

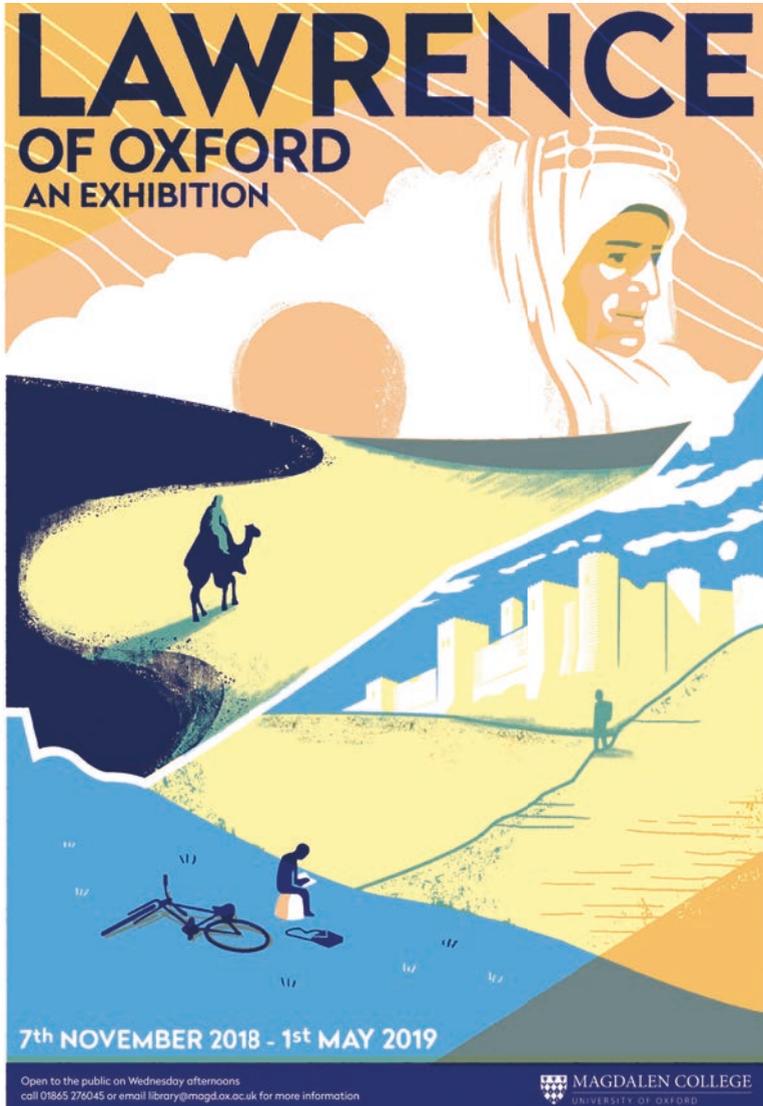
The

No.121

T. E. LAWRENCE SOCIETY

Autumn 2018

Newsletter



Magdalen College celebrates Lawrence

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Newsletter Contributions

All contributions are welcome, although we cannot guarantee their publication. You can email them by 1 February 2019 to newsletter@telsociety.org.uk or post them to the Society address below. We like to include images of members' activities and you can send full resolution digital images by email attachment. Please note that all contributions are subject to editorial amendment.

The T.E. Lawrence Society Newsletter

Editors: Jason Nitz and Harriet Coates

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www.telsociety.org.uk

AGM 2018 News

The Society AGM was held on Sunday 23rd September at St. John's College, Oxford, and after the Symposium 43 members stayed on to hear the review of the year's activities. The committee team remains the same, with Philip Neale continuing as Chairman and Pieter Shipster as Vice-Chairman and we are grateful to those who are steadfastly continuing in post. Jason Nitz, Newsletter Editor, has relinquished his committee post and we thank him for his work in creating such interesting publications.

We begin this new season with enthusiasm and inspired by a very successful Symposium attended by nearly 200 members.

Your Committee 2018 – 2019 is as follows:

Chairman **Philip Neale**
telsocchair@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman **Pieter Shipster**
vice-chair@telsociety.org.uk

Hon. Secretary **Harriet Coates**
hon.secretary@telsociety.org.uk

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North West Group: Andrew Wright andrewwright8117@hotmail.com

Dorset Area Group: Susan Vincent susanvincent11@yahoo.co.uk

The Society is seeking a new editor for the Newsletter
– if you are interested in applying,
please contact Philip Neale or Harriet Coates.

Chairman's Report at the AGM 2018

Thank you all for attending our Symposium and for your part in making the event so successful. This has been our best-attended Symposium and we are grateful to St. John's College staff who have made us so welcome in this lovely venue. I want to thank all the presenters for their hard work and for contributing so much to our knowledge and understanding of Lawrence and his times. We aim to share the presentations in forthcoming editions of the Journal and we are considering future use of other formats too, such as audio recordings. We are grateful to those who sponsored presentations this year, enabling us to invite speakers from abroad. Many of the Committee, as well as myself, have been heavily involved in organizing the Symposium and I'd like to particularly thank our Secretary Harriet, along with her husband Alasdair, as well as Treasurer Carol.



I make no excuse for putting together a 2018 symposium programme so heavily focussed on the War and the Arab Revolt. At the 100th anniversary for the end of the campaign and the eventual end of the war it is fitting that we connect with the remembrances and commemorations for these key historic events. For the next Symposium, in 2020, I intend to return to other topics associated with Lawrence. We all know that Lawrence was such a complex and multifaceted character and there are so many different areas of interest. I can announce that subjects under consideration are, Lawrence and William Morris, the friendship between Lawrence and Jim Ede, research into the identification of SA, Lawrence and medievalism, Lawrence and the Shaws, and Lawrence and photography. I am also planning a workshop/discussion group event for the Friday, called 'TE Lawrence, taking stock in 2020'. This exciting topic will look at what we now know about Lawrence, what archives are held and still available, together with his significance in the second decade of the 21st Century.

This year has been another successful year for the Society; membership numbers continue to rise and we have welcomed many new members to this weekend. Membership Secretary Louise Walker has done excellent work in keeping things up to date and dealing with queries. Thank you very much Louise for all your hard work and commitment.

I hope you all agree we are still providing two quality publications, the Newsletter and Journal. The colourful newsletter has recently been excellently produced and edited by Jason Nitz, who lives and works in the USA. He does a great job and I want to thank him for all his hard work. The Journal editing team



continues to seek out interesting and original papers related to Lawrence and his world. Sometimes, we may get behind in issuing the Journal; copyright verification is time-consuming, and all text and references are carefully checked. I would like to thank Ian Heritage and Susan Purver, who do most of the work in producing the Society Journal. We are looking to change the printing company, following recent disappointments with printing quality and service. This may provide an opportunity to refresh the Journal design whilst maintaining the excellent quality and format. Our Society finances are in good shape; the large current balance includes symposium in-payments and when we pay St John's College the funds will decrease significantly. Our finances are all kept together and balanced by Carol Darbyshire and I want to thank her for all her commitment and hard work, in what has been a difficult year for her. We are grateful for her attention to detail and careful monitoring. The symposium this year has meant a considerable amount of extra work for Carol, and I want to thank her for managing this all so well.

We have had some successful events this year - the visit to Pole Hill and Bancroft School was excellently organised by Ian Heritage while Andrew Wright arranged for the new North-West Group a most enjoyable Northwich Day. Thank you very much to both of them. The London Group, under Nick Lynch, continues to arrange varied events throughout the year and all Society members are welcome to attend. Susan Vincent has established a Dorset-based group and we look forward with interest to how that group develops. Thank you to Nick Lynch, one of our Trustees and Susan and Andrew, committee members. Next year we will organise a series of events and opportunities for you to enhance your knowledge and enjoyment of Lawrence – details in the newsletter and website.

I close with an appeal and a reminder. As a committee we strive to produce printed material of interest to you, our members. Do share your ideas with us and send contributions to the Newsletter and Journal. Thank you all. **Philip Neale**

Membership Secretary's Report

We welcome all our valued members from around the world. The Society has had a successful year with many new members, often inspired to join following Lawrence-related articles or features in the press. Currently we have 490 UK members and 215 Overseas members, a grand total of 705. Of these, 500 have paid their full subscriptions, but many have underpaid and need to update standing orders or send catch-up cheques to reflect the current membership charges. Since October last year 83 new members have joined the Society, many of whom came to the recent Symposium.

We have implemented new Data Protection regulations and do not share our database. Please do pay your subscriptions on time – due 1st April annually. Invoices will be sent in the Spring newsletter. It's not too late to settle up now and contact us if you need to check. If you have still not paid by 31 December (9 months late!) we will assume that you no longer wish to be with the Society, your details will be deleted and you won't receive our publications. We cannot retain data that is not current. Pay by cheque to the Society at PO Box 728, Oxford OX2 9ZJ, by bank transfer from UK or abroad or by standing order. We can't offer direct debit but you can choose Paypal and pay by credit card via our website.

Louise Walker

Treasurer's Report for 2017-2018

Although the Society's finances look healthy, the last financial year should have included the costs of the last Journal, Vol. 27 No 2 and Newsletter 120, which together came to just under £4,000. These came in too late to be included in the figures for the last financial year. However with the new membership subscriptions bringing in £15,000 last year, we should be able to cover the publications costs of a normal year, 2 Journals and 3 newsletters, which are usually around £10,000 for printing and postage.

One additional item of expenditure is for IT support, following a problem with the security of the Society website which caused it to go offline. We engaged an IT expert who quickly found the issue and is now engaged for a fixed monthly fee of £50 to deal with website maintenance and updating.

Our thanks to Louise who is submitting another Gift Aid application, so we should benefit from extra income this year. She has also put a lot of work into recovering outstanding subscriptions which brought in £1500 last September. We have been asked why we do not offer direct debit payments, but this is only available to organisations with a turnover of over £2million, which is a bit beyond our finances at the moment! Thanks also to Harriet who has replenished our supplies of ties, badges and slipcasses at a cost of just over £2,000. We will recoup the money as the items are sold over time.

Carol Darbyshire

Summary Financial Statement 2017

Income	Year to 2018	Year to 2017
Voluntary income, membership fees, donations, Gift Aid	£16,549.81	£14,945.88
Activities generating funds, including events (not Symp)	£584.00	£388.60
Investment Income (bank interest)	£24.91	£21.30
Incoming resources from charitable activities (inc Symp)	£21,136.55	£49,400.17
Other incoming resources, including sales and sundries	£948.00	£3,527.43
Total income for year	£39,243.27	£68,283.38

Expenditure - costs of generating funds

Fundraising/sales costs, PayPal, bank, post, expenses	£4,665.83	£5,681.75
Charitable activities, publications, event fees inc Symp	£11,388.20	£52,160.66
Governance costs (2017 audit honorarium c/f to 2018)	£0.00	£115.50
Revaluation of stock (journals, DVDs, ties, badges)	£0.00	£400.00
Total expenditure for year	£16,054.03	£58,357.91

Net movements in funds	£23,189.24	£9,925.47
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Reconciliation of funds

Total funds brought forward	£52,127.47	£42,202.00
Total funds carried forward	£75,316.71	£52,127.47

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017

Fixed assets

Tangible assets at Bovington Museum, Wareham Library	£3,800.00	£3,800
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Current assets

Stock and work in progress	£400.00	£400
Cash at bank and in hand	£61,449.63	£47,927
Creditors due within one year (Symposium advances)	£9,667.08	£0
Net current assets	£75,316.71	£52,127

The funds of the charity

Restricted funds (Clouds Hill Fund, TEL Grave Fund)	£6,988.97	£7,122
Unrestricted funds	£68,327.74	£45,005
Total charity funds	£75,316.71	£52,127

AGM London Group Report

by Nicholas Lynch

The London Group has met several times during the past year. In February 2018 we had our usual lunch at Perdoni's Restaurant, meeting socially to discuss future visit options. In May, nine members came to a visit to St. Paul's Cathedral to see Kennington's bust in its setting and to read the letters in St. Paul's archive relating to the bust. These include letters from Robin Buxton, Eric Kennington, Sir Hubert Baker and Godfrey Allen, the cathedral surveyor. In June, four of us revisited the British Library to look at Lawrence manuscript material. These are ongoing visits.

We also met Barbara Altounyan, the granddaughter of E. H. R. Altounyan, the Aleppo doctor and author of *Ornament of Honour*. In August we had a two-day trip to visit the usual Lawrence sites in Dorset and also to see the Augustus John exhibition in Poole Museum.

North West England Report

by Andrew Wright

We had a very successful day in March, visiting Northwich in Cheshire and exploring the places which Lawrence knew during his boat-building days there in 1934. Two evening lectures accompanied the day and these were well supported by members of the public from the Northwich area. Several people joined the Society as a result of the event. We have further plans for visits in 2019.

Dorset Area Group Report

by Susan Vincent

This new group is becoming established and is supported by many local people and Clouds Hill volunteers too. Members have visited Lawrence's grave on key dates, taken photographs of memorials and floral tributes and also have met informally to set a programme for 2019. We are pleased that Theresa Jenkins-Teague has agreed to become the new chairman.

Local groups are open to any Society members, wherever they live.

Just contact the organizer or Secretary Harriet for details,
and check the website for updates.

We welcome the following new members:

Mr J. Ross – Bedford	Dr T. Thompson – California, USA
Mr M. McQuoid – Gt. Manchester	Mr P. Halloran – Co. Meath, Ireland
Mr R. Wise – Hampshire	Dr P. Collier – Manchester
Mr S. Pendlebury – Middlesex	Mr I. Stacey – Dalkeith, Scotland
Mr S. Terban – Connecticut, USA	Prof. N. Saunders – West Sussex
Mr G. Petras – Virginia, USA	Mr J. Grime – Wiltshire
Mr J. Daggett – Folkestone, Kent	Mr A. Checkley – Kent
Mr E. Angelakos – Athens, Greece	Dr. D. Chamberlain – Berkshire
Mr S. Bolton – Kent	Ms C. Everest – New Hampshire, USA
Mr J. Houseman – West Yorkshire	Mr J. Williams – Wiltshire
Mr B. Harker – Texas, USA	Ms J. Bourdin Asseilya – Paris, France
Mrs N. Wilson – Oxfordshire	Mr D. Todd – Edinburgh, Scotland
Mrs S. Beard – Staffordshire	Mr R. Dusak – Roselle, Illinois, USA
Mr F. Appelbe – London	Mr G. Harrison – Victoria, Australia
Ms C. Kurtz – California, USA	Revd. D. Barker – Dorset
Mr B. Archambault – California, USA	Mr R. Parkinson – Weymouth
Mrs. S Russell – Farnham, Surrey	Mr A. Birchall – Exeter
Miss A. Mason – Cheshire	Mr I. Siddall – Kidderminster
Mr M. Dertke – Florida, USA	Mr B. Wegmann – Berlin, Germany
Mr R. Johnson – Somerset	Mr T. Mostyn – Oxford
Mr K. Riley – Wiltshire	Mr T. Marshall – Kent
Ms M. Randerson – Texas, USA	Mr A. Papas – Monte Carlo, Monaco

Obituary Notices

Bruce Leigh

We are sorry to announce that Bruce Leigh passed away in May 2018, aged 75. He was a longstanding member of the Society and was well-known to many. He had been interested in Lawrence since the age of fourteen, and in 2014 published *Lawrence: Warrior and Scholar*.

Elaine Middleton

A generous supporter of the London Group, Elaine sadly died in July, age 74. Elaine had been a member of the Society since 1988 and regularly attended our meetings and trips until poor health made it difficult for her to get about. Prior to that she had travelled widely, including Russia, Iran, Turkey, Israel, Greece and several times to Egypt. Archeology was a keen interest of hers and Elaine regularly sent us information on museum events with a Lawrence connection. The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archeology was probably her favourite museum. Elaine was very generous in so many ways, sending out books, stamps and sharing her interests with others. We will keenly miss her cards and gregarious personality.

Why I have joined The T E Lawrence Society

Peter Clark: A new member's view

I should have joined the Society decades ago. Over the years, I have read *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* more than once and have collected most of Lawrence's works (including the Golden Cockerel edition of *Crusader Castles*). I have researched and written about Marmaduke Pickthall, a contemporary of Lawrence, who also travelled extensively in Greater Syria as a young man, but came to entirely different conclusions about the Ottoman Empire.

I have also lived and worked in two countries with close associations with Lawrence: Jordan and Syria. I was in Jordan between 1968 and 1970 and knew Muhammad, the son of Auda Abu Tayih, who was a lad during the First World War but features in the Lawrence literature. I explored locations familiar to Lawrence such as Wadi Rum, Aqaba, Azraq and Wadi Musa. In 2002 and 2003 I devised and led T. E. Lawrence tours of Syria, visiting Crusader Castles, Jerablus by Carchemish, the railway station at Dera'a and other parts of the railway line he blew up, and located the buildings that featured in the Lawrence story in Damascus and Aleppo.

In addition to a career in the British Council, I have also been a writer and translator. The first work I translated was by a Sudanese about the Battle of Omdurman. Military and imperial history thrives on legends; often the views of "the other side" are omitted or marginalised. My first translation was subtitled, *The Sudanese account of the Battle of Omdurman*.

I have recently been reading and re-reading the standard works on Lawrence, from Lowell Thomas onwards. There is an enormous amount of literature but I can think of only three books published in English during the last fifty years that present the Arab perspective. One is *T. E. Lawrence the Arab View* by Suleiman Mousa (whom I also knew in Jordan), another is the memoirs of Ja'far al-Askari, and the third is the recent superb biography of Faisal by Ali Allawi. I am aware of memoirs accessible only in Arabic, and have started to translate those of Subhi al-Umari, whose son was my neighbour in Damascus; Subhi defected from the Ottoman army and joined the Arab army in Aqaba in 1917. The work has details about the men of Syria and Iraq who joined Lawrence and the organisation of the Arab army. We get glimpses of the sons of Husain, and other Arabs who appear only marginally in the standard literature.

Subhi al-Umari's memoirs are long, about the length of *Pickwick Papers*, and



I aim to edit the work and abridge it, retaining and bringing out the parts that shed most light on Lawrence and our historical knowledge of the Arab Revolt. The task will take three years and I aim for the final version to be about the length of *Oliver Twist*.

I have joined the Society to be familiar with all the literature of the Arab Revolt and to meet others conducting Lawrence research.

Local Group Events 2019

North West Group tour in Staffordshire – Friday 22nd March 2019

Join us for a day tour in Staffordshire next March which will include a specially organised schedule:

9:45 am at RAF Stafford (formerly Beacon Barracks) where the RAF Museum holds its reserve collection. We will go principally to view Lawrence's gramophone record collection which is stored there. We will also get to see the wider reserve collection.

12:45 pm: Lunch at The Spiders Web Café in Albrighton near to RAF Cosford.

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: A visit to RAF Museum Cosford for a guided tour. There is a cost of £5 for this tour.

Participants will need to arrange their own transport to the venues but some car sharing could be possible. Places are limited to 12 at RAF Stafford and 15 at RAF Museum Cosford. There are still a few places remaining.

For more details and availability please contact organiser Andrew Wright by email: andrewwright8117@hotmail.com

If you wish to know more about events organised by the North West Group, please contact Andrew.

Lolndon Group Meetings 2019

Provisional dates for London Group meetings in 2019. All are welcome.

Lunch at Riverside (Perdoni's), 18-20 Kennington Road, SE1 7BL. 12 o'clock, Saturday February 16th.

Liddell-Hart Archive, Kings College, Strand, London. Wednesday 1st May.

Flinders-Petrie Museum, UCL. Possible joint visit with the Dorset Group. Date to be decided.

Visit to Reading Station and environs in a centenary search for the missing manuscript! Saturday November 23rd

For further details contact Nick Lynch at 320lynch@gmail.com or 01732 366068.

The T.E. Lawrence Society Symposium

St John's College, Oxford, September 2018

Society members from around the world gathered in Oxford to celebrate the legacy of Lawrence and to remember the unrelenting efforts of so many in the Middle Eastern theatre of war 1914 – 1918. This year another special focus was on Gertrude Bell and her life and work in Iraq, and we were pleased to welcome distinguished speakers who shared their insights and enthusiasm as well as giving us the opportunity to view the excellent film, *Letters from Baghdad* (available to purchase in UK and newly-released US formats).

Over three busy days, 192 delegates and speakers from 16 countries shared lectures, talks and exhibitions, with 142 guests at the Symposium Dinner on Saturday evening. We were thrilled that all eleven speakers stayed for the whole weekend – a tribute to the excellent programme and interesting and enthusiastic delegates and committee. We're already planning our next Symposium in September 2020.

Magdalene College Library Visit

At Magdalene College we were welcomed by Daryl Green, the curator, who escorted us through the college cloisters to the library with its traditional wooden shelves. Daryl explained what he had chosen for exhibition before we were invited to wander and photograph the artefacts on display.

These included the entry showing TEL's weight in December 1912, alongside that of D G Hogarth's and E T Leeds'. TEL was 9 stone 6 pound 4 ounces at that time. On display on the table near the oriel window were some of the drawings for Crusader Castles, the map carried by TEL on his 1908 walking tour of Syria, complete with blood stains from when he was attacked, letters, a copy of the Kennington bust and the T E Lawrence silver cup. The record of TEL's Senior Demyship at Magdalene in 1910, which paid for him to work on the Carchemish excavations was also on show. Many of Jeremy Wilson's own books and notebooks as well as Castle Hill Press editions have been acquired by the library. Jeremy's diaries for TEL's war years were fascinating, as Jeremy had notes on most days of TEL's desert campaign. Jeremy's marked up copy of Home Letters showed the way he compared it with other sources and noted omissions etc.

Daryl thanked the Society for the donation of £1000 towards the display case, which housed objects from Carchemish and highlighted TEL's work as a fledgling archaeologist. Daryl has curated a special Lawrence Exhibition at the library, which opened on 7th November and continues until 1st May 2019. As we thanked Daryl for the opportunity to see what the library holds I know many of us were planning a return trip to see the exhibition.

Kevin Winter

The Gertrude Bell Archive

Dr Mark Jackson

Bell's background was in Byzantine churches and during her extensive travels from 1899 to 1914 she built up an extensive network of archaeologists, diplomats and engineers. She wrote books about her travels, which all proved to be popular. These years were to become important when she became involved in military intelligence during WW1 and for her legacy today.

The Archive in Newcastle upon Tyne has her letters and Mark read out examples of her writing to her step mother about helping Hogarth with military intelligence when she was working in the Arab Bureau. She also mentions old friends and contacts such as T. E. Lawrence and Leonard Woolley. The archive holds an astonishing 1,800 letters and 16 diaries.

Her letters clearly show that she soon identified that it was not so much the war that would be a problem but how matters were settled afterwards. Mark showed the famous photo-call of attendees at the Cairo Peace Conference in 1921 in front of the Sphynx.

Then Mark talked about the history of the Archive. Why is it held in Newcastle? Her father and grandfather made their fortunes in ironworking there, and her father was Governor of Armstrong College, which later became part of the University. The Archive when gifted to the University included her love letters from Charles Doughty-Wylie, which were sealed and to be opened in 1976. The Archive originally had 6,000 photos to be restored and catalogued and it has now expanded to almost 8,000. As Bell's diaries were in her own, rather difficult, handwriting, these were all transcribed.

The Archive has just been awarded UNESCO Heritage Archive status due to many of her photographs being of important monuments and a wide variety of indigenous tribes. Sadly, some of the buildings she photographed now no longer exist, such as those damaged and destroyed by ISIS in Palmyra.

Mark announced the exciting news that U.S. donor and Society member Roger Stillman has awarded the Archive a substantial grant to help fund new scanning of the nitrate negatives. Positive scans were made years ago from the photographs, but modern scans of the actual negative will provide a much sharper and more lasting image of these important items.

A temporary exhibition of items from the Archive was created and this now has a permanent home in Redcar in NE England. Material from the Royal Geographical



Society and the British Museum was also incorporated. A key aim of the exhibition was public engagement and it has provided an inspiration to people from all walks of life, including girls who suffer from anxiety. This is surely an achievement of which Bell would have approved.

Louise Walker

The Film, *Letters from Baghdad*

Zeva Oelbaum & Sabine Krayenbühl

The New York based director, editor and producer team of Zeva Oelbaum & Sabine Krayenbühl introduced their critically acclaimed and award-winning feature length film *Letters from Baghdad* (released 2016) about the life and work of the English traveller, Gertrude Bell (1868-1926). They explained that this five-year project had its origins in their collaboration on making a film *Ahead of Time* about the American writer, Ruth Gruber, and their desire to make a film about another remarkable woman. Bell was certainly remarkable: a First Class degree at Oxford University, an Arabist, writer, traveller, mountaineer, archaeologist and political officer. In this she was very similar to Lawrence with whom she corresponded, met and worked. Bell is especially associated with the creation of Iraq and her time in Baghdad, hence the title of the film.



Zeva and Sabine

The black and white film is a mixture of wide-ranging archival film footage – with hundreds of clips used - and interviews with actors playing several contemporary characters. However the film, 95 minutes long, differs from more traditional documentaries as every sentence is based on primary sources (especially Bell's letters voiced by Tilda Swinton); the actors for the interviews were chosen for their resemblance to the characters they played, (including Lawrence, acted by Eric Loscheider); and all the people featured in the film were 'active players' in Bell's life. There are no 'talking head' historians or commentators so the film has the convincing realism that it was made in Bell's lifetime or completed very soon thereafter.

After the showing of the film, Zeva and Sabine answered questions from the audience. Amongst the points raised were the following: it is impossible to be sure whether Bell committed suicide but it is certainly a possibility – better to remember her life not speculate on her death; there is no reliable evidence that Bell ever met Freya Stark, another remarkable woman; the main factor contributing to the film's

cost was the use of archival material but this footage was essential to the structure and feel of the film; Bell was in favour of Feisal becoming King of Iraq; and the archaeological museum in Baghdad which Bell created has mostly recovered from the looting in 2003.

Pieter Shipster

Forgotten Voices of the Arab Revolt

Philip Walker

After a hearty college breakfast and a spot of casual browsing at the Society shop, delegates gathered in the auditorium for the first lecture of the Saturday sessions by historian and former archaeologist, Philip Walker. Philip is well known to the Society from delivering lectures at previous symposia and now for his important and exciting new research into Lawrence's comrades during the Arab Revolt.



Readers may recall the review in Newsletter No. 120 of Philip Walker's new book, *Behind the Lawrence Legend, the Forgotten Few who Shaped the Arab Revolt*. Also, his paper, *New Light on the Arab Revolt and the Forgotten Few who Shaped it* which was published in Journal Vol. XXVII (2017/18), No. 2.

It is not possible for a few words here to do justice to the value of Philip Walker's ranging extensive research and his brilliant discoveries into the topic of Lawrence's comrades in the war.

We were treated to incredible stories of characters with previously unknown names such as First Gunner James Brown of the Hejaz Armoured Car Battery, Gunner Frank Brander, Lt. Ernest Floyer of the Royal Flying Corp, Lt. Samuel Brodie and Lt. Col. Harold Jacob. In particular we were mesmerised to hear Brown's voice-recorded account of his time in Arabia. It is amazing to imagine the reality of these heroes and their dashing exploits in the deserts and then to see pictures of some of them attending TEL's funeral in 1935 as well as the memorial service at St Paul's Cathedral. They even received invitations to the premier of *Lawrence of Arabia* in 1962. Though some of us do a bit of amateur adventuring in the modern age, it is difficult to emulate the deeds and courage of these men and their war exploits.

Andrew Wright

The Uncrowned King and the Desert Queen: T E Lawrence and Gertrude Bell – A Friendship

Lorraine Tinsley

Bell was twenty years older than Lawrence, being born in 1868 to a family of wealthy ironwork owners in the North East of England. Her mother had died when she was three and she always remained close to her father. She became an undergraduate of the newly-opened Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford, becoming the first woman to gain a first class honours degree in Modern History in the year of TEL's birth, 1888.



Lorraine Tinsley
with Philip Neale

Between 1899 and 1907, her first foreign adventures included pioneering first ascents in the Bernese Alps. Later turning to the Middle East, she describes her first journey to Syria in the book *The Desert and The Sown*. By 1914 she had undertaken six arduous journeys in the Middle East, on her own with just her local guides. Lawrence's mentor, Hogarth, had also noticed Bell and had asked her to visit and help some of the archaeological digs. She mapped ruins, took photographs and studied the local tribes. At the time she gained newspaper attention as the 'Englishwoman in Mesopotamia', but was later eclipsed by Lawrence's fame. In May 1911 she met Lawrence for the first time at Carchemish, saying of him, "An interesting boy – he's going to make a traveller." However he was initially not impressed with her when she criticised the British methods of archaeology compared with German methods.

When war broke out, Bell initially volunteered with the Red Cross, later joining Military Intelligence in Cairo after Turkey entered the war. Hogarth gave credit to Bell for her tribal information which was crucial for the Arab Revolt, especially on the Howeitat.

She was in Basrah in 1916 when Lawrence and Aubrey Herbert arrived before going upriver for the negotiations on the siege of Kut. Bell supported the aims of the Arab Revolt but she also initially supported Ibn Saud, though later agreeing with Lawrence on the Hashemite claims.

After the war she was summoned to the Paris Conference as the expert on Mesopotamia, writing a major report, *Self Determination in Mesopotamia*. As with Lawrence, her views were mainly ignored, with the British trying to govern in colonial fashion. The result was rioting which was brutally put down. 97 tons of bombs were dropped during one of the world's first aerial bombardments, resulting

in nearly 10,000 Iraqis being killed. It is at this time that Lawrence writes his series of letters to *The Times*, critical of British government policy. With rising costs concentrating minds, the Cairo Conference was convened to come up with a solution. Bell and Lawrence were fated to meet once again. The compromise solution was a kingship in Iraq for the recently deposed Feisal and another kingship for his brother Abdullah in Jordan.

On 23rd August 1921 Feisal was crowned in Baghdad with Bell becoming one of his advisers and also helping to draw up the boundaries of the new state. Her proudest legacy was the creation of the Museum of Iraq, famously looted in 2003.

Bell and Lawrence did not meet again and only corresponded briefly when Bell requested a copy of *Seven Pillars*. She was destined never to read it, as she died on 12th July 1926.

“For after all, to the best of our ability, we were making history.”

Carol Darbyshire

“No titles or letters please”

Joe Berton

Joe’s title refers to TEL’s disdain for military or official titles and decorations. He didn’t want anyone to use his military titles in letters to him, not even his family. The action leading to TEL’s recommendation for a Victoria Cross was his ride north prior to the assault on Aqaba. TEL gave a report to Clayton of his movements and meetings with Arab leaders in Syria. Joe believes that TEL was disillusioned before this trip, but his meetings convinced him that the Arabs could carry through the revolt and create an independent Arab state. Wingate thought TEL deserved official recognition for Aqaba and the trip north. TEL’s army files contain correspondence, including a letter of 14th July 1917, relating to Wingate’s recommendation of TEL for a VC. He was not thought eligible for a VC but was recommended for a Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and Companion of the Bath (CB). The CB was announced in the London Gazette on 8th August 1917. TEL wrote to his mother about the VC recommendation on 5th September and was dismissive about it. In November 1917 he was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French, but wrote that he would never wear his decorations. He later pinned it on Hogarth’s dog in Oxford.

After his arrival in UK on 24th October 1918 he went home to Oxford. On 29th October he went to Buckingham Palace for an audience with King George V, who



expected to confer the DSO and CB. His private secretary recorded what happened. TEL told the King that the Arabs were about to be let down and he hoped the King would forgive any discourtesy from his not accepting the decorations. TEL presented to the King the Lee Enfield rifle he had been given by Feisal and wrote the history of the rifle for him. The meeting ended positively. In December, Feisal arrived in the UK and TEL, dressed in full Arab robes, acted as interpreter during his meeting with the King. Feisal gave the King a set of Hejaz stamps, as the King was a keen stamp collector. He may also have given him a Hejaz flag.

TEL was awarded a 2nd Class Al Nahda medal, but asked for his name to be struck from the London Gazette announcement when the others were announced. However, he was not against making sure that others were rewarded and lobbied for Commander Snagge to be awarded an Al Nahda medal. TEL tried to get mention of his own military rank and awards struck from his Who's Who entry.

TEL's meeting with the King was not widely known until Robert Graves' biography was published. TEL read and corrected the text whilst he was in India as Graves had errors in the story of this meeting. TEL suggested Graves clarify details with the King, but he did not have a clear recollection of events. Following publication of the biography, the press again reported that the King had been snubbed by TEL.

As always, Joe was able to shed new light on TEL's character and attitude towards official recognition.

Kevin Winter

Lawrence's Other War – Beyond the Arab Revolt

Juliette Desplat

Juliette Desplat gave a fascinating talk based around documents held in The National Archives – in particular the file on Lawrence, whose cover bears a label saying it must not be destroyed as it concerns a person of “international fame” – on Lawrence's war exploits beyond the Arab Revolt. She began in 1913, when Lawrence and Leonard Woolley were taken on by the War Office to give “an archaeological colour to a political job”, surveying the Sinai area. After the outbreak of war, Lawrence joined the General Staff Geographical Section in London, then the Intelligence Department in Cairo, which he found mostly boring. But the complexity of Middle Eastern affairs needed something more, so the Arab Bureau was born. D. G. Hogarth, its head, gathered a stellar team – and also put together a library, largely at his own expense. The



Bureau produced a secret weekly report, the “Arab Bulletin”; contributions were often scholarly and lengthy. In 1916 Lawrence was sent to Kut, in Mesopotamia, with authority to pay the Turks up to £1 million for the release of the besieged General Townshend and his troops – but without success.

Once the war was over, many of the team went back to their old jobs – but Lawrence began his fight for a just peace. The National Archives holds the map he produced showing proposed boundaries and spheres of influence – the War Office liked it but the India Office was completely against it. At the Paris Peace Conference, the French said Lawrence had no official standing; the British insisted he should stay, but thought his position ambiguous and his practical jokes annoying!

In 1921 Winston Churchill organised a conference in Cairo to settle the Middle East once and for all, in which Lawrence was deeply involved; Faisal was given Iraq, and Abdullah Transjordan. Satisfied with this solution, Lawrence was sent to persuade Sherif Hussein into ratifying it – but he refused to sign anything unless he was first recognised as “King of all the Arabs”. Lawrence eventually lost patience with him and walked out. Thus his last war mission was a failure.

Questions from the audience centred on the Arab Bureau’s library, and why Lawrence was chosen to go to Kut – was he junior enough not to be a hostage risk? Was he also gauging the possibility that local Arabs would revolt?

Susan Purver

How the ANZACS saved Lawrence

Neil Dearberg

Neil Dearberg has had a series of successful careers ranging from Australian Army Officer, to financial planner, to archaeologist, to Head of Research for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan regarding the Great Arab Revolt. In his presentation to the Symposium, Neil provided the audience with exceptional detail on the role of the ANZAC forces in the Great Arab Revolt as well as their direct assistance to T E Lawrence beginning in 1917.

Neil began by offering the Symposium a brief outline of how ANZAC forces were recruited, trained and shipped to the Middle East. At first they were headed to England and to the Western Front, but LTG Sir Harry Chauvel arranged for the ANZACs to stop in Egypt. It was in this theatre that they excelled. Neil pointed out that there was almost no formal military tradition in Australia or New Zealand, but the ANZAC troopers were hardened by the Australian and New Zealand climate, terrain and rural economy. As a result,



they made excellent soldiers and airmen in the harsh desert environment of the Middle East. Neil underscored that ANZAC forces included mounted rifle units, ANZAC Air Corps flights, and ANZAC nursing and medical staff.

The ANZAC mobile forces, most famously the Australian Light Horse Regiment, did not serve as traditional cavalry, but served instead as “mounted rifles”, the distinction being that cavalry of the time fought from horseback either with sabres and handguns or, in the case of the Indian Army cavalry regiments, from horseback with lances. ANZAC “mounted rifles” used their horses for speed and mobility, but once they were on the battlefield, they dismounted and engaged the Turkish forces with accurate rifle fire. The ANZAC Air Corps Squadron provided close air support to the EEF forces in Palestine as well as conducting reconnaissance and air superiority missions. Separate from the combat forces, the ANZAC contribution to the medical services in the Egyptian Expeditionary Force is often overlooked. ANZAC integration of battlefield evacuation, mobile hospitals, nurses and doctors close to the front lines saved EEF soldiers’ lives and limbs.

After providing the details of ANZAC forces, Neil turned his attention to how these same forces “saved Lawrence.” He noted that it was the Australian Air Corps flights and specifically X Flight of the ANZAC Air Corps that provided essential air-ground support during Arab advances led by Lawrence and other British officers involved in the Great Arab Revolt. Lawrence specifically argued that it was the arrival of the ANZAC Air Corps Hadley Page bomber that convinced his Arab cohort that they would be supported from the sky. It was the ANZAC flights which also provided Lawrence with the ability to travel from his various locations in the desert to Allenby’s headquarters and to return with command guidance that ensured the Arab forces were integrated into the overall campaign strategy. In the final approach to Damascus, it was the ANZAC mounted rifles that served as the left flank for the Lawrence’s approach from the South.

Neil’s light hearted approach to the topic and his excellent illustrations made for an entertaining and informative hour. At the end of the day, if Neil didn’t quite convince us all that the ANZACS saved Lawrence, he certainly provided ample evidence of the critical importance of ANZAC forces to the success in the Palestine campaign and the essential nature of ANZAC support to the success of the Lawrence and the Arab forces in the final stages of the campaign and the capture of Damascus.

John Seeger

The Portraits of TEL and the artists who painted them

Nicholas Reed

Nicholas delved into Lawrence's background and looked at some of the paintings and drawings, some commissioned by Lawrence himself. The portrait of TEL in his Arab robes was Lawrence's favourite and now belongs to the Tate Gallery. Lawrence wanted to buy it, prevented by its cost, so it was purchased by the 2nd Duke of Westminster, who gave it to the Tate. Nicholas examined the Eric Kennington plaque at Oxford High School for Boys and some of its detail. In the four corners are Crusader Castles. One side depicts a Crusader knight with a figure of Christ above, whilst the other side depicts Hittite figures.



James McBey was an official war artist and painted TEL and Allenby separately and also a depiction of the entry into Jerusalem in December 1917. McBey spent a year in the Middle East. His portrait of TEL is at the Imperial War Museum. The William Rothenstein portrait of TEL is now in Belgrade. Sir William Orpen's portrait was painted at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919. Orpen had become an official war artist in 1917. He later claimed he couldn't remember painting the TEL portrait.



There are 22 copies of Eric Kennington's bust in existence including those at Jesus and Magdalene Colleges in Oxford. Kathleen Scott, widow of Robert Falcon Scott and friend of Lawrence, created two busts of TEL, one of which is in the possession of Oxford Museum Services and was exhibited in the *Shifting Sands* exhibition at Newark. William Roberts painted TEL in RAF uniform. He was also an official war artist from 1917. Roberts also created a huge work in 1952 titled *Revolt in the Desert*, which now hangs in Southampton Art Gallery. The semi-religious portrait by

Herbert Gurschner was painted in 1934 and is now in the National Gallery of Ireland. Gurschner was an Austrian and the painting was commissioned by Major Chapman-Houston, a relative of TEL's and may have been from a sitting with TEL. A black and white pen and ink drawing of TEL was used by Robert Graves as the frontispiece to *T.E. Lawrence to his Biographer, Robert Graves*. Nicholas thinks this unattributed work may have been done by Sir William Nicholson, as it is similar to other works of his and he was Robert Graves' father in law.

Kevin Winter

Trains, Planes and Automobiles: T. E. Lawrence and the armoured car and RAF Raids in the Hejaz

John Winterburn

Lawrence grew up alongside the early development of the car and the aeroplane. In 1908, when Lawrence was twenty, powered aeroplanes had only just begun to make their first public flights and take passengers. Cars were appearing on the streets of Oxford and in 1913 the city got its first automobile club. By contrast, railways were already a well-established mode of transport. Lawrence himself was familiar with the nuts and bolts of railway construction when he and Leonard Woolley excavated at Carchemish, alongside German engineers constructing the Berlin-Baghdad Railway. Lawrence would have made good use of the railways of Syria and Palestine during his early travels in the Middle East.



The Hejaz Railway was built between 1900 and 1908 and ran between Damascus and Medina, covering a distance of 1,393 kilometres. It had been German-built to facilitate the pilgrimage to Mecca but its potential in a time of war was not lost on the Ottoman military. In fact, the military potential of railways was much discussed at this time; the British army had already employed railways during the Mahdist War in the Sudan in 1896-1897. For the Hejaz Railway this military potential was short lived; by the end of the war it was so damaged that it was permanently closed.

Aeroplanes were used in the Middle Eastern theatre of the First World War from July 1916. At first they were only used for reconnaissance purposes; collections of sketch maps, hastily drawn from airborne cockpits, testify to this role. After the taking of Akaba in July 1917 air power was used more extensively and aggressively during the Arab Revolt, particularly by 'X Flight', the small group of British planes used to carry out secret missions against the Ottomans. X Flight flew a total of 270 missions. These early aircraft only had a bombing accuracy of 23-30 yards and were of little use in cutting railway lines. Nevertheless they succeeded in inflicting damage to larger fortifications. Lawrence's own opinion of aeroplanes is uncertain; it is likely that he only saw them as weapons of war. His written descriptions suggest that he did not have the same relationship with them as he did with Rolls Royce tenders, also used in the desert campaign.

The first armoured cars were designed by Frederick Richard Simms in 1899. Several of these were ordered by the British Army in preparation for the Second

Boer War but in the event these were not delivered until after the conflict in late 1902. At the beginning of the First World War several Rolls-Royce cars were converted for use in the battlefield. These were found to be of limited use in the mud and trench warfare of the Western Front and the rocky and hilly terrain of Gallipoli, but their sturdy construction proved more successful in the flat and dry deserts of the Middle East. They played a major part in the Arab Revolt in the



*Model of Rolls-Royce
Armoured Car*

period after the taking of Akaba and lent themselves well to desert hit and run raids. Between 26th December 1917 and 1st January 1918 Lawrence took part in a series of such raids, attacking the area to the north of Muddowwara station and culminating in the shelling of the fortified Tell Shalm Station. On the 19th April 1918 the armoured cars returned to capture the station. Lawrence acquired the use of his own Rolls Royce, Blue Mist, when he commandeered the vehicle in Cairo in July 1917. He was plainly infatuated with Rolls Royce vehicles: 'A Rolls in the desert was above rubies...' (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom*). As well as his experiences with them in warfare they no doubt also appealed to his fascination with mechanics and love of speed. Rolls-Royce still advertise the Lawrence connection in their publicity.

Ian Heritage

A view from the other side: What the Central Powers knew and thought about T E Lawrence in war and peace

Dr Alexander Will

The German and Austro-Hungarian political, military and intelligence presence grew in the Ottoman Empire in the years leading to World War One. At the outbreak of war the military mission was led by Liman von Sanders. The Austro-Hungarian presence abroad was mainly through embassies and consulates and they had a very effective spy network. Their military attaches were particularly effective.

No mention of T E Lawrence has been found in German sources from WWI and the Central Powers did not appear to know of his existence, despite his references in *Seven Pillars* to there being a price on his head. It might well be that TEL invented the story of this bounty and that he was of no interest to them. Indeed the Central Powers paid little attention to Hussein and the



Arab Revolt, which they considered a minor annoyance. They viewed the lack of fuel for the Hejaz Railway and the threat of roving bands of Ottoman deserters as a bigger threat to security and power. The Arab raids were just an annoyance.

After the Armistice, the Central Powers did not believe that the Arab Revolt played any role in their defeat. In the Hejaz, Oppenheim had been convinced by Feisal to withdraw all intelligence operatives and to rely on Hussein, whereas the Austro-Hungarians remained better informed. Constantinople didn't pay much attention to the Hejaz and didn't prioritise the intelligence from men in the field.

Although little or no attention had been paid to TEL during the War, after it ended he became a literary icon in Germany. He first came to public attention during the Versailles Peace Conference and the German press picked up on Lowell Thomas's stories with increasing coverage of him as a chief counter-revolutionary. In 1927, *Revolt in the Desert* was published and was a huge success in Germany. The press received the translation rapturously. In 1935 the translation of *Seven Pillars* was also well received, particularly TEL's description of the bravery of the German troops. That paragraph became the most quoted as Germans sought to explain and justify their conflict and their attendant losses.

Biography became a popular genre in post-WWI Germany as people searched for new leader figures. Before its association with Hitler, "Führer" referred to a leader in many different environments. Leaders had been expected to come from within the nation; however given the failures of WWI and the post-Versailles situation, a search for an external leader began and Lawrence exhibited many fine and admirable qualities. TEL was seen as an archetypal leader, as revealed in his own writings and in biographies. He was compared with Ernst Junger as both had been warriors and became writers, and Junger himself was impressed by *Seven Pillars*. Both were interested in their own ways in the effects of bodily pain, experienced by so many in the recent conflict. Following World War Two, TEL was re-evaluated again in Germany.

Kevin Winter

Last Post at the Symposium Dinner

By Kevin Winter

The Mudowwara Bugle, now owned by Joe Berton, was captured by Second Lieutenant William Thomas Davies of the Imperial Camel Corps during the attack on Mudowwara Station on August 8th 1918. The Turkish bugler was just about to alert the rest of the garrison when he was shot by Davies, who was awarded the Military Cross for his actions. This event was the culmination of four attacks on Mudowwara in 1917/18 which became a model for combined operations between aircraft, armoured cars and camel-mounted regulars and irregulars.

The bugle was used at Imperial Camel Corps reunions for around sixty years.



*Joe Berton, Phil King
and Kevin Winter*



*The Mudowwara Bugle
and Reveille*

Joe had bought the medals and bugle and loaned the bugle to the recent *Shifting Sands* exhibition at Newark. As Joe was giving the after-dinner speech at this year's Symposium he suggested to Kevin Winter that it might be a nice surprise for the bugle to be used to play Last Post and Reveille. This would be particularly poignant as we approached the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI and the passing of some significant Society members in the last two years. Kevin made several attempts to find a bugler through the Royal British Legion and was eventually put in touch with Phil King, who had served in the Army for 21 years and now works for one of the Oxford colleges. Phil is currently Bugle Major for the Army Cadet Force. He met Joe and Kevin for a practice on Friday morning and the sound in the empty dining hall was fantastic. Although Phil wasn't able to play Last Post on the historic bugle and used his own, he was able to use it for Reveille. It came as a surprise to many at the dinner and was a fitting finale to Joe's after-dinner speech in which he remembered those who had been lost during WWI as well as those Society members who have passed away more recently.

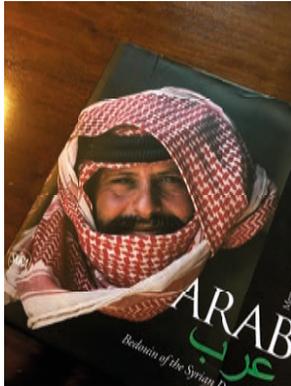
Symposium Exhibitions and Sales

By Harriet Coates

In addition to a packed programme, a variety of exhibitions and stalls were enjoyed by Symposium delegates during the weekend. These provided an opportunity to chat with friends and make new acquaintances as well as to enlarge our knowledge of Lawrence and our libraries.

Arab: Bedouin of the Syrian Desert

We were proud to host the UK premier for an exhibition of Syrian photographs by the acclaimed Japanese photographer Megumi Yoshitake, following her very successful exhibition in New York. Megumi's passion for Syria and its Bedouin tribespeople led her to visit Syria over many years, to befriend them and be welcomed into their homes. Her beautiful images



Images of Syria

show this nomadic people and their peaceful family lives which have been so tragically disrupted by the current conflict. Delegates were very moved by the homely images of a traditional life not so far removed from that of



Megumi Yoshitake

Lawrence's day. Megumi and her friend and translator came to host the exhibition and stayed for the whole weekend to share our Symposium, chat with delegates about the exhibition and to enjoy a weekend in an Oxford college. Megumi's coffee-table book, *Arab – Bedouin of the Syrian Desert*, ISBN 978-88-572-2218-9, with its stunning large images, can be ordered from Amazon. Megumi is keen for another exhibition in the

UK, so if any readers have galleries or contacts and would like to enable this worthwhile project, please contact Society Secretary Harriet Coates on hon.secretary@telsociety.org.uk.

A beautiful Armortek 1/16th working scale model of a 1914 Admiralty Pattern Rolls-Royce Armoured Car arrived on Saturday and was much admired and photographed (see page 23). We are so grateful to James Stejskal for arranging this. To continue the theme of Lawrence's love of speed and mechanical machinery, Chairman Philip Neale brought along "The Race", his picture of the famous distance challenge between plane and motorbike. These two items engendered much enjoyable technical and historical discussion.

Delegates had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and hear the famous bugle from Mudowwara, thanks to collaboration from its owner Joe Berton and

Kevin Winter, who curated the recent excellent Lawrence exhibition and arranged the bugler. As well as being very moved by hearing the Reveille at the Dinner, members were able to examine the bugle at close quarters and to reflect on its dents and wear and its amazing war-torn history.

Bookshop and Sales

Rickaro Books, an independent bookshop in Wakefield, once again offered a huge selection of second-hand books and also many new publications. Owner and long-standing Society member Richard Knowles displayed and chatted with members about some of his rare and specialist Lawrence books. Some featured authors were lecturing over the weekend so delegates were delighted to request inscriptions in their purchased books. www.rickarobooks.co.uk

Lawrence Tartan scarves and memorabilia were on sale at Theresa Jenkins-Teague's stall and were a lovely memento to take home, often to foreign shores. Theresa works hard to keep the name of Lawrence alive and relevant in the Dorset area and beyond and is a volunteer at Clouds Hill. www.Lawrence7pillars.com

The Society's own sales table was fully stocked and there was a brisk sale of Society ties, badges, DVDs and the smart slip cases to hold journals and newsletters. These can also be bought from the Society website and are all selling well. Alison Jolley's new book, *Lawrence's War: Day by Day* sold out (easily purchased from Amazon) and Roger Holehouse's booklet, *An Impossible Dream?* was regularly restocked. Many members purchased the DVD of *Letters from Baghdad* - the USA version should be available from regular outlets by Christmas 2018. Back-numbers of journals were also a popular choice for members, to complete sets or to provide further Lawrence reading. Delegates met many of the committee at this stall for a chat along with a purchase or two. www.telsociety.org.uk



Librarian Daryl Green



Magdalen College Library

Book Review

Alison Jolley: *Lawrence of Arabia's War: Day By Day*
(Dreadnought Publishing, paperback, 264 pages, £15)

Review by Alan Payne

Lawrence of Arabia's War: Day By Day is the result of an innovative and exciting project run by the T. E. Lawrence Society to commemorate the centenary of the Arab Revolt by posting Lawrence's activities online each day in the form of a Facebook blog.

Through these daily posts drawing on Lawrence's wartime diaries, field notes, reports and correspondence, alongside the writings of fellow officers, and brief extracts from *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* - illustrated with Lawrence's own photographs as well as contemporary news footage - it was hoped that readers would gain a deeper appreciation of the role played by Lawrence in the desert campaign by reliving the events in "real time" over two years. This novel and creative use of social media clearly appealed to a modern audience, with hundreds returning each day during the centenary years to enjoy what one reader described as "an amazing and new kind of experience of Lawrence and the Arab campaign that is, for me, pure magic ... all the little details, titbits, asides, others' writings in parallel with Lawrence's, make it so much more rich".

Now the blog's editor, Society member Alison Jolley, has compiled the daily posts into book form to serve as a useful reference resource, as well as a highly readable introduction to the desert campaign for those who are new to Lawrence.

After a brief introduction to his service in Cairo, the book follows Lawrence from the moment he steps on to a train with Ronald Storrs on 12 October 1916, bound for his first visit to the Hejaz and momentous meetings with Sherif Hussein's four sons, to his disillusioned departure from Damascus nearly two years later. Deftly interweaving a mix of contemporary - and meticulously sourced - material, the diary format enables readers to dip in and out of events or to follow the narrative from day to day. Even seasoned readers are likely to find much that is new in the many fascinating, often humorous and occasionally poignant extracts drawn from Lawrence's writings, from early descriptions of riding a motorcycle in the desert, to attempts to find a dentist for Auda abu Tayi, to private asides in his notes confiding his feelings of duplicity towards his Arab colleagues during the ride to Akaba.

Images reproduced of Lawrence's diary and notebook entries, printed alongside excerpts from his contemporary reports and *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, help readers to make up their own minds on controversial episodes in a non-judgemental way.



Alison Jolley signing her book

Though use is made of the memoirs of fellow officers, by concentrating on contemporary material, the book aims to build up a picture of Lawrence as he was regarded at the time, before fame and publicity coloured perceptions. Included at the rear of the book, all Lawrence's "positions at night" during the two years of the campaign, as recorded in his diaries at the time, rather than the condensed version in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, illustrate how daily events have been broken down for the book, and provide a useful resource for other researchers.

Designed and published by Alison herself, this attractive and easily handled 7 by 10 inch paperback "pleads to be picked up and absorbed," according to one reader. "A lovely production with a nice crisp and spacy layout. It invites attention." The book "condenses a variety of information into a flowing format, with information both for scholars and the general public," comments another. "It holds together with its informative facts wrapped up in a clever format that's a joy to read."

Lawrence of Arabia's War: Day By Day was launched at September's Symposium and is now being sold via Amazon as a fund-raiser to help the Society continue its work of promoting research and education into the life of Lawrence.

Book Review

Masters of Mayhem: Lawrence of Arabia and The British Military Mission to the Hejaz by James Stejskal.
(Casemate Publishers, August 2018)

by R. Pierce Reid

James is an historian whose examination of Lawrence is shaped by a career of over twenty years in the United States Army Special Forces and a further thirteen years serving as a field officer in the Central Intelligence Agency's Clandestine Service.

In the early chapters of *Masters of Mayhem*, Stejskal provides context for the Arab Revolt and his descriptions of the events that led to the broadening of the war into the Ottoman Empire the Hejaz, and today's Middle East are concise and flow well. He also provides interesting background on the conflict's early days, showing that Combined Operations, often considered World War II innovation, had their roots firmly in the First World War. He examines, too, the often-forgotten rescue of British prisoners from the HMS Tara, an auxiliary cruiser torpedoed off Libya – an operation that was a proving ground for some of the concepts that would consolidate into modern Combined Operations. This flows into more detailed looks at the Arab Revolt and its core events. Throughout, Stejskal demonstrates how these small unit actions formed the blueprint for what, today, we call Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflicts.

It is also important to note that the book is called “Masters” of Mayhem... not Master. This is not a book solely about T.E. Lawrence, but about the events in which he played a role, surrounded by a highly-motivated and expert team of British military and intelligence officers. In fact, this is one of the most interesting aspects of the book, showing how experts in their individual fields came together to bring industrial-age technology, ranging from aircraft to Rolls-Royce Armoured Cars to Improvised Explosive Devices, into the ancient art of guerrilla warfare. Stejskal shows the direct lineage between these nascent Combined Arms efforts served as a proving ground for the more famous Second World War actions by groups such as the Special Air Service, the Chindits and the OSS “Jedburgh” teams as well as showing how modern military units such as the Special Forces got their start.

One notable chapter in the book is “Advisors, Dromedaries and Guerrilla Warfare” in which Stejskal describes Lawrence's initial interactions with Hussein's sons and his efforts to pull together diverse Arab tribes into a fighting force. Whether Stejskal does this consciously or not, his description of the process could

serve as a script for the Special Forces Qualification Course culmination exercise called Robin Sage, in which candidate Green Berets live and operate for weeks in a simulated guerrilla war. All of the interactions between the British advisors and the Arab fighters would be familiar to today's special operations soldier. It shows how small teams can act as force multipliers, work with indigenous personnel and create battlefield outcomes that are disproportionate to their small numbers and often limited resources. This chapter is at the core of what makes *Masters of Mayhem* an especially timely book, because it shows that the principles of guerrilla warfare, despite the changes in technology, are timeless. It is no coincidence that Vo Nguyen Giap carried a copy of Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* with him as he led Vietnamese forces during that conflict. And no coincidence that military leaders today, ranging from David Petraeus to William Mattis, find value in the Hejaz campaigns of 1916 – 1918.

Another welcome feature of *Masters of Mayhem* is its generous use of maps! Far too many military history books either leave out the important visual elements of maps or they use hopelessly-complicated military-style maps decipherable only to those trained to decipher military maps. Stejskal's book offers the reader outstanding visual depictions of the campaigns. The photographs are also very well-chosen, and the book includes not only photographs taken by the author during his visits to the battlefields as an archaeologist and military history advisor, but reveal quite a large number of excellent, previously unpublished period pictures from the war in the desert.

I would have liked more in-depth character details on the other officers, men and even Arab fighters who were part of the campaign. Stejskal briefly introduces individuals such as demolitions expert Herbert Garland, Col. Stewart Francis Newcombe, Pierce Joyce, Ronald Storrs and Ralph Alger Bagnold, all fascinating characters whose diverse skills gelled into a highly-skilled special-operations team. It left this reviewer wanting more information about these counterparts to Lawrence. That said, Philip Walker's recent book *Behind the Lawrence Legend* (2018) also does an excellent job of fleshing out many of the "others" who were the true *Masters of Mayhem*.

Overall, Stejskal's book deserves its place in the ranks of the recent, superbly-researched books that revolve around Lawrence and the Arab Revolt. In addition, it deserves to stand (almost) alone in a category of books that examine Lawrence and the Arab Revolt through the trained eye of the professional military and intelligence officer.

Note: Pierce's long and detailed review has been edited here due to lack of space. Read the full article on our Society website Members' Area www.telsociety.org.uk

Lawrence in Epping Forest - A Recent Visit to Pole Hill and Bancroft's School

By Ian Heritage



The Cloister's current location

Ten Society members met at Chingford Station on an unseasonably warm and sunny morning in April, to visit three Epping Forest locations associated with Vyvyan Richards and his friendship with Lawrence. Richards was a friend from Lawrence's undergraduate days at Jesus College, Oxford and in 1909 he had taken up a teaching post at Bancroft's School in Woodford Green. As with Lawrence and Clouds Hill, Richards felt the need to have a place he could escape to and be himself when away from work. In 1912 he rented land at the top of nearby Pole Hill and built himself a wooden hut. What must have been an outwardly modest structure (sadly there are no known photographs) was decorated inside with heraldic shields and heated by a stone hearth with a large copper canopy above it. Lawrence often visited him, both here and at the school. Lawrence had inspired Richards with his love of the craftsmanship of William Morris and all things medieval. Just as Morris had established the Kelmscott Press and printed fine books, so Lawrence and Richards dreamed of establishing a printing press of their own on Pole Hill. The location was appropriate as Morris himself was born in nearby Walthamstow and as a child he and his siblings played at Arthurian knights in Epping Forest.

Lawrence's enthusiasm for the idea was erratic and the scheme itself was ill thought out. Even so, between 1919-1923 he gradually bought up 18 acres of land at the top of Pole Hill. Sadly Richards' hut burnt down in 1921, with most of his uninsured possessions inside. With the help of some Bancroft's schoolboys he built a new dwelling. This wooden L-shaped structure became known as 'The Cloister'.



Members explore the Cloister interior

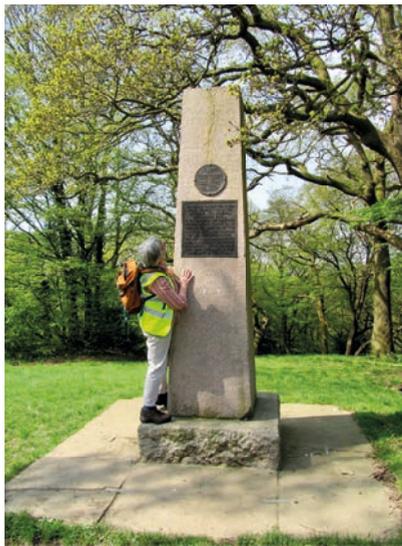
It was open on one side and equipped with garden and diving pool. As the name suggests, the building seems to have been intended to echo the ideal of a medieval monastic cloister. The interest in the printing venture waned and came to nothing as Lawrence moved on to other things. Richards himself left Bancroft's School and moved to South Wales in 1922. Lawrence sold his land on Pole Hill in 1930 and had it conveyed to The Conservators of Epping Forest. In the following years the Cloister fell into disrepair and became prey to vandalism. Eventually it was dismantled and reconstructed about a mile away in the grounds of the maintenance depot of the Conservators of Epping Forest.

This was our first destination for the day. The depot is deep in the heart of Epping Forest. Amongst the newer and sturdier-looking storage sheds sits the more rusticated looking Cloister, built of wood and brick with a red tiled roof. It looks much as it did in early photographs but now with petrol pumps in its forecourt. We were met by our hosts for the morning, Judy Adams and Nick Ely of the Epping Forest Heritage Trust. They gave us morning coffee and talked to us about their research into Pole Hill and Vyvyan Richards. Much of this had been done by Judy's late husband Dick and the Trust intend to continue this research and make it available to local history societies and groups such as our own. We were shown some fascinating photographs and documents, several of which had not been seen before by members. We were also brought up to date with the condition of the

Cloister. The forerunner of the Trust received a bequest in 1989 and this was used in 1991 to repair the dilapidated building. The necessary repairs were substantial and much of the original fabric was replaced. It was given a new roof and the formerly-open wing was closed in and converted into a study classroom for visiting schoolchildren and students. The Cloister was used for this purpose for many years. Today it is surrounded by the storage sheds, heavy plant and machinery of the depot so modern health and safety requirements mean that it is now longer accessible to the public, except by special appointment. It is now used to store tools belonging to the Trust. We had to don hard hats and high visibility vests before being allowed to approach and go inside the building.

Although the hut is somewhat altered and in a completely different location, we got a good idea of the cramped and basic conditions that Richards and his friends would have experienced while staying here. It is difficult now to distinguish what parts of the structure have been replaced, although the basic frame at least is original. An original feature, which is still there, is a very small boxed-off area up in the roof, reached by ladder and used as a sleeping quarters by Bancroft's schoolboys and visitors to Pole Hill. No wonder Lawrence usually slept outside in a tent when visiting. The Corporation of London, who own the site, are currently considering the current state of the Cloister and how it might best be enjoyed by visitors to Epping Forest, given its inaccessible location.

We were then taken by minibus to the foot of Pole Hill and we all walked to the top. The areas to the south and east of the hill are now occupied by housing estates, a fate that would probably have befallen Pole Hill itself if Lawrence had not generously sold his land to the Conservators of Epping Forest, rather than secure a more lucrative price from property developers. Over the last eighty years a cover of trees has grown up on the slopes of the hill; from the open ground of the summit the impression is now of a secluded and peaceful spot. This was probably not the case when Richards was here. In addition to Richards' wooden dwelling there was a brickworks and quarry on the south slope. During the First World War an anti-aircraft gun was mounted on the hill and beside it was built a wooden barrack block. The latter remained here for many years after the war; at one time Lawrence stored some of his books and belongings in it. We admired the two obelisks erected on the Greenwich



Examining the Obelisk

Meridian Line; the newest of these has a plaque commemorating the Hill's association with Lawrence. We spent much time speculating on the probable location of the Cloister. This is generally accepted to be an area just to the south west of the meridian obelisks. The ground appears to have been levelled and small traces of brick and tile are scattered here. Nearby is a row of four or five poplar trees, now overgrown and largely hidden in a thicket. Some contemporary accounts mention such trees near the Cloister. We wandered over to the western slope of the hill and admired a fine view over the Lea Valley and the reservoirs there.

After saying goodbye to Judy and Nick we had lunch at the Butlers Retreat, a former nineteenth century wooden barn high on a ridge overlooking Chingford Plain. The barn was later converted into one of the forest's several 'retreats', started by the Temperance movement to serve non-alcoholic refreshments to Victorian forest visitors. Latterly it was closed for many years but has been recently restored and reopened as a very popular restaurant and cafe. We enjoyed a pleasant, if rather crowded, lunch sitting in the garden enjoying a wonderful view over Chingford Plain. Next door is Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge and a newly opened local museum and visitors' centre.

We could have stayed longer in this interesting and attractive spot but we had other things to see. We stopped briefly in Chingford town centre to admire the 'Millennium Heritage Mosaic'. Created in the year 2000 the mosaic decorates the outside wall of the Chingford Assembly Hall and features personalities and buildings connected with the history of the area. Lawrence's portrait features prominently alongside those of Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Winston Churchill.

Our last stop was to Woodford Green, where Bancrofts School is located and where Richards was a schoolteacher until 1922. The school itself moved here in 1889 from its original site in Mile End. The original brick buildings include a very impressive Tudor-style gatehouse designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield, although the school has had some other notable architectural additions since then. As it was a weekend we could not access the inside of the school buildings but we were permitted to walk around the grounds. A cricket match was being played on the pitch to the rear. We enjoyed the atmosphere of a traditional English school and imagined Richards and Lawrence walking around this same pitch, deep in one of their 'metaphysical' conversations.

The organised part of the day ended here and we went our separate ways. A group of us walked across the road in front of the school to where there is now a housing estate. Here used to be an area of open grassland where Richards established a campsite on the edge of Knighton Wood for the schoolboys in his care. Lawrence himself sometimes appeared and reportedly told stories around the campfire. The intrusion of the housing estate has now removed this pastoral scene, although Knighton Wood still remains. We walked along its wooded pathways and discussed what we had seen that day; it was easy to imagine Richards and Lawrence

doing the same long ago.

We offer our grateful thanks to Judy Adams and Nick Ely of the Epping Forest Heritage Trust, for looking after us so well and for offering us so much more than we had expected; also to Susan Day, Relationship Manager & Administrator of Bancrofts School, for ensuring we had access to the school grounds. I also wish to thank all those members of the group who came



by car and kindly provided transportation for everyone else. We could not have done it without you.

Dates for your Diary

Until 1 May 2019 Lawrence of Oxford – Exhibition in Magdalen College, Oxford. Public opening on Wednesday afternoons. Email library@magd.ox.ac.uk or phone 01865 276045 for more information.

Wednesday 19 December, 6.30 – 8pm. Lecture by Dr. Neil Faulkner, *Lawrence of Arabia: Romantic, Orientalist and Western Cultural Artefact*. At Council for British Research in the Levant, London. Full details on our website, www.telsociety.org.uk

Saturday 16th February, 12 noon. London Group Lunch at Riverside (Perdoni's), 18-20 Kennington Road, SE1 7BL. Contact Nick Lynch at 320lynch@gmail.com or 01732 366068

Friday 22 March 2019 North West England Group visit to Staffordshire. Contact Andrew Wright on andrewwright8117@hotmail.com

Wednesday 1 May London Group visit to Liddell Hart Archive, King's College, Strand, London. Contact Nick Lynch for details.

Visit to Flinders-Petrie Museum, University College London. London Group, **date to be confirmed**.

September 2019 The T. E. Lawrence Society AGM in Greenwich, date tbc

Saturday 23 November London Group visit to Reading Station and environs in a centenary search for the missing manuscript! Contact Nick Lynch for details.