



**You are warmly invited to join us for our
re-scheduled Guided Tour of Bateman's House,
the home of Rudyard Kipling, in East Sussex**

Wednesday 12 August 2026

Volunteer guide: Surg Lt Cdr David Forsyth RN (rtd)

Our visit will focus on John Kipling, the only son of Rudyard, who was killed, age 18, at the battle of Loos, 27 September 1915. Bateman's House has on display the last letters John wrote to his parents from the trenches. The nearby Burwash Church has a memorial plaque to John; he is also commemorated on the Burwash War Memorial, shaped in the form of an Eleanor Cross, featuring a lantern which uniquely is illuminated on the anniversary of death of each of the 77 Burwash men remembered here.



Meet at Bateman's Visitors' Centre, Bateman's Lane, Burwash, TN19 7DS

Meet at 1045hrs. Tour starts at 1100hrs

Lunch on site at excellent NT Café; visit to Burwash in afternoon (see visit outline below). Visit limited to 16 persons. Guests welcome.

Register through David Vassallo, chairman@friendsofmillbank.org

Free entry for National Trust members; otherwise £18, payable on the day

See National Trust – Bateman's House website for more information

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/batemans>



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Directions: Best to travel by car. Car park on site, free for NT members, otherwise £4. Nearest rail station is at Etchingham, three miles away.

Bateman's House and Rudyard Kipling

This Jacobean house was built around 1634. It became the home of Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) and his American wife Caroline in 1902. Born in India in 1865, Kipling became one of the most celebrated authors of his generation. He was awarded the [Nobel Prize in Literature 1907](#), and remains its youngest recipient. His works, including *The Jungle Book*, *Kim* and the poem 'If', gained worldwide popularity. Following the death of his son, Kipling became a key member of the Imperial War Graves Commission. Kipling lived and wrote at Bateman's for over thirty years, surrounded by his family, books, and the calm landscape of the Sussex Weald. Following his death, Caroline transferred Bateman's to the National Trust in 1939.

Recommended reading: 'My Boy Jack? The Search for Kipling's Only Son' by Tonie & Valmai Holt (Leo Cooper, 1998). See also '[The Kipling Society](#)'

Our guide, David Forsyth

Surgeon Lt Commander in Royal Navy, retiring in 1984. Served afloat in the Caribbean, Iceland, West Indies and Falklands and ashore in Hong Kong and Lisbon, Portugal. Then into General Practice in Cornwall for 16 years. David is also a Guide on board HMS *Belfast*, on the Thames. He kindly took us on a guided tour of this famous wartime cruiser a year ago, on 27 June 2025.

Outline of visit: Introductory talk at 1100hrs followed by a tour of the house, gardens and mill. Lunch in the NT café followed by a talk on Kipling's cars and the process of finding his son's grave. After that we shall visit Burwash Church, the War Memorial and Rampdyne, and finish at The Rose and Crown.

N.B. Our first autumn talk, on Friday 2 October, at Millbank (and on Zoom), is by Wg Cdr (retd) Alec Hurley, on 'Icarus - the first Air Accident Investigation'. It's guaranteed to entertain and inform. The registration link is [HERE](#).

David Vassallo

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