

Burford Church and the Bodleian, Oxford

Oxfordshire

Our fifth Society meeting meant a return to one of John Meade Falkner's favourite towns (and where his ashes are buried) – Burford. We based ourselves on 12th – 14th July 2013, at The Bull's Head, now known as The Bull at Burford. Perhaps on the hottest weekend of the year so far, we congregated first of all in the churchyard and, after visiting Falkner's last resting place, spent the evening at the hotel renewing old friendships and starting new ones. Saturday was very hot indeed and tourist-packed Oxford was not really the place to be. However, there were two highlights to be savoured: a meeting with Chris Fletcher (Keeper of Special Collections) at the Bodleian to peruse JMF's letters to Canon Christopher Wordsworth and his topographical notebooks; and a lunch at the East Gate Hotel with John Whiteley, child star of the Fritz Lang 1955 movie *Moonfleet*. We also visited Hertford College and saw JMF's name plate above a choir stall. In the evening, we were privileged to hear a talk by Ken Warren on 'Belief, work and war: some paradoxes in the life of John Meade Falkner', in the Guild Chapel of Burford Church.

On Sunday, some of the group made the short journey to Minster Lovell, to explore the lovely church and Old Hall by the river Windrush.



Outside The Bull at Burford



Perusing the Bodleian's collection



Lunch in Oxford with Jon Whiteley



Hertford – Meade Falkner's College



Outside The Bull again



The ruins of Minster Lovell Hall