

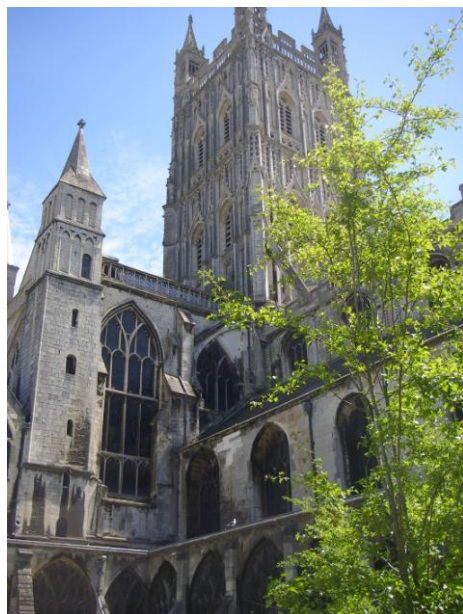
THE IVOR GURNEY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 52

October 2012

The Society's Spring Weekend, May 5/6 2012

This year the Gurney Society's Spring Weekend took place in Gloucester. Saturday's events were based in the atmospheric surroundings of the cathedral, a place with many Gurney connections. The day began with a song recital featuring Michael Lampard and Christopher Boodle, followed by the Society's AGM. In the afternoon, Ian Partridge was interviewed and Philip Lancaster spoke about Gurney's close links with the cathedral. The day was beautifully rounded off with an organ recital by Ashley Grote and evensong with the Cathedral Choir. The latter included Gurney's Psalm 23 and Canticles: Howells in G plus Gurney's Anthem, 'Since I believe in God the Father Almighty'. All were agreed that it was a most fulfilling experience to hear Gurney's music performed in his beloved cathedral.



On Sunday morning, Graham Middleton led a walk around Ivor Gurney's Gloucester starting from the Mariner's Church in the Docks where, for a short while, Gurney used to play the organ for services.

NOTE: Spring Weekend 2012 will be on May 11/12 in Churchdown. Reserve the dates in your diary!

Report of the Recital by Michael Lampard (baritone) and Christopher Boodle (piano) at The Ivor Gurney Society's Annual Spring Weekend: Saturday 5th May 2012, Chapter House, Gloucester Cathedral.

This well-attended event was honoured by the presence in Gloucester of two distinguished Australians, one in the audience and the other as soloist. Both are devotees of English art song and had travelled to the UK especially for the occasion. Michael Newth, from Sydney, has published several verse translations of Old French *chansons de geste*, the latest of which, *The Song of Roland*, infuses an ancient text with glowing musicality (Italica Press, 2011). Michael Lampard, a dually-gifted young singer and composer from Tasmania has already performed across Australia, Europe, the USA and Asia, taking leading roles in both opera and oratorio as well as performing in many recitals of Lieder and art song – and his recital in Gloucester certainly proved to be an exceptional event. Accompanied by Gloucester-born pianist, organist and composer Christopher Boodle, Michael Lampard chose to begin with George Butterworth's ever-popular cycle of *Six Songs from 'A Shropshire Lad'*, demonstrating instantly to English ears that he is blessed with a rich baritone voice of fine lyric quality, tonal beauty and perfect diction, ideally matched to the lyricism of Housman's verse and Butterworth's rhapsodic music..

Following this century-old masterpiece, Lampard turned to the songs of three contemporary composers: Matthew Dewey, Christopher Boodle and Ian Venables. Matthew Dewey (b.1984), not yet well known in the UK, is an Australian whose works include a Symphony for string orchestra and four one-act operas; Michael Lampard featured in the premiers of two of these, *15 Years on Hold* (2007) and *The Buzz of the Sea* (2008). For his Gloucester recital Michael had chosen to sing Dewey's powerful setting of Lala Fisher's evocative poem 'The Moonflower', and following this with Christopher Boodle's *Three Shakespeare Songs*, accompanied by the composer, Michael brought us back, seamlessly, from an exotic moonlit valley in Australia, to Elizabethan England and the most English of hills and dales.

The songs of Ian Venables, widely acknowledged to be among the finest by a living British composer, have been of particular inspiration to Michael Lampard. He included two Venables songs in this recital: his moving and sublimely melodic 1974 realisation of Harold Monro's 'Midnight Lamentation', and a setting of Leonard Clark's heartfelt tribute 'In Memoriam: Ivor Gurney', one of the songs from Venables's 2009 cycle *The Pine Boughs Past Music*. The other three songs in this cycle are all settings of poems by Gurney himself, and it is good to hear that Michael is preparing the full *Pine Boughs Past Music* cycle for performance later. He will surely be an ideal interpreter of this repertoire.

Michael Lampard, who gave the Tasmanian premier of Ivor Gurney's *The Western Playland* cycle in 2009, concluded this memorable Gloucester recital, appropriately and beautifully, with a group of songs by Gurney, ending with the setting of the First War poem that Gurney considered to be 'a perfect expression of homesickness': F W Harvey's 'In Flanders'. If, in spite of a brief homesickness for Australia, he can be persuaded to return to the UK, we would be more than delighted to welcome Michael back to complete *The Pine Boughs Past Music* (and much else besides!) next year.

© Anthony Boden, May 2012

Chairman's Report (Ian Venables) 2011-12

I would like to begin my final report as chairman by paying a special tribute to the Society's General Committee with whom I have had the great pleasure of working with over the past ten years. Although, there have inevitably been a number of changes to the composition of the committee during this time, the majority have, as they say, 'stayed the course'. Indeed, messrs, Philips, Thornton, and Dunnett have served on the committee since its inauguration some 18 years ago! I think this is a marvellous testament to their tireless commitment and outstanding work on behalf of the Society. I think we can all say, with some pride, that Ivor Gurney is now a well- established figure on both the literary and musical map of Britain. This was certainly not the case back in 1994. Of course, my job as chairman was made that much easier by stepping into the shoes of my illustrious predecessor. As the founder chairman, Anthony Boden together with a small band of faithful 'Gurneyites'

worked ceaselessly to raise Gurney's profile and bring his poetry and music the public recognition it deserved. In the intervening years new members joined the committee, each adding their own particular brand of expertise. In this regard, I would like to say a few words about Rolf Jordan who joined the committee back in 2002. His initial role was to edit and produce the society's Newsletters and he made his mark right from the start by giving them a fresh new look and reformatting them into their attractive A5 layout. Then in 2008, he took over from Sally Minogue as our membership secretary and in 2009 he became the Society's General Secretary. So given Rolf's wide-ranging experience I have no doubt that he will find my shoes a very comfortable fit! Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring treasurer, Nigel Lowson for all he has done over the past four years. This most important of committee roles often goes unnoticed because the work is done quietly behind the scenes. However, without an efficient and cool-headed treasurer a society can soon find itself in dire straits. Nigel has done a great job and he has certainly kept the society on track and financially sound. Unfortunately, the society does not have large financial reserves to draw upon and so it has been essential that our cash flow situation is monitored very closely. This he has done brilliantly and without any fuss. On a personal note, I would like to thank him for his unfailing support and for his sound advice. Turning now to society matters, this year has been another busy and fruitful one. One of the year's highlights was our very successful annual 'Spring Weekend' held at St Andrew's Church, Churchdown on Saturday 14th May. This event was jointly organised with The Arthur Bliss Society and it attracted one of the largest audiences we have seen in recent years. The afternoon began with a talk by Eleanor Rawling, entitled, 'Ivor Gurney's Gloucestershire; exploring poetry and place'. She spoke with great passion and enthusiasm about the importance of the Gloucestershire landscape upon Gurney's creative life. As an eminent geographer herself, Eleanor was able to retrace Gurney's 'bright tracks' and pinpoint their exact location within the context of his poetry. It was a brilliant and illuminating talk and her engaging style brought her a well-deserved ovation. The second speaker, Peter Ainsworth was equally engaging, and his illustrated talk about the composers of the Great War was masterly and at times deeply moving. His panache as a speaker was only matched by his wide knowledge of the subject and eloquent delivery. Following the talks, we were treated to a recital of violin and piano music performed by the talented duo Rupert Luck (violin) and Matthew Rickard (piano). Their programme included a movement from Gurney's unpublished E flat Violin Sonata together with the

two shorter published works, the Apple Orchard and Scherzo. The centrepiece of their programme was a rare performance of Bliss's early violin Sonata. The weekend was rounded off with a poetry walk led by Eleanor Rawling and Graham Middleton. This walk, up on the Roman Hill at Crickley Edge followed closely the one outlined in her new book and took us past a small cottage at where Eleanor believes Gurney may have lived just after the 1st War. We also saw Dryhill Farm where Gurney worked briefly as a farm labourer (below).



The weekend also had an added attraction in the form of the Irish playwright and society member Karl O'Neill. He came all the way from Dublin to attend the event. He spoke briefly about his new radio play, entitled 'Think well, O Singer' and what inspired it. The play was broadcast on RTE Radio, Ireland's premiere radio station, on Easter Sunday, 24th April, and it starred Ciaran Hinds and Brenda Blethyn. Turning now to literary matters, I would firstly like to take this opportunity to thank Kelsey Thornton for another impressive annual Journal. Volume 17 is packed full of scholarly articles and reviews and it remains in my opinion one of the finest music society journal's around. Secondly, I would like to thank Eleanor Rawling for her excellent work on this year's Newsletters. Apart from obvious news items, Eleanor has given them an extra dimension through the addition of well-chosen pieces of art-work, photographs and poems. This has made the Newsletters very enjoyable to read and may I say, something to treasure. Perhaps, the literary highlight of the year was the F.W.Harvey Society's joint event held at the King's School, Gloucester on the 5th November. This memorable series of talks focused on

the relationship between Harvey, Howells and Gurney and the influences the 1st World War and the Gloucestershire countryside had on their work. The guest speakers included, Kelsey Thornton, Anthony Boden, Maurice Bent, Teresa Davies and the chairman of the F.W.Harvey society, Roger Deeks. This event also saw the launch of a new book of selected poems by F.W.Harvey, edited by Anthony Boden and Kelsey Thornton. (This book along with Eleanor Rawling's new book is on sale here today).

This now bring me to perhaps the most unusual event of the year held at Bristol Cathedral on Saturday 21st January – namely, Radcliffe Film Productions, film premiere of 'Severn and Somme'. What made this event so memorable, was in addition to a film premiere, we also heard, for the first time all of Gurney's orchestral works in a single concert performance. The film, 'Severn and Somme' was the brainchild of the producers, Diana Taylor and Anthea Page and their fifty-two minute drama/ documentary charts Gurney's tragic life story. The film showing, despite the cold January evening, filled the cathedral to the rafters and left one in no doubt that Gurney is no longer a shadowy figure in English music. I turn now to some of this year's musical events. On Saturday, June 4th here in Gloucester Cathedral we heard the premiere of Gurney's 'Coronation March'. This march is the earliest of his three orchestral works, composed in 1910 for a competition to commemorate the coronation of King George V. It was conducted by Adrian Partington - the Society's Vice-President. I have to say, that I thoroughly enjoyed it and thought it was a very accomplished work for a twenty year old. It would certainly make an excellent starter to the last night of the proms! Other musical highlights of the year included; the Society's sponsored 'Autumn in Malvern Festival' event held at Malvern College on October 1st. This imaginative tableau of readings and poetry was devised and presented by Peter Florence, the director of the Hay Festival. His presentation featured a selection of Gurney's songs sung by the baritone Marcus Farnsworth accompanied by the pianist James Baillieu. On the 25th March, the Guildhall of School of Music and Drama hosted an Ivor Gurney Research Day, entitled, 'Beyond 'Sleep' the less known Gurney'. The day was led by the inimitable Iain Burnside and included a presentation on Gurney's poetry by Kate Kennedy and performances of the songs by April Fredrick, accompanied by Mark Bebbington. Finally the baritone, Howard Wong, together with pianist Philip Collin and Rolf Jordan gave an evening of English song and poetry, including three Gurney songs at Melling Tithebarn near Liverpool on Friday 20 April.

I would like to end this report on a personal note. When I took over as chairman back in 2002, the then treasurer, Dr William Marshall, argued persuasively that the three Honorary members of the committee, including myself, should only have a term of three years. Everyone, around the table nodded in assent. However, three years came and went, by which time Dr Marshall, being true to his word had left the committee. Then another five years elapsed and still nothing was mentioned. It then dawned on me, that perhaps I might possibly be doing a reasonable job and there was so much more to be done. However, after ten years in the 'hot seat', I began to feel that it was time for me to hand over to a younger person who would bring a fresh perspective to the role. I was absolutely delighted when Rolf Jordan put himself forward. Rolf has been a committee member for ten years and has taken on some of its most important roles. He is multi-talented individual and his organisational skills are second to none. But most importantly of all, he is passionate about Gurney and has some exciting ideas about taking the society into the future. As the retiring chairman, I am pleased and reassured to know that the society will be in safe hands. Ian Venables, 2012

Support for An Ivor Gurney Window in Gloucester Cathedral

Mezzo-soprano Sarah Connolly has launched an appeal for funds to install a commemorative window in Gloucester Cathedral. Discussion with the Cathedral authorities had already begun and window designer Thomas Denny has been asked to design an 8-light window in the Lady Chapel opposite the Lady Chapel containing the Howells and Sumison windows. It is anticipated that it will be completed in 2014 at the latest for an estimated sum of £11,000. Sarah Connolly is also planning a fund-raising concert in Gloucester Cathedral in August 2013 to include works by Gurney, Delius, Copland and others. **All Society members are asked if they would like to make a personal donation in support of this project. Please make cheques payable to The Ivor Gurney Society and send them to J Phillips at 103, The Rose Garden, Ledbury Road, Hereford HR1 2TR**

Ian Venables

I would like to pay tribute to our outgoing Chairman of the Ivor Gurney Society, Ian Venables. Ian took over from the founder Chairman, Anthony Boden, after the 2002 AGM, and has therefore had ten years in the role (he had only anticipated four!). During this time, the activities of the Ivor Gurney Society have gone from strength to strength. Ian has had to make some fairly tough decisions, work with numerous changes of committee membership and recover from a sudden serious illness which shocked us all. It goes without saying that Ian has played a major role in ensuring that Ivor Gurney's reputation has never been stronger. He will remain on the committee and, of course, continue his important role as lead Trustee of the Ivor Gurney Trust, so there is still no question of him getting any rest yet. We must also remember that Ian's recognised stature as a fine and sensitive composer has been consolidated during these last ten years with a steadily increasing number of commissions, performances and recordings. For my part, I have enjoyed Ian's friendship since meeting him when I joined the Society in 2000, and look forward to receiving his wise counsel in future.

Rolf Jordan, (based on his tribute given at the Society's AGM 2012)



THE IVOR GURNEY SOCIETY
Financial Statement: 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011

Balance brought forward on 1 April 2010 £1270.03

Income for the year

Subscriptions/donations (1)	2176.95
2010 Spring event	1190.50
Sales of merchandise	187.64
Royalties	493.08
	4048.17

Expenditure for the year

2010 Spring event	983.00
Purchase of merchandise (2)	566.00
Newsletter	65.88
2010 Society Journal	1187.42
Administration/Expenses (3)	646.74
2011 Spring event (4)	106.00
	3555.04

Excess of income over expenditure 493.13

Bank balance carried forward on 31 March 2011 £1763.16

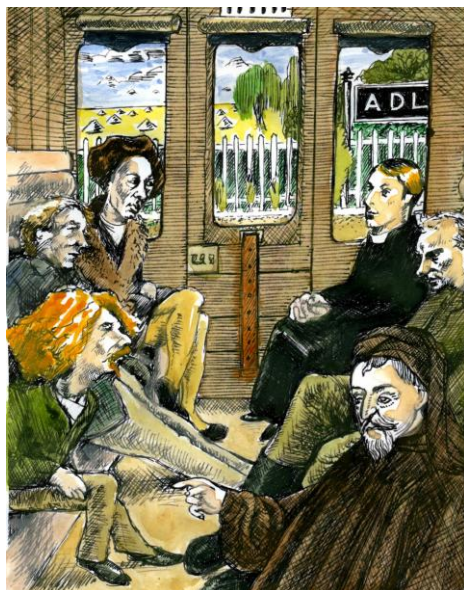
- (1) Subscriptions include those who have paid by Paypal for the first time.
Overall, a slightly lower number than last year.
- (2) Includes purchase of CDs and payment to David Goodland, who
recited the poems on a recent CD.
- (3) This is for postage of Newsletter, Journal and details of the Spring
event to members.
- (4) This is for the insurance and the deposit for the hall for the event.

Nigel Lowson
Treasurer to the Society

ADLESTROPHES : THE POETS MAKE AN EXCURSION TO ADLESTROP

by R.K.R.Thornton ISBN 978-0-9572415-0-3 £5

Reviewed by Anne Harvey



Perhaps, like me, you only half-know what a *STROPHE* is and if you turn to the dictionary to check you may not be any wiser. A complicated explanation tells of chanting *strophes*, while turning, during an ancient Greek chorus but also describes the matching of lines to an existing lyric poem.

In this collection Kelsey Thornton has deviated from the ancient idea of a *STROPHE* but brought his parodic skills to the fore in extending the life of Edward Thomas's famous poem *ADLESTROP*. Thomas himself would have delighted in the addition of *HES* to his title and to the selection of parodies that follow. I recently read the letter he wrote after enjoying the Masfieldian parody *WALKING TOM* by Clifford Bax and Herbert Farjeon which turned him into a ne'er-do-well drunkard and womaniser.

A similar tongue-in-cheek, gently mocking approach adds to the enjoyment of *ADLESTROPHES*, at first published in a small limited edition and now extended. The current version (and I'm hoping there may be more to come)

has added Shakespeare, Hardy, Hopkins, Housman, Kipling, Frost, and A.A.Milne to William McGonagall, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Algernon Charles Swinburne, Ernest Dowson, Alexander Pope and Geoffrey Chaucer ----not forgetting also an anonymous modern poet and a prose-writer (the latter obviously practicing his or her skills for a Creative Writing Class). In each case Thornton has lighted on a poet's familiar poem, and fitted the same shape, metre and tone into an Adlestropian idea. Those who are well read will immediately recognise the poets and be able to quote from the originals . I don't want to spoil your enjoyment by giving away too many but I, personally, love the lines from Shakespeare's sonnets in a blank verse tribute which opens with

*I would not to the running true of trains
Admit impediment*

and finds that the day Thomas's train stopped *unwontedly* , compared with other summer days *was just as lovely but less temperate*. And surely Wordsworth would have agreed , had he looked from the train to the empty platform in June 1914 - *Earth hath not anything to show more bare.....* Not all the "takeoffs" are as easy to discern . However those whose poetry reading stopped on leaving school can spend many happy hours poring through the works of Housman, Kipling, Hopkins etcetera, and especially the much neglected Ernest Dowson----- what a treat to be led to his *NON SUM QUALIS ERAM BONAE SUB REGNO CYNARAE* with its haunting repeated line *I have been faithful to thee , Cynara! in my fashion*. Some poets are easier to parody than others, and Ivor Gurney would not have been an easy target. Unlike Robert Frost , whom one could almost suspect had actually himself written the poem beginning - *What place that was I think I know.....* Kelsey Thornton pays tribute in his introduction to Leonard McDermid's *AND FOR THAT MINUTE* (Stitchill Marigold Press 2009) where various station characters offer comments) and to my own *ADLESTROP REVISITED* (History Press) . *ADLESTROPHES* is a welcome addition to the canon of works on the poem and railway stations, as we look ahead to the centenary of Edward Thomas's journey on the 24th of June 2014.

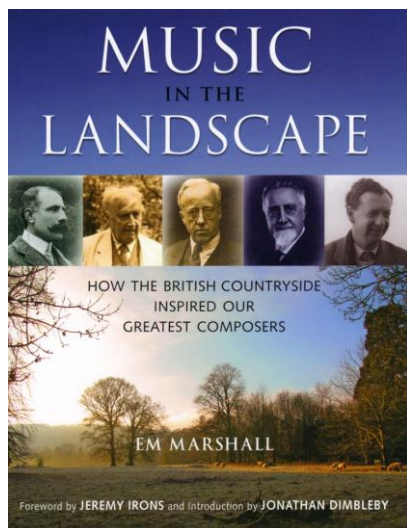
To obtain a copy of *Adlestrophes*, send a cheque for £5 (post and packing included) made out to R. K. R. Thornton at 2 Rectory Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1XY

Musical Map of the British Isles



EM Publishing, the newly established arm of the enterprising and successful English Music Festival, has amongst its first publications issued a Musical Map of the British Isles. This striking piece of artwork features the landmasses of Great Britain and Ireland formed of composers' names in beautiful and colourful calligraphy, and of course prominently includes Gurney. Designed by Geoff Sawers, whose Literary Map has sold thousands of copies, and compiled by Em Marshall-Luck, Founder-Director of The English Music Festival, the Map would be a fitting addition to any music enthusiast's home, and would be a focus for lively discussion and exciting discovery. The Map is supplied unframed and measures 420mm in height by 594mm in width.

The map may be obtained, at a cost of £10.00 (with postage and packaging at an additional £5.00), from www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/empublishing/purchase.html or by post from Em Marshall-Luck, The Red House, Lanchards Lane, Shillingstone, Blandford Forum, DT11 0QU (please enclose a cheque for £15.00, made payable to EMF Endeavours).



MUSIC IN THE LANDSCAPE by EM Marshall

How the British countryside inspired our greatest composers

Foreword by JEREMY IRONS and introduction by JONATHAN DIMBLEBY

Published by Robert Hale Ltd ISBN 978-0-7090-8468-6 RRP £27.50

Em Marshall is the Founder-Director of the acclaimed English Music Festival, Director of the CD label EM Records and Chairman of both the Ralph Vaughan Williams Society and Granville Bantock Society.

Her long-awaited book on British composers and the landscape is now available. *Music in the Landscape* is an exuberant celebration of British composers and the landscape. The book explores the lives of some of our nation's greatest musical names and sets them within the context of the rich variety of their native countryside – wherein Britain's vast variation of colour, light and contour, from gentle rounded valleys to bleak mountain landscapes and wild coastland, has resulted in great masterpieces that brim with expression and emotion.

Although readers may be aware of Elgar's love of the Malverns or Britten's identification with the Suffolk coast, nearly all British composers of the early- to mid-twentieth century were influenced by the landscapes in which they were born or chose to live, and so this book effectively presents a history of

the Golden Renaissance of English music. Marshall delves into particular places that were vital to the inspiration of musical landmarks – such as Tintagel, instrumental to Bax’s eponymous tone-poem; Maiden Castle of John Ireland’s *Mai-Dun*; and Egdon Heath, Holst’s evocation of the wild Dorset heathland described by Hardy in *The Return of the Native*. These works, and many others highlighted in this illuminating volume, epitomise the intimate relationship between nature and music that compels the attention of music-lovers throughout the world.

To order a copy of this title at the special discounted rate of £20 (RRP £27.50), please visit the English Music Festival website and click on ORDER GOODS
www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk

René Samson’s *Walking into Clarity* for baritone and piano

René Samson is a contemporary composer from the Netherlands. His recent exposure to Gurney’s music, his poetry and his biography was such a powerful experience that it led to a joint project with baritone Mattijs van de Woerd and pianist Shuann Chai, resulting in a mini-opera, or – as the composer prefers calling it – a musical fantasy on the life and work of this extraordinary man: Ivor Gurney. Comments by Samson on this work are given below:

Introducing Gurney to the Ivor Gurney Society is truly like carrying coal to Newcastle. As a rookie in Gurneyland, I was overwhelmed by the richness of this biography. My first task in planning my work was to decide on which aspect of Gurney’s life and work to focus. In preparation of this work, my better half and I visited Gloucestershire, the landscape so movingly eulogized in Gurney’s poems. In a book store in Gloucester we found Eleanor Rawling’s book about Gurney’s roamings in his beloved Gloucestershire. In the next few days, the book was a true guide and a real treasure to us. Our beautiful walks in Gurney’s footsteps were drenched in the melancholy glow of his poetry; the perfect anacrusis for my compositorial work. This piece will receive its first performance in the UK in the Gloucester Music Society on February 27, 2014. Relevant websites:

www.mattijsvandewoerd.com/

www.shuannchai.com/

www.renesamson.nl/

**IVOR GURNEY
FILM NIGHT
The Chapter House, Gloucester Cathedral
Friday 2 November 2012 at 7pm**

Please join us for a private screening of the evocative film 'Severn and Somme' about the life and work of composer and poet Ivor Gurney (1890-1937), a pupil at The King's School Gloucester, a Chorister in the Cathedral Choir, and a soldier deeply affected by his wartime experiences.

Join us for a canapés reception before the film in the beautiful setting of Gloucester Cathedral. A unique opportunity to enjoy live piano and poetry recitals of Ivor Gurney's work following the screening.

Tickets: £18 include canapés and a glass of wine
Proceeds from the evening will go towards the Outreach work of Gloucester Cathedral Choir which enables the Choir to share the traditions of English choral music with other choirs and audiences in Gloucestershire and abroad.

With a limited number of tickets available for this special evening, please book early to avoid disappointment.

Contact: info@gloucesterfilmnight.co.uk

**01452 770805 Chorister parent Susie Fairgrieve
07767 777038 Chorister parent Katerina Gibb**

NOTES ABOUT FORTHCOMING EVENTS/PROJECTS featuring Ivor Gurney:

Having already featured on BBC Radio 4 on 30 Sept, including a resumé of his life, parts of the poem 'Christopher Marlowe' and the song 'Sleep', **Gurney is Composer of the Month in BBC Music Magazine in November** and features in an article by Kate Kennedy.

Gurney's **A Gloucestershire Rhapsody** for orchestra, premiered by the Philharmonia in 2010, was recorded by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

in Glasgow on 30 August, conducted by David Parry. It will be broadcast on Afternoon on Three (Radio 3) sometime before the end of the year.

This autumn will see the US premiere of Gurney's choral setting of **The Trumpet**, which is to be given by the University of New Hampshire Chamber Singers and Concert Choir, conducted by William Kempster, on 11 October, in UNH's Johnson Theater.

Gurney will again feature in the **Finzi Friends' triennial Weekend of English Song**, which takes place in Ludlow from 30 May to 2 June 2013. (www.ludlow-english-song-weekend.org.uk)

The preliminary **2013 Gloucester Three Choirs Festival** programme has been announced, which is to include a recital at Twigworth on Monday 29 July, given by Philip Lancaster accompanied by winds and harp and to include a reconstruction of the original scoring of Gurney's *Five Elizabethan Songs*, the full score of only one of which is extant. Later that same day Choral Evensong will feature the double choir motet premiered at the Gurney Society day in May, *Since I Believe in God the Father Almighty*. (see www.3choirs.org for latest information).

Philip Lancaster's recording of songs and poems by Gurney, 'The Far Country', is being recorded in Powys on 12-13 December, and should be available from May 2013. I should like to pass on my grateful thanks for those who have offered their support for this project.

Gurney's E flat violin sonata is being recorded by Rupert Marshall-Luck for EMF Records at the end of September. Further details in due course.

The Old City; A Guided Walk around Ivor Gurney's Gloucester

During early September 2012, Eleanor Rawling led a walk around Gloucester as part of the City's Heritage Open Days. The walk visited places and landmarks which would have been familiar to Ivor Gurney exploring, through examples of his poetry, his close connection with the city. Following the success of this event, Gloucester Civic Trust is exploring the possibility of making this walk available in leaflet form. See the next newsletter for further developments or contact elerawling@aol.com

Forthcoming Events and Society Activities

Little Missenden Festival, October 14 2012

April Frederick will be singing 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree', 'Adlestrop', and 'For the Lands' in a recital with Mark Bebbington in a programme including songs by John Ireland, Frank Bridge, Charlotte Bray, and *King Harald's Saga* by Judith Weir. Contact April Frederick for details singforjoy@gmail.com

English Poetry & Song Society

Jubilee Competition

A total of 21 songs were submitted for our Diamond Jubilee Competition, bringing a high degree of agreement between the judges – Sarah Leonard, Stephen Varcoe and Raymond Warren. The honours were awarded as follows: 1st place *North Ship* (Larkin) by Jolyon Laycock; 2nd prize (in a close finish) goes *Bee Dance* (Carol Ann Duffy) by Janet Oates; 3rd place *The Fox* by Brian Daubney; 4th place *For David on his Birthday* by Robert Hugill. These four songs feature in:

the **concert at the Colston Hall, Bristol on Friday 12th October 2012** at 8pm, with Sarah Leonard (soprano), Stephen Varcoe (tenor), & Nigel Foster (piano). Enquiries richard_carder@yahoo.co.uk

F W Harvey Society

FW Harvey and Leonard Clark: a Friendship Remembered in Stories and Verse Tuesday 16th October 2012; 7.30 pm, Railway Inn, Newnham on Severn

The F.W. Harvey Legacy – incl. launch of the FW Harvey Archive Project Saturday 27th October 2012, The King's School Gloucester 9.30am – 1.00 p.m

Apply by 19 October at latest.

Enquiries and applications for both events, Mrs Teresa Davies teresa.davies@fwharveysociety.co.uk

The Wilfred Owen Association

The Annual General Meeting and the 2012 Poetry Award are being held in Shrewsbury this year, on Saturday 27 October 2012, at The Gateway Education & Arts Centre, Chester Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1NB.

We are absolutely delighted to be giving the Poetry Award to Gillian Clarke. It is the first time a distinguished female poet has been recognised by the Association in this way. The plans for day also include a showing of the film *Resistance* based on the best-selling book by poet Owen Shears.

Costs as follows:

Contact Vanessa Davies (Hon. Secretary) for information and tickets. vcedavis@hotmail.com

The Housman Society Weekend Conference 26-28 October 2012

The Housman Society is holding a Weekend Conference from 26th to 28th October 2012 in Housman Hall, which used to be the Housman family home. The weekend starts in Artrix, Bromsgrove's new Arts Centre, with a recital from star baritone James Rutherford with accompanist Simon Lepper. He will be giving a complete performance of *A Shropshire Lad* with a mixture of song settings and readings – and Gurney will definitely feature! There will also be a variety of events providing insight into the poet's world. Wendy Cope will be the star visitor, and Linda Hart, whose literary work in the area has been so distinguished, will give what she has intriguingly called "An ABC of Housman". There will be a reading of *Last Poems* in recognition of the 90th anniversary of that publication and there will be opportunities for erudite delegates to participate in discussion during the weekend. Gurney members are welcome to join us for either individual events or the whole weekend. Full programmes from Jim Page – telephone 01527 878586, e-mail address jimpage@btinternet.com

Gloucester Music Society; Early Warning for 2014

Thursday 27 February 2014, 7.30pm St Mary de Lode Church, Archdeacon Street, Gloucester GL1 2QT, UK premiere of Walking into Clarity (Rene Sampson's 'mini opera' about IG see p.14) as part of Gloucester Music Society's season entitled "In Memoriam", which will also include 3 songs by Ivor Gurney sung by James Gilchrist in the programme on 27 March 2014. The season will also include music by Britten, Bliss, Elgar, Ireland, Vaughan Williams, Delius, Alan Bush, and Whettam as well as music by Shostakovich, Schnittke and Korth. Members of the Ivor Gurney Society are always welcome! Further details from C. Talbot Cooper talbotcooper@onetel.com

EM Records; New Recording of Gurney's Sonata in E-flat major

EM Records is the recording arm of the English Music Festival (EMF). The 2011 Festival featured the World Première performance of the Sonata in E-flat major for Violin and Piano by Ivor Gurney, 1919. EMR CD011 will present this exciting work alongside one of the best-loved pieces in this genre, Elgar's Violin Sonata in E minor, op.82; and Lionel Sainsbury's virtuosic and declamatory *Soliloquy* for solo violin (a favourite for many at this year's EMF). Music enthusiasts are invited to contribute to this groundbreaking new recording by becoming subscribers. For a suggested minimum donation of £50, supporters will receive the following:

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To obtain information about the subscription package go to:

<http://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/emrecords/subscribe.html>.

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The Musical Brain Arts, Science & the Mind

The Sun Moves Always West

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with

Professor John Cox Stuart Jackson, tenor Ben

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The Musical Brain registered charity number 1135554

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Through talks, discussions, musical illustration and performance, presenter of Radio 3's 'Discovering Music' Stephen Johnson leads an audience at the lovely Dewsall Court in an exploration of the effects of the Great War on the lives and music of composers falling within its orbit – Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst, George Butterworth, E. J. Moeran, Ivor Gurney, John Ireland, Gerald Finzi, Frank Bridge, and his pupil Benjamin Britten – from the numerous settings of the mysteriously prescient pre-war poetry of A. E. Housman to the devastating effects of the war itself and its aftermath on their minds and work.

On Saturday 10th November, coffee/registration 9.45am programme begins 10.30am.

Stuart Jackson, tenor, Ben Hancox, violin and Anna Tilbrook, piano will perform in the Saturday evening concert in the church in the grounds of Dewsall and the musicians will also take part in the presentations on that day. Professor John Cox joins Stephen and the musicians on the Saturday for The Musical Brain's Trust's initial illustrated lecture and debate, on The Psychology of Song.

On Sunday 11th November, coffee from 9.30am, programme begins 10am.

Remembrance Sunday will be marked by a gathering in the church at 11am.

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Dewsall Court, Callow, Hereford, HR2 8DA. Enquiries and booking call 01432 276 724

£340 per person, based on two people, two nights, sharing a double room. This includes all seminars, concert, and all meals.; £375 single occupancy; £135 non-residential ticket which includes all seminars, concert, Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday lunch; £20 concert by candlelight ticket Saturday 10th November, 6.30pm.

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