

December 2013.

Dear Members and Friends of the War Poets Association (WPA),

### **WPA 2014, and update**

I am writing to update you generally on the WPA and its plans for 2014.

#### **2014**

We will be organising a tour to the Ypres Salient and Northern France over the weekend of Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014 – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The programme is not fixed yet but we are likely to be looking at the response of the soldier poets to the beginning of the war and the early experiences of ‘strangers in a strange land’. Andy Thompson – [andy@eyewitnesstours.com](mailto:andy@eyewitnesstours.com) – will lead the tour. We expect this trip to be well supported, given the correspondence we have been having with members, and should like to have an early indication of interest in the tour. Please contact Andy direct about this if you are interested to participate, or to book your place.

The WPA will also be organising or otherwise supporting an appropriate event in 2014 to mark the 1914 Centenary. There is a committee meeting in January and we will post details of what is planned on the website, after this meeting.

The next issue of the WPA’s journal *War Poetry Review* will be published in Autumn 2014. The WPA is delighted that Santanu Das and Kate McLoughlin, both well known for their work on war literature, have joined us and are working together on the 2014 issue. Kate and Santanu will be posting news on the progress of the Review onto the website.

#### **WPA Website**

Plans to develop and update the website as necessary to provide an appropriate resource and presentation of the WPA for 2014 and beyond are now being considered. Please use the website at [www.warpoets.org](http://www.warpoets.org) to keep in touch with the WPA. You can follow us also on Twitter (@NotarIus) and Facebook.

#### **WPA Committee**

The WPA Committee is now made up of Tim Kendall (President), myself (chair and membership), Patrick Villa (treasurer and website editor), Fran Brearton, Santanu Das, Hermione Fricker, Kate McCloughlin, Paul O’Prey, Shelley Swade, and Andy Thompson. Details of the Committee will be found on the WPA website when it is updated.

#### **WPA Subscriptions**

Annual subscriptions for the WPA became due in November. You can join or renew your membership online via the WPA website ([www.warpoets.org/join](http://www.warpoets.org/join)) or by cheque to me c/o Veale Wasbrough Vizards, Orchard Court, Orchard Lane, Bristol, BS1 5WS. The annual subscription remains the same at £15, with reductions to £10 for seniors and students.

With the centenaries of the First World War approaching in 2014—2018 there has never been a more interesting time to join and get involved in the WPA and I hope all members will now renew and friends join up; please also tell others you know who are interested in war poetry about the WPA and encourage them to join us.

As well as financial support we also need people interested in war poetry who are prepared to join the Committee and work with WPA. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the Committee please let me know. Thank you very much.

With best wishes from the WPA Committee for Christmas and 2014,

David Worthington.