



# THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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## NEWSLETTER – JULY 2020

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A very successful AGM was held on 2 July. The use of Zoom (facilitated by John Radcliffe) enabled many people to participate who would not have been able to attend in person in London, including members from America, India and New Zealand. At the meeting, four new members of Council were elected and thanks were extended to six members who were leaving; four by rotation and two by choice.

Professors Harry Ricketts and Harish Trivedi, both of whom were present, were elected Vice Presidents.

At the brief meeting of the new Council, the honorary officers for the year were elected. The new Council is:

Professor Jan Montefiore: Chairman and Journal Editor  
Dr. Angela Eyre: Deputy Chairman.  
Mr. Mike Kipling: Secretary and Treasurer.  
Dr. Fiona Renshaw: Membership Secretary.  
Mr. John Walker: Librarian.  
Dr. Alex Bubb: Meetings Secretary.  
Mr. John Radcliffe: On-line Editor and Publicity Officer.  
Dr Mary Hamer  
Mr Richard Howell  
Captain Christopher Morrison RN  
Dr Kaori Nagai  
Commander Alastair Wilson RN

The position of *Bateman's* Liaison Officer remains vacant and we would welcome a volunteer, normally one of the volunteers at the house, to be co-opted into this role.

Following the formalities, new Chairman Jan Montefiore, led us in a programme of short readings from Kipling. A video can be accessed from the website at [http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/members\\_content.htm#AGM](http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/members_content.htm#AGM)

### Kipling in India (i)

1. **John Walker:** from *Kim: the Grand Trunk Road*)
2. **Harish Trivedi:** from *Letters of Marque* no.XV
3. **Alex Bubb:** 'Chota Jack Hornah'
4. **Angela Eyre:** from *The Bronkhorst Divorce Case*

Kipling in the 'Puck' books and *A History of England*

5. **Andrew Scragg:** 'A Pict Song'
6. **Christopher Morrison:** 'Norman and Saxon'
7. **Janice Lingley:** 'The Dawn Wind'
8. **Harry Ricketts:** 'The American Rebellion'
9. **Judith Plotz:** 'Farewell Rewards and Fairies'
10. **Paul Plotz:** 'Recessional'

Kipling in India (ii)

12. **Danny Karlin:** from *The Miracle of Purun Bhagat*
13. **Madhu Grover:** from *The Gate of a Hundred Sorrows*
14. **John Radcliffe:** from *The Bridge Builders*

Kipling's life

15. **Fred Lerner:** 'A School Song'
16. **Fiona Renshaw:** from Kipling's Letter about the building of 'Keylands'
17. **Andrew Lycett:** from '*Something of Myself*'

Kipling the poet

18. **Meredith Dixon:** three short poems from 'The Muse among the Motors'
19. **Mike Kipling:** 'Alnaschar and the Oxen'
20. **Alex Bubb:** 'Chartres Windows'

Kipling and animals

21. **Margaret Cawkwell:** from *Rikki-Tiki-Tavi*
22. **Jan Montefiore:** from *The Cat That Walked*
23. **John Walker:** 'The Power of the Dog'
24. **Kaori Nagai:** 'Four Feet'

Envoi

25. **Harry Ricketts:** 'The Way Through the Woods'

It is very likely that Zoom meetings will become a regular feature of the Society's programme in future, even after we are able to meet again in person.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Members may have noticed changes to the website recently, designed to make its content more obvious and accessible to new users. However, this is just a temporary measure, as Council has now commenced a significant project to modernise the website and to make it more resilient to changing future needs. Watch this space for more details.

KIPLING IN THE NEWS

This conference, arranged jointly by the Society and City University, originally intended for April 2020 and subsequently deferred to October has regrettably had to be postponed again. Our hope is that circumstances will have improved sufficiently for City University and the Society to be able to hold the event in 2021.

The fee paid by those who had applied to attend on the original April date will be carried forward unless a refund is requested. Further details at <https://www.city.ac.uk/events/2020/april/kipling-in-the-news-journalism-empire-and-decolonisation>

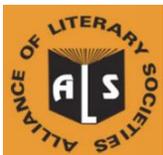
## FUTURE MEETING DATES

We hope that all these meetings will be able to take place as planned (at the Royal Over-Seas League, 17.30 for 18.00, unless otherwise indicated). However, updates will be provided in future Newsletters, the next of which is likely to be in mid-August.

- Wednesday 23 September. Madeleine Horton ‘Rethinking Rudyard Kipling: genre, Value and Reputation’.
- Wednesday 11 November. Prof. Jan Montefiore ‘War Graves, the Mayo assassination and Kipling’s last Raj story The Debt’.
- Wednesday 10 February 2021: Richard Howell ‘“One Spot Beloved Over All”: the Kiplings and the Bateman’s Estate’.
- 7 June 2021. Joint event with the Honourable Artillery Company. Prof. Ian Beckett ‘Kipling’s Army Revisited. 6.00 for 6.30 followed by dinner. Cost £30 per person (drinks are not included but will be available separately from the bar). Armoury House, London.

An application form for for the dinner above, which replaces the annual luncheon for 2021, will be included with the December 2020 Kipling Journal.

## ALLIANCE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES



The Kipling Society is a member of the Alliance of Literary Societies, which has recently issued its journal for 2020. It, and past years’ journals, can be found at <https://allianceofliterarysocieties.wordpress.com/the-journal-also/>

## ANNOTATED ‘PLAIN TALES’

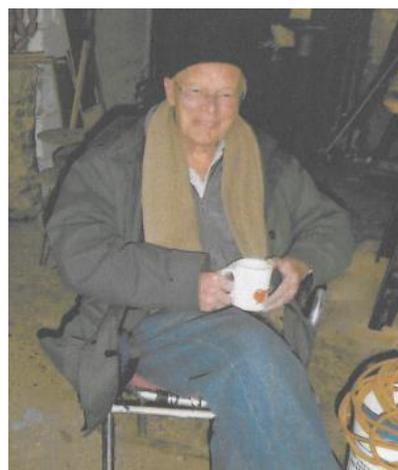
With the Society’s permission, Tom White has produced an e-book of ‘Plain Tales from the Hills’, which includes links at the relevant places in the text to the notes of the New Readers’ Guide. This may be bought from Amazon for £1.56. The UK link is [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Plain-Tales-Hills-Readers-Kipling-ebook/dp/B089XB12HF/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?dchild=1&keywords=plain+tales+from+the+hills&qid=1593815341&sr=8-7](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Plain-Tales-Hills-Readers-Kipling-ebook/dp/B089XB12HF/ref=sr_1_7?dchild=1&keywords=plain+tales+from+the+hills&qid=1593815341&sr=8-7)

The US link is [https://www.amazon.com/Plain-Tales-Hills-Readers-Kipling-ebook/dp/B089XB12HF/ref=sr\\_1\\_10?dchild=1&keywords=plain+tales+from+the+hills&qid=1593815473&sr=8-10](https://www.amazon.com/Plain-Tales-Hills-Readers-Kipling-ebook/dp/B089XB12HF/ref=sr_1_10?dchild=1&keywords=plain+tales+from+the+hills&qid=1593815473&sr=8-10)

Tom has very kindly agreed to donate all proceeds to the Society.

## REMEMBERING JOHN MCGIVERING

Tom White's e-book commences with a tribute to the late John McGivering (obituary in KJ no. 381) who was mainly responsible for the NRG notes on 'Plain Tales'. John is also fondly recalled by member Helen Mills, who has kindly sent some photographs. One shows him in costume as a member of the chorus in Walton and Weybridge Amateur Operatic Society's 1984 'Yeoman of the Guard', The other, from 2008, shows him at the Fishing Museum under the promenade at Brighton, where he was a regular volunteer (his family were Sussex fisher-folk). Fittingly, his wake was held at Brighton marina where fish and chips were consumed by all!



Kipling, of course, had at times been interested in both amateur dramatics and the fishing industry; witness 'Captains Courageous' and his stage performances at Westward Ho! and at the Gaiety Theatre in Simla (see KJ 147 p3 for more details of Kipling's life on, and writings about, the stage). <http://www.kiplingjournal.com/acrobat/KJ147.pdf>

## SIX HONEST SERVING MEN



Rebecca Douglas and her mother Jenny have made another delightful illustrated recording (see newsletters *passim*) on You Tube, although their frequency is reducing as lockdown eases.

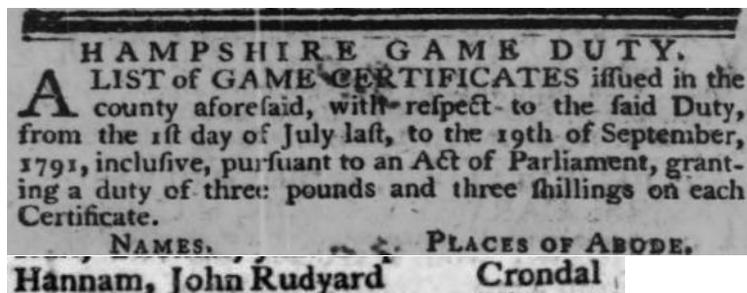
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMyEp155b70&feature=youtu.be>

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? - Part 2

We saw last time that Rudyard/Rudyerd had been a surname for many centuries before Joseph Rudyard Kipling was given it as a forename. But was he the first person to have it? Alas not, for in 1631 Frances Hanham (or Hannam) of Boston, Lincolnshire, left £200 in her will to her young son Rudyard. He had been baptised at Fishtoft in that country in 1623, the son of Henry Hannam. I have not been able to discover there was a family connection to the

Rudyards/Rudyerds of Staffordshire, or whether Henry Hannam simply admired his contemporary Sir Benjamin Rudyard.

In 1791 we read of one John Rudyard Hannam being granted a game licence in Hampshire. Doubtless he was a relative of the Lincolnshire Hannams.



*Hampshire Chronicle - Monday 03 October 1791*

He had been baptised at Odiham in 1766, the son of Thomas Hannam (or Hannum). He married in 1790, where we can see that he actually signed his name 'Rudyerd'

He named his son John Rudyard (or Rudyerd) in 1793.

Genealogical websites appear to show sporadic use of the name elsewhere before JRK became famous, although many of these may be misrecordings in parish registers or mistranscriptions. I am somewhat surprised not to have found it being used for the children of daughters of the Staffordshire Rudyards.

Once JRK came to prominence, the name became the occasional choice of a first forename. Fittingly, the first such users were tailor James Kipling of Newcastle and Mary his wife who named their son Rudyard in 1896.<sup>1</sup> He was the first of ten such Rudyard Kiplings, the last being as recently as 1961. Altogether, over forty boys in England have had Rudyard as their first forename since 1896. Incidentally, about eleven have had the first forename Kipling since 1895.

With around the same limited frequency, Rudyard was also adopted as a second or subsequent forename, such as William Rudyard Kipling born in Sudbury, Essex in 1892. I can, however, only find one other English JR, Joseph Rudyard Moore (born in Brentford in 1901).

Rudyard also rapidly became popular in the USA, perhaps more so than in the UK. Indeed, about 10 boys were given the forenames Rudyard Kipling, starting with Rudyard Kipling Coker in 1899 in Tennessee. Rudyard was also occasionally chosen in Canada and Australia from the 1890s, including for Rudyard Noel Kipling Beedham, K.C., solicitor-general of Tasmania from 1939-1944 who was a relative of the Newcastle Rudyard mentioned above.

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<sup>1</sup> James had named an older son Henry Havelock Allan Kipling, doubtless after Sir Henry Havelock-Allan VC, hero of the Indian 'Mutiny', who was dropped by a 'ten-rupee jezail' on the North West Frontier in 1897.

Rudyard continues to be selected as a forename in the 21st century; the most recent I have found being in 2005 in Hammersmith. Long may it continue!

#### MY SUSSEX CATTLE FEEDING IN THE DEW

Kipling made considerable efforts to get involved in local agricultural society, especially with his fine breeding herd of Sussex cattle, as these cuttings from various newspaper show.

**WANTED** on gentleman's small estate, competent **COWMAN** with wife and family; wife good butter maker.—Apply with references to Secretary, Bateman's, Burwash. 1914

Mr. Rudyard Kipling, of Batemans, Burwash, and Mr. W. F. Trethewey, of Holmstead Place, Cuckfield, have been elected members of the Sussex Herd Book Society.

Forty-one guineas were paid for two beasts. "Bateman's Blizzard," a cow entered by Mr. Rudyard Kipling, bought by Mr. Thos. E. Hopkins, Perrysfield, Oxted,



#### NEWS FROM VERMONT

Fred Lerner has relayed something he heard on Vermont Public Radio recently. Marlboro College Library's special collections, which include material pertaining to Kipling's time in Dummerston, Vermont, are being transferred to the University of Vermont library in Burlington. Fred adds that those who attended the 'Kipling in America' conference at Marlboro a few years ago will be relieved to know that a safe home has been found for the Kipling material that we were shown at that meeting. (Marlboro College is merging with Emerson College in Boston and its Vermont campus is up for sale.)

#### VICTORIAN POPULAR FICTION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Our Librarian, John Walker, reports as follow: I am very pleased to say that the conference will be going ahead 'virtually', using MS Teams, on 15<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> July. I congratulate the VPFA, and the University of Greenwich for this opportunity to join in, and will certainly be looking

forward to the event. Make your own booking at <https://store.gre.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/short-courses/faculty-of-liberal-arts-sciences/victorian-encounters-and-environments-vpfa-12th-annual-conference>

The conference will take the form of presenters uploading their paper, poster or a slide show (sometimes with commentary) in advance. Conference delegates interested in the topic can then read the presentations in advance and the panel on the day will be offered as a discussion, rather than a 'live' presentation. Panel discussions are 30 minutes long.

The Kipling Panel is fixed for the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> July, and the programme provides for discussion from 4.00 p.m (30 minutes). Papers offered to the panel, chaired by Erin Louttit, will be:

**Minna Vuohelainen**, 'Traveller's Tales: Gothic Encounters and Environments in Rudyard Kipling's Short Fiction'

**Eva Chen**, 'Motoring for Adventure and National Regeneration: Rudyard Kipling and the Early Motor-Car'

**Philippa St George**, 'Kipling's Contemporaries'

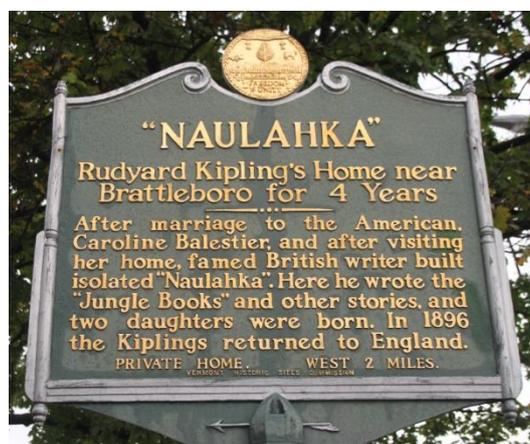
You can find more detail here <https://victorianpopularfiction.org/vpfa-annual-conference/> (go to the Online Programme for VPFA available here link).

You will see that fees for the three days are £25 (concessions £15). I hope that you will agree that the full programme is well worth this, supporting the Association and bringing some relief from lockdown.

## MORE KIPLING PLAQUES

Further to the challenge in last month's Newsletter, members have identified that plaques commemorating Kipling can be found in South Africa and Vermont. Fred Lerner commented 'I don't know if it's still there, but when I worked at the Vermont Department of Libraries back in the mid-1970s there was a plaque in the state library commemorating Kipling's residence in Vermont. One year, most appropriately on December 30, my staff donned appropriate costume and favoured me with a dramatic reading of "Gunga Din".'

There is also a plaque near Brattleboro:



Jack Kipling from Cape Town spotted another a few years ago at the confluence of the Limpopo and Sashe Rivers. And there are also plaques at Simonstown and at 'The Woolsack'.



## KIPLING AND THE RAJ



One of our newly-appointed Vice-Presidents, Harry Ricketts, will be the expedition leader on two tours of India and Pakistan in 2021 and 2022. The 25-day itinerary commences in Lahore and progresses via Amritsar to Shimla, Delhi, Agra, Udaipur, Sujana Jawai Leopard Camp, and ending in Kipling's birthplace of Mumbai.

Full details can be found at

<https://www.arcadiaexpeditions.com/expeditions/india-pakistan-kipling-the-raj/>

## AND FINALLY...

