

Powys Society 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting



Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019

*'Long live the Powys Society! Let us hope for a brilliant future...'* a tribute from Jacqueline Peltier



*'Oh how can I express my deep, my indurated, my passionate, my unforgettable, my eternal debt, to that dull, flat, monotonous, tedious, unpicturesque Cambridgeshire landscape?...every rushy brook, every weedy estuary, every turnip field...became part of my soul... Yes! wherever I go I shall carry with me to the end what I learnt from Cambridgeshire while I was at Cambridge.'* (Autobiography, JCP)



JCP in the 1890s  
by Gertrude Powys



Llewelyn Powys



Corpus Christi - the Old Hall & part of the Old Court

*"'Corpus!' he cried, leaping to his feet, "do you mean Corpus, Cambridge?...you Corpus people have got a library...that would madden Paracelsus himself. There are folios and volumes there that are...priceless...they've got a number of Bardic Triads there...in an underground chamber... Think of your being at Corpus!"*

**Mr Evans to Sam Dekker in A Glastonbury Romance**

*"The rooms I finally succeeded in occupying, though they were entered from the New Court, looked out on the Old, and were indeed part and parcel of one of the most romantic relics of medieval scholasticism that I have ever seen...The Corpus Old Court had the look - especially before they removed the ivy...of some enchanted ruin in a fairy like forest of old romance'...It was upon a great beam, running across the ceiling of my chamber that Llewelyn years later...discovered the words: "Pray for the Soul of John Cowper Powys."!' (Autobiography, JCP)*



JCP



T.F. Powys

**PROGRAMME**

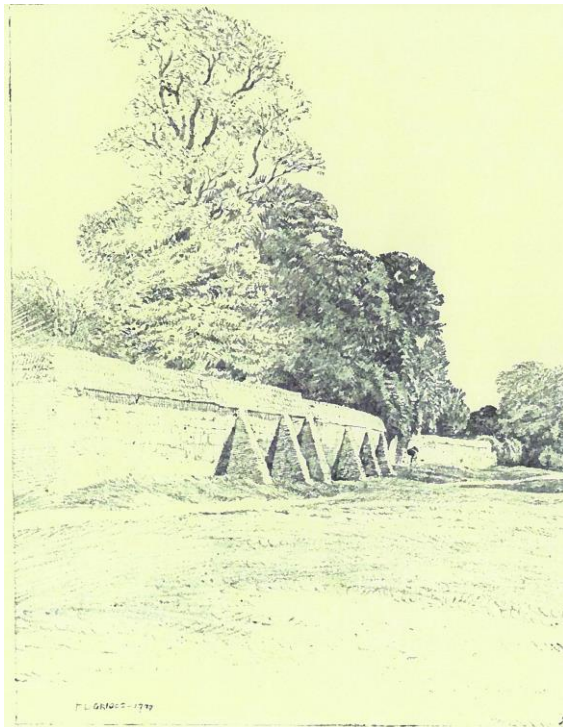
- 10.00 Timothy Hyman (Hon. Chairman)**  
*Welcome and Introduction*
- 10.10 Chris Thomas (Hon. Secretary)**  
*Anniversary tributes and highlights of 50 years of the Powys Society*
- 10.20 David Goodway (Vice-Chairman)**  
*The foundation and early days of the Powys Society*
- 10.30 Charles Lock (editor of the Powys Journal)**  
*In Honour of Glen Cavaliero (President of the Powys Society)*
- 11.00** Tea/Coffee break
- 11.15** JCP's *Autobiography*, Chapter 5, *Cambridge: a sequence of readings and open discussion* led by **John Hodgson**
- 12.30 Lucy Hughes (Archivist, Corpus Christi College)**  
*The Powys Archive at Corpus Christi College*
- 12.50** **Chairman's acknowledgements and concluding comments**
- 13.00** Close. Two course lunch selected in the servery of the cafeteria and taken to the College dining hall. **Afternoon free to explore places associated with JCP in Cambridge**

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*The greatest event in JCP's life at Cambridge*



*Peterhouse Wall, Coe Fen (by F. L. Griggs)*



*'...the umbrageous purleius...'*

**From JCP's Autobiography:**

*'The greatest event in my life at Cambridge was a very quiet event...It was a sort of vision on the Road to Damascus. I remember the exact spot where it took place...somewhere in the umbrageous purleius to the rear of the Fitzwilliam museum - there stands an ancient wall; and... I observed, growing upon this wall certain patches of grass and green moss and yellow stone crop. Something about the look of these small growths...seized upon me and caught me up into a sort of Seventh Heaven...that mysterious meeting point of animate with inanimate, had to do with some secret underlying world of rich magic and strange romance... I regarded it as a prophetic idea of the sort of stories that I myself might come to write...'*

**Corpus, Cambridge**

Nothing can I recall,  
O Alma Mater, of thee  
Save a crumbling ivied wall  
And a world of obliquity...

**Wolf's Bane, Rhymes, 1916**