

EDITORIAL

Rosalie Parker

The second year of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society ends encouragingly with a still-growing membership and a number of successfully organised events.

In addition to the regular May meeting in Dorset, the Society arranged a day school in Dorchester in August, the theme of which was *Lolly Willowes*. Rosemary Sykes presented her paper, “The Willowes Pattern”, which provoked much lively discussion, and we are very grateful to Rosemary for allowing us to reproduce the paper here.

This, the second of our annual journals, is in danger of being a *Lolly Willowes* theme issue, as we have chosen for inclusion five items relating to the novel.

American member Ren Draya was one of those present at the *Lolly Willowes* day school, and we are very pleased to publish her personal response to Rosemary’s paper which, I am sure, will provoke others to reexamine their own interpretation, particularly of the ending of the novel.

Next is an article by Ray Russell in which *Lolly Willowes* is compared with “A Fragment of Life”, a story written by Sylvia Townsend Warner’s Uncle-by-marriage, the Welsh writer Arthur Machen.

We are also pleased to be able to reproduce the original manuscript ending of *Lolly Willowes*. Warner was persuaded by her publisher to lengthen the ending, but the original is of much interest, and it is relevant to a full understanding of the novel to see her original intention. We gratefully acknowledge the kind cooperation of Susanna Pinney, executor of Warner’s literary estate, in allowing us to print this for the

first time.

We also thank the family of Reynolds Stone for giving us permission to reproduce his illustration for the 1960s edition of the novel, and for allowing us to continue to use the *Boxwood* engravings on the front cover.

Just to subvert the themed issue idea, we have next Glen Cavaliero's authoritative appraisal of Warner's short stories, reprinted from the 1981 *PN Review* celebration of her work. This is followed by a fascinating article by Peter Tolhurst on the Norfolk fisherman and artist John Craske. He was championed by both Valentine Ackland and Sylvia Townsend Warner, but we suspect that few readers of this Journal will know much about him. Peter Tolhurst explains not only Warner and Ackland's interest and involvement in Craske's work, but also why the artist merited both their, and our, attention.

The literary highlight of the year as far as many members are concerned must be the publication of *The Music at Long Verney*, initially by Counterpoint in the United States, and then very recently by Harvill in Britain. To have so many previously uncollected stories available is indeed a treat, but we should still be able to bring members further uncollected fiction in forthcoming issues of the Journal. In this edition we present "I am Come into My Garden", which was first published in *Time and Tide*.

Finally we are publishing "Rainbow", a Warner poem first printed in 1931. Our thanks to Michael Schmidt of Carcanet Press for permission to reprint this poem.

If any member (or non-member) would like to write something for next years' journal, then please contact us at the editorial address. We also welcome feedback of any flavour and hue.

The editors would like to express their special thanks to all contributors.