



Alliance of Literary Societies
President: Claire Harman
www.allianceofliterarysocieties.org.uk

Newsletter: Spring/Summer 2020

Not Only, But ALSo...

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1. ALS AGM 2020

The ALS AGM this year will be taking place on 12-14 June in Robin Hood's Bay, hosted by the Walmsley Society. As usual, our hosts are doing us proud, with a showing of *The Turn of the Tide*, a 1930s film based on Walmsley's novel *Three Fevers* on the Friday night; a feast of talks, readings and a Magic Lantern Show on Saturday, culminating with dinner at the spectacular Raven Hall Hotel in the evening; and a walking tour of Robin Hood's Bay on Sunday morning. Please see p.9 in this newsletter for the complete programme and booking form. You can also download the information from the website [HERE](#). We look forward to seeing you in Robin Hood's Bay!

2. ALS Visit to the London Library

Bram Stoker would have been fined by the London Library had they spotted what he did to the books he borrowed from the library of which he was a member. Fortunately for him, it was not until a dramatist, researching for a new play on Stoker and his creation Dracula, discovered the underlinings and marginal annotations to highlight key points in the books Stoker had been using for his research before writing the novel – and having the handwriting cross-checked against Stoker's notebooks – that his abuse of his membership privileges came to light some 120 years later. The books, which records showed had been borrowed many times in that intervening period, were forthwith withdrawn from the library's main shelves and transferred to the special collection (still accessible to members on-site but no longer to be borrowed and taken home to peruse at leisure).

Julian Lloyd, Head of Communications at the Library, and who acted as our guide, related this anecdote in the impressive Issue Hall as we started our tour, having entered the building through its unassuming doorway set in a narrow façade in the corner of St James' Square. From here the building (now, in fact, an aggregation of seven buildings, many seven storeys high) recedes back as far as the next street at the rear and outward into the spaces between the square and the surrounding streets. It now contains 17 miles of shelves which house over a million books, the vast majority of which can be borrowed by members. We ascended the grand staircase, with its portraits of past Presidents, including Gladstone, Alfred Lord Tennyson and T. S. Eliot, to see the beautiful Reading Room (scene of the opening of the novel *Possession* by A. S. Byatt).



From here we slipped into the rear of the building where much of the collection is housed on open shelves standing on metal floors which are disconcertingly perforated to form grills enabling you to see both up and down between floors.

In answer to a question, Julian admitted these did present an additional fire risk but that, contrary to what might be expected, books are remarkably difficult to burn – their compressed pages allow little access for the air needed for a fire. There had, in fact, been only one minor fire, which had caused negligible damage, and the library had decided against a sprinkler system since water damage would be almost as catastrophic as fire.

We were given time to explore the non-fiction collection, which is arranged in accordance with the idiosyncratic, alphabetical system devised by Charles Hagberg Wright, Secretary and Head Librarian from 1893 until his death in 1940. This led to my discovery of a guide to the Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851 (in 'Exhibitions') on the shelf next to a history of the murderers Burke and Hare (in 'Exhumations').

From these rooms we descended to the basement which houses the new Times Room where great rolling stacks of shelves provide a store for original editions of every copy of *The Times* published since the opening of the library on 3rd May 1841.

Our tour ended in the Art Room, bombed during the Second World War and restored and extensively refurbished in the last decade to house the larger books in the library's collection.

The tour could have lasted much longer than the 90 minutes available; there was so much that there was no time to see. The only solution would be to become a member and join a list that includes Thomas Carlyle, Charles Darwin, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Kazuo Ishiguro, Harold Pinter and Virginia Woolf, who have all spent time browsing the shelves of this amazing institution.

Mark Green
Trollope Society & ALS committee member

3.LitHouses 16th Annual Conference

Celebrating Our Champions: Members, Friends and Literary Societies

LitHouses held their 16th Annual Conference at Brantwood and Dove Cottage in November 2019, in association with the Brantwood Trust. LitHouses is an umbrella organisation of many of the literary homes and museums of Great Britain.

Three members of the Norman Nicholson Society committee attended the conference: Dr Antoinette Fawcett, current editor of the NNS's journal *Comet*, and our Membership Secretary; Sue Dawson, who recently purchased Nicholson's house in order to protect it from unsympathetic development, with the ultimate aim of transferring it into the ownership of a charitable trust; and Glenn Lang, who was for many years the Secretary of the NNS.

Brantwood is only a short distance from Millom and Ulverston, so our three delegates were able to have a leisurely drive along the side of Coniston Water before arriving in time for registration and coffee on Friday, 15 November. We were warmly welcomed by Henry Cobbold of Knebworth House, who is the founder and Chair of the LitHouses group.



We then spent the rest of the morning session hearing fascinating updates from the various attendees about the wide range of literary houses and museums they represented: these ranged from well-established stately homes such as Knebworth, the former home of the nineteenth-century novelist and writer Edward Bulwer-Lytton; through world-famous literary societies such as the Brontë Society, which runs the Brontë Parsonage Museum at Haworth; through local-authority-run houses such as Lord Byron's estate at Newstead Abbey, which is run by Nottingham City Council; to entirely amateur literary societies similar to our own small, but flourishing, Norman Nicholson Society.

After a tasty lunch we were given a tour of Brantwood, the former home of John Ruskin, before hearing three half-hour talks: the first about the 200th anniversary of John Ruskin's birth in 1819, by Robert Hewison of Ruskin Today; the second, about connections between literary societies and literary houses, was given by Cally Phillips of the Galloway Raiders (the S. R. Crockett Society) and the J. M. Barrie Society.



The third presentation, by our own Antoinette Fawcett and Sue Dawson, entitled 'In Search of a LitHouse', was about our continued attempts to raise sufficient money to purchase, renovate and run Norman Nicholson's home – 14 St George's Terrace, Millom, Cumbria – as a literary house. Our ultimate aim is to run it both as a museum and as a venue for literary and socially-motivated activities such as talks, workshops and perhaps even as a venue for writers in residence.

After tea we made the short drive into Coniston village to the excellent Ruskin Museum. In addition to its displays on John Ruskin and Donald Campbell, it gives an insight into the complex agricultural and industrial history of the beautiful and intriguing region that Nicholson named Greater Lakeland, comprising Lancashire North-of-the-Sands, Cumberland and Westmorland, which have formed the present-day county of Cumbria since 1974.

The next morning we visited Jeff Cowton and his team at Grasmere, where we were given an introduction to the internationally important Jerwood Centre for British Romanticism as well as a tour of Dove Cottage and its garden. There we learned about the exciting plans for a redesign of its museum, visitor centre, shop and cafe, funded by a major grant from the Heritage Fund of the National Lottery. We were touched by the many projects that Jeff and his team have initiated, working with diverse community groups in a living way that proves how vitally important Wordsworth's writing still is. These outreach projects included inspirational work with schoolchildren in El Paso, Texas, with prisoners in Haverigg, and with the hospice movement in Cumbria.

The LitHouses conference was a great opportunity to hear about the incredibly diverse range of houses with literary associations in the UK and the ways in which they obtain funding, promote their writers and carry out vitally important work. We greatly appreciated the opportunity this gave us to bring Nicholson's poetry and prose back to the attention we feel it deserves. We met many interesting and knowledgeable people and are immensely grateful to Henry Cobbold and Marty Ross for enabling us to attend.

Glenn Lang
Norman Nicholson Society

4. SOCIETY MATTERS

a. Lest We Forget P.G. Wodehouse Society

It all started about three years ago at one of our Society social evenings. A member sidled up to us, wondering why there was no Wodehouse memorial in Westminster Abbey, and saying that it was about time to rectify that situation. A memorial to P.G. Wodehouse in Westminster Abbey, alongside the famous names in Poet's Corner? Could we do it? Well, the Committee thought we should at least try.

Just one person decides whether permission should be granted for a memorial in the Abbey, and that person is the Dean of Westminster. In writing to him, we were acutely conscious that we had just one chance at this – if the Dean declined permission, it would be the end of the matter for decades, possibly for ever. Responsibility for pushing along this once-in-a-lifetime project fell to our Chairman, Hilary Bruce, and Committee member Tim Andrew. We were determined to get this as right as it possibly could be. Tim, abetted by Hilary and P.G. Wodehouse's grandson, Sir Edward Cazalet, wrote a lengthy letter, a closely argued case for a memorial to Wodehouse, based purely on the quality of his writing and his ability to make people happy. It was no less than the letter of a lifetime, and gratifyingly quickly, it brought the Dean's reply: 'I have decided to place a memorial to P.G. Wodehouse in Westminster Abbey.'

Quite soon, we met the Abbey's Receiver General (in other worlds, the chief executive) who briefed us on the multiple processes the project would pass through, the very many committees that would discuss it, the decisions that would be made by them. This would take time.

It did take time. The Abbey has quietly paced itself throughout a thousand years of clamour and change and it has learned to take its time over things. The pace seemed to have the speed – as well as the unarguable majesty – of a glacier. We were beginning to feel rather despondent when, a year later, we asked permission to tell our members the glad tidings, and permission was granted.

What an occasion that was – the Chairman stood up at the end of our grand formal dinner at Gray's Inn and unleashed the news over the coffee and liqueurs. There was a second of stunned silence, then a roar that made the silver rattle as 150 members sprang to their feet and cheered to the rafters. We basked in that moment as the glacier continued its stately progress – until, quite suddenly, things began to happen and our team passed swiftly from frustrated inactivity to full throttle – we had a date for the dedication, and it was unnervingly soon!

At this point the workload became almost overwhelming for the core people and the other specialists who were drafted in. Somehow it all came together, and on 20 September 2019 the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, welcomed more than 200 Patrons, members and friends of the Society to the Abbey, for the dedication of the memorial.

The unusual and beautiful stone was designed by Stephen Raw and cut by Annet Stirling. Being in an area of low illumination, it is made of pale Purbeck limestone and simply states 'P.G. Wodehouse 1881-1975'. This is surrounded by the words 'Humourist' (much debate on this spelling - the Abbey has the last word), 'Novelist', 'Playwright', 'Lyricist'.

The Dean himself conducted the service of dedication, during which our Patron, HRH the Duke of Kent, formally asked the Dean to 'receive into the safe custody of the Dean and Chapter this memorial in honour and memory of P.G. Wodehouse'. Flowers were laid, prayers were said, Wodehouse songs were sung, and many favourite Wodehouse passages and 'quick ones' were read. We were so very grateful to the brilliant professional entertainers – many of them Society Patrons – in the shape of our President, Alexander Armstrong; actors Martin Jarvis, Neil Pearson and Lucy Tregear; and singers Hal and Lara Cazalet, two of Wodehouse's great-grandchildren. The feast of Wodehouse carried on in Church House for several more joyful hours at a reception for just 150 of our closest friends.

Looking back on all of it a few months later, Hilary and Tim have begun to recover, and we all have an immense sense of pride and happiness at having done the right thing by 'Plum', whose work we love and who we hold in such great affection. And we wonder what he would have thought of all the fuss. Astonished, probably.

A tip of the hat to those societies whose authors are already represented in Westminster Abbey – next time you are there, do toddle round to the South Quire Aisle adjacent to Poet's Corner and look for the Wodehouse stone low on the wall facing outwards and near to the door out to the Cloisters. It is quite close to the memorial to Noel Coward, which is on the floor below.

You could join the P.G. Wodehouse Society (UK) for the current pro-rata half-year rate of £11 until 1 June 2020 and receive the December mailing with colour pictures and further details of the memorial dedication event and the story of how it came about, and you would also receive our March journal. Our website is www.pgwodehousesociety.org.uk

Christine Hewitt
The P. G. Wodehouse Society (UK)

b. Do You Believe in Fairy Cakes?



9th May 2020 sees the 160th anniversary of the birth of J.M. Barrie. Events are being planned throughout the country to commemorate his birth, including a weekend community celebration at Kirriemuir, his birthplace. In his long life Barrie was friends with many other literary figures and we hope many other fellow societies will help us celebrate his anniversary this year.

You can find out more at the website www.jmbarriesociety.co.uk

Cally Phillips
J.M.Barrie Society

c. Storage

One doubts if the Betjeman Society is alone in trying to solve the problem of where to store papers and books relating to our 'hero'. We are not unique in having an ageing membership and consequently receive large donations of material, often built up over decades, from the partners of members who have passed on.

We know that most now departed members would have wished their books, correspondence and perhaps one time possessions of Sir John Betjeman to be kept in an accessible place where members of the public could see them. Locations such as a remote university library or a huge pile behind the sofas of council members do not meet this need! We wonder if redundant churches might consider offering storage/display space, but would be interested to see if other literary societies might join with us to make our bid stronger? One imagines that long after we have gone, everything will be stored (and probably wiped off) behind the computer screen or up in the 'clouds'. Meanwhile we have the delights of tangible things which take up three-dimensional space, but cause a bit of a headache. A dedicated museum would be a dream solution but that's out of reach for the present. If you can help, please get in touch.

David Nodder

Betjeman Society

Email: dgn31604@hotmail.co.uk

If any other Societies have ideas or advice on how to store and preserve archive and memorabilia materials, why not share your thoughts and experiences via the Newsletter? We look forward to hearing from you.

d. Printing and Mailing

I am aware that, like us, a few societies have been pondering whether to switch from manual mailing to having a printing and fulfilment house do the job for them. The P.G. Wodehouse Society has just made the change to out-sourcing this work, so I thought that some of you might like to hear about our experience of the process.

We had a very cosy, enjoyable and long-term arrangement in place for mailing our quarterly 28-page A4 journals plus supplementary papers. It involved our Chairman's front room, many many chocolate biscuits, a lot of home-made soup, much convivial chatter and much lugging about of heavy boxes and, later, bags. It also involved considerable and escalating postage costs, hours of detailed preparation, a complete take-over of a large part of the Chairman's house for several days, and the transfer of printed sticky labels from the Database Manager to the Chairman as securely as possible. Other factors pushing us to make the change were that our Society has grown to around 1,000 addresses on the mailing list and our Chairman, Hilary, has announced that she is standing

down after many years in post. The manual mailing arrangements relied very much upon Hilary's goodwill and ability to host the thing and sufficient retired or other non-working volunteers being available on weekdays to carry out the huge envelope-stuffing task. It was beginning to creak, and so were we.

Another obstacle to 'let's just do it' was that we had formed a very long-term and rather fond working relationship with our former printers, who had always been helpful and never let us down. They were not, however, able to take us into the new world that we needed to join. With a deep breath we made the decision and moved forward, selecting a new printer/mailer from several that were considered. The key point about this printing/mailing arrangement is that, because they mail out for several organisations, they benefit from very substantial postage discounts from Royal Mail. Some of this – enough to make it well worthwhile – is passed on to the client, in this case, us.

The final 'stuffing party' took place in June 2019, and in September we electronically and securely transferred an address list to Joshua Horgan Print and Design (located in Oxford), who then printed and mailed our September journal. They have also dealt with our December mailing since then. We have not have any major issues – no disasters, no regrets.

The stuffing party regulars have resolved to find new reasons to meet up to crack jokes and swap news. The Chairman has found that her living space has grown, now that the piles of envelopes and journals and enclosures have gone somewhere else. Her local Post Office sighed with relief. We might manage to persuade Hilary to publish her recipe for Cullen Skink in a future edition of our journal, *Wooster Sauce*, or maybe there will be a call for it at the new printers. But most significantly, the cost saving to our Society is considerable.

Christine Hewitt
Secretary & Membership Secretary
The P.G. Wodehouse Society (UK)



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5. Comings and Goings

We welcome the BB Society, The Terence Rattigan and the Wollstonecraft Society as new members for 2020.

6. The Alliance of Literary Societies (ALS) AGM Weekend

Hosted by

The Walmsley Society in Robin Hood's Bay

12 – 14 June 2020

Programme

If you are arriving on the Friday, you might wish to explore the beautiful former fishing village of Robin Hood's Bay (the real location of the fictional village of Bramblewick, the setting for a number of Leo Walmsley's books). If you are planning to attend the film show in the evening, you will need to eat first. The Victoria Hotel at the top of Bay Bank provides reasonably priced bar meals continuously throughout the day from noon.

Friday, 12 June

7 pm for	Meet in the Village Hall to view the unique 1935 feature film 'Turn of the Tide' in true
7.30 pm	1930s style, using the original film, presented by Andrew Youdell, a retired programmer
until	at the British Film Institute, and projected on screen by Steve Foxon of the British Film
around 10	Institute National Archive. The film is based on Walmsley's book <i>Three Fevers</i> and was
pm	the first ever feature film produced by J Arthur Rank. Filmed on location in Bay and
	Whitby, with an all-star cast. Light refreshments are included in the cost.

Saturday, 13 June

10 am	Village Hall. Registration, tea/coffee.
10.30 am	Formal opening by the Worshipful Mayor Elect of Scarborough.
10.40 am	Welcome by Andrew Davison, Chairman of the Walmsley Society, and the showing of a short film 'The Walmsley Bug'.
11 am	Dr Sean Walmsley, son of Leo Walmsley and Emeritus Professor of Education at Albany University, New York State, 'Leo Walmsley (1892 – 1966) – The Man and His Books'.
12 noon	Consolidated readings from a number of Walmsley's books, read by members of the Society.
12.45 pm	The Grosvenor Hotel (5 minute walk) – the site of one of Ulric Walmsley's later painting studios. Buffet lunch and chance to chat.
1.45 pm	Raffle closes.
2.15 pm	Village Hall. ALS AGM.
3.10 pm	Raffle prizes.
3.30 pm	Short comfort and refreshment break.
3.45 pm	A Magic Lantern Show, presented by Robin Lidster, a much respected local historian and collector of unique memorabilia, depicting scenes of Bay and surrounding areas, and some of the people living and working there during the Walmsley era.
5 pm	Closing remarks by Andrew Davison and Linda Curry, Chair of the ALS.
6.20 pm	If attending the evening meal, meet at the entrance to the Village Hall car park to board the coach for the Raven Hall Hotel at Ravenscar. On arrival at the Hotel, you may wish to enjoy a stroll around its beautiful grounds and the stunning view across the Bay from the ramparts (600 feet above sea level) – or you may wish to head straight for the main bar overlooking the bay.
7.15 pm	Arrival and greeting of The Worshipful Mayors Elect of Scarborough and Whitby, followed by dinner in the impressive George III Suite. As usual, there will be readings by ALS members, over coffee. The coach will depart at 10.30 pm, arriving back at the Village Hall car park at about 11 pm.

Sunday, 14 June – optional activities

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 10.15 am | Meet outside the main entrance of the Victoria Hotel for a guided walk down into Bay and along the shoreline. This will be a leisurely two hour walk with multiple stops at points of interest en route. Although downhill, it is steep and stout footwear is necessary. At the end of the walk, taxis will provide a shuttle service from the dock area adjoining the beach, back to the Victoria Hotel, for those who struggle with the steep hill. |
| 12.30 for
1 pm | Lunch at the Victoria Hotel – pay when there, but you do need to indicate on the attached booking form if you intend to do this as tables need to be booked. This is a very popular hotel which tends to get heavily booked for lunch by visitors. |
| 3 pm | Au revoir and safe journey home for all those who have stayed. |

Note that the programme might be subject to slight change. Timings are approximate.

Booking. For those registering for this event, the talks, Magic Lantern show, refreshments and buffet lunch on the Saturday are included. The Saturday evening meal is extra. The deadline for booking is 16 April, but really, the sooner the better!

Raffle Prizes. It is part of the ALS tradition that, if possible, societies bring items to be included as raffle prizes. This is often a good way to advertise your particular author to others! These can be left at the registration table on arrival at the Village Hall on Saturday morning. Raffle tickets will be on sale from the start of the day until 1.45 pm, and the raffle will be drawn at 3.10 pm, straight after the AGM.

Saturday evening dinner. Traditionally, we have provided our own entertainment at the Saturday evening dinner. Diners bring along favourite passages (prose or poetry) to read out. If you would like to join in, please tick the box on the form and bring your reading with you. Readings should be short (e.g. 1 short poem or no more than two pages of text).

We are providing a coach to transport people from the Village Hall to the Hotel (£5 return). You may wish to take advantage of this as the travelling distance is 11 miles and many of the roads are unlit, narrow and winding.

Table space. There will be limited table space to display member societies' promotional material. If you plan to bring any items to sell, you must be responsible for them and any sales monies. Space will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

Friday and Sunday optional activities. The Friday evening event (£7) is well-worth attending but you should eat first as it will not finish until late.

There is also space on the booking form to book for the Sunday events – so that we have an idea of numbers involved. The walk is free but you will need to pay for your own Sunday lunch.

Accommodation and parking. The Bay area is very popular and so you need to book as soon as possible if you wish to stay there. The Grosvenor Hotel is only 5 minutes from the Village Hall. Parking is Pay & Display on the Village Hall car park (postcode YO22 4TG) (24 hour rates available).

The Alliance of Literary Societies (ALS) AGM Weekend
Hosted by
The Walmsley Society in Robin Hood's Bay

12 – 14 June 2020

Booking Form

Title:	First name:		Surname:	
Address:				
Email:				
Tel No:				
Society name:				

Please tick the relevant boxes below and enter the number of people wishing to attend each.

Yes	Number	Item	Cost per person
		I would like to attend the 'Turn of the Tide' film showing in the Village Hall on Friday night	£7.00
		I shall be attending the ALS AGM only – on Saturday at 2.15pm	Free
		I wish to register for the Saturday event, including refreshments, buffet lunch, talk and Magic Lantern Show	£19.00
		I wish to bring items for sale at my own risk (limited space – see note on programme)	Free
		I would like to read at the Saturday evening dinner. Please note that readings should be short (e.g. one short poem, or no more than two pages of text)	Free
		I wish to attend the Saturday evening dinner at the Raven Hall Hotel (3-course set menu with tea/coffee; drinks extra) – see separate form for menu choices.	£33.00
		I would like to book a place on the coach on Saturday night	£5.00
Dietary issues: (e.g. allergies)			
Total to pay			
		I am interested in taking part in the guided walk on Sunday I/we will require/not require transport up Bay bank (please delete as appropriate)	Free
		I would like a table space reserved for me at the Victoria Hotel for lunch on Sunday	Pay at hotel

Payment methods (tick as appropriate):

☐

Cheque made payable to 'The Walmsley Society'

☐

By bank transfer to 'The Walmsley Society',
HSBC Bank

sort code: 40 – 46 – 21

account number: 91320963

Please add an appropriate reference i.e. your surname and postcode to assist
identification

Please return this registration form by Thursday 16th April 2020 at the latest (but ideally as soon
as possible to assist with planning), along with your payment to:

Jane Ellis, Honorary Treasurer, Walmsley Society, 55 Red Hall Drive, LEEDS LS14 1EJ,
or

send by email to janerway@gmail.com, if you are paying by bank transfer.

If you have any questions or wish to seek clarification concerning any of the details set out in the
booking form or more generally about the weekend, please do not hesitate to contact the
Walmsley Society Chairman, Andrew Davison by email at: andrewmdavison@hotmail.co.uk
or by telephone or text to 07778962129.

The Alliance of Literary Societies (ALS) AGM Weekend
Hosted by
The Walmsley Society in Robin Hood's Bay

12 – 14 June 2020

Saturday Evening Meal Booking Form
At Raven Hall Hotel

First Name:		Surname:	
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Please tick your choice from the menu

Starter:	Homemade Tomato and Basil Soup	
or	Pearls of Mixed Melon with a Mixed Berry Granita and Citrus Syrup	
Mains:	Roasted Chicken Supreme Stuffed with Smoked Cheddar, with Crispy Bacon and a Herb Cream Sauce	
or	Baked Cod Loin with a Five Bean Cassoulet, Parmesan Crumble and Herb Oil	
or	Portobello Mushroom, Sweet Potato and Stout Tart with Garden Herb Salad, and a Basil Dressing	
	<i>All served with a selection of fresh seasonal vegetables and potatoes cooked al dente</i>	
Desserts:	Rich Double Chocolate Brownie with Vanilla Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce	
or	Vanilla Custard Tart with Raspberry Compote and Crème Chantilly	
or	Cheese and biscuits	
Food allergies:		

If you have any food allergies, you must state them on the form so that the hotel can adjust your meal accordingly.

7. Last But Not Least

Obituary

Dr Ann Soutter FRSA of the George Borrow Society

I have only just heard of Ann's death in December 2018 at the age of 83.

Ann was an alumna of St Hugh's College, Oxford. Starting her career as a teacher, she became an educational administrator and college inspector. Ann founded the George Borrow Society in 1991, becoming its chairman in 1998, and editing the George Borrow Society *Bulletin*. Sixteen years later, she co-founded the Lavengro Press, publishing rare material on Borrow in a series of Occasional Papers. She wrote under the name of Dr A.M. Ridler, and wrote an article for the 2006 edition of *ALSo*, on 'Censorship and George Borrow'.

Having received many rather stern emails from Ann over the years, I got to know her much better whilst co-organising a joint workshop between the George Borrow and John Clare Societies in Epping in 2016. Though I have to admit to some terror as she drove me around the M25 telling me about her failing eyesight! That probably explained the near mowing down of a wedding party in Epping Forest as we struggled to find the visitor centre!

She was a lovely person. Always busy on things Borrowian - and, of course, adored her cat. Very sad.

Linda J. Curry,
Chair, ALS

ALS Contacts

We welcome your feedback and information. Please contact as follows:

Website events: Linda Curry: ljc1049@gmail.com

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Secretary: Marty Ross Smith: martyross73@gmail.com

Treasurer: Julie Shorland: allianceoflitsocs@gmail.com



The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Alliance. Please send copy for the next issue by 1st August to Cally Phillips at callyphillipsis@gmail.com. We reserve the right to edit copy for space. The autumn newsletter will be published in early September 2020.