

## Secretary's Notes

### THE ARTHUR MACHEN SOCIETY

Members might like to know that phoenix-like a new Arthur Machen Society arose last year and, so I hear from one of the founders, Rita Tait, is already doing well and has established a good membership here and abroad, under the Patronage of Julian Lloyd Webber. The Society Journal, *Avallaunius*, is already a most impressive production and a Memorial Birthday Dinner is held annually and other events are planned. Scheduled for publication last February was the Duckworth's Omnibus Edition of Machen's works, edited by member Christopher Palmer. Henry first met Machen during his brief sojourn in Fleet Street.

Subscription rates are £10 for members, overseas £20. For further details write to Rita Tait, 19 Cross Street, Caerleon, Gwent NP6 1AF.

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

Following his memorable and beautiful series *In the Shadow of Fuji-san* shot in Japan, **David Cobham** has recently returned from filming in Mali.

Out in the remote desert beyond Timbuktu there is a very special place where there is water; a vital staging post for migrating birds. After a long and arduous journey David and his film crew reached this spot and were overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of birds they saw. "A truly incredible sight witnessed by very few," is how he described it to me and certainly the first time that this unique location has been filmed.

Watch out for the remarkable film which will be screened nationally during the coming autumn.

Other work that David has in hand is the filming of a series for Central TV about a boy who turns into a dog! Projected is a film on the life of the Peregrine Falcon, and hopefully another on the Barn Owl. Also under consideration is a book by the late Kenneth Allsop, for possible adaptation to the screen.

Fr. Brocard Sewell left for Canada early in May where he will be based at Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls, giving occasional lectures there and elsewhere. Unfortunately, due to charter flight arrangements, he will just miss our AGM weekend in October. However, do keep a look-out later that month or early November (date not decided as I write) for an ITV programme (LWT) on **Eric Gill**, on whom Fr. Brocard is an authority, in which he is featured with Fiona MacCarthy and others.

### AGM EXHIBITION

There will be a small exhibition of First World War items at the forthcoming AGM, including Henry's uniform from the family archive. If you have any item of interest that you would care to supply, we would be very grateful.

### JOURNAL NO. 17 — MYSTERY QUOTATION

Having a feeling I knew the book I took it from the shelf and noticed a thin strip of red paper sticking up — acting as a bookmark. Opening the book at the mark I found it lay between pp. 354–55, and there on p. 355, the quote-lines 18–20 (*The Story of a Norfolk Farm*). Coincidence? No doubt, but quite true.

JH

## EDITORIAL NOTE

You will have noted that I have relinquished the Editorial in deference to John Homan, because quite simply it was the perfect piece of writing for that space. But as I do have a few words to say I am adding them in here, *quid pro quo!*

Briefly: I would be very grateful if you would all automatically add in a short biographical note suitable for inclusion in 'Notes on our Contributors', when you send in any article for consideration for publication.

This would save me considerable time and your Society several stamps per issue and doubly, per year. You really must overcome your bashful feelings on this matter.

AW

## HENRY WILLIAMSON SOCIETY SOUTHERN AREA MEETING

A successful local meeting was held at Redhill Arts Centre on Saturday 5th march, with 30 members and friends. The main speaker was Paul Reed, on 'The Officers of the Gaultshire Regiment — Fact or Fiction?'. Paul's enthusiasm and knowledge were greatly appreciated by everyone. Bar facilities at the Centre were popular for a break before John Hunt spoke on *The Pathway*, followed by Brian Fullager on Cranmer, both illustrated by appropriate readings.

As a result of this meeting, it was felt that two local meetings a year would be welcomed. Although other venues had been suggested, it was felt that Redhill was most easily accessible by road and rail.

So please make a note in your diary if you live within reach of Redhill — Saturday evening, 9th November. We hope to enclose a reminder and suggestions for the programme in the Autumn mailing. One purpose of the local meeting is to encourage members to contribute, so please will you let Margaret Murphy or Margaret White know if you are willing to speak, however briefly, on a particular topic. We are all friendly!

*Margaret White*

## AN APPRECIATION: MARGARET CLARKE 1921 – 1988

Members will be sorrowful to learn of the sudden death on St Valentine's Day of Margaret Clarke. A staunch member of the Henry Williamson Society since its inception, she was well known to many, the kindest and most obliging spirit and a keen lover of Henry's works.

Joan Read writes: "The Society has lost a unique member. Margaret knew what it was like to wander into a group without knowing anyone. Members will remember her generous and caring welcome, and her concern that new arrivals should be fully integrated into Society activities. Margaret was a very close friend; straightforward, adventurous, outspoken when necessary, thoughtful, and humorous with a smile that was never far away."

Her many activities concerned the Girl Guides Association; amateur operatics, where she excelled at make-up and stage management, and an abiding interest in literature.

She served in the WAAF during the Second World War in an administrative capacity, but it will surprise many to learn that she learnt to fly at the age of seventeen.

To her husband Laurie, and her three children Anthony, Patricia and Stephen, we offer our most profound regrets.

*Tim Morley — Chairman*