



NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2024
including minutes of
A.G.M. 2024

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE –
if you have not yet paid please do so as soon as possible!**

Spring Meeting 2025 – 8th March

The meeting will include a walk in and around Dymock in the morning and then talks in the afternoon which will be presented at Much Marcle Memorial Hall, Much Marcle, Ledbury HR8 2LY. There are parking facilities at the hall.

The talks will be in respect of John Drinkwater and John Masefield who was, of course, a friend of the Dymock Poets.

Full details will be sent out as soon as possible together with the cost of tickets and booking arrangements.

Please save the date!

Once They Lived in Gloucestershire: A Dymock Poets Anthology

Members who attended the A.G.M. in September will know a new edition of the anthology has been published by the Friends of the Dymock Poets. This is as a result of the generous agreement of Linda Hart for the FDP to take on the task. It remains, in the words of Matthew Hollis, “The best introduction to the work of the Dymock Poets”

The book, price £10.00, will be available online in due course with free postal delivery. There will always be copies available at our meetings. It was considered to have copies in bookshops but taking in to account the administration required and the fact that the Friends is run by volunteers without the time to take on the task it has been decided to sell direct. However,

copies will be available at Ledbury Books and Maps, Ledbury Poetry House and Malvern Book Co-op.

Future publications?

As a result of producing the new edition of Once They Lived in Gloucestershire the Committee are giving consideration to the publication of other relevant works on the poets. Whilst nothing definitive has been decided, other than an anthology of articles from the FDP Journal, the Committee will keep all Members informed about potential books.

Committee Roles

As you will be aware from the October Newsletter, Clare Church will cease to be our Membership Secretary with effect from the next A.G.M. in 2025.

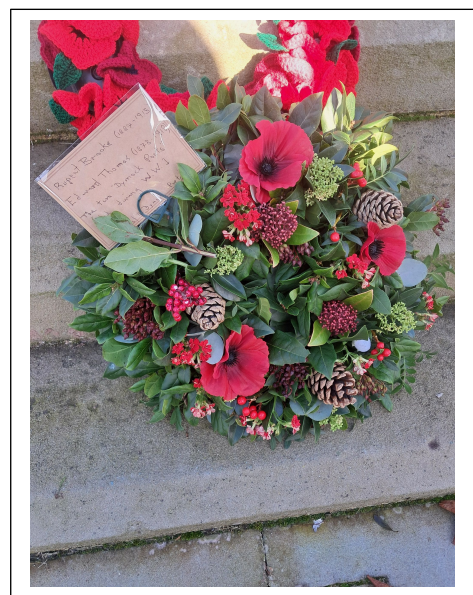
Whilst the Committee would wish to keep the position within the Committee they would be happy to discuss with any member who might be interested either in taking up the role or, alternatively, happy to volunteer to support the role without the commitment to becoming a committee member.

In addition, volunteers would be welcome to assist at our meetings, preparing the venue, making/serving teas and coffees, book selling, and helping to leave the venue in a clean and tidy condition at the end of the day.

If you would like to talk about any of the above please contact Bert Molsom at secretary@dymockpoets.org.uk

Dymock Remembrance Service 10th November 2024

Clare Church, Membership Secretary and Richard Simkin, Past-Chair represented the Friends of the Dymock Poets at the service and laid a wreath in memory of our poets who lost their lives in World War I.



Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024

1. Welcome

Robert Moreland – Chair – welcomed all attendees

2. Apologies

Jeremy Mitchell, Sarah Maidlow, Jane Winter, Wendy Hill, John Monks, John Ball, Jackie Denman, Richard Simkin, Christine-Talbot Cooper, Valerie Haworth, Andrew Davis, Jennifer Smith and Mary Moreland had apologised for their non-attendance of the A.G.M.

3. Chair's Report

We have had a successful 2023/24 and held two meetings, the previous A.G.M. in Gloucester and the Spring Meeting in Kempsey. The meeting in Kempsey has included a walk to the two churches in the village and, despite the weather, had proved to be a success. Both meetings had been available on-line with a number of members making use of the facility.

It is the intention of the Committee that we will continue to hold two meetings a year and, subject to acceptable routes being available, the Spring Meetings will include a walk. We just hope the weather will be improved!

As you will be aware the Journal was circulated late this year and I need to report that the editor, John Monks, is currently unwell and I would like, on behalf of the Members to send our good wishes for his recovery.

As I reported last year the aim of the Committee is to promote appreciation of the Dymock Poets. We have reported on events during 2023/24 in our Newsletter but I would like to mention a presentation we made following a concert by Hereford Chamber Choir, who we sponsored in 2023/24 as part of the Three Choirs Festival. There was an attendance at the event, ably led by Jeff Cooper, of 80 and, as a result there may be future opportunities available to us.

Finally, I would like to place on record my thanks to the Committee, Andrew Davis, Clare Church, Neil Maybin, Rowan Middleton, Jackie Tweedale, John Monks and Bert Molsom for all their support during the year.

4. Treasurer's Report

The accounts had been circulated to all attendees. Bert Molsom spoke on behalf of Andrew Davis and reported that the financial position of the Friends was quite healthy, subscription income is comparing well with previous years and expenditure for the year exceeded total income by just £78 (event expenditure contributed £45 to the loss). Considering that this year was our first 'normal' year since Covid this result should be considered satisfactory.

The sponsorship outgoings of £600 was made up of £400 to the Hereford Chamber Choir and £200 to the Windcross Paths Group as a contribution toward the replacement of styles with kissing-gates on the Poets' Walks.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

Clare Church reported that the Friends currently has 136 memberships (that is one or two people at the same address) with a total of 154 members (which includes representatives from relevant libraries and archive centres). She was pleased to report that of those 136 memberships 117 are receiving information by email and would encourage those who are not yet on email to do so which would help keep the Friends costs under control. Of our memberships 59 are in the Three Counties with the majority, including 11 overseas, beyond.

We have lost 11 members this year but have gained 3.

Clare then gave notice that she will be resigning from the position of Membership Secretary at the 2025 A.G.M. after 11 years in the role.

6. Election of Committee

On the basis of no nominations having been received the Chair then asked whether the meeting would be happy to re-elect the Committee. He covered all the efforts of the Committee over the last year and highlighted the efforts of Rowan Middleton in sourcing speakers for our meetings and Jackie Tweedale who acts as our local liaison in Dymock.

It was agreed that the Committee was re-elected.

7. A.o.B

There were no matters arising.