



**You are warmly invited to join us for a
Guided Tour of Bateman's House,
the home of Rudyard Kipling, in East Sussex
Wednesday 24 June 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; option of pub lunch in Burwash

Prior registration required. Visit limited to 20 persons. Guests welcome.

Contact 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>



Friends of Millbank



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.

N.B. You are also invited to our talk on Friday 26 June, at Millbank (and on Zoom), by Dominic Hodgson: '*(Temporary) Captain Kenneth Walker RAMC and the paradigm shift in battlefield medicine in WWI*'.

Download the flyer and register via our Talks Programme page, <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/programme-2026/>.

The direct registration link is [HERE](#). I feel sure you will enjoy Dominic's talk.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 24 June at Bateman's House.

David Vassallo

Chairman, Friends of Millbank

chairman@friendsofmillbank.org



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org