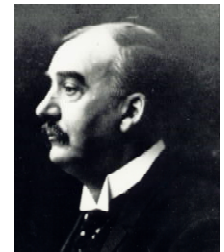


The John Meade Falkner Society

Founded 8th May 1999



Newsletter No. 74

3 January 2024

It is with great sadness that I wish to inform you of the death of **Frances Austin Jones** on Saturday 30th September. Frances joined with her husband **Bernard** on 22nd April 2001, and they both came to Fleet Old Church for the memorable unveiling of the Society's plaque to JMF. Bernard was the author of the excellent monograph on JMF, published in 1984, in the *Dorset Worthies* series (No. 14). Bernard died in April 2005. Frances kindly handed over to the Society his researches on JMF and Dorset. Amongst these papers were transcription of several JMF poems which, alas, came too late to be included in the Society's *Collected Poems* (2005). I have, subsequently, included a few in later issues of the *Newsletter*.

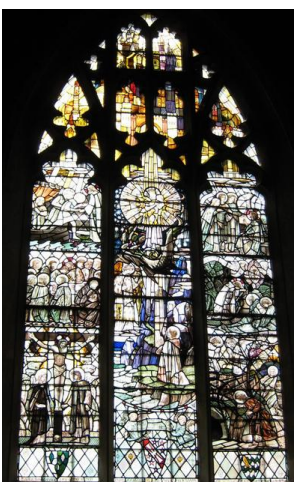
2024 SUBSCRIPTIONS

I am sure you will all be delighted to hear that, even with inflation running as high as it is, the Subscription stays the same for yet another year – over a decade since the last rise! A reminder that it is **£10** for UK members; **€15** for European members; and **USA\$15** for the rest of the world. You can pay by cash, securely wrapped; cheques (to “*The John Meade Falkner Society*”); BACS or PayPal. If either of the latter, I have provided the details in the accompanying email. PLEASE renew as soon as possible; I still have to chase up the recalcitrant few well into each Summer!

BURFORD STAINED GLASS PROJECT

Issue 31 October 2023 *Newsletter* of **The Friends of Burford Church** included the following:

Our efforts to buy and install a touch screen display of the Whall window in the south transept of the church are continuing. The window was designed by Christopher Whall (1849- 1924), a leading member of the Arts and Crafts movement, and shows various images from the life of St John the Evangelist. We hope that a touch screen will enable visitors to zoom in on the individual panels in the window and read an explanation of what they show. It would also provide more information about the background, such as the significance of St John himself and of the disciples to Christian believers. Our present target is to have the display in place during the coming year as it will be the centenary of Whall's death.



The Whall window

Several of you will know of the Whall window, commissioned by JMF and John Noble and completed in 1907. The Latin inscription at the foot says, “*Pray for the good estate of three Johns who have loved this church*” – John Leggare, John Noble and John Meade Falkner. It seemed apt that our Society should give a contribution to the touch screen project – which I have done, on your behalf, amounting to **£100**.

SALE OF JESMOND DENE HOUSE

This appeared in *Chronicle Live* on 17th October 2023

A luxury Newcastle hotel is set for investment after being taken over by new owners.



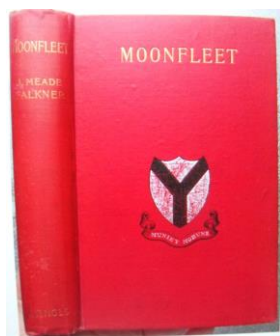
Jesmond Dene House, in Jesmond, has been bought by Kronen Hotels Ltd for an undisclosed sum after the owners decided to retire. The luxury boutique hotel, which has 40 bedrooms, is a Grade-II listed Arts and Crafts mansion that was once home to Sir Andrew Noble, a partner in Victorian industrialist Lord Armstrong's engineering works.

Over the last 18 years the hotel has become a popular destination venue, well known for its afternoon teas and a la carte bar and restaurant the Fern Dining Room, run by head chef, Masterchef the Professionals finalist Danny Parker and his team. The deal was an off-market transaction, set in motion and sealed by Knight Frank and Simon Stevens Associates for the owners, due to their imminent planned retirement.



As part of our **North-East Society weekend in 2015**, we visited Jesmond Dene House on Friday 17th July. Bought by Sir Andrew Noble, on the advice of near neighbour Sir William Armstrong, it was altered and extended in 1897. After his widow's death in 1929, the house was used for a variety of purposes, becoming a hotel in 2005 after extensive refurbishment. A wedding reception was in progress, complete with a jazz ensemble, as we finally congregated on the terrace.

A COPY OF *MOONFLEET* FOR SALE ON EBAY

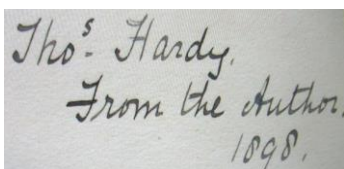


J. Meade Falkner - *Moonfleet* - 1898 First edition published by Edward Arnold

First edition. 305 pages + 2 of ads and a 32-page Publisher's catalogue dated November 1898.

Inscribed to the title page: "*Thos. Hardy from the Author 1898.*". The recipient was the author Thomas Hardy, though the hand is not that of Falkner and is possibly that of his sister, who is known to have inscribed books on Falkner's behalf.

The book was sold in 2016 at a Dorchester auction house along with another title & catalogued as "two



volumes from Thomas Hardy's Library". Helping to further establish the provenance is a small bookseller's label to the front pastedown, that of Mawson, Swan and Morgan of Newcastle, who provided Falkner with copies of the book at the time (another copy, inscribed to Falkner's close friend, Commander Edward Boyle bears the same label).

Richard Davenport-Hines notes in his excellent 2018 biography of Falkner: "*It is known that Hardy and Falkner read one another's novels, corresponded intermittently, and occasionally met in the Edwardian period.*", also adding with regard to a later Falkner title: "*Thomas Hardy judged The Nebuly Coat to be an interesting romance of the old-fashioned sort. Hardy's copy of the novel was later acquired by Hugh Walpole.*"

Cost – a mere £3,000 + £9.00 postage

ANNE LOUISE FALKNER

I received an email from a **James Trollope** (what an excellent surname!) in September, with a query about JMF's artist sister:

I am researching a possible book about women colour woodcut artists one of whom was Annie Louise Faulkner [sic] (1862-1933). I see from your website that she was a sister of John Meade Falkner and the daughter of a curate.

I wonder if you have any more information about her? e.g. was she married? Are there any living relatives who may have some of her work? Is there an adult photo of her?

*Any help would be much appreciated.
Best wishes,
James Trollope*

I was able to help James by sending him the article in our Journal No. 13 of July 2012, by Pamela Gerrish Nunn, where she discussed Anne's life and artistic works.



I also sent Mr Trollope this photograph of Anne Falkner in middle age.

Anne is said to have trained at the Slade in 1889. Records show that she exhibited in London in the 1890s from an address in Bedford (1893) and from addresses in

Berkshire (1900, 1908) before finally settling in St Ives, where she was involved with the artist colony. She also exhibited frequently at the Beaux Arts, including a joint show with Leslie Hervey. Her final Show Day in St Ives was in 1916, and sometime thereafter appears to have moved on to France, with Annie exhibiting with frequency during the 1920s at the Salon d'Automne, where she also served as Secretary.

THE OLD BULL IN BURFORD

Thanks to member **Michael Daniell**, I have a copy of the *Oxford Times* for Thursday, 3 August 2023. The heading of one article is *Coaching inn used by Nelson is transformed into a boutique hotel.*



This medieval coaching Inn, dating from 1536 and regularly used by JMF, is being refurbished and extended after being sold to a private investor for an undisclosed fee. The finished hotel will have 26 standard bedrooms and 10 suites arranged over several floors.

Members of our Society have stayed there on the occasions we have based our weekends in the town. The Planning documents say the proposals "*seek to preserve and enhance the Listed Building and its setting to secure the commercial viability of the use of the hotel and provide it with a long-term viable future*". Let's hope we can still afford to stay there!

JOHN TRENCHARD ON STAGE AND SCREEN

Six actors have played John Trenchard in movies, on television or on the stage. At least two versions can be watched on DVD.

John Whiteley (1955)



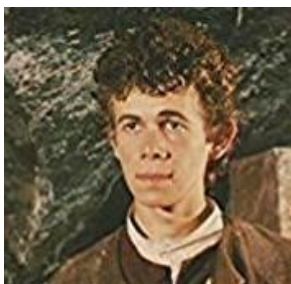
Jon only appeared in five films during his brief movie career. For *The Kidnappers* (1953), he was given The Academy Juvenile Award. He became a respected Art Historian at Oxford's Ashmolean Museum. He met and dined with Society members in Oxford in July 2013. He died on 16 May 2020.

Frazer Hines (1964)



Frazer, born in 1944, had already appeared in numerous films by the age of ten. In 1964, he was cast in the BBC's six-part *Smugglers Bay* (*Moonfleet*). He later appeared in *Dr. Who* and the soap *Emmerdale*.

Adam Godley (1984)



Born in 1964, Adam began his acting career aged nine in a BBC radio production of Ernest Hemingway's *My Own Man*. He played John Trenchard in the BBC six-part adaptation. He received the Theatre Award for the Outstanding Broadway debut in *Private Lives*.

Simon Carroll-Jones (2009)



Simon played John Trenchard in Angel Exit Theatre's critically acclaimed 2012 stage production. He was amongst Angel Exit's cast who visited the Society when they were gathered for their weekend in Dorchester in 2011.

Aneurin Barnard (2013)



Aneurin trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and soon became much in demand for radio, television and film roles. He played Richard III in the BBC's series *The White Queen*. He took the central character in Sky TV's two-part adaptation of *Moonfleet*.

Ryan Heenan (2018)



Ryan gained experience with The National Theatre, and The Royal Shakespeare Company. Roles included Kurt von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. He played John Trenchard in the Salisbury Theatre's musical adaptation of *Moonfleet*.

The information has been kindly collected and collated by our long-standing member **George Robson**.

PREVIOUS JOURNALS ONLINE

Those of you who visit our **Society Website** will know there is a section devoted to past Journals. They are placed online after a two-year gap. However, up until last November the first seven Journals were not available, due to the originals being on the old 'floppy' discs. Thanks to the support of my more technical son, we have been able to scan the paper versions and you will now be able to read Journals 1-72, from July 1999 to July 2021.

In addition, we have now added three articles not previously available online:

No. 8 *JMF and source material* by Page and Allan Life

No. 9 *Elswick "an augean stable"*

No.15 *Falkner's Farm* by Ray Ion and Kenneth Hillier

Journal 23 will be placed online after the forthcoming July. The contents of the Journals reveal just how much the Society has benefited from Members' (and a few non-Members') knowledge and communication skills. A large debt is owed to them all – alas, some no longer with us.

JOURNAL NO. 25

Amazingly, **Journal No. 25** for next July is complete! I think this is the first time this has occurred before springtime. Contents include

A Comparative study: Moonfleet by John Meade Falkner

Moonfleet by Fritz Lang by **Manon Boukhroufa**

Mystery at the Minster by **John Saumarez Smith**

The Nebuly Coat by **John Coulter**

Henry Barnes – The architect who designed John Meade Falkner's boyhood home by **Melanie Davy**

Somewhere there's Music: John Meade Falkner's The Lost Stradivarius by **Nicholas Daly**

I corresponded with John Saumarez Smith in November 2009, when he wrote asking for a copy – still to be published – of Michael Daniell's *Three Priories*, which was produced by the latter's private **Atlantis Press**. JSS was the model of gentlemanly courtesy and I was saddened to read of his death in November 2021.

I am particularly grateful to John Saumarez Smith's widow, Laura, for allowing me to republish an article first published in *Slightly Foxed – The Real Reader's Quarterly* No. 24 Winter 2009. I also have to thank Jess Dalby of *Slightly Foxed* for granting me the permission to reproduce it here. *Slightly Foxed* is an excellent magazine for bibliophiles.

Kenneth Hillier nebulu6@gmail.com

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