



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2023

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1 February, 6.00pm. Rufus Vaughan-Spruce, 'The Other Man Who Could Write: Stephen Wheeler as Man of Letters'. *Royal Over-Seas League, Park Place, SW1A 1LR and by Zoom. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served from 5.30pm*

Zoom details: Meeting ID: 847 3160 0774 Passcode: 425631

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731600774?pwd=QXFidUNDSHpUMGZSWEJ6TzBoUGFQdz09>

Members attending in person are invited to join the speaker and members of Council for dinner at a local restaurant after the meeting. If you would like to do so, please let the Secretary know at least 7 days in advance via e-mail, telephone or post.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Wednesday 19 April.** Professor Harish Trivedi will deliver the Stammers-Smith memorial lecture 'Kipling, Rajahs and the Raj'. *Zoom only 4.00pm. Please note the earlier start time, which is because Professor Trivedi will be speaking from India.*
- **Wednesday 5 July.** AGM. Speaker TBA. *Royal Over-Seas League, 4.30pm for 5.00pm, and by Zoom.*
- **Wednesday 20 September.** Filmed tour of places associated with Kipling in Rottingdean. *Zoom only 6.00pm*
- **Wednesday 22 November.** TBA. *Royal Over-Seas League, 5.30pm for 6.00pm, and by Zoom.*

NOVEMBER MEETING – Alex Bubb

In November we welcomed Mr Christopher Kreuzer, who is currently completing his MA dissertation in Modern History at the University of Kent. His dissertation topic is the cathedral tablets erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, an undertaking in which Kipling played only a minor role. But with regard to our interests, Christopher was kind enough to deliver a highly informative lecture on a related topic of which he has authoritative knowledge: the visit of King George V to the battlefields of Flanders in May 1922, the poem Kipling wrote to commemorate the occasion, and the speech he composed for the King to deliver at Terlincthun Cemetery, near Boulogne, at the end of his tour. Among other things Christopher spoke about the imagery of the speech and its classical references, features distinctive of Kipling, though it remains an open question (which we debated among ourselves) as to how many people at the time understood the speech's true authorship.

The lecture was followed by a delightful dinner in the restaurant of the Royal Overseas League. All agreed that its quiet and genial ambiance suited our needs perfectly, though technically the restaurant is only open to members so our continued use of the space will be subject to negotiation with the RoSL.

DECEMBER JOURNAL WRAPPER

UK-based members may have noticed that although their address insert stated that the Journal was wrapped in a biodegradable film, it was still wrapped in conventional plastic. I'm afraid that in the rush to beat the mail strike, the operator doing the packaging overlooked the requirement to use the film. I do hope that no member's compost heap will suffer as a result. We will try again in March.

Overseas members should find that the correct wrapping material has been used, on which feedback would be appreciated, especially if the wrapper had been damaged in transit.

KIPLING READING EVENT

On Wednesday 7 December 2022 Jan Montefiore curated another of our ever-popular online reading sessions. The reader and their choices were:

1. Kipling favourites

Mike Kipling - 'The King and the Sea'

John Radcliffe - Six honest serving-men

John Seriot - The Explorer (first half)

Jan Montefiore - Philadelphia

2. Kipling and nostalgia

Richard Howell - 'The Road to Mandalay'

Pamela Morgan - 'The Broken Men'

Andrew Scragg - 'Outsong in the Jungle'

3. Kipling and parody

Jan Montefiore (selected by Alastair Wilson)- Three Kipling parodies by E.S. Turner from Punch

Christopher Morrison - 'The Moral.'

4. Kipling the Storyteller

Richard Maidment - The Bicycle Incident at Torquay (Something of Myself)

Maggie Washington - 1st 3 paras of 'Dymchurch Flit'

Janice Lingley – end of the 'Bridge Builders'

5. Kipling the Poet

Alda Milner-Barry – end of the Rhyme of True Thomas

Harry Ricketts - 3 Horace Odes from Debits and Credits

6. Kipling and Christmas

John Walker - A Nativity

Lorraine Bowsher - Eddi's Service

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Society's annual report for the year to the 2022 AGM is now available to view on our website at [Annual-Report-2021_22.pdf](#)

SIR JOHN CHAPPLE

The death of our former President was reported in the June edition of the Kipling Journal. An obituary also recently appeared in the 'Annual Record' of Trinity College, Cambridge, Sir John's *alma mater*. It included this extract from a letter from one of Sir John's daughters, giving this brief account of his last hours that I thought might be of interest to members.

'Dad died at home very peacefully with the evening sun streaming through the window onto his face, while he listened to Ralph Fiennes reading 'If' (one of Dad's favourites). And to top it all off, a magnificent pheasant jumped up onto his beloved bird feeder outside his window, and peered in. It was magical'

SHARAD KESKAR

More recently we have been informed of the death of another Society stalwart with a military background, Sharad Keskar. An account of his most interesting earlier life was given in the September 2000 edition of the Journal ([KJ295.pdf](#)), the year in which he stepped up to be both Secretary and Journal Editor following unexpected vacancies. He was luckily soon able to hand over the Secretaryship to his wife Jane, who survives him, and a couple of year later the editorship to David Page. He was Chairman from 2009 to 2011 and his (and Jane's) final term on Council only came to an end in 2020. There has been a small family funeral, and there will be a memorial/thanksgiving service in the Spring.

WHY WE READ KIPLING – Part 3

We asked, "Which book got you 'hooked' on Kipling?"

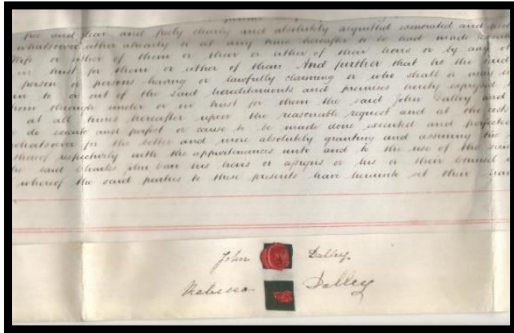
Alastair Wilson was clear: '*Stalky & Co.* I used to take it back to school with me each term (and read it each term) between the ages of 10½ and 18'. That also got Andrew Scragg, who added that his schooldays were so dissimilar! For John Seriot, rather than just on book, it was some of Kipling's Indian stories which did it: *On the City Wall, The Man who would be King, The Drums of the Fore and Aft, The Bridge-Builders*, plus *The Ship that Found Herself*. For Rodney Atwood it was *Puck of Pooks Hill* '...and my father's enthusiasm and love.' Similarly, for Maggie Washington, it was *Plain Tales from the Hills*.

Jan Montefiore found it hard to say. '*The Jungle Books* I suppose, and I loved *Stalky* when I was 8 or so. I read all RK's children's books except for *Captains Courageous* - I still use my well-thumbed Macmillan pocket editions of the *Puck* books given by my grandmother in 1958, and the *Kim* I chose for form prize in 1961, for checking refs in the KJ. And as an undergraduate I began reading RK's stories after a friend said he'd just realized Kipling was a great short story writer.' Diarmid Lucy also found it hard to say, as 'it was so long ago, but it might have been *The Jungle Book*.'

MORE ABOUT THE DALLEYS OF GOLDINGS HILL FARM Part 3

Janice Lingley

Among a bundle of parchment deeds found in a Loughton attic and almost inadvertently consigned to a skip, the Chairman of the Loughton & District Historical Society, Dr Chris Pond, discovered a document with John and Rebecca Dalley's signatures, relating to an ancient Loughton copyhold identified as 'The Firs'.



The deed relating to The Firs with the Dalleys' signatures



The Firs

John Dalley and his wife Rebecca bought and enfranchised the 17th century dwelling situated on the western side of Church Hill (formerly Goldings Hill and part of Loughton's High Road), in 1873, and continued to own and let the property until 1883. The house had adjoining stables, and its garden was extended by a narrow strip of land which afforded direct access to the Forest. The large Grade II listed property, a timber-framed building of three bays given a brick frontage and extended at the rear, is extant and currently (at the time of writing) on the market to be sold for a substantial sum. There is no evidence that the Dalleys lived at the property prior to their leaving Loughton to spend their final years at Stanpit, near Christchurch, in Dorset, at the family home of their niece Martha, who by this time was married, with a family, and settled in Loughton.



The 18th Century Cottage in Stanpit, Christchurch which was the Dalleys' retirement home. ¹



The Dalleys' gravestone in Christchurch cemetery

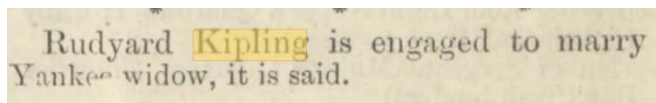
¹ Reproduced from Allen White, *The Mudeford and Stanpit Handbook* (Christchurch: The Christchurch Local History Society, 2004; first published 1974), p. 20. The five sealed windows indicate avoidance of the window tax of 1696, repealed in 1851.

‘The Firs on the Bassett Road’ is mentioned as the home of Miriam Lacey’s family in Kipling’s partly autobiographical story ‘The Brushwood Boy’ (1895). The toponym Bassett is plausible in terms of Wiltshire, where the story is set, because the names of more than one village in the county are based on it.² However, this ancestral toponym, which derives from an Anglo-Norman family dating back to the Conquest, also informs the name of a village, North Weald Bassett, in the Epping Forest district of Essex. So this provides the excuse for, finally, an entirely speculative note on the name of Georgie’s little dream princess. Could ‘Annieanlouise’, combining Annie and Louise in an alliterative format comparable with the name of her eponymous dream companion, perhaps derive from the Loughton period?³ Annie Louise, or Annie Louisa, was a popular girl’s Christian name in the mid-Victorian period, but, stated to be the ‘two finest names’ Georgie has ever heard of, the appellation is given a particular emphasis in Kipling’s story.

The negotiation of the stay at Goldings Hill Farm would almost certainly at some point have involved the Reverend John Whitaker Maitland’s land agent, Samuel Wilks. Samuel was well known in the village: he had been born in Loughton, where his father Joseph was a wheelwright, and he was also a Church Warden. The 1881 census reveals that he subsequently served as the village’s Registrar and Relieving Officer. Samuel and his wife Kitty appear in the 1871 census resident in York Hill, Loughton, with their five children, four daughters and a son, aged between 15 and 2 years. The two youngest children, Annie Louise and Samuel Joseph, would have been aged about 12 and 8 when the Kipling children were staying at Goldings Hill Farm.

Acknowledgements: Thanks are due to Dr. Chris Pond of the Loughton & District Historical Society for his assistance with the preparation of this article. I am also grateful to Mr. John Ward of the Christchurch History Society for drawing my attention to the late Mr. Allen White’s research, providing details of the cottage in Stanpit to which the Dalleys retired, and also for kindly providing the photograph of their gravestone from the Society’s archives. Jo Slade, an expert researcher of The Somerset and Dorset Family History Society, provided me with details of Rebecca’s family background from the Society’s archives. Mr Geoff Parcell, a resident of Pen Selwood, and manager of the village’s website, kindly provided me with details of all the 19th century villagers with the name Matthews, and informative local publications on the history of the village.

GOLD FROM AUSTRALIA – John Walker



Rudyard Kipling is engaged to marry
Yankee widow, it is said.

For some time now, very welcome correspondence with Naren Menon of the Rudyard Kipling Society of Australia has

included gifts of scanned cuttings from newspapers and magazines in the Antipodes. Apparently, lucky members of the RKSA have received these regularly, along with careful transcripts where the text is unclear. Some reveal rumours about our man that are quite unjustified (such as that he had been engaged eight times ...). This one is interesting, if only to reflect on ‘power without responsibility’. It is from Sydney’s *The Bulletin* for 17th January 1891.

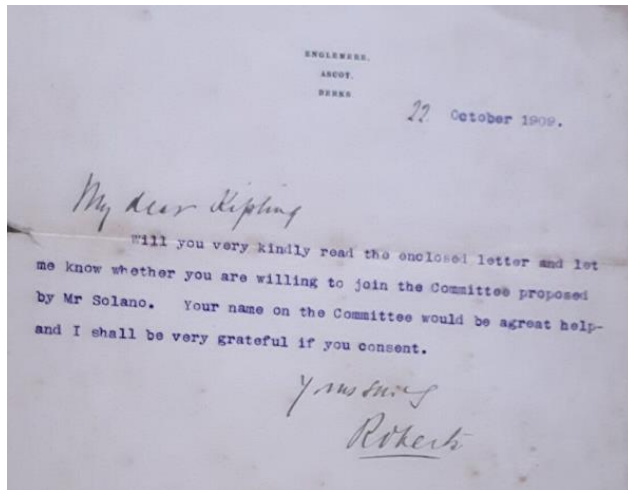
² Bassett toponyms in Wiltshire: Berwick Bassett, Compton Bassett, Royal Wootton Bassett and Winterbourne Bassett.

³ In his lecture ‘Kipling and Trauma’ to the Society in September 2021, Professor Harry Ricketts referred to allusions to the unhappy Southsea years in ‘The Brushwood Boy’: the coastal town is mentioned, and the name of the Mrs Holloway’s servant, Jane, is used to identify Georgie’s nurse.

Edmonia (Ted) Hill's husband Simon (Alec) had died on 23rd September 1890; or was this simple confusion arising from rumours of Carrie's closeness to Rudyard? Kipling was not to arrive in New Zealand until October 1891, moving on to Australia in November.

A LETTER FROM LORD ROBERTS TO KIPLING

Correspondence from Kipling survives in considerable quantity, as witnessed by Tom Pinney's



six volume selection. However, letters to Kipling are much rarer, as he was assiduous in destroying them, so the Society was pleased to have the opportunity recently to acquire a letter from Field Marshal Lord Roberts to Kipling.

As can be seen, it is a covering letter, asking Kipling if he would join a committee described in an enclosure now missing. The 'Mr Solano' was an author and soldier associated with civil defence, and had a shooting range target named after him, as the cuttings below from 1909 and

1910 illustrate. He seems to have been supported by Roberts.

HOME DEFENCE
Under Modern Conditions of War.

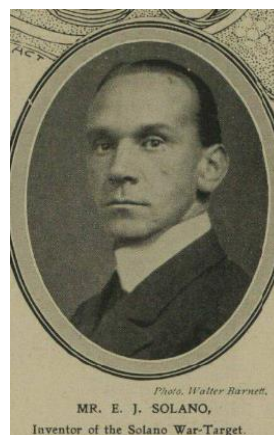
AT THE
GRAND STAND, ASCOT,
ON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16th
(By kind permission of the Trustees),
MR. E. J. SOLANO
Will deliver a
LECTURE
On the above most important subject.

F.-M. EARL ROBERTS, V.C., K.G., Etc.,
Will preside.

Doors open at 7.30 p.m. Commence at 8 precisely.
Entrance to the lecture by the Middle Gate on the High Road through the grounds of the Grand Stand to the Rooms on the Balcony.

There will be a certain number of Reserved Seats at 2/6 and 1/-, remainder free.

Tickets can be obtained from Mr. J. Law, at the Secretary's Office, Grand Stand, daily from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on and after Wednesday, December 8th.



THE SOLANO TARGET.

The War Office, after experimenting for some months with a new pattern of the Solano Battle Practice Target, has adopted it for use on miniature ranges of the Regular Army and Territorial Force. Over 100 of these ranges will be equipped with the target in the immediate future. About 80 of these ranges belong to the Territorial Force.

The target, besides being used for all ordinary practices, provides what is known as a "field firing area" for miniature ranges—that is, a tract of natural country, the features of which may be varied at will, over which troops of all arms in battle formations, reduced to scale for various ranges, can be made to manoeuvre so as to practise men in the duties of the firing line under conditions approximating to those of service.

The policy of the War Office in equipping ranges with the target will facilitate musketry training during the winter months and help to relieve the shortage of range accommodation for the Territorial Force. It is a development of the policy of the Army Council in regard to the provision of ranges as contained in a statement issued with Army Orders in November last.

See also [Historical Firearms - The Solano Target System Earlier this week I shot...](#)

Nothing is yet known about his 'committee' or whether Kipling even joined, although Kipling was a firm proponent of rifle ranges, founding ones both in Rottingdean and Burwash, so that when the inevitable next war came, men could already shoot straight.

*And ye vaunted your fathomless power, and ye flaunted your iron pride,
Ere—ye fawned on the Younger Nations for the men who could shoot and ride!*

ELSIE'S WEDDING

Elsie married George Bambridge at St Margaret's Westminster on 22 October 1924. Whilst it was the norm to have just two witnesses sign the register, Elsie and George had seven! Rudyard, Carrie and Stanley Baldwin (six days before the general election at which he was to win his second term as prime minister), were joined by four more witnesses, as the copy below reveals.

Best Man: *Caroline Kipling* Page 12. *Arthur Paget. John F. Baddeley*

Any Correctional Notes must be written in this margin.

1924. Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church in the Parish of St. Margaret, Westminster in the County of London.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
28	October 22 nd 1924	George Louis St. Clair Bambridge	32	Bachelor	Diplomatic Service	St. Dean's Yard Westminster	George Frederick Bambridge (deceased)	Gentleman
		Elsie Kipling	28	Spinster	—	Batemans Burwash Sussex	Rudyard Kipling	Poet and Author

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by W. H. Carnesie after Banns by me.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Louis St. Clair Bambridge in the Presence of us, Rudyard Kipling Indian Author Stanley Baldwin W. H. Carnesie (Sub-Dean of Westminster's Rector of St. Margaret's)

Who were the other four witnesses?

- Arthur Paget was a fellow Irish guardsman and may well have been Bambridge's 'best man'.
- Julia Floersheim was Bambridge's aunt (his mother's sister) who brought him up when he was orphaned at age 6,
- Cecil Floersheim was his cousin.
- John F Baddeley may well be John Frederick Baddeley (1854 -1940), a British traveller, writer and journalist, best known by his works on Russia and the Caucasus. Bambridge's mother's maiden name was Baddeley.

THINGS THAT KIPLING DIDN'T WRITE #5 - Rodney Atwood

You might be interested in these extracts from the letters of Raymond Asquith (*Raymond Asquith: Life and Letters*, ed. John Jolliffe, Century pbk, William Collins, 1980) - although you may already know them. The Prime Minister's son was an extremely brave soldier serving in the Grenadier Guards (the same division as John Kipling at Loos). Roughly a year after John's death, he was killed on 15th September 1916 at the Battle of the Somme. This was the day that tanks first went into battle, but those with the Guards Division all broke down. Asquith's battalion by prodigies of courage captured their first objective and dug in. His letters are amusing, although sad as one knows his fate.

On 11th June 1915 he wrote to Lady Diana Manners about how difficult it must be 'to keep 3 or 4 lovers in a tolerably good humour' (I think the word lovers is used less specifically than nowadays). 'You have nine and fifty ways of solving "the problem" and every one of them is right.' (p. 201)

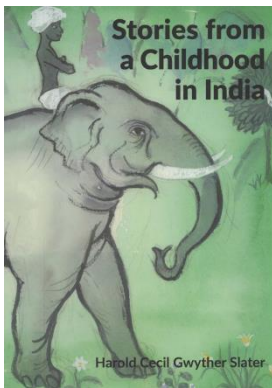
On 21st December 1915 he wrote to his wife Katherine after the Battle of Loos about engaging the Germans who were firing rifle grenades and having to superintend 100 men carrying gas cylinders, clumsy things, in the rain to the front. "I must stop [writing] now and go out into the rain to look for these gas cylinders. It is really rather bloody to have the responsibility of a

captain, the pay of a subaltern, and the work of a coolie -- if not indeed of an elephant piling teak in a muddy slushy creek.'

Raymond Asquith's editor Jolliffe got in a muddle over RK, methinks. On page 64 the latter quotes the former's poem claimed to be 'Raymond's parody of Kipling's jingoistic and highly successful poem "Soldiers of the Queen" '. The Asquith verse is Kiplingesque, but RK to the best of my knowledge wrote nothing with that title.

CHILDHOOD STORIES FROM INDIA

The Saddhu spoke again, "You have come to see me about a leopard. Is it this one?" He raised his arms which had been folded in his lap and waving them gently from side-to-side before our faces, clapped his hands suddenly together. The next moment I was petrified with fear for there, next to him, was standing a fully-grown leopard which blinked at us in the sunlight. The Saddhu put one arm on the animal's neck and said sternly" If this animal is molested or shot, disaster will come to many".



Carol Coslett has edited some stories that her grandfather, Harold Slater, wrote of his time in India (c1910) as a child, stories which he had first shared orally with his grandchildren. She has also included family photographs of the time and other illustrations.

If you would like a copy, please let me know and I will pass all requests on to Carol. The price is £10 (postage may be extra, especially to outside the UK). A donation from every sale will go to the schools within the Kolkata (Calcutta) Diocese.

AND FINALLY ...

The Parlour and Dining Room at Bateman's decorated for Christmas 2022.

