

Obituaries

Pat Murphy. Members will be greatly saddened to learn of the sudden death of Pat Murphy on the 6th November last. Pat, joined the society in 1981 and was from the start an enthusiastic and active member. He and his wife Margaret attended almost every meeting of the society, following the trail of Henry's 'Ancient Sunlight' from Stiffkey to the Somme. Pat was also a founder member of the Redhill south eastern local group and took regular interest in the organisation and planning of meetings. He became the society's membership secretary two years ago upon the retirement of Mary Heath and soon proved himself to be an astute and much-valued member of the executive committee. Pat's warm humour and wise-counsel gained him many friends amongst the membership. A great reader with wide tastes in literature, Pat's vast library bears witness to the extent of his readership. Henry Williamson of course, figured high on his list of favourite authors. In particular, Pat's knowledge of the *Chronicle* novels and their numerous characters was quite exceptional, and many of us have benefited greatly from the background information he modestly imparted. Sadly, he was to have played a major role in assisting Fred Shepherd with the development and structuring of future seminar themes for the society. A number of members attended the funeral service held in Reigate on 11th November. The priest gave part of the prayers in Latin in tribute to Pat's great love for the old traditional form of Mass. Will Harris gave a moving address in which he outlined Pat's loyal dedication to the Henry Williamson Society and said with what warm affection he would be remembered by all who knew him. The society has lost a faithful hard-working officer; we his friends mourn the loss of a staunch, generous-hearted comrade. Our kind thoughts at this time go out to Margaret, Karen, Clare, Richard and Pat's brother, Terry.

The Pat Murphy Memorial Fund. Pat held an abiding love for the countryside and its wildlife. Like Henry, he cherished a great affection for the Barn Owl. Margaret Murphy has made an excellent suggestion that members who might wish to contribute in some tangible form to Pat's lasting memory should send their donations to the Barn Owl Trust. To facilitate this, arrangements have been made with the Trust who have kindly agreed to the setting up of a special memorial fund to which all contributions received from members of the society will be applied and used to further the work and aims of the Barn Owl Trust.

Donations should be addressed to:- The Barn Owl Trust, (The Pat Murphy Memorial Fund), Waterleat, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7HU **Brian Fullagar**

Gordon Watkins, who died in July last year aged 72, began his career on the staff of *Picture Post*, and was a very well-known BBC producer, particularly renowned for his long series *The Great War*. Gordon was a friend of the family.

Guy Kerr-Priest. It is with sadness that we report the death of Guy Priest, who will be known to members through his series of articles illustrating his correspondence and friendship with HW over many years.

Edward Watson died in June 1992 after a short illness.