

Secretary's Notes

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We, myself and family, have exchanged the helter-skelter of a tourist island and a view of the English Channel for the hurly-burly of the north country and a view of the Humber and the North Sea. Our new address is:

Oxford Grange, Marsh Lane, Barrow Haven,
Barrow-on-Humber DN19 7ER
Tel. (0469) 32109

PLEASE GO AND CHANGE IT IN YOUR FILOFAX OR OLD-FASHIONED ADDRESS BOOK NOW.

MEMORIES

Memories play a great part in our lives; we chart our way across the years by recalling the whole range of events and emotions that have happened to us. At the moment I am thinking of our Society meetings over the years and these are some of the things I remember most vividly:

The readings by Frances Horowitz as part of Fr Brocard Sewell's paper on HWW back in 1980. Almost agonisingly evocative. The deep impression left by Richard Williamson's first presentation on his father. The rich anecdotes and dialect of John (JHB) Peel; the very personal feelings and dedication of Brian Carter. David Hoyle on Humour in the writings of Henry Williamson; a priceless half-hour. The erudite and sympathetic papers of Wheatley Blench, and, most recently, Brian Sanders and Robert Williamson's readings from the war books — with poems of Charles Sorley — on the edge of pain; fright-ful even, the cold metallic taste of fear, the beauty of Tommy as 'mother' to a dying German boy. A rich mixture indeed that I count myself fortunate to have experienced along with the friendships made and places visited; all have their place in the store of memory.

Your choices might be quite different of course. What have you enjoyed most; been moved by, stored away to savour again and again over the years?

INSIGHT

Included in the wealth of memorabilia exhibited on the theme of the Great War in Devon last October, was a series of photographs of Henry Williamson taken between 1914–18, from scared young soldier returned, immaculate new Subaltern, to appearances in varied groups. All intertwining in themselves, but even more so where, on the reverse, some had annotated notes or comments, from a synopsis being the proposed 'service life' of one Phillip Maddison — radically different in parts from that finally written, to notes on groups with the fictional names chosen and later used based on brother officers. Fascinating indeed to see the 'originals' looking out from faded photographs. No, 'Spectre West' was *not* one of them.

TARKA —MUSIC FOR OUR TIME?

This was a headline in the November 1988 issue of *Which? Compact Disc* magazine — a copy being kindly supplied by John Millar.

Those who were at our first October meeting in 1980 will remember the music played to us by Harry Williamson in the new house at Ox's Cross. This was, at the time, an orchestral work of four movements, played by the National Philharmonic Orchestra, linked thematically, and an 'atmospheric' impression based on his father's book. The idea for

the work originated on hearing that *Tarka* was to be filmed, with the thought that it might serve as the incidental music for that film. Co-written by Harry Williamson and his friend from schooldays, Anthony Phillips (a founder member of the group 'Genesis'), with encouragement by Simon Heyworth, music producer. Alas, the orchestral 'background' was not considered for the film, and plans to overlay this with a guitar duo — played by Williamson and Phillips — had to be dropped through lack of finance. Thus the music lay dormant for years, but not forgotten, especially by Heyworth. Eventually, after almost a decade the original recording was put before the actress Susan George, and actor Simon McKorkindale who run AMY International. They were so impressed they decided to back completion of the project and it was finished under Heyworth's production. Heyworth has said of it, 'There's something very ancient in the writing. Very Celtic . . . *Tarka* is about birth, life and death — the life of rivers, but also the river of life. The music is an ethos of Englishness.' I am sure we all wish Harry every success with this recording.

The work is now available, either on CD, Cassette, or LP, on the PRT Record Label. Check with your record shop for serial number and price.

NON-SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

I feel sure that members will be interested to know of the following publications which are available *only* from the addresses quoted.

The Tarka Project Report. By Dr Graham Wills. A4 format, 36pp. Lavishly illustrated. £2.00 plus 30p postage.

This is the end product of the consultative document drafted last year by Dr Wills, and about which he wrote in *Journal* No. 16, and spoke of at the 1987 Devon Weekend. Order from:

Dr Graham Wills, Amenities & Countryside Division, Property Department,
Devon County Council, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QQ

North Devon: A Sense of Place in the Writings of Henry Williamson. By John Bradbeer. A4, paper cover, 24pp. £1.50 plus 30p postage.

This was written by member John Bradbeer as a paper in the Research Seminar Series at Portsmouth Polytechnic where he teaches in the Geography Department. Order from:
John Bradbeer, Department of Geography, Portsmouth Polytechnic,
Buckingham Building, Lion Terrace, Portsmouth PO1 3HE

NOTE: Cheques for the above should be made payable to the relevant Authority, not the individual.

HW's Georgeham: A Beginner's Guide. By Peter Lewis. A5, stiff card covers. 25pp. £1.50 plus 30p postage, payable to Peter Lewis.

Conceived purely as a personal 'exercise', odd copies given to friends and enjoyed, prompted Peter to have a very limited run printed, 50 copies only, which are now available on a 'first come, first served' basis. Very useful geographically and with much interesting information on the 'originals' of numerous village 'characters' depicted by HWW. Order from:

Peter Lewis, 13 Penylan Close, Bassaleg, Newport, Gwent NP1 9NU

OBITUARY

It is with regret that I record the untimely death last July of Brian Chalmers from Southampton. Brian was a most enthusiastic member, as those who met him at meetings will recall, and devoted to the works of HWW. He had desperately hoped to attend the Spring Meeting of 1988, but was too ill with cancer. Our sincere condolences to his widow Anne.