

THE RICHARD JEFFERIES SOCIETY

**AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2015
& ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015**



Painting of the Gamekeeper's Cottage, Hodson, by Jack Akroyd. See page 21.

THE RICHARD JEFFERIES SOCIETY (Registered Charity No 1042838) was founded in 1950 to promote appreciation and study of the writings of Richard Jefferies (1848-1887).

Annual Membership runs from the 1st July and is open to all on payment of the current subscription of £12 single or £14 couple (£8 students). Overseas Members incur additional postal charges.

Members receive spring and autumn newsletters, an annual report and summer and winter *Journals*. The Society has an extensive library that is currently in store awaiting a new home. The archives are held at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Chippenham, or are on display at the Richard Jefferies Museum. Activities include a spring meeting, study day, special outings, a Birthday Lecture and an Annual General Meeting.

TRUSTEES AND COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014-15

Peter Bainbridge (Treasurer), Simon Coleman, Roger Ebbatson, Eric Jones (Vice Chairman), Ray Morse (Vice President), Duncan Pepper, Sheila Povey (Vice President), John Price (Chairman), Andrew Rossabi (President), Jean Saunders (Secretary), Richard Stewart, Phyllis Treitel (Vice President), and Rebecca Welshman. Patrick Dillon and Margaret Hunt were elected by Council to fill vacancies until the next Annual General Meeting.

Hon. Sec.

Jean Saunders

The Old Mill, Mill Drive, Foulsham,
Norfolk NR20 5RB

☎ 01362 683210

Email: info@RichardJefferiesSociety.co.uk

Website: <http://richardjefferiessociety.co.uk>



RICHARD JEFFERIES MUSEUM The Richard Jefferies Museum at Coate is open to the public from May to September and is managed by the Richard Jefferies Museum Trust.

NEWSLETTER: edited by the Hon. Sec.; proof-read by Peter Robins. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Society. The deadline to submit material for the Spring 2016 Newsletter is **1st February 2016**. Please send your contributions, preferably by email, to the Hon. Secretary as above.

CONTENTS

Page	
4	From the Chair
6	From the Secretary
Reports of Society meetings 2015	
8	Joint meeting with the Friends of Alfred Williams
10	Study Day: Jefferies' London
Articles	
15	An Early Supporter and Others
19	Birds at Coate
20	Did Walt Whitman read Jefferies?
21	'Gamekeeper's Cottage' by Jack Akroyd
22	The Jefferies' Bakehouse – Old Swindon
23	H S H Waylen
News	
24	The Richard Jefferies Society Writers' Prize
24	Citings of Richard Jefferies
29	Richard Jefferies Museum Trust Report
Merchandise	
31	Embroidered items
31	Mulberry Pen
32	Mail Order Books
AGM and Birthday Lecture	
33	Programme for AGM and Birthday Lecture
34	Directions to Liddington Village Hall
35	Map
36	Agenda for AGM
37	- Minutes of 2014 AGM
41	- Treasurer's Annual Report
	- Independent Examiner's Report (to follow)
43	Events and Meetings 2015-16
44	Poster for Birthday Lecture

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Members' names and addresses are held on a computer data base. We are required by the Data Protection Act 1998 to inform members that they have the right to object to information being held in this way.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Price



From left to right: John Price, Kelly & Kody Taylor and Pete Bainbridge
7 June 2015.

Kelly and Kody are great great great granddaughters of Richard Jefferies and are pictured visiting Coate Farm as part of a holiday and educational trip from Canada. Kelly is now a Member of the Society.

One of the delights of my garden is being able to observe the wildlife on a regular daily basis; a luxury I never had when I was out at work for most of the daylight hours for much of the year. Our management of the one and a half acres, however, over the past 32 years has rewarded Angela and me with a year-round Spring-, Summer-, Autumn- and Winter-watch. At the moment the rabbit families, the glow-worm larvae with their almost imperceptible pulsing luminescence, the family of Muntjac on their passage through, and the squirrels raiding the hazel bushes, are overflowed by a mewling family of Buzzards, who nested earlier in a nearby pine tree. The wildlife lawn (meadow) is rich with the purple-blue Knapweed flowers, along with the blue-headed Scabious and Harebells, and the many butterfly and other insect species that visit both the meadow flowers and the cultivated borders are enjoyed for their beauty and their value as pollinating insects. All of these give us great pleasure from dawn (Muntjac and rabbits) to dusk (Glow-worms). The garden is, of course, managed for wildlife, which does mean sacrificing some of the features normally expected in a more conventional English plot, but although active management is required, we use as little as possible in the way of artificial fertilisers, herbicides or pesticides. And we have no restrictions on bonfires!

I mention my garden because our very successful meeting in London this year brought to mind Richard Jefferies' distaste for "suburban villas", with their laurels and exotic planting. Had he lived longer, I believe Jefferies would have grown to admire the later developments in "exotic planting", when nectar and pollen rich plants brought in by plant collectors were appreciated and enjoyed for the provision they made for many insects. My own garden includes many species of shrub, tree, and herbaceous plants that are not native, but are extremely helpful to the success of many native animal species. And very recent research carried

out by The Royal Horticultural Society has concluded that if gardeners want to attract an abundance of pollinators, they should grow a mix of native and non-native plants. But we have to remember that Richard Jefferies' London was very different to the City today in respect of air, water, and soil pollution; and many of the introduced plants utilised then for hedging and street planting were chosen simply because they could survive the various pollutants. Sadly Richard did not live long enough to learn of the influence of William Robinson and his successors, who were the first promoters of "Natural Gardening".

The popularity of Jefferies' work amongst the new urban classes in the late 19th Century must have depended to a considerable extent on nostalgia for the countryside that many of them had recently left; a trend that is now being reversed by those who wish to "escape to the country". Perhaps a potential new demographic for Jefferies' readers?

.....and talking of Jefferies' works; we have at present a storage problem with the published material owned by the Society. John Webb's death, together with the management of the Museum being taken over by the new Trust, and Jean Saunders' departure to Norfolk, has meant that we have had to find storage for the Society's Library, plus a considerable volume of publications that we have recently produced. As I mentioned in my introduction last year, we were offered free storage space in an office block in West Swindon. Earlier this year, however, we had to vacate the premises as the office had been let to a tenant. We have now moved to a commercial storage unit, also in Swindon, but this is not a viable solution for the long term, as the rental costs would soon exceed the value of the stock being stored – and the premises do not facilitate easy access to books required for reference. It is also questionable whether some of the "ordinary" editions of Jefferies' works possessed by the Society are worth keeping in our ownership. All these titles and editions are now readily available as cheap(ish) internet purchases; and no-one has actually borrowed any of the books for at least a decade to my knowledge. We would not, however, under any circumstances, consider disposing of the core of the library; First Editions, Association Copies, etc.

I have received to date two generous offers from members of storage for some or all of the publications, but neither of these would be particularly convenient for the Officers of the Society, or for most members to access. We shall have to make decisions on this issue by the AGM this year, and any comments, suggestions, or further offers will be most welcome.

As you will discover, there is a wealth of stimulating articles, views and comments in this Report and Newsletter, and I am sure that there is something for everyone to appreciate. We are, however, dependent on our membership for our activities and publications, and as we move towards a new pattern of meetings for the Society, your views are not only welcomed – but needed.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Jean Saunders

A warm welcome is extended to new members who have joined the Society since September 2014: Ann Coupland Ball from Canada; Danny O'Farrell – Canada; Kelly Taylor – Canada; Julia Tolley – Sussex and David Woodhead – Cumbria. Danny and Kelly are direct-line descendants of Richard Jefferies. Danny lives and works in an ecological environment and is an intrepid outward-bounder whose great great grandfather's spirit 'has guided [him his] entire life' and reflects how Richard might have lived in this era. Kelly is pictured on p.4. Ann, who also lives in Canada by coincidence, was born and raised in Cornwall. Ann said that Jefferies' writing brings her closer to her memories of home. Julia wrote that she 'was once based in an office a few yards from [Jefferies'] home in Lorna Road, Hove,' whilst her grand-father 'was a gamekeeper at Tolworth Hall. Before living at The Lodge there the family lived close to Jefferies' homes in Tolworth and Surbiton.'

The total membership during the 2014-15 subscription year, that ended on 30th June 2015, numbered 238 – this includes 28 joint members and five organisations. Although the majority of Members live in the United Kingdom, others live in Europe or English-speaking countries.

I regret that three of our couples, with joint membership, are now only one. Valerie Hirst, the wife of Geoff (our former long-standing Treasurer for 15 years), Raymond Roys's wife Sheila (the mother of our former Membership Secretary, Margaret Evans), and Beryl Fullagar's husband Brian (a former Vice-President) died this year after long illnesses.

My ten-year stint as Secretary ends in November, although I am still happy to do those duties for the Society that do not require my physical presence in Swindon. I am indebted to Margaret Hunt who has undertaken the secretarial duties at the Swindon end since February.

With the help of others, and particularly Peter Robins and Janice Lingley (also Norfolk based), to whom I'm most grateful, more of Jefferies' works are being committed to electronic format and will be published or made available on the Society's website.

Live Stock Journal: Thanks to Ray Walker and Andrew Rossabi we have had access to all the articles written by Jefferies for the *Live Stock Journal*. Samuel Looker reported in *Field and Farm* (London: Phoenix House Ltd., 1957) on pages 11-15 that he found reference to this publication in Jefferies' field-notes. As a result, Looker visited the British Library and found nearly one hundred articles written in 1877 and 1878 that bore the style of Jefferies. They were unsigned, so he was unable to verify authorship until he found some official chits detailing payments to Jefferies for some of these articles. And then, by serendipity, he received a letter from Simon Nowell Smith (who was writing a history of the Cassell publishing company), dated 18 September 1947. Smith had come across

receipts for fees to Jefferies for articles published in the *Live Stock Journal*. Looker wrote that the 'greater number of the articles are unsigned "leaders", but there are a few signed with pseudonyms.' Only a small number of these articles were republished by Looker in *The Chronicles of the Hedges* and in *Field and Farm*. The entire collection has now been typed up for publication and is in draft book form awaiting editing and an introduction by an agricultural historian.

Richard Jefferies Society Journal: We are very grateful to George Miller who has provided copies of other Jefferies' articles that have either not been published or which are difficult to access. The winter 2015 edition of our *Journal* will contain a poem by Jefferies – 'The Grave of the Last Abbot' – and a gothic tale of horror – 'The Monkbourn Mystery' – with introductions by George Miller, whilst the summer 2016 edition will carry a previously unpublished article entitled 'Choice and Descriptions of Guns'. Jefferies' 'Sipping the Season' will feature later. There are also plans to publish the pieces that Mr Miller discovered and which were published as limited edition books entitled 'By the Brook' and 'Birth of a Naturalist'. Peter Robins has been conducting research on many other writers with connections to Jefferies and there are some interesting articles in the pipeline. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Janice Lingley who has stepped down from the *Journal's* editorial board to concentrate on her own writing, although she is embarking on an ambitious project related to Jefferies' histories of Swindon, Malmesbury and Cirencester.

Ben Tubbs Adventures: The re-written type-script for 'Ben Tubbs Adventures' is now being checked against Jefferies' original manuscript at the British Library. Andrew Rossabi has discovered that whoever typed up the original transcript in the 1970s changed many of the words. It will be pains-taking work for him to check through the 120 pages of Jefferies' tiny hand-writing (albeit very neat) in preparation for publishing the book next year. Mr Rossabi has written, already, an excellent introduction to the adventure story for boys. It is a juvenile piece of writing that was probably written by Jefferies around the age of 16-17 years, but it is of interest to students of Jefferies' works.

Richard Jefferies' Notebooks: Jefferies' notebooks are being committed to electronic format and documents will be available as free downloads from the Society's website. Some years ago Lady Treitel (Vice-President), spent many months at the British Library transcribing Jefferies' notebooks (which differ quite considerably from that published by Samuel Looker in *The Nature Diaries and Notebooks of Richard Jefferies* (London: Grey Walls Press, 1948)). She also obtained microfiches of the notebooks that became part of Hugoe Matthews' collection which the Society inherited. There are sixteen notebooks at the British Library (Jefferies kept 24 notebooks but eight were lost). The first notebook (1876) contained a considerable

amount of Pitman's shorthand: John Pearson, assisted by Mr John Lewis of Malvern, a teacher of shorthand, deciphered a good proportion of the 1876 notebook, and selections from it were published in the *Richard Jefferies Society's Journals* Nos. 13-15. Ann Robins has offered to help transcribe the shorthand in other notebooks if legible!

Biography of Richard Jefferies: Andrew Rossabi, our President, is making progress on a biography of Richard Jefferies – he spends at least two hours a day working on it and this has been the case for several years. It is slow, painstaking work and we look forward to the outcome that is likely to be published in two or three volumes. In Mr Rossabi's recent communication of August 27th, he writes:

I fear that chronologically I have not advanced with the biography because I have been working on and expanding the chapters on Jefferies' boyhood, schooling and adolescence, and for that I have exhaustively mined *Wood Magic*, *Bevis* and *The Amateur Poacher*, as well as the early chapters of *After London*, which contain much biographical material. I place Jefferies squarely in the Romantic tradition, and relate him to the Wordsworth of the Immortality Ode and the early chapters of *The Prelude*. I've rooted J's mysticism in his childhood, and mysticism has become the book's central theme, around which all the rest revolves.

I've found Jefferies' books need to be used as source material not in the order in which they were written but according to the period of J's life which they treat. Thus the prime source for J's father and grandfather is his last book, *Amaryllis at the Fair*.

I've been forced to the conclusion that nearly all J's writings were autobiographical to a greater or lesser extent, that though highly imaginative he had little power of invention. For example, the 'Bevis's Zodiac' passage in *Bevis* is autobiographical, as proved by 'The Seasons and the Stars' chapter in *The Old House at Coate*, which is almost identical but written in the first person and clearly a memoir.

In sum, though the book hasn't advanced chronologically it has lengthened considerably, and Jefferies' boyhood and education have been treated in considerably greater depth. I've also edited the early chapters, polished and tightened the English. I hope to have the first [volume] finished by this winter or next spring.

JOINT MEETING: Richard Jefferies Society and Friends of Alfred Williams, Richard Jefferies Museum on Saturday 7th March 2015.

Margaret Hunt

The annual meeting of the two organisations, who came together to share readings by or about Alfred Williams and Richard Jefferies, was hosted by the Society this year and attended by twelve members of one or both of the societies. John Price opened the proceedings with a brief account of latest improvements to the museum by the Trust, and of

actions that were in prospect.

Kaye Franklin desired to have her personal thanks recorded to Jean Saunders for the invaluable contribution the latter had made to the Society over her ten-year period as Honorary Secretary.

Margaret Bathe passed on greetings from Sheila Povey, who wished it to be known how much she valued the honour of being elected as a Vice President of the Society.

First readings contributor, Kaye Franklin, read “The River Cole in Flood” from *Nature and Other Poems* by Alfred Williams. She gave the information that the Launch Meeting of the Swindon Literary Festival was due to take place at the Central Library on 19th March. She also referred to the recent death of Dominic Winter, one of the founders of the Festival.

Peter Bainbridge read a passage entitled “A Wet Morning in London” from *The Open Air* by Richard Jefferies.

Next, Phyllis Treitel quoted from Julian Pettifer’s thoughts on “An English Deer Park”, taken from *The Pocket Richard Jefferies*, edited by Alfred Hyatt.

Alfred Williams’ memories of “John Archer of Lushill”, read by Graeme Franklin, was the contribution that followed.

John Price referred to Jefferies’ *Chronicles of the Hedges* in connection with a reproduction of an 1881 Looker sketch of broomrape and clover. He then read an excerpt, “Magpie Fields Near Claygate”, taken from *Nature Near London*.

Roy Burton produced copies of five Liddington Hill extracts from the Spring 2015 issue of *Swindon Heritage*, all making reference to Williams or Jefferies. These were taken from an article by Graham Carter, who attended the meeting. Roy accompanied the first extract with a reading of his annotated version of “Liddington Hill” from Williams’ *Songs in Wiltshire*. The other extracts were read by Jo Fisher, Graham Carter, Margaret Bathe and Margaret Hunt.

Gillian Bromhead’s reading was on the subject of “Starlings”, and was taken from Jefferies’ *Wild Life in a Southern County*, from which Peter Bainbridge also chose a contribution – on the subject, again, of “Liddington Hill”.

Kaye Franklin returned to present Williams’ description of “Chiseldon Village”.

John Price then read from the introduction to Jefferies’ *Nature Near London*.

Roy Burton’s second offering consisted of two ‘in memoriam’ poems by Williams: “To My Mother” and “On the Death of My Old Playmate, Charlie Ockwell”.

Graeme Franklin brought the proceedings to a close by reading Williams’ account, in Chapter 14 of *Life in a Railway Factory*, of the various notable London personages whom Jim Cole had met and appraised during his work as a cabby.

STUDY DAY: Jefferies' London, Saturday 27th June 2015.

Jean Saunders

Nineteen people gathered in St Pancras Parish Church on the Euston Road in Somers Town (the district where Richard Jefferies' father was born – see Andrew Rossabi's report below*) to share readings about Jefferies' London. Although not the St Pancras Old Church where Richard Jefferies' grand-parents were married, this church was a superb setting with its stained-glass windows, ornate altar and massive organ whose pipes covered an entire length of wall. John Price welcomed everyone, particularly the new faces and some old friends, who could take advantage of a London venue instead of struggling to get to Coate from peripheral parts of the country.

Brian Morris started the day by reading from 'Venice in the East End' (*The Life of the Fields*) where Jefferies describes the beauty of London's major port with its massive ships that 'await in stillness the rising of the tide,' that he paints so vividly in words.

Richard Stewart described 'A Wet Night in London' (*The Open Air*) when a gentleman steadies himself on the slippery ground – Jefferies describes the smell of wet overcoats pervading the air in the hackney cab. Jefferies writes about the people in the streets – 'faces held downwards and muffled by the darkness—not quite human in their eager and intensely concentrated haste. No one thinks of or notices another—on, on—splash, shove, and scramble; an intense selfishness, so selfish as not to be selfish, if that can be understood, so absorbed as to be past observing that any one lives but themselves.'

Helen Newman read about the light, the swallows and the shadows in 'Sunlight in a London Square' (*The Life of the Fields*) – 'the sunlight and the winds enter London, and the life of the fields is there too, if you will but see it.'

David Shaw treated us to an extract from *The Story of my Heart* (Ch. V) where Jefferies describes the noise and dust of the people of the city but this did not distract Jefferies from thinking about the River Thames roaring out to the sea; 'nature was deepened by the crowds'. Jefferies was able to get into one of his contemplative modes about eternity.

Peter Bainbridge read what Jefferies had to say about the night sky in 'Magpie Fields' (*Nature Near London*) just after the sun has gone down: 'a delicate violet...a speck of light... the calm stars' that he never forgets 'even in the restless Strand.'

Margaret Gould treated us to three snippets from 'Outside London' (*The Open Air*), identified as Eltham. The first is about Jefferies' walk through 'the dismal pits in a disused brickfield' but the 'unsightly square holes...are full in the shallow places of an aquatic grass' that brings him great pleasure and 'strokes away the nervous tension born of civilised life.' And then he criticises the subject selected by a skilful artist who was sitting amongst a veritable throng of wildflowers, berries and trees, but he

chose to paint 'a rustic bridge spanning a shallow stream crossing a lane. Some figure stood on the bridge—the old, old trick... Why not have simply painted the beautiful hedge at hand?' And finally Jefferies shows his compassion for living creatures in this case a young mouse that was so weak from starvation and so cold from the chilly night that it had lost its sense of danger. 'There is something so ghastly in birth that immediately leads to death; a sentient creature born only to wither. The earth offered it no help, nor the declining sun; all things organised seem to depend so much on circumstances. Nothing but pity can be felt for thousands upon thousands of such organisms. But thus, too, many a miserable human being has perished in the great Metropolis, dying, chilled and benumbed, of starvation, and finding the hearts of fellow-creatures as bare and cold as the earth of the clover-field.'

Marion Kennet (from Eltham) took up where Margaret Gould left off and described the fields in colour in 'Outside London' – the wild-flowers, and then the myriad of butterflies – 'To me, colour is a sort of food; every spot of colour is a drop of wine to the spirit.'

John Kennet continued with Jefferies' description of the original Eltham Palace in 'Outside London' – 'You may find a meadow of peculiar shape ...the King's Drive, or ride... subterranean passages... the lane has been slowly descending...looking through a gateway, an ancient building stands up on the hill ... the banqueting hall of a palace of old times, in which kings and princes once sat at their meat after the chase.'

Richard Purver selected an extract from the opening of 'Round a London Copse' (*Nature Near London*). Jefferies expresses delight at the sight of watching the activities of a party of woodpigeons or ringdoves, normally seen in gardens, but these had unusually taken up home in a little copse formed by two suburban roads. He writes about their 'excursions into the stubble fields' and they remained throughout one of the coldest winters ever – through the snow – staying to nest in May.

Regrettably, there was not time for further readings as the Study Day audience then relocated to the Church Hall where Simon Coleman gave a well-researched and thoughtfully argued lecture on the subject of 'Jefferies' London.' His intention was to explore 'the nature of the attractive power that drew Jefferies to London ... and what effect did it have on him, as evidenced by the work of his mature period?'... 'Such puzzling statements as "London convinced me of my thought" and "London is the only real place in the world" seem to be pointers to areas of Jefferies' thought world that have perhaps received little attention.' Simon suggests that *The Story of My Heart*, *Amaryllis at the Fair* and *After London* are the key to understanding what he was really trying to do as an author: 'they are I believe, by a distance, the most imaginatively rich of his books. All three are heavily influenced by London, and I would suggest that they can be taken as a group – not a trilogy – but a group of later works which reveal a truly powerful creative force that strives for the fullest expression.'

To do full justice to this excellent lecture, the text will be published in a forthcoming *Society Journal*.

The afternoon was spent at the British Library. Andrew Rossabi had kindly arranged for us to look at Jefferies' note-books in the Manuscript Room. The little books were in excellent condition – so much smaller than can be imagined – and to think that they had been carried around by Jefferies in all weathers and in the fields for many months. John Price was keen to check Jefferies' sketch of the clover and broomrape he described in his article for the *RJS Journal* (Summer 2015) and Jefferies' description had been accurately reported. I looked at the manuscript of 'Ben Tubbs Adventures' in order to fill in the missing page from the typescript produced by a Society member in the 1970s.

Mr Rossabi arranged to view the plates of the *Flora Graeca* in the Rare Books and Music Reading Room accompanied by a small group of Members. The *Flora Graeca* was published in the late 18th century and is the result of a survey of plants by John Sibthorp and Ferdinand Bauer. The botanical descriptions are of scientific and horticultural interest but the illustrations are the most highly valued and finely crafted that have appeared in print.

*

Mr Rossabi added the following information:

The *Flora Graeca* was printed by the master printer Richard Taylor,¹ the leading printer of natural history and scientific works in mid-Victorian England. His premises were at No. 4 Red Lion Court and Nos 5 and 6 Crane Court off Fleet Street, two C17 redbrick houses, the oldest post-Fire houses surviving in the City.

In 1813 Taylor adopted as his device a disembodied hand replenishing a Roman bronze lamp under or above the Latin motto *Alere Flammam*, meaning 'to feed the flame', the flame, that is, of science or learning. Henceforth the lamp device appeared in the preliminary pages or endpapers of all Taylor's publications. The plaque showing Taylor's device in high relief remains to this day on the wall of his former premises in Red Lion Court (now occupied by a firm of lawyers). Member Peter Robins first drew the Society's attention to its existence in 1977.

Jefferies took Taylor's motto for the name of *Alere Flamma*, a character in his semi-autobiographical novel *Amaryllis at the Fair* based on his uncle Fred Gyde, a talented wood-engraver who worked freelance for Taylor. John Jefferies appears in the novel as the grandfather of Amaryllis Iden, the eponymous teenage heroine. 'Granfer' Iden is a retired baker in his

¹ The standard history of the firm is *The Lamp of Learning* by W.H. Brock and A.J. Meadows (London: Taylor & Francis, 1984; second edition, 1998).

nineties. In his younger days he was connected with a firm of printers known as the House of Flamma. All the books in his library carry the device of a small Roman lamp.

The Jefferies family were closely connected with Taylor. Both Jefferies' maternal and paternal grandfathers worked for the firm (which later became Taylor & Francis).

John Jefferies, born at Rodbourne Cheney in 1784, went as a young man to seek his fortune in London. He lived in St Pancras and worked for Taylor, rising to the position of overseer, responsible for paying the wages of the men under him. In 1809 he married Fanny Ridger of Chertsey in Surrey at St Pancras Old Church, then in the County of Middlesex. Five children were born to them in London, the fifth being James Luckett, father of our author, who was born at Somers Town on 8 December 1816.

Somers Town, named for the first Baron Somers of Evesham who owned the land and oversaw its development towards the end of the C18, is a small district in the parish of St Pancras and the London Borough of Camden, an enclave bounded by Euston Station to the west and St Pancras Station to the east. Though small, Somers Town is rich in literary associations: Wordsworth, William Godwin, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Dickens all lived there.

John Jefferies was with the firm of Taylor for at least fourteen years (1803-1817). Peremptorily summoned by his father Richard he reluctantly gave up his position and returned to Swindon to take over the running of the mill and bakery because of the incompetence of his eccentric elder brother James (known as 'the ghoul of the mill').

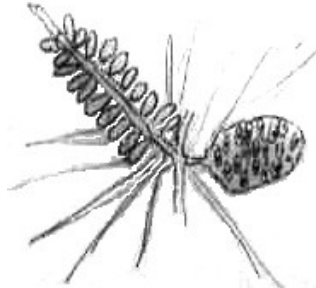
The firm of Taylor was where the families of Jefferies' mother and father met. Richard's maternal grandfather, Charles Gyde, also worked for Taylor and held an even more responsible position than John Jefferies. He was Taylor's manager and binder, and was appointed one of his executors in his will. To return to the *Flora Graeca*: Taylor established his reputation by his meticulous printing of the ten folio volumes of the work, the *magnum opus* of the Oxford botanist John Sibthorp. Sibthorp died in 1796 before publication and the first six volumes were seen through the press by his friend the botanist Dr J.E. Smith, founder and first President of the Linnaean Society of London. A sumptuous publication with 966 coloured plates engraved by James Sowerby after drawings and watercolours by the Austrian botanical artist Ferdinand Bauer, the work appeared at intervals between 1806 and 1840. It is now widely regarded as the most magnificent Flora ever produced and has become the subject of a book in its own right: *The Flora Graeca Story* by H. Walter Lack with David J. Mabberley (OUP, 1998).

*

The Study Day drew to an end and was much enjoyed by all. As a born and bred Londoner, I was glad to leave the noise, the crowds, the traffic and the oppressive heat of the city to return to the peace and quiet of the

countryside! That being said, I could see how Jefferies might be attracted to a city where you can be lost in your own thoughts and gaze at hidden attractions without anyone thinking that you were odd for ‘poking about’.

Richard Jefferies’ sketches from Notebook V



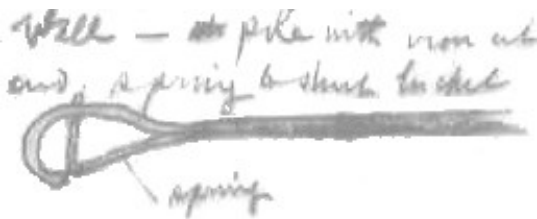
June 7, 1879 – ‘young cone – dark green all joined now. Black fir. The catkins all covered with quantities of palest yellow pollen: if handled it comes off.’



June 19, 1879
Leaf of Geranium



June 15, 1879
Leaf of wild Guelder Rose



June 19, 1879
‘Well-pole with iron at end - spring to shut bucket.’

AN EARLY SUPPORTER, AND OTHERS

Discovery 10

George Miller

Who was George Avenell? The name crops up in connection with Jefferies in the early years of the last century. The information I have follows, but others may have more.

The first reference is a letter from Avenell to George Dartnell dated 21 December 1903:

About Jefferies, of course I knew him well by sight. As you are aware to most persons he was unknowable. I knew his wife better. On the day that Jefferies bans (*sic*) were published in Church, though living at home at the time, he said nothing to his father, who first learned the news from my father who happened to meet him that Sunday evening.

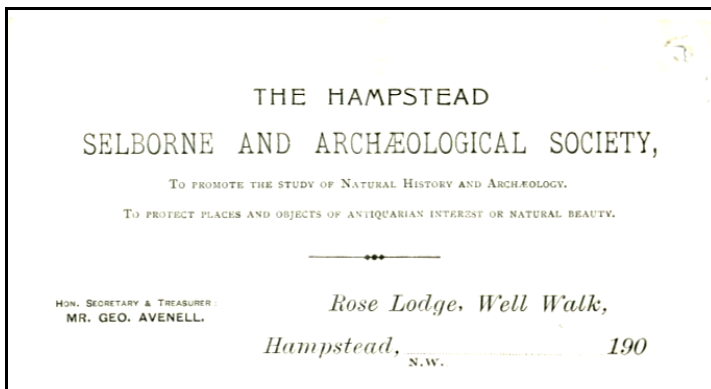
The mention of "Church", as the only one possible, would make Avenell a resident or native of Chiseldon, where Jefferies and Jessie Baden were married on 8 July 1874. Helpfully the 1901 Census has a George Avenell born in Chiseldon in 1859, and in 1901 living in London. The suggestion in this letter is that the Avenell family were on neighbourly terms with the Jefferies and Badens, and that George knew Jessie independently, and found her more willing to befriend a teenaged youth than the aloof, ambitious young author she married. There is no correspondence or other evidence to suggest that Avenell ever got on closer terms with Richard.

Avenell's letter to Dartnell is located in the library of the Wilts Archaeological and Natural History Society. Dartnell, a local scholar and antiquarian, published frequently in the WANHS Magazine. His bibliographical study of Jefferies was published there in June 1893 and June 1895. Clearly he continued to make enquiries, perhaps with a further work in mind. Edward Thomas includes him among the key sources for his biography of Jefferies published in 1909. He mentions Avenell among those who "have also given help".

The next appearance is in 1911, when the Richard and Jessie's daughter Phyllis gave Avenell a copy of the large paper limited edition of *The Toilers of the Field*, published in 1892. This copy is recorded in a Sotheby's catalogue where the exact inscription is not given. An inserted sketch "near Funnell's Farm, Crowborough, Sussex" is however described. The occasion of this presentation some nine years after publication is unknown, but the gift implies a continued, or renewed friendship with Jefferies' family.

Going through some of S J Looker's papers Jean Saunders discovered five pages of manuscript in handwriting resembling Jefferies'. It has a rather fainter title in the same hand that looks as though added later: 'Night Thoughts by Richard Jefferies [a fragment]', and in the corner a pencilled note in another's hand: 'Printed in Pall Mall Magazine August 1909.' Any chance of its being Jefferies' original MS is however dispelled

by the fact that it is written on the back of sheets with the following printed heading:



The piece was indeed published in the *Pall Mall Magazine*, where it was discovered some years ago by Clive Pigou, as 'Night Thoughts in the Country, by the late Richard Jefferies', with illustrations by William Hyde. There is no indication of where it came from. Looker acquired Jefferies original MS which is untitled, and included it in *The Chronicles of the Hedges* as 'Magic of the Night', with minor textual changes. Did Looker

know of this previous appearance? In the Miller/Matthews Bibliography we assumed not, and conjectured; "It's appearance in 1909 may have been a by-product of Thomas' work for his biography of Jefferies which appeared the same year." The presumption now must be that Jean's discovery is Avenell's copy of the original MS, which he had been shown by Jessie or another member of Jefferies' family, and that it was he who placed it in the *Pall Mall Magazine*. The fine photogravure illustrations by Hyde truly capture the mood and atmosphere of the piece, and are unlikely to have been reprinted.



"The light that runs before the sun is visible."

The Hampstead and Selborne society appears to have been short-lived, but Avenell's prominent position in it gives us an idea of the range of his interests as a man of means and education, and one known to be well-informed on the subject of Richard Jefferies. This impression is consolidated by an ALS to Avenell from Thomas Coke Watkins found in a copy of *A Little Book of Nature Thoughts*, passages from Jefferies' works selected by Watkins, published by Thomas B Mosher, Portland, Maine, 1907. This is one of several beautifully produced but inexpensive small books of Mosher's which did much to expand Jefferies readership in America. Watkins edited similar compilations of Thoreau and Emerson, and a monthly *Photographic Journal of America* published by Edward L. Wilson Co. in 1917; but Jefferies was a major interest as the letter clearly indicates:

TWENTY FIVE ST.
NICHOLAS TERRACE [printed]
New York
June 3rd 1921

Dear Sir –

It was a great pleasure and privilege to hear from so close a friend of Richard Jefferies and I wish to thank you for writing me so freely and frankly.

If my [expression?] of Jefferies and his work seemed unduly enthusiastic I assure you it was tempered with some degree of sanity – and critical judgment. No, I fear I cannot attribute it to Country or climate – although distance undoubtedly lends enchantment.

The [neglected, or possibly near invalid?] portion of Jefferies' life as you well know was a great tragedy – the saddest I know of and the bravest. I quite agree with you that on the whole Besant's "Life" is the truest and most sympathetic. I have recently re-read it with special interest and profit.

While of course Jefferies friend[ship?] was comparatively small, he is well known here and I believe there are still many who would enjoy and delight in his writings – and I mean to continue to bring him to the notice of nature lovers.

I enclose a little circular of books I edited for Crowell [Nature Near London, The Life of the Fields and The Open Air, published by Thomas Y Crowell and Co, New York 1907]. They are now out of print or I would be glad to send you the set. Should I find any copies I will surely furn[ish?] you. Should you ever decide to put your lecture in book form I am sure that I could arrange for publication here – or place any article you might care to prepare.

Should I be so fortunate as to get to England one of these days, it will give me much pleasure to accept your cordial invitation for a meeting –

I mean to make every effort to get a worth while position here for Mr

Harold Jefferies – as it would happen I am treasurer for a large and old established printing house and I feel sure that I can be of some help as soon as conditions are at all better –

I take pleasure in mailing you the copies of the little books I did for Mr Mosher – they are not very significant but did help to acquaint others with Jefferies here.

I also induced Mr Mosher to publish Jefferies' essay on "Nature and Eternity" – the only manner in which this wonderful paper has been published since appearing in 'Longmans' – I wonder why it was overlooked and never included in any of Jefferies' books in England. It almost equals his "Pageant of Summer" –

I should be pleased to hear from you at any time you may be disposed to write – Believe me

Faithfully yours

Thomas Coke Watkins

To – Geo Avenell Esq

As Avenell's lecture on Jefferies has not come to light we cannot ascertain his views on the strengths and weaknesses of Jefferies' works, although we may assume from this that they were close to those of Besant, whose interpretation he obviously preferred to Salt's or Thomas's. However there is more than a hint that, as in the Dartnell letter, he was not uncritical of Jefferies' personality, possibly a throwback to his early experience of the exclusive "unknowable" author. But the question of finding Harold a position shows a continued support for the family, and was perhaps the occasion for his contacting Watkins.

Postscript

The impression of a connection between Avenell and Jefferies' family is confirmed by a letter Jean Saunders came across in researching S.J. Looker's correspondence. In it Phyllis Jefferies (now Hargrave) thanks Looker for returning photographs taken by Avenell "about fifteen years ago" and comments: "he was a great admirer of R.J. & himself a Wiltshireman born at Badbury I think." The letter is addressed from 28 Nightingale Road, Guildford, March 21 – no year: Jean suggests 1948 but adds: "I think that Phyllis might be referring to the Avenell photos used in *Richard Jefferies: a Tribute* (Worthing Cavalcade 1946). He is acknowledged in the book (on un-numbered p.11) but it isn't clear which photos he took. That might make the letter earlier if Phyllis is referring to photos that were later published in the book, or perhaps Looker was just slow to return them to Phyllis?"

BIRDS AT COATE

Richard Stewart

On 7th February 2015 I arrived later at Coate than normal, for a society council meeting, because of rail engineering. That meant my usual walk around part of Coate Water was restricted to a quick view from the old diving boards area. Usually I then head for the farmhouse along the car access road but for some reason went back on the pedestrian path. Passing 'The Brook' as I still call it I saw a bird in the water, not instantly recognised and I had no binoculars with me. Fortunately it flew off, revealing the prominent white rump of a green sandpiper – my first sighting here. I couldn't recollect any mention of this species by Jefferies so decided to do a 'skim' through *Bevis* just to see which birds are mentioned or seen. It is a long book but full of making things and how to use them properly, swimming and sailing lessons and technique, astronomy and of course the 'Great Battle'. Consequently my estimate beforehand was about fifty, which turned out to be a very close guess.

These are the species, in order, with bracketed comments where no precise identification is given; wood-pigeon, swallow, moorcock (moorhen), thrush(probably song), bullfinch, yellow-hammer, crake (corncrake), starling, snipe, sandmartin, dove (presumably turtle), swift, brook sparrow and sparrow (tree and house), jay, 'a tiny bird singing sip, sip, – chip, chip' (no idea), woodcock, pheasant, crow, kingfisher, rook, coot, heron, 'wild duck (probably mallard), 'flappers' (again no idea), dab-chick (little grebe), peewits (lapwing), wagtail (probably pied), nightingale, greenfinch, goldfinch, sedge-bird (sedge warbler), black-headed bunting (reed bunting), tomtit (blue tit), robin, wren, blackbird, sea-swallow (terns, probably common), swan, described as not wild, with clipped wings, butcher bird (shrike), cuckoo, chiff-chaff, lark, partridge, 'spotted' woodpecker (from small size mentioned this would be lesser spotted), owl, (probably tawny), hawk (not specified), redwing, bearded tit (probably extinct) and 'a large diving bird' (not specified).

I am not an expert on the birds here but obviously two species, the corncrake and shrike, have gone. Reduced numbers would, if national data is applicable here, apply to turtle dove, both sparrow species, bullfinch and lesser spotted woodpecker. However, gains have included Canada geese, more swans and successful colonisation by collared doves and little egrets. I doubt if Jefferies witnessed the inward and growing colonisation by gulls and cormorants from their previous coastal habitats. A mention of 'thousands' of starlings 'rising up from the trees and settling again' suggests a large reedbed roost, similar to the current winter one behind Swindon railway station. Herons also get many mentions with four 'standing in a row on one sandbank'. It would be interesting to know if the thriving heronry now at Coate Water existed when Jefferies was writing.

DID WALT WHITMAN READ JEFFERIES?

Jean Saunders

Edward Thomas states that Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* "delighted" Richard Jefferies and that Jefferies sent a copy to his father.² But did Whitman know about Jefferies? Apparently so,



albeit, perhaps, just before Jefferies' death. In volume four of Horace Traubel's *With Walt Whitman in Camden*³ there is a letter reproduced from Ernest Rhys (1859-1946; founding editor of the Everyman's Library series) to Walt Whitman dated 28 April 1887 along with Whitman's response in square brackets. Rhys is referring to a copy of the *Pall Mall Gazette* (27 April 1887) that he sent to Whitman (photographed left in 1887) along with his letter. He writes:

In the same paper, notice the article, 'Some April Insects', by Richard Jefferies. I think you will like it. Jefferies is one of our best writers on Nature over here; his writing is at once true and subtle, and very natural and simple withal. ["Yes," said Whitman: "I liked it—the little of it that came my way: it was genuinely profound—and sympathetic, as all outdoor stuff has to be to be saved from statistical science!"] Did you ever read his *Story of My Heart*? ["No," said W.] A very passionate confession of faith and fear it was, with a sentiment in it that made some of the critics say it must be inspired by your L. of G. (*Leaves of Grass*) ["Did they say that? did they?"] If you have not yet seen it, I should like to send it on. Jefferies is editing the vol. to follow yours in the series—White's Selborne. He writes to tell me that he is an invalid, poor lover of all things bright and helpful. He lives down in Sussex, near the sea. ["I had not read the book when Rhys asked about it: I have seen it since: someone brought it here: was it Tom? I may say I still have not read it: I have looked it through: it contains great passages—is profoundly emotional, undisguisedly genuine: a little too much inside rather than outside to me. I should not criticize it: I have not studied it intimately."]

The comments about Jefferies were made to Traubel on one of his visits to Whitman. Traubel writes in the book that the date is Thursday 4th April 1889 at 7.30pm:

I got up to go. W. said: "Before you do that I want you to read a letter to me." I wondered if he could stand it. "Oh yes!" he said: "as I mean for you to take the letter away, depositing it in your archives, I thought I'd like to make a sort of mental note of what it contains." I read.

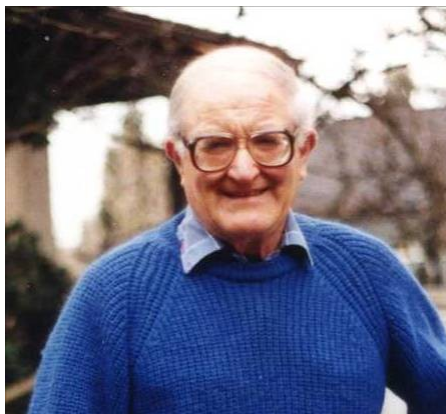
It was the Rhys letter, then two years old.

² *Richard Jefferies: his Life and Work* by Edward Thomas, (London: Hutchinson & Co., 1909) p.189.

³ *With Walt Whitman in Camden* by Horace Traubel (London: OUP, 1953), Vol. 4, p.488.

‘GAMEKEEPER’S COTTAGE’ BY JACK AKROYD

Anyone who has visited the Richard Jefferies Museum will have seen the splendid Rousseau-like original egg tempera painting of Jack Akroyd’s Gamekeeper’s Cottage at Hodson (illustrated on the front cover). Sheila Povey, Vice-President of the Society, was an old friend of the artist (a fellow Swindonian). He gave Mrs Povey the painting in the hope that it might be displayed at Coate Farm where it has remained since the early 1990s. Sheila remained in touch with Jack until he died.



Jack (pictured above in March 1995) is now the subject of a biography by Peter Busby – *The Life and Art of Jack Akroyd* (Canada: Mother Tongue Publishing, 30th June, 2015 – ISBN: 978-1896949437).

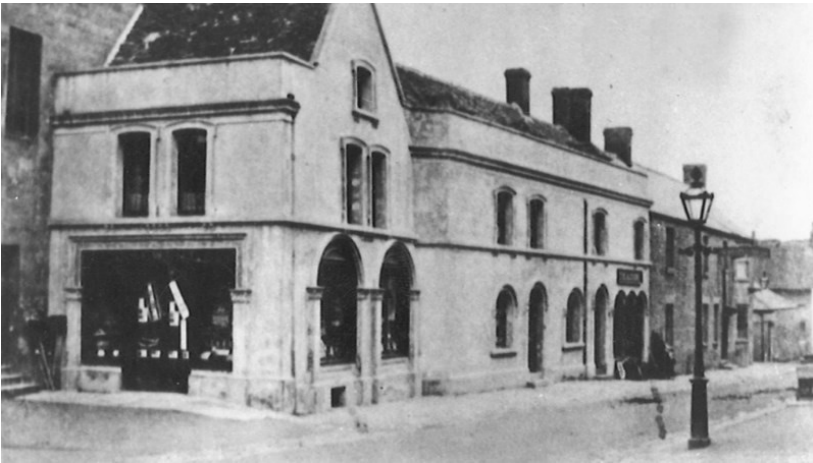
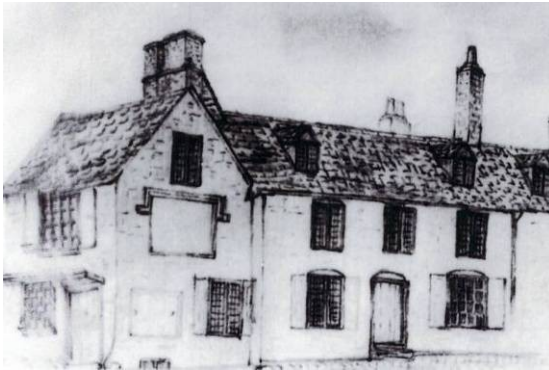
Jack Akroyd was born in Halifax on 9th January 1921, and died in Vancouver, Canada on 4th March 1996. His family moved to Swindon in 1924 and Jack attended Commonweal School. He was an engineering apprentice with the Great Western Railway from 1937 to 1940, followed by war service in the RAF as a mechanic. He emigrated to Canada in 1948 and spent four years studying at the Ontario College of Art before settling in Vancouver c.1954. There his GWR training came in handy as he worked first as a draughtsman, then an assistant to local sculptors and a pottery kiln technician, supporting him as he developed his art. Over the next forty years he produced more than 500 paintings and drawings. Akroyd’s characteristic blend of figurative detail and surreal composition found admirers as far afield as Japan, where he capped his career with three sell-out shows in 1987.

He visited Swindon in 1986 and took a number of photographs of cottages in Hodson, which he used as the basis for a series of four paintings done in 1990. The painting of the Gamekeeper’s Cottage, immortalised by Richard Jefferies, ended up at the Richard Jefferies Museum. In 1994 he was invited back to his old school to present the first annual Jack Akroyd Award to Commonweal’s most promising artist.

Peter Busby’s Akroyd biography is beautifully illustrated with rarely seen art from galleries and private collections (including the Gamekeeper’s Cottage and a painting of The Commonweal School) and introduces the work of an unparalleled artist, prolific in his lifetime and unjustly neglected since.

THE JEFFERIES' BAKEHOUSE – OLD SWINDON

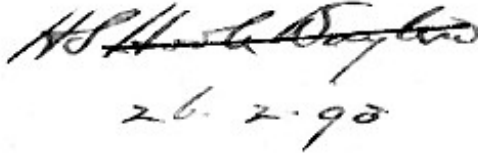
The pencil drawing of the Jefferies' family bakery in old Swindon was reproduced in the Society's Spring 2015 newsletter ('The Lockett Family', p.17). This was the home and work-place of Richard Jefferies' grandfather John, and his family. John's artistic son – John Lockett, who lived with his father until he died in 1856 (aged 31), sketched the building. By synchronicity a photograph of the old bakery, dated around 1890, was found this summer. It is interesting to note the changes to it over a period of about 50 years. Sadly, the building was demolished many years ago but you can imagine Amaryllis walking across the fields from Coate to visit Granfer Iden's house where he still baked lardy-cake described in chapter 10 of *Amaryllis at the Fair* as 'something to gnaw at ... something to stick to their teeth ... if a ploughboy could get a new, warm lardy-cake, fresh from the oven, he thought himself blessed'.



Corner of Market Square and High Street, c1890

H S H WAYLEN

Peter Bainbridge purchased a copy of *Hodge and His Masters* in March 2015: it was the second edition, combined volume, published in 1890. In it there is a previous crossed-out owner's signature in the book – that for H S Hook Waylen dated 26/2/93.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to be 'H S Hook Waylen', is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the date '26.2.93' is written in a similar cursive style.

Waylen is known for collecting 152 extracts from Jefferies' writings in *Thoughts from the Writings of Richard Jefferies* (London: Longmans, 1895). There is little information known about this Jefferies enthusiast and this volume appears to be the only book he produced. The collection does not include any quotes from *Hodge and His Masters* – but this is explained in his preface to the *Thoughts*, where he writes from his address at Upper Parkstone, (Poole, Dorset) on 23rd July 1895:

I have found great difficulty in making extracts from *The Story of my Heart*; in its extreme beauty and depth of thought it should be taken as a whole, nevertheless I have chosen a few, for I think it is Jefferies' masterpiece. It may be noticed that I have made no selections from many of Jefferies' best known books. It is from no lack of appreciation, for I think they should find a place in every library, but being more especially natural and social histories than nature thoughts they seem less suited to a small volume of this kind... They are mere fragments — gems taken from a mine — but if the perusal of them induces others to study the original works in their entirety, which I sincerely hope, I shall feel that my effort has not been in vain.

Waylen appears to have been a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature - he signs a letter to the *Standard* (5 Feb 1897) as FRSL and writes about the work of Richard Jefferies, perhaps in response to a criticism by the Editor of Jefferies' early works. Waylen commends to readers *The Life of the Fields*, *The Open Air*, *Nature Near London* and *The Story of My Heart* and writes:

As a nature essayist he has never been surpassed, and it seems hardly much to say that he never can be. The great difference between Jefferies and the Nature writers of the old school, of which Gilbert White may be looked upon in chief, is that his view of nature was subjective, while theirs was objective, and I think for this reason Jefferies, Thoreau, and John Burroughs reach a higher level than Izaak Walton, Gilbert White and William Gilpin.

Henry Stanley Hook Waylen was born on 3rd December 1863 in Devizes. Information gathered from the census shows that he was a bank cashier and then a bank manager in Dorset. He married a Gloucestershire lass in

1911 and the couple returned to this county around 1927 where they brought up a son and a daughter. Waylen died on 25th January 1941 and was buried three days later in Whaddon, Gloucestershire where he originally got married.

The Waylen selection is a charming collection of Jefferies' nature writing. The Society's copy on display at the Richard Jefferies Museum is particularly beautiful – there are pretty hand-drawn flowers illustrating the prose in the margins of the book.

THE RICHARD JEFFERIES SOCIETY WRITERS' PRIZE

So far, there have been numerous nominations for the award for the publication year 2015 that include:

- *Gods of the Morning* by Sir John Lister-Kaye.
- *Landmarks* by Robert Macfarlane.
- *Channel Shore* by Tom Fort.
- *Common Ground* by Rob Cowen.
- *Field Notes from the Edge* by Paul Evans.
- *The Fish Ladder* by Katharine Norbury.
- *The Moth Snowstorm, Nature and Joy* by Michael McCarthy.
- *Night Watching* by Matthew Beaumont.
- *Coast Lines* by Patrick Barkham.
- *The Midlands* by Tony Williams.

Richard Stewart is sifting through. Please keep your nominations coming. If you have any comments about or should you wish to support any of the nominations, please contact Richard at 112, Westerfield Road, Ipswich, IP4 2XW or email rgsvaldezina@hotmail.co.uk.

CITINGS OF JEFFERIES

Robert Macfarlane's ***Landmarks*** was published in March 2015 – there is a chapter devoted to Richard Jefferies, with particular reference to *Nature Near London*. *Landmarks* is 'about the power of language to shape our sense of place. It is a field guide to the literature of nature, and a glossary containing thousands of remarkable words used in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales to describe land, nature and weather. Travelling from Cumbria to the Cairngorms, and exploring the landscapes of Roger Deakin, J. A. Baker, Nan Shepherd and others, Robert Macfarlane shows that language, well used, is a keen way of knowing landscape, and a vital means of coming to love it.'

Richard Jefferies was the main focus for an unscheduled **BBC Radio 4** programme on 2nd April 2015 as part of their 'Book of the Week' – episode 4 of 'Landmarks'. Robert Macfarlane used Jefferies as an example of an 'edgeland' brought up in the countryside but who moved to a semi-rural area on the edge of London, and how this influenced his writing.

Michael Parrott sent a clipping from the 6 March 2015 edition of the **Brighton & Hove Independent**. Based on Jefferies' essay 'Sunny Brighton'—which also happens to be a favourite of Mr Parrott—the columnist, Graham Chainey, provided an excellent account of Jefferies' description of the place and the people. Mr Chainey commented that Jefferies' 'essay "Sunny Brighton", written in 1884, is one of the most atmospheric things ever written about the place, a snapshot moment trapped in the amber of words.'

In an article about 'How Kew Gardens is battling to survive' as a result of budget cuts (**The Telegraph**, 25 March 2015), there is mention that 'in 1883 the nature writer Richard Jefferies described Kew as "the great green book" which "restores the ancient knowledge of the monks and the witches".'

In **The New Statesman** (19 March 2015) an article by Philip Hoare entitled 'The naming of the shrew: language, landscape and the new nature writing' looked at how 'nature writers are seeking to restore a rich, neglected vocabulary – but words can tame as well as illuminate the land.' Whilst discussing Robert Macfarlane, he writes: 'Macfarlane's own peregrinations also call on the services of another intriguing figure: Richard Jefferies, the Victorian visionary who, in his book *After London* (1885), imagined a post-apocalyptic southern England as if the Industrial Revolution had never happened. (Macfarlane correctly sets this book alongside Ruskin's omen-filled lectures on 'The Storm-Cloud of the Nineteenth Century', delivered the previous year, 1884.) It is Jefferies's ghost that accompanies Macfarlane into what the latter calls "bastard countryside": the land at the edge of the city, "the end of the murmur of things divine", as Victor Hugo wrote, "the beginning of the noise of humankind".'

An article in **The Irish Times**, 9 May 2015, celebrated the 95th birthday of Richard Adams, author of *Watership Down*. Eileen Battersby mentions that Adams 'common sense led him to a small publisher, Rex Collings, on noticing his reissue of *Wood Magic* (1881), the story of a little boy named Bevis and his engagement with the natural world.' She explains that *Wood Magic* was the work of Richard Jefferies, who she describes as 'a Victorian writer of children's books' for which she might be forgiven. She noted that Jefferies died young and that 'he shared that singularly English love of the natural world with which Adams too had grown up.'

Tom Fort's **Channel Shore: From the White Cliffs to Land's End** (London: Simon & Schuster, May 2015) featured in BBC Radio 4 Extra's *Omnibus* collection of readings from the book on 31st May. The book recounts Tom Fort's cycle journey from Dover to Land's End. At the beginning of the radio broadcast (read by Jonathan Coy) he visits Beachy Head where Fort also mentions Richard Jefferies' essay 'The Breeze on

Beachy Head' as an extra bonus.

Peter Robins sent in a cutting from **The Times** dated 30 May 2015. A review of *The Last English Poachers* by Bob and Brian Tovey (London: Simon & Schuster, May 2015) included reference to Richard Jefferies who 'hopelessly romanticised the man with the long coat in *The Amateur Poacher* (1879), attributing to him all sort of cunning, such as using sulphur fumes to stupefy roosting pheasants.' The review entitled 'The last hedgerow moochers' was written by John Lewis-Stempel – author of *Meadowland*.

George Miller reported that the blurb to Andrew Fusek Peters' book published in May 2015, **Dip: Wild Swims from the Borderlands**, says that 'he follows in the wake of great writers like Richard Jefferies and Edward Thomas.' Whether Jefferies is mentioned in the book isn't certain but, it seems, that anyone who writes lyrically about the countryside gets compared with him.

Nigel Burton, writing in **The Northern Echo** on 17th June 2015 expresses his concern about 'Britain's Declining Wildlife' highlighted in the BBC Springwatch programme that quoted appalling statistics on the decline of farmland birds. Burton quotes heavily from *Nature Near London* pointing to the number of species that Jefferies observed in London, let alone in the countryside. He concludes by recounting that Jefferies counted 50 species of wildflower by a thick hedge with 'beetles of every kind', whilst in an adjoining field mice were so abundant that they could 'be heard rushing along the furrows.' Burton writes: 'This would have been heaven for the barn owl on Springwatch that struggled to feed the young.'

Janice Lingley's article on 'Magical Rural Topographies: Kipling's *Puck of Pook's Hill* and Richard Jefferies' *Bevis*, *The Story of a Boy*' was published in the **Kipling Journal** (London, Kipling Society, June 2015), Vol. 89, No. 360, pp. 34-45.

New biography: **Edward Thomas: From Adlestrop to Arras** by Jean Moorcroft Wilson (Bloomsbury, 2015, £25).

Michael Parrott, who tends Jefferies' grave at **Broadwater Cemetery**, reported in July that the right hand side of the Jefferies/Hudson memorial garden was sown with meadow flower seeds, probably thanks to the local council. He said that it 'looks wonderful, predominantly poppies last week when we visited ... The grave is looking fine, the only fritillary has seeded as have the primroses; some of the seeds sown to attract the bees are germinating. The cemetery grass has been cut and the insects are hunting around for nectar – such a shame. They maintain the area some of the year for wildlife then change their mind when the summer growth gets "untidy".' The Friends of Broadwater Cemetery have plans to improve the Memorial Garden and have asked the Society for suggestions to make it more wildlife friendly. Mr Parrott sent these photographs of the memorial

garden – pity that the blaze of red poppies isn't in colour. The first picture is of the Jefferies' bench and the second of the mulberry tree – both of which were provided by the Society along with plaques.



Andrew Rossabi reported that Richard Jefferies was mentioned in the ***Evening Standard*** (7 August 2015, pp.31-32). The article by Charlie Gilmour is entitled 'Wet and Wild'; about swimming in London. There is a section on swimming in the Thames. The relevant passage reads:

The Thames seems like an obvious place to start, although its foul reputation has to be dealt with first. Since the Industrial Revolution it has been used and abused without care. Writing in 1885, the Victorian novelist Richard Jefferies imagined it becoming 'a vast stagnant swamp, which no man dare enter, since death would be his inevitable fate.' In 1957 he was proved right: pollution became so severe that the river was declared biologically dead. Today, however, it's believed to be the cleanest urban river in the world.

Peter Robins recounted that a new biography of David Garnett (1892-1991) tells the story of how young David drew the map of the 'New Sea' that was published by Duckworth in the 1904 edition of *Bevis*. David's father, Edward, was employed by Duckworth & Co from 1901-1915 and he was responsible for the new editions of *Amaryllis at the Fair* and *Bevis* in 1904. In ***Bloomsbury's Outsider: A Life of David Garnett*** by Sarah Knights (London: Bloomsbury, May 2015), mention is made of the fact that the 12-year-old David was paid a princely five shillings for drawing the map.

Janice Lingley has had an article entitled 'Edward Thomas' Poem "Adlestrop"' published in the August 2015 edition of the Newsletter of the Edward Thomas Fellowship, in which she quotes from Jefferies' essay 'The Pageant of Summer' regarding the revelatory nature of birdsong, especially that of the blackbird.

The Alliance of Literary Societies published their yearly journal in July. The theme for this year's edition of ALSo was 'Literary Places'. Eric Jones

produced a fine article on 'Richard Jefferies and Coate' detailing the importance of 'place' that influenced Jefferies' writing. The article ended on the sour note of highlighting the building pressures on Jefferies' Land and the insensitivity of the planning system to the importance of literary landscapes. The Alliance of Literary Societies has now gone over to producing their yearly journal in electronic format only. Should you wish to obtain a copy of ALSO (pdf format), please email the Hon. Sec. on info@richardjefferiessociety.co.uk. She has electronic copies for the 2011-2015 editions. The theme for next year's ALSO is 'Literary Scandal'.

Friends of Albion Millennium Green is a community group, based in the Sydenham area set up in 2008, to help look after Albion Green – a refuge from suburbia and a splendid wildlife habitat just down the road from Shanklin Villa (now 20 Sydenham Park Road) where Richard Jefferies spent most of his childhood. The group would welcome a visit from Society members.

Evidently this little wildlife haven was on land that was once owned by Robert Harrild from at least 1843. It was described as pasture and it has been suggested that Robert kept deer on the field. Prior to that it was part of the reservoir feeding the Croydon Canal.

Robert Harrild (1780-1853) was the father of Richard Jefferies' Uncle Thomas. Richard lived with Uncle Thomas and Aunt Ellen (née Gyde) for many years (perhaps between 4 and 9, returning to Coate Farm for holidays) and may have attended Sydenham College. Aunt Ellen was a second mother to Richard and his letters to his aunt express his great affection for her. Robert Harrild made his fortune from printing and manufacturing printing equipment. He lived at Round Hill House, Round Hill, from about 1827 until his death. His house was demolished in the 1960s but the spire in his garden, which he acquired from St Antholin's, in the City of London, survives. He owned much of the land in Sydenham Park and Sydenham Park Road and was responsible for developing many of the houses, including Shanklin Villa. Richard's aunt and uncle (when Richard joined them) were living in nearby Albany Cottage and inherited Shanklin Villa on the death of Robert Harrild where they moved soon after.

The Friends have produced a map of Albion Green that will be presented to the people of Lewisham on 7th November. There will be a short ceremony at Forest Hill Pools, Dartmouth Road, SE 23 at 12 noon. Details will be shown on their website – www.amgfriends.org.uk. Society Members would be made most welcome and to visit the nature reserve.

RICHARD JEFFERIES MUSEUM TRUST REPORT

David Thackray

Starting with the old chestnut! Our negotiations with SBC over the granting of a full lease continue. Helen Miah, SBC Commissioner for Arts and Culture has taken over the responsibility for this. An interim Tenancy at Will agreement has been issued pending a new seven-year lease, which is being drawn up and which will require approval of the Council Cabinet. This will be accompanied by a formal curatorial review programme, which will provide support from the SBC Curators. As part of this process, the SBC Curators have been undertaking a full review of the collections, for which they had responsibility, before new loan agreements are drawn up with the RJMT. The loan agreement with SBC has been extended until the end of the year to allow time for this to be fully completed.

The Museum's application for re-accreditation was submitted at the end of June, a considerable task, getting all our policies and detailed planning in place. However, with cut-backs in the Arts Council's Accreditation team, this is unlikely to be determined before the end of the year.

The 2015 season started with a formal opening ceremony with the Mayor of Swindon and a splendid lunch at the Sun Inn sponsored by Arkells. The Museum and the gardens looked fabulous, with new displays in the Museum, a lovely exhibition of children's art related to the Museum in our gallery, a new Bevis display and the remarkable clock presenting the world of Jefferies, including a new time-line. The Gardens have a team of regular gardeners and look really well cared-for, whilst the teams of corporate volunteers from Thames Water, Intel and Nationwide have done wonderful work on larger landscaping infrastructure tasks, including the vegetable gardens (see photograph on the next page).

Summer openings have been successful with a good number of Sunday visitors and with a wonderful programme of Magic Monday events, attracting good numbers of children accompanied by adults enjoying such themes as 'The Birds of Wood Magic', 'Tiny Creatures' and 'In the Trees', with artists in attendance encouraging some remarkable creativity and a great deal of enjoyment.

A strong programme of other events and activities is also developing, under the banner of 'Mulberry Arts'. These have included an exhibition linked to Swindon Open Studios with work by Tim Carroll, involvement with the Swindon Festival of Literature, Writers' Masterclasses, and creative writing classes, poetry workshops and an Art Club involving amongst others Jasper Fforde, Richard Skinner, Jill Sharp and Carrie Etter. Hilda Sheehan and Mike Pringle run Arts Award Classes providing a Bronze Award qualification for young artists.

The Trust is grateful as always to the growing numbers of volunteers helping with all aspects of our activities. If any Society members are

interested in further volunteering, a list of roles for which we are seeking support is on our web-site: <http://richardjefferies.org>.



The Old Cow Yard has been transformed into a vegetable garden



July 2015

MERCHANDISE

Embroidered Logo

The facility is still in place to embroider the Society's logo on clothing and materials at a cost of £4.20 per item. Examples are illustrated below.

Please contact Peter Bainbridge who is happy to liaise with the embroiderer on your behalf. You can provide your own item but return postage would need to be added. In the first instance contact Mr Bainbridge by emailing him on treasurer@richardjefferiesociety.co.uk or write to 95 Hamfield, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9EG.



Jefferies' Mulberry Pen



Something good has been made from the limb of the mulberry tree that came down in the storms of September 2007 at Coate Farm. Simon Webb, in conjunction with the Richard Jefferies Museum Trust, has produced 250 platinum and gunmetal ballpoints from the wood. The tree was planted by Richard Jefferies' father (1816-1896) and he is likely to have done so as a young man. The tree was a favourite of Jefferies who dedicated a poem to it. The pen costs £75 and is available from the Museum. Other inquiries should be addressed to the Trust, Richard Jefferies Museum, Marlborough Road, Coate, Swindon SN3 6AA.

The Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society: If you want to borrow the free ticket (admits only one) for the Devizes or the Salisbury Museums, please apply to John Price. ☎ 01672 515150.

MAIL ORDER BOOKS

Postal sales are dealt with by the Hon. Secretary (see p.2 for contact details). There is a stock of second-hand Jefferies' books along with new Society publications (as detailed below), plus back-copies of the Society's *Journal*. If you are looking for a particular book, please ask.

'Essay on Instinct' – Richard Jefferies, 2012 (pamphlet)	£2.50 (incl. Postage)
'A Natural System of National Defence – Richard Jefferies, 2014 (pamphlet)	£3.00 (incl. Postage)
<i>Richard Jefferies' letters to Aunt Ellen</i> , 2009 (softback)	£ 4.50
<i>Amaryllis at the Fair</i> – Richard Jefferies, 2009. Introduction by Carolyn Clarke (softback)	£ 6.00
<i>Greene Ferne Farm</i> – Richard Jefferies, 2009 Introduction by George Miller (softback)	£ 5.00
<i>The Interpreter: a biography of Richard Jefferies</i> – Audrey Smith, 2008 (softback)	£ 5.00
<i>The Scarlet Shawl</i> – Richard Jefferies, 2009. Introduction by Andrew Rossabi. (softback)	£ 5.99
<i>The Dewy Morn</i> – Richard Jefferies, 2009. Introduction by Rebecca Welshman (softback)	£ 7.00
<i>Adventures in the Vale of the White Horse: Jefferies Land</i> – Kate Tryon, 2010 (limited edition soft-back)	£12.00

(Add UK postage & packing £1.50 extra per copy)

<i>Restless Human Hearts</i> – Richard Jefferies, 2008. Introduction by Andrew Rossabi, 2008. (hardback; £20) (Softback version £8)	£20.00 ----- £ 8.00
<i>Richard Jefferies: An Index</i> – Matthews & Treitel, 2008 (hardback)	£15.00
<i>The Forward Life of Richard Jefferies</i> – Matthews & Treitel, 1994 (hardback)	£12.00
<i>World's End</i> – Richard Jefferies, 2008. Introduction by Andrew Rossabi (softback)	£ 7.99
<i>Richard Jefferies: An Anthology</i> – Matthews & Welshman, 2010 (hardback)	£20.00
<i>The Rise of Maximin</i> – Richard Jefferies, 2012 (hardback – limited edition of 60 copies)	£20.00

(Add UK postage & packing £2.75 extra per copy)

DVD of 'Jefferies Land' – film made in 2002 - £10 includes postage.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & BIRTHDAY LECTURE
SATURDAY 7th November 2015
VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH ROAD, LIDDINGTON, SN4 0HB

PROGRAMME

- 10.30 Doors open and refreshments.
- 11.00 AGM (Members only) – see Agenda page 36.
- 1.00 Lunch break. Bring a packed lunch. Local pub serves food. The hall is next to Liddington Church with views across to Liddington Hill.
- 2.30 The Birthday Lecture
 Speaker: Barry Sloan
 Subject: Richard Jefferies, Journalist.
- 4.00 Tea
- 4.30 Depart

Birthday Lecture Richard Jefferies was a prolific journalist who contributed to a wide range of periodicals and newspapers, including some of the best known titles of his day. In Professor Sloan's talk he will use a selection of Jefferies' work which first appeared in the press to consider who his readers were, the nature of his appeal as a journalist, and the positions he took on some of the contemporary issues that he addressed in his columns. Was he progressive or reactionary, sentimental or pragmatic in his views of the changes taking place in rural life and work, and on the relationship between the country and the town or city? How do Jefferies' views compare with those of some of his fellow rural commentators, and how did they change over time?



Prof Barry Sloan (pictured above) is based in the English department of the University of Southampton. He is currently preparing material for a book which draws on the periodical press, and the work of agricultural writers such as Alexander Somerville, James Caird and H. Rider Haggard, and of cultural commentators such as William Howitt, Richard Jefferies and George Sturt, to examine the

history of the social/cultural representations of the agricultural labourer in England from the 1830s to 1914.

**Directions to Liddington Village Hall
SN4 OHB**

(See map on next page)

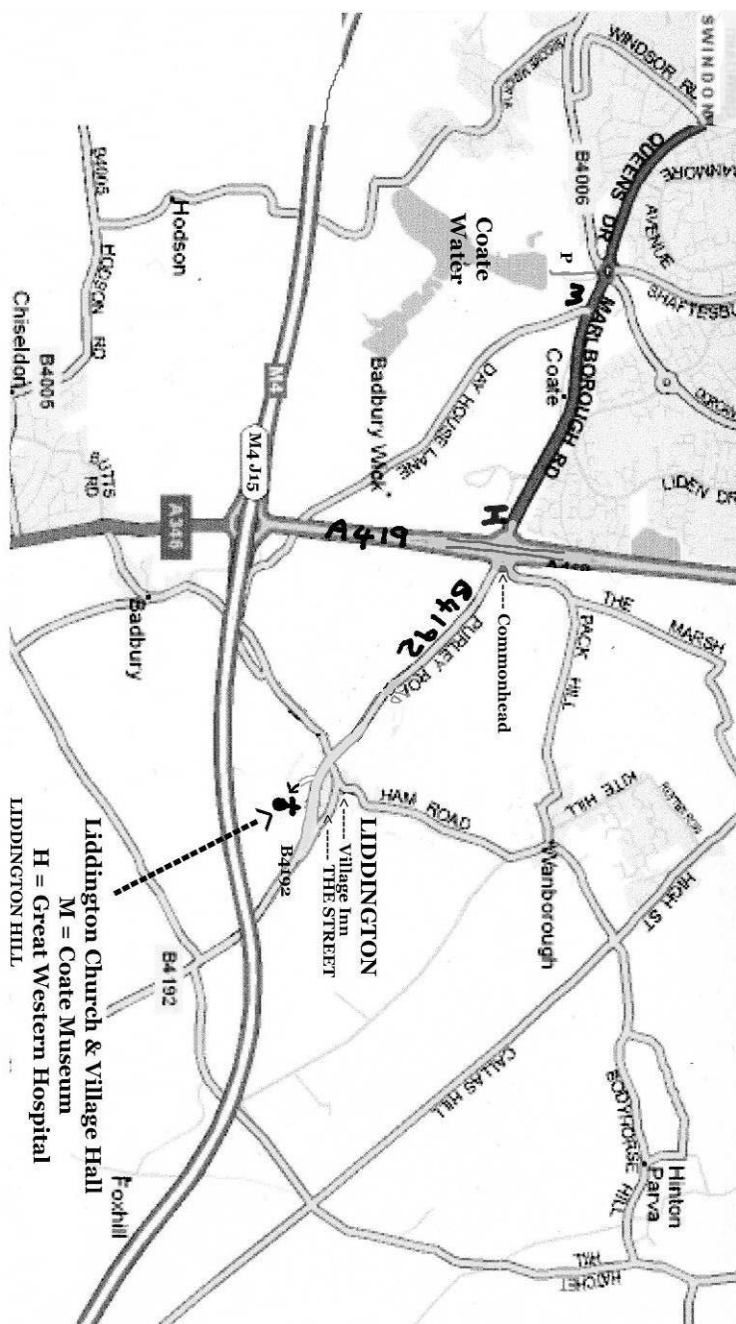
Liddington Village Hall is next to Liddington Church, Church Road, just off the main B4192 road from Commonhead Roundabout, at Swindon, on the Aldbourne road. There is ample parking space at the hall. The Village Inn (that serves food from 12am to 2pm – ☎ 01793 790314) is a short walk away.

Liddington can be approached by road from the A419 trunk road and M4 motorway Junction 15. From J15 roundabout, take the first exit north on the A419 next to the Great Western Hospital and turn right at Commonhead Roundabout taking the B4192 to Liddington. There is a staggered cross-roads at Liddington. Church Road is a few yards further up the hill on the right hand side. The main village of Liddington is on the left at the cross-roads.

Buses (Routes 46 to Hungerford & 48 to Marlborough) run between Swindon Bus station (the bus should leave from **Bay 9**, but watch out for changes) and through Liddington village. There are two possibilities available for use on Saturday morning: one that arrives early and the other just on time. **The 46 leaves Swindon Bus Station at 10.40am and arrives at Liddington at 10.57am.** The earlier bus (48) leaves at 9.36 and arrives at 9.53. Regular and frequent buses run from Fleming Way in Swindon town centre to the Great Western Hospital (including numbers 11 and 16). For the brave and fit, there is a stiff 2km walk from the hospital up the hill to Liddington.

Return buses from Liddington to Swindon Bus Station:

Bus Service	48	46
Departs Liddington (Spinney Close)	16.21	17.19
Arrives Swindon Bus Station	16.39	17.36



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

- 1 Chairman's introductory remarks.
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of the last AGM, 25 Oct 2014 (see pp.37-40)
- 4 Matters Arising
 - Storage and archives
 - Richard Jefferies House & Museum at Coate
 - Richard Jefferies Society Writers' Prize
 - Richard Jefferies Society publications
 - Broadwater Cemetery
- 5 Annual Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report (see pp.41-42)
- 7 Election of Examiner of Accounts: Rob Brailsford.
- 8 Elections to Executive Council. The following Members are due to retire: John Price (Chairman), Andrew Rossabi (President), Jean Saunders (Secretary) and Richard Stewart. All four are prepared to stand again and in their current roles. The Executive Council also propose that Margaret Hunt and Patrick Dillon should stand as full Council members (they were elected by Council to fill vacancies for the last year).
- 9 Motions (if any)
- 10 Any Other Business

A copy of the minutes of the 2014 AGM should be brought to the AGM.

Any motions or resolutions for debate should be sent to the Hon. Sec. before the 25th October 2015, as should nominations for Executive Council members. Both should be proposed and seconded.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Richard Jefferies Society held at the Village Hall, Liddington on Saturday 25 October 2014 at 11am

PRESENT: Peter Bainbridge, Margaret Bathe, Gillian Bromhead, Patrick Dillon, Roger Ebbatson, Norma Goodwin, Geoff Hirst, Margaret Hunt, Eric Jones, Enid Lewis, Brian Morris, Ray Morse, Michael Parrott, Duncan Pepper, John Price, Jean Saunders, John Shortland, David Thackray, Phyllis Treitel.

1. THE CHAIR

John Price welcomed Members to the Annual General Meeting. A minutes silence was held in memory of Members who died this year: Mark Daniel, John Webb, Brian Burrows, Candida Lycett Green, Stuart Taylor, Peter Beale and P. Watson as well as for Chris Jones, our former Examiner of Accounts.

2. APOLOGIES: Roy Burton, Marie & David Chesham, Peter Faulkner, George Miller, Sylvia Morse, Helen Newman, Sheila Povey, Andrew Rossabi, Tom Saunders and Richard Stewart sent their apologies.

3. MINUTES: The minutes of the last meeting held on 2 November 2013 were accepted as a true record of proceedings. Proposed by Norma Goodwin, seconded by Peter Bainbridge and carried by Members.

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Richard Jefferies House & Museum at Coate

Memorial plaque for Mark Daniel. A plaque was erected next to the Jefferies' Russet on Sunday 7th September 2014. Geoff Daniel, Mark's son, has been informed and sent a copy of the autumn newsletter. The proposed memorial service for Mark should take place in Sussex next spring. David Thackray reported that Geoff has returned Mark's matchlock gun to the Museum. This was made by Mark following instructions in *Bevis*.

Opening Times

The Richard Jefferies Museum Trust decided to close the Museum completely until next spring; as such the Wednesday open days were cancelled. Regrettably no notice was given to enable us to inform Members.

Richard Jefferies Museum Trust

David Thackray reported that the draft five-year lease from Swindon Council covers all the Trust's needs but there are a couple of matters to agree still. The Trust is working on the application for Museum re-accreditation that is due next April – a variety of additional planning documents are required. They are still seeking volunteers for various duties. They will use the winter closure of the Museum to implement some of the requirements outlined in the HLF award.

4.2 The Save Coate campaign. The building work has started – mainly access roads so far. Locals have reported that many mature trees have been removed outside the development area as part of the so-called improvements to the highway. There are concerns that the row of lime trees, that were once inside the Coate Farm garden, are very vulnerable to the whims of Swindon's Highway Department. The main footpath from Coate cottages to Day House Lane via the copse is now closed and has been re-routed in an inappropriate position.

4.3 The Richard Jefferies Society Journal. There is now sufficient material to revert back to issuing a winter edition of the *Journal* this year, as well as a summer publication. A Norfolk-based editorial team is being set up consisting of Peter Robins, Janice Lingley and Jean Saunders. There are no plans to change the format of the *Journal*. 'Badger' Walker has contacted the Society to inform us that he has copies of all the articles by RJ published in the *Live Stock Journal*, the vast majority of which were not republished. Mr Walker will supply his copies with a view to republishing suitable essays in the *Journal*.

4.4 Broadwater Cemetery. Michael Parrott tabled recent photographs of the Richard Jefferies' grave and cuttings from the local paper related to activities of the Friends of Broadwater Cemetery. The Heritage Lottery money has been used up but the Friends have continued their programme of guided tours of the cemetery on the first Saturday of the summer months. There have been disputes over grass cutting which has resulted in a loss of biodiversity in the churchyard but the wild-flowers in the Jefferies' grave are alive with insects. Michael has put down holly where the earth is exposed to discourage local cats using it as a litter tray! The Mulberry tree, in the Hudson-Jefferies memorial garden, had an abundance of fruit this year. There has been no vandalism.

4.5 Storage and archives. Having lost all storage facilities at the Museum and at John Webb's house, our archives and books are now stored at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre at Chippenham, where our most precious archives are kept, and an office in Dauntsey House, West Swindon for general storage and where our extensive library of books is held. The lease for the Swindon office was renewed on the 21st June 2014 under a Tenancy of Will agreement. This has the benefit that the tenancy is ongoing and does not run out in six months' time, but there is a possibility that we may have to vacate the office at short notice. However Centric Community Projects, who oversee the agreement, supplied a letter of comfort to reassure that they will do their best to ensure that we are given as much notice as possible, will find us alternative accommodation where possible and even help financially with any move.

5 ANNUAL REPORT. The content of the annual report was accepted

as a true record of the Society's activities. Proposed — Ray Morse; seconded Phyllis Treitel and carried by Members.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT. The Chairman expressed his sincere gratitude to Geoff Hirst for his 15 years of service to the Society as our Honorary Treasurer and for soldiering on so gallantly at a time when his family circumstances were so demanding of his attention. Many accolades were awarded to Geoff and many Members recounted their own positive experiences working with him. Geoff had nothing to add to his report and invited questions. Peter Bainbridge proposed acceptance of the accounts, seconded by Michael Parrott and carried by Members.

The Richard Jefferies Society Writers' Prize – in memory of John Webb.

Since the beginning of the new financial year, commencing on 1st July 2014, the Society received a bequest of £25,000 from John Webb, our former Librarian. The Executive Council discussed recently the best use of this gift to promote Richard Jefferies and to remember John. Eric Jones outlined the proposal to award an annual prize of £500 to be called 'The Richard Jefferies Society Writers' Prize'. Any length or format of writing on themes or topics broadly consistent with the work of Richard Jefferies will be considered, provided the work has been published (not re-published) within the calendar year. Nominations may be made by any Member of the Society, though members are not themselves eligible for the award. Decisions about the Prize will be made by the Executive Council and will be final. The right not to make an award in a given year is reserved. The Prize will be offered first for publications during 2015 and, after discussion, it was agreed that first translations into English would be eligible. Members were encouraged to nominate material by informing the Hon. Sec who would bring publications to the attention of the Exec. Council. Richard Stewart has offered to help with the sifting process. The Exec. Council would short-list their choices at their February meeting (2016 for 2015 award) whilst the winner would be agreed at their June meeting. The proposal was agreed by Members at the AGM. Others will be notified in the December 2014 mailing.

7 ELECTION OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS. The late Mr Chris Jones examined the accounts and his positive report was published in the Annual Report on page 54. The Society is indebted to him for his good service and many Members had written to his wife, Margaret, expressing their condolences at his recent death. He was due to stand down this year, whilst Rob Brailsford, an accountant who lives in Swindon, had offered his services over a year ago. Jean Saunders proposed that Rob Brailsford be elected to serve next year; seconded by Peter Bainbridge and the appointment was carried.

8 ELECTIONS TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. The Secretary had received no other nominations apart from those nominated by the

Executive Council. Eric Jones and Duncan Pepper were proposed for re-election and Peter Bainbridge was nominated for election as Honorary Treasurer. The Council also proposed the election of two further Honorary Vice Presidents – Raymond Morse and Sheila Povey – to mark their many years of good and dedicated service to the Society and to the Museum, that was much appreciated. It was carried by members that Eric Jones and Duncan Pepper should be re-elected to Council from 2014-2017; Peter Bainbridge elected as Honorary Treasurer 2014-2019; and Raymond Morse and Sheila Povey elected as Honorary Vice Presidents for life. The Chair encouraged other Members to step forward. Patrick Dillon later in the day offered his services, having stood previously on the Executive Council.

9 MOTIONS – none received.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Schedule of future meetings, and events. The Executive Council had been looking for opportunities to hold more events elsewhere to encourage a wider audience of members to attend. The Study Day next summer will be held at St Pancras Parish Church Hall, opposite Euston Station, on 27th June. Simon Coleman has agreed to speak to the subject of ‘Jefferies’ London’ in the morning and it was planned to visit the British Library in the afternoon to examine Jefferies’ notebooks, letters and manuscripts.

10.2 Secretarial duties: Jean Saunders’ term of office as Hon. Sec. extends to one more year – making ten years in all. She is moving to Norfolk in January and, whilst happy to continue to deal with many aspects of the Society’s business, will be unable to undertake duties in the Swindon area that include organizing meetings, minute taking etc. Margaret Hunt kindly offered her assistance and would like to discuss the matter further.

10.3 Membership

Duncan Pepper drew attention to the gradual decline in Membership numbers and expressed concern about how to attract younger Members. It was noted that this was not just a problem that affected the Society but that there was a general lack of enthusiasm from younger people to join and get involved in organizations. Various ideas were discussed.

10.4 *British Wildlife*

John Price tabled a copy of the October edition of *British Wildlife* that includes an article on Jefferies that he had been invited to write. The business part of the AGM ended at 12.35 pm.

Jean Saunders
Hon. Sec.
26th October 2014

The Richard Jefferies Society
Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2015
Receipts and Payments Account

<u>Receipts</u>		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2015	Total 2014
<u>Subscriptions</u>		2315.10			2315.10	2130.52
<u>Donations:</u>	General	539.50			539.50	1799.50
<u>Sales:</u>	Museum				0.00	30.00
	Others	1084.22			1084.22	637.70
Grant						
<u>John Webb Legacy</u>			25000.00		25000.00	
<u>Jefferies Land Con Trust</u>						21625.04
<u>Income Tax Reclaim</u>		875.79			875.79	525.67
<u>Interest received</u>		83.03			83.03	38.41
Total receipts					29897.64	26786.84

Expenditure

<u>Publications</u>	837.94	837.94	473.81
<u>Rent/Room Hire</u>	60.00	60.00	60.00
<u>Subscriptions paid</u>	62.50	62.50	62.50
<u>Lecture fees</u>	50.00	50.00	100.00
<u>Administration</u>	1370.70	1370.70	2282.53
<u>Books/ Archive</u>			
<u>Purchases</u>	48.72	48.72	9718.68
<u>Insurance</u>	190.80	190.80	174.86
<u>Equipment etc</u>		692.40	
<u>House/ Grounds/ Museum</u>			78.74
<u>Gifts</u>	141.60	141.60	
<u>Refunds</u>	27.29	27.29	
<u>Merchandise</u>	50.07	50.07	
Total payments		3532.02	12951.12

Excess of receipts over payments

26365.62

Bank/B.Soc/Paypal/P.Cash

as at 30 June 2015	59635.96
--------------------	----------

as at 1 July 2014	33270.34
-------------------	----------

Restricted and Designated funds

Statement of Assets

Biography	5437.60
-----------	---------

Cash funds:-	Bank	18742.37	General	3500
	Paypal	407.18	JLCT	21625
	B/Society	40,486.41	Webb	25000
		<u>59635.96</u>		<u>55562.60</u>
			Reserves	4073.36
				<u>59635.96</u>

Notes to the accounts

1. The Jefferies Land Conservation Trust asset is "restricted" to ensure that any disposal is at the sole decision of the Society's Executive with no reference whatsoever to any third party.
2. We have in excess of £3000 in publications and other saleable stock which is an asset of the Society but which does not appear in the Society's receipts and expenditure accounts.
3. The John Webb legacy is "designated" for the annual RJS Writers' Prize award.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING THE 30 JUNE 2015

My first year as Treasurer has been relatively unremarkable.

Our only unexpected expense relates to losing our storage facility at Dauntsey House, West Swindon and the need to find a temporary storage for our extensive library and stock of books at short notice. A Big Yellow Storage unit was rented in Swindon for a period of 24 weeks and this is due to expire soon. With transport, the hire cost was £453.36.

Our President was persuaded to use some of the Jefferies' Biography restricted fund to buy a computer in order to assist his work on the book. Up until that time Andrew Rossabi had been using a typewriter but is now a convert to the electronic aid.

By far the largest administration expense has been for postage.

There has been no income from book sales at the Richard Jefferies Museum this year. An arrangement has been made with the Richard Jefferies Museum Trust that they will buy our stock of books for sale at the Museum at cost but will pay by instalments. Income from book sales elsewhere is largely derived from John Webb's kind legacy of donating his Jefferies' books to the Society which were sold by draw to Members. Other books were sold by mail order and at the AGM.

I apologise that the report from the Examiner of Accounts has been delayed this year. I regret that an operation this summer laid me low and stopped progress on work for several weeks. However Rob Brailsford will be checking the accounts shortly and I will provide a verbal report of his findings at the AGM.

Peter Bainbridge
Hon. Treasurer
12th September 2015

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2015-2016

2015

Sat 7 Nov AGM and Birthday Lecture at Liddington Village Hall.
Birthday Lecture: 'Richard Jefferies, Journalist'.
Speaker: Prof. Barry Sloan.

Further information is detailed on pp. 33-42.

2016 – more dates to be added (Spring 2016 newsletter)

Sat 5 March Joint meeting with the Friends of Alfred Williams.
Venue: Richard Jefferies Museum, Marlborough Road,
Coate, Swindon SN3 6AA.
Time: 2.00-4.30pm

This year it is the Friends' turn to host the gathering.
Select a short extract to read to others by or about
Richard Jefferies or Alfred Williams or just come along
to listen. Please add this date to your diary now.

Sat 25 June A Study Day.
Venue: Richard Jefferies Museum
Time: 10.30am-4.30pm.
Theme: Jefferies' literary networks (to be confirmed).
'Citings of Richard Jefferies' and members' 'First
Contacts with Richard Jefferies'.

More information in the Spring 2016 newsletter.

Sat 5 Nov AGM and Birthday Lecture.
Venue: Liddington Village Hall (to be confirmed)
Time: 10.30am-4.30pm
Birthday Lecture: Speaker to be announced.

More information in the Autumn 2016 newsletter

Meetings are open to the public and free to attend.

The Winter *Journal* will be despatched in December 2015; the Spring
newsletter in March 2016 and the Summer *Journal* in June 2016.

**RICHARD JEFFERIES SOCIETY
BIRTHDAY LECTURE**

**Liddington Village Hall
Church Road SN4 0HE
Saturday 7 November 2015
2.30-4pm**

**Richard Jefferies,
Journalist**

**by
Prof Barry Sloan**

Richard Jefferies was a prolific journalist who contributed to a wide range of periodicals and newspapers. In Professor Sloan's talk he will use a selection of Jefferies' work which first appeared in the press to consider who his readers were, the nature of his appeal as a journalist, and the positions he took on some of the contemporary issues that he addressed in his columns.

All welcome. Admission free.

Richardjefferiessociety.co.uk

Tel: 01362 683210

Image from a painting by Leonid Pasternak