chairman, Griffin Beale, took the chair and opened the meeting by reading out a letter to him from Paul Roberts dated 27 July 2000, in which Paul indicated his resignation as Chairman of the Society with immediate effect. The meeting unanimously requested Griffin to convey very best wishes

to Paul, with particular thanks for his hard work and support to the Society over very many years.

1 Apologies were received from Francis and Kathleen Feather and Sven Erik Täckmark who all sent good wishes for a successful Conference; and from Eileen Mable, Gerald Pollinger, Hilary Henderson, Lesley Booth, Marius Buning, Herbert Williams and Tony Glynn.

2 Minutes of the 1999 AGM Proposed by Bruce Madge and seconded by Sonia Lewis, the Minutes of the Meeting held at Kingston Maurward on 22 August 1999 as published in the November 1999 *Newsletter* were approved and signed as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising from the 1999 Minutes Peter Foss asked that any future Members List published by the Society be an accurate record of the membership. The Hon Secretary explained that because of constant changes and late payment of subscriptions no published list could ever be a full record for procedural purposes as required by Rule 3.6 of the Constitution. Louise de Bruin suggested the 1999 AGM report did not record all the activities of the Society for that year, and it was indicated that this issue would be covered in the Hon. Secretary's Report.

4 Hon. Secretary's Report Chris Gostick reported that the Committee had met on four occasions during the year – three times in London, with special thanks to Bruce Madge and the British Library for providing a free Committee Room, and once at Kingston Maurward. There was also a meeting of the Powys Collection Advisory Committee in January, and on behalf of the Society the Hon. Secretary had assisted with the launch of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society at the Dorset County Museum in January by chairing their inaugural meeting. It had been a sad year in many respects; not least for the need to represent the Society at farewells to a number of distinguished and treasured supporters: Oliver Wilkinson in October, Isobel Powys Marks in December and Martin Pollock in January, as well as at the fine Memorial Service for Isobel at Winterborne Tomson in early June. More recent was the sudden death of Derek Langridge in June. All gave great and uniquely individual support to the Society and would be greatly missed.

The past year had generally been spent consolidating the gains and developments of previous years, and in attempting to resolve a number of emerging difficulties, and over recent months in trying to keep the Society stable despite the activities of a very small but vociferous group increasingly critical of the elected Committee. The Hon. Secretary indicated that it gave him a good deal of embarrassment to report on these matters, as he had no desire to apportion blame amongst a small group of enthusiastic individuals working in a voluntary capacity in often difficult circumstances. He then went on to discuss specifically the events of the previous year concerning the Editorship of *The Powys Journal*. As

members were aware, John Williams edited the *Journal* for the three issues 1997, 1998, 1999. He had warned both the Chairman and the Committee well in advance that he would not be able to continue after his 3-year period, and the Committee agreed to seek a replacement. The Chairman took personal responsibility for identifying possible suitable candidates, and although the issue was raised at consecutive meetings during that year no progress was reported, although time was clearly getting short. In the event, without consultation with any of the Officers or Committee members and completely upon his own initiative, Paul Roberts as Chairman wrote to Louise de Bruin on 7 August 1999 with a letter which could only be construed as a firm offer of the Editorship. Louise replied on 17 August in a letter accepting the offer subject to a number of conditions.

That was the position Paul reported to the Committee which met at Kingston Maurward immediately before the beginning of the 1999 Conference. At that meeting Paul did not show the Committee either his own letter or Louise's reply, although he did read out salient points from the latter which were minuted. Indeed even now, with the exception of the Hon. Secretary to whom Louise de Bruin subsequently gave the originals so he could take copies, no other member of the Committee has actually seen Paul's letter to Louise de Bruin, or her response. At the meeting the Chairman also outlined an alternative strategy, which was for the Hon. Officers to produce a special Tenth Anniversary Issue of the *Journal* to celebrate the year 2000. Although the Committee discussed the issue for some time, it quickly became clear there was no support for accepting the conditions proposed by Louise de Bruin. The alternative proposal was therefore unanimously agreed. The Committee then specifically requested the Chairman to speak to Louise de Bruin as soon as possible after the Committee meeting to explain the position to her. Paul agreed to do this, but did not do so before the Annual General Meeting the following afternoon. Consequently, in an attempt to spare both the Chairman and Louise de Bruin possible public embarrassment at that meeting, the Hon. Secretary made no mention of the matter in his 1999 report to the AGM – a failure for which he apologised to the Society.

Immediately after the AGM Paul Roberts did explain the position to Louise de Bruin – who was understandably upset both by the Committee decision and by the delay in being informed – and he met with her on at least two occasions during the latter part of the Conference. Towards the end of the Conference Paul was also upset, and at one stage sought advice as to whether he should resign as Chairman. He was advised to continue and to find a way of resolving the difficulties that had been created. He agreed, and that was how the matter rested at the end of the 1999 Conference.

After the Conference, the Chairman, Paul Roberts, inexplicably failed to write to Louise de Bruin to explain again how the situation had arisen and to apologise

to her. Consequently, by the time of the November Committee meeting, it was clear that a small number of members were concerned by the way the matter had apparently been handled. At the November Committee the position was very fully discussed and there was a strong feeling the contents of the Chairman's original letter should be revealed to the Committee so they could judge for themselves what had actually been offered to Louise de Bruin. It then transpired that the Chairman had not kept a copy, so the Hon Secretary had the only copy available. As the letter was clearly marked "Private and Confidential" the Hon Secretary did not consider it appropriate for it to be made public, even to the Committee, although sadly parts of that letter, along with much other personal correspondence, had subsequently been made public by Jacqueline Peltier. In the event it was agreed that the Chairman should write a detailed letter to Louise de Bruin setting out the full position, and that similar letters should also go to those members who had raised concerns on her behalf. Those letters were sent out later in November to Louise de Bruin herself, to Frank Kibblewhite whom she wished to make Deputy Editor of the *Journal*, to Jacqueline Pelter and to Peter Foss. This was the position until the recent circulation of large amounts of documents by the Peltiers.

At the November Committee meeting the Chairman was understandably distressed by the whole affair, for which he both accepted full personal responsibility and apologised to the Committee – as is made clear both in the Committee Minutes and in the letters he wrote to the four individuals – and he then indicated that pressures on his professional and family life precluded him seeking a further term of office as Chairman, and that he wished to stand down at the next AGM. The Committee expressed its continuing support for Paul, and a number of members of the Committee wrote personal letters of support to him at that time.

Neither the Chairman or Vice-Chairman were able to attend the next Committee meeting in February, which was chaired by the Hon. Secretary. The main items were standard business such as progress on the 2000 *Journal* and Conference arrangements, and preparation of the slate of Committee nominations for the April *Newsletter* as required by the Constitution. The Committee was pleased that John Williams had agreed to allow his name to go forward as Chairman to replace Paul Roberts. To prevent any possible delay, the February Committee also approved in principle an outline budget for the *Weymouth Walk* leaflet which it had earlier asked Tony Hallett to prepare, although a full specification for the project had not yet been received from Bev Craven, who had agreed to be responsible for the design and production.

Throughout the year a major priority for the Committee has been to consolidate progress made in previous years to put the Powys Collection on to a firm financial and administrative footing. This has been achieved by supporting Morine Krissdóttir as Hon. Curator; by the continued commitment of substantial financial support to the Collection; and through regular discussions with the

Dorset County Museum over additional space and facilities for the Collection. Unfortunately, despite a great deal of effort by Bruce Madge and Morine Krissdóttir, the Heritage Lottery Fund application for cataloguing, conserving and microfilming the remaining Collection material was rejected, so in the meantime work has been concentrated on completing a full catalogue of the Collection. In February the Hon. Curator asked for and was granted a six-month sabbatical from her position, but has since expressed a wish to continue and has now been re-appointed by the Committee for a further 3-year period.

During the year another difficulty arose in relation to *Country Living* magazine. As many members will be aware, the May edition of that magazine carried a major feature on the Powys Family in Dorset, largely drawn from material originally published in *The Dorset Year*. In many ways this was excellent publicity of the Society, for we received a number of additional requests for the few remaining copies of the book, and a number of enquiries about membership of the Society. Unfortunately we also received complaints from the Dorset County Museum and the Powys Estate concerning possible infringement of copyright over the republication without permission of photographs taken from *The Dorset Year*. As the Committee had again not been consulted about this arrangement, which had been co-ordinated by the Chairman, the Hon. Secretary prepared a report for the June meeting to determine as far as possible how the situation has arisen, and to make recommendations – which the Committee accepted – to avoid any possible replication. Apologies were also sent to the Powys Estate and Dorset County Museum who have both expressed themselves satisfied with the new procedures and will take no further action.

Immediately before the June Committee it became apparent that the *Weymouth Walk* leaflet was running into trouble. For reasons that are still not clear, Tony Hallett and Bev Craven seem to have had a difference of view over their responsibilities as editor and designer respectively for the final proofs, and as a result Tony insisted on withdrawing the document which was already with the printer of his choice. In an attempt to resolve the matter both Tony and Ann Axenskold, who had been working with him on the project, were invited to the June meeting, but this invitation was not acknowledged. The Committee therefore had no alternative but to accede to Tony Hallett's request and the project was abandoned, although it would have provided valuable publicity for the Society. The Weymouth Weekend planned for 16/17 September was also cancelled. Tony Hallett has failed to respond to any letters on the matter sent to him since the meeting. Shortly after the June meeting the majority – if not all – members of the Society received an unsolicited letter from Tony Hallett on the subject in which he blamed 'the Committee' for what had occurred. In fact the Committee had little or no involvement in the project, except to agree the principle and the budget, and individual members of the Committee had done everything possible to give it a fair wind. The key responsibilities for undertaking the work were

delegated to those directly involved, and it was very disappointing that no way of resolving the problems had been found.

The June Committee also received four additional nominations for Committee positions submitted in response to the invitation for nominations in the April *Newsletter*. After careful consideration the Committee reluctantly concluded that two of the proposers could not be considered paid-up or honorary members of the Society in the manner required by Rule 3.6 of the Constitution, although it was agreed that given the circumstances substitute proposers would be accepted. It was also recognised that the Constitution was deficient in a number of respects, not least in its definition of membership, and it was agreed to undertake a full review once the election was complete. As a result of the additional nominations, two of the existing Committee slate, Bev Craven and Chris Wilkinson, indicated they would prefer to stand down and the Committee reluctantly agreed to these requests. Consequently two of the additional nominees – Jeffrey Kwintner and Kate Kavanagh – were automatically elected to the Committee for the coming year. However an election was still required for the contested positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Society. As this was the first occasion on which an election had been held under the 1996 Constitution, the June Committee considered and approved a set of detailed procedures based on the Society Constitution and By-Laws for the conduct of the election.

Joe Boulter also attended the initial part of the June Committee to demonstrate the work he was doing to develop the Powys Society Web Site. It was also confirmed that due to ill-health Thieu Klijn was no longer able to assist the Society as he had in the past, and had agreed to Joe taking over responsibility for the site once a new location for its operation had been established. Joe's site is currently being tested and will be moved to a permanent location as soon as possible, after which the change will be advertised and Thieu will provide a link from his existing site to the new Official Powys Society Site. Special thanks are due to Joe who has agreed to be responsible for updating the new site on a regular basis, and particularly to Thieu Klijn for all his hard work to establish the site.

The final meeting of the year at Kingston Maurward immediately before the start of the 2000 Annual Conference was chaired by Vice-Chairman Griffin Beale, when the Committee unanimously approved the appointment of Professor J. Lawrence (Larry) Mitchell, Head of the Department of English at Texas A & M University, as Honorary Editor of *The Powys Journal* for the next three years – a position he has accepted with great enthusiasm. The Committee also formally co-opted Morine Krissdóttir as Honorary Curator of the Powys Collection for the next three years, and requested that in collaboration with the Powys Collection Advisory Committee she review all practical options to safeguard the long-term future of the Collection, and report back to the Committee with proposals as soon as practicable. The Committee also received a report on the recent election and authorised the Hon. Secretary to review the Constitution in the light of a

number of issues revealed by the process which clearly needed to be addressed, and to bring forward proposals for improvement.

Finally, in accordance with Llewelyn's Will, some 35 or so members and friends of the Society were present at The Sailor's Return in Chaldon on 13 August to drink Llewelyn's health on the 110th anniversary of his birth. The group then visited Chaldon Church where Janet Pollock laid a wreath of wild flowers on Katie Powys's grave, where at his own expense John Sanders had recently completely renovated the simple memorial cross. A score of the group then braved the indifferent weather to walk up past Chydyok to the high cliffs to lay a small wreath on Llewelyn's Memorial Stone, and a round dozen then completed the walk along the coastal path to the Coastguard Cottages, past St Catherine's Chapel and Ringstead Bay and finally to the Smugglers at Osmington Mills.

The Hon. Secretary concluded his report with a number of personal remarks, for he had been saddened by the degree of animosity exhibited towards him and other members of the Committee by a small number of members over the past year. He indicated he had no wish to stand in the way of change and would willingly give way if anyone else wished to become Secretary of the Society. Finally he thanked all members of the Committee for their resilience over the past year, as well as the vast majority of members who had continued to be so generous with their encouragement and appreciation. In particular he wished to acknowledge the unfailing support, loyal friendship and wise counsel he had consistently received from John Batten, Stephen Powys Marks and Griffin Beale.

There then followed a large number of questions and comments from the floor, particularly regarding the issue of the Editorship of *The Powys Journal*, notably from Tim Hyman, Peter Foss and Louise de Bruin, about the Powys Collection by Susan Rands, and about the recent election process by Richard Graves and Belinda Humfrey, which were answered by the Hon. Secretary. Glen Cavaliero outlined his own understanding of the sequence of events leading up to the offer of the Editorship to Louise de Bruin by Paul Roberts, and then went on to make a strong plea to avoid any scapegoating of individuals, and for everyone to try to move forward in a spirit of reconciliation. This was strongly supported by Sonia Lewis and a number of other members. After some further discussion and clarification it was proposed by Eve Batten and seconded by Michael Everest that the Hon. Secretary's Report be adopted. This proposal was approved with 3 votes against.

John Batten then addressed the meeting on the recent extensive correspondence which had been widely circulated by the Peltiers about his role and activities as Hon. Editor of the Powys Society *Newsletter*. He made it clear that he and Eve were extremely distressed by these actions, not least as neither he nor other members of his family in membership of the Society had received copies of the circulated correspondence. He outlined the sequence of events in some detail,

and went on to point out the impossible position he found himself in as Editor of the *Newsletter* in being pilloried for refusing to publish material he knew to be personal, private and confidential to the individuals involved. He concluded by making it clear he was not prepared to remain in any Association which contained Madam Peltier as a member. Jacqueline Peltier then made a very brief attempt to respond, indicating she had not seriously expected John Batten to publish her letter unedited, but only to provoke some form of response so the issues could be made public. John and Eve Batten then left the meeting in great distress.

It was agreed that the meeting should briefly be adjourned at this point.

When the meeting re-convened it was proposed by Tim Hyman and seconded by John Williams and agreed unanimously that John Batten should be asked to remain a member of the Society and to continue as Hon. Editor of the Powys Society *Newsletter*.

5 Hon. Treasurer's Report Stephen Powys Marks explained that the Treasurer's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for 1999 had been published in the July 2000 *Newsletter*, and then went on to highlight the main features of the published accounts. Overall he was glad to report the Society remained in a sound financial position. He then outlined briefly the Committees proposed response to the replacement of Deeds of Covenant by the new Gift Aid Scheme, and reported that the necessary information would be circulated with the November *Newsletter*. Susan Rands asked that certain charges for the use of Powys Collection material be explained, and the Hon. Treasurer agreed to write to her separately on the subject. The Audited Accounts for 1999 as published were then adopted by the meeting.

6 Chairman's Report Paul Roberts's 1999 Report, as published in the July 2000 *Newsletter*, was noted by the meeting.

7 Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members As Hon. Nominations Secretary, Bruce Madge reported that 307 Ballot Papers had been issued with the July *Newsletter* to all Honorary and Fully Paid-Up members of the Society at that time, and that 153 (almost exactly 50%) had been returned by the due date of Tuesday 15 August. A further three papers had been received after the due date which the Committee had determined could not be included. One paper was judged to be spoiled, as both Graves and Williams had been selected, but neither Beale nor Foss. 152 papers were therefore counted and the results were:

<i>Chairman</i>		<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	
John Williams	104 (68%)	Griffin Beale	110 (72%)
Richard Graves	<u>48</u> (32%)	Peter Foss	<u>42</u> (28%)
TOTAL	<u>152</u>		<u>152</u>

Richard Graves congratulated John Williams on his success, and then went on

to suggest that all future elections be contested in an honest and open manner, and that in the absence of any evidence to the contrary all candidates should be regarded as working for the best interests of the Society. He noted that the Membership List had a clear statement it should not be used for canvassing, and that it was inappropriate for members of a Society to intervene in the election process as he believed had happened on this occasion. John Williams responded that these had been unique circumstances and it was probably inevitable that issues would arise that needed to be reviewed and resolved, and he undertook to do so.

The meeting then noted that in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Constitution the following Honorary Officers and Committee members had been elected for the next 12 months:

<i>Chairman</i>	John Williams
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Griffin Beale
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Chris Gostick
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	Stephen Powys Marks
<i>Committee</i>	
John Batten	Bruce Madge
Kate Kavanagh	John Powys
Jeffrey Kwintner	Judith Stinton
Sonia Lewis	

8 Re-Appointment of Honorary Curator The meeting noted that Morine Krissdóttir had been co-opted to the Committee as Hon. Curator of the Powys Collection for the next three years. Richard Graves expressed some surprise at co-opting a member on to a Committee at its very last meeting after which the membership would be changing. The Hon. Secretary agreed this was probably unusual but was consistent with previous practice and was the only way in which the necessary continuity could be assured in the present circumstances, but it was agreed the process should be reviewed. Susan Rands and Belinda Humfrey raised a number of issues about access and location of the Collection, and although the history of the Collection and the overwhelming approval of its location at the Dorset County Museum by the AGM in 1992 was reiterated, as it had been many times before, they still expressed themselves dissatisfied. It was noted that the Committee had recently requested the Hon. Curator to review all practical options for the future of the Powys Collection in conjunction with the Collection Advisory Committee, and to bring forward proposals as soon as practicable, and would therefore welcome any views on the matter.

9 Appointment of Honorary Auditor It was proposed by Stephen Powys Marks, seconded by Graham Carey and agreed unanimously that Stephen Allen, a member of the Society, be appointed Honorary Auditor for a further year.

10 2001 Conference The Hon. Secretary reported that following discussion

at the last AGM and in response to last year's Membership Questionnaire, he had undertaken to find a possible alternative venue for 2001. Initial discussions with a venue in Llangollen suggested it should be possible to organise a Conference of similar length at a similar price. If this proved practicable the next Conference would therefore be held at Llangollen in North Wales from Saturday 18 – Tuesday 21 August 2000. The following year the Conference would return to Kingston Maurward from Saturday 17 – Tuesday 20 August 2002.

11 Any Other Business

11.1 Graham Carey requested that the British Library catalogue be checked for the availability of copies of books by T. F. Powys, and that any duplicates in the Powys Collection be made available for possible loan to members.

11.2 Peter Foss proposed that the AGM be separated out from the Conference and held on a different occasion. There was strong opposition to this view from the majority of those present. He then made a short statement about the nature of his original involvement with the Bissell Collection.

11.3 Susan Rands proposed that Belinda Humfrey be made an Honorary Member of the Society. The Hon. Secretary clarified that Rule 5.6 of the Constitution required advance notice for resolutions of this kind, and that in any case the matter was a Committee responsibility under Rule 3.5 of the Constitution.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 11.50 pm.

Chris Gostick, Hon. Secretary

30 August 2000

A Personal Letter from the New Chairman

I find myself elected to the Chair of The Powys Society at a time when, once again, there would appear to be a genuine revival of interest in Johnm Cowper Powys. My hope is that we shall all be able to move forward on the foundations established by many years of devoted work by members past and present to promote the work of the Powyses, and to grow in strength as a Society at what promises to be a particularly fruitful time.

I imagine that the majority of members will by now be well aware that the Society has encountered serious difficulties in the course of the past year. I have been doing my best to understand and gauge as fully as I can how a series of internal problems and disagreements gradually ran out of control, resulting in profound anxiety and hurt among a number of our most valued and loyal members.

I have to say that my perception of the situation now recognises two distinct but overlapping causes. The first concerns a sea of personal disagreements where

individuals have fallen out with each other. In such circumstances, there is little I or the Society can do except to urge that where such difficulties have arisen, the individuals concerned bear in mind that there may be damaging consequences for the Society, and that where this is the case, they modify their behaviour accordingly. I would like to think that all members would join me on unconditionally condemning the sending of deeply offensive anonymous letters; it is an act which would be totally beyond the comprehension of the Powys family, in whose honour the Society is maintained. It saddens me beyond measure, however, to confirm that there has been someone prepared to stoop so low.

The second set of circumstances is situated squarely within the Society, its manner of proceeding, and its responsibilities to its members. Here, quite specifically, the failure to publish the 'Weymouth Walk' leaflets, and the process by which a successor to myself as Editor of *The Powys Journal* was handled were the immediate causes for anxiety, misunderstanding and anger. I believe that all of us who have been involved, inside and outside the Committee, need to pause and reflect on how these circumstances were allowed to get out of hand, and to resolve to work for reconciliation over the coming months. There should, for example, be no more unsolicited dissemination of members' private correspondence; there should be a serious effort made to moderate anger to the point where dialogue becomes possible.

The time is now right for members to make a serious review of why they should justifiably view the future with optimism, and expect progress to be made and reconciliation where needed gradually to come about. Already new initiatives have been set in motion. We have Professor Larry Mitchell in post as the new Editor of *The Powys Journal* for the next three years, while the Committee proceeds with a thorough review of the terms of reference for the *Journal* and the *Newsletter*, and of our management of publications more generally. We are also committed to have begun a detailed review of all the issues that have arisen around the Powys Archive by the time of the next AGM. I am satisfied that there has been a positive and determined response to the matters in hand, one which openly accepts that there are things we need to put right. But of course none of this can be done overnight. The Committee has set itself an ambitious and demanding programme which has to run concurrently with the day-to-day business of managing the Society. There is a need for patience and a mature sense of corporate responsibility. The Committee is resolved to move forward as swiftly as is prudent on all these fronts.

With the *Journal* Editor in place for three years, with the new Committee now well into its term of office, with a new Chairman, and given the number of messages I have received from the membership urging reconciliation, I want to ask you all for the opportunity to take the Society forward. With planning for the 2001 Conference at Llangollen well in hand, I would like to think that we will be able to celebrate the achievements of John Cowper Powys in a positive and

confident way in August 2001. I shall seek re-election for one more term of office, because we certainly won't have completed our major tasks within the year, and I would like to be given the opportunity to see those changes well on their way. If re-elected in 2001, I would review my own position as Chairman in 2002.

As I think most members know, I welcome your comments at any time, and I look forward to hearing from you should you feel you want to contact me. I have every confidence that the Society has an exciting future; please help me, along with your Officers and our new Committee, to make that possible.

John Williams

Resolution of the Committee of The Powys Society

At the regular meeting of the Committee in London on Saturday 4 November, the following resolution was debated and passed unanimously. The Committee also unanimously resolved that the item, together with the accompanying letter from the Chairman of the Society considered at the same meeting, should be published in this Newsletter. The Acting Editors of the Newsletter concur with this request from the Committee:

Immediately prior to the 2000 Annual Conference, a great deal of correspondence and other material were circulated both by mail and e-mail to members of The Powys Society by Jacqueline Peltier. Amongst other matters, she strongly criticised the Editor of the Society *Newsletter*, John Batten, for refusing to publish a letter of hers in the November 1999 Newsletter. His refusal had been based on his editorial judgement that the letter in question was unacceptable because it quoted extracts from private correspondence between other people, one letter at least of which had been clearly marked 'private and confidential'. Although later acknowledging that she did not actually expect John Batten to publish her letter to the *Newsletter*, Jacqueline Peltier did not at the time accept this refusal and a lengthy correspondence ensued between her and the Editor, ending with Jacqueline Peltier circulating to the general membership parts of the correspondence between them without the Editor's permission or knowledge.

John Batten considered that this circular was a slur on his integrity as editor and on his reputation within the Society. At the AGM he therefore indicated that he and his wife Eve would have to resign if the sender of the circular did not. The AGM immediately and unanimously passed a motion requesting John and Eve Batten to remain members of the Society and requesting John Batten to continue as Editor of the *Newsletter*. The Battens have subsequently been further distressed to receive a most unpleasant anonymous letter.

Consequently, the Committee wishes to state that:

(a) The Editor of the *Newsletter*, appointed by the Committee, has the absolute right to decline material, including letters, submitted for publication.

This is official Society policy clearly stated on the inside front cover of each edition of the *Newsletter*.

(b) The Editor had cleared all his ensuing correspondence with the above member, either with the whole Committee or with one or more of its Officers. The Committee therefore takes full responsibility for the Editor's original decision not to publish her letter, and for his subsequent replies to the sender of the various letters and other correspondence.

The Committee believes that by disseminating to members of the Society correspondence from a *Newsletter* Editor and other members without their permission, as well as correspondence clearly marked 'private and confidential', Jacqueline Peltier has acted in a completely unacceptable manner. She has committed a breach of trust which has caused unwarranted distress and hurt to John Batten and his wife Eve. The Committee wishes to express its strongest possible disapproval of her actions. It is the opinion of the Committee that her actions have not been in the best interests of the majority of the members of the Society. The Committee strongly urges members with a perceived grievance to address it in future to the elected Committee, not to the general membership which has no means of judging its validity or otherwise. Such blanket distribution is an unacceptable intrusion on the privacy of membership of the Society.

The Committee completely reaffirms the AGM resolution and expresses its fervent hope that John and Eve Batten will remain as well-loved members of the Society to which they have contributed so much of their time and hospitality, and that John Batten remain on the Committee to continue to contribute his much-appreciated advice and expertise, as well as remaining Editor of the *Newsletter* which has flourished under his guidance and perspicacity.

Chris Gostick, *Hon. Secretary*

4 November 2000

Spring in East Anglia
Friday 4 to Monday 7 May 2001

Following the success of last year's short visit, the Society is now arranging a slightly longer visit to East Anglia over the forthcoming Early Spring Bank Holiday weekend. This will provide an opportunity to visit Northwold, where various members of the Powys family stayed regularly as children, as well as many other places in the area with a Powys connection. The visit will again be based at Hengrave Hall, a wonderful Tudor Manor House near Bury St Edmunds, that has recently been restored to provide simple accommodation and meeting facilities.

The arranged programme will begin on Friday afternoon, and include 3 nights full board and accommodation, ending at lunch time on the Monday. There will

be an opportunity for informal discussion in hospitable surroundings with a congenial group of fellow Powysians, as well as a number of visits. There will also be some more formal presentations and readings.

A detailed programme and further information including the total cost, will be sent out early in the New Year **only to those returning the form included with this Newsletter**. So if you are interested in attending do please send in your completed form as soon as possible, and in any case by 1 January 2000 at the latest.

Subscriptions & Gift Aid Declarations

Subscriptions are due on January 1st: UK £13.50, abroad £16, student £6.

More than half the members pay by standing order, for which we are extremely grateful, but anyone who makes a separate payment each year should make arrangements now, unless they have already paid.

I am using the Gift Aid forms to remind UK subscribers: so if your form has a tick against 'Subscription for 2001' please take action now.

I will be sending out the usual reminders in April to all, including overseas members, but if your blue form (UK only) has a tick, please don't wait!

PAYMENTS FROM ABROAD

I regret that, as another benefit of belonging to the European Union, **Eurocheques are no longer acceptable** for the payment of subscriptions by members. Please, therefore, pay in one of these other ways: in pounds sterling through a bank in the United Kingdom, International Giro or Sterling International Money Order. If you cannot do any of these, please add £4 to the value of your cheque *in your own currency* as a contribution towards bank charges.

You might be able to get together with another member in your own country to reduce bank charges; you could also save charges by paying for 2 years at once.

GIFT AID DECLARATIONS

In the July *Newsletter* I described the new arrangements which the Government has made for charities to reclaim the tax you have paid on subscriptions: they are much simpler for you and much simpler for us.

With the new Gift Aid Declaration we will be able to reclaim nearly £4 on each subscription of £13.50 you pay to the Society.

NOW is the time for you to act and help us. All UK members who pay a subscription will find a blue sheet enclosed:

PLEASE COMPLETE IT, AND RETURN IT TO ME.

Stephen Powys Marks

The Llewelyn Birthday Walk, August 13 2000

It was our first Llewelyn Powys walk, so we weren't sure what to expect or even if our two children, Anna 11 and Fred 10 would be welcome. We needn't have worried as the welcome given to us by the group meeting in the tented annexe of The Sailor's Return pub in East Chaldon couldn't have been more friendly. More than thirty of us set off from the pub after a drink celebrating the birth date of Llewelyn, including the two children and John's black Labrador. It was a larger gathering than normal, largely explained by the birthday falling on a Saturday. Rain clouds were gathering in the sky, but as yet the day remained dry.

Chris Gostick pointed out the first landmark, the bungalow opposite the Sailors Return, the site of Miss Green's cottage where Sylvia Townsend Warner and Valentine Ackland lived. It was later demolished by a Luftwaffe bomb. The bungalow is fairly new, but the garden shed is a 1930s caravan surrounded by hollyhocks and honeysuckle; Sylvia and Valentine would surely have approved! On the right of the village green we passed the tiny cottage, one of three in a terrace, where Theodore and Violet had their first home together before moving to their detached villa, Beth Car, just beyond St Nicholas church.

The first stop was in the churchyard to see the newly replaced wooden cross marking Katie Powys's grave, which lies close to Sylvia and Valentine's joint plot. We all gathered round as Eve Batten movingly read extracts from a letter written to Sylvia by Alyse at the time of Katie's death. Looking on was John Sanders who had restored the cross, with its simple initials 'KP'.



After a brief visit to the headstone of that doomed New Yorker Walter Frantzen, the subject of one of Llewelyn's *Dorset Essays*, we returned to the village, passed the Muntz cottage and set off towards those very cliffs where Frantzen had met his violent end. It is a long, slow climb up the flinty path towards the Powys home at Chydyok, but with magnificent views inland of Hardy's Egdon Heath which not even the decommissioned Winfrith nuclear power station could diminish.

Chaldon itself is a tiny, remote village, but Chydyok, standing alone in the folds of the chalk downs amidst sheep and the faint lines of ancient strip lynchets, is well beyond it. How, one wondered, could they have lived in such a secluded spot? Where did they get their supplies from? But of course Gertrude Powys was a great kitchen gardener and the intrepid postmistress Betty Lucas delivered provisions along with the mail.

Chydyok is a brick and flint building divided into two homes. Llewelyn and Alyse Gregory lived in one half, Gertrude and Katie in the other. Today, as then, the freehold is owned by the Weld estate, with one half now let as a holiday cottage. Janet Pollock, the cousin of Sylvia Townsend Warner, rents the Llewelyn/Alyse half and was our hostess for tea and a very welcome escape from the rain that was now beginning to fall. She has kept the house much as it was in the Powyses' time, with simple pre-war furniture, including the original wooden

draining-board beside a stone sink. On the first floor is the bed where Llewelyn lay sick while JCP read to him, and above, the attic bedroom of Alyse. On the walls of the living room are photos: of the Powys family group, of Llewelyn, of Sylvia looking pale and severe with bobbed hair and horned-rim spectacles, and of Arthur Machen, Janet's father and a frequent visitor in the Thirties. On the mantelpiece is Llewelyn's metal ank, the ancient Egyptian symbol that reflected his religion and philosophy. Janet was a gracious hostess, not minding muddy feet and allowing us all the freedom of the house as we took turns to head up the tiny stairs with rope handrail to explore the rooms above.



After Chydyok some in the group returned to Chaldon, while an intrepid few headed through the rain and wind to the coastal path and Llewelyn's stone memorial. The sea was barely visible through the rain and the isle of Portland, its outline often crystal clear, was non-existent. A herd of cows emerged from the mist as we approached the memorial, among them a great black bull. They stood by impassively while we nervously gathered around the huge block of Portland stone to hear Chris Gostick read from *The Cry of a Gull*. It was a nice Powysian moment of the confluence of natural and human worlds and the weather.

Half the remaining party left at this point, leaving the hardiest to hike in the rain to The Smuggler's Inn at Osmington. Beyond Llewelyn's stone lay White Nothe and the coastguard cottages, the end one of which was rented by Llewelyn and Alyse for six years after they returned from America. It was truly bleak and windswept and must have come as a great shock to the urbane Alyse. Even though this was summer you could easily identify with Llewelyn's description of November gales, when seaweed was thrown onto the 600-foot cliff top and slates from the cottage roofs were hurled over the ploughlands 'like sycamore leaves'.

The coastal path snaked its slippery way up and down cliff edges and in an hour or so we reached Osmington, looking like drowned rats.

The walk had been a great experience, heightened in a sense by the rough weather, which seemed to bring us closer to the Powys experience of this part of Dorset. The occasion of Llewelyn's birthday had given us the chance of a fantastic walk and, like the best of rambles, the opportunity to meet and chat with people who shared a common interest. On our return to the car-park of The Sailor's Return, Gerald Redman opened up the boot of his car and produced jars of honey and slabs of honeycomb which he'd gathered that morning from his beehives. 'Just take them. They're a present', he said, as he handed them out to the remaining walkers. It was a lovely gesture to end a lovely day.

Pam and Paul Gillingham

These extracts from a letter from Alyse Gregory to Sylvia Townsend Warner, referred to above as read by Eve Batten, were made available by Morine Krissdóttir and are hitherto unpublished.

22 January 1963

I have been trying to write to you ever since I received your letter – it is always so good to hear from you – to know you are there, that part of me – a very essential one – that lives because you are in the world, is still able to function. I don't know which is worse, to combat the rigours of the climate with the ensuing discomforts, or the unpredictable turns of one's thoughts which seem to be all turmoil at one moment and give way to a total stoppage at the next, and all seemingly outside reason – 'a candle on an ocean raft' as it (reason that is) has sometimes been termed.

When I heard of Katie's death I had been so long hoping for it that my first and only feeling was one of liberation – as Lucy said, 'like opening the cage door and letting the bird fly free'. After that, nothing at all – all beyond thought, or speech, or recollection, too dead even to muse about being dead or even to court death! Have you known that state I wonder? It is the result I am sure of an isolation in which no one touches any motivating spring in one and one has to create oneself for oneself if one is to have a self at all. It was only on the following evening that the waters brimmed up, the memories began to flow-in, so many of them, over all the years – and with the memories, once more the sense of life with its pain, its uncommunicable miseries and rare transports. I used to maintain after Llewelyn's death that I lived for my intellect and imagination alone – which of course is an impossibility.

Lucy told me of the funeral over the 'phone. She is now back in her freezing cottage and told me in the gayest tones over the 'phone, 'You'll laugh when you hear that two hot water bottles in my bed both froze.'

I do hope Valentine has entirely recovered, I think of you both in so many different ways at so many different times. I often return to your stories.

Ever with love Alyse

Reviews

Lord Jim, Lady Tim and the Powys Circle, by Chris Gostick
Powys Heritage Series. Cecil Woolf, London.

ISBN 1 897967 82 9. Price £4.50.

John Cowper Powys, the Lyons and W. E. Lutyens, by Susan Rands
Powys Heritage Series. Cecil Woolf, London.

ISBN 1 897967 87 X. Price £6.50

The cottage industry rolls on apace. Hot on the heels of *The Powys Journal* number ten come the next two issues in the Powys Heritage Series, and format-wise they are identical with, and up to the high standard of, the earlier issues. Both, not surprisingly, deal primarily with John Cowper Powys. I say not surprisingly because he, so very long-lived himself, and so prolific in his chosen field, probably touched the lives of more people than any other member of the Powys clan.

Chris Gostick (the Society's secretary, of course) looks at JCP's relationship with the now largely-forgotten novelist James Hanley; Susan Rands, in her essay, looks at him alongside two of his university contemporaries, W. E. Lutyens, brother of the famous architect, and Thomas Henry Lyon, who would become

JCP's brother-in-law. But one feels both authors – or indeed, any of us, if we were so inclined – could choose practically any group of friends, acquaintances, colleagues, family members, out of the vast pool of the man's life-span, and spin a web of fact, fancy and speculation. Nothing wrong with that, and perhaps rather that than dry-as-dust academic analysis of the works; but it is the works that we, after all, assume will last, and one wonders sometimes if this fact isn't lost in detailing the minutiae of the day-to-day lives of people long gone, and who most of us never knew anyway. However, to the pieces themselves.

Chris Gostick's essay is the shorter, under thirty pages, but in that space he brings quite vividly before us the friendship that grew up between two quite different men, and between both men's life-partners come to that (Phyllis Playter, of course, and Hanley's wife, Timothy). The two men had some qualities in common, more in terms of personality and temperament than in terms of upbringing and background, and the author details these straightaway in his second paragraph. JCP's nickname for Hanley is interesting. Chris Gostick takes exception to it, suggesting Hanley was quite unlike Conrad's character of Lord Jim, and that Hanley had no great love for Conrad's work. While both these things may be true, it remains that Hanley, like Conrad, went to sea early in life, gaining in the process unrivalled life-experience, then came to draw on that in later life for his books. Those facts, and the fact that his name was Jim, might be all there is behind the nickname. Gostick writes well; take this on page 24: '... the sea ... like life itself ... is infinitely indifferent to the insignificant intrusion of man.' Beowulf might have envied such alliteration! Seriously, the author is knowledgeable about his subject and enthusiastic in his presentation of it, and the only pity is that the booklet isn't longer. He can, in a few brief words, make one keen to read these books of Hanley's (which I, to my shame, have not). On page 17, there is a charming quote from the enviable Kenneth Hopkins which brings that time to life, and it is incidentals like these that make the essay a pleasure to read. And a pleasure to look at, too, with the usual complement of photos – one of which, showing the dust-jacket of one of Hanley's most famous novels, *Boy*, is quite astonishing.

Hanley was not unsuccessful during his lifetime, but he has rather lapsed into obscurity since. September 2001 is his centenary, and let's hope this publication can start the ball rolling, and he can begin to get a proper recognition in the months and years ahead.

Number six in the series is more substantial, at least in terms of size. Susan Rands's essay runs to sixty pages and there are no less than 130 notes, which gives some indication of the amount of work that has gone into it. JCP's marriage to Harry Lyon's sister Margaret has long been shrouded in – if not mystery, at least darkness; and despite Ms Rands efforts here, for me it still is. But then (and this is purely a personal view, you understand), I don't care to know that much about JCP's first wife. She may have been a good woman, a good wife and mother, but –

I don't care. She and JCP were clearly temperamentally, emotionally, physically, diametrically opposed, and while one might have some sympathy with Margaret's predicament in early married life – husband working away and showing little interest in domestic life – one wonders if in fact she didn't prefer it that way, with a house to herself and money coming in, if not substantially than at least fairly frequently. On page 20, Ms Rands writes: 'It is plain that between her brother and husband Margaret had much to bear.' One is tempted to say, Who cares? After all this time, it is not Margaret we remember, but her husband, and we remember him for one thing – his books. What I'm trying to get at here ties in with my opening comments: that in our quest to see one of our favourite writers (I'm speaking of JCP of course) we are in danger of not seeing the wood for the trees, and this, in the long run, isn't serving JCP or any of the other Powyses. We need to see them on the broad canvas, and not so often so close up.

Certainly, Ms Rands, in what she does write about, isn't afraid to stick her neck out, posing the question (on page 14) as to whether Littleton Alfred was biologically JCP's son or not, which is the first time I've heard this suggested. There seems to be no evidence that he wasn't, and although the author says there is much room for speculation, that is all it is – speculation; to suggest these two might not have been related and offer as evidence the fact they took great delight in being unlike one another is fairly fanciful, to say the least.

However, there are plenty of morsels for thought in this essay, and, filling in quite a few gaps as it does, it is more than value for money. It reproduces a photo I've not seen before, of a young (36!) JCP in Dresden, and, as an appendix, prints for the first time three sonnets of his – though, in fairness, the extracts from the poetry of Lutyens quoted strike one as rather more the authentic thing.

The essay seems to end rather abruptly. Ms Rands devotes the last few pages to a discussion of *Porius* in the light of JCP's friendship with Lutyens, with Lyon, and so on; and taking up his statement that he wanted his new novel to be seen as 'true', she reads this literally, and extrapolates from attributes of some of the characters in the book and relates them to real people in Powys's life, past or present. Thus, as Rhun (in the book) is fleet of foot, he must be based partly on Lutyens, who was a great runner. All this surely needs to be taken with a pinch of salt. I feel – and I'm willing to stand corrected – that what Powys meant when he said he wanted *Porius* to be true was this: he wanted his new book, his life's masterpiece as he saw it, to be true to itself, in the broadest terms, not true in a narrow sense, or parochially applicable (or not, as the case may be) to real people's lives. Truth is stranger than fiction, but sometimes fiction is truer than reality. The best novels of John Cowper Powys prove that.

Barry Cronin

A Note from Anthony Glynn

In the April *Newsletter*, I wrote about *Blackmailed*, the film version of Elizabeth Myers' third novel *Mrs Christopher*, which was made in 1950. Unhappily, Elizabeth Myers, a keen film fan, did not see it for she died three years earlier.

Although it had a very strong cast, the film was not a great success at the box office and it fell into obscurity. Nevertheless, it is an interesting example of the work of a lesser known British producer-director, Harold Huth, who started his career as an actor in silent films. Additionally, it might well be the only instance of work by one connected to the Powys family being translated to film for Elizabeth Myers was the second wife of Littleton Powys.

My piece prompted John Batten to suggest that if a print of *Blackmailed* could be obtained, with permission to show it, a screening of it might make an interesting item at a future Conference. It has never been put out on video, there is no commercially available print of it, and I know that its rights ran out in 1960.

Inquiring at the British Film Institute, I was told that it is possible to view films in their archive at the Institute's theatre and a party from the Society could well avail itself of these facilities which are open to those wishing to view for educational purposes. Approximate costs, quoted off the cuff, were not prohibitive, and might easily be shared amongst the party if sufficient numbers were interested.

There is a snag, however. The Institute has only the original negative of the film, not a print that can be shown. I'm told that such negatives are being printed following a schedule, but it might be quite a long time before *Blackmailed* is processed. I don't know if a queue of Powys Society members clamouring outside the BFI premises would hasten things at all, but I will make further inquiries as to whether 'public demand' is likely to have any effect.

The idea of visiting the BFI took on further attraction when I learned that Chris Gostick was hoping to revive London meetings, probably at the British Library. The BFI is just off Tottenham Court Road, only a short stroll away from the British Library.

When talking it over with Chris, he suggested sounding out the membership to gain some idea of the strength of support for a Society viewing of *Blackmailed* when it is possible, also to inquire if anyone knows of any other films of possible Powysian interest which might be in the BFI archive and which could be added to the programme.

So, it's over to you. Are you interested in a trip to the cinema or do you know of some long-forgotten Powysian films which might be unearthed? Do write in to the *Newsletter* and let me know. In the meantime, I'll continue to pursue the matter, hoping that sooner or later it will become a worthwhile project.

Anthony Glynn

The Meeting of Powys Families

When John Cowper Powys gave a course of six lectures for Cambridge University in Leeds on 1902, he set in motion a sequence of events which greatly affected his brother A. R. Powys. When he was lecturing in Leeds he was invited by the Revd Horace Annesley Powys to visit his family in Meanwood where he was Vicar. Three years later A. R. Powys married his fifth cousin, Dorothy Mary Powys, the eldest daughter of Annesley Powys (as he was usually called).

Annesley Powys was descended from the same Sir Thomas Powys (1649–1719) as the Montacute Powyses and the family of the Lords Lilford. Sir Thomas's eldest son, also Thomas Powys (c.1687–1720),¹ was the grandfather of the first Baron Lilford and of his brother Littleton Powys (1748–1825), the grandfather of the Revd Charles Francis Powys. Sir Thomas's youngest son Philip (1704–79) married Isabella Lybbe, the sole daughter and heiress of Richard Lybbe of Hardwick House, on the Thames in Oxfordshire, and was the founder of a very extensive family of Lybbe Powyses. Their son, Philip Lybbe Powys, married Caroline Girle, also an heiress. She was encouraged by her father to keep journals and to write letters home about her many excursions, and she kept up the practice for most of her life; these papers were kept by her descendants and an extensive selection from them was published in 1899.²

Caroline Powys (1738–1817) had twenty-four grandchildren. One of these was Bransby William Powys (1807–86), a lawyer who lived or had his office in London near Russell Square; he had 11 children, the seventh of whom was Annesley Powys, thus completing the connection.

I have not explored this side of the Powys connections in much depth before, but am now beginning to do so, occasioned by a weekend event this November in Ludlow looking at aspects of life in Georgian England prompted by Caroline Powys's visit to Ludlow in 1771; this will include a visit to Henley Hall, outside Ludlow, which was the seat of Sir Thomas Powys's father, yet another Thomas.

Annesley Powys entered St John's College, Oxford in October 1870 at the age of 19, and was born therefore in 1850 or 1851 (the actual date will emerge in my researches), and was appointed Curate of Meanwood in 1880 and installed as Vicar in 1883, where he continued till his death in 1917. When JCP was lecturing in Leeds, Annesley Powys had been Vicar for some twenty years, and was of the same generation as, and fourth cousin of, JCP's father, who was born in 1843.

One of the intriguing questions is what knowledge these fourth cousins had of each other or of their families. I have little doubt that Annesley Powys would have been aware of the Montacute Powys family, because his father, Bransby Powys, was an avid assembler of genealogical material, as the second part of this note indicates, and Annesley would, I imagine, have been aware of his father's collections; he might even have inherited some of them which would help to explain why one large volume of material has descended to me.

I am, however, unaware of any reference to Annesley's branch or to Lybbe Powyses in the letters or writings of the Montacute Powyses before the crucial meeting in Leeds in 1902. JCP certainly, after that, had a high opinion of Annesley Powys: writing to Evelyn Powys (sister of Dorothy Powys) in 1958 he says 'Alfred de Kantzow ... was just as you say the first friend I made after I left home to earn my living. The second friend was your Dad Annesley who gave me the wisest advice Ive [sic] ever had in my life – to go and lecture in America.'

A book of genealogies

Many years ago I inherited a very large volume of genealogies, through one or another descendant of Bransby William Powys, either through the family of Dorothy Mary Powys, or through the daughter of a cousin of hers. This volume was itself compiled by Bransby Powys.

Bransby Powys is described by Emily Climençon, Editor of *Passages from the Diaries of Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys*, as the 'archaeologist of the family'. Until my recent re-reading of the *Diaries* I was not aware of the significance of this great manuscript. Unfortunately, this volume contains only three references to Powyses, but there are tantalizing cross-references to two other volumes of Powys pedigrees: I wonder whether they can still be tracked down, whether indeed they still exist. It is likely that Emily Climençon consulted them, as she refers to 'Bransby Powys's big family scrapbooks' in a way which indicates that she was familiar with them; so we have to go back only just over a hundred years.

The book comprises 368 pages of laid paper, watermarked with a fleur-de-lys, the name J. RUMP, and the date 1835. The pages are 15³/₄ inches high by 9³/₄ inches wide, bound in boards; the back of the covering is disintegrating but the binding is fairly sound.

An index of names occupies 11 pages at the front, followed by genealogies occupying most of the remaining openings; they are generously laid out so that information can be added, as has happened extensively; sometimes a genealogy is extended onto a succeeding page. There are also several sheets of genealogies pasted in, so that the count of pages is significantly increased, and there is also a lot of material inserted loose, including many scraps of paper with material still to be entered, and several death notices from newspapers; there are also several coats of arms pasted in, a plan of an estate in Kent and a very long obituary from a Herefordshire newspaper loosely inserted. Several names can be associated with persons and families mentioned in the *Diaries*.

Stephen Powys Marks

1 An approximate date thus, c. 1687, indicates that it is derived from the age at the date of death; all dates are given according to the modern style of year beginning on January 1st.

2 *Passages from the Diaries of Mrs. Philip Lybbe Powys of Hardwick House, Oxon. A.D. 1750 to 1808*, edited by Emily J. Climençon (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1899). A new edition of the *Diaries* is in preparation.

News and Notes

Lawrence Freiesleben is a landscape painter and Wessex members may have seen his work exhibited at the Alpha Gallery in Sherborne. Further to that, anyone present on the Weymouth Walk years ago when he read the policeman/Punch and Judy scene from *Weymouth Sands* will never forget him. Lawrence has another exhibition in Sherborne this autumn and is also about to publish *The Bow* A Prose Fiction, which is described as: A liquid, lyric prose achievement of a high order. Its ostensible train journey is a vehicle for interior journeys of the mind and spirit whose normality takes on unfamiliarity in the light of the artist Lawrence Freiesleben's vision. The eye of the landscape painter becomes ours ... Landscape is made mindscape and vice versa. Mood becomes word. Both the visible world and that of the artist-narrator's reverie are revealed in terms of what is seen. (Brian Louis Pearce) *The Bow* will be published in paperback by Stride, 11 Sylvan Street, Exeter, EX4 6EW. Copies can be ordered at a pre-publication price of £6.50 (a saving of £1.45)

Wolf Solent It is good to report that *Wolf Solent* is back in print again in the UK and Canada in a fine new edition by Penguin Modern Classics at £9.99 (or 19.99 \$ Canadian). It is the 1961 Macdonald version with the Preface by John Cowper Powys, and includes an extremely perceptive new introduction by A. N. Wilson – and is worth the cover price for this alone. The book is well produced with a striking cover illustration entitled Dandelions – rather than Buttercups, presumably – by Simon Palmer. It makes an excellent companion to the recent Penguin re-issues of *Weymouth Sands* and *A Glastonbury Romance*. Rush out and buy it for all your friends this Christmas, and not only will you have a fine present, but Penguin may perhaps be persuaded to continue with this welcome series of re-issues of John Cowper's novels.

Swedish Society It is good to be able to report that the first edition of the *Newsletter* of the new Swedish John Cowper Powys Society has recently been published in a 20-page A5 format. Copies and further information on membership available from :

Lars Gustaf Andersson, Plåtslagarevägen 8, S-227 30 Lund, Sweden

Atlantic Monthly Many members will probably be aware of the excellent short article on John Cowper Powys by the American novelist and travel writer Lawrence Millman in the August edition of the magazine *Atlantic Monthly*. This article is now available on the World Wide Web and can be accessed from the following URL :

<http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/2000/08/millman.htm>.

Brian Rich, a long-standing member of the Society, writes to say he has a full run

of past Society *Newsletters* which he is prepared to transfer to any recently joined member who may like to have them in return for the cost of postage. Any one interested please contact Brian directly at :

Brian Rich, 11 Adams Grove, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 8N

Wessex Lines and Powys Landscapes

The above title was given to my 1991 Society Conference paper. My article in the June 2000 issue of this *Newsletter* was based largely upon that paper, but dealt with the way in which John Cowper's life, from beginning to end, mirrored the Midsummer Sunrise/Sunset line through Stonehenge, from Brandon to Chesil Beach. This paper needs to be read in conjunction with the previous article, and its diagram showing the Avebury–Glastonbury–Winchester triangle in which the 'midsummer' line is situated. One of the most important sources of artistic inspiration is the interaction of the mind of an author, composer or painter with a particular landscape. The opening chapter of Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native* is for me one of the most powerful and haunting examples of this in literature. John Cowper Powys believed that certain places in the landscape had an almost magical power. The key question is what kind of communication takes place between landscape and author, does the 'Genius Loci' have a voice? As John says about Dorchester, writing in *Maiden Castle*:

The aura of this old Roman British town, with its layers upon layers of human memories, semi-historic and prehistoric, seemed to have a magical power over Dud's imagination. He began tapping levels in his unconscious that he had not known he possessed. The moment he sat down at that table in front of those old roofs the spirit of the past seemed to obsess him. Sometimes he actually wrote so fast that it was as if he became a medium, writing he scarce knew what, under some unknown "control".

Landscape influences thought in a poetic sense, but is its power entirely subjective?

In 1885 the Powys family moved from Dorchester to Montacute. In his *Autobiography* John writes :

Coming to Montacute from the Roman remains of Dorchester was like plunging into the earth mould of a medieval romance. A portion of the Holy Rood itself had once been found on the top of Montacute Hill, and from the high ground above the village could clearly be seen the conical shape of Glastonbury Tor, rising over the Sedgemoor marshes ... into that

rich mystical clay of Somerset, my mythological imagination sank at once like a plummet of privileged lead.

The word 'Rood' in the above paragraph was obviously what *was* meant. However, on page 117 of my 1982 Picador edition it says, 'A portion of the Holy Road itself'. What a happy coincidence! My earlier paper showed how the Icknield Way corresponded with the 'Midsummer' line, and other parts of the Triangle's geometry correspond to the Pilgrim's Way to Canterbury, and a Salt Way going north to the village of Salt in Staffordshire. Not of course that Montacute was on the Midsummer line. However, in his essay, 'Montacute Hill', Llewelyn comments on the fact that Ilchester High Street, which is the prehistoric Foss Way, is aligned exactly on Montacute Hill. I have observed that if you extend this Ilchester-Montacute line it goes straight to Pilsdon Pen, the highest hill in Dorset.

A walk from Montacute to Pilsdon Pen is described in Llewelyn's *Skin for Skin*, on the page before he describes a visit to Poxwell stone circle with his brothers John and Theodore. 'Some of the happiest hours of my life have been spent ... walking from Montacute to Pilsdon, to get our first glimpse of the sea, the blue straight line of it suggesting to us ... so large a liberation.'

I will now come back to the triangle AGW (Avebury-Glastonbury-Winchester) described in my earlier paper, with Stonehenge located at an important point inside it. The Romans, according to the history books, had a road running from Winchester to Old Sarum. As noted in my earlier paper, Old Sarum is also on this GW line. This road crosses the River Test at Horsebridge, Hampshire. Although I had elucidated much of the geometry concerned between the years 1978-79, I knew only a little about the Powys family, and only joined the Society in 1984 after a chance meeting with Gerard Casey in Mappowder. It was at the 1989 Conference that I learned from Gerard Casey (Lucy's son-in-law) that the mill at Horsebridge was for many years the home of Lucy, the youngest of the Powys children. The line GW on my diagram passes just over the word 'Mill' on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map. In December 1989 I had the opportunity of reading an entry from John's 1929 *Diary*, as follows:

Walked this morning along the road through the meadows to the bridge over the main River Test; here there is a mill and a great rushing mill-wheel far bigger than Hounsel's on the smaller stream which is a tributary of the river ... A strange event happened. I struck the mill-wheel with the side of my stick, holding it by the end. I said "Give my stick your power, Oh great splashing wheel of fate!" But Lo! My stick was whirled out of my hand, and carried round the wheel. Lucy burst into tears, Oh the sad omen! I frantically rushed down the stream through the reeds, prepared to wade to get it if I could only see it. No sign of it. Mary said it had got stuck below the wheel. Sadly I turned and steeled my heart and tried to comfort Lucy who was very agitated. Suddenly Mary saw some children

about a thousand yards away, far down the stream. She said "Perhaps they will find it." She and I ran back but I had hardly any hope. But a long way down there was a narrow wooden bridge over the fast river. As we came near, the children ran to meet us and Lo and behold one of them, a little boy beautiful as an angel, had leant down and caught it as it swept past, for another one, a little baby, had seen it floating down. I gave the boy who saved it a kiss and a pound, it seemed like a miracle.

I had read that Littleton Powys had lived at West Pennard, Somerset, two miles east of Glastonbury Tor, for the last few years of his life, and I knew that the GW line ran through the village and the churchyard. So where did Littleton live? The answer was given by a Society member, Susan Rands, at the same 1989 Conference at which I had learnt of Lucy's home. 'Just opposite the Post Office', she said. On reading the draft of the 1991 paper, Susan corrected this impression. 'Next door to the Post Office.' The line GW passes through the letters PO on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map.

There are then two Powys children who lived very close to, if not on, the Glastonbury-Winchester line. Just coincidence? Not according to John Michell, the Guru of ley-line literature. Remember that Littleton's home is just two miles from the Tor. Michell writes (*The New View Over Atlantis*, Thames and Hudson, 1983), talking about the Chinese view on the English who settled in Hong Kong:

Many believed that the foreigners knew about Feng Shui, but for some reason were keeping that knowledge secret. It was noted that a grove of trees, planted to give shade to a Hong Kong hospital, had been planted according to the best geometric principles, and *that the richest foreigners had built their house in a most favourable position below the finest Dragon Hill in the colony.* (author's emphasis)

Just a couple more examples before I close. A line from Stonehenge through Winchester Cathedral High Altar goes through the village of Burpham in Sussex, where John's wife Margaret, and his son Littleton lived. Returning once more to the Stonehenge Midsummer line, its closest approach to Mappowder, where Theodore and Lucy lived until their deaths, was a mile north-west. Mappowder church is not therefore part of the system I am describing, but in John Michell's book, cited above, he gives a diagram of a line going through the churches of West Compton, Cerne Abbas, Mappowder, Betchallwell, Okeford Fitzpaine, Child Okeford, and terminating at Old sarum.

Staying with the Midsummer line, it passes through the village of Buckland Newton, where Francis Powys (Theodore's son) and Katie Powys (Theodore's sister) lived.

I hope therefore, that taking this paper and its predecessor together, I have made out a case that is thought-provoking, even if you don't really believe it. I will finish as I started, and ask again, is it entirely a subjective phenomenon? I will close with the opening statement from my 1991 paper: In his book *Obstinate*

Cymric John Cowper wrote that he 'had nourished his inner life on Wordsworth for more than 60 years'. Did Wordsworth, writing his 'Prelude' in 1805, recall actual past scenes when he wrote:

I had a reverie and saw the past ...
To have before me on that dreary plain,
Lines, Circles, Mounts, a mystery of shapes
Such as in many quarters yet survive,
With intricate profusion figuring o'er
The untilled ground, the work, as some divine
Of infant science, initiative forms,
By which druids covertly expressed
Their knowledge of the heavens, and imaged forth ...
I saw bearded teachers with white wands
Uplifted, pointing to the starry sky
Alternatively, and plain below.

Michael Everest

John Cowper Powys Honoured

In *Newsletter* 36 there was a reprint of the report of presentation of JCP's award from Hamburg which had appeared in a Welsh newspaper. The following letter and press reports which throw more light on the situation are contained in the Bissell Gift. I was however wrong when I stated that the plaque was in the Powys Collection, although it does contain a photograph of the presentation. Ed.

St Mary's Terrace,
Hastings,
Sussex.

Monday 4th August [1958]

Dear Mr. Bissell,

I am glad that the books and letters arrived safely and that you are finding them interesting. I think the letters are really delightful.

I haven't had any luck so far regarding the newspaper [presumably containing a report of the presentation]. Mr Lewin who said he would let me know has not yet reappeared. But here are two very pleasant prints [presumably photographs of the ceremony, one of which is now in the Collection] which Macdonalds let me have. They sent me two for myself as well so please accept these.

Apparently there were good and full reports in some of the Welsh papers & the Liverpool papers (though I cannot find out which) & he also appeared on Welsh

television which was a great success. Half the population of Ffestiniog turned out & they made a pleasant little film of the deputation arriving at Uncle John's door & the presentation. Macdonalds tried to get a copy, or at least a look at it but the B.B.C. replied that it wasn't possible. If I do get any more news I will let you know.

I think it was scandalous the way the English papers neglected this important occasion. I suppose they were too full of film stars' affairs and skiffle news to notice. It surprises me not that the Sunday Dispatch misspell Cowper, but that they mentioned it at all. More shame on the Observer and Sunday Times who should have carried at least a page about it.

John enjoyed his digging at Verulamium and now works in London for three weeks and then to a dig in Hampshire. We all hope you are well and send kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Laurence [i.e. Francis] Powys

Within the same envelope are three press cuttings dated in Mr. Bissell's hand:

Daily Telegraph, Sat. 5/7/58

Cymric-German Letters

On Monday a new honour is to come to John Cowper Powys, the 85-year-old novelist, at his remote home in Blaenau Ffestiniog, Merionethshire.

Rolf Italiaander, the German writer, is travelling to Wales to present Mr. Powys with the plaque of the Free Academy of the Arts in Hamburg.

To coincide with this award, a German translation of the most famous of his early novels "Wolf Solent" is now being prepared for publication in Germany and Austria.

Through his mother Mr. Powys is related to both William Cowper and John Donne. Of his 10 brothers and sisters seven have published books.

He is now the only survivor of what are usually referred to as 'the Powys brothers'. The other two were Llewelyn, the essayist and T.F., also a novelist.

Sunday Dispatch 6/7/58

Germans Honour British Author

John Cooper Powys, the 85-year-old British poet and author, is to receive one of Germany's highest literary honours tomorrow. In the study of his home in Blaenau Ffestiniog, in the heart of the Welsh mountains, he will be handed the bronze plaque of the Hamburg Academy of Arts.

Great Writer

He is the first non-German to receive the award. It has been presented to only three other writers, among them the internationally famous German author, Thomas Mann.

The presentation will be made by the Secretary-General of the Academy, Herr Rolf Italiaander. The Academy says they were 'honouring not only a great writer

but worshipping the man.' 'You put next to our unpleasant and consuming world a truer, more friendly, and creative one.'

Clergyman's son

The son of a Dorset clergyman, Mr. Powys is one of the few philosopher-novelists to become 'classic' in his life-time. His first and most famous book is *A Glastonbury Romance*.

A recently completed novel, *Homer and the Aether*, appears early next year and another of his books, *Wolf Solent*, is shortly to be translated into German.

His great-grandmother, whose name was Levius, was a native of Hamburg.

Times Literary Supplement 11/7/58

Early this week Mr. John Cowper Powys was presented with the bronze plaque of the Hamburg Free Academy of Arts at a ceremony outside the writer's cottage at Blaenau Ffestiniog, Merioneth. The award was made in recognition of Mr. Powys's outstanding services to literature and philosophy.

JCP's Reflections on World Problems in 1943

Writers' Gallery, Biographical Sketches of Britain's Greatest Writers, and their views on Reconstruction, by Donald Brook, Rockliff Publishing Corporation Limited, London E.C.4. First published 1944.

Chris Wilkinson writes: 'I don't know whether this book, with its small contribution by JCP is well known. (I picked it up in a second-hand book shop some years ago.) If not it may be of interest for the Newsletter.' Other contributors included: Vera Brittain, A. J. Cronin, H. J. Massingham, W. Somerset Maugham, J. B. Priestley and G. Bernard Shaw.

Donald Brook's introduction to John Cowper is a review of his life with references to the other writers in the family. It concludes by referring to JCP's 'dignified and striking appearance and goes on, 'When I wrote to him (he is living in Wales at the moment) about this book he sent me a very charming reply, which I am reproducing with the exception of the irrelevant first part:

... As to your excellent questions about the new order, I am too absorbed in reading over, and over for my own private culture, certain poetical and philosophical books; and in writing romances and lay sermons and psychological-moralistic hand-books for individuals of my own rather anarchistic and rather solitude-loving type (with a mania for the inanimate and the elements) to be anything but ignorant about world economics and politics.

But on two or three special and quite particular topics I do feel *very strongly* and in fact am both an ardent missionary and a fierce crusader. I will put these down in the order in which I feel their importance:

1. I would like to see the abolition of Vivisection and the discrediting and total debunking of the present fantastic tyranny of physical science.
2. I would like to see the complete destruction of the Franco Régime in Spain; and the establishment of Catalonia as an independent commonwealth with anarchistic tendencies.
3. I would like to see a very complete but entirely bloodless revolution all over the world by which distinctions of class and inequalities of property and money were brought to an end without the suppression of free thought, free speech, free press, free books, free discussion and free art.
4. I would like to see Big Business and Capitalistic Private Initiative threatened and taxed and harried and bludgeoned into good behaviour; but I would like to see sufficient individualism left to stop the government from becoming a Dictatorship.
5. I would like to see the nationalisation of land, mines, water, electricity, railways, and above all of Banks.
6. I would like the attainment by the manual workers of those values of freedom from worry, of personal leisure, of liberal education, of development of individual taste, of love of solitude, etc. etc., which we associate with the best aristocracies: in fact I would like to see a *general levelling up*.
7. I would like to see some scheme invented by which all men and women in all communities *were forced to share in the business of government*; and forced to learn how to take such a share!
8. I would like religion kept out of schools, and out of education altogether; and left entirely to private *initiative*.

Hoping, my dear Mr. Donald Brook, that these notes will be of use to your projected book; and apologising for my inability to type them or get them typed.

Yours very sincerely,

John Cowper Powys

Black Laughter in Translation

In 1927 a Czech translation of Llewelyn Powys's *Black Laughter* was published, with the title page shown on the back cover. The text under the title reads: 'Volume LXXIV/ Instructive and Amusing Library/ Land and People/ with 10 illustrations/ Czech Impression Printing Union/ Praze 1927'. The ten illustrations are from watercolours showing a rather romanticised colonial Africa. **SPM**

Elected Officers and Committee Members 1994/5-2000/01

	1994/5	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/2000	2000/01
<i>Chairman</i>	M. Krissdóttir	M. Krissdóttir	M. Krissdóttir	P. Roberts	P. Roberts	P. Roberts	J. Williams
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	P. Roberts	P. Roberts	P. Roberts	G. Beale	G. Beale	G. Beale	G. Beale
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	J. Batten	J. Batten	J. Batten	C. Gostick	C. Gostick	C. Gostick	C. Gostick
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	S. P. Marks	S. P. Marks	S. P. Marks	S. P. Marks	S. P. Marks	S. P. Marks	S. P. Marks
<i>Committee</i>	G. Beale B. Craven L. de Bruin P. Foss T. Hyman F. Kibblewhite J. Williams	G. Beale B. Craven L. de Bruin P. Foss T. Hyman F. Kibblewhite J. Williams	G. Beale B. Craven C. Gostick T. Hyman J. Powys J. Stinton J. Williams	J. Batten B. Craven T. Hyman J. Powys J. Stinton C. Wilkinson J. Williams	J. Batten B. Craven B. Madge J. Powys J. Stinton C. Wilkinson J. Williams	J. Batten B. Craven B. Madge J. Powys J. Stinton C. Wilkinson J. Williams	J. Batten K. Kavanagh J. Kewntner S. Lewis B. Madge J. Powys J. Stinton

Finding Powys Books

At the last Powys Society AGM, Graham Carey made a timely plea for some kind of system whereby members might be able to locate Powys publications now out of print. I would like to suggest the following scheme.

I am inviting all Society members to send me a list of books by the Powyses (and works of related interest) *that they would be prepared to lend to other members*. I would then compile a Directory, and publish it as soon as possible in the *Newsletter*. This list would include the address of (or means of contacting) the owner of the book or books. It would then be down to members to contact the owner and make appropriate arrangements for borrowing. There is also, of course, nothing to stop members using the *Newsletter* to post notices asking if an other members possess particular texts they have been trying to find, but failed.

I see this as an interim measure. There may well be more sophisticated ways of providing the service, and we are looking into that, but for the time being I hope this may prove helpful.

John Williams

Hon. Officers and Committee Members for August 2000 to August 2001

If you ever have any issue you would like to raise at any time, please do not hesitate to contact either the Chairman of the Society, or any other individual member of the Committee, who will all be happy to do anything possible to assist. The full list of current Hon. Officers and Committee Members is as follows:

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John Williams, 12 East Hill, South Darenth, near Dartford, Kent DA4 9AN
(0208 331 8800)

Vice-Chairman

Griffin Beale, 39 Church Street, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 5AT
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Hon. Treasurer

Stephen Powys Marks, Hamilton's, Kilmersdon, near Bath, Somerset BA3 5TE
(01761 435134)

Hon. Secretary

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Hon. Curator, Powys Collection

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(01424 433908)

Judith Stinton, 21 The Quarr, Cattistock Road, Maiden Newton, Dorchester
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