

Summer Gathering at Lew Trenchard

A fine early summer morning brought 100 people, from the sub-teens to the over-nineties, together in the deep Devon countryside to celebrate the memory of Sabine Baring-Gould and his wife Grace. It was 123 years and one day after their own wedding, although that occasion took place in distant Yorkshire, with only two witnesses present. Those 100 people consisted of members of the family - bearing a number of other names in the second and third generation, members of the Appreciation Society, friends and parishioners.

The day's events began with a church service, conducted by a Reader from Plymouth, Peter Binschedler. Four of SBG's hymns were sung, four Bible passages were read by members of the family, and the Editor of the Newsletter had the privilege of the pulpit. After the service, and the issue of smart name tags, the company was treated to nine or ten of SBG's collection of folksongs in the vicinity of Sabine's and Grace's grave in the churchyard, splendidly rendered with fascinating commentary by Mr. John Hobbs. SBG's grandson Warwick gave a spirited rendering of Widecombe Fair to conclude this part of the proceedings.

Then everyone moved to the field near the Manor for a picnic lunch with strawberries and cream, and the opportunity for meeting and mixing. The new Rector explained the needs of the church building, which SBG had spent so much time and expense restoring and improving, and the current appeal for £75,000. After that there was time for perusing and purchasing copies of SBG's books.

The first general meeting of the Society then took place, as a result of which we now have a Committee! Dr. Merriol Almond (great-granddaughter) graciously agreed to be President; Hon. Sec. is Mr. Patrick Hutton, bookseller, of Launceston; Hon. Treasurer is Mr. Julian Mattock, a Life Assurance Consultant, of Taunton; and David Shacklock continues as Newsletter Editor. These appointments are for three years, reviewable annually. It is intended that a member from the next "host" region will be co-opted for the year concerned. Working arrangements have yet to be fully worked out between the members of the Committee, but some further points about this appear under "Membership Notes" on page 15.

The day concluded with tours of Lew Trenchard Manor, conducted most ably by Mrs. Sue Murray, who together with her husband James now runs the Hotel. A video of the day's proceedings is being made and will be available shortly.

Mrs. Image Briggs and her many helpers in the family and parish deserve the warmest thanks and congratulations for all their hard work and effort to make such a full and enjoyable day for all concerned.