

THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

Newsletter 7

March 2018

Dear members,

New EU regulations coming into force in May require us to check that you are happy to receive these newsletters, providing always that your email address is not shared with others on the list, and that the list is kept secure and separate from other data. Please help us by indicating your agreement to this, with a brief email to me at jwawalker@gmail.com. It would be very good to have those replies by return...

Now, I am tempted to head the following **'REASONABLY URGENT'**, to attract your attention:

Our Society, like so many of its kind, depends for much of its success on its honorary officers, and keeping up the supply of willing volunteers is always a concern. Our Honorary Secretary, John Lambert, has given us warning that he will have to relinquish his role at the Annual General Meeting in July, and so we must find a replacement for him. John has given very generously of time, energy and expertise over many years, and I know we will continue to value his general advice and assistance in years to come.

The post involves the business of four meetings a year, plus the AGM, along with liaison on behalf of the Society with a number of voluntary and statutory bodies. Enquiries from the general public, including prospective members, are usually passed on to other members of Council. (You may recognise this description from the note included with the March edition of the Journal, which incidentally is thoroughly good again!)

As with many committees, we have the possibility of a 'job swap', and should we be able to find someone to take over from Mike Kipling as Hon. Treasurer, I understand that he would be prepared to stand for election as Hon. Secretary. If you would feel able to offer us your time and expertise in either of these positions, as Honorary Treasurer or Honorary Secretary, I should be very pleased to discuss it with you.

You will see that we also have an appeal from Mike for an Honorary Independent Financial Examiner, as noted in the March edition of the Journal, on the Jiscmail discussion site, and on our web site www.kiplingsociety.co.uk

As always, please excuse any 'cross-posting', such as that to the mailbase RUDYARD-KIPLING@JISCMAIL.AC.UK, but also let me know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter.

The headings I have are:

1. **The Annual Luncheon.**
2. **Honorary Independent Financial Examiner.**
3. **General Data Protection Regulation.**
4. **The Annual General Meeting.**
5. **Kipling and Schools.**
6. **The New Readers' Guide.**
7. **The Hartlepool Folk Festival.**
8. **Books for Sale.**

1. The Annual Luncheon:

If you have already booked places for the Annual Luncheon, then this is just a reminder for everyone else. However, with a number of new members since my last newsletter, I feel justified in repeating the invitation:

Wednesday 2nd May 2018, at The Army & Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JN

The Kipling Society has held an Annual Luncheon for ninety years, in a wide variety of venues. For 2018, with warnings of significant rises in prices for the Hall of India and Pakistan at the Royal Over-Seas League, we have decided to try a fresh, but equally suitable and historic establishment for the Luncheon (while continuing our meetings at ROSL). This will help to keep the cost down, although we have been unable to avoid some increase.

The timing will be 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m., Admission is by ticket from the Secretary, at £65 for a two course meal, wine and tea / coffee.

Closing date for tickets will be: Wednesday 19th April 2018.

I am very pleased to say that we have a splendid speaker again: Charles Allen, historian, biographer and traveller (such an enviable summary of a life). Charles will be speaking on ‘**The Eyes of Asia: Kipling and the Indian troops in the Great War**’. He is a thoroughly entertaining speaker, who is bound to cover a great deal under this title. Here are the notes from the flyer in the December Journal (if the booking form has disappeared, you can contact our Honorary Secretary, John Lambert, on john.lambert1@btinternet.com and find details on line at kiplingsociety.co.uk).

Charles was born in Cawnpore, India, in the last years of the British Raj. Both his parents had links with South Asia, going back over five generations. He first made his name as an oral historian with the BBC, focusing on the colonial experience, with a number of radio and TV series, and such books as *Plain Tales from the Raj* (1975), and *Tales from the South China Seas* (1982). His later histories of British involvement in India include *Soldier Sahibs* (2000) and *The Buddha and the Sahibs* (2002). His later work includes a number of biographies with a South Asian background, such as *Ashoka: the Search for India's Lost Emperor* (2012), and *The Prisoner of Kathmandu: Brian Hodgson in Nepal 1820-43* (2015). Charles first began to write about his own family's links with Rudyard Kipling in a selection of his Indian stories in *Kipling's Kingdom: His Best Indian Stories* (1987), returning to the subject twenty years later to write *Kipling Sahib: Indian and the Making of Rudyard Kipling* (2007). In Charles's twenty-fourth (and, he insists, his last) book, *COROMANDEL: a personal history of South India* (2017), he challenges some cherished beliefs about the shaping of South India's history.

2. Honorary Independent Financial Examiner.

For many years, we have been privileged to have the help of Andrew Dodsworth when ‘signing off’ the Society's financial reports for the year. Andrew is retiring, with our grateful thanks, and we would like to find a replacement to confirm at the A.G.M.

The Society's rules require its accounts, prepared by the Treasurer, to be “externally examined”. The role may be fulfilled by a member of the Society or by a non-member (e.g. a relative of a member); only current members of council are excluded.

No formal accounting qualifications are necessary, although some familiarity with accounts and Excel spreadsheets would be useful. The Society's financial arrangements are very straightforward, and the work involved would amount only to a few hours work in January or February each year. In return, the Independent Financial Examiner will receive two free tickets for the Society's annual luncheon every year.

If you think you might be able to help the Society in this way, or know of someone who can, please contact the Treasurer, Mike Kipling (mike@kipling.me.uk).

3. General Data Protection Regulations:

As mentioned above, in May this year sweeping new regulations will affect all organisations in the European Union which maintain records of data, such as postal addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, etc. Charities, such as our Society, will not be exempt. We have been examining the new requirements, and are confident that we will fulfil them, but I would welcome any insights you may have. <https://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/news/gdpr-reminder-for-charities>

4. Annual General Meeting:

You will be very warmly welcomed, on Wednesday 11th July 2018 at 4.30pm in the Mountbatten Room, at the Royal Over-Sea's League, Park Place, London. A complimentary tea will be served at 4pm in the Rutland Room, for members who inform the Secretary in advance.

After the A.G.M, from 5.30pm for 6pm (also in the Mountbatten Room), we will be able to celebrate the completion of the latest stage in our on-line Readers Guide: **The Verse**. There will be a demonstration of the resource by John Radcliffe, who has been the chief architect and driving force over many years. This will be followed by live readings and musical settings of Kipling's verse, led by Ray Beck (and your out-going Chairman!)

5. Kipling and Schools:

With the last entries coming in for this year's competition, we would like to find more Year 5 classes (nine and ten year olds) who could work on their own versions of the Just So Stories next year. If you have children or grandchildren in this age group, from September, please do ask their schools if they would like to be involved.

6. The New Readers' Guide:

If you would like to be part of this on-going and growing project, writing notes, preparing articles, reviewing existing text or helping to manage the facility, please do let us know. Although the final pieces of verse from the Definitive Edition (1940) are now being covered, the Guide will continue developing and expanding.

7. The Hartlepool Folk Festival:

Jonny Mohun, of 'Hartlepool Folk Festival fame' (my description, but well justified), has passed on some links to last October's success, centred around a celebration of Peter Bellamy's work with Kipling's verse. I was unlucky to miss it, but Jonny tells me there are plans to 'tour' the show. Special congratulations are due to our member, Heather Wood, who can be heard waxing lyrical.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-587996091/follow-me-ome-kipling-bellamy-and-the-barrack-room-ballads>

You may have missed the BBC Radio 2 Folk Show piece on the same subject.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-587996091/the-folk-show-mike-wilson-and-damien-barber-on-peter-bellamy>

8. Books for Sale:

Hugh Anson-Cartwright of Toronto has contacted me with details of some unusual items for sale. I should add, as we are now taught, 'Other dealers are available', but I did wonder whether some of the standard titles with links to Kipling's schooldays might appeal to you. I have already purchased three pieces for the Society's library.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=b52f7d4acd&view=att&th=161dde4fafbecd4c&attid=0.1&disp=inline&safe=1&zw>

And in the spirit of fairness, perhaps I could direct you to Bernard Quaritch's recent catalogue. Here, there are some copyright edition rarities:

<https://www.quaritch.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Rudyard-Kipling.pdf>

As always, if you would like to see back numbers of the Newsletter, please ask. Do remember that any suggestions for additional material would be most welcome.

I am looking forward to the extra edition of the Journal, due in early May, following the very successful transfer of the John Lockwood Kipling exhibition from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to the Bard Graduate Center in New York.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2018/03/22/john-lockwood-kipling-master-wonder-house>

With all good wishes,

John
John Walker
Honorary Chairman,

**President: Lt Col. ROGER AYERS OBE Vice Chair: SANDRA KEMP,
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