THE IVOR GURNEY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 53 February 2013

The Society's Spring Weekend, May 11/12 2013

Programme and booking form enclosed with your newsletter

- the programme this year includes Philip Gross the poet, talking about the River Severn as a poetic inspiration, and reading from his own and Gurney's poetry; Jeremy Dibble speaking about Hubert Parry, and a recital of piano music by Jonathan Musgrave, featuring music by Gurney and Parry.

Booking form with this newsletter, or contact John Philips, *General Secretary* and *Treasurer*: E-mail johnl.hay@googlemail.com Tel 01432 363103

'The Severn was brown and the Severn was blue' (Philip Gross)

PHILIP GROSS, who will be speaking at the Gurney Society event on May11 2013, lives in Penarth, and is Professor of Creative Writing at Glamorgan University, where he leads the 'Masters in Writing' programme. He is a writer of many parts – poet, writer of thought-provoking fiction for young people, science fiction, haiku and schools opera libretti, plays and radio short stories. His poetry up to and including the Whitbread-Prize-shortlisted *The Wasting Game* is collected in *Changes of Address* (2001) since when Bloodaxe have published four more collections. *The Water Table* (2009) won the TS Eliot Prize and evokes the watery world of the Severn estuary. *Deep Field*, shortlisted for Wales Book of the Year, deals with his father's loss of language from aphasia, and with voice and language itself. A new collection, *Later*, is due in Autumn 2013. He collaborates frequently with the visual arts, dance, music and other art forms and is also the author of teenage novels and children's poetry. For more, see: www.philipgross.co.uk

Severn Song

The Severn was brown and the
Severn was blue –
not this-then-that, not either-or,
no mixture. Two things can be true.
The hills were clouds and the mist
was a shore.

The Severn was water, the water
was mud
whose eddies stood and did not fill,
the kind of water that's thicker than
blood.
The river was flowing, the flowing
was still,

the tide-rip the sound of dry
fluttering wings
with waves that did not break or fall.
We were two of the world's small
particular things.
We were old, we were young, we
were no age at all,

for a moment not doing, nor coming
undone –
words gained, words lost, till who's
to say
which was the father, which was the
son,
a week, or fifty years, away.

But the water said *earth* and the
water said *sky*.
We were everyone we'd ever been
or would be,
every angle of light that says *You*,
that says *I*,
and the sea was the river, the river
the sea.

© Philip Gross, 2009.

This poem is from *The Water Table* (November 2009). A powerful and ambiguous body of water lies at the heart of these poems, with shoals and channels that change with the forty-foot tide. Even the name is fluid – from one shore, the Bristol Channel, from the other Môr Hafren, the Severn Sea. Philip Gross's meditations move with subtle steps between these shifting grounds and those of the man-made world, the ageing body and that ever-present mystery, the self. Admirers of his work know each new collection is a new stage; this one marks a crossing into a new questioning, new clarity and depth.

As a sailor, Gurney knew well the waters of the Severn, though usually keeping to the higher reaches of the estuary 'upstream from Framilode to Bollopool' as F W Harvey's poem described it. He would have recognised the word pictures painted by Gross.

March (extract)
My boat moves and I with her delighting,
Feeling the water slide past, and watching white fashion
Of water, as she moves faster ever more whitening;
Till up at the white sail in that great sky heightening
Of fine cloth spread against azure and cloud commotion
My face looks, and there is joy in the eyes that asking
Fulfilment of the heart's true and golden passion
(Long dimmed) now gets hold of a truth and an action…
The ears take the sound of Severn water dashing.
Ivor Gurney, 1925

Gurney's boat ' Dorothy' (c. Ivor Gurney Trust)

The Ivor Gurney Trust

…….now has its own website. The primary purpose of the Trust is to preserve and promote Ivor Gurney's literary and musical legacy. This website provides details of the Trust's history, its mission and its work. It also contains advice and information about public performances of Ivor Gurney's work.

http://www.ivorgurneytrust.com/

History of the Trust by Ian Venables, Lead Trustee

The early history of the The Ivor Gurney Trust has been documented by Anthony Boden in his excellent essay, 'Gerald and Joy Finzi - Striving for Ivor Gurney' (*IGS Journal*, Vol 15, 2009). However, it might be helpful for the purpose of this article, if I were to provide a brief summary of the Trust's history up to the present day.

Following Gurney's death in 1937, Marion Scott, with the agreement of Gurney's family, became the administrator of his estate and the custodian of his artistic legacy. Upon her death in December 1953, Marion Scott left instructions in her will that expressed the hope that Gerald Finzi should become the next administrator of Gurney's estate. Her will stated:

"… At the date of his death…Ivor Bertie Gurney was indebted to me in a sum of One hundred and forty three pounds nineteen shillings and eight pence and Letters of Administration of [his] Estate were duly granted to me…(Florence Gurney the mother of the deceased and the person primarily entitled to such grant having renounced Letters of Administration) NOW I HEREBY Give and Bequeath the said debt or so much thereof as shall still be owing to me at the date of my death to Gerald Finzi of Ashmansworth near Newbury Berks for his own use absolutely free of all death duties".

However, the legal claims to Gurney's estate resided with his family and as a consequence Gurney's brother, Ronald decided to exercise his legal rights and obtain a Grant of Administration of Gurney's estate. This he obtained on the 5th April 1954. For the next 17 years Ronald Gurney remained the sole administrator of Gurney's literary and musical works. As far as royalties were concerned, these were divided equally between Ronald and his two sisters Winifred and Dorothy. On the 21st January 1971, Ronald Gurney died and his estate was left to his surviving siblings. However, the issue of who should succeed Ronald as the administrator of Gurney's estate was to prove to be

rather more troublesome. Here is Anthony Boden's description of what happened next: 'On Ronald's death, a new Trustee of Ivor's Estate had to be appointed. His widow, Ethel, although not a blood relative of Ivor, became entitled to Ronald's one third share and also a voice in the choice of Trustee' An agreement , as to who should take over this important role. could not be reached. Winifred, favoured the appointment of a Public Trustee.
The matter was finally resolved when a public Grant of Administration was taken out by Lloyds Bank Ltd. The Bank appointed Mr John R Haines (son of John Haines, poet and friend of Ivor Gurney) as the new Trustee on 12th March 1974. Shortly before Mr Haines's death in 1988, he appointed Mrs Penelope Ann Ely to succeed him. In 2001, Mrs Ely made it known that she wished to relinquish the position as the sole Trustee in favour of a new arrangement that would increase the number of Trustees to three. This arrangement was formalised in a new Deed of Trust, on the 5th December 2001 drawn up by Dee and Griffin - the solicitors who act on behalf of the Ivor Gurney Estate. The newly appointed Trustees were Mr Anthony Boden, as lead Trustee, together with Mr John Phillips and Mr Ian Venables. Following Anthony Boden's retirement in 2009, Professor Tim Kendall was appointed as a Trustee and Ian Venables became the lead Trustee.

The current trustees are: Mr Ian Venables (Lead), Tim Kendall and John Phillips.

****

Ivor Gurney and the Great War 1914-18

Plans are being made to commemorate the centenary of the 1914-18 war. Please contact the Committee with any practical suggestions to publicise Ivor Gurney's work in 2014-2018, or to link with the activities of other Societies.

Gurney Society Notecards, featuring Gloucestershire scenes.

Now available: ***Ivor Gurney Society Notecards*** featuring Gloucestershire scenes. 8 different cards designed and produced by Eleanor Rawling
Each card is 4" x 6" and presents a high quality colour photograph of a landscape with special meaning for Ivor Gurney and a poetry extract. Blank space for your own message. Envelopes provided. See example photos (tho' actual cards are colour) and extracts below. ***To buy now,*** contact Eleanor Rawling, specify which packs you want (Cotswold or Severn valley) and send a cheque made out to The Ivor Gurney Society for the correct amount to 8 Mill Paddock, Abingdon, OX14 5EU. EleRawling@aol.com
Website purchase available shortly http://ivorgurney.org.uk/shop.htm

One pack of 4 cards showing Cotswold Edge scenes £7.50 inc. p&p;
One pack of 4 cards showing Severn Valley scenes £7.50 incl. p&p
Two packs cost £14.00, three packs cost £20.50, four packs cost £27.00 (all incl. p&p)

War need not cut down trees, three
hundred miles over Seas
Children of those the Romans saw –
lovely trunk and great-sail trees.
('Possessions' by Ivor Gurney)

Who says 'Gloucester' sees a tall
Fair fashioned shape of stone arise,
That changes with the changing skies
From Joy to gloom funereal,
Then quick again to joy;

('The Old City' by Ivor Gurney)

Music CDs and Reviews:

Gurney's Violin Sonata in E Flat

The new recording arm of The English Music Festival - EM Records is to release the première recording of Ivor Gurney's *Violin Sonata in E flat* performed by Rupert Luck (violin) and Matthew Richard (piano).
The recording, made at Wyastone Hall, in Monmouth at the end of last year includes the Elgar violin sonata along with Lionel Sainsbury's Soliloquy for solo violin. The CD will be released in February and can be purchased from the English Music Festival's website at www.em-records.com
For a report on the recording sessions see John Quinn's excellent article at www.musicwebinternational.com/classrev/2012/Oct12/Gurney_sonata.htm

Article from BBC website, 1 Feb 2013:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-21282264

Rare Ivor Gurney Violin Sonata Released

Gloucester-born Ivor Gurney wrote his Violin Sonata in E-Flat Major in 1918 and it has been archived ever since. Supporters of the wartime composer and poet pulled the manuscript from the dark and are now celebrating its world premiere recording and score release. The lead trustee of the Gurney Estate said the release would show that he was "more than just a song composer". Ian Venables added that he hoped it would "add an extra dimension to our understanding" of the man who lived out his last years in an asylum.

Ivor Gurney's gift for writing poetry emerged while he was fighting in WWI Gurney was only 32 when his mental condition deteriorated to the point of him being declared insane. He was committed to Barnwood House Asylum, Gloucester, and later moved to a hospital in Dartford, Kent, where he remained until his death in 1937, aged 47. His musical journey began as a Gloucester Cathedral chorister and organ student, before he moved on to the Royal College of Music where his studies were interrupted by a call-up to fight in World War One. It was while he was serving with the "Glosters" in France that his passion for writing poetry emerged. Many regard him as a major poet, but Mr Venables said Gurney thought of himself "as a composer first and poet second". In total he wrote hundreds of pieces of music but his Violin Sonata in E-Flat Major was one of only five sonatas he finished, all of which are stored among 1,347 items in a Gurney collection at Gloucestershire Archives.

Violinist and musicologist Rupert Marshall-Luck was invited to study the sonatas, and settled on this one to premiere. After transcribing the original score into a music-notation program, he worked through it bar-by-bar looking for errors, deciding how to rectify them, and eventually printing separate violin and piano parts to be rehearsed and performed. The work began in 2009, took one year to complete and was performed in its entirety for the first time at the 2011 English Music Festival. That performance was believed to be its first since it was composed more than 90 years earlier.

Mr Marshall-Luck said the composition indicated "a composer who was a master craftsman".
"The sweep of the melodic lines, the work's formal proportions, and, above all, the emotional intensity conveyed bespeaks an artist of true individuality."

Gurney's *Coronation March*
The BBC Symphony Orchestra, conductor David Parry (who conducted the Gloucestershire Rhapsody) recorded Gurney's Coronation March on 22 January. This will be the last of Gurney's orchestral works to be brought to recording. It will be available shortly on DVD.

A new CD recording - *'The Far Country'* -
Songs and Poems by Ivor Gurney
Performed by Philip Lancaster (baritone) and Gavin Roberts (piano)
Philip Lancaster has designed an imaginative sequence of songs and poems that weave connections between Gurney's poetry and music.
The recording includes several premieres: five songs that have not previously been recorded either at all or in the version presented, and eight as yet unpublished poems. For an in-depth commentary about the project please visit the link below
http://theunknownregion.wordpress.com/tag/clutag-press/
This new CD will be released by Clutag Press in May.

***The Sons of the Morning* - A new CD recording from Albion Records.**
CD Catalogue Number: ALBCD01
A piano music recital by Iain Burnside, includes: Ivor Gurney's *Five Preludes* and his Chorale Prelude on *Rockingham* (arranged by Stephen Banfield) premiere recording. Ivor Gurney's *Five Preludes* for piano date from the

second half of 1919 written during a period of remarkable and unexpected creativity from the 29 year old composer.See: www.albionrecords.org

English Journey Songs

A new CD entitled *English Journey Songs* is available from the **English Poetry and Song Society**, with songs by nine EPSS composers: Chris Brown, Brian Daubney, Graham Garton, Frank Harvey, Robert Hugill, John Jordan, Geoffrey Lawrence, John Smith, & Mike Watts. This project was mooted back in 2008, when Jane Manning and Stephen Roberts gave a superb recital for the Society in Bristol and it was eventually recorded last August by Manning and Roberts, accompanied by Terry Allbright. To order please send cheque for £10 to EPSS, 76 Lower Oldfield Park, Bath BA2 3HP.

While Blossom Blows and Severn Flows

A Celebration of F. W. Harvey in Music and Words

A new CD is available of settings of Will Harvey's poems by Jan O'Neill and Doug McLean called "When blossom blows and Severn flows" (£12.79 from www.forestbookshop.com)

Review from FW Harvey Society: Doug McLean and Jan O'Neill first played together in the 1980s as members of the Forest folk band 'Something Stirred', but it is only in recent years that they worked as a duo on creating a celebration in song of the Gloucestershire Poet F.W. Harvey. Performed in 2012 at two concerts sponsored by the F W Harvey Society- *While Blossom Flows and Seven Flows* (the words are from Harvey's 'Song of Minsterworth) is the result. The CD opens with a poignant reading of Harvey's self-portrait 'FWH A Portrait' by the Forest poet Keith Morgan, followed by 'Forest Freedom' a recently discovered Harvey poem set to music by Jan. There are ten further musical settings by Jan and Doug, two by Johnny Coppin and a rendition of one of Harvey's favourite songs 'Captain Stratton's Fancy'. There is huge variety, from the wistful and haunting 'Lovers Goodbye', to the foot-tapping 'Song of Minsterworth' and the hilarious dialect poem 'John Helps' fluently read by Keith. Thoroughly recommended

A Poem by Kathryn Alderman
(to be read by the poet at Cheltenham Poetry Festival, Sunday 21 April)

Climbing Portway
Beyond Portway the dead are wild as foxes.
They pick over old thought-bones,
poets' bones, as only poets or madmen
range these *high hills* at night.

Sometimes, Upton villagers dream-see
your tibia-clipping trail up High Street,
and ground cranium or femur, powder
limestone paths to High Brotheridge fort.

At each full moon on Roman Hill,
a you-shaped space haunts elder branches,
a longed-for sentry paces through the ash,
a manic silhouette of gladiatorial feats.

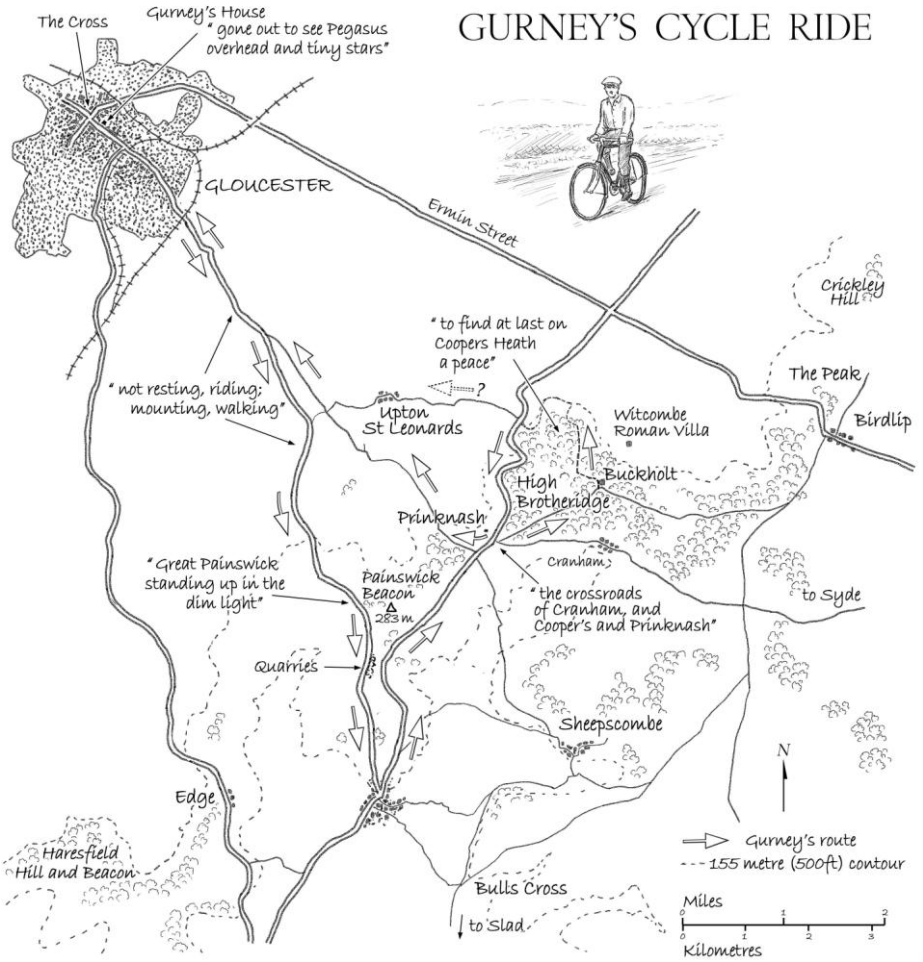
Light as coppice on the Cotswold edge,
dead lungs live with Severn breath,
you nod, happy as a harebell and bray
your joy out to the star-flung air.

Then, *O* wind-dappled immortality!
O blissful purr of chain and spoke -
to freewheel down Portway like a banshee,
before dawn remembers you back to stone.

© Kathryn Alderman 2012

To purge mania, Ivor Gurney night biked/hiked along Portway, a road rising to 'high hills' and Roman forts. Thanks to Eleanor Rawling whose book ***Ivor Gurney's Gloucestershire*** *helped me make the link between Gloucestershire places and Gurney's poetry.*

Gurney's Cycle Ride as recounted in his poem *Dawn* (reconstruction of ride copyright Rawling, **Ivor Gurney's Gloucestershire** 2011, chapter 2)



Gurney's Cycle Ride

It is a cold clear night in late Spring, with the stars showing brightly in the dark sky above Gloucester. At number 19 Barton Street, the household sleeps. But 17 year old Ivor Gurney lies awake, imagining the dark outlines of the beech trees on High Brotheridge. He can almost hear the dry crackle of twigs and stirring of small creatures in the grass. He longs to watch the dawn wake on the scarp edge and to feel that surge of music and poetry in his soul. At last he can stand it no longer; …..(Rawling, 2011, pp 26-27)

Dawn

It is I have stirred restlessly in my bed,
At midnight, and dressed softly not to awaken
Others, and gone out to see Pegasus overhead
And tiny stars by no wind stirred or shaken.
With my bicycle taken
Carefully over rough stones not to make a sound
Nor waken my still sister, girl in her deep
Sleep, with hope of high beeches and Cranham instead
Of her dreams. (I did not dare at a girl's sleep)
Not resting, riding; mounting, walking till I had passed
Great Painswick standing up in the dim light for ever fast
And Roman calling to me, and challenging ……
Free ever of beeches, save where the dead leaves cling
Of winter, that Spring left and Summer ever.
(That camp dipping nobly centrewards like a cup)
To pass that, and swift as running horse be driven
By quarry and sleeping house, and quiet townend –
Eastward, eastward, northward till I found my friend.

The cross-roads of Cranham, and Cooper's and Prinknash (said Prinnadge)
To find my Roman nobleness, and to find music
At last, my dear thought flowing in my mind quick.
Looking up at the bright stars, beech twiggen, and to have knowledges
Of all the ages of life not told in pages.
My friends, the sentinels, and the corporal my courtesy.
To find at last on Coopers Heath a peace
Which enrapt me all in a cloak, my honourers
The dead Romans in whom ran (in me) blood the currents
And innumerous ages could not alter much, nor the
Truth of my imagining (proving) set down on pages.
They were there, Romans, quiet comrades and ponderers…
And Gloucester slept below them with her strange
Pattern of light, the old city, that was as them, as to me.

(Ivor Gurney, 1925, copyright, Ivor Gurney Trust)

Ivor Gurney Window at Gloucester Cathedral

Many thanks to members who have sent a donation towards the window project. Members who wish to donate can still send me (John Philips) a cheque made out to the Ivor Gurney Society, which will be forwarded to the Cathedral fund, or send a donation direct to Gloucester Cathedral's Big Give website – www.thebiggive.org.uk and follow the links to Ivor Gurney.

There will be a Gurney Memorial Day at Gloucester Cathedral on **Saturday 31st August** 2013 which will include
- a morning recital by Sarah Connolly and Dame Felicity Lott including Gurney songs with poetry recited by Simon Callow;
- an afternoon talk by Tom Denny – the designer of the Gurney window – on his craft and reasoning behind the window design;
- an evening concert of Gurney works featuring Sarah Connolly, Neal Davies, Adrian Partington, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Tenebrae Choir and Simon Callow.

Publicity material on this will be on the above website and the Society website (www.ivorgurney.org.uk). Please register your support for the Gurney Window project with a donation, however small. (John Philips, Secretary/Treasurer)

Ivor Gurney Society Membership Fees now Due

Gurney Society members are reminded that their subscriptions are now due for the 2013-14 year. Either renew online via PayPal http://www.ivorgurney.org.uk/join.htm or send your cheque to John Phillips, 103 The Rose Garden, Ledbury Road, Hereford HR1 2TR before 1 April 2013
Membership rates are printed on the back of this newsletter.

Forthcoming Events, Publications and Society Activities

'Ivor Gurney' at the Cheltenham Poetry Festival 2103 (20-28 April) is now in its third year. The full programme and booking information are available at www.cheltenhampoetryfest.co.uk and this year the Festival will feature a session on Sunday 21 April at 4.30pm with a focus on Ivor Gurney. A showing of the film *Severn and Somme – the Life of Ivor Gurney* will be followed by readings by local Gloucestershire poets of their poems about Ivor Gurney and his world. The line-up is expected to include Kathryn Alderman, David Ashbee, Robin Gilbert, Adam Horowitz, Peter Wyton and (reading poems by the late Gwynne Gay) Sheila Simmons. There will be an Ivor Gurney Poetry Walk during the Festival led by Eleanor Rawling, author of *Ivor Gurney's Gloucestershire.* Other highlights of the festival include: Readings by internationally acclaimed poets including Fiona Sampson, Christopher Reid, Bernard O' Donoghue, Elaine Feinstein, Ros Barber, Liz Berry, Nick Drake, Maria and John Taylor. Showcases by prestigious publishing houses include Carcanet, Pindrop Press, Nine Arches.

The English Song Weekend - 30th May- 2nd June at Ludlow

Iain Burnside, that champion of Gurney, is bringing plenty of the composer-poet's work to Ludlow between 30 May and 2 June. At the Finzi Friends' English Song Weekend on 1st June there will be a rare performance of *The Western Playland* by the Carducci Quartet with Jonathan McGovern (baritone) and Susie Allan (piano). Later that day is a fascinating programme, under the title *"First War Poet of England am I" – an Ivor Gurney sequence*, devised by Philip Lancaster and Iain Burnside, when newly discovered songs and poetry will be performed by actor Sion Alun Davies with singers Ailish Tynan, Nicholas Mulroy, Ashley Riches and pianist Gavin Roberts.

An extra treat will be to hear Elizabeth Watts' glorious soprano singing Gurney's setting of *Orpheus with his lute* to Iain Burnside's accompaniment – this on 31st May. And also of interest to Gurney Society members, in the final concert on 2nd June Nicholas Mulroy will be singing Ian Venables' *Invitation to the Gondola.*

Full details and tickets on www.ludlow-english-song-weekend.org.uk, contact Jim Page on 01527 878586.

Celebrating English Song at Tardebigge (June-August 2013)

Dymock Poets are being featured in song by Susie Self at Tardebigge (between Bromsgrove and Redditch) this summer. Susie, grand-daughter of John Drinkwater, has her work featured in each of the three Sunday afternoon concerts promoted by Celebrating English Song.

The first, on 23 June, has her *Three Drinkwater* Songs, performed by Ailish Tynan and Iain Burnside with a free pre-concert talk on the Dymock Poets by Linda Hart. On 21 July James Gilchrist will be singing the specially commissioned *The Goddess in the wood*, a poem by Rupert Brooke plus Elaine Hugh-Jones' setting of Wilfred Owen, four *Songs of War* – and Gurney's *Sleep* and *In Flanders* as well. Susie Self will be talking before the concert about her music and her connection with the Dymock Poets.

And on 18 August there will be a performance of Susie's *Songs of Immortality* – five settings of poems by WW Gibson, Rupert Brooke, Edward Thomas, L Abercrombie and John Drinkwater for baritone, cello and piano. Marcus Farnsworth, Cara Berridge and James Baillieu are the musicians, and before the concert there will be a *Composers Question Time* featuring Susie Self, John Joubert and Ian Venables, chaired by Graham Lloyd.
Further information and tickets: www.celebratingenglishsong.co.uk or ring Jennie McGregor-Smith on 01527 872422.

Arthur Bliss Society Spring Event, 8th June 2013

The Spring event of the Arthur Bliss Society will be held at St Andrew's Church, Cheltenham from 3 p.m. on Saturday 8th June, after the Society's AGM. Ian Venables, the Society's President, will give a talk about Chamber Music, and this will be followed by a concert of viola and piano music, performed by the Duo Karadys (Carol Hubel-Allen and Alan MacLean). Works by Venables, Vaughan Williams and Bliss will be played.
See www.arthurbliss.org Members of the Ivor Gurney Society are welcome.

The Three Choirs Festival, Gloucester 27 July-4 Aug. www.3choirs.org

This year's Three Choirs Festival features a recital of the original version of Gurney's *Five Elizabethan Songs*, scored for 2 flutes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons and harp, edited and completed by Philip Lancaster. Philip will be joined in singing in the event by students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and another singer (tbc). The programme also includes works by Parry, Stanford, Marion Scott, Herbert Howells and Gerald Finzi. Recital: Monday 29 July, 11am at St. Mary de Lode Church, Glos.

F W Harvey Society

Thursday 21 March at 7.30pm *While Blossom Blows and Severn Flows*, a concert celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Gloucestershire poet F.W. Harvey features Doug McLean and Jan Bayliss supported by Keith Morgan. Location: Whitemead Forest Park, Parkend, Lydney , Glos. GL15 4LA Tickets £5 , Forest Bookshop, 8, St John St, Coleford www.forestbooks.co.uk

Thursday May 23 at 7pm*, A Walk through Yorkley and Pillowell Woods*. Geoff Davis and Steve Cooper will lead a tour from Yorkley Wood to Pillowell featuring F.W. Harvey landmarks and poetry. Meet location tbc. **Pre booking essential** . Contact Marie Fraser Griffiths 01594 843107

Thursday 3 October, 7.30pm Melville Watts Memorial Lecture; Grant Repshire of the Gloucestershire Archives and University of Exeter. *The FW Harvey Papers: Unlocking Gloucestershire's Literary Heritage, Reflections on his Life and Work*. The Annexe Inn, 47-49 Newerne St Lydney GL15 5RA. Tickets on the door or contact Marie Fraser Griffiths 01594 843107.

For more contact us via the website www.fwharveysociety.co.uk

Friends of the Dymock Poets

An article *'Ivor Gurney's Gloucestershire: Exploring Poetry and Place'* features in the next issue of *Dymock Poets and Friends*, to be published in March 2013. This is based on a talk given at Ledbury Poetry Festival 2012 by Eleanor Rawling. See www.dymockpoets.co.uk, or contact Jeff Cooper, 122 Preston New Road, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 6BU, UK +44 (0)1254 662923

The Housman Society www.housman-society.co.uk

To celebrate the Society's 40 years of existence there will be an exhibition in Bromsgrove Library in April, following a talk by Max Hunt, son of one of the founders, at the AGM on 12 March and the annual commemoration of AE Housman's birth by the statue in Bromsgrove High Street on 26 March. The commemoration of the poet's death will be in Ludlow on 30 April where his ashes were buried by the North wall of the parish church. This will be preceded by a guided walk round the historic streets of Ludlow and lunch. ***The Name and Nature of Poetry:*** Each year The Housman Society sponsors a talk at the Hay Festival, under this title, originally used by the poet himself for a lecture at Cambridge University in 1933. This year's speaker will be the fine **Welsh poet Gillian Clarke on 28 May**. The year concludes with *Summertime on Bredon,* a walk up the hill and readings of appropriate poetry on the summit Information Jim Page, Chairman, 01527 878586.

The Edward Thomas Fellowship

The Edward Thomas Birthday Walk: Sunday 3rd March 2013

Each year, on the Sunday nearest to Edward Thomas's birthday (3rd March), the Fellowship organises a walk in the countryside near his home at Steep, near Petersfield in Hampshire. On 3 March, there will be two walks, both starting at Bedales School car park, Church Road, Steep, GU32 2DG. Walk sheets will also be available. The morning walk (a strenuous 4½ miles) will start at 10:30 am prompt, and will include a visit to the memorial stone on the Shoulder of Mutton Hill. The afternoon walk will start at 2:30 pm from the car park at Bedales School and will be a more leisurely stroll of around 2½ miles. Members of the Fellowship will read appropriate poems and prose during the walks and at the end of the lunch break. At 4pm there will be tea, the Fellowship's AGM and the Birthday Tribute, which will include selected readings from the works of Edward Thomas and associated writers. For further information, contact mike@copedr.freeserve.co.uk

The Songs I had.. by Jeremy Gibson

was a new work by writer/director Jeremy Gibson, performed at the Bath Fringe Festival 2012. A portrait in scenes and music of the First World War poet and composer Ivor Gurney, it aimed to reawaken interest in this lyrical, passionate poet and composer. The performance was well received and a DVD is now being produced. It will be available shortly.

'Poetry by Heart'

The launch of a new poetry competition for Schools

'A way for 14- to 18-year olds to have serious fun while they extend their reading, deepen their powers of appreciation, and memorise beautiful and intriguing poems which will enrich their lives for ever'. (Andrew Motion)
This exciting new project features Ivor Gurneys poem 'Strange Hells'.
For more details please visit www.poetrybyheart.org.uk.

A Tommy's Sketchbook: Henry Buckle's images of the First World War

A book has just been published by The History Press of paintings by a soldier of the 1/5 Gloucesters Battalion, Henry Buckle. Although Gurney was in the 2/5, who went out to France after the 1/5 and followed a different path, the images are of interest for those interested in Gurney, both as a flavour of the life of a soldier in France at that time and in some of the specific images. Gurney's close friend F.W. Harvey was a member of the 1/5 battalion, so they are perhaps of especial interest to any with an interest in Harvey. The Telegraph have several of the pictures on their website including one of a hospital room in Rouen, at which place Gurney spent some time in hospital following his being wounded in April 1917. A soldier's sketchbook: Henry Buckle's images of the First World War: http://soc.li/UmK6xCh

A soldier's sketchbook: Henry Buckle's images of the First World War – see The History Press http://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/products/A-Tommys-Sketchbook-Writings-and-Drawings-from-the-Trenches.aspx

The First World War Poetry Digital Archive

First World War Poetry Digital Archive

http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/

is an online repository of over 7000 items of text, images, audio, and video for teaching, learning, and research.The heart of the archive consists of collections of highly valued primary material from major poets of the period, including Wilfred Owen, Isaac Rosenberg, Robert Graves, Vera Brittain, Edward Thomas and Ivor Gurney. This is supplemented by a comprehensive range of multimedia artefacts from the Imperial War Museum, a separate archive of over 6,500 items contributed by the general public, and a set of specially developed educational resources. These educational resources include an exciting new exhibition in the three-dimensional virtual world 'Second Life'. The Ivor Gurney Collection is at http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/collections/gurney

Freely available to the public as well as the educational community, the First World War Poetry Digital Archive is a significant resource for studying the First World War and the literature it inspired.

****

Forthcoming- Poetry of the First World War; An Anthology

Oxford University Press

Edited by Tim Kendall, October 2013 (estimated)

A new anthology of First World War poetry that brings together the best poetry by soldiers, civilians, and women, with a fresh assessment of the work on the centenary of the Great War's outbreak. It includes a generous representation of the best-known poets, such as Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and Ivor Gurney, as well as lesser known writers who have been previously overlooked. The volume includes two previously unpublished poems by Ivor Gurney.

Tim Kendall has taught at the universities of Oxford, Newcastle, and Bristol before becoming Professor and Head of English at the University of Exeter. His publications include *Modern English War Poetry* (OUP, 2006), and *The Oxford Handbook of British and Irish War Poetry* (ed.) (OUP, 2007), and he is writing the VSI on *War Poetry* (forthcoming, 2014). He is also co-editor of the *Complete Literary Works of Ivor Gurney*, (forthcoming, OUP).

The Ivor Gurney Society

www.ivorgurney.org.uk

(The Ivor Gurney Trust: www.ivorgurneytrust.com)

***Patrons of the Society*:**

Group Captain Anthony Boden, Sir Andrew Motion, Ian Partridge CBE

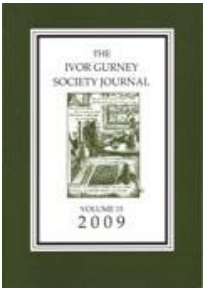
President: P J Kavanagh ***Vice-President***: Adrian Partington

Membership rates (UK) *(all rates per annum)*:

Individuals — £14; Joint Membership — £18; Students — £5;
Retired members — £10 single; £12.50 joint;
Institutional Membership: — £12.50

You can join the Society online at www.ivorgurney.org.uk via PayPal. International Membership necessitates additional postage costs. Rates are given on the website.

The Ivor Gurney Society Journal



As well as the Society newsletter, which we aim to issue to society members bi-annually, the Gurney Society publishes an annual journal, affectionately known as 'The Gurnal', which contains scholarly articles on Gurney's work and closely related items, and book and CD reviews. This is sent to all Society members as part of their subscription, but Gurnals can also be purchased by non-members. An index of the Society Journal and a list of journal contents are both available on the website.

Current officers:

Chair: Rolf Jordan, 24 Claremont Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4DZ Email: rolf@rolfjordan.com

Secretary/Treasurer:John Phillips, 103 The Rose Garden, Ledbury Road, Hereford HR1 2TR johnl.hay@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Eleanor Rawling, 8 Mill Paddock, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 5EU Email: EleRawling@aol.com

Journal Editor: Kelsey Thornton,2 Rectory Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1XY. E-mail: rkrthornton@btinternet.com