



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2023

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5 July. AGM, after which Mr Geoffrey Beare, Collections and Exhibitions Manager at the Heath Robinson Museum, Pinner will speak on “Kipling and Heath Robinson”. 5.00pm, *Royal Over-Seas League, London - and by Zoom. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be served from 4.30pm for those attending in person.*

Zoom meeting ID: 884 3409 3637 Passcode: 034889

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88434093637?pwd=cWwwZlJyOUt4U2dlUTkvbHAvYmZPd09>

If any member would like to join the speaker and members of Council for dinner after the meeting, please could they let me know by e-mail as soon as possible.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Wednesday 20 September.** Filmed tour of Kipling-related sites in Rottingdean. *Zoom only 6.00pm*
- **Wednesday 22 November.** TBA. *Royal Over-Seas League, 5.30pm for 6.00pm, and by Zoom.*

ROTTINGDEAN TOUR

Council member Richard Howell will be leading a walking tour for members and their guests around Rottingdean on Sunday 25 June. We will view the exterior of various places associated with Kipling, including the garden of *The Elms* (much which now form the public ‘Kipling Gardens’), Burne-Jones’s *North End House* and the site of St Aubyn’s school (attended by John Kipling).

We expect also to be able to go inside St Margaret’s church and *The Grange* museum, with rooms devoted to Kipling and Burne-Jones. The tour will start outside the *The White Horse* at 2.30pm (meet from 2.15) and will last approximately 90 minutes. For those who want it, lunch can be purchased there beforehand at *The White Horse*, meeting at 12.30. Please contact Richard at richardhowell@tiscali.co.uk or on 07549 007204 if you would like to attend the tour, specifying whether you will be accompanied by any guests and whether you will be coming for lunch (so that we can reserve a large enough space).

For those who cannot attend in person, we will also be recording a tour of Rottingdean to show at our September meeting (see above).

AGM FORMAL BUSINESS

Rule change

A few years ago, as an experiment, Council changed the former under-23 membership class to a more general student class, which for a lower subscription rate provides access only to an online copy of the Kipling Journal. This proved popular, and so we now intend to make this permanent and also provide the option of a cheaper on-line only membership to others. Also, no new life member has been accepted since the 1950s. We therefore propose to abolish this as a possible membership class. We therefore need to make some minor rule changes to formalise this, by deleting the struck-through text below and adding in the text in red:

3 (2) There are ~~four~~ **three** classes of Members, namely: (a) ~~Life Members~~ (b) Ordinary Members (c) ~~Junior Members (that is, persons under the age of eighteen years)~~ **On-line Only Members**; and (d) ~~Honorary Members~~ (admitted under paragraph (3) below)

3 (4) ~~Junior Members and Honorary Members are not entitled to vote at General Meetings, but have all the other privileges of membership.~~

15 (1) Every Member, **other than On-line Only Members**, shall receive without charge one copy of each issue of the Kipling Journal (or in the case of two **such** Members subscribing jointly, one such copy between them) starting with the issue current on the date on which their membership begins.

And in every place where the rules currently refer to ‘Ordinary or Life Member’, deleting ‘Ordinary or Life’.

Election of Vice Presidents

In recognition of their untiring efforts for the Society over decades, especially on the website and the New Readers’ Guide, Council proposes John Radcliffe and Commander Alastair Wilson RN for election as Vice Presidents.

Council members

There are five vacancies on Council and the following three members have put themselves forward for election: Fred Lerner (North America), Rufus Vaughan-Spruce (Scotland) and Paolo D'Indinosante (Italy).

If you are not going to be able to attend the AGM either in person or on-line, it would be helpful if you could e-mail me with your proxy votes regarding the above three matters.

INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION RATES

It will probably come as no surprise that the Society is facing increased costs, in particular for postage and room hire. We have saved some costs by reducing the number of in-person meetings to three in a normal year rather than the previous five. We also intend to reduce the number of editions of *The Kipling Journal* in a normal year from four to three. This reflects the rate at which material for publication is now coming in and will reduce the burden placed on our amazing editor, but will also serve to reduce ongoing costs. Nevertheless, to maintain income in line with outgoings over the next few years, some increase in subscription rates

will be necessary, the first since 2016. Subject to the outcome of discussion at the AGM, Council considers that the following rates should apply from 1 January 2024:

Ordinary members:	UK £33 (£31 if paying by standing order) Europe £42 or €48 Rest of the World (surface) £42 or US\$52 Rest of the World (air) £49 or U\$60
On-line only members:	Student £11 Other £21
Institutional membership:	As Ordinary Member plus £2 (or \$2 or €2) A second member at the same address £10, €11 or \$12 (no additional paper journal)

Current rates can be seen on the back cover of the journal. Following discussion at the AGM, Council will advise its final decision later in the year, in plenty of time for standing orders to be changed in time for 2024 payments. Ordinary members will also be given the option to become On-line only Members should they no longer wish to receive a paper copy of the journal.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER STILL NEEDED – Mike Kipling, Treasurer

We are seeking someone, who may be a member of the Society but must not be on Council, to take over the role for the 2023 and subsequent accounts. It is not necessary to have an accounting qualification, all that is needed is a reasonable facility with numbers and, ideally, with Microsoft Excel. The time commitment is small, and is only needed each year in January and/or February. The IE does not have to be UK-based; for example, the current IE carried out the role without any problem from the USA. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in finding more about the role, please contact me by email or telephone using the contact details at the top of this newsletter.

REPORT OF APRIL MEETING – Alex Bubb, Meetings Secretary

Participants in April's meeting, held on Zoom, were treated to a keenly awaited lecture by Professor Harish Trivedi on "Kipling, the Rajahs, and the Raj". Harish, an Emeritus Professor of English at Delhi University, is a longstanding member and supporter of the society and a Vice President. Kipling's twelve years in India were spent almost wholly in areas under direct British governance. The topic of Harish lecture was Kipling's experience of, and attitudes towards, the princely states—notably those that he visited on the tour of Rajputana that became the basis for his 'Letters of Marque' sketches.

Harish gave particular attention to Kipling's stop in Jaipur, a well-designed city with modern amenities and sanitation that rather confounded his expectations of what an Indian-run city would look like. He also alerted the audience to something obvious, but which had nonetheless escaped the attention of most—namely, that the only view of the Taj Mahal that Kipling obtained in his life was from the window of a train departing Agra! Harish concluded the talk by announcing his intention to publish an edited selection of Kipling's writings (both journalistic and fictional) on princely India, a proposal that was warmly received by the thirty-strong audience.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS – Fiona Renshaw, Membership Secretary

Our members are the life-blood of our Society and it is important that we have your correct contact details in order to ensure that you continue to receive your copy of *The Kipling Journal* by post and of our periodic Newsletter by email. Accordingly, please let me know as soon as possible if the postal or email address we hold for you has changed. Similarly, if your subscription will not be renewed when it falls due, I would greatly appreciate a short message to that effect.

Subscriptions to the Kipling Society are renewable annually in the same month in which the member joined the Society. A reminder of the renewal date for your subscription is printed on the address label accompanying your copy of *The Kipling Journal* closest to that date. If you are in any doubt about your renewal date, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

For these, or any other membership-related matters, I can be contacted by email at ksmemsec@outlook.com or by post at Keylands, Burwash, East Sussex TN19 7HP, UK.

THE KIPLING SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA – David Watts

We had our first meeting since Covid started on 27th May, held at the Roseville Club Sydney. We had lunch at the club and the meeting proper started at 2pm, a total of 35 people heard a talk, and screening, by Susannah Fullerton, a member of Jane Austen society as well as ours, on Kipling and the Janeites. We also remembered four members who had passed on during the covid break, Philip Holberton, Chester & Jean Porter, and our late treasurer and Rudyard Kipling's godson, Ian Claridge. Naren our editor and now treasurer received a special round of applause, every day since Covid started he had published on the internet a short piece on RKS, without this we should have had a much harder start to the new season.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 25, when Professor Chris Browne is flying up from Melbourne, besides being a well-known Academic he has a large collection of Kipling, not only various editions but other interesting items.

READING EVENING

On 17 May, members met on-line to read or listen to readings from Kipling. The following pieces were read:

Strange places

Maggie Washington – The opening of 'Namgay Doola'

Janice Lingley - 'With the Night Mail'

Rome

Harry Ricketts - The opening of 'Regulus'

Jan Montefiore - Parnesius marching northwards (from 'On the Great Wall')

God and the Gods

Bill James End of 'The Gods of the Copybook Headings'

Jill Smith – Eddi's Service.

Empire

Andrew Scragg - 'Shillin' a Day'
Mike Kipling - 'The Flowers'

Ghosts

Alda Milner-Barry - 'On the Gate'
John Radcliffe - 'The Way Through the Woods'

KIPLING HEAD



Vicki Atkinson was the sculptor of the Kipling statue at Burwash. Whilst she was making it, she also made a very limited number of bronze casts of the head. One remains unsold . number four of eight and is currently advertised at £4,000 by ArtParks. Vicki would, however, make it available to Society members at the reduced price of £3,500. Please contact Vicki at atkinsonvicki@aol.com if you are interested.

SHARAD KESKAR

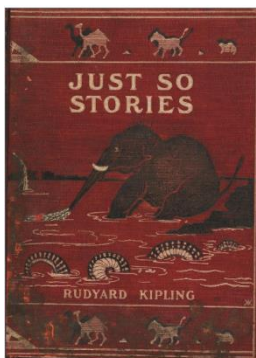
On 16 May, a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sharad Keskar, long time Council member and past Chairman, was held at St John's Wood church. It was attended by several members of the Society including a Vice President and the current Chairman and Secretary. One of Sharad's stepdaughters beautifully read 'Cities and Thrones and Powers', which along with much of the service had been chosen by Sharad himself.

WHY WE READ KIPLING – Part 5

We asked which Kipling book do you give as a gift? Diarmid Lucy responded that this depended on the recipient. A young child will get the *Just So Stories*. An older child may receive *Puck of Pook's Hill*, *Rewards and Fairies*, *The Jungle Book*, or *The Second Jungle Book*. A still older child may get *Stalky & Company* or *Captains Courageous*. An adult — should I encounter one who is unfamiliar with Kipling — is in line for *Kim*. Rodney Atwood clearly thinks on similar lines, saying that he read *Puck*, *Rewards and Fairies* and *Just So Stories* to my grandchildren, and had given *Stalky and Co* to my 49-year-old son.

For Alastair Wilson it would be *Definitive Edition* of the verse, and for Jan Montefiore and Andrew Scragg it was *Just So Stories* - every time. Maggie Washington replied 'I have never done this. I wish I had' whereas John Seriot had recently given *Kim* to an old friend who had never read it.

ADOPT THE JUST SO STORIES



A secret garden. The magical Land of Oz. The centre of the Earth. Books have the power to transport us to new places, which is why the British Library is celebrating the books that take our imaginations on a journey. Help them care for the books in their collection and the journeys they inspire by adopting a book today. Choose from a selection of childhood classics from *The Secret Garden* to *The Wizard of Oz* and receive an e-certificate and book-jacket gift card to celebrate your favourite book. Every adoption supports conservation at the British Library. Visit [Our Books \(bl.uk\)](http://OurBooks.bl.uk) to do so

NEW BATEMAN'S HOUSE MANAGER

Following the departure of Gary Enstone after seventeen years, Hannah Miles has been appointed as the new Collections and House Manager for Bateman's and Bodiam Castle. She joins from a one-year contract working as Collections and House Manager at Polesden Lacey and has now moved into the second floor flat at Bateman's, becoming its latest permanent resident.

THE DALLEYS' DAIRYMAID AT GOLDINGS HILL FARM: MARTHA AS 'PATTY' IN KIPLING'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY Part 2 - Janice Lingley

The first edition of Jane Austen's Letters, collected and annotated by Edward, Lord Brabourne, Jane Austen's great-nephew,¹ was published in 1884,² when Kipling was working as a journalist on the Civil & Military Gazette in Lahore. The Letters were given a lengthy review in *The Times*,³ and notice of their publication appeared in the C&MG; Kipling can hardly have failed to be aware of them. Prior to Brabourne's Letters, the only other authoritative source of biographical information available to Jane Austen's admirers was the memoir penned by her nephew, the Reverend James Edward Austen-Leigh (1798-1874), published in 1870.⁴

What is interesting about the Brabourne Letters is that they establish that Jane Austen's father, the Reverend George Austen (1731-1805) was a parson-farmer, something that is more or less overlooked in the Austen-Leigh memoir, which merely makes passing reference to the Austens' 'home meadows' and, apropos the carriage and two horses they possessed, observes that 'the horses probably, like Mr Bennet's, were often employed on farm work'.⁵ Austen-Leigh focuses rather on the Reverend Austen as a scholarly and cultured man, who supplemented his income as the Rector of Steventon by taking on the instruction of private paying pupils.



However, the Brabington Letters inform us that the Reverend George Austen also took a keen interest in his farm, and in this was supported by his family. In Brabourne's Introduction, Jane's father, and his factotum in all farm matters, John Bond, are portrayed acquiring with satisfaction a sheep 'larger and finer than the rest' at an auction.⁶ In one of her letters to her sister, Cassandra, Jane writes that her father's farm manager has just arrived to speak with him: 'He and John Bond are now very happy together, for I have just heard the heavy step of the latter along the passage.'⁷ We learn from other letters that one of the Reverend Austen's flock of Leicestershires, 'sold to the butcher last week, 'weighed 27 lbs and 1/4 per quarter', and that

¹ Edward, Lord Brabourne, or to give his full name: Edward Hugessen Knatchbull-Hugessen, First Baron Brabourne (1829-93), the younger son of Sir Edward Knatchbull, Ninth Baronet, and his second wife Fanny Catherine Knight, who was Jane Austen's niece.

² *Letters of Jane Austen, edited with an Introduction and Critical Remarks* by Edward, Lord Brabourne in Two Volumes (London: Richard Bentley and Son, 1884)

³ The publication of Jane Austen's Letters in 1884: *The Times*, review, Friday 6 February 1885, Issue 31363, p. 3; *C&MG (Lahore)*, Thursday, 8 January 1885, New Series, No 2493, Vol. X, advertisement 'New Books', p. 14.

⁴ J. E. Austen-Leigh, *A Memoir of Jane Austen* (London: Richard Bentley, 1870).

⁵ J.E. Austen-Leigh, *A Memoir of Jane Austen and Other Family Recollections*, edited with an Introduction and Notes by Kathryn Sutherland (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 24 and 26.

⁶ Brabourne, p. 151.

⁷ Letter dated October 27, 1798, Jane at Steveton to Cassandra at Godmersham Park; Brabourne, pp 161-2.

his mutton has received fine praise from a dinner guest, Mr Lyford.’⁸ We are informed that Cassandra kept bees, and on one occasion Mrs Austen wishes to know if her son Edward ‘has ever made the hen-house they planned together’.⁹ In a letter of particular interest here, Jane comments: ‘We are very much disposed to like our new dairymaid; she knows nothing of a dairy, to be sure, which, in our family, is rather against her, but she is to be taught it all.’¹⁰ In his discussion on the ‘Changes of Habits and Customs in the last Century’, following on from his description of life at Steventon (Chapter II), and in particular the changes in domestic habits and arrangements Austen-Leigh observes: ‘It may be asserted as a general truth, that less was left to the charge and discretion of servants, and more was done, or superintended, by the masters and mistresses.’¹¹ So we may imagine that Mrs Austen herself was possessed of the necessary skills to take on the task of instructing her new dairymaid.

In his Memoir, the Reverend Austen-Leigh is also eloquent on the subject of pattens, a type of overshoe that raised the wearer above a muddy path, for Jane and Cassandra, he records, were accustomed to take long walks in them. ‘This defence,’ he comments, ‘is now seldom seen.



The few that remain are banished from good society, and employed only in menial work’.

He goes on to refer to, and briefly cite, a mock-heroic poem in three books titled [Trivia, or the Art of Walking the Streets of London](#) (1716), by John Gay (1685-1732).¹² In the first book, Gay fabricates the country legend of a young dairymaid nicknamed ‘Patty’ who inspires the amorous village blacksmith

to invent and fashion pattens on her behalf, as a means of negotiating a miry rural lane when she carries home the milk. Hence, Gay glibly declares, the derivation of the word for the shoe¹³ from the nickname of the wearer:

*The patten now supports each frugal dame,
Which from the blue-eyed Patty takes the name.*

The real name of the rustic maiden in Gay’s poem is Martha, so the Dalleys’ dairymaid may have come retrospectively to symbolise for Kipling the contrast between a world which in the Victorian era had rapidly become much more industrialised, and the idyllic environment of a farming village, in association with an ancient forest, which, when Kipling experienced it as a child, still clung, though grievously threatened, to the traditions of a pre-industrial world. That his admiration for the novels of Jane Austen could be linked to this experience through literary association would no doubt have pleased him.

Illustrations: Steventon Parsonage. Early 19th century pattens (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston).

⁸ Letter dated 17 November 1798, Jane at Steventon to Cassandra at Godmersham Park (the seat of distant relatives, the Knights, who adopted Jane’s second brother, Edward Austen (1767-1852) as their heir in 1783); Brabourne, p 165; Letter dated 1 December 1798, Jane at Steventon to Cassandra at Godmersham Park; Brabourne, p. 174.

⁹ Letter dated 3 January 1880, Jane at Steventon to Cassandra at Godmersham Park, ; Brabourne, p 254; Letter dated 24 December 1798, Jane at Steveton to Cassandra at Godmersham Park; Brabourne, p. 189

¹⁰ Letter dated 1 December 1798, Jane at Steventon to Cassandra at Godmersham Park; Brabourne, p 175

¹¹ Austen-Leigh, p. 34.

¹² Austen-Leigh, pp. 36-7. For an interesting blog on this subject, see ‘Jane Austen’s World: Metal Pattens, Awkward Protection for 18th and 19th Century Shoes.’ ***Does this need the URL?

¹³ ‘Patten’ in fact derives from Anglo-Norman *patin* and Middle French, French *patin*; *OED*. *The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers is one of the Livery Companies of the City of London. The Livery’s collection of pattens is housed in St Margaret Pattens, a working Guild church in the centre of the City.*

A NEW DISCOVERY AT BATEMAN'S

Until recently this wooden object was listed in our records as a garden dibber. We now believe it to be something different. Back when the object was listed, we hadn't realised the top forms a lid. Once opened, it reveals 30 decorated sticks, which appear to be carved from bone. The sticks we believe were used by the Kipling family to play the game pick-up-sticks or spillikins, mentioned by the family in letters over the years. The end of each stick shows different points for the game. The holder has 'J Kipling' written on it so it was likely John's toy. The case also has 'Engelberg' carved into it. The Kiplings went to Engelberg, Switzerland several times to ski, so maybe it was a family holiday memento.



KIM: AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIA (PART 2) - Craig Brittain

As a young reporter Kipling travelled extensively in northern India & had a reputation for delving into out-of-the-way aspects of Indian life. He also benefited greatly from his father's knowledge of the country. Lockwood lived in India for 28 years and was the author of a book about Indian animals in their relations with the people. Kipling made no secret of the fact that they worked together closely in the writing of *Kim*. He said that his literary inspiration for it came from Pilgrim's Progress and Canterbury Tales, but whereas Bunyan and Chaucer set out to convey a Christian message, *Kim* is non-sectarian. In some ways it's almost irrelevant that the central character is a Buddhist; what is important is that the lama is a deeply religious man, living by his faith, at a time when religion was being dismissed by many in the West.

Within the framework of a spy story (which provides an effective illustration of the workings of karma) there is the story of the lama's search for liberation. What he teaches Kim, & those they meet on the road, is the need to live by moral principles & be constantly aware of the consequences of their actions. The novel is like an extended Buddhist Jataka tale: it poses religious & philosophical questions:

- Are there universal moral laws we should live by?
- If so: what are they?
- What are the consequences if they're broken?
- Is freedom to be found in the pursuit of individual happiness or in following those moral laws?
- Is everything predetermined or do we have free will?

Kipling provides answers through the lama; through the Buddhist instruction he gives Kim. This is supplemented by the more down-to-earth wisdom of Mahbub Ali, the Afghan horse trader. At one point Kim asks Mahbub 'What am I? Mussalman, Hindu, Jain, or Buddhist? That is a hard knot.' 'Thou art beyond question an unbeliever, and therefore thou wilt be damned. So

says my Law - or I think it does. But thou art also my Little Friend of all the World, and I love thee. So says my heart. This matter of creeds is like horseflesh. The wise man knows horses are good - that there is a profit to be made from all; and for myself - but that I am a good Sunni and hate the men of Tirah - I could believe the same of all the Faiths. Therefore I say in my heart the Faiths are like the horses. Each has merit in its own country.'

In this Mahbub is paraphrasing the Qur'an where it says 'If God had pleased He would surely have made you one people (professing one faith). But He wished to try and test you by that which He gave you. So try to excel in good deeds. To Him you will all return in the end, when He will tell you of what you were at variance' (5;48, Ahmed Ali translation)

Kim had not led the sheltered existence of Prince Siddhartha, who became the Buddha, or the sheltered life of the lama in his monastery. His mother had died when he was born and his father had become an opium addict and died soon afterwards. We are told he had 'known all evil ever since he could speak'. His legacy from his father are some papers which he wears in an amulet case around his neck, that prove that he's English, and a garbled prophecy about his future.

As they travel together Kim grows to love the lama but he also craves adventure. More than anything he wants to become a spy like Mahbub & the Englishman, Creighton, & have a price upon his head. He even agrees to go to school at St Xaviers in Lucknow, to learn the skills



necessary to become a chain-man in the Ethnological survey (the front organization for the secret service). At this stage he thinks he can be the lama's disciple and work for the British at the same time. But things go wrong. The lama is injured by one of the Russian spies that Kim & Hurree are pursuing & for the first time Kim understands what the lama has been talking about all along - that actions have consequences. It's only when he realizes that his double life has

almost caused the lama's death - that he stops playing & finally grows up. He completes the task of getting the documents they've been after, but his main concern is to get the lama back to safety, and he almost dies in the process.

This raises the complex issue of personal morality vs political expediency, and the difficulty of split allegiances. The lama is only concerned with spiritual progress. He is a pacifist, who tries - like his Jain friends - to avoid hurting any living creature. When he criticizes the old soldier for wanting to ride with his regiment again, the soldier makes the point that holy men can only live in peace because they're protected by men bearing arms. The lama has no answer for this; he places greater value on enlightenment and release from the Wheel of Life than on the mundane world around him.

But governing oneself is not the same as governing a country. There are situations in which pacifism & mysticism are not always the most appropriate - or even the most moral - responses. Mahbub, Hurree and Kim are British agents in the Great Game of international espionage, which is also a metaphor for politics in general. There's nothing otherworldly about it - it involves deals, compromises, deceptions, dissimulation, subterfuge, and willingness to use force when necessary. It's a world the lama doesn't understand.

Kipling & his father had tremendous fun writing *Kim*, filling it with all sorts allusions & clues & details. The Great Game is based on fact. There must have been times when the so-called 'scientific expeditions' of the Russians, Germans and British, were tripping over each other on the North West Frontier & in & around Tibet. The British actually did have men in Tibet surreptitiously surveying the country disguised as Buddhist monks, measuring distances with their rosaries.

To be concluded

AND FINALLY...

'...on a train going to Florence I met a big Buffalo publisher who told me that Roosevelt was "down and out". In return I betted him a year's subscription to any magazine that I should name to one of my books that Theodore would give Taft the run of his life. I'm lucky in bets.'

RK to Frank N Doubleday, 27 May 1912.



Roosevelt in fact lost to Taft at the Republican national convention the following month, so Kipling would have lost his bet. With Hiram Johnson as his running mate, Roosevelt then stood for the short-lived Progressive Party against both Taft and Woodrow Wilson in the 1912 election. The Republican vote was split, allowing the Democrats a convincing victory.