

John Buchan Society Newsletter



Hon. President: Lord Tweedsmuir

Registered Scottish Charity No.: SC006071

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Last year's July Newsletter message from me started "It is raining ...". Today (26th June), I am looking out of my Study window on a cloudless sky; it is 27°C (80.6°F); the house martins are soaring towards my window before braking sharply to feed their young in the eaves immediately above; the dogs have had a long walk; England have just won a football match 6-1 and have beaten Australia 5-0 at cricket; and plans are already advanced for next year's Society Dinner weekend. "What a wonderful world!"



Thanks to the hard work and talents of several people we enjoyed another stimulating weekend in April. The

Whately Hotel in Banbury – with its creaky floors and resident ghost – proved another success story for Mike Edwards. Two short illustrated talks on the Friday evening by Bill Telford and myself, were followed by a quality buffet. Saturday saw a Midwinter/The Blanket of the Dark coach trip, taking in Wychwood, Burford, Minster Lovell and Elsfield. The last stop was made very special through the kindness of David



and Lisa Buchan, who gave us a tour of the

Elsfield Manor gardens. (Yes, the fire escape did have 39 steps.)

The Saturday evening Dinner was first-rate and Taylor Downing, the Guest Speaker, was excellent.

Sunday saw us back in Elsfield; first to the little church to hear Charles Wide

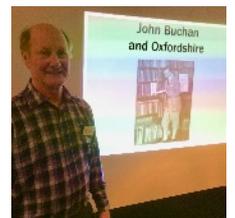


give a top-notch sermon, then back to the Manor for refreshments. Well done one and all.



Next March, on JBSoc's 40th

Anniversary, we will return to the Hydro Hotel in Peebles. Edinburgh hotels simply proved too expensive again (the cheaper ones did not have the facilities). Ursula Buchan has kindly agreed to give the talk on Friday, probably entitled 'Tales of the unexpected: writing John Buchan's biography'. Enthralling! Saturday will see us on the coach to Edinburgh; the AGM in the afternoon; and the Dinner with more than one Speaker. Eileen Stewart, our Founder, is to be Guest of Honour. On Sunday, we will visit the Museum and probably attend a church service. Much to look forward to. Ursula's biography of her grandfather is due out in the Spring [Eds: Bloomsbury, April, 2019] and I am also planning another Society Seminar at Durham in September 2019. The theme will be 'John Buchan and Empire', with several speakers. More details to come in the January Newsletter. It's a pity we couldn't run the trip to the Western Front, but Mike Edwards deserves praise for all the hard work he put in to try and make it feasible.



Kenneth Hillier

MIKE EDWARDS ADDS: 2019 is a special year for us, representing as it does the 40th anniversary of the founding of the John Buchan Society. In celebration, our AGM and Annual Conference will be held at the Peebles Hydro Hotel on March 29th-30th, 2019. Costs will be £54.00 per person per night, for bed and breakfast, and apply to either a single or a double-bedded room. To enquire or book, contact Mike Edwards, rlkguiting@gmail.com or Tel 07786 483114. Since a limited number of rooms is available, please book early to avoid disappointment. Plans for the weekend include a visit to the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh, for a viewing of Buchan related materials, and lunch at the former JB Museum in Broughton, at the invitation of Lady Deborah Stewartby and the John Buchan Story in Peebles.

JOHN BUCHAN STORY EXHIBITION, PEEBLES: BUCHAN AND PROPAGANDA

The wartime propaganda work of John Buchan is shown in a new light by a major new exhibition at the museum dedicated to his work.

Buchan, as readers will know, directed wartime information for the government in the First World War, and a new study of his career as Director of Information shows how the writer worked in an atmosphere of intrigue and turmoil.

Although the museum's work was hindered by the thorough way in which Buchan destroyed nearly all his paperwork from his time in government, the show, compiled by Emma Small, a history graduate of the University of Sunderland, traces his work from 1916 to 1919 and shows how his position influenced *Mr Standfast*, published in 1919.

Dr Peter Worthington, chair of the John Buchan Story, said the research showed that Buchan's time as director was marred by opposition from the Daily Chronicle, a newspaper of the time and the ambitions of Sir Robert Donald, its editor. The Chronicle ran from 1872 to 1930, and Sir Robert was on the advisory committee of the Department of Information, and made Buchan's life difficult with his scheming for position.

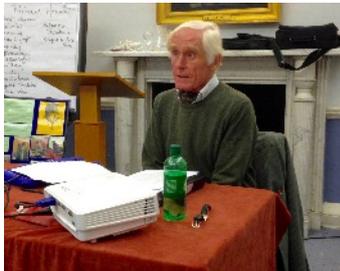
Dr Worthington added: "I think a lot of people of course known Buchan for his writing, but this exhibition casts a new light on his work in the war years. Without Emma's contribution the current exhibition would not have been possible."

JOHN BUCHAN RESEARCH

Congratulations to David Weekes on the completion of his Ph.D. thesis (St Andrews University): "John Buchan (1875-1940): a re-assessment of his Christian Faith and Practice".

This thesis emphasises, as paramount, Buchan's little explored life-long and deeply held Christian faith and practice. The thesis trenchantly focuses on Buchan's life-long faith, wonderfully expressed in Greek on his grave, 'Christ shall overcome'.

For more information about David's thesis, see <<https://research-repository.st-andrews.ac.uk/handle/10023/12259>>.



PUBLICATION

Clarke, R. J. (2015) *John Buchan's uncollected journalism: A critical and bibliographic investigation*. PhD, Univ. of the West of England.

Roger informs us that his thesis is to be published in August by Mellen Press under the following three titles:

1. *The Journalistic Career of John Buchan (1875-1940): A Critical Assessment of Its Context and Significance*
2. *The Journalistic Writings of John Buchan: Selected Essays, Reviews, and Opinion Pieces*
3. *John Buchan: A Bibliographic Catalogue of His Uncollected Journalism*

Available from Amazon from August 8 onwards, this is a tremendous contribution to John Buchan scholarship and we congratulate Roger on a great achievement.

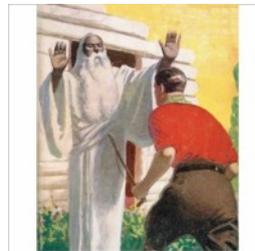
JOHN BUCHAN SOCIETY JOURNAL

From the Editor, Michael Redley:

The next issue of the John Buchan Society Journal is due out in October. We can look forward to reading about Buchan's blurbs, his engagement with universities throughout his life, his approach to Catholicism, and his position on dogma, doctrine and praxis. There will also be articles on O. Douglas and the sense of place, on the run of "The 39 Steps" at the Criterion Theatre by a member of the cast, reflections on the recent public discussion of JB's anti-semitism, and a review of a new edition of *The Runagates Club*.

HANDHELD PRESS - *The Runagates Club*

The new edition of *The Runagates Club* that Michael refers to above is that by Kate Macdonald's Handheld Press. John Buchan's last collection of short stories, it is a classic of British interwar short fiction.



The twelve stories were written from 1913 to 1927, when he was at the peak of his powers. The Times Literary Supplement (July 6) describes the collection as containing 'plenty of spies and plenty of spirits, and even some unscrupulous journalists – something to keep all thrill-seekers entertained'.

For a full review of the book, see the next edition of the JBS Journal!

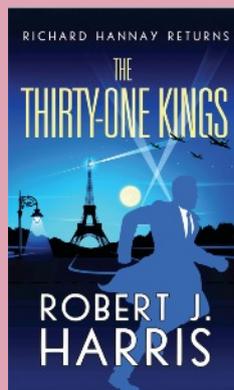
REVIEW: Robert J. Harris, *The Thirty-One Kings* (Polygon, 2017)

Some 'follow-on' novels try too hard to be the original voice and now and then the narration jars. This is not the case here. Right from the beginning I was taken into Hannay's world: World War II to be exact.

His impatience to be working for his country and frustration at bureaucracy is pure Buchan. When he finally has a mission he meets Blenkiron and Archie whose characters (and the comradeship) are equally well drawn. The inclusion of the DieHards as the younger, more physical characters worked well; not that Hannay was sedentary! However, mixing two sets of Buchan books was perhaps a little too neat, although bringing in new characters would have admittedly been difficult. The talk while hiding in the convent is a brilliant quiet contrast to fast moving events. Conversation about the wider historical view of the world was well in keeping with Buchan's books. The 31 Kings, though, wasn't as exact a number as the 39 Steps! The ending was interesting but rather a gallop and I felt it could have been prolonged without losing pace. These are minor criticisms. Overall it

was one of the best follow-on novels I have read and I would certainly recommend it.

Reviewer: Susan Alexander



IN MEMORIAM: LORD STEWARTBY

(Ursula Buchan's tribute at the AGM Weekend, Banbury, April, 2018)

The Chairman has asked me to say a few words about my brother-in-law, Lord Stewartby, who has died, aged 82. Many of you, I am sure, will remember Ian at annual meetings of the Society, unfailingly courteous and genial. And some of you will remember him for the talk he gave to the Society in 2004, when he spoke of John Buchan's life in politics, a subject which he understood very well, having been a Conservative Member of Parliament for many years.

Ian Stewart was the son of an eminent doctor who became Professor of Pharmacology at London University and a great-grandson of Sir Halley Stewart, the philanthropist, businessman and Liberal M.P. From a very early age he was fascinated by antique coins and, in his last year at Haileybury, aged 18, he wrote the still definitive work on the Scottish Coinage. He gained a scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, where he took a First in Classics, and was captain of the university tennis team, and gained two blues in Real Tennis. His son Henry tells me that his father could beat him at tennis until he was in his 60s. He then went into the City, working for the merchant bank, Brown Shipley, where he met my sister, Deborah. They were married in 1966 and had three children, two daughters and a son. Despite his very busy public life, he was a devoted family man.

In 1974, he was elected Conservative M.P. for Hitchin in Hertfordshire. He successively served in a number of ministerial posts, the most rewarding probably being Economic Secretary to the Treasury under Nigel Lawson. In 1987 Ian went to Northern Ireland as the minister with responsibility for security, at a very testing time when the IRA were active. He was there for a couple of years, with Deborah at his side.

An injury to his back caused him to resign his seat in 1992. Charles Moore, editor at various times of the Spectator and Daily Telegraph, described him as one of the most respected and modest people he had ever met in politics. On retirement, Ian was made a life peer, with the title of Lord Stewartby of Portmoak. He was very active in the House of Lords for many years and also resumed his City career, becoming deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank.

Even when he was a minister, he continued to write scholarly articles on numismatics, and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy, a signal honour for a man who was not, strictly speaking, an academic. Over his lifetime he acquired a unique collection of Scottish and English medieval coins, and was a highly respected expert in the field. In 2007, part of the Scottish collection was stolen in a burglary and has not yet been recovered. This was a bitter blow to him, since he considered these coins to be irreplaceable historical documents, but he rallied in 2009 to publish another authoritative book, this time on the English medieval coinage. In 2015, he gave all the remaining Scottish coins to the Hunterian Museum in the University of Glasgow, a remarkably generous gift. If the rest of the coins are ever found, they will go there too, to complete the collection.

In 1967 my family went on holiday to stay at Broughton Green, JB's mother's family home. It was a tremendous squash, as I recall, and the house was by no means as comfortable as it is now. However, Ian, of Scottish descent of course, was so taken with Broughton and the Borders that, when a cousin put the house up for sale more than twenty years ago, he and Deborah bought it. He was a great admirer of John Buchan, and got on very well with his widow, Susan. Indeed, she asked him to be an executor of her will. He was a generous benefactor of the John Buchan Museum in Peebles and keen supporter of all Deborah did for the Society and Museum. He died peacefully at Broughton Green on March 3rd, having been cared for devotedly by his wife through a prolonged and debilitating illness, which he bore with tremendous fortitude and good humour. Ian once played in a Lords and Commons cricket match against a veteran West Indies side. Sir Clive Lloyd said about him that he played with such a straight bat, that the West Indian bowlers simply couldn't get him out. As in cricket, so in life.

MEMORIAL CONCERT

A concert in memory of Lord Stewartby of Broughton Green, performed by the brilliant young musicians of Live Music Now, will be held in Broughton Village Hall, on Saturday, September 8th, at 7.30 p.m. The repertoire includes Schubert's Eb Piano Trio, songs by Mahler and



Schubert, Mozart's oboe quartet, and Mahler's youthful piano quartet. The concert is entirely free and open to all, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Stewartby family. Wine and soft drinks will be served. There will be an interval collection in aid of Parkinson's UK.

No ticket is required but it would be much appreciated if you could let us know numbers by emailing stewartbyconcer@gmail.com or calling Deborah Stewartby on 01899 830 362.

Live Music Now is a charity founded by Sir Yehudi Menuhin to provide performance opportunities for young musicians of conservatoire standard.

RETIREMENT

Our Canadian representative on the Council, Bill Galbraith, is retiring after a distinguished career in a number of Canadian Government departments. He is also the author of the definitive book on JB's time in Canada, *John Buchan: Model Governor General*. In reply to congratulations from Ken Hillier and the Council, Bill writes:

"I am very much looking forward to it; but will be going 100 mph till the 20th, with one reception on the 19th and a lunch on the 20th. After that, decompression, then to Denmark, where Kate and I were married, at the end of September to celebrate our 40th anniversary."

Bill Galbraith and Ian Cairns enjoy lunch, on a very hot Ottawa day, in front of the Parliament building. This is beside St Andrew's Church where the Tweedsmuir's worshipped and in which Lord Tweedsmuir's funeral service was held. It is close to Rideau Hall, then as now, the official residence of the Governors General.



Photo courtesy of Sheila Cairns, June 8, 2018.

JB and Susan skating!

This charming photograph of John and Susan Buchan on skates was used as the frontispiece of the Order of Service, at the Memorial Service, Elsfeld Church, Sunday, April 8. Thanks to Charles Wide for forwarding it.



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

May I begin my term of office as Membership Secretary by thanking my predecessors Kenneth Hillier and Dee Dunne-Thomas for their efficiency and helpfulness, and by issuing a gentle reminder to anyone who has not yet renewed their annual subscription for 2018/19, which was due on 1 February 2018.

Current subscription rates are:

Full UK Member: £20.00 (or £18.00 if paid by Standing Order)

Full Overseas Member: £23.00 (+ £20.00 if paid by cheque in own currency, to cover bank charges)

Associate Member: £6.00

Junior Member (17 years and under): £7.00

Payment by Standing Order is desirable, and forms are available from me on request (see below for my contact details). Could I please also ask you to check that your Standing Order has been changed to the current rate of £18.00, as we have a significant number of members who are still paying the old rate of £15.00, and have been doing so for several years now!

Alison Gallico

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**DATA PROTECTION: JOHN BUCHAN SOCIETY
PRIVACY POLICY 2018**

The confidentiality of your personal data is protected by the Data Protection Act and, from May 2018, by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2016 (PECR).

Any personal information supplied by you to the John Buchan Society (the Society) will be kept securely on file and will be deleted once no longer relevant. We will use the data to provide the services you expect from your membership of the Society, including membership enrolment or renewal, AGM information, despatch of our twice-yearly Newsletter and our annual Journal, and to make any Gift Aid returns to HMRC. We will never share your information with any other organisation or use it for marketing purposes.

We hold the following information about members: name, address, telephone number, email address (if given), and membership status, including subscription amount paid. We hold paper copies of any Standing Order instructions and Gift Aid declarations that you have sent to the Society. No other financial details are retained.

You have the right to request access to a copy of the information the Society holds about you. You may also opt out of any or all of our communications, although this would mean that your membership would automatically lapse. In either case please contact the Membership Secretary in writing or by email (details above).

PLEASE NOTE: We encourage members to receive this Newsletter electronically. If you are willing to do so, please send your email address to the Editors at: aeandwr.telford@btinternet.com.

Unless where otherwise credited, photographs in this issue are by Bill Telford, except for Elsfield Manor group photo (Neil Tointon) and Lord Stewartby (Telegraph, via Google).

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Society:

David Corless, Eggborough

The Ven. David Meara, Kidlington

John Wightman, Edinburgh

Christopher Amy, Selkirk

Christopher Robson, Newcastle upon Tyne

William Price, Spilsby

Richard Nichols, Isle of Man

David Lonnen, Helensburgh

Shantanu Majumdar, London

Lindsay Sinclair, St Albans

The Hon. Alexander Buchan, Corbridge

FAREWELLS

We are sorry to say goodbye to:

Joan Deans, Leeds

FUTURE NEW MEMBER?

We are delighted to learn that Laura Buchan and her husband Jack are now the proud parents of a baby boy (Alexander Mungo Warrender), born in Glasgow a few months ago. Last year, Laura and Jack bought a house at 39 (!) Queen Mary Avenue (the Rev John Buchan and his family lived at no. 34).

Laura writes:

“It is such an amazing coincidence. We have checked but sadly we do not have 39 steps in our staircase; that would have been just too good! I have much enjoyed re-reading Anna Buchan's chapters about their life on Queen Mary Avenue. It has changed a lot since their day but like Anna and baby Violet, Alec and I while away much of our time walking around Queen's Park and up and down the Victoria Road. It almost feels like we have come full circle.”

She adds, “For your own amusement, my husband Jack is a great grandson of Alexander Grant of McVities fame, one of JB's great friends. One day I must write something for the Journal about the two of them.”

We look forward to reading this, and we send Laura, Jack and baby Alec our very best wishes.

THE STORY OF GREEN MANTLE (from the Chairman)

The beautiful Kakabeka Falls, in Thunder Bay, commemorate the story of a lovely Native Princess. Chief White Bear of the Ojibway Tribe learned that the Sioux was approaching, with the intention of destroying his tribe. Too old to go to battle himself and not knowing how to stop the enemy, the old Chief was worried. Princess Green Mantle came up with a plan. She left the camp and paddled up the Kaministiquia River, which she had explored with her brother many times and she knew of the



Great White Falls. She walked into the Sioux camp, pretending to have lost her way and was taken before the Sioux Chieftains. They decided to kill her but bargaining with them, she told them that if they would spare her life she would take them to her father's camp. The

following morning the Princess was placed in her canoe and the Sioux followed in theirs, which she had suggested be tied to hers to form a chain so that they would not get separated. But she had not told them about the falls and as they turned the bend of the river, they plunged headlong into the great gorge, killing all including Green Mantle. If you walk down the viewing pods, the figure of Green Mantle can be observed in the mist, standing as a monument to the memory of the Princess who gave her life for her people. Photo courtesy of OntarioParks.