

THE EDWARD THOMAS FELLOWSHIP



This additional newsletter is to alert members to a number of items prior to the next full newsletter in August.

Seminar, Saturday 6th July 2002 at the Village Hall, Kingham, Oxfordshire near Stow-on-the-Wold.

Why Kingham?

Edward Thomas stayed there in May 1914, with Eleanor and Herbert Farjeon and Joan Thorneycroft in a house lent to Eleanor by a friend. It was supposedly haunted...

WILLIAM WARDE FOWLER (1847 – 1921) the Victorian scholar, writer and naturalist was much admired by Edward Thomas and was a tutor at Lincoln College during his years there. He lived in Kingham and wrote about it (*Kingham Old and New*). He was a distinguished ornithologist which added to the two men's friendship.

Gordon Ottewell has a particular interest in Warde Fowler dating from his years as Head Teacher of Kingham Primary School, and has written on both Kingham and Warde Fowler (particularly *Warde Fowler's Countryside, Impressions of a Victorian Naturalist*, Severn House 1985).

The de Selincourt family, friends of the Thomas family, lived in Kingham as did Freddie Grisewood as a child when his father was vicar.

More recently, Dominic Hibberd, biographer of Harold Monro and currently writing a new biography of Wilfred Owen, which should be published in September, has made Kingham his home.

THE SEMINAR

Starting at 11.00 a.m. there will be talks by both Gordon Ottewell and Dominic Hibberd. Gordon will speak on *Edward Thomas and Kingham* with special reference

to Warde Fowler and their joint interest in local history. Dominic will talk on *Intersecting Lives: Wilfred Owen, Harold Monro and Edward Thomas*.

The talks will be followed by a walk around Kingham accompanied by appropriate readings.

Kingham has no village pub, although there is a hotel on its outskirts. Members and friends are therefore asked to bring their own packed lunches, but hot and cold drinks will be provided.

After lunch, we have been invited to revisit Adlestrop, which is close by. There is now a mural about the poem on the back wall of the village hall and many members will not have seen it. We plan to have a short reading there, following which the people of Adlestrop will be providing tea for us.

Rather than order a coach from Kingham to Adlestrop, we hope that enough car spaces will be available to transport people between the two villages (one in Oxfordshire, one in Gloucestershire).

For anyone thinking of travelling by train there is a station at Kingham approximately a mile from the village centre, and although the summer timetables have yet to be confirmed, the authorities are confident that the train times from London will be as follows:

Depart Paddington.....8.48 a.m.
Arrive Kingham.....10.20 a.m.

If you would like to attend, please complete the enclosed form and send it to Anne Harvey at 37 St Stephen's Road, Ealing, London W13 8HG.

Committee Changes

At the Annual General Meeting in Steep on 3rd March 2002, Richard Emeny retired from being Honorary Secretary and Colin Thornton was elected as his successor. Richard will remain editor of the newsletter and continue to deal with 'literary' matters, Colin will be responsible for the administration and Gordon Frater will remain as Membership Secretary and Treasurer.

In future therefore, members should send correspondence, queries about events, general matters etc. to Colin at 1 Carfax, Undercliff Drive, St Lawrence, Isle of Wight, PO38 1XG, telephone: 01983 853366.

Items connected with subscriptions and membership should be sent to Gordon Frater at 'Chequers,' 50 New Odiham Road, Alton, Hants., GU34 1QG, telephone: 01420 83632.

Newsletter material, general literary items in connection with Edward Thomas should be sent to Richard Emeny at Butler's Cottage, Halswell House, Goathurst, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2DH, telephone: 01278 662856.

We are also delighted to welcome to the Committee, Gwyneth Guy, who was elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Fellowship website remains www.edward-thomas-fellowship.org.uk. Any queries about it should be addressed to Martin Haggerty, 7 Palace Hill, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 1NL.

The Complete Poems

Some members have recently experienced difficulty in obtaining copies of both the edition published by Faber and the variorum edition, edited by Professor R. George Thomas and published by OUP.

The Fellowship is currently in touch with both publishers about their future plans for these titles and further information will be published in future newsletters. Meanwhile, Richard Emeny would like to hear of any difficulties members have encountered in obtaining either edition of the Collected Poems whether from the publishers or bookshops.

Helen Thomas CD

We have run out of the first printing of the CD of Helen reciting Edward's poems and speaking about him, and have made a second pressing. If anyone would like a copy (£8.00 + p&p), please contact Chris Brown at 42 Stonehouse Road, Liphook, Hants., GU30 7DD.

Notecards

Anyone wishing to order copies of the second set at £4.00 per set should contact the Chairman, Edward C. Thomas at Willow Cottage, Cookley, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0LW.

The Laurel Press

The republication of *In Pursuit of Spring* will be available soon. Further details will be in the August newsletter.

The Cyder Press

The Fellowship now keeps a small stock of Cyder Press titles including *The Country, Keats* and *Four and Twenty Blackbirds* by Edward Thomas. Just published is a new title, *Edward Thomas on Thomas Hardy*. This is a collection of all Edward's critical writings on Hardy brought together in one book for the first time.

All the Cyder Press titles cost £5.00 plus 50p p & p and are obtainable from Richard Emeny at the address given above. Alternatively they can be obtained from Professor Peter Widdowson, Dept. of English, Dunholme Building, University of Gloucestershire, PO Box 220, The Parks Campus, The Parks, Cheltenham, Glos., GL50 2QF.

Two War Poets in Hampshire is the title of a 'literature and landscape' course taking place from the 14th to 16th June 2002, under the leadership of Dr John Pikoulis. It is being mounted by the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning and the two poets are Alun Lewis and Edward Thomas. For details, ring 02920 874831 or email: learn@cardiff.ac.uk.