

Henry Williamson Society Spring Meeting 2017.



Our Spring meeting next year will be held on Friday 19th May and Saturday 20th May in Carshalton, South London where we have reserved all the rooms at the newly refurbished Greyhound pub which overlooks the picturesque Carshalton Ponds. Carshalton became Cross Aulton in the opening of the *Chronicle*, and it is the setting for Richard Maddison's early romancing with Hetty Turney. The view of the ponds and the Church nearby has not changed since Henry's time, and one can imagine Richard and Hetty being very familiar with it. After dinner on Friday evening Will Harris will give us an illustrated talk about the area that we will visit on Saturday. Chapter 3 of *The Dark Lantern* is key to this weekend.

We will undertake a walk around Carshalton on Saturday, and visit a small museum near the pond, which was the Edwardian home of a former resident, perhaps not unlike Thomas Turney's Maybury Lodge. The lavender fields for which the area is famous are nearby (though not in flower when we visit) and the River Wandle flows through the village. We hope to visit Beddington Park within which are the 14th century church and the adjacent Carew Manor, a fine Grade 1 listed building with a magnificent beamed hall. The Manor was visited by Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Hughie drove Hetty and Sarah Turney past the park on the way to Croydon. There will be the possibility of a cream tea for those who want one. (Not with actual Devon cream though!)

On Saturday evening a guest speaker, John Monks, will tell us about the life and work of James Farrar, a poet who lived locally and whom Henry championed.

There will be an optional light lunch on Sunday at Will and Janet Harris's house for those who are not in a rush to get home!

More detailed information, booking forms etc will be sent out in the spring mailing. We look forward to welcoming you to a beautiful part of outer London where countryside and town meet, so please make a note of the date in your diary.

Janet Harris
Events Secretary

ADDITIONAL DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The AGM weekend in Barnstaple will be Friday 6th October – Sunday 8th October when we will be celebrating 90 years since the first publication of *Tarka the Otter*.

