

# Announcing The BFWG Centenary Scholarship Fund Award – Let the Fund Raising Begin

**W**hy, when the recession is really starting to bite, should we support yet another cause? Well, it's quite simple: in 2012 we shall celebrate a century of giving awards for academic excellence by awarding the BFWG Scholarship Fund's Centenary Award to a female student for the third year of her doctorate; we plan to raise a substantial sum for this extra, one-off award.

In 1912 Caroline Spurgeon became the first recipient of our annual awards for her research on Geoffrey Chaucer. Having been a lecturer in English at Bedford College, London since 1900, a year after receiving our award she became a professor at London University, making her the first female Professor of English Literature in Britain and was widely recognised as such. Although she was most famous for her work as literary critic on Shakespeare's imagery, she was known as an outstanding critic on Chaucer, on Keats and on mysticism in English Literature.

There will be more about her and other recipients of our awards in the months to come, but for now, how about planning

some local fundraising for the special award to celebrate this whole century of giving? We made a start at the AGM with bookmarks for raising awareness; I still have some if anyone wants me to post some on (SAE please and a donation of 20p each - minimum). There is always a place for pot-luck lunches or suppers and bring-and-buy coffee mornings, but

how about something a little more unusual: a sponsored marathon or half-marathon (it need not be you!); a sponsored parachute jump; a race night; a fancy dress ball; or a gentler option, a cake and cava tea? Let's share our ideas! Whatever we can contribute as taxpaying individuals should be gift-aided where possible and a straightforward gift aid form is available on the website. (LA contributions to the

Fund will, like those of non-taxpaying individuals, not qualify for gift aid.)

Of course we must in addition approach companies and academic institutions for donations. There is also the easier option of a bequest in one's own will, which would eventually provide a tax free amount for the BFWG Scholarship Fund. That's what I have done, and it's painless!

*Rory Haigh, Scholarship Fund Trustee*

