Lady Violet Powell:  
An Appreciation

by Hugh Massingberd

Although she was approaching her 90th birthday – which would have fallen on 13 March – the news of Lady Violet’s death on 12 January came as a devastating shock. Her bright, vital, life-enhancing personality had blithely banished any hint of old age. Indeed if the question had ever occurred to me, after taking ‘a dish of tea’ (as Sillery would have put it) with her at The Chantry, following a day at Wincanton Races shortly before Christmas, I would confidently have backed her to emulate the years of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, with whom, as a girl in Mayfair, Violet used to play the then popular game of ‘Beaver’ – they lived on opposite sides of Bruton Street, where the present Queen was born in 1926. Violet liked to recall how a winning hand was dealt her by her ‘Uncle Eddie’ (the 18th Lord Dunsany, himself a mighty bearded poet and big-game hunter), who spotted a long-bearded priest crossing Berkeley Square.

At what turned out to be our last meeting, Violet’s delicious anecdotes were as acute and amusing as they had been throughout the thirty heady, happy years of my visits to The Chantry. Her warm ‘Welsh brown eyes’ (she rejoiced in sharing a descent from the Rhys dynasty with her husband) sparkled with that extraordinary benevolent beadiness which was all her own. No one I have ever met had such a subtle and sympathetic sense of the ridiculous or a more oblique and deft appreciation of the absurdity of the human condition. With her characteristic imaginative kindness Violet was recalling vignettes about Anthony Powell’s long association with the Travellers’ Club, which is to be the subject of my talk for the Society at the Club on 4 March.

From the start she took a typically encouraging interest in the activities of the Society. As she said in her pithy and perceptive message which was read out at the beginning of the Eton Conference in April 2001, she was delighted ‘that there is every prospect that the Anthony Powell Society will Keep the Ball Rolling’. The captivating friendliness with which she welcomed members of the Society to the
Service of Dedication in Chantry Church for the memorial plaque to Anthony Powell following the Society’s first annual general meeting last September will never be forgotten by all those present. Nor will her generous hospitality and lively curiosity in entertaining everyone to tea afterwards and giving Society members the thrill of exploring The Chantry, with its powerfully Powellian atmosphere which was so evocatively captured in Stephen Holden’s account of the visit in a previous Newsletter. Not the least of the pleasures of that magical afternoon was the opportunity to see some of Violet Powell’s exotically illustrated travel albums.

Violet was an avid reader of the Newsletter. She vetted Michael Goldman’s fascinating article on ‘Anthony Powell’s Cats’ with the same enjoyment and editorial zeal that she used to correct the drafts of the great novelist himself – as well as of all those who wrote about him and had the gumption to submit their drafts to her shrewd scrutiny. She was the supreme expert on the Sage of The Chantry, the unique repository of Powelliana.

Yet Violet Powell’s contribution to her husband’s work has tended to be underestimated. Surely, though, her phenomenal memory, encyclopaedic knowledge, meticulous accuracy, intelligent observation and incisive insight into human nature all played a major part in the creation of Anthony Powell’s novels? Anyone fortunate enough to have overheard even a smidgen of the hilarious and harmonious conversation between Tony and Violet, which began in September 1934 at her ancestral home of Pakenham Hall (now Tullynally Castle) in County Westmeath and continued ‘unabated’ – as Violet put it in the second volume of her autobiography – until his death in March 2000, will be in no doubt on that score.

Significantly, their whirlwind courtship featured Tony reading Violet some of his work-in-progress. The handling of the complex ramifications of Dance, in particular, owed much to Violet’s masterly grasp of plot. For example, it was Violet who reminded Tony that Canon Fenneau, Murtlock’s patron in Hearing Secret Harmonies, had been one of the anonymous freshmen at Sillery’s tea-party in A Question of Upbringing.

So strong was the bond of the Powells’ collaborative partnership that one wonders whether the Society should even be renamed ‘The Anthony & Violet Powell Society.’ Violet’s Album of Anthony Powell’s A Dance to the Music of Time is certainly an illuminating pictorial companion to the addictive twelve-volume sequence. It was Violet who saw the three volumes of Anthony Powell’s Journals through the press, as she devotedly cared for him during his years of illness; and she also arranged the posthumous publication of his A Writer’s Notebook last year.

Naturally, many have assumed that ‘Lady Isobel Tolland’ in Dance must be a portrait of Lady Violet Pakenham. Much as Anthony Powell disdained such crass conclusions, the impish personality of Lady Isobel – so admirably delineated in Cathleen Ann Steg’s paper at the Eton Conference – bears a vivid resemblance to the novelist’s wife. Isobel’s ‘remarkable knowledge of obscure and forgotten
fiction’ rings a resonant bell, for instance, and the first reference to her is irresistible. ‘You might like Isobel,’ the gossipy Chips Lovell says to Nick. ‘I believe she is a bit of a highbrow when she isn’t going to nightclubs.’

Violet’s own ‘remarkable knowledge’ of literature bore fruit in more than a dozen books, which included studies of such varied authors as Jane Austen, Somerville and Ross, Flora Annie Steel, Ivy Compton-Burnett, Margaret Kennedy and EM Delafield. She also wrote a biography of her grandmother, Margaret Countess of Jersey, founder of the Victoria League, and three volumes of autobiography. She was, in short, a very fine writer in her own right, with a brilliantly light touch that combined dry irony with gentle sympathy. As HD Ziman, literary editor of The Daily Telegraph, wrote when reviewing Five Out of Six (her autobiographical masterpiece), she had ‘a sense of social comedy qualified only by her affection. It would be difficult to portray with less malice or more mischief the eternal war of high-spirited children against grown-ups.’

The high-spiritedness of her own great-grandchildren struck a special chord with her in her last years at The Chantry. Their mother, Georgia Coke, read a haunting passage from the last volume of her grandmother’s biography, The Departure Platform, at the Thanksgiving Service for Violet’s life at Chantry Church on 18 January. This described Violet’s return to her birthplace at North Aston in Oxfordshire (where her father Brigadier-General the 5th Earl of Longford’s death in action at Gallipoli in 1915 is commemorated in the Roll of Honour in the church). Her younger son, John, had spotted a face in the window of the old schoolroom in the house. ‘I did not pause to see who was looking out of the window,’ wrote Violet, ‘in case it should have been myself. Nor was I able to identify which among a group of oak trees was the one grown from an acorn at my birth and planted out by me on my seventh birthday. Indeed, they all seemed equally gnarled.’

Later in the grey afternoon, Georgia scattered her grandmother’s ashes from a boat rowed by her brother, Archie, on the lake below the house. (Two years earlier their father, Tristram, and uncle, John, had performed a similar ceremony for Anthony Powell.) Suddenly the sun shone through the clouds evoking an imperishable memory of Violet’s sparkling eyes.

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**Membership Renewal**

Members are reminded that subscriptions become due on 01 April.

Those members whose membership is due for renewal should find a renewal notice enclosed with this Newsletter. Please complete the Renewal Notice and return it as soon as possible with your payment to the Hon. Secretary.

Details of the membership grades and rates appear elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Members whose subscriptions remain unpaid after 6 months will be removed from the membership list. We would like you to renew your membership – we would much prefer not to have to delete any member!
Lady Violet Powell (1912-2002)
by George Lilley

Members of the Society will have been immensely saddened to read of the sudden death of Lady Violet Powell on Saturday, 12 January 2002, shortly before her 90th birthday. We will miss her warm and practical support and encouragement to the Society from its inception. Those who were present at the First Biennial Conference in April 2001 will recall her message of greeting. I was pleased to be able to represent the Society at the Service of Thanksgiving for her life, held at Holy Trinity Church, Chantry, Somerset at midday on 18 January.

In a simple service the first hymn was ‘Jerusalem’, chosen as a tribute to her committed membership of the village Women’s Institute, which held its meetings in the converted stable block at The Chantry. Archie Powell (grandson) read from St Matthew’s Gospel, and Georgia Coke (granddaughter) from Lady Violet’s most recent volume of autobiography, The Departure Platform (1998).

The large congregation was a tribute to the enthusiasm, warmth and kindliness she brought to all the varied aspects of her life after her family’s move, nearly fifty years ago, from London to The Chantry: family life, and her devoted support of Tony Powell and his work; her own literary activity; and her involvement with Chantry Church, which she attended regularly, the WI and her other local activities environmental, social and political. She would surely have enjoyed the lunch at The Chantry to which all present were invited after the Service.

IN MEMORIAM
(Lady Violet Powell, 1912-2002)
by B. Douglas Russell

The rest has come.
Yea, at last the peace abides.
For she has won the battle held,
Through the fire daily tried.

To those are left behind,
To dance but for a while,
Her hope was to be fondly kept
In memory with a smile.

Looking back on all her days,
As needs and wants must do,
We see she was a flower
That graced us while in bloom.

Extraordinary General Meeting

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of Society members in the near future. This is required to consider a revised Constitution for the Society – a prerequisite for us being able to apply for charitable status.

At the time of going to press the date and venue for the EGM have not been finalized. However the meeting is most likely to be in late April in London.

All being well, a formal notice of the EGM (including date, time, venue and the business to be conducted) together with the revised Constitution and proxy voting form is included with this Newsletter.

Please vote – the Society’s future may depend on it.
Society Notices

Conference 2003 – Advance Notice
The Second Biennial Anthony Powell Conference will be held on Monday & Tuesday, 7 & 8 April 2003 at Balliol College, Oxford. Powell read History at Balliol College in the 1920s. In recognition of this the conference theme will be *Anthony Powell and Oxford of the 1920s*.

Detailed planning for the conference is now under way and further information will be printed here when available.

If you would like to present a paper at the conference, we would love to hear from you. A *Call for Papers* will be issued shortly which will detail how to submit the synopsis of your paper. In the meantime if you are considering submitting a paper please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary.

Provisional delegate bookings for the conference, which has to be strictly limited to a maximum 100 delegates, are being accepted by the Hon. Secretary.

But we are in urgent need of one thing to make the conference viable … a philanthropist! We really do need to find some external funding for the conference by June, so we can set the delegate fee! Without this we cannot keep the cost to you – the delegates – to what we consider a reasonable level and we will have to seriously consider cancelling the conference! So if anyone can put us in touch with such a philanthropic person or organisation, or has ideas who we might approach, then please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible.

Dates for Your Diary

**Saturday 6 April 2002**
**Great Lakes (Chicago area) Local Group Inaugural Meeting**
Venue: Red Lion Pub, 2446 N Lincoln, Chicago, IL, USA
Time: 13:00hrs
Lunch, drinks and hours of lively AP-related conversation and camaraderie. The Society will have the second floor all to ourselves, so if any of us end up "one over the eight" we will have only ourselves to embarrass!
Pay as you go; no dress requirements.
Further details from Stephen Pyskoty-Olle
Email: widmerpool@hotmail.com

**Saturday 14 September 2002**
**Society AGM**
Venue: Eton College.
Time: Afternoon.
Details to follow in Summer *Newsletter*.

**Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 April 2003**
**Second Biennial Anthony Powell Conference – Anthony Powell and Oxford of the 1920s.**
Venue: Balliol College, Oxford.
Details to follow as available.

Contributions to the *Newsletter* are always welcome and should be sent to:

Newsletter Editor, Stephen Holden, The Anthony Powell Society
76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK
Email: sjholden@hotmail.com
Donations to Charity in Memory of Lady Violet Powell

Following the sad death of Lady Violet Powell on 12 January we are aware that many members may wish to make a charitable donation in her memory. For anyone who wishes to make such a donation the Society will collect money and we'll make one single donation on your behalf.

As for Anthony Powell memorial donations there will be a choice of two recipients:

a. Chantry Church Restoration Fund (as requested by the family)

b. The Blue Cross (an animal rescue charity that does much work with cats and horses, both much beloved of Lady Violet).

Payments may be in the form of: Visa or Mastercard payment, UK sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank, or bank notes (any currency except dead/dying European ones, please!) Cash is sent at your risk. Cheques should be made payable to The Anthony Powell Society. Visa and Mastercard payments may also be made by fax or phone. Please send payments to the Hon. Secretary accompanied by the form below. All payments received will be acknowledged.

Details of the amounts raised will be published in a future Newsletter.

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Donations to Charity in Memory of Lady Violet Powell

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[ ] The Blue Cross
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From the Secretary’s Desk

Suddenly, all too suddenly, an era has passed.

On Saturday 12 January 2002 Lady Violet Powell died after a short illness. She was 89.

Lady Violet and Anthony Powell had been married for some 65 years when AP died in March 2000, closing a major chapter. Now, less than two years later, the book itself has been closed. And it is a book of which many pages will remain forever blank: so little of Lady Violet’s eclectic and encyclopaedic knowledge was ever captured. Sadly we shall now never be able to tap these rich veins to discover unexpected and delicious facts and anecdotes about AP; his work; their friends.

As has been written in the various obituaries for Lady Violet, she was in many ways a fundamental, even an elemental, force in the formation of AP’s work. But Lady Violet was much more than just the power behind the throne. As with many of the Pakenham family, Lady Violet was an author and biographer in her own right having written works on Ivy Compton-Burnett, Somerville and Ross, Jane Austen, her own maternal grandmother Margaret, Countess of Jersey and a number of others – all works which are undeservedly neglected. She also published three volumes of autobiography, chronicling her life from childhood through to around 1960; it is our loss that the pages from 1960 to 2002 will remain forever blank. And let us not forget the Album to Dance.

One of the few things in my life I regret is never having met Powell himself. However I did meet Lady Violet and I feel very honoured to have done so. I am also very grateful for the Lady Violet’s interest in, and support for, the Society. Having her there, in the background, certainly kept us all on our mettle, although we also had the knowledge of having a formidable ally in the wings.

Our challenge now is to continue to build the Society and help keep the Powell family name alive and honoured – while ensuring we maintain the high standards both AP and Lady Violet would have expected.

Help the Society and Save Money

Members, at least those with Internet access, can help the Society financially while also saving themselves money. The Anthony Powell website is an Associate of both Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk, the discount Internet bookshops. This means that when you buy books from either of these Amazon sites the Society can earn a small commission on the cost of your books. It works like this:

- Go to the AP website www.anthonypowell.org.uk
- At the top right of the homepage you will see the Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk logos.
- Click the logo for whichever of the bookshop sites you wish to enter.
- Now any purchase (not just books) made during this visit will attract a small commission for the Society.

Just remember to enter Amazon via that logo every time you buy for the trick to keep working.
New York Meeting

by Leatrice Gilbert Fountain and Nick Birns

We had chosen as our topic Sir Magnus Donners. Nick Birns read a brief paper on Donners. He noted that, “Sir Magnus has a more unconventional relationship towards bohemian figures – he has mistresses in common with them. Whereas General Conyers represents a ‘contact zone’ between the power world and the world of art, it is through Sir Magnus’ mistresses that the worlds of art and money meet.”

Nick Birns also commented on the appositeness of Donners’ name: "Sir Magnus Donners is an outsized, hyperbolic name, more typical of nineteenth-century writers from George Bernard Shaw to Charles Dickens to, for that matter, W. S. Gilbert, or of Restoration comedy. ‘Donners’ comes from the German word for ‘thunder’; and ‘Magnus’ from the Latin for ‘great’ (cf. Charlemagne), also seen as a Scandinavian name. The partially Scandinavian descent ascribed to Donners make the name seem more plausible than it would for someone alleged to be of English descent; Powell’s names, no matter how preposterous, are never implausible”.

We tried to stay loosely within the subject, but things tended to stray far and wide after that. It was a noisy occasion, as usual; Powell fans always seem to have a lot to say. I would guess there were about fifteen, maybe seventeen of us, meeting in a private room at the Century Club, 7 West 43rd St. William Warren, our host, rounded up three Powellian lawyers, new to our group, who added greatly to the conversation – Dwight Sutherland for one, who practices law in Kansas, but belongs to a club in New York, The Brook. He hopes to afford us a meeting place there for our next meeting on 22 March. Tom Wallace, who was AP's literary agent in the States, spoke about his friendship with AP: Stephen Pyskoty-Olle who has been "Listing" for some time, came on from Chicago, and is now setting up a local group there for Midwestern Powellites and they hope to meet in the spring. Ed Bock from Syracuse University, and John Gould from Amhurst, Sam Goodyear who was at Eton, Elaine Kaufman; also a new attender, a friend of William’s from the Grolier Rare Book Society, I missed her name. (There were others and we’re working on their identity.) Perhaps because we sat at a large round table, (unlike the long and narrow one at Silvermine Tavern last fall) and met in a private room cutting down extraneous noise, the conversation only rarely fractured into groups. Most of the talk was general, people tended to listen to each other and build the discussion from other's contributions while adding their own. Stories of how and when they first learned about AP were entertaining. Favorite characters were discussed, tied in when we could to Sir Magnus Donners. Quite a bit about Widmerpool. There was the usual instant camaraderie when Powellites assemble. (After all, anyone who finds AP indispensable can't be all bad.) These meetings show no sign of "drying up" like the group in Toronto Joan Williams mentioned, who ran out of things to talk about. So far there to be seems an abundance of topics and a lot of very cheerful people. May it last forever!
What’s in a Name?

by Peter Haley Dunne

This letter first appeared in The Independent newspaper on 1 August 2001.

Sir – Kington’s article about the hearty overuse of Christian names (“Welcome to the first name game”, The Independent, 30 July 2001) prompts me to dig out this passage from Anthony Powell. It occurs in the 10th volume, Books Do Furnish a Room, of A Dance to the Music of Time, where the narrator meets his old schoolmaster, Mr Le Bas.

“Obviously it would be absurd to call him ‘sir’, yet that still obtruded as the only suitable form of address. What else could he be called? Just ‘Le Bas’? Certainly he belonged to a generation which continued throughout a lifetime to use that excellent masculine evocation of surname, before an irresponsible bandying of first names smothered all subtleties of relationship.”

I think that says it all. Like Kington, I got letters beginning “Dear Haley Dunne” in my younger days and thought nothing odd of it. This, of course, left us free to ask each other, “May I call you by your Christian name?” and this was the tutoiement of the English. All wiped out now.

Peter Haley Dunne
Budapest, Hungary.

Draft Odo Stevens Identification

by Julian Allason

At Doug Russell’s prompting I have been investigating character models for Odo Stevens, and have one tentative identification to propose: Edmund Frank ‘Trotsky’ Davies was so called for having displayed ”a kind of disciplined bolshevism” as a Sandhurst cadet. According to one source he hailed from the West Midlands – Odo's place of origin – and studied mining engineering before being commissioned as an officer in the Manchester Regiment. He led the British Military Mission to enemy-occupied Albania for SOE [the Special Operations Executive], was wounded, decorated, and later wrote a book, Illyrian Venture, about his escapades with the partisans resisting the Germans, but which revealed little about himself. Sound like Odo?

If so, this may be the missing episode in Stevens life. In the summer of 1943 Davies, by then promoted Brigadier, accompanied by a sapper major named Chesshire, and a wireless operator, Sergeant Smith, had boarded a Halifax bomber in the north African desert. The aircraft was bound for Albania where the three men parachuted into the Chermenika mountains. There Davies organised a reasonably effective campaign of sabotage despite divisions between the partisans. However his luck ran out in January 1944, when he and his comrades unexpectedly came under enemy fire. Chesshire was hit in the thigh, while Davies was wounded in his stomach and heel. Sergeant Smith, a former RAF air gunner who had volunteered for the SOE after finding life in a desert bomber squadron a trifle tame,
insisted on staying with them. Davies reminded him that badly wounded men should be left to their fate, to which the uncompromising Yorkshireman retorted: "You're in no position to give me orders." With that he dragged Davies and Chesshire to the shelter of a stone sheepfold and tended their wounds as best he could. Smith had just got a fire going when a bullet cracked into the stone wall of the fold, followed by a hail of fire from all sides. Apparently heedless of the danger, Smith walked out shouting "Inglisi ferriti" ("Englishmen wounded"). "They're massing for the kill," he reported on his return. Then all hell broke loose. The attackers, bandoliered Albanians who had sided with the Germans, charged. Although Smith carried on returning fire, the three Englishmen were quickly overwhelmed. Chesshire and Davies were placed on makeshift stretchers for a terrible journey through mountains and icy streams. They eventually reached a hospital in Tirana where they were seen by German doctors. Davies later joined Chesshire at Colditz, from where they were eventually liberated by advancing American troops in April 1945. Sergeant Smith was repatriated from an RAF camp. (Source: Daily Telegraph obits and Secret War by Nigel West.)

In addition to the fit between Davies and Stevens' Balkan exploits, the two are said to have been somewhat alike in character, Davies being described by colleagues as 'undiplomatic' – armyspeak for 'blunt to the point of rudeness'. It is not clear to what extent Anthony Powell and Davies knew each other, probably not well as Keith Marshall found no relevant entries in the indices of Journals and Memoirs. It may be that Davies' biographical sketch came across Powell’s desk for review.

Doug Russell also dropped a hint about Waugh's Sword of Honour trilogy. Am I right in thinking the unsinkable Trimmer also hailed from the West Midlands? To the best of my knowledge Powell rarely draws on the literary creations of others for his characters, but Trimmer, although described by Waugh as archetypal, is supposedly drawn from life (Doug Russell’s Waugh scholars came up with a letter from Ann Fleming to Waugh teasing the latter about modelling Trimmer on Lord Lovat, the commando chief whose morale-boosting press publicity exceeded the value of his exploits – more echoes of Odo). And as we know Powell used as sources several individuals who had already been immortalised by others. Could Odo be a cross between the real-life Trimmer and Trotsky Davies?

Netherdance

Auke Leistra, the Dutch translator of A Dance to the Music of Time, has informed the Society that the Dutch publisher has decided not to proceed with Dance for commercial reasons. Auke Leistra would like to thank the Society, “for your kind support, your sympathy, your cooperation, your encouragement, your prayers, and your whatnot.”

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Meet the Committee:
Maggie Noach, Chairman

I was born and brought up in London. My father was a Dutch art historian who, for many years before moving to England, had visited London frequently and immersed himself in English literature. My mother an Austrian psychoanalyst who had been brought up in Vienna surrounded by writers, artists and musicians.

At Francis Holland School where I was educated, I encountered a wonderful teacher who conveyed her enthusiasm for English language and literature. My father, too, contributed to my love of books (he had a wonderful collection of antiquarian tomes, many of which I still possess) and it was he who introduced me to Powell when I was about 16.

This happened because I had read all of Evelyn Waugh's novels several times and wanted to find another writer whose work I would enjoy. Beginning with Venusberg and From a View to a Death, then progressing to A Dance to the Music of Time and his other works, I have been reading and re-reading Powell ever since.

I have been a literary agent throughout my working life, first at AP Watt Ltd (the oldest and one of the largest agencies) where I became a Director and, for the past twenty years, running my own agency from my home in West London. I represent a small and eclectic number of authors who achieve success throughout the world.

It has to be said that reading is my main hobby as well as my work. Although I love discovering new books, it is always comforting to return to a much-loved author – and especially Powell's world – to refresh my brain after I have read too many manuscripts. I love travelling too and am able to combine work and pleasure in the places I visit and the people I meet. Good wine and food; all the performing arts; art and architecture; gardens and countryside – all these give me great pleasure.

Shortly before the Eton Conference, I read about the Society in The Daily Telegraph and was happy to discover the existence of like-minded people also immersed in the world of Dance. It is an understatement to say that I was delighted to be invited to stand as Chairman some months later.

Spending that memorable day at Eton was most refreshing for mind and spirit. All the Society events I have attended since then have been equally enjoyable and it is my hope, as Chairman, to extend that enjoyment and welcome many more members to the Society.

Powell has many admirers throughout the world and, through my publishing and personal contacts, I am endeavouring to spread the word about the Society. I hope that all members will help with the expansion of the Society and assist the Committee to continue in its efforts to educate and entertain through the promotion of Powell's writing.

Books to Sell or Wanted?
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Society Merchandise

Postcards
There are two postcards available, both illustrated below:
• B&W card of AP with his cat Trelawney.
• The Wallace Collection’s colour postcard of Poussin’s painting of *A Dance to the Music of Time*.

The two cards are slightly differently priced but both are post free in the UK; non-UK members are asked to pay a small contribution towards the cost of airmail postage and packing.

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Eton Conference Proceedings
The proceedings of the first AP Conference (2001) at Eton are still available. This first (and maybe only) edition is limited to just 250 numbered copies each signed by the Society’s Patron John Powell. Copies, post free to members, are £15 each. [Non-members please add P&P: UK £0.95, Europe £1.90, Rest of World £2.80 per copy.]

Eton Conference Delegates Book
We have a few copies remaining of the Eton Conference Delegates Book (given to the delegates on the day), which gives the synopsis of each of the papers presented and mini-biographies of each of the authors. These are available at £2 each, post free in the UK; other members please add a contribution to postage & packing: Europe 50p, World £1 per copy. Only available while stocks last.

Newsletter Back Issues
Back numbers of all issues of the *Newsletter* are available at 50p each, again post free in UK. Outside the UK please add a contribution to postage & packing: Europe 40p, World 90p per copy.

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*S Members of the Executive Committee. All officers are resident in the UK unless stated.

Please send all correspondence to:

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76 Ennismore Avenue, Greenford Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK

Phone: +44 (0)20 8864 4095
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**Newsletter Copy Deadlines for 2002**

The deadlines for receipt of articles (and advertisements!) for the Newsletter issues for the remainder of this year are:

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**Solutions for Crossword No. 4**

Across: 8 Carolo; 9 Ago; 10 Eton; 11 Repertoire; 12 Lady; 13 Vacuum; 16 Dulcimer; 17 Barbara; 18 Dungeon; 22 Ambition; 25 Curios; 26 King; 27 Obstetrics; 30 Jean; 31 Eve; 32 Aboard

Down: 1 Café; 2 Foxe; 3 Mortimer; 4 Matilda; 5 Lovell; 6 Bellringer; 7 Poodle; 14 Ada; 15 Upbringing; 19 Uncle Sam; 20 Odo; 21 One Step; 23 Maiden; 24 Isobel; 28 Room; 29 Corn

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Contact the Editor or Hon. Secretary for more details
# The Anthony Powell Society Membership Form

## Section A: Member Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of membership (please check):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Ordinary Member – £20 a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Joint Membership – £30 a year. Any two people at the same address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Gold Member – £30 minimum a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Student Member – £12 a year. Please send evidence the recipient is a full-time student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Organisation – £100 minimum a year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subscriptions are due on 01 April annually. If joining after 31 December membership includes following full subscription year.

### Member’s Name

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postcode/Zip</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### Number of years membership being paid:

1 / 2 / 3

### Is this membership a gift? Yes / No

If Yes please complete Section B

## Section B: Gift Membership Information

### Donor’s Name

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<th>Postcode/Zip</th>
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<th>Country</th>
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<table>
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<th>Email</th>
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</table>

### Where shall we send the membership?

☐ Direct to the recipient

☐ To me to give to the recipient personally

### Please indicate any special message you would like sent with this membership.

## Section C: Payment Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total amount payable</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of years x membership rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ I enclose a sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank. Please make cheques payable to The Anthony Powell Society.

☐ Please debit my Visa / MasterCard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Card No.:</th>
</tr>
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<table>
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<th>Valid from:</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expires:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Name & address of cardholder, if different from above.

I agree to the Society holding the above details on computer.

### Signed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Section D: Mailing Information

Please send the completed form and payment to:

**Hon. Secretary**  
The Anthony Powell Society  
76 Ennismore Avenue  
Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 0JW, UK

Phone: +44 (0)20 8864 4095  
Fax: +44 (0)20 8864 6109
**Letter to the Editor**

Sir – I have enormously enjoyed reading the *Proceedings* of the Eton Conference, though the second footnote on page 79 does not seem to ring quite true. In his otherwise excellent and fascinating paper on “Illusion and Reality – With Special Reference to Anthony Powell’s *A Dance to the Music of Time*”, Dominick Harrod identifies the figure of ‘Annie’ alluded to in Anthony Powell’s letter to his father, Sir Roy Harrod, as Anne Countess of Rosse. However, my researches into the lives of Anthony Powell and Lady Rosse – both of whose obituaries I wrote for *The Daily Telegraph* – tend to the conclusion that they may hardly have known each other.

Although Lady Rosse might indeed have been described as a ‘hostess’, she was essentially a figure in the worlds of gardening and conservation rather than the metropolitan nexus of power, politics and literary *salons* implied in Anthony Powell’s references to ‘Pam [Berry] and Annie.’ Moreover, I believe Lady Rosse was usually known as ‘Anne’ rather than ‘Annie.’ The more likely candidate for the person Powell had in mind would, I suggest, appear to have been Ann Fleming, who was very much a smart London political hostess of the mould under discussion and who was generally (if not exclusively) known as ‘Annie.’

Born Ann Charteris (a granddaughter of the 11th Earl of Wemyss) in 1913, she married first, the 3rd Lord O’Neill (who was killed in action in 1944); secondly, the 2nd Viscount Rothermere, the newspaper proprietor (from whom she was divorced in 1952); and thirdly, Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond (who died in 1964). Mrs Fleming died in 1981. She features prominently in *The Letters of Evelyn Waugh* edited by Mark Amory (published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, in 1980), in which she is described in a biographical note as ‘the political hostess… stylish and witty.’

Yours faithfully,
Hugh Massingberd

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**Christmas Prize Competition**

The Christmas Prize Competition was to re-write the carol *The Twelve Days of Christmas* on the theme of *A Dance to the Music of Time*, with each day relating to the correct volume of *Dance*.

Congratulations to Michael Goldman, who wins a year’s free membership to the Society, for the following entry:

*On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me*

12 crayfish swimming
11 voyeurs looking
10 pages floating
9 soldiers wenching
8 clerks deserting
7 captains drinking
6 uncles dying
5 meals for two
4 calling guests
3 masters fainting
2 sugar bowls
and the wrong kind of overcoat.
AP Society Newsletter #6

Crossword No. 5
Set by ‘Mr Blackhead’

Across
8  Front-of-house for Sitwell show (6)
9  Medical condition of police in dirty oasis (8)
10 Draw back from hospital room (4)
11 Artist gives to Widmerpool a dwelling (10)
12 Academic lost in Aden (4)
13 Shaky nuns up ladder in UK town (10)
17 A type of church furniture (4)
18 Lefanu’s and HE Bates’ Silas (5)
19 Trapnel’s tail-less animal arrived (4)
21 Ride nag awkwardly before Leroy’s house (10)
23 Woman in gondola dying (4)
24 Randomly hunt stores in house (10)
28 London statue has sore back (4)
29 Battered cornet in firm composition (8)
30 Burton or Cutts? (6)

Down
1 Confused 28 with Indonesian island and Balkans town (8)
2 Tramping back, not in London neighbourhood (10)
3 Unruly quads hated killer team (5,5)
4 Old German coin for writer (4)
5 Scandinavian soldier? (4)
6 London area taken in by Picasso hoax (4)
7 Delvacquerie has cocktail (6)
14 Put unruly French dog in alcove (5)
15 Simple enemy alert goes wrong (10)
16 Roughly collared by resident at horse race (5,5)
20 Indifferent crime ode reviewed (8)
22 Part ran around Spanish 18 (6)
25 Cut the narrator (4)
26 Brave man sees no end for exasperated (28) (4)
27 Trio created a disturbance (4)