

The Powys Society

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Dear Member,

Pardon the cramped nature of this address. Paper, postage and everything else is expensive and the Society impecunious.

SPRING MEETING: This was held at Liddon House, South Audley Street, W1, on Sat. 10th March. Kenneth Hopkins was unable to read his paper on "Gamel Wolsey and Bertrand Russell" but Dr. Glen Cavaliero kindly appeared as an excellent substitute. The paper was absorbingly interesting - particularly, perhaps, to an old man like your Secretary - and also produced considerable discussion. Three new members attended the meeting.

SUMMER MEETING: Arrangements are now largely completed for the Summer Meeting to be held at Hope Hall, Exeter University. It begins as usual with the evening meal at 6.00pm on Friday 31st August, followed by a lecture at 7.30pm and concludes with breakfast at 8.30am on Monday 3rd September. A most distinguished programme is nearing completion and a list of speakers deeply versed in our subject includes Dr. Ned Lukacher of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Dr. Goodway of Leeds University and our past Chairman, Dr. Glen Cavaliero, and we are awaiting confirmation from other eminent university lecturers. Another member of the Society, Mr. Francis Feather, now living in Bulawayo, who possesses perhaps one of the two or three largest collections of Powysiana in Britain, has agreed to speak on his experiences in hunting for rare volumes.

A POSSIBLE FEATURE of the Meeting is a visit to Montacute. Susan Rands writes: "Mr. and Mrs. McNab, who live at Montacute Vicarage, now called Park House, have kindly offered to show it to members in the afternoon of Sept. 1st. The Powys family lived at the vicarage from 1885 to 1917. In the churchyard there is a tombstone bearing all their names. Montacute village is the setting of John Cowper's first novel, 'Wood and Stone'. There is also at Montacute a beautiful Elizabethan Manor which, due to the offices of A.R. Powys, became the property of the National Trust in 1931. The long gallery on the top floor houses a wonderful collection of Elizabethan portraits on loan from the National Gallery. Montacute is about an hour's drive from Exeter along the Fosse Way, the Roman road now called the 303."

NOW THE MOST important thing from the Secretary's point of view is to obtain positive intentions to attend the Summer Meeting promptly. I have been required to guarantee maximum and minimum numbers. If we fall short in the former the Society may be fined; if the applications are excessive some may not obtain accommodation. The total cost per head including room, meals (i.e., breakfast, lunch, dinner and morning and afternoon coffee or tea) and certain extra costs for lecture rooms in the evening and week-end, etc., is approximately £40.00 plus VAT. No deductions are made for meals not taken. Early application is particularly necessary for twin bedded rooms which are limited, and for those requiring special diets and for those who will require only part board or who will be sleeping out. I should be most grateful to receive your applications and special requirements as soon as possible. Please also indicate your interest in the Montacute trip. A detailed programme will of course appear later.

Bill Degenhardt