

# *The Philip Larkin Society*

## **Eighteenth Annual General Meeting**

**The Lawns Centre, University of Hull  
Harland Way, Cottingham, HU16 5SD**

**on Saturday 8th June 2013 at 12.00 noon**

**12.00 noon 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

### **AGENDA**

- 1 Chairman's Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Approval of the Minutes of the 2012 AGM (To be tabled)
- 4 Matters Arising from the Minutes
- 5 Presentation of the Annual Report for 2012-13 (To be tabled)
- 6 Presentation of the Accounts for 2012-13 (To be tabled)
- 7 Membership Fees for 2013-14
- 8 Committee for 2013-14
- 9 Motions submitted by Members (To be tabled)
- 10 Any Other Business appropriate for an AGM
- 11 Date of 2014 AGM
- 12 Close of Formal Business

**12.45 pm Wine Reception (With a Book Stall and Raffle)**

**1.15 pm Buffet Lunch**

**2.30 pm Distinguished Guest Lecture**

**PROFESSOR ARCHIE BURNETT**

***EDITING PHILIP LARKIN***

**(Lecture Free to members and £5 to non-members)**

**3.30 pm Book Stall and Close of Proceedings**

# *The Philip Larkin Society*

## **Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting Held at 12.00 pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012 *The Lawns Centre, University of Hull***

Present: 33 members of the Society and their guests attended the meeting.

### **1. Chairman's Welcome**

Professor Edwin Dawes, Chairman of the Society, welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Everyone stood for a few moments of silent reflection in memory of Dr Jean Hartley.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Wendy Cole, Audrey Hall, Mike Wilson and John Heald. Prof Dawes also mentioned the absence of Amber Allcroft who is seriously ill in Hull Royal Infirmary.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2011 AGM**

A copy of the Minutes of the 2011 AGM were been given to all members present and they were adopted *nem con* as a true and correct record.

### **4. Matters Arising from the 2011 AGM Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Presentation of the Annual Report for 2011/12**

Andrew Eastwood, the Society's General Secretary, spoke to his Report on the year's activities:

At last year's AGM I said that we had all been saddened to hear about the death of one of our Honorary Vice Presidents Alan Plater. I also commented then upon how proud we all were that our Vice Chairman and friend of Philip Larkin, Jean Hartley, had been recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Hull. She was very poorly in hospital and could not attend the AGM and we were all saddened by her passing in July not long after the AGM. With her has gone one of those remaining people with a personal connection with Philip Larkin. She and Maeve Brennan continue to be greatly missed, particularly on an occasion such as this.

## **I A Review the Year's Activities**

On 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011 the Society was treated to its eighth **Garden Event** – this year another **Soiree** after previous two successes in the evening – hosted by the wonderfully-generous Miriam Porter, at Philip Larkin's final home at 105 Newland Park. Even though I am always sad to miss it due to my annual Floridian expedition - the guests are never disappointed by Miriam's wonderful catering and entertainment. Due to time pressures with the London Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee, Miriam has said that she is unable to host an event this year but I am pleased to say that another event is already planned for 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011, the **Larkin Sketchbook**, which was due to be launched on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011 was finally launched at an event at the Hull Central Library. The beautiful facsimile copy of Jeffrey Waters' 1978 *Sketchbook*, produced in collaboration with Hull City Council's Libraries, is now selling for fantastic price of £9.99. Dr Jean Hartley was remembered for her efforts in bringing this to fruition and we were pleased to have Sarah and Alison Hartley as our guests.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011, a **Musical Evening** took place with Pam Waddington Muse (mezzo soprano) and Peter Sproston (piano). In a full recital room in the Music Department in the Larkin Building at the University of Hull we heard exquisite performances of musical settings of Larkin's poetry. Peter Elsdon provided two jazz interludes at the piano during the evening, including work by Larkin's favourite Duke Ellington.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011, on the first anniversary of the unveiling of Martin Jennings' Philip Larkin's Statue we held an **Unveiling of Slate Roundels** also by Martin Jennings to complement the Statute in the Hull Paragon Interchange. This year the weather was fine and a large crowd attended and a jazz band played. Martin spoke of his choice of Larkin's verses and Graham Chesters replied on behalf of *Larkin25*. Graham thanked a whole raft of people who made the event possible but particularly and poignantly Jean Hartley whom we were all sure would have loved the event and whose granddaughter Sarah unveiled one of the roundels. I am pleased to say that we intend to have annual events on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Over the week-end of 5-7 January 2012, the music department held a **Larkin-Inspired Music Event** led by **Dr Lee Tsang** which was partly-sponsored by the Society.

Sadly, for the third year running, our annual **Sixth Form Conference** due to have been held in Hull in **March 2011**, was cancelled because of a lack of support from local schools and colleges. I remain personally very sad that local schools are not willing to participate, even it were just to widen their students' knowledge of one of the nation's great 20<sup>th</sup>-century poets.

**This very afternoon** as part of the *Bridlington Poetry Festival*, the winner of the second **Philip Larkin East Riding of Yorkshire Poetry Prize** will be announced with £1000 prize money donated by our Society, at Sewerby Hall in Bridlington. I would like to thank ERYC's John Wedgwood Clarke for all his hard work with this competition and wish him well after leaving the East Riding very recently to come to Hull University. We were so pleased when Philip Larkin's name was first attached to this competition last year and we hope the Society can continue this prize beyond that time to make the award a significant, on-going annual prize.

And so we come to today's ***Distinguished Guest Lecture – Professor James Booth: Jean Hartley: An Appreciation Of the Writer, Artist, Friend and Publisher of Philip Larkin's***

***'The Less Deceived'***. Jean is such an appropriate subject for our Distinguished Guest Lecture as is James Booth as the person who is to deliver it.

## II Membership and Website

The membership of the Society has remained at a similar level to last year at around 240.

Please remember that you can use the ***Gift for a Friend*** scheme to buy a membership for friends' birthdays or Christmas! Details too are on the website.

Our excellent website continues under our Webmaster Jim Orwin and is well visited. We have, of course, introduced the ability to pay subscriptions and purchase merchandise via the website with *PayPal*. We also introduced our second (Identity Card style) membership card, designed by Andy Bagley and new third design is planned for the coming year.

### III Publications

*About Larkin* has continued to be a wonderful and internationally-renowned showcase of the Society and something which members value very much. Editions 32 and the recent 33 – again with its colour centre pages of the *Roundel Unveiling* - have been excellent and varied in their content, due to the wonderful editorial work of Janet Brennan in Totnes and Prof James Booth, as well as our many and varied contributors - all of whom I thank on behalf of us all.

### IV Personnel

I am pleased to confirm that Archie Burnett has agreed to become one of our Honorary Vice Presidents. He is currently Professor of English at the University of Boston, Massachusetts. His *Complete Poems of Philip Larkin* were published earlier this year. He has also kindly agreed to become our Distinguished Guest Lecturer in 2013 on a date to be agreed.

I must now take the time to thank all members of the Society's Committee for their hard work over the year but I want to particularly thank Prof Eddie Dawes, who remains as the Society's only ever Chairman and Jackie Sewell whose hard work as our Treasurer has been equally appreciated.

Andy Bagley, the neighbour of Prof Graham Chesters, whom you recall volunteered to take over as our Merchandising Officer with lots of new ideas two AGM's ago has continued in that role to great effect. Thanks go to him.

Finally, can I also take this opportunity to mention that, over the week-end of **5-7 October 2012**, the return visit to Hull by members of the *Thomas Hardy Society* will take place under the title ***Friday Night (and Saturday and Sunday) in the Royal Station Hotel***. Details are in *About Larkin 33* and on the website. Please support this event.

I also wish to thank Kate Girking, the Bursar at Beverley Minster CE Primary School for her continued wonderful help in preparing various papers for the Society throughout the year.

#### 6. Presentation of Accounts for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

The Society's Treasurer Jackie Sewell, introduced the Accounts for the past year. These showed an excess of income over expenditure of £3986, which compared more favourably to the smaller excess of £1377 on the previous year's activities. The Statue Account has a current balance of £5883.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for all her continued work for the Society. A motion to adopt the accounts was passed *nem con*.

#### 7. Membership Fees

The General Secretary mentioned that, with a 30% increase in postal charges from 30 April 2012, we may need to look at an increase in subscription fees next year, having examined the Society's running costs over the coming year.

This was accepted by the meeting, as was the proposal that the coming year's fees for 2012-13 should remain the same.

#### 8. Committee

It was agreed that the Committee be re-elected *en bloc*. The General Secretary hoped that we might find (possibly younger) volunteers to join the Committee which meets in Hull.

#### 9. Motions Submitted by Members

No motions had been received for the meeting.

#### 10. Any Other Business appropriate for an AGM

- (a) Prof Dawes mentioned an email from Judy Burg, the Hull University Archivist. Between 2-3000 letters between Larkin and his mother from the period 1940 to 1975 had been lodged with the University. Volunteers from the PLS membership were sought to type up notes for the cataloguing process to make them available for researchers. This work could be done in either the History Centre or in peoples' homes. Anyone volunteering should contact her.
- (b) Dr Anthony Thwaite spoke about the lack of support in Hull for the Study Day. He had visited Colchester HS and said that in other areas of the country Philip Larkin was on syllabuses. Belinda Hakes said that one of the problems was the withdrawal of financial support for trips which could then be too expensive for students in Hull. It was agreed that Belinda Hakes and the Committee would look at another possible 'On The Road' Study Day for 2013.
- (c) The question of allowing University and other Libraries to purchase ecopies of *About Larkin* was mentioned and will be looked into by the Committee.
- (d) Prof Graham Chesters mentioned the free copies of a recent publication *Under Travelling Skies: departures from Larkin* which have been produced by the excellent *Kinston Press* for today's attendees. He also mentioned the Exhibition and short film which accompanies the publication, which will continue until 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012 at *Artlink* on Princes Avenue.
- (e) He also mentioned the *English Heritage* Days on 8-9 September 2012 in Hull (10 am to noon and 2 pm to 4pm) around the Larkin Trail. Members of the PLS Committee will act as guides at various places.
- (f) He also announced, to much applause, that *Larkin's Toads* had won the silver prize in the *English Tourism Awards* for the whole of England.

#### 11. Date of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

The Chairman announced that next year's AGM would be held on Saturday 8th June 2013 at a venue still to be decided.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

# The *Philip Larkin* Society

## General Secretary's Report to the 2013 Annual General Meeting

### I A Review the Year's Activities

Due to time pressures of the London 2012 Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee, Miriam Porter said she was unable to host a Garden event last July but I am pleased to say that another garden event is planned for **27<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at 7.30 pm**. Please contact Miriam directly as per the directions in *About Larkin 35*.

The weekend of **8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012** saw four short, Larkin-related tours of part of the *Larkin Trail* as part of the *English Heritage Open Day* led by committee members Graham Chesters, Belinda Hakes, James Booth and Andy Bagley – all of whom are thanked. We hope to arrange a similar event beginning just from the Royal Station Hotel this coming September.

Over the weekend of **5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012**, the return joint *Thomas Hardy-Philip Larkin Society Weekend* took place, under the title *Friday Night (and Saturday and Sunday) in the Royal Station Hotel*, based surprisingly at the Royal Station Hotel! This was a great success with over 30 members attending. Tony Fincham (Chairman of the Thomas Hardy Society) wrote about the weekend in *AL35*.

On **7<sup>th</sup> October 2012 – The Eye Hospital Project** launch took place. This project is an interesting collaboration involving a photographic display of Larkin's Toads and three pairs of his spectacles (which the Society acquired on the death of Monica Jones in 2001) in the waiting area of the Hull Eye Hospital. Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP opened the installation and Consultant Colin Vize provides an insight (no pun intended) into *Larkin's Refraction* in *AL35*.

On **2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012**, on the second anniversary of the unveiling of Philip Larkin's Statue we held an **Unveiling of a Teak Seat** to complement both the Martin Jennings' Statute and Roundels in the Hull Paragon Interchange. This year the weather was fine and a good crowd of members and guests attended including the Lord Lieutenant and the Lord Mayor of Hull. The noise of trains did tend to overshadow the event but that's a station for you! We'll have a PA system next year – I promise! The Committee is working on next year's event – wondering what we can unveil next - suggestions on a postcard please !

On **8<sup>th</sup> March 2013**, a music event *Larkin in Song I* took place at the University's Middleton Hall with a good audience enjoying new settings of Larkin's poems to music. This formed part of the **20<sup>th</sup> Century British Poets in Music Festival**. The second Larkin Society part -sponsored event takes place in Beverley Minster very soon.

Over the week-end of **1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013** the **AGM of the Alliance of Literary Societies** took place at St Hilda's College Oxford marking the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday Barbara Pym. James Booth spoke on *Larkin and Pym: An Elective Affinity*.

On **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2013**, as part of the *Bridlington Poetry Festival*, the winner of the third *Philip Larkin East Riding of Yorkshire Poetry Prize* will be announced with £1000 prize money donated by our Society, at Sewerby Hall in Bridlington. I am glad that the organisers have managed to arrange this year's prize so there is no clash with today's AGM. We very much hope that the Society can continue this prize beyond this year to make the award a significant, on-going annual prize.

On **27<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 1.15 pm**, *Larkin in Song II* with *Portumnus Ensemble* will be held in Beverley Minster – this is also part of the *20<sup>th</sup> Century British Poets in Music Festival* - admission is free.

And so we come to today's *Distinguished Guest Lecture* – with our HVP **Professor Archie Burnett – Editing Philip Larkin**. We very much appreciate him finding time during his trip to the UK from Boston, Massachusetts to speak to us this afternoon.

## II Membership and Website

The membership of the Society has reduced slightly when compared to last year at around 215.

Please remember that you can use the *Gift for a Friend* scheme to buy a membership for friends' birthdays or Christmas! Details too are on the website.

Our excellent website continues under our Webmaster Jim Orwin and is well visited. We introduced the ability to pay subscriptions and purchase merchandise via the website with *PayPal* and a new application form for 2013-14 can now be completed on line. We also introduced our third (Bank Card style) membership card, designed by Andy Bagley and new fourth design is planned for the coming year.

## III Publications

*About Larkin* has continued to be a wonderfully creative, informative and internationally-renowned showcase of the Society and something which members value very much. Some even joined the Society this past month just to get their copies of Editions 34 and the recent 35! Both have been excellent and varied in their content, with excellent colour photographs of some of our events, due to the wonderful and dedicated editorial work of Janet Brennan in Totnes and Prof James Booth in Hull. Thanks go to all our many and varied contributors - whom I thank on behalf of us all.

## IV Personnel

I am pleased to confirm that, following my recent request for new members to join the Committee sent out with *About Larkin 35*, **David Thompson** of nearby Hedon and **Dr Philip Pullen** of Lincoln both volunteered (genuinely with no arm-twisting) and attended their first meeting two weeks ago and still live to tell the tale! Any more volunteers would still be welcome.

Andy Bagley, our Merchandising Officer, has continued in that role to great effect for the third year – my how time flies! Thanks go to him. We await his new membership card design with huge anticipation!

I must now take the time to thank all the other members of the Society's Committee for their hard work over the year but once more I particularly thank Prof Eddie Dawes, who remains the Society's only ever Chairman and Jackie Sewell whose hard work as our Treasurer has been equally appreciated.

I also wish to thank Carole Collinson whose skills in events organising makes today's event – along with so many others over the years, possible.

Once again thanks go to Kate Girking at Beverley Minster Primary School who has provided admin support for the Society's copying needs this year, saving the Society hundreds of pounds.

And finally,

Thank you all for attending.

*Andrew Eastwood*

**The Philip Larkin Society**  
**Analysis of Income and Expenditure -1st April 2012- 31st March 2013**

Community

Year	2012-2013		
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Payments</b>	
Subs	£ 3,463.23	Insurance	
Donation	£ 407.00	About Larkin	£ 2,051.00
Events	£ 454.50	Photocop	£ 443.37
Merchand	£ 366.20	Post	£ 1,588.72
Bank trans	£ 1,476.00	Events	£ 705.01
Hardy wkend	£ 1,439.00	Bank adjust	£ 74.00
just giving	£ 18.11	Sponsorship	£ 3,056.79
Gift Aid	£ 2,018.94	Expenses	£ 263.44
		Hardy wkend	£ 1,077.65
		Merchandise	£ 275.50
		Website	£ 1,200.00
Sub total	£ 9,642.98	Sub total	£ 10,735.48
Carry forward	£ 3,986.10		
Total	£ 13,629.08		
	<b>Receipts</b>	£ 13,629.08	
	<b>Payments</b>	£ 10,735.48	
	<b>Balance</b>	£ 2,893.60	

Business Saving Account			
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Payments</b>	
Carry forward	£14,246.56	to Comm Acc	£1,000
Interest	£6.69		
Total	£ 14,253.25	Total	£1,000
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>13253.25</b>	

Fixed Assets	
Larkinalia	<b>£30,000</b>

Statue Account			
Year	2012-2013		
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Payments</b>	
Carry forward	£ 5,883.12	Bench seat	£ 730.00
Maquete sale	£ 1,000.00	Bench seat	£ 825.00
Donation	£ 20.00	Postage	£ 55.10
		Lunches	£ 605.00
Total	£ 6,903.12	Total	£ 2,215.10
	<b>Balance</b>	£ 4,688.02	

Paypal Account			
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Payments</b>	
Carry fwd	£ 1,666.08	Postage	£ 94.97
Subs	£ 32.00	5 H/Ldinners	£ 95.00
From Paypal	£ 1,400.00	Trans to	£ 476.00
Internet		Comm bank acc	
		Merchandise	£ 325.58
Total	£ 3,098.08	Total	£ 991.55
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£2,106.53</b>	

Paypal internet account has a balance of £246.57

signed

*J.A. Sewell*

J.A. Sewell Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report  
 I have examined the Analysis of Income and Expenditure for the period of 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 together with the financial records and vouchers supplied by the Treasurer. I can certify that the Analysis set out above is in accordance with the financial records.

signed

*Philip A. Wharton*  
 Philip Wharton