

Secretary's Notes

IMPORTANT. A.G.M./Weekend 1992

Last October in Devon it was agreed that the dates for this should be:-

FRIDAY 9 - SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

However, on advising this to the Devon Beach Hotel, they asked if we would consider bringing the dates forward by one week. This is so that they need not lay-off staff at the end of September, only to require them again two weeks later.

When discussing this later in committee, it was felt some mutual benefit might accrue to us – in the form of better service for example – and it was agreed to bring the dates **FORWARD** to:-

FRIDAY 2- SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

Society Rules and By-Laws

On joining the Society every new member should be supplied with a copy of the above.

It has come to light that this has not been happening for some considerable time therefore a copy is enclosed to every member in this mailing.

Annual Membership A - Z List

As many members will recall this List was issued with every Spring mailing to all members over a number of years, primarily as a guide to indicate other members living in the same geographical area, for possible contact, to arrange local meetings and so forth. A few unfortunate cases of this being used as a commercial list arose, but the decision made by the committee to withdraw from general issue was based on economics relative to use, and very generally it seemed that it was not used to any extent.

However, the list still has to be produced annually for mailing purposes, and copies are available to any member upon request of the Membership Secretary.

Obituaries

John Giles Many members will regret to hear that author John Giles died peacefully on December 15th 1991, aged 70. Best known for his two classic Great War books *The Ypres Salient: Flanders Then and Now* and *The Somme Then and Now*, he inspired many thousands to visit the old battlefields in France and Belgium. A great admirer of the *Chronicle*, and for many years a member of the Society, John's life had distinct parallels with Henry Williamson; born in Lewisham, John served in the ranks before being commissioned in the Royal Fusiliers during WW2. Like Henry he was a fierce patriot, and stood for parliament before retiring due to ill health, then devoting his time to writing. Perhaps his greatest triumph came in 1980 with the founding of the Western Front Association, an organisation dedicated to remembering the men who fought in the Great War. To John, the whole ethic of remembering was a way of life, a life which in many ways he dedicated to the dead of that war. Sympathy must go to his wonderfully supportive wife, Margery, and son Howard. PR

Mr J. Chizlett It is with regret that we announce the death of Mr J. Chizlett in December 1990. Sadly, Mr Chizlett had only been a member for a few months.

Booksellers

In return for a promise to advertise our Society in their bookshop and in future

publications, we would like to draw the attention of members to the existence of Besley's Books at the Saxon Bookshop, 4, Blyburgate, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9TA, who have a substantial list of HW books in their recent catalogue.

JOHN HOMAN

The Centenary Raffle

Our thanks are due to Stephen Francis Clarke for all his hard work in organising this raffle which was drawn at the 1991 AGM at Woolacombe. The raffle raised (after small expenses deducted) about £1686, which makes a good basis for the centenary fund.

LIST OF RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1) J.P. Curtin | 12) P. Short | 22) Mr & Mrs Gordge | 32) N. Beer |
| 2) P. Gillard | 13) M. Davies | 23) J. Garnham-Wright | 33) P. Bolton |
| 3) P. Lewis | 14) G. Kerr-Priest | 24) S. Grieg | 34) R. Morgan |
| 4) Mr & Mrs Smailes | 15) A.P. Bishop | 25) Mrs Hayward | 35) N. Ince |
| 5) J. Brightman | 16) N.H. Mitchell | 26) B. Holden | 36) R. Williamson |
| 6) Mrs E. Smith | 17) J. Rawlings | 27) Mrs L. Williamson | 37) Mrs Southgate |
| 7) G. Smale | 18) Mrs M. Heath | 28) D. Thomson | 38) G. Marshall |
| 8) F. Shepherd | 19) M. Evans | 29) R. Mills | 39) P. Forster |
| 9) D.J. Fearnley | 20) J. Poynting | 30) Mr & Mrs Tierney | 40) P. Morris |
| 10) W. Harris | 21) B. Coulter | 31) R. Allan | 41) K. Carter |
| 11) M. Parrott | | | |

Society Battlefield Tour to Ypres July 1992

Since the inclusion of the advert in the previous *Journal* mailing, I am pleased to report that virtually all the places on next years Tour to the Ypres Salient are full. The date set is Saturday/Sunday July 25th/26th 1992. A handful of places are still available; any interested member should contact me immediately with a £25 deposit (made payable to the Henry Williamson Society) and a SAE.

Paul Reed, 40 Coxcomb Walk, Bewbush, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 8BA

Questionnaire

Thank you to all those members who took the trouble to complete and return the Questionnaire sent out with our last mailing: just over a hundred were received.

All your comments, suggestions and even the few criticisms have been collated and put before the Committee who have found them very useful in planning future activities.

Nearly everyone praised the *Journal* which is a great tribute to our Contributors and our Editor. Anne Williamson is always looking to publish new names and perhaps *you* have something to say about Henry's writings which we would all like to read in the *Journal*

PFM, Membership Secretary

★ ATTENTION ★

John Homan has indicated to the Chairman and Committee that he will relinquish his position as Secretary which he has held since the inception of the Society in 1980, at the next AGM in October. John has done sterling work for the Society and tribute will be paid to him in due course. Meanwhile it is necessary to address ourselves urgently to his replacement.

Please see separate notice enclosed with this issue.