

## EDITORIAL

*Rosalie Parker*

It has been another productive year for the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society. Those lucky enough to live within range of Dorset will have been able to attend the Society's Annual General Meeting in Dorchester in March, the visit in May to East Chaldon church and John Lucas's talk on 'Sylvia Townsend Warner among Women Poets' held at Dorchester Museum in October. In September members travelled to Norfolk, visiting places of significance to Warner and Valentine Ackland, including Winterton, Frankfort Manor and Salthouse. British members may have tuned in to the five stories from *The Music of Long Verney* collection broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in the Summer. It is to be trusted that the stories, admirably read by Penelope Wilton, will have won over more converts to Sylvia Townsend Warner's work.

We hope that there is something to interest everyone in this our third annual journal. First up is 'Philip and Anna,' one of six uncollected pieces by Warner reproduced in this year's issue. This relatively late story, deceptively demure on the surface, first appeared in Sylvia's 'Gentleman Friend' *The New Yorker* in 1971.

Next is Janet Montefiore's brilliant close reading of 'Enter if You Will,' one the poems written by Warner to complement Reynolds Stone's evocative woodcut illustrations for *Boxwood* (1957). The woodcut in question appears on the front cover of this journal.

We are pleased to include two items which will enable us to explore the connection between Jane Austen and Sylvia

Townsend Warner. The first is Sylvia's own introduction to *Northanger Abbey* from the Limited Editions Club's edition of 1971. Jennifer Poulos Nesbit has contributed an extremely valuable appraisal of Warner's debt to Austen, with particular reference to *Mansfield Park* and *The Flint Anchor*.

We are also delighted to be able to present four uncollected poems by Warner: we suspect many readers will not have seen these before. The poems are from *The London Mercury* (1938) and, perhaps surprisingly, *Morrow's Almanack and Everyday Book for 1930*. Glen Cavaliero has kindly provided a review of contributor Janet Montefiore's recent book *Arguments of Heart and Mind: Selected Essays, 1977-2000*.

We would welcome feedback to this journal and contributions to next year's journal from any member or non-member. Contact us at the editorial address printed on the copyright page.

The editor would like to express her particular thanks to all contributors.

## A Celebration of Sylvia

To commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death on 1st May 1978 of Sylvia Townsend Warner, a concert of music and readings written by or associated with her will be given in St Nicholas Church, Chaldon, her burial place, on Sunday 4th May 2003. All proceeds from the concert will be given to St Nicholas Church Restoration Fund. There will be further information in the February 2003 Newsletter, or from Marion Machen, 38 Oxford Avenue, Burnham, Bucks, SL1 8HR, UK (please send a self-addressed envelope), tel. 01628 602581.