



# THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

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## CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – October 2019

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held on **Wednesday 13 November** at 5.30 for 6 pm in the Evelyn Wrench Room, Royal Over-Seas League. Tim Pye, Chief Librarian of The National Trust, will speak on 'Kim in the Antarctic' based on the rare book holdings at Bateman's and Wimpole Hall'.

It is the practice of Council to entertain the speaker at a local restaurant after the meeting. If you would like to join us for a meal to continue the discussion or to chat about things Kipling more widely, please let me know in advance of the meeting so that I may reserve the appropriate number of places.

### MEETING REPORT

On Wednesday 11 September, Dr Jarad Zimble, spoke on 'Making it in America: Kipling's *Captains Courageous*'. He pointed out that the story was first published in instalments in *McClure's Magazine*, whose stated objective was to publish fact and fiction by famous authors. Preceding editions of the magazine had featured stories by Anthony Hope (although who now has heard of *Phroso*?) and a biography of Abraham Lincoln.

*McClure's* had recently featured stories of people whose personalities had been changed following a bang on the head, hence Disko's incredulity at Harvey's story would be understandable to readers. A rash of recent stories involving railways may also have led to Kipling including the detailed account of Harvey's father's transcontinental dash. There had also been articles about Gloucester, Mass., suggesting that Kipling again knew that his audience would be familiar with this port.

As usual, those present had plenty of questions and comments.

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

The following further dates have been set for meetings in 2020. They are all Wednesdays. Please note that the dates in bold have changed since previously announced.

- 12th February. Sara LeFanu: 'Kipling and his colleagues at *The Friend* newspaper in Bloemfontein'
- **8th April – Annual Luncheon (Guest speaker: Prof. Harish Trivedi, University of Delhi)**
- 22nd April. The Eileen Stammers-Smith Memorial Lecture: Prof. Harry Ricketts, Victoria University, Wellington: 'Kipling and Trauma'.
- **1st July – AGM. Speaker tba.**
- 23rd September
- 11th November

## KIPLING IN EPPING FOREST

Member Janice Lingley is working with Loughton Council (Essex), with the Society's approval, to have a blue plaque installed on the site of Goldings Hill Farm, where the young Kipling stayed with his mother, sister and cousin Stanley Baldwin in the summer of 1877, after his removal from the hated Lorne Lodge in Southsea. She writes:

*“Last week I had an opportunity of seeing the Kipling-related sites which are situated in a quiet and attractive residential part of Loughton right by the Forest: the erstwhile location of Goldings Farm, its splendid barn, now converted to a dwelling, with the farm pond still before it; also the horse-pond with its island, now a peaceful and beautifully naturalised stretch of water, where Ruddy and Stan vanquished the wasps' nest. We also briefly walked through the Forest, and I saw some ancient pollarded hornbeams looking like something out of an Arthur Rackham fairy-tale illustration. There is no doubt in my mind that the area is worthy of a Kipling and Baldwin Blue Plaque”*

Janice also visited the Epping Forest District Museum at Waltham Abbey where there was an exhibition, 'Scouts, Skills and a Century of Change: The Untold Story of Gilwell Park'. Among the exhibits was the Akela Badge (1921-26), a replica of a wolf fang on a leather lace, which was presented to participants in the Cub-leader training courses which began in 1921.



## A NOTE FROM KIPLING

Richard Underwood wrote recently to the Society as follows:

*“I am 92 , and want to pass to you a remarkable account of my father’s interaction with Mr. Kipling. Father was then an Educational missionary in Japanese controlled Korea and a life-long admirer of Kipling. In the early 1930s he wrote a letter of appreciation and thanks to Mr. Kipling for all the hours of pleasure and learning he had gained from his many books (which he also delighted to read to us children many evenings). He wrote that he was not an autograph hunter and that no reply was necessary - he only wanted to thank.*

*Much to his surprise, some time later he did indeed get a brief hand written note-card! Even more amazing was the contents! Mr. Kipling wrote thanking him for his letter and saying that it was first letter of appreciation he had ever received from a reader!*

*Of course we were all astounded - and a little sad - at that fact. That card occupied a very special place in our home. I handled and read it many times. It was a thick, gilt edged card, with all the writing on one side. Unfortunately after Pearl Harbour father was locked up, then our whole family was repatriated to the US in 1942 and we were so limited in carry-on that virtually nothing was saved from the Japanese who simply took our house and all in it including that letter.”*

## KIPLING BUST AT CHARTWELL

On display in Churchill’s studio at Chartwell is a bust of Kipling by Patrick Syngé Hutchinson. It was presented to Churchill as an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday gift by the Royal Society of St George and is inscribed with the legend *“One sang of the British Empire and the other saved it”*



## THE NEW READERS’ GUIDE

Alastair Wilson is continuing with his notes on the Motoring Diaries; see the introduction to the diaries at [www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/motoring\\_fra.htm](http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/motoring_fra.htm).

The latest entry, on their drive in 1923 from Monte Carlo to the Channel coast, is at [www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/motor\\_1923\\_may.pdf](http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/motor_1923_may.pdf)

You may also be interested in a little known and uncollected poem "The Buttercup", which came to our notice through the diaries. It is to be found at [www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/poems\\_buttercup.htm](http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/poems_buttercup.htm), with a link to notes by Alastair.

### ‘RUDYARD KIPLING – A SECRET LIFE’

This documentary was broadcast on Sky Arts on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October and is



currently available on catch-up. It includes commentary from Society stalwarts Andrew Lycett, Jan Montefiore and Harry Ricketts. Alastair Wilson writes “*At one level, it was about the effect on Kipling of the deaths of his two children, Josephine and John, illustrated largely by the tales ‘They’, ‘The*

*Gardener’ and ‘Mary Postgate’, but it also covered Kipling as a ‘hater’, and quoted a number of his ‘Epitaphs of the War’ and ‘My Boy Jack’ ... I do earnestly implore you, get to watch it somehow*”.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our membership has declined somewhat over the past five years, but we are glad to report that it is now going up again. Responses to the web-site and to the Mailbase, and to our Facebook page, suggest that there are a lot more people out there who might like to join the Society, and we have decided to run a vigorous membership drive.

If you have any thoughts about what we can do to encourage people to join the Society, please send them to Fiona Renshaw, our Membership Secretary, at [ksmemsec@outlook.com](mailto:ksmemsec@outlook.com). In case you have friends, family members, or colleagues, who might like to join, we have attached a registration form, which they can fill in and return to her by email, or post to Keylands, Burwash, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7HP They can also join on line via the Home page of the web-site.

**President: Lt Col ROGER AYERS O.B.E. Chairman and Treasurer: MIKE KIPLING  
Deputy Chairman: Dr ANGELA EYRE Editor: Prof JAN MONTEFIORE On Line Editor: JOHN  
RADCLIFFE Librarian: JOHN WALKER Membership Secretary: Dr FIONA RENSHAW  
Meetings Secretary: Dr ALEX BUBB Bateman’s Liaison Officer: LINDA BURTON**

**THE KIPLING SOCIETY**  
(UK Registered Charity N° 278885)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please fill out the form in block capitals and either email it to [ksmemsec@outlook.com](mailto:ksmemsec@outlook.com) or post it to: Fiona Renshaw, Membership Secretary, Keylands, Burwash, East Sussex TN19 7HP

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