



# THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

Bay Tree House, Doomsday Garden, Horsham, West Sussex,  
RH13 6LB England

Telephone: 07801 680516

e-mail: [michaelrkipling@gmail.com](mailto:michaelrkipling@gmail.com)

## NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2022

### NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday 21 September** 6.00pm – Online only meeting, which will take the form of a narrated tour of the rooms and garden at *Bateman's*, followed by the opportunity for questions. Whilst we intend to 'broadcast' the whole meeting by Zoom, a large part has been pre-recorded due to the absence of wi-fi in most of the house and garden. A link to the pre-recorded part (on YouTube) will also be made available at the start of the meeting in case attendees have problems viewing the Zoom meeting. This link will subsequently be made available to all members in the next newsletter and on the Society's website. The meeting is expected to last for around 90 minutes.

Please use the link below or the meeting ID and passcode to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84849165940?pwd=Rkd1OXpLYVdlbmFsdG1KMVhRWWM1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 848 4916 5940 Passcode: 708901

### FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday 16 November. Christopher Kreuzer, "'The King's Pilgrimage' (1922): tour, poem, speech and book".
- Wednesday 1 February 2023. Rufus Vaughan-Spruce, 'The Other Man Who Could Write: Stephen Wheeler as Man of Letters'

*Both meetings at the Royal Over-Seas League, 5.30pm for 6.00pm, and by Zoom.*

- Wednesday 19 April – TBC
- Wednesday 5 July – AGM. Speaker TBC

### AGM REPORT

At the AGM held on 6 July, Dr Mary Hamer and Mr Andrew Scragg were elected to Council and Lord William of Oystermouth was elected a Vice President of the Society.

Following the AGM, Council met and elected Dr Alex Bubb as Chairman (also continuing as Meetings Secretary) and Prof. Jan Montefiore as Vice Chairman (also continuing as Journal Editor). All other officers continue in post.

## JULY MEETING – Alex Bubb, Chairman and Meetings Secretary

Following our AGM in July, we played host to Dr Sarah Shaw, a faculty member of the Oriental Institute at Oxford University, who posed us the question “Is Kipling Oral Literature?” Using



several startling examples, drawn principally from the Just So Stories, Sarah demonstrated to us the many parallels between Kipling’s manner of storytelling and narrative patterns observed in the Buddhist jataka tradition, leaving us all to wonder just how much Kipling knew of the canon of Buddhist fable. The event was followed by a lively dinner at the Avenue restaurant which happily recalled the conviviality of pre-Covid times—please note that any member is welcome to attend these post-talk dinners, if they inform me or Mike Kipling beforehand.

Though overall attendance at the RoSL has been lower than before the pandemic, we still believe there is value in these hybrid events, especially for the opportunities they allow us to meet, socialize and sup together. For that reason, at the AGM, I proposed to continue with the same number of scheduled events each year—five in total—though with at least one and possibly two of those events being hosted, like “Our Kipling Treasures” in April and the forthcoming Bateman’s tour in September, purely online. It would be helpful for me to hear what members themselves would best like, and if you have views on this please contact me at [alex\\_bubb@hotmail.com](mailto:alex_bubb@hotmail.com).

## ALLIANCE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES JOURNAL

The latest edition of the ALS Journal is now available to view. Subtitled ‘The Day Job’, it contains a number of articles about the ‘other’ jobs that authors had, covering Lewis Carroll, Charlotte Mary Yonge, Geoffrey Grigson, Wallace Stevens, Neville Shute and Franz Kafka, as well as an excellent editorial which casts its net more widely. Click below to read.

[also2022.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](#)



## WHY WE READ KIPLING – Part 1

In the last edition of this newsletter, we asked members to respond to ten questions about why they read Kipling. This generated a relatively small but extremely interesting response, which we will be revealing gradually in the next few newsletters. It’s not too late to submit a response - the last newsletter can be found on the Society’s website at

[Newsletter-Jun2022.pdf \(kiplingsociety.co.uk\)](#)

The first question we asked was ‘Are you reading any Kipling now? If so, which work (short story, novel, verse or non-fiction) is it?’

Diarmid Lucey responded ‘At the moment I am working through some Agatha Christie, but never a month goes by without my re-reading some Kipling. At my elbow even now

is *Maugham's Choice of Kipling's Best* for ready reference, and the complete collection of his works (from about the turn of the 20th Century) is no more than eight feet from my chair. I recently finished a pass through *In Black and White*. Alastair Wilson has *The Day's Work* on his bedside table, to be dipped into as the mood takes him, whereas for John Seriot it was the second volume of Tom Pinney's Cambridge edition of the poems.

Maggie Washington wrote that 'between other books I am working my way through the stories I have not read before because they were not readily available. *Aft the Funnel*, *The Eyes of Asia* and *Uncollected Stories* are all on the Kindle Complete Kipling. I usually follow up each one on the Society website for context and notes.' Rodney Atwood dips regularly into the definitive edition of his verse (Hodder & Stoughton, 1954). He has also been reading Jad Adams' biography, which he thinks better than the review in the Journal. He adds, though, that Adams' knowledge of the Great War is unfortunately as thin as one would expect from someone of his background.

Jan Montefiore tells us that she's been re-reading, with much pleasure, *A St Helena's Lullaby* and *Souvenirs of France*, both of which will feature in the next *Kipling Journal*.

And, finally, Anubhav Pradhan provided a pithy response to the general question of why he reads Kipling. 'I am not primarily a Kipling scholar, I am more an urbanist than a Kipling man, but I still read and enjoy Kipling for the vim and vigour of his writing, for his ability to be exultantly boyish as well as deeply contemplative. Kipling could usually see life for what it was, peel through its many layers as it were, and he had that faculty with words which made him truly epochal. No work of Kipling has had an impact on my life, but I do own half a dozen of his prose volumes and a tome containing all his poems: *Plain Tales*, I believe, is my favourite.'

*To be continued*

## IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION MINUTES

The Third Meeting of The Imperial War Graves Commission was held on Wednesday, 24th. July, 1918, at 4.p.m. in the Secretary of State's Room, War Office.

Present :-

The Rt.Hon.Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Secretary of State for War, (Chairman)

The Rt.Hon.Lord Islington, G.C.M.G., D.S.O., Under Secretary of State for India,

The Rt.Hon.Sir Alfred Mond, B.P., First Commissioner of Works,

The Hon.Sir George Perley, K.C.M.G., High Commissioner for Canada,

The Hon.Sir Thomas Mackenzie, K.C.M.G., High Commissioner for New Zealand,

Lieut.Colonel G.G.Helbert, representing the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa,

Sir William Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.B.E.,

Harry Gosling Esq., C.H., J.P.,

Rudyard Kipling Esq.,

Lieut.General Sir C.F.N.Macready, G.C.M.G., K.C.D.,

Brig-General Fabian Ware, C.M.G., (Vice-Chairman).

-----

J.E.Talbot Esq., Principal Assistant Secretary,  
Lieut.Colonel G.H.Stobart, D.S.O.,

DIRECTOR OF GRAVES REGISTRATION  
RECEIVED  
10.8.18  
AND ENQUIRIES

## 'THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING' AND KAFIRISTAN

A few notes by James Crowden

Many will know Kipling's book 'The Man who would be King' which was published in 1888. It was based in Kafiristan in the Afghan Hindu Kush north east of Kabul. After the invasion by Afghan forces in 1895/96 it was renamed Nuristan, the Land of Light, referring to the forcible conversion of its population. Many Kafirs (unbelievers) were killed. Others were captured or enslaved. Kafir girls were openly sold in the Kabul markets. Some fled to Chitral where their descendants still live. The King of Afghanistan: Amir Abdul Rahman Khan was ruthless even by Afghan standards.

Stories about Kafiristan were legion, but few had ever visited. It was inhospitable in both terrain and temperament. The people had decidedly Western/Aryan features and were



reputedly descendants of Alexander's Greek army. They had held out against Islam for about 1,000 years. Down in Peshawar stories about Kafirs and the Hindu Kush would have excited people's imaginations. Accounts of early explorers include

the Portuguese Jesuit missionary Bento de Góis.

By his account, he visited a city named "Capherstam" in 1602, during the course of a journey from Lahore to China.

Kipling is said to have modelled his characters on a range of travellers and army renegades such as the American adventurer Colonel Alexander Gardner (1785–1877) Then there was William Watts McNair a British surveyor who entered Kafiristan dressed as a hakim. The survey of India had their own man, The Mirza who was surveying in the 1860s. He died in Bokhara. Then there was Josiah Harlan (1799- 1871) who travelled in disguise and was up to his eyes in intrigue in Kabul, aided by the archaeologist and Bengal artilleryman Charles Masson, alias James Lewis (1800–1853) Other accounts came from the pens of Rev Joseph Wolff, Sir Henry Yule, Captain John Wood, Surgeon Major Henry Bellew and Henry George Raverty.

However, there is one name which is missing and this throws an interesting light on the timing of the story. Rudyard's father Lockwood Kipling spent several summers in Abbottabad to escape the heat of summer in Lahore. He was great friends with General William Lockhart 1841-1900 who lived in Abbottabad. Rudyard would join them from time to time. Lockhart was no stranger to the North West Frontier. He had also served in Bhutan and Abyssinia as well as The Black Mountain Campaign of 1868/69. As a small garrison town Abbottabad was very close knit. By coincidence another resident who had served with Lockhart was Major Edward Codrington whose father had been killed in Charikar. His cousins had all died of fever in Simla in 1841.

After the 2nd Afghan war and a spell in the intelligence, Lockhart led a Secret Expedition to Gilgit, Kafiristan and Chitral 1886/87. Secret? There were four officers and 300 soldiers.

Upon his return Lockhart wrote the report which can be read on line. See

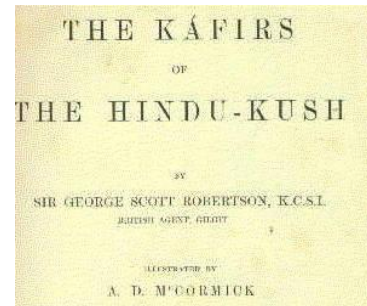
<https://archive.org/details/b29351194/page/4/mode/2up?view=theater>.



No doubt Lockhart's exploits would have been well known to Lockwood Kipling and if Rudyard was visiting it may well have been just the catalyst he needed to write the story up in that same year. Any further ideas on the subject gratefully received !

A year or two later Surgeon George Scott Robertson, based in Gilgit, spent a year or two in Kafiristan and wrote the definitive book: *The Kafirs of the Hindu Kush* published in 1896, the same year Amir Abdhur Rahman invaded Kafiristan.

In 1974 James Crowden walked from the Badakshan in the north over the Hindu Kush via Kotal Ramgul then east over four more passes through most of Nuristan.



### **MORE ABOUT THE DALLEYS Part 1 – Janice Lingley**

Since the publication of *The Loughton Idyll* in 2020,<sup>1</sup> more has been discovered about John and Rebecca Dalley, the tenant farmer and his wife who accommodated the Kipling family, Ruddy and Trix, and their mother Alice, at Goldings Farm on the north-eastern edge of Epping Forest, for six months in the summer of 1877. Members may recall that Kipling speaks of the farmer and his wife in his autobiography, and a memoir by Trix Fleming of her brother's childhood, reprinted in *The Kipling Journal* gives further details.<sup>2</sup>

John Dalley's birthplace is stated in *The Idyll* to be Stoke Poges in Buckinghamshire, but this is not where he grew up. His three siblings, his two brothers, George, born in 1818, and Charles, born in 1827, and his sister Eliza, born in 1821, were all born in the rural village of Abbots Ripton, in what was then Huntingdonshire, now Cambridgeshire. The children's father John, worked as a gardener. Born in 1781, he was not native to the county, but the children's mother, Mary, born in 1786, was. George Dalley appears in the 1861 census at St. Albans, Hertfordshire, with his wife Eliza and four children, working as an ostler. Charles was a carpenter-joiner in St Mary Newington, where he lived with his wife, a milliner, and one son. According to the census, Martha Meadus, the Dalleys' niece and dairy-maid at Goldings Farm, visited her relations there in 1861, when she was eleven years old. John Dalley's sister Eliza worked as a house-servant to Henry Reginald Yorke (1803-1871), Archdeacon of Huntingdon (1865-1870), at The Rectory in Wimpole, Caxton, Cambridgeshire. It was in Caxton in 1859 that Eliza married a Henry Oliver.

Rebecca's family were a numerous clan of farmers and agricultural labourers in 19<sup>th</sup> century Penselwood, in Somersetshire, which takes its name from the formerly extensive ancient Forest of Selwood, for hundreds of years a natural boundary between South East Anglo-Saxon

---

<sup>1</sup> Janice Lingley, *The Loughton Idyll: Rudyard Kipling and Stanley Baldwin at Goldings Farm, 1877* (Loughton: The Alderton Press, 2020)

<sup>2</sup> Rudyard Kipling, *Something of Myself for My Friends Known and Unknown* (London: Macmillan & Company, 1937), 17-18; Trix Fleming, 'Childhood Memories of Rudyard Kipling', edited by Janice Lingley, *The Kipling Journal*, Vol. 93, No. 380, December 2019, 25-40, and Trix Fleming, 'More Childhood Memories of Rudyard Kipling', also edited by Janice Lingley, *The Kipling Journal*, Vol. 94, No. 381, March 2020, 10-25.

Wessex and the Brittonic West, the historic village forming a strategic strongpoint.<sup>3</sup> Much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century village survives, and it was here that Rebecca Dalley, nee Matthews, was baptised in 1809. Her brothers, Nicholas, b 1810, a stone mason, and Emmanuel, b 1871, a carpenter, married and had families. Rebecca also had a sister, Elizabeth, who married and settled in Stanpit, near Christchurch, and was mother to Martha, the Dalleys' niece and dairy maid. From her father's first marriage, Rebecca's half-sister, Susannah, baptised in 1797, a laundress, was a witness of her marriage to John. Her half-brother, Thomas Pope Matthews, b 1810, was the miller of Eccliffie Mill in Gillingham, near Shaftesbury. Rebecca's father Emmanuel, born in 1763, appears in the parish records as a yeoman, but like many others in those days his status declined. In the 1841 census he appears as an agricultural labourer and in the 1851 census as a 'pauper agricultural labourer'. Rebecca appears on a Land Tax Return for 1842 as the owner of a freehold property in Penselwood, and hence liable for payment of the tax. The property (still extant) is described as a house and garden, and stated to be occupied by a member of the Matthews family. So it may be that Rebecca was at this time helping to support her family. She appears in the 1841 census, before her marriage to John in 1848, as the servant of a wealthy elderly widow, Mrs Harriet Wallis, in South Bank, Marylebone, London.

John and Rebecca Dalley worked at house-servants at Goldings House, in Loughton, and more is now known about their employers.



*Goldings House from a print dated c. 1820. The out-buildings of Goldings Farm may be seen on the right.<sup>4</sup> The farmhouse was a little way to the north of the House, and is thought to have formerly been an inn.*

Before working for the family of the Lord of the Manor, the Reverend John Whitaker Maitland (1831-1909) (also Loughton's Rector), the Dalleys were the servants of Frances Goodenough,<sup>5</sup> widow of the distinguished churchman Edmund Goodenough (1785-1845), Dean of Wells, and

<sup>3</sup> Jock Baker and Michael Shiel, *Pen Selwood* (1988), illustrated by Olivia Bovill, a privately printed village publication, p. 4; *Pen Selwood Through an Old Lens*, compiled by Andrew Jenkins (Pen Selwood: privately published, 2021), p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Reproduced from Dr. Donald J. Pohl, *Loughton 1851—The Village and Its People* (Loughton: The Chigwell and Loughton History Society, 1988), p. 15.

<sup>5</sup> The link with the family was discovered in a newspaper report of John Dalley acting as a witness and testifying on Mrs. Goodenough's behalf at Marlborough Street Court concerning the theft of a parcel belonging to Mrs Goodenough from on a London inn: *The Standard*, 25 April 1851, Issue 8332.

formerly headmaster of Westminster School. Frances, daughter of the architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell (1753-1827), resided in Loughton with her unmarried daughter Lucy, born in 1826; Frances died abroad in 1855; John Dalley and Loughton's then incumbent the Reverend Thomas Trundle Storks, were witnesses to her will.<sup>6</sup> John is described in the July 1856 clause proving the Will as occupying a senior position as 'Butler to William Whitaker Maitland Esquire', the Reverend John Whitaker's father. Intriguingly, Mrs Goodenough's will makes provision for the disposal of what is termed 'all my farming stock' which rather implies that when she took up residence of the Hall, Mrs Goodenough also took on Goldings Farm. It is possible that the John Dalley's duties as a 'house-servant' (the non-specific generic term stated in the census) involved him in some way in the management of the farm, prior to his tenancy. The juxtaposition of the census entry with Goldings House suggests that the Dalleys may have been housed at Goldings Hill farmhouse during this period.

*To be continued*

## BACK COPIES OF THE JOURNAL

Relatives of late member Brian Haig are looking for a home for issues of the Kipling Journal dating from between June 1979 and June 1991. If you would like these, please contact the Secretary by any of the means shown at the head of this newsletter.

## NEW KIPLING LETTERS – John Walker, Librarian

Early in September 1925, Howard Phillips wrote to Kipling from his home in Columbus, Ohio. He began that first letter with his appreciation for the Pyecroft stories, speaking as a retired Naval officer, and it seems that he may have expressed some opinions about naval warfare against Germany, since Rudyard's reply tells the story of a rescued 'Hun Commander' who accused a British submarine captain of 'cheating' because his boat had two torpedo tubes instead of the expected one. The closing paragraph, typed in this case by a secretary, has the sentiment, 'One can't spread one's feelings about on paper in these matters ...'.

Howard, then thirty-seven, had a three-year-old daughter, Virginia. He must have boasted of her precocity, and her love of readings before bed, because in a succeeding letter, dated December 4, 1926 (and typed by Rudyard himself), there is mention of '... the Small One who has such a sound taste in literature'.

These letters, still safe in their envelopes, along with two others, from January 1927 and January 1936, have been given to the Society by that very same 'Small One', with the assistance of her friend Shelley Friedman. We are enormously grateful to Virginia Phillips of Arlington, Virginia, especially for permission to share the full texts in a future edition of the Journal. Of course, Howard's letters would have been destroyed by Rudyard, Carrie or later by Elsie, but the replies speak of a time and of Kipling's own attitudes very clearly.

Now I have to fly off and navigate  
in a car for the week-end. I ought  
to have written more, but I have  
only just time to send you all  
Christmas wishes, and specially  
to the Small One who has such a  
sound taste in literature.

Ever sincerely

*Rudyard Kipling*

*Please forgive my typing*

<sup>6</sup> The National Archives: PROB 11/2236/273, 18 July 1856.



## KIPLING'S TRAIL

An Indian travel agency, Holxo Holidays, is promoting a guided tour of India based on Kipling's own experiences. A most ingenious brochure for the tour has been prepared and I thought it worth circulating (as a pdf attachment to the e-mail which brought this newsletter), if only for the pleasure of reading it. A couple of pages are shown below.



### Kipling's Trail



This trip is a creative burst that encompasses a journey to celebrate Joseph Rudyard Kipling as a short-story writer, poet, and novelist during his time in India. In 1888-1889 Kipling visited Calcutta, worked in Allahabad and travelled by train across Rajasthan, to Agra, Jodhpur and Udaipur – the City of Lakes and Palaces. Sent to Rajputana as special correspondent, a Rajasthan story is culled from Kipling's travelogue, *Letters from Marquise (1891)*. In these colourful accounts of the people, places and things of Rajasthan, Kipling plays a veteran tourist guide with an engrossing tale to tell about everyone and everything.

For further enquires contact Varun +91 9810070789 ([varun@holxoholidays.com](mailto:varun@holxoholidays.com)) / Mitali +91 9873998300 ([mitali@holxoholidays.com](mailto:mitali@holxoholidays.com))



### Day 8 - Travel to Bundi (4 Hrs drive)-That Sowed The Seeds For "Kim"

Kipling wrote in 1892 **"An avalanche of masonry ready to rush down and block the gorge"**. Kipling stayed at the palace in Bundi, Rajputana, as a correspondent for The Pioneer and this is where he got inspiration for his book 'Kim'. He went on to write **"It has been written 'the coup d'oeil of the castellated Palace of Boondi, from whichever side you approach it, is perhaps the most striking in India. Whoever has seen the Palace of Boondi can easily picture to himself the hanging gardens of Semiramis.' This is true – and more too. To give on paper any adequate idea of the Boondi-ka-Mahal is impossible. Jeypore Palace may be called the Versailles of India; Udaipur's House of State is dwarfed by the hills round it and the spread of the Pichola lake; Jodhpur's House of Strife, grey towers on red rock, is the work of giants; but the Palace of Boondi, even in broad day-light, is such a Palace as men build for themselves in uneasy dreams – the work of goblins more than the work of men."**



The **Bundi Palace** is an extraordinary decaying edifice with fabulous though fading turquoise-and-gold murals. It reflects the splendour and opulence of the royal dwellers of this palace and within its Umeed Mahal.



**Chitrashala**, an art gallery that exhibits the awe-inspiring traditional miniature colourful murals depicting scenes from the Ragmala and Raaslila-the story of Radha-Krishna.



**Sukh Mahal** which is one in its own kind architecture in Bundi which reminds of a rich bygone era. As per the care taker, "It was the Mowgli man who stayed here."



**Rani Jiki Barol**, (stepwell) which displays the finest example of Hindu and Jain architecture.



**Khambon ki Chhatra**, a two storeyed Cenotaph has 84 pillars and has paintings of various birds and animals, Gods and Goddesses etc. incised on stones on all the sides of the platform.

*For the avoidance of any doubt, the Society does not endorse Holxo nor any other travel agency.*