



# The Powys Society Newsletter

(5)

DECEMBER 1988

## THE 1988 ANNUAL WEEKEND CONFERENCE

Hope Hall, University of Exeter, was the appropriately named venue for this year's Conference. A larger number of delegates than usual arrived in time for a sherry reception held through the generosity of Bill Degenhardt who could not attend the meeting due to ill health.

The lectures by Glen Cavaliero, Charles Lock, and Nikolai Tolstoy, obviously well received, were erudite and entertaining. An innovation was an afternoon of four discussion groups on different topics. Some delegates expressed frustration at not being able to attend all of them; surely a sign of their success.

One highlight of the Conference was the evening 'In Honour of Isobel'. Stephen Powys Marks produced a lively and graceful script, drawing from his own private collection of Powys family letters. We hope that it gave as much pleasure to Isobel as it gave to the rest of us.

The long Annual General Meeting contained business of importance to the future of the Society (see separate report). It was followed by the perennially popular Book Sale, presided over by Francis Feather. By then we were hopelessly behind schedule, but Oliver Wilkinson, the last lecturer, miraculously calmed us down and drew us back into a charmed circle of laughter, admiration and fellowship.

Intense and sometimes tense, but always exhilarating and warm-natured, the Exeter Conference will be one to remember.