

THE EDWARD THOMAS FELLOWSHIP



The principle purpose of this interim newsheet is to give members the sad news of the death of our Joint President, George Thomas.

George was a friend and supporter of the Fellowship since its inception, and only last year he made over to us a collection of his papers. He had studied the life and works of Edward Thomas since the 1940s, knowing more about the subject than anyone else. He had also been a close friend of the Thomas family.

A full appreciation will appear in the next regular newsletter at the beginning of August. Meanwhile, we send our sincere condolences to George's family.

This additional newsheet also provides an opportunity to let members have details of our programme, especially where changes have been forced on us by what has proved a disrupted year.

Study Morning, Sunday 24th June 2001. There is no change to the arrangements. It will run from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the Ondaatje Lecture Theatre in the National Portrait Gallery, St Martins Place, London WC2H 0HE- just off Trafalgar Square. In the afternoon, Anne Harvey and Douglas Verrall will perform *Return to Adlestrop*, which is a sequel to their previous programme about the poem and village. A leaflet is enclosed, but if you have already booked, there is no need to do anything further.

The morning's programme will start with a short introduction to the CD of Helen Thomas which the Fellowship recently produced. That will be followed by members speaking about aspects of Edward Thomas of particular interest to them. The speakers include Patrick Garland, ex Director of the Chichester Memorial Theatre, Kim Ballard whose book on the teaching of English has just been published and Patrick Ingram of the Laurel Press. There will be ample opportunity for the audience to participate for what should be an informal and stimulating morning.

The Autumn Walk, Sunday 23rd September 2001. Following the inevitable cancellation of this year's Birthday Walk, we hope that foot and mouth restrictions will have been removed or alleviated by the autumn. At present we are holding to the plan for an Isle of Wight walk and full details will be available in the August newsletter. Should the disease continue or flare up again, we will make a final decision in the week before the walk, but the situation will probably be obvious to members by then.

Twenty-first Birthday Party, Saturday 3rd November 2001. The party will be held in Steep at Bedales School and the Church. We hope many members will be able to come and celebrate. Full details will be available in the August newsletter, but the following is a provisional outline.

Weather and foot and mouth restrictions permitting, there will be a short walk to the Memorial Stone in the early afternoon, followed at 3.30 p.m. by a performance in the Church. After this, tea will as usual be kindly provided by the Steep parishioners.

We will then transfer to Bedales where there will be an exhibition celebrating the Fellowship's 21 years. There will also be a display of the School's own considerable collection of Edward Thomas material.

Drinks will be available and there may be further items.

Programme for 2002. Please note your diaries.

Sunday 3rd March: the Birthday Walk will be in the Steep area.

May/June: a spring event yet to be planned.

Sunday 6th October: Autumn Walk/Agny. The Fellowship has had a policy of visiting Agny once every five years if sufficient people are able to go. The visits which last about three to four days also include visits to other parts of the Western Front, normally with literary connections. A military historian accompanies us. Next year marks a five-year period and we are planning a visit to coincide with the Autumn Walk, the location of which we have yet to determine.

Details will be available in future newsletters, but meanwhile, if anyone would like further information about the Agny visit, please contact Richard Emeny on 01278 662856.

2003. Although plans are inevitably provisional, we expect to have an Autumn Walk and weekend this time in Wales, where we will explore Edward's love of that country and its poets.

There will of course be a Birthday Walk and other events.

News of the Joint President. Our other Joint President has had a second hip operation and has come through it well. We send Myfanwy our best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery.

The CD. This has proved a great success. Approximately a hundred copies of the CD of Helen reciting Edward's poems and speaking about him have been sold. We have in stock about fifty more copies, which we are holding for new members or anyone else who might be interested or need a second copy. If you would like to order one, please contact Chris Brown at 42 Stonehouse Road, Liphook, Hampshire, GU30 7DD.

Committee information. Subscriptions for 2001 were due in January. Please note that correspondence about subscriptions or other membership matters should be sent to the Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Gordon Frater, Chequers, 50 New Odiham Road, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1QG, telephone: 01420 83632.

Correspondence on all other matters should be sent to the Secretary, Richard Emeny, 2 Butler's Cottage, Halswell House, Goathurst, nr Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2DH. Telephone: 01278 662856.

Annual General Meeting. AGMs are seldom the most popular event in a Society's calendar. By holding ours after the Birthday Walk we have always been assured of a good attendance- usually about a hundred. Because the Birthday Walk in 2000 was exceptionally in Eastbury, and not a possible venue for the AGM, it was held over until this year. We were not to know that foot and mouth disease would cause the Birthday Walk to be cancelled. This is somewhat embarrassing as the Committee is well aware that it has to account to the membership. A statement of accounts is therefore included with this newsheet pending the full AGM.

The Fellowship has always prided itself on the informality of its administration, but we now have close on 450 members and believe that AGMs in future will have to be a little more formal. At the same time we hope not to lose any friendliness.

Website. We have a new and much more appropriate website address. It is: www.edward-thomas-fellowship.org.uk. The old address is still available.

Edward Thomas- A Mirror of England, a calligraphic selection of Edward Thomas's poetry introduced by Eliane Wilson, calligraphy and illustrations by Fred Marns, is offered to members by the publishers, Shepherd Walwyn, at a discount. An order form is enclosed.

The South Country is on special offer at £1.99. This is the Everyman edition, which is a reprint of the 1932 illustrated version with wood engravings by Eric Fitch DGLISH.

Gerald Finzi's setting of *Tall Nettles* features on a new CD of Finzi's music.

Other Societies

The Ivor Gurney Society's weekend was on 5/6 May in conjunction with the Warlock Society.

The Traherne Society is mounting a Traherne Festival at Credenhill, Hereford on 8th – 10th June 2001. It will include a talk entitled, *I never saw that land before*, on Edward Thomas and Traherne by David Constantine of The Queen's College Oxford, who spoke to the Fellowship a couple of years ago.

Details from Richard Birt of 18 Ingestre Road, Hereford, HR3 6NL. (Closing date for booking is 25th May).

The Richard Jefferies Society is holding a Study Day in Albourne, Wiltshire on Saturday 30th June, the theme being *Books and Papers for Jefferies Lovers*. The day begins at 10.30 a.m. and should finish at about 4.00 p.m.

This summer's opening dates for the Jefferies Museum at Coate are as follows: 20th May, 3rd June, 17th June, 1st July, 15th July, 5th August, 19th August, 2nd September and 16th September.

The Friends of the Dymock Poets will hold it annual weekend in Ledbury on 6th/7th October.

EDWARD THOMAS FELLOWSHIP

Accounts for the period 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2000

BANK ACCOUNT

INCOME

Membership Subscriptions	Bankers Orders	1084.00
	Annual	<u>746.58</u>
		1830.58
Borwick Hall Bookings		3366.90
Sale of Notelets		1295.48
Sale of walk sheets		12.30
Birthday Walk lunches		312.00
Payment for Newsletter insert		40.00
Sale of Newsletters		25.00
Donation to cover postage of extra newsletter		62.21
Interest at Bank		<u>23.06</u>
		6967.53

EXPENDITURE

Newsletter	Postage	462.77
	Typesetting	209.50
	Printing	880.63
	Stationery	41.78
Notelets	Postage and Packaging	120.84
Birthday Walk lunches		345.00
Alliance of Literary Societies		10.00
CPRE subscriptions		35.00
Telephone		42.77
Postage		100.12
Photocopying		49.04
Borwick Hall Weekend	Expenses	45.79
	Refunds of deposits	53.50
	Hire of coaches	160.00
	Hire of Hall	2611.00
Insurance		34.90
Book Trade Benevolent Society: In Memoriam Eric Norris		50.00
Helen Thomas CD Production		50.00
Birthday Presentation to Myfanwy		45.00
Subscription Refund		5.00
Ivor Gurney Society: donation		100.00
Transferred to Building Society		<u>900.00</u>
		6352.64
Total income for the year,		6967.53
Total expenditure,		6352.64
Surplus for the year		614.89

BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNT

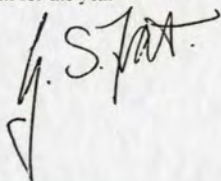
INCOME

Interest	74.19
Transfer from Bank Account	<u>900.00</u>
	974.19

EXPENDITURE

Tax on interest	14.84
Surplus for the year	959.35

Bank Account	at 1.1.00	728.76
	at 31.12.00	1343.65
	Gain	614.89
Building Society Account at 1.1.00		1860.79
	at 31.12.00	<u>2820.14</u>
	Gain	959.35
Total gain for the year		1574.24



G.S. Frater

HON. TREASURER