



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2020

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 9 September at 5.00p.m. By Zoom. Following the success of the readings following in AGM in July, our Chair, Jan Montefiore, will lead another session of members' short readings (maximum three minutes) from Kipling's poetry or prose. If you would like join us and read something, or just to listen, please email Jan at J.E.Montefiore@kent.ac.uk for the Zoom link, plus details of what, if anything, you would like to read.

Wednesday 23 September at 4.30p.m. By Zoom. Dr Madhu Grover will be speaking to us from India on *Border crossings in Kipling's Indian short stories*. If you plan to join us please email johnrad99@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

The following two meetings may be held as usual at the Royal Over-Seas League or they may be by Zoom. More details will be provided in future newsletters.

Wednesday 11 November at 6.00p.m. Professor Jan Montefiore on *War Graves, the Mayo assassination and Kipling's last Raj story 'The Debt'*.

Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 6.00p.m. Richard Howell on *'One Spot Beloved Over All': the Kiplings and the Bateman's Estate'*.

Monday 7 June 2021. Joint event with the Honourable Artillery Company. Prof. Ian Beckett on *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 will be made available closer to the event.

TOMMY DODD by John Radcliffe

In April 1888 the Bishop of Bombay, Dr Louis George Mylne, wrote to the press protesting against the use of the game 'Tommy Dodd' at a Fancy Fair held by Lady Reay, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bombay, in aid of the Cama Hospital for women and children. The *Pioneer* noted:

For the benefit of the uninitiated, it may be explained that "Tommy Dodd" is a compromise between roulette and the race game: four small leaden horses struck on the four points of a weather-vane, a barrel-head divided into compartments for the staking of rupees, and ... an energetic lady to control the bank, are all that is requisite to play it.

The *Pioneer's* response came in Kipling's poem *Liberave Animam Meam* (Set my spirit free) He was never impressed by bishops.

Liberavi Animam Meam

*'The Bishop of Bombay is displeased with
Society because it encourages the sinful game
of 'Tommy Dodd' at Charity Bazaars.'*
—*Pioneer, April 14th.*

My name is Tommy Dodd,
(Tommy Dodd)
And I scorn the Bishop's rod
(Tommy Dodd),
You may find me spinning free
At each Charity Squeejee—
'Stakes confined to one rupee.'
(Tommy Dodd) Bis

And the Bishop he may write,
He may write:
Yea, in lawn-sleeved black and white
Urge the fight,
And in language erudite
Lash the gambling appetite
Of Society polite.
(Tommy Dodd).

But ere Bishops wielded crook,
(Tommy Dodd),
Ere they cursed by Bell and Book
(Tommy Dodd),
I—or some one like me—taught
Man the hope of gain for naught;
But they called my worship 'Sport'.
(Tommy Dodd).

Since your little race began
(Tommy Dodd),
I have swayed the soul of man;
(Tommy Dodd),
Crozier, rochet, mitre, pall,
I am stronger than them all,
And shall flourish when they fall
(Tommy Dodd) .

Dam the Indus in its bed
(Tommy Dodd),
Blanket Kinchinjunga's head
(Tommy Dodd),
Skid a glacier, cork a crater,
Make the Morning Sun rise later,
And—I'll own that you're the greater
(Tommy Dodd).

Spokeshave ever failing human,
(Tommy Dodd),
Tum the heart of man from woman,
(Tommy Dodd),

Cleanse the Earth of evil in it,
Pinion Passion's wings with sinnit,
And—I'll abdicate this minute
(Tommy Dodd).

While the breath of man endures
(Tommy Dodd),
There's an older Law than yours:
(Tommy Dodd),
He will quit your highest altars
For the Chance that clicks and falters
Where the croupier reads the psalters
(Tommy Dodd).

Here's my answer to your cry
(Tommy Dodd),
"See the little horses fly!"
(Tommy Dodd),
"Open bank and we'll begin,
"Let the whirring needle spin
"Try your luck—you're sure to win!"
(Tommy Dodd).

See Philip Holberton's notes on this and other uncollected poems written in India

NAULAKHA ESTATE AND RHODODENDRON TOUR

The Landmark Trust USA, owners of Kipling's former house in Vermont, *Naulakha*, have produced a delightful video tour, narrated by Christopher Benfey, author of *If – the Untold Story of Kipling's American Years*.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sR5VUTnFEbk&feature=youtu.be>

THE KIPLING GARDEN – ROTTINGDEAN

Following on from items in previous newsletters about Kipling plaques, Harry Waterson was reminded of one he saw some years ago in Rottingdean. The Kipling Gardens in Rottingdean were once part of the garden of *The Elms*, which the Kiplings rented from 1897 to 1902. They are now open to the public, although the house itself is not.



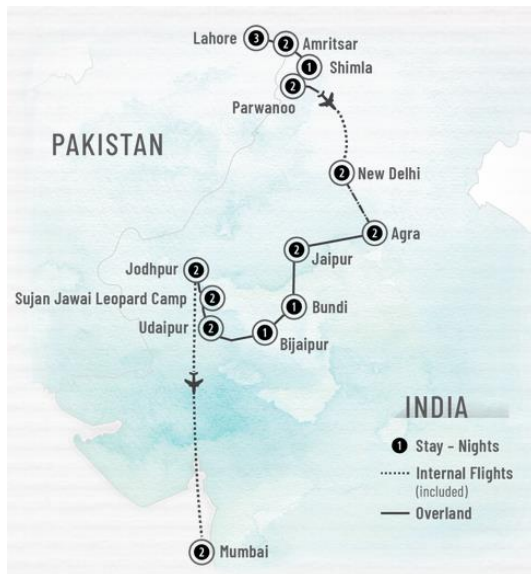
Photograph courtesy of iTravel.UK, 2006.

COUNCIL NEWS

At the Council meeting held on 1 July, it was agreed that we would invest in redeveloping the Society's website, which had given sterling service to members and the general public over many years. Content had grown astronomically but the design was now looking a little tired and more modern platforms and technology had emerged making future operating simpler and more efficient. Some presentational improvements have been made already but the main changes will be seen later this year, after we have reviewed how best to attract various target sectors of the population. See also the short piece below from John Radcliffe.

Council also agreed to amend the statement on the website about Kipling and Imperialism to make explicit reference to the current Black Lives Matter campaign.

‘KIPLING AND THE RAJ’ TOURS

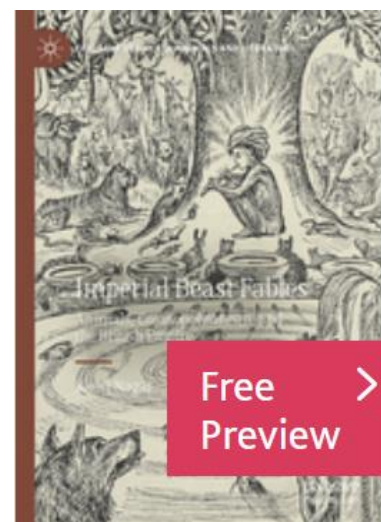
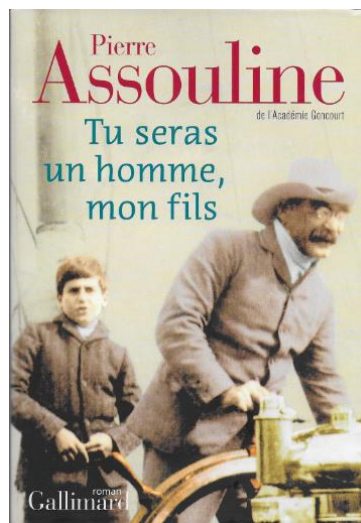
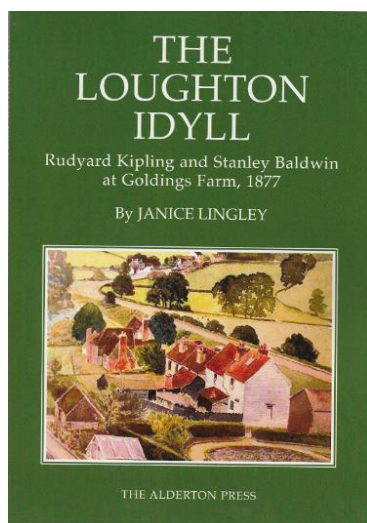


Last month we mentioned tours of Pakistan and India in 2021 and 2022 on which Harry Ricketts will be the expedition leader.

The organisers, Arcadia Expeditions, are now offering a discount of 10% on bookings to members of the Kipling Society. For more information, please contact Arcadia, mentioning the discount code KIPSOC.

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

THREE NEW BOOKS



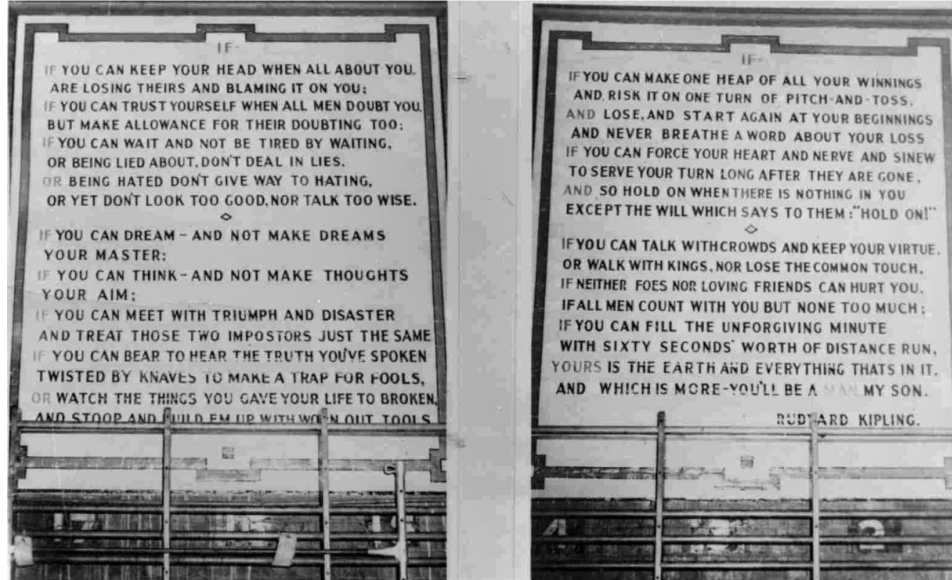
To buy Janice Lingley's book, UK members can send a cheque payable Loughton and District Historical Society to 7 Staples Road, Loughton, IG10 1HP for £6.40 incl postage. Overseas members should email Loughtonponds@outlook.com for further information.

Kaori Nagai's book *Imperial Beasts and Fables* offers innovative interpretations of the fable genre, with emphasis on the non-European fable tradition. It discusses literary texts by well-known authors such as Rudyard Kipling, Edward Lear, and Robert Browning, alongside less canonical examples, and investigates the intersection between postcolonial studies and animal studies. Hardback or electronic editions can be bought at

<https://www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9783030514921#>

IF ... YOU CAN CLIMB THOSE BARS

Member David Willis has sent in the attached postcard, of a wall of the gym at HMS Ganges when it was the Naval new entrant facility.



BURWASH FORGE - PART 2

Iron – Cold Iron – is master of them all

In the June Newsletter, we saw that in the late 16th century Burwash Forge was owned by Henry Collins, son of Kipling's Master John Collins, and let to Thomas Hepden of Burwash. Hepden temporarily lost the right to operate the forge when Collins let it instead to his son-in-law Robert Cruttenden. Cruttenden bought Hepden's stocks of coal and ore but died a few years later, as did Collins, and we find Thomas Hepden owning the forge himself by 1601.

He and his brother Goddard had earlier rented the forge at Bivelham, also in the parish of Burwash, from landowner Sir Thomas Pelham, from whom they also bought wood and cast iron blocks. Hepden also rented Dudwell Park, land which I believe today may be the fields of Dudwell Farm, owned later by Kipling, but which was then land from which timber could be harvested.

Thomas Hepden may have been a controversial figure locally, being accused in the Court of Star Chamber in 1592 by Ticehurst gentleman and iron-founder Thomas Maye of offences including:

- Threatening Maye with a dagger at Lewes Whitsun fair
- Causing a man to be stripped naked in a Burwash alehouse, leading him with a string tied around his privy members, and baiting him as if he was a bear
- Calling the curate of Burwash, a "very knave", threatening to beat him "like an arseworm" and pushing him aside whilst he was reading divine service
- Leading a disorderly party with guns and musical instruments around the Burwash alehouses one night 'drinking, shooting and playing'.

a strange toyed to his preys members

Maye lost the case and was himself imprisoned and fined for making scandalous accusations. His brother Goddard, incidentally, was a well-known Sussex puritan, being reported by the vicar of Burwash in 1591 for not taking communion for over a year. Names he gave his children included Thankful, Goodgift, Fearnot, Hopestill, Constant and Return.

Thomas was becoming a businessman of some substance, and by 1605 he was being referred to as a gentleman (which at that time meant someone who could live off income from his lands) suggesting strongly that he was no longer personally hammering iron. He died in 1610 and the business was continued by Goddard and by his son Thomas.

Thomas junior may have been a less astute businessman than his father, for in 1618 he and Goddard had to sell land and property for £1,500 to Sir Thomas Pelham which included 'a mansion called The Park House', which seems to have been on the site of what is now Park Farm, behind Bateman's, indemnifying Sir Thomas from any responsibility for a £2,000 debt Thomas owed to a merchant of Lewes and for a further debt of £400. The family held on to the forge, however.

Thomas junior died in 1620 and the lease on Dudwell Park was also soon given up. His mother Mary initially continued to pay rent for the Park House, where I assume the Hepdens had been living for many years. 'Mistress Hepden' is then recorded for a couple of years as paying fifty shillings rent for 'the little mill' or 'the mill near the Park House'. This was Kipling's 'little mill that clacks, so busy by the brook' which 'has ground her corn and paid her tax ever since Domesday Book.'¹

*Ed of Mrs Hepden 45 den of maff
1622 for the mill nere the Park House*



Park Mill at Bateman's (National Trust)

Next time: The Hepdens, William Langham and Bateman's.

¹ The current structure of Park Mill in the grounds of Bateman's dates from the eighteenth century.

IMPROVING THE SOCIETY'S WEB-SITE – John Radcliffe, On-line Editor.



As you may have seen we have made various changes in the design of the Society's web-site lately. This is part of a review over the next weeks and months in which we are aiming to make the site easier to use, run more efficiently and economically, offer more facilities, and appeal to wider audiences.

If you have any thoughts about the site, what it has to offer, and whether there are ways in which you feel it could be improved, this is a particularly good time to let us have them. Please email to johnrad99@gmail.com.

MANDALAY – CULTURALLY INAPPROPRIATE?

BBC ditches Kipling over cultural sensitivity

David Brown

Rudyard Kipling's *Mandalay* has been removed from commemorations of the 75th anniversary of VJ Day after the opera singer Sir Willard White, who was born in Jamaica, complained of its "cultural superiority".

The musical version, which is synonymous with veterans of the Second World War campaign in Burma, was expected to be a highlight of tonight's BBC broadcast of the commemorations.

The Duke of Cambridge will pay tribute to the veterans during events at Horse Guards Parade.

Mandalay, written in 1890 about a British soldier reminiscing about his love of Burma, includes the line "An' a-wastin' Christian kisses on an 'eathen idol's foot" in a reference to a statue of Buddha. Sir Willard, 73, said that he

Sir Willard White said he couldn't sing the line with a clear conscience



"felt uneasy singing lines about one god being superior to another".

He said: "Much-needed discussions are taking place challenging assumptions of cultural superiority and the inequalities caused by them. As a proud human being I couldn't sing such sentiments with a clear conscience and after raising this with the BBC production team, it was mutually agreed that another work be selected. I would ask everyone to focus on the debt we owe those who so bravely fought across Asia and the Pacific to bring an end to this terrible war, and to remember that those who fought represented all the world's major religions."

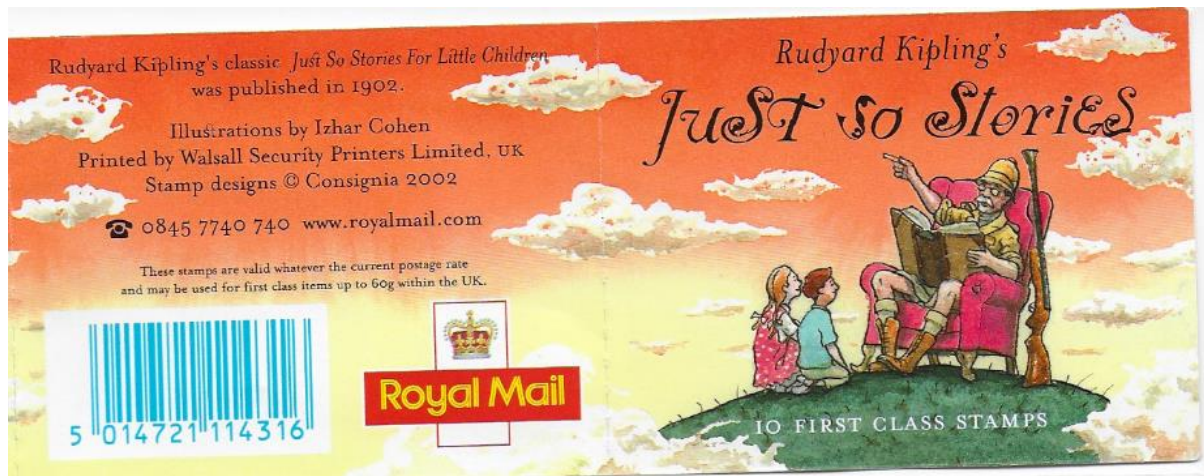
The VJ Day broadcast is being hosted by Joanna Lumley, whose father, Major James Lumley, served during the Burma campaign as an officer with the 6th Gurkha Rifles.

The Burma Star Association which represents veterans said that it had not been consulted about the exclusion of the poem. Mike Kipling, a relative of Sir Rudyard and honorary secretary of the Kipling Society, said: "If Sir Willard could find alternative words which would scan we would not object to the change to allow it to be performed."

The Times. 15 July 2020

AND FINALLY...

Do you remember the 'Just so' stories stamps issued in 2002 by Royal Mail? Here's a reminder.



The stamps are still valid for postage today. If you'd like to get some to use, there seem to be plenty of sellers on e-bay.

Best wishes

Mike Kipling – Secretary & Treasurer