

Kipling Society Newsletter No. 9

12

November 2018

At our recent A.G.M., I passed on the Chairmanship of the Society to Mike Kipling, who will also be continuing in the role of Treasurer. Mike has kindly allowed me to draft this newsletter, with his own additions below. My 'regulation' two years in the Chair have been a great pleasure, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed.

The handover coincides with a move for our newsletter to the MailChimp platform, which is used by many societies and charities. MailChimp meets the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulations, and allows readers to view in HTML or

Plain Text, update their preferences, and to unsubscribe, should they so wish.

In line with GDPR, the Society has updated its 'Privacy Policy' which can be viewed on line in the members section at <http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk>.

I am very pleased to confirm that our new Honorary Secretary is Dr Simon Machin. He can be contacted at machinsimon@tiscali.co.uk.

Our retiring Honorary Secretary, John Lambert, has given a huge amount of personal time and organisational skill to the post, and we are grateful that he is prepared to continue dealing with some aspects of the Membership Secretary position for now, but we must find a new Honorary Membership Secretary as soon as possible. Please do contact Mike Kipling on mike@kipling.me.uk.

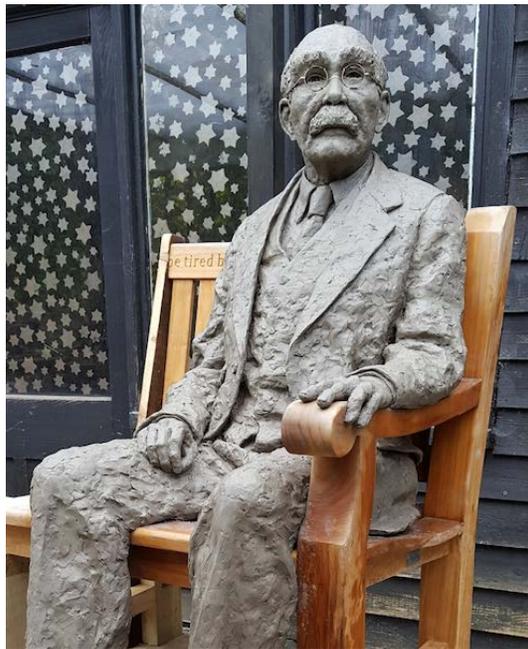
John Walker

New Readers' Guide

Following our A.G.M. we were able to celebrate, with John Radcliffe, the completion of the notes on the Definitive Edition of the Verse. John, who has been the chief

architect and driving force over many, many years, guided us through just some of the huge amount of information available, and made it clear that we welcome any additions, corrections or further ideas.

The retiring Chairman then offered an a capella version of 'Tommy' (as the Readers's Guide points out, originally 'The Queen's Uniform'). Since he managed to pitch this too high for anyone's comfort, it was something of a relief for all to move on to Ray Beck's own excellent renditions of some other of Kipling's poems, with mandolin accompaniment.



A Statue for Burwash

This life-sized, seated figure of Kipling, in bronze, on a bronze park bench, is on its way! The sculptor, Vicki Atkinson, with photographs and encouragement from the Society has produced a very worthwhile likeness. This is now being cast, and may well be ready for unveiling this autumn. Note that the photograph in this link shows only half of the bench. There should be plenty of room for you to

be photographed sitting next to our man.

Kipling and Schools

Mary Hamer began this project as a way of introducing more young children, and of course more schools, to the joys of Kipling's work, and particularly the Just So Stories. Each year, we offer teachers of Year Five pupils (ten year olds) a teaching support pack supplied by The Hamilton Education Trust <https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk> , a visiting speaker if wished, and the chance for one of their students to receive a £50 book token, with £150 in tokens for the school. Every entrant receives a parchment certificate, with second and third prize winners having tokens too. We do encourage you to follow up the details on our site, at http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/schools_fra.htm, and approach your local school to encourage more entries.

Talks, Exhibitions and the Media

Perhaps you have already booked a seat for the 19th October premiere of Mowgli. The Warner Brothers film promises to awaken interest in The Jungle Books again.

‘Witness the darkest telling of the beloved masterpiece’.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FB1KTG-O1V0>

How amusing that a Google search of the name (other search engines are available) brings up a ‘Birmingham rapper’, trading on the name, but – of course – using the modern pronunciation. I leave you to investigate.

One of our Council members (and a past Chairman) Bryan Diamond, has been keeping us in touch with Kipling-related events in and around London. One for which the Society has had little input is a musical production at the National Army Museum, to be staged from Friday 24th August to Sunday 26th August. Based around the Barrack Room Ballads, it will be performed by a 37-strong cast from Youth Music Theatre UK, with The Belfast Ensemble.

<http://www.youthmusictheatreuk.org/shows/barrack-room-ballads-2018>.

I will also be visiting ‘Empire of the Sikhs’ at the School of Oriental and Asian Studies, which Bryan has recommended. <https://www.soas.ac.uk/gallery/empire-of-the-sikhs/> There is mention of Governor Harlan, and thus links to The Man Who Would be King, but this exhibition seem well worth our time in its own right.

<https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/blog/2018/07/17/get-up-close-to-the-sikh-empire-at-this-outstanding-soas-exhibition/>

Arising from this opportunity, which ends on the 23rd September, I have purchased for our library (and will be reading before transporting it to Haileybury) John Keay’s life of Alexander Gardner: The Tartan Turban.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/books-the-tartan-turban-in-search-of-alexander-gardner-by-john-keay-5rjqpbk8m>

And in September, at the Royal Over Seas League we have a talk by John Radcliffe on 'Kipling and the "black art" of journalism': Wednesday September 12th, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – but then you knew of that from the Journal, or from 'Coming Events' on the Society's web site: http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/soc_fra.htm

Quiz Answers

As promised, here are the answers to the quiz set in the last Newsletter. Once again, thanks are due to Tim Symonds and Mike Lacey. We very much hope that these two knowledgeable enthusiasts are busy with the next challenge. In case you missed the original questions, I have included them again, with the answers out by number below.

Q.1 In 'The Janeites', Kipling refers to a 'Bradbury'. Was this:

- a) a 'hard-tack' biscuit supplied to Regiments during the Raj.
- b) a popular term from 1914 for a British pound note.
- c) a type of agile two-wheeled horse-drawn carriage, excellent for Lahore's traffic.

Q. 2 Where did Kipling get the title of his poem 'The Road To En-Dor'?

a) I Samuel, xxviii, 7.

b) From the 1860 book 'Curry and Rice' by George Francklin Atkinson. c) From a letter by Charles Dickens to Emile de la Rue, in October 1857, regarding the Indian Mutiny.

Q. 3 Kipling spoke of 'Seven years hard'. When was this?

a) the time he spent in India on the editing staff of the Lahore Civil and Military Gazette, and later with The Pioneer.

b) the time he spent writing The Phantom Rickshaw and Other Eerie Tales.

c) the time he spent living on the Balestier family estate in Brattleboro, Vermont, after marrying Caroline Balestier.

Q. 4 One of Kipling's short stories set in India includes the sentence 'worth travelling fifty miles over bad ground to look upon'. Who was this spectacle?

a) Lispeth.

b) the man who would be king.

c) Miss Youghal.

Q. 5 As was the custom of the era, the Kipling family kept a Visitor's Book. Against some of the names the Kiplings added 'F.I.P'. What do these letters stand for?

a) Fairly Important Potentate.

b) Fled in Panic.

c) Fell in Pond.

Q. 6 In Kipling's story 'The Other Man' he writes: 'Sitting in the back seat, very square and firm, with one hand on the awning-stanchion and the wet pouring off his hat and moustache... he sat with a grin on his face, as if he enjoyed the joke of his arrival'. Who was this?

a) Gavial.

b) Colonel Creighton.

c) a corpse.

Q. 7 In which story did Kipling make the unusual claim that 'No Englishman should be able to translate object-letters'?

a) 'Beyond The Pale'.

b) 'Baa, Baa Black Sheep'.

c) 'A Sahib's War'.

Q. 8 Kipling chose to speak of himself as the servant of a '_____' in his art: something apart from him, a 'not-self' which used him as the channel of invention and expression. What did he call this force?

a) his Genii.

b) his Deva.

c) his Daemon.

Q. 9 Kipling was once shot at, while working as a journalist. Where did this event occur?

- a) The Khyber Pass.
- b) The Drakensberg Mountains.
- c) Vermont.

Q. 10 In Kipling's story 'The Man Who Would Be King', which figure from antiquity plays a prominent role in the plot?

- a) Sennacherib.
- b) Alexander the Great.
- c) Akhenaton.

Q. 11 Which famous American writer said "As for myself, there is no end of Kipling in my work...I would never have possibly written anywhere near the way I did had Kipling never been."?

- a) Herman Melville.
- b) Mark Twain.
- c) Jack London.

Q. 12 Which early Kipling story commences 'East of Suez, some hold, the direct control of Providence ceases...'?

- a) The Mark Of The Beast.
- b) The Bridge-Builders.
- c) The Tabu Tale, in the Just So Stories.

Q. 13 Who was the Jane in Kipling's short story 'The Janeites'?

- a) Jane Cakebread.
- b) Jane Austen.
- c) Jane Seymour.

Q. 14 Kipling was related to a good number of literary, artistic and political figures. Which of these great 19th Century British artists was not one of Kipling's uncles?

- a) J.E.Millais.
- b) E.J.Poynter.
- c) E.Burne-Jones.

Q. 15 When the Kiplings were at Bateman's, someone or something was nicknamed 'Bird' or 'Birdie.' Who or what was this?

- a) Taylor the chauffeur.
- b) Kipling's Rolls Royce Phantom.
- c) The Kiplings' daughter, Elsie.

ANSWERS: Q.1: b), Q.2: a), Q.3: a), Q.4: a), Q.5: c), Q.6: c), Q.7: a), Q.8: c), Q.9: a),
Q.10: b), Q.11: c), Q.12: a), Q.13: b), Q.14: a), Q.15: c).

Do spend a moment following up the answers you did not know, on the website or
on line generally. Why did the Rudyard and Carrie name Elsie 'Bird of Ill Omen'?
(John called her 'Phipps', I think).

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc

Our efforts to appeal to the Younger Generation(s) through social media are
already bearing fruit. Here is a recent contact:

**Hello All- I have written a song using Kipling's words from Parade Song of the
Camp Animals. I hope you will listen to it and enjoy it on You Tube. Here's the link:
<https://youtu.be/ScpmlRqkMZ8> Alan Carriero**

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. With all good
wishes,

John Walker

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

Having somewhat unexpectedly succeeded to the chair of our wonderful Society, it was my very pleasant first duty to thank John Walker for his tremendous efforts as Chairman for the last two years, not the least of which was the establishment of this newsletter.

Also unforgettable was last year's 24-hour marathon reading A Diversity of Kipling at Bateman's. John was not observed to nod off even for a second throughout!

Highlights are available on our website at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKGp5b4_AOg&feature=youtube.

John also continued as Honorary Librarian throughout his time in the chair, helping many people and organisations with their Kipling-related research.

Although as outgoing chair, our rules require him to step down from Council for a year, John has kindly agreed to continue to manage our library facilities, alongside Toby Parker our Honorary Archivist at Haileybury. Also stepping down from council are Prof. Sandra Kemp, now at the University of Lancaster and working on Ruskin, whose work on the magnificent exhibition on the life and work of John Lockwood Kipling at the V&A and the Bard Institute New York last year will never be forgotten, and Bryan Diamond. We hope to see both of them back again before too

long.

John Lambert is continuing on council pro tem as Membership Secretary. I would like to thank him for this and to echo John Walker's thanks to him for his time as Honorary Secretary. I would also like to echo John's appeal for a member to come forward to take over from John in his membership role. The work is not particularly onerous and mainly involves processing new members' applications and ensuring that existing members pay their subscriptions when due (we currently have less than 400 individual members and under 80 institutional members). I can provide further details on request (mike@kipling.me.uk)

Rejoining council after a break are Dr Mary Hamer, historian and author of the biographical novel *Kipling and Trix* and Ray Beck, folk singer and amateur Kipling enthusiast. Commander Alastair Wilson, whose indefatigable work on the transcription of biographers' notes on Carrie Kipling's diaries has continued unabated this past year, has stepped up to be Deputy Chairman.

Finally, I am particularly pleased to welcome Dr Simon Machin to council in the vital role of Honorary Secretary. Simon is a former volunteer at Bateman's and has written and researched *Kipling*. He is looking forward to keeping members in touch with all the Society's activities and in assisting you with any queries (machinsimon@tiscali.co.uk).

Your council therefore consists of:

Chairman and Treasurer: MIKE KIPLING, Deputy Chair: Cdr. ALASTAIR WILSON,
Secretary: Dr. SIMON MACHIN, Editor: Prof. JANET MONTEFIORE, Membership
Secretary (pro tem): JOHN LAMBERT, On Line Editor: JOHN RADCLIFFE, Meetings
Secretary: Dr. ALEX BUBB, Bateman's Liaison: LINDA BURTON. Elected Members:
RAY BECK, ANNE HARCOMBE, Dr MARY HAMER, JULIA HETT, JANE KESKAR, SHARAD
KESKAR

Lt. Col. Roger Ayres O.B.E. continues as President and at the recent A.G.M. we were
pleased to add Andrew Lycett, biographer of Kipling (and others) and former
council member, to our illustrious list of Vice Presidents. Andrew Dodsworth stood
down as the Society's Independent Financial Examiner (thanks for your help these
last few years, Andrew) and was replaced at the AGM by Harry Waterson, a USA-
based member.

I am looking forward to the first meeting of the new council in September.
Amongst our priorities will be a guest speaker for the annual luncheon,
recruitment of new members, a further members' event at Bateman's, a possible
themed conference in 2018 and a revision of the Society's rules to bring them up
to date. Please do let either Simon or I have any further suggestions or requests
for things the Society ought to do (or stop doing).

Best wishes.

Mike Kipling

Chairman

