

## Contact with Fellow Societies

Arising from a suggestion made by our retiring chairman, Tim Morley, interesting contact has been made during the past few months with several fellow societies. The object of the exercise is to foster literary links between ourselves and similar groups by exchanging copies of journals and newsletters. It is hoped that this will assist members by publicising details of meetings, events and exhibitions, etc., as well as providing information concerning new publications.

Since the formation of our own Society we have maintained ties with the Richard Jefferies Society and we are now in touch with the Edward Thomas Fellowship, the T.E. Lawrence Society, the West Country Writers' Association and the Thomas Hardy Society.

It will be recalled that Henry Williamson was a past president of both the Richard Jefferies Society and the West Country Writers' Association. The current issue of this latter society's journal carries a report on the joint meeting held in Barnstaple last spring:

*A number of reminiscences of our former President, Henry Williamson, have been published in recent newsletters, and here in Henry Williamson North Devon country we were next the guests of the Henry Williamson Society in the room devoted to this certainly rather eccentric, even almost wayward writer in the new Barnstaple Library. After a brief*

*introduction by Major Tim Morley, the President of that Society, we heard a most fascinating account of his father's life by Richard Williamson, illustrated with numerous slides from a collection of family photographs spanning the greater part of Henry's life. . . . Barnstaple's Henry Williamson Room is quite spacious, a fitting memorial to the writer best remembered for Tarka the Otter, an author in the tradition of Richard Jefferies and W.H. Hudson, albeit lastingly influenced, even some may think, seared and scarred by war-time experiences those earlier nature writers never had the misfortune to encounter.*

Generous space is also given in the journal to an account of our society and its aims, with details of where to apply for membership. Such warm and friendly contact can only be to the common good and mutual benefit. May we look forward to a long and fruitful association with all these literary groups.

*Brian Fullager*

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