



THE KIPLING SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

Registered Charity No.278885

Newsletter 4

July 2017

Dear members,

At the suggestion of several members of Council, I have posted this newsletter to all those for whom we have an email address (except one or two who have specifically asked not to be contacted by the Society). If you would rather not receive the newsletter, four or five times a year, please do let me know.

This edition is posted early, because members may well wish to send in recorded readings for the 'Diversity of Kipling' *Readathon* in mid-August, or book a time to read with us at Bateman's, and because we would like all those who can reach Brighton in late September to have details of bookings for the visit to The Keep.

The headings I have are:

1. **A Diversity of Kipling: 24 hours of readings.**
2. **A visit to The Keep: Kipling papers at the University of Sussex.**
3. **The Lockwood Kipling Exhibition.**
4. **Kipling and Schools.**
5. **The Annual General Meeting.**
6. **The New Readers' Guide.**
7. **A Film-buff's Treasure.**
8. **Membership: staying in touch.**

1. A Diversity of Kipling: 24 hours of readings.

As announced in the last newsletter, and in the June Journal, in collaboration with staff and volunteers at Bateman's we will be going ahead with the proposed **24 hours** of readings from Kipling's prose and verse. A very gratifying number of people from Bateman's have already 'signed up'. We will start at **2.00 p.m. on Saturday 12th August**, and run straight through to **2.00 p.m. on Sunday 13th**. I would particularly welcome **recordings** by overseas or 'distant' members, and especially from the prose. Whole stories (such as *Just So* tales, or favourite short stories) or extracts from the prose, with some background as introduction, will certainly be an important part of our offering. Those recordings already received or booked have often included a suitable piece of verse, as was Kipling's 'style'.

We already have recordings from Australia, China and Ukraine, for example, so members who are unable to get to Bateman's should feel that they can still be part of this 'Literary First'. Three of the recordings received so far were made on smart phone or tablet, and seem of excellent quality. **Please do let me know what you would like to offer before making the recording.**

Of course, if you are able to come down to Sussex, we would be very glad to include your live readings, but with six weeks to go, you can imagine that I would like to firm up the timetable. So, whether aiming to be present or to send in a recording, please contact me with choices of **title** and available **times** as soon as possible.

Remember that we hope to be 'streaming' the audio link, live over the internet, with help from a local radio station, so that you can listen in at any time. I am still negotiating a live streaming platform, so do keep an eye on our Facebook page for details. All offers of help, or choices of prose and verse, will be dealt with on a 'first-come, first-served' basis by contacting me on jwawalker@gmail.com

We would be grateful if members can recommend and/or enlist (coerce?) celebrities to take part, to help our publicity drive.

Please do not contact Bateman's to book for this event.

2. A visit to The Keep: Kipling papers at the University of Sussex. Saturday 23rd September 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.

We are very grateful to Fiona Courage and her staff at The Keep for an invitation to visit, and view some of the Kipling papers conserved and catalogued there. As Honorary Librarian to the Society, I have transferred precious items which need expert care from the Society's library, from time to time, and members will recall that some of our reading stock of Kipling titles was taken on by The

Keep when we had to leave City University at short notice. (Of course, we have a parallel set at Haileybury College, for researchers).

Here are details on the attractions (with many thanks to Karen Watson, the Special Collections Archivist who is arranging this for us):

Information about The Keep

The Keep is a world-class centre for archives that opens up access to all the collections of the East Sussex Record Office (ESRO), the Royal Pavilion and Museums Local History Collections and the internationally significant University of Sussex Special Collections. The Keep has a large reading room for consulting archive documents, a reference room for consulting books, journals and microfilms on open access and several computers which can access Ancestry, Find My Past and other electronic resources.

The Keep has an online catalogue where you can search the listing of all partner collections from a single search box. You can book a seat in the reading room and order documents, all before you visit. Further details about online ordering and registering as a member of The Keep are available here:

http://www.thekeep.info/visit_us/before-you-visit/

Members on the visit will get the chance to see the latest addition to the Kipling collections [SxMs178 Alice Macdonald Fleming \(Trix Kipling\) Papers](#), bought at auction at Ewbank's in 2016 with help from various sources. The papers comprise a large number of family photographs and writings by Trix. (photo below from collection SxMs178/6/2)

On the day of the visit, the reading and reference rooms are open to the public, so if any member would like to stay and do some research, the reading room is open from 2-4pm (it closes for lunch between 1-2) and the reference room is open 1-4pm.

Kipling collections, University of Sussex Special Collections at The Keep

The largest Kipling collection is the [SxMs-38 Kipling Wimpole Archive](#) on deposit from the National Trust. The collections include notebooks and sketchbooks, personal correspondence with monarchs and statesmen and they reveal almost every part of Kipling's extraordinary career. Three generations of Kiplings are represented, as the Archive also contains papers relating to Rudyard's father, John Lockwood Kipling, and his three children, Josephine, John and Elsie.

Having this collection enabled the University of Sussex to build an impressive range of smaller Kipling related collections. My highlights from these collections are: [SxMs-40 The Baldwin Papers](#), comprising papers assembled by Arthur

Windham Baldwin, 3rd Earl Baldwin of Bewdley (1907-1976) for the biography of his mother and aunts, The Macdonald sisters; [SxMs75 Kipling-Blaike Letters](#) which are a delightful collection of letters to the children's governess; and [SxMs41 The Carrington Papers](#), the papers of Charles Carrington which contain extracts from Carrie Kipling's diary. A full listing of all the Kipling related collections is available [here](#)

Trix Kipling 1872

3. The Lockwood Kipling Exhibition:

Many members, and a gratifying number of the general public, were able to enjoy this superb opportunity, at the Victoria and Albert Museum, to learn more about Rudyard's father. The exhibition is now transferring to the Bard Graduate Center Gallery in West 86th Street, New York. It will open on September 15th, and run until January 7th, 2018.

<https://www.bgc.bard.edu/gallery/exhibitions/72/john-lockwood-kipling>

4. Kipling and Schools:

The winning entry for our 2016/17 *Writing with Kipling* competition was by Mainak Ghosh, who is currently in Year Five at North Primary School in Colchester. Second and third prizes went to Joseph Grant and Jake Piddlesden of St Margaret's C.of E. Primary School in Rottingdean. We are very grateful to the author David Mitchell (*Cloud Atlas*) who judged the final list, and also awarded several 'Best in School' and 'Highly Commended' certificates to entrants from Prettygate Junior School in Colchester and Greenleaf Primary School in Walthamstow.

A splendid set of entries from Ukraine, organised by Volodymyr Chernyshenko, is being judged separately, though all of these entrants are to receive 'parchment diplomas'!

Angela Eyre and Mary Hamer did the hard work for this project, and I am anxious to see it continue, with first approaches to schools very soon. If you are able to help with this, please do contact me. We can offer support packs and visiting speakers. I have suggested that parents and grandparents might liaise with schools...

It is also a real pleasure to record the efforts of schools in the U.S.A., who have been taking part in a 'writing challenge' with the prize of a family stay at *Naulakha*

in Vermont. Tristram Johnson, who is Interim Executive Director at the Landmark Trust USA, has offered to share some of the winning material with us.

5. **The Annual General Meeting:**

We meet on Wednesday July 12th 2017 at 4.00 for 4.30 pm in the Mountbatten Room, Royal Overseas League, Park Place, London. .This is your opportunity to learn about the work of Council, and to share ideas for the future. At 6.00 p.m., the speaker will be **David Sergeant** of the University of Plymouth. His challenging title is 'The Complex Art of Kipling's Early Fiction'. Don't miss this occasion.

*A complimentary tea will be served at 4pm in the **Bennett Clark Room for those members who inform the Secretary in advance.***

6. **The New Readers Guide: further notes on the verse:**

John Radcliffe seems indefatigable, but I am sure that he tips his hat to our Hove-based member, John McGivering, who with regular contributions from Philip Holberton, in Australia is moving us steadily towards the completion of notes on all of the verse in the Definitive Edition, and the Early Verse. John McG is in his nineties, and fires off sets of notes almost daily. Please do sign on to the kiplingsociety.co.uk web site and learn about the background and text of some of Kipling's earliest verse. Also, if you would like to be a contributor, or assist in editing and reviewing the entries, please do contact me, or John on johnradcliffe_abroad@hotmail.com

Also, please don't forget Alastair Wilson's continuing work on the transposition of the Carrington notes from Carrie Kipling's diaries. This is available only on the members' section of the site, for which you require a password.

7. **A Film-buff's Treasure.**

In the spirit of sharing serendipitous Kipling material, I recently ran across a set of wonderfully dated yet atmospheric Scene Design photographs for the 1937 John Ford film *Wee Willie Winkie*. It was a chance find, because I was actually searching for a copy of *HMS KIPLING* by Aubrey St Clair-Ford. We now have copies of a selection of these images.

https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?an=ford%20john%20rudyard%20kipling%20ernest&tn=wee%20willie%20winkie&cm_sp=mbc-_ats-_all

If you decide to invest 750\$, may we copy the rest?

8. Membership: keeping up to date:

As always, John Lambert, our Honorary Membership Secretary, is anxious to keep our listings up to date. If you are aware that an acquaintance or friend, who is a member, is not receiving the newsletter or the Journal, please do contact me:

jwawalker@gmail.com

If you would like to see back numbers of the Newsletter, please do ask. We have had very positive feedback about this extra service to members.

With all good wishes,

John Walker

Honorary Chairman,

President: LT. COLONEL ROGER AYERS, O.B.E., Chairman of Council : JOHN WALKER
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