We look forward to welcoming Wells Society members to the international conference on ‘H. G. Wells: From Kent to Cosmopolis’, to be held at the Darwin Conference Suite, University of Kent at Canterbury, from Friday July 9th to Sunday July 11th. It is over a decade since the last H. G. Wells conference on this scale, so the occasion is not to be missed!

During the 1990s we held international conferences to mark the centenaries of *The Time Machine* and *The War of the Worlds* respectively. 2010 is the centenary of *The History of Mr Polly*, but it is also the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the H. G. Wells Society—time, perhaps, to take stock of our own achievements in promoting and encouraging ‘an active interest in and appreciation of the life, work and thought of H. G. Wells’?
Canterbury, which Mr Polly found to be a ‘congenial situation’, is the university and cathedral city of Wells’s county of Kent and it is close to Folkestone and Sandgate, where he lived during the opening decade of the twentieth century and wrote many of his best-known novels. On the Sunday afternoon, when the formal business of the conference is over, we hope to arrange an excursion to Wellsian locations in Folkestone and Sandgate. (Unfortunately Spade House, the house that he built on the cliffs above Sandgate, is no longer open to visitors.)

Our Call for Papers for the conference is open until 1 March. Already we have a number of fascinating submissions, on topics including Wells and the Atom Bomb, Wells and Disaster Fiction, and Wells and Birth Control. Keynote speakers are John Hammond, the Founder and President of our Society; our Vice-President Brian Aldiss; John Huntington, author of *The Logic of Fantasy: H. G. Wells and Science Fiction*; and the award-winning British science fiction writer Gwyneth Jones. We also hope to be able to host a celebration of Michael Sherborne’s new biography of Wells which will be published in the Spring.

The provisional programme for the conference starts at 1.30pm on the Friday, with a full day on the Saturday and a morning session until 12 noon on the Sunday. We have the possibility of running one or more evening sessions. There is a choice of campus accommodation together with full meals, with reduced rates for students, and day rates are also available. The cost of the optional Sunday afternoon excursion is not yet known, but this will be charged extra.

Conference organization is the responsibility of a small working party which meets regularly in Canterbury, thanks to the hospitality of our Treasurer Paul Allen. At present those involved are Paul, Sylvia Hardy, Patrick Parrinder, and Andrew Butler of the Science Fiction Foundation and Canterbury Christ Church University.

Patrick Parrinder