

8.

### INAUGURAL MEETING

The following is a summary of the meeting held in Barnstaple on 3 May 1980, the purpose of which was to form a HENRY WILLIAMSON SOCIETY.

Those attending as founder members met at 6. p.m., and were introduced by John Glanfield; copies of a draft Agenda were distributed.

Before moving to the Agenda, George Heath read to the meeting a letter from Richard Williamson regretting his inability to attend but sending best wishes for a successful meeting, and promise of future support. Similar regrets and good wishes were expressed in a number of other letters received.

### AGENDA

#### 1. Nomination of a pro-tem Chairman

The name of John Glanfield was proposed for this position, and carried.

Before the consideration of other items, the meeting was asked to consider and agree on a title for the Society. The unanimous decision was that it be known as THE HENRY WILLIAMSON SOCIETY.

The meeting then proceeded to:

#### 2. Aims of the Society

A suggested draft heading the Agenda served as a basis for discussion and, after amendments, the following definition was unanimously agreed:

To encourage by all appropriate means a wider readership and deeper understanding of the literary heritage left to us by the major Twentieth Century English writer, Henry Williamson.

#### 3. Structure

(i) Forms of Membership and Subscriptions.

After discussion the following was agreed unanimously:

Student Member (up to 18 or in full-time education after that age)	£2.00 per annum
General Member	£5.00 per annum
Family Member	£7.00 per annum

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(ii) A Society Publication

The Chair considered this a vital matter, echoed by those present. Firstly in its role as a prime link for a widely scattered membership, and secondly both as a sounding board and repository for a potentially-immense and varied range of written material. After lively discussion it was agreed the highest standards of content and presentation should be sought, with a minimum of an annual issue, and bi-annual issues as a future aim.

In view of the work entailed, an editorial committee was formed from the following volunteers:

Will Harris	(Editor)
Peter Rothwell	(Graphic Design and Production)
Stephen Clarke	(Assisting)
John Homan	(Assisting)
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The Committee was charged with producing an initial Circular, and subsequently offering a production design for a Society Journal proper once an initial membership was established and production costs could be linked to available funds. Detailed to be produced at the first General Meeting.

(iii) A Focal Point for the Society

It was generally agreed that a location in North Devon closely connected with Henry Williamson would be most appropriate.

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At this point the Meeting adjourned to dinner where those present were delighted to be joined by Harry and Mrs Williamson.

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On resuming the meeting the Chairman summarised the proceedings to Mr and Mrs Williamson, after which Harry Williamson proposed the following:

Society publication - That his father's owl device might be apt for use by the Society on the Journal cover and letterheads, subject to family Trust approval and copyright, if applicable.

A Society focal point - That Ox's Cross, the home of his father for so many years, would be suitable, subject to family Trust approval, and on the understanding that access would be by prior arrangement with the Society. Further, that the house at Ox's Cross might be used for the Society's General Meetings.

The Chairman on behalf of all present warmly thanked Harry Williamson for these generous and most appropriate offers which the Society would be delighted to accept.

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The Meeting then turned to:

#### 4. Election of Committee

##### President

Richard Williamson was proposed and carried unanimously.

##### Vice-presidents

The following were proposed and carried unanimously:

Harry Williamson  
Frances Horovitz  
Fr Brocard Sewell

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The following Officers were elected having been proposed and carried unanimously.

Chairman

John Glanfield,  
'Reflections',  
5 Echo Pit Lane,  
Guildford, Surrey.

Vice-chairman

Stephen Francis Clarke,  
21 Burstellars,  
St Ives,  
Huntingdon, Cambs.

General Secretary

John Homan,  
Ryburn House,  
Camp Road,  
Freshwater,  
Isle of Wight.

Membership Secretary

Mrs Mary Heath,  
Longclose,  
Langtree,  
Torrington,  
N. Devon.

Treasurer

Barry Bufton,  
66 Trindles Road,  
South Nutfield,  
Redhill, Surrey.

Publicity Officer

Robin Bostock-Smith,  
Daisyland,  
Werrington,  
Launceston, Cornwall

(This appointment as Regional Officer for the S.W.)

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Research Co-ordinator

Dr David Hoyle,  
64 Shooters Hill Road,  
Blackheath,  
London, SE3.

(This appointment was subject to acceptance, now received.)

5. Date and Location of First General Meeting

The date of Saturday 1 November 1980 was agreed; the meeting to be held at Ox's Cross, Braunton, N. Devon.

6. Any Other Business

The Meeting was advised that Shallowford House is not open to view, and the Chairman urged that the privacy of the present occupier be respected by all members.

Arrangements were made between the Chairman and the Treasurer to open a Society Bank Account, with them being joint signatories for withdrawals of £10 and over.

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At 11 p.m., the business on the Agenda being completed, the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance which had resulted in a most successful meeting, and declared the meeting closed.

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Those attending the Inaugural Meeting were:

Guests

Mr and Mrs Harry Williamson

Founder Members

Mr Robin Bostock-Smith and Miss Nina Lawrence, Cornwall

Mr Barry Bufton, Redhill, Surrey

Mr Malcolm Cade, Charles, N. Devon  
Mr Stephen Francis Clarke, St Ives, Cambs.  
Mr and Mrs Rex F. Cornell, Braintree, Essex  
Mrs Barbara Done, Appledore, N. Devon  
Mr and Mrs John Glanfield, Guildford, Surrey  
Mr John Gregory, Longstanton, Cambs.  
Mr Will Harris, Wallington, Surrey  
Mr and Mrs George Heath, Langtree, N. Devon  
Mr and Mrs John Homan, Isle of Wight  
Mr Timothy Osborne, London W14  
Mr and Mrs Peter Rothwell, Wadeford, Somerset  
Mr Bryan Wake, Norwich, Norfolk

John Homan  
General Secretary

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