

Letters

To all those members who were not in Devon last October, may I thank them for their part in the gift presented to me on their behalf on the occasion of my retirement from the secretaryship?

The gift, a watercolour of a brown trout by Mick Loates, could not have been a happier choice. The 'brownie' holds a special place in my angling affections, being the first proper fish I ever caught, and of which I was immensely proud. As a nine-year old I had travelled to Yorkshire to stay with an uncle (a keen angler of game and coarse fish) who took me out to the beautiful becks and rivers around Harrogate.

My trout was only a nine inch fish — taken on up-stream warm, but when he was safely on the grass, a jewelled beauty, there was an awful dilemma; to put him back or not?

Your gift has recaptured that day of long ago, and I thank you for it.

John Homan
Oxford Grange, Marsh Lane
Barrow Haven
Barrow Upon Humber
S. Humberside DN19 7ER

In his obituary notice of Jeffery Hamm, Peter Robins speaks of Sir Oswald Mosley's 'disastrous' attempt to win the North Kensington constituency in the general election of 1959. As well as disastrous it seemed at the time almost inexplicable; for Mosley had been nursing the constituency, where he was enormously popular — except among his professionally organised opponents — for many months.

At the time there was a strong suspicion of foul play. Not long before the election a bill sponsored by the Government was passed by the House of Commons doing away with the obligation of providing a police escort for ballot boxes being moved from polling stations to the place of count.

It seems highly probable that the North Kensington ballot boxes were tampered with during this transfer; or perhaps other boxes were substituted for them.

After the election Mosley petitioned for a recount of the ballot papers, which had been stored, in their boxes, in the Victoria Tower of the Palace of Westminster. Unfortunately the petition was rejected, as having been made a day or two too late.

Brocard Sewell
Whitefriars, Tanners Street,
Faversham, Kent ME13 7JW

The following letter reached the HW Literary Estate via Puffins Pub. Co.
I thought you would enjoy sharing it. AW

Dear Mr Williamson

I am enjoying your book of Tarka the Otter very much. I am nine years old and I go to Ashford School. As we are writing to our favourite authors I decided to write to you for book week. I liked the piece in your book where Tarka's eyes open and how mischievous he is. I think your book is very realistic. Tarka was easily my favourite character. After I had finished your book I felt very thoughtful. I only read this book because of the good outline of the book on the back cover and the good illustration on the front cover.

If you are going to write another book will you please tell me? If you have time will please send me a list of all the books you've written because I enjoyed Tarka the Otter very much and I would like to read some more? If you can will you please send me an autographed photo of you?

Becky Chantry
Address supplied

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Editor regrets that due to lack of space some letters have had to be held over to the next issue.