

# THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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## CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2020

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In the light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Council has decided that the 2020 AGM will be held on-line using Zoom. The time will be unchanged; 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 1 July. For those unable to use Zoom, or who are otherwise engaged at the time of the AGM, I would be grateful if you could let me have your proxy vote on the formal business of the meeting (set out below). This can be done by e-mail, post or text using the contact details above.

Regrettably, the presentation intended for after the AGM has had to be postponed. However, once the formalities of the AGM are over, those 'present' will have the opportunity to read out a favourite passage of Kipling and to say, in a few brief words, why they have chosen it. We hope that this will provide at least a brief entertainment in our currently somewhat curtailed lives.

If you would like to attend the AGM on Zoom, please contact our On-line Editor, John Radcliffe, at [johnrad99@gmail.com](mailto:johnrad99@gmail.com) for further details.

The minutes of the 2019 AGM and the accounts of the society for 2019 will be published in the June 2020 edition of the Kipling Journal. If you have not received this before the AGM and you cannot access it on our website, I will be happy to send a copy of the minutes and the accounts to you.

The reports of the officers will be made orally at the AGM. Should you particularly wish to see any in advance, please let me know and I will endeavour to get a copy to you before the AGM.

### Formal business of the AGM

- Approval of the minutes of the 2019 AGM and of the 2019 accounts.
- Elections to Council: There are four vacancies and four members have been proposed for election: Richard Howell, Captain Christopher Morrison RN, Dr Kaori Nagai, and Commander Alastair Wilson.
- Election of Vice-Presidents: Council have nominated Professor Harry Ricketts and Professor Harish Trivedi, Kipling scholars who have contributed to the Society in many ways over many years, to be Vice Presidents.
- To reappoint Harry Waterson as Independent Financial Examiner.

In accordance with the changes to the Society's Rules made last year, the election of Officers now takes place at a brief meeting of Council held immediately after the AGM. Members attending the Zoom meeting are welcome to attend this as observers.

## KIPLING IN THE NEWS

This conference, arranged jointly by the Society and City University, originally intended for April 2020 and subsequently deferred to October has regrettably had to be postponed again. Our hope is that circumstances will have improved sufficiently for City University and the Society to be able to hold the event in 2021.

The fee paid by those who had applied to attend on the original April date will be carried forward unless a refund is requested. Further details at <https://www.city.ac.uk/events/2020/april/kipling-in-the-news-journalism-empire-and-decolonisation>

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

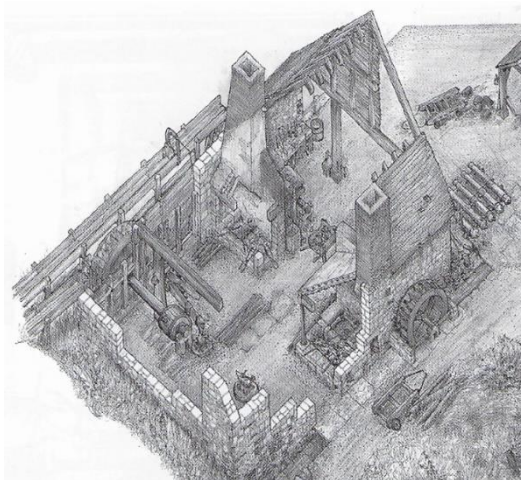
The following dates are still in the diary for the remainder of 2020. Whether we will be able to proceed with them face-to-face or even at all remains to be seen.

- Wednesday 23rd September. Speaker Madeleine Horton 'Rethinking Rudyard Kipling: genre, Value and Reputation'. Royal Over-Seas League. 17.30 for 18.00.
- Wednesday 11th November. Speaker Prof. Jan Montefiore 'War Graves, the Mayo assassination and Kipling's last Raj story The Debt'. Royal Over-Seas League. 17.30 for 18.00.

We will provide updates in future newsletters, the next of which will be circulated in early July following the AGM.

## BURWASH FORGE – Part 1

*They perched themselves arow on the old hacked oak bench in Lindens garden, looking across the valley of the brook at the fern-covered dimples and hollows of the Forge behind Hobden's cottage ... 'Eh - yeh!' said Hal. 'I mind when where that old gaffer stands was Nether Forge - Master John Collins's foundry. Many a night has his big trip-hammer shook me in my bed here. Boom-bitty! Boom-bitty! If the wind was east, I could hear Master Tom Collins's forge at Stockens answering his brother, Boom-oop! Boom-oop! and midway between, Sir John Pelham's sledgehammers at Brightling would strike in like a pack o' scholars, and "Hic-haec-hoc" they'd say, "Hic-haec-hoc, " till I fell asleep. Yes. The valley was as full o' forges and fineries as a May shaw o' cuckoos. All gone to grass now!'*

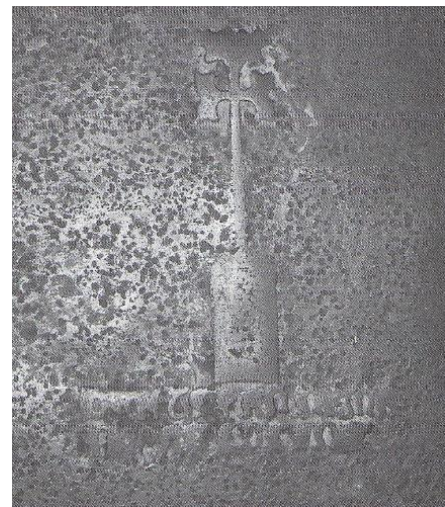


The site of Burwash Forge is located today exactly where Dan and Una were shown it by Hal, about half a mile upstream from Bateman's, by the remains of the earthwork wall of its pond. Of Hobden's cottage there is now no sign. When I visited earlier this year, the local moles had kindly turned up heaps of earth containing pieces of charcoal, iron and slag.

The forge itself had ceased to operate around a century before 'Hal o' the Draft' was written. When writing it, Kipling was probably indirectly referencing a 1574 list of Wealden ironworks, which would have been well-known to local antiquaries. This names John Collins as operating the 'nether forge' at Burwash, Thomas Collins a furnace at Socknersh (a.k.a. Stockens) and Sir John Pelham as owner, although not operator, of Brightling forge, further up the Dudwell. With understandable geographic licence, Kipling has placed Pelham's family seat at Brightling rather than at Laughton near Lewes, and Brightling forge east rather than west of the nether forge. There is also no historical evidence that the latter ever produced cannon.

In 'Hal', the children meet the title character as an old man, looking back on his youth, which must have been around 1500 for Sebastian Cabot (c1474 - c1557) to have been a young man and the privateer Andrew Barton (c1456 -1511) to have been active. Kipling stretches time somewhat by including the Collins and Pelham of the 1574 list in the story

Reliable records of the iron works in the Burwash area are not found before the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. However, recent research suggests that John Collin (d. 1537) was one of a considerable number of French iron-workers who brought superior continental iron-making technology to England around this time. The well-worn iron grave slab in Burwash church, inscribed ORATE P. ANNEMA JHONE COLINE (pray for the soul of John Collin) and considered to be the oldest such slab in the country, is thought to be his. This is the slab which makes a brief appearance in another of the Puck stories, 'The Conversion of St. Wilfred', situated in what the children called Panama Corner. It is thought likely to have been made at John Collins's furnace at Socknersh.



The John Collins of the 1574 list was the first John's son (aged then 80), thought also to have been French-born. 'Tom' Collins was actually his nephew rather than his brother. John later passed the nether forge to his son Henry, who lived in Lewes. Henry leased the forge to be operated by Thomas Hepden of Burwash. Of particular interest to us is that Hepden was the father-in-law of William Langham, owner and putative builder of Bateman's in the following century.

*Next time – the forge in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*

## THE COLL

On a visit to Westward Ho! a few years ago, I took the picture of the row of buildings which once made up the United Services College. It is now named Kipling Court, and the short lane up to it is Kipling Terrace. A plaque commemorating Kipling's time at the school was placed there in 1953.



## A NEW KIPLING PLAQUE

In early June, a new blue plaque funded in part by the Society, will be placed at Goldings Farm, Loughton, in Epping Forest, where Kipling, rescued by his mother from the dreadful Sarah Holloway at Southsea, together with Trix and cousin Stanley, spent a summer on which he reflects glowingly in *Something of Myself* before packing his bags for the Coll.



Society member Janice Lingley and Chairman of the Loughton & District History Society Dr Chris Pond have been the driving force behind the plaque project. You may have seen Janice's annotations of articles by Trix in the two most recent editions of *The Kipling Journal*. That in the December edition describes the stay at Loughton.

It is hoped to have a formal ceremony to commemorate the placing of the plaque at a later date.

Incidentally, Kipling plaques can also be found at Southsea, Charing Cross, Rottingdean and Sydney, Australia. Please let me know if you are aware of any others.

## LICHTENBURG

*Philip Holberton* has drawn our attention to a passage in *The Common Asphodel* by Robert Graves (Hamish Hamilton, 1949, page 220):

*Once during the South African campaign at a bar in Cape Town (or so I was informed by a man who swore he was there) Kipling was sitting with two New South Wales troopers. Kipling asked: 'What'll you drink?' The surly trooper did not answer him but, turning to his chum, remarked: 'Talking of wattles, Sam, do you remember the smell of the wattles at Lichtenburg when we rode in, in the rain?' Kipling noted the phrase and made a ballad of it. Afterwards, said my informant, a friend of his who 'knew his Kipling,' a resident at this*



*same Lichtenburg, looked round for the wattles and found none. They are an Australian variety of mimosa, apparently. But that the scripture might be fulfilled, he sent to the Cape Town botanical gardens for a wattle or wattles, and reported his action to Kipling, who wrote to say that he was gratified. However, I recently met another Kiplingite at Port Said, where they abound, who told me that two miles from Lichtenburg is a grove of—well, some South African tree—which is a cousin of the wattles and does emit a wattle-ish smell in wet weather; he had always intended to write to Kipling and reassure him about it.*

## FROM JOHN WALKER, OUR HONORARY LIBRARIAN

Mrs Lucy Lemon (née Quant) was never a member of the Society, but she was a true Kipling enthusiast. Lucy was born in 1878, and died in 1973. Her family – grandchildren Michael and Judith – tell us that she was certainly a much-loved grandmother, who is remembered for stories of her Victorian childhood, and Lucy had a full set of the Macmillan Uniform edition, so that her family came to know the stories and verse.. Furthermore, we know that she collected cuttings and other ephemera, storing them away between the pages of her favourite volumes. Michael and Judith collected everything together and sent it in, to be kept in the Society's library at Haileybury, for future researchers.

Like the scrapbooks handed down by past members, the choice of cuttings is a reflection of Kipling's importance to the general public. For many, as Michael says, 'He was the prime example of someone bridging the Colonial and Victorian values of his first 35 years and then taking a prominent involvement in a much changing modern world in his second 35 years.' None of the newspaper pieces or small documents is new to us, but their presence in this treasure trove reflects interests and opinions at the time. A good example might be the cutting from the Liverpool Echo, reporting Kipling's speech at Southport. This call to arms, ten months into the First War is duly recorded in the New Readers' Guide [http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/rg\\_speeches\\_29.htm](http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/rg_speeches_29.htm) but the fact that the 'Echo' chooses to

subhead its report 'WHERE WE STAND', 'WAR TO THE DEATH', 'HEROES WITHOUT STAIN', reflects on the attitudes that led Lucy, then 29, to cut out and keep the full text.

We fully appreciate the gift of these family treasures, and they are now scanned and available to anyone who wishes to reflect on their significance.

*Cutting: 'Mr Rudyard Kipling and The Call to Arms'. Report of recruiting speech at Southport. (1915).*

*Cutting: 'A Study of Mr Kipling'. Review of Rudyard Kipling : a Critical Study by Cyril Falls. (1915).*

*Cutting: 'The King's Pilgrimage'. (1922).*

*Cutting: 'Pilgrimage of the King'. (1922).*

*Cutting: Photograph of JRK with Lord Haig and Mr Peter Larkin (High Commissioner for Canada). (1922)*

*Cutting: 'London Stone'. (1923).*

*Cutting: 'The Just Gods'. Report of speech at Oxford (text in full?). (1924).*

*Cutting: 'Stalky Looks Back'. Review of 'Stalky's Reminiscences'. (1928).*

*Cutting: 'Rudyard Kipling's Jubilee Poem'. First publication of 'The King and the Sea'. (1935).*

*Cutting: 'Kipling's First Broadcast'. Report of speech at Royal Society of Literature. (1935).*

*Cutting: notes on the writing and publication of 'Recessional'. (1936).*

*Booklet: Kipling's Message. W.H. Smith, London. 'One Penny'. (1918).*

*Booklet: 'Recessional'. Methuen & Co., London. 'Price One Penny'. (1897).*

## THE WAY THROUGH THE WOODS

Rebecca Douglas and her mother Jenny have continued to post readings of poems along with 'real-time' sketches on You Tube during the lockdown (see last newsletter). *The Way through the Woods* joined the collection on day 47. This has been joined more recently by *A Smuggler's Song*.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGbZUCCmPEg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLML4M8FbLc&t=31s>

‘IF -’ NOT: POETRY IN USE.

Member Jonty Driver has drawn my attention to an article with the above title by Peter Womack, Professor of Literature and Drama at the University of East Anglia, which appeared last year in *Critical Quarterly*. The abstract and a URL are given below, but the full article is only available for those with access rights or ready cash.

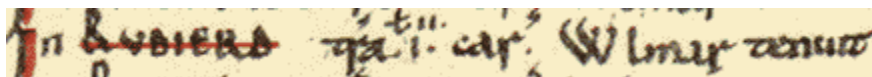
*When students at Manchester University erased a famous poem by Rudyard Kipling and substituted an almost equally famous one by Maya Angelou, what did their action signify? They stated publicly that it was about colonialism. This critical account confirms their reading, but situates it among a set of supplementary oppositions: ease and difficulty, childhood and maturity, power and subordination. It argues that the readily available positions in the argument – literary value, anti-racist principle – are too rigid to do justice to the historical complexity of the dialogue which the action set up. What gives us access to the opposing ideologies, not as inert orthodoxies but as lived cultures, is the poetry in use.*

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/criq.12474>

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

We all know that Rudyard Kipling got his unusual Christian name from Rudyard Lake, where his parents fell in love on a picnic in 1863. But perhaps fewer know from where the lake, or rather reservoir, got its name.

In early 11th century Staffordshire, there could be found an estate called Rudegeard. The name is derived from Old English words meaning the shrub rue and an enclosure. In Domesday Book it was spelled Rudierd. It was not much of a place, supporting just one plough. Before the conquest it was held by one Wulfmer.

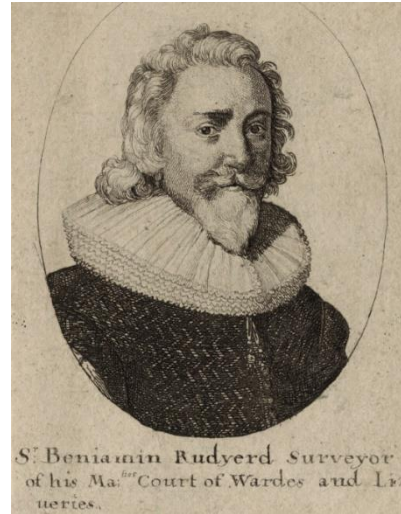


As the centuries passed, the lords of manor of Rudyard began to refer to themselves as ‘de Ruidyard’ and this became the formal surname Rudyard. (sometimes Rudyerd). In 1635, Thomas Rudyard build Rudyard Hall. It still stands today, an almost exact contemporary of Bateman’s. The last Rudyard at the hall was Margaret Rudyard, who sold the hall out of the family in 1723.

The most famous scion of the Rudyard dynasty was the 17<sup>th</sup> century poet and politician Sir Benjamin Rudyard (1572-1658). He was a friend of Ben Jonson who salutes him in several epigrams, including CXXI:

**TO BENJAMIN RUDYERD,**

RUDYERD, as lesser dames to great ones use,  
 My lighter comes, to kisse thy learned Muse;  
 Whose better studies while she emulates,  
 She learns to know long difference of their states.  
 Yet is the office not to be despis'd,  
 If only love should make the action pris'd:  
 Nor he, for friendship, to be thought unfit,  
 That strives his manners should procede his wit.



The surname persists in England to this day, predominantly in the North-West.

**WM. RUDYARD,**  
**BOOT AND SHOE MAKER;**  
**R**ESPECTFULLY informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Newcastle, the Potteries, and their vicinities, that he has taken and entered upon the Shop, in the High-street, Newcastle, formerly occupied by Mr. FITHON, where he intends carrying on the above business, in all its branches; and hopes, by a strict attention to the orders of his employers, and punctuality in executing them in a firm and workmanlike manner, to ensure a share of public favor, which it will be his highest ambition to deserve.  
 Newcastle, April 12, 1820.

*Staffordshire Advertiser - Saturday 15 April 1820*

Lately, at Gibraltar, Lieutenant-Colonel Rudyard, of the Royal Engineers, eldest son of Major-General Rudyard, now commanding at Sheerness.

*Cambridge Chronicle and Journal - Friday 03 December 1813*

But was Kipling the first to have it as a Christian name? The next newsletter will reveal the answer.

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