

Publicity Report

THE MAIN EVENT OF THE YEAR was, of course, the unveiling of the Henry Williamson Commemorative Plaque. For those who were unable to attend, the ceremony took place in Lewisham on 18 May and, blessed with good weather, the day turned out to be a great success. Throughout the planning stage we were working closely with Lewisham Council and it was their PR team headed by Steve Simons, to whom I owe many thanks, who took on the bulk of the publicity. Joan Read and I kept him supplied with material and stories which were widely circulated and used in a variety of newspapers and handouts.

The only problem was one of finance. Unfortunately, despite members' generous donations towards the cost of the plaque, there was still a considerable shortfall which the Council could not see their way to meeting. Rather than dip into precious funds we decided to approach HW's publishers to see if they could help us out of our difficulties. The response was far better than we had hoped for and my thanks, on behalf of the Society, go to all those contributors who are listed at the end of this report.

While on the subject of publishers I would like to offer special thanks to Peter Lavery of Hutchinsons who has been so helpful by arranging the inclusion of a notice of the Society in the Zenith paperback edition of *A Dream of Fair Women* and, all being well, the same in the re-issue of *A Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight*.

On a more general note, it seems that one of the best ways of making ourselves known is the distribution of leaflets in libraries and second-hand bookshops. In the case of the former I have found that inserting leaflets into the HW titles themselves a good method; that way they are seen by the right people! I would welcome any other suggestions on tactics.

Finally, from now on my report on publicity will appear in the Journal, and will coincide with the AGM. This way more people will hear what is going on and I hope to give them a better opportunity to lend a helping hand in getting the Society better known. So please write to me with ideas and, indeed, any HW news which I might have missed.

TIM OSBORNE

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PLAQUE FUND

Macdonald and Co.	Books to the value of £12.00
Breslich and Foss	£10.00 with books to value of £7.00
The Bodley Head	£30.00
Hutchinsons	£50.00
Penguin (Puffin Books)	£50.00
A.M. Heath and Co., Literary Agents	<u>£10.00</u>
Total Cash Received	£150.00