

STUDY DAY 3 MARCH 2018
ADVANCE NOTICE
(from Anne Williamson)

The proposed subject for next year's study day is:

'All things linkèd are' (Francis Thompson)

An examination of that extra dimension, that visionary quality, those rather mystical threads, that sense of spirituality, underpinning most of HW's writing. It is rather an abstract quality and has many aspects and different meanings for each of us as individuals: a broad subject with room for many interpretations and perspectives. In general, it includes a sense of connection to something 'other', something bigger than ourselves. (That possibly epitomises 'Romanticism'?) It is an aspect that has not really been previously examined but I think it is something that we all recognise and that all of us who read HW probably find that quality in some form inherent in his work.

For the Study Day the plan is to have two main talks in the morning and then to have input from members and discussion in the afternoon. I am preparing one of the morning talks and Tony Boakes the other.

But this advance notice is to give you all an opportunity for some input. Perhaps a particular book holds a special meaning – or a thread of thought you find in various books – some aspect that has meaning and uplifts you. We are sure that those members who plan to come to the meeting will have some thoughts and be prepared to share these. But there must be others of you who would like to contribute your own ideas even if not present. If you put them in writing and send to me (details below) they can be read out by a committee member as part of the discussions. Then in due course everything can be printed in the *Journal*.

The roots of this many-branched tree lie mainly with Richard Jefferies and Francis Thompson but to stimulate your thoughts towards the concept I have noted this thread in writings as diverse, for instance, as *The Star-born*, *Clearwater Stream*, *The Crown of Life*, HW's 'Introduction' to James Farrar, *The Gold Falcon*, *The Pathway*, HW's ghost stories (eg 'The Change') and many of the *Chronicle* volumes (especially *Gale*).

We are really hoping for a tremendous response so please
send your thoughts & contributions well before the end February 2018 to:
Anne Williamson, Keepers, West Dean Woods, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RU
email: annewatwork@gmail.com

Further details for Study Day will follow in the next mailing.

This meeting will be followed up by a visit to 'Jefferies Country' for the Spring Meeting when we hope to have some input from the Richard Jefferies Society.