

TITLES AVAILABLE

Continued

“Red Spider” Paperback. Praxis Books 1993 £5.00

“Mehalah” Paperback. Praxis Books 1998 £8.50

“Guavas the Tinner”. Paperback. Praxis Books. 2000. £7.50

“Cheap Jack Zita” Paperback. Praxis Books. 2001. £8.00

“Kitty Alone” Paperback. Praxis Books. 2001. £9.00

“The Broom Squire” Paperback. Blackdown Press. 1996. £9.99

Biography:

“Now the Day is Over” by Harold Kirk-Smith. Richard Kay. 1997

“ ‘Half My Life’ The Story of Sabine Baring-Gould and Grace ” by Keith Lister. Charnwood Publications, 2002. £12.95 (£2.00 P&P) Available from the author at 13 Grove Road, Horbury, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 6AG

Literary Criticism:

“The West Country as Literary Invention” Simon Trezise. 2000 University of Exeter Press. £13.99

Family History, centred on Lew House:

“The Mana of Lew” by Cicely Briggs. Praxis Books. 1994. £5.00 Available from Sallie Briggs, Whispering Winds, Brentor, Tavistock, Devon. PL19 OLS

A Bibliography is available from the Hon. Secretary.

SABINE BARING-GOULD APPRECIATION SOCIETY



Newsletter No. 43

October 2003

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

To enable those interested in the man and his work to share their enthusiasm and spread the interest among others. This is to be achieved by means of three Newsletters per annum (October, February and June), a membership list and an Annual Gathering at venues with some association with Sabine Baring-Gould. The annual subscription is £6.00. Members joining during the year will receive back copies of the Newsletter for the current year, which is deemed to start with the October issue, when subscriptions are due.

THE COMMITTEE

President: Dr Merriol Almond. E-mail:merriol1@comcast.net (That's Merriol followed by the number 1)

Chairman: David Shacklock: Cheese Hill House, 27 High Street, Debenham, Stowmarket, Suffolk. IPI4 6QN. E-mail: riley01@globalnet.co.uk

Hon. Secretary: Dr Roger Bristow. Davidsland, Brendon Hill, Coplestone, Devon. EX17 5NX. E-mail: rbristow@rbristow89.freemove.co.uk

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Sybil Tope, Point, Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon. EX20 4ED. Tel 01837 861315

East Anglian Representative: Ray Scott, 40 Duck Lane, Haddenham, Cambs. CB6 3UE. Tel 01353 740817

North Country Representative and Research Co-ordinator: Keith Lister, 13 Grove Road, Horbury, Wakefield, W.Yorks.WF4 6AG. E-mail: keith@listerk.freemove.co.uk

South-West Representative: Martin Graebe, 100 Cheltenham Rd, Gloucester. GL2 0LX E-mail: martin.graebe@btinternet.com

Liaison with Lewtrenchard Church: Mary Rolfe, Foxcombe Cottage, Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon. EX20 4PM. Tel: 01837 861510

Borders Representative: Becky Smith, Crossways Cottage, Walterstone, Herefordshire HR2 0DX. E-mail author@rebeccatope.fsnet.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Ron Wawman, Stable Cottage, Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon EX20 4DQ. E-mail: ronz@rwawman.fsnet.co.uk

- **Sabine Baring-Gould** was born on 28th January 1834 in Exeter and died on 2nd January 1924 at Lewtrenchard
- He was a hugely influential collector of folksongs at a time when such songs were being rapidly forgotten.
- Folklorist. Magpie collector of anecdotes, practices, beliefs.
- Archaeologist. Pioneer of over 60 excavations on Dartmoor .
- Loved and respected pastor to a widespread Devonshire community
- Reconstructor of buildings - he made enormous changes to both house and church at Lewtrenchard
- As well as 'Onward Christian Soldiers' he wrote other perennial hymns for example: 'Now the Day is Over' and 'Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow'.

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Cover

**Oak-panelled parlour,
Lew Trenchard.**
*Old Country life
Sabine Baring-Gould*

Editorial

Those of us lucky enough to be at Kinver had a splendid time and there is promise of more exciting meetings to come. Make a note of Clare College, Cambridge, 18, 19 September 2004 and watch for details in the next Newsletter. Then, 'Winefred' at Seaton in October 2005 and, who knows, perhaps 'The Broom Squire' in Surrey in 2006? Not content with that we will be squeezing in a one day meeting at Lew in the Spring of 2004. It all sounds great, but we have also been exercised about how to meet the needs of the majority of our members who never get to meetings? Help us find out by giving up a few minutes of your time to fill in the enclosed questionnaire. Also in this issue, Elizabeth Goldsworthy treats us to the final instalment of her entertaining 'Miscellanea', Philip Weller whets our appetite for yet another issue of his superb 'Transactions' while Keith Lister goes birding with Sabine in Iceland.

Issue 44, February 2004

The success of the Newsletter is dependent, not on the editor, but on contributions from the membership. The more varied the better. Long hand, typescript, or e-mail—it matters not. **Deadline for the next issue, 12 January 2004**

Miscellanea— Part III

By Elizabeth Goldsworthy

During the 1939-46 war my sister and I were weekly boarders at Sydenham in the next-door parish to Lewtrenchard. During that time we went to Coombe Trenchard on a country-dancing foray. I remember being led up to Mrs Sperling. When Sabine revamped the old manor of Lew two of his models were Sydenham and Dunsland.

During the war Lew House was occupied and knocked about by soldiers. When peace came it was let as a guesthouse to the Paynters. Joan Priestley, the family historian, came over periodically from Sidmouth on a tour of inspection. On one occasion she was supposed to have found chickens being kept inside. The Paynters employed Jock as a general factotum. He worked unendingly and because of him the house began to live again.

There were other links to the previous life at Lew. Mabel Algar, a neighbour of ours at Filham had two elderly maids who weren't allowed to retire. One was called Hollow, I just can't remember the name of the other, but I think that it was monosyllabic because it always came first, followed by 'Hollow'. They had known all the Baring-Gould children as they grew up. Dick Hamlyn who kept beautiful jersey cows in the Tithe Barn at Buckland Abbey and was secretary of the Dartmoor Commoners in the 1950s had been in the choir at Lew and knew just how eagle-eyed Sabine was, as did my Father who had been given a watch one Christmas. A stern promise came from the Pulpit that it would be taken away unless he put it right away.

At the then Dartmoor Hunt Kennels, the Huntsman, Pengelly, was the grandson of the coachman who had driven the genteel vagabonds on the continent in a bid to avoid Edward's boredom.

Nicholas Snow, (Sabine's son, Edward Baring-Gould's second wife, Maud, was a Snow), came over to play cricket on one occasion and said loftily to my sister and me, "You are the great-grandchildren of the mill girl." He obviously didn't know much

about Grace but it illustrated what she had probably encountered when she came to Devon. Such snobbery was still around in the 1950s when Aunt Maud was herself looked down on because she had been Edward's secretary. At that time I went to tea with them in their Westminster flat. Uncle Edward was in his eighties and very frail so it was Aunt Maud who conducted the conversation.

I really got to know Madge Dickinson in the eighties. By then she was widowed and living near Bude. We tried very hard to get Bick's account of Dunsland published but we failed. Bick had stayed home at Dunsland trying desperately to keep the house in some sort of repair but without any funds. Eventually even his ingenuity and skill had to admit defeat. When the N. T. did finally take it on, a caretaker and her son were put in and much work was put in place. At the point when this work was almost completed the whole house was destroyed by fire. Now all that remains is the granary at Arlington Court. The loss of Dunsland has been described as the N.T.'s greatest. As a house of three different periods it was of great interest.

Through Madge I met Irene Widdicombe. She was inimitable: warm, loving and deeply fond of the Devon in which she had spent much of her childhood. Anyone who has read her contributions to Bick's biography of Sabine or to the newsletter will know how her ability to convey life at Lew and in the village is unsurpassable. As a child she spent her holidays at Ardoch Lodge with her grandmother, who was, of course, also Sabine's stepmother. She and her sister found the Lew gang intimidating on the days when they went there. Sadly, Ardoch lodge no longer exists.

I don't remember Mary Dickinson although I heard much about her and I was with my Grandfather one dark evening at the end of the war when we heard of her death.

Just before Devon ceased to be "home" I was taken to see the house in Dix's Field, Exeter where Sabine was born. Shortly afterwards it was demolished. That was the fate of many old buildings in Exeter despite the pleadings of W. G. Hoskins.

News from the Membership

We welcome: **Dr Paul Edwin** of Kinver who joins us as a direct result of the our presence, this year, in the location of Bladys of the Stewponey. **Mr David Snowden**, a great-grandson of SB-G, who takes over the membership of his aunt, Mollie Priestley. **Mrs Elizabeth Dickinson** joins us in like spirit, following the sad death of her husband, Sabine (Bill) Dickinson. **Dr Evan and Mrs Elaine Jones** whose interest in SBG started with Bladys and grew to encompass all aspects of SB-G's life and work. **Shan Cowan**, who shares Martin's interest in the songs and is already well known to those who attend annual meetings. **Dr. Graham Yeo** who grew up at Lewdown and has a life long interest in SBG. **Mr. Alec Croce**, whose interests are history and folklore, joined to learn more about SB-G and meet like-minded people.

Sabine Harvey Dickinson 1928-2003

Elizabeth Dickinson writes: Although named after Sabine Baring-Gould, his great-grandfather, he was always called Bill. His grandmother, Mary Dickinson, was Sabine and Grace's eldest child. She married Harvey Dickinson of Dunsland, Devon and Bill spent all his summer holidays at Dunsland with his parents and brother Dick. The family associations were always very important to him and he was delighted to have gained a friendship with Merriol via e-mail. His ashes are due to be buried in his grandfather's grave at Bradford Church, Devon in October.

Born and educated in London, Bill was an architect, a profession he loved, for most of his working life. He was a sportsman and in later life took up watercolour painting and bell-ringing. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word, a Christian who gave much time over the years to helping in church matters and one who loved life, people and his family. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter and grandsons.

Mollie E Priestley T. D.

David Snowden writes: Mollie Priestley, a Grand Daughter of Sabine, died in Bembridge, Isle of Wight on the 22nd March 2003 aged 89. Mollie was the youngest daughter of Joan Priestley (nee Baring-Gould) and sister of Joyce Rawstorne and Diana Snowden both of whom predeceased her. Mollie's Mother, Joan, was 12th of Sabine's 15 children.

Mollie did not marry; after the war she lived in Clonmel, County Tipperary enjoying country pursuits in which she was most knowledgeable and nurtured, as a girl, on her Father's Estate in Rogart, Sutherland. The war years were, perhaps, her proudest; she became a Lieutenant Colonel in the ATS and subsequently doyenne of the Royal British Legion in Southern Ireland and Seaview, Isle of Wight. Over many years Mollie was an active member of the Society and contributed to some of the early issues of the Newsletter; she enjoyed bridge, read extensively and participated in the general activities of Seaview, Isle of Wight until, in recent years, ill health precluded her from venturing far. Mollie's nephew and nieces remember her for a wonderful sense of humour, her story telling ability, forthrightness of opinion and Christianity.

My Father's Face

My fathers face, which was once hard and stern and showed little gentleness in its reserved severity, in old age became wonderfully soft and sweet and loveable. I remember when we – Grace, Mary and I, were at Lew just before my father's death. That afternoon Grace said to me "I could hardly resist kissing his hand as he put it in mine"

5 December 1880
Sabine Baring-Gould

Birding Almost a Hundred and Fifty Years Ago.

By Keith Lister©

Great skua, snowy owls, the great northern diver, gyr-falcon, ptarmigan and snipe were all first sightings for Sabine Baring-Gould when he visited Iceland in 1861.

Baring-Gould sailed to Reykjavik in a vessel no larger than a Thames pleasure boat and when he arrived he hired guides and horses to accompany him on a six-week expedition. As he meandered north and then east along the coast of Iceland he marvelled at the dramatic coastline, majestic mountains, ice fields, geysers and waterfalls. There were lakes packed with wild fowl of all descriptions and the last great auk had been sighted off Iceland less than twenty years earlier. The exciting prospect of sighting such a bird through his brass telescope was always there and the capture of a live bird would have earned Baring-Gould a reward of a hundred pounds or fifty pounds for a carcass.

His principal reason for visiting Iceland was to increase his portfolio of watercolour paintings and collect the old Scandinavian sagas and songs. However, the profusion and range of wild plants and birds amazed him and with the help of the locals he identified and recorded them.

Whenever possible Baring-Gould lodged with the local people in their tiny homes. These were invariably infested with fleas but that was the norm. One evening, his host had entertained him particularly well with traditional Icelandic tales and songs. To show his appreciation he was about to present the man's daughter with a trinket in the form of a cheap ring when he was warned off. He quickly substituted the ring with something else and later learned that such a gesture would have been interpreted as a proposal of marriage. Baring-Gould commented that the girl was neither healthy nor beautiful and that he had had a lucky escape!

Although birds were in plentiful supply, when the expedition had the misfortune to run out of meat in a remote area, there was not

a single fowl to be seen! That day the party had to survive on watery soup made by boiling a moss-covered stone! Baring-Gould's eyesight also became defective and this may well have been brought about due to a lack of fresh fruit and vegetables and a deficiency of vitamins.

When Baring-Gould arrived at Liverpool on 9th August 1861 he disembarked laden with bird's skins, silverware, books and clothing. He also imported an Icelandic pony named Bottlebrush that had travelled in the hold of the boat along with other ponies destined for the coalmines of Lancashire.

In those days Baring-Gould was a schoolmaster at Hurstpierpoint School, West Sussex, where he was popular with the pupils and renowned for teaching with his pet bat clinging to his gown. When he returned to school after the summer holiday he hoped to make a spectacular entrance by riding Bottlebrush up the tree-lined school drive. Unfortunately the plan backfired when the beast refused to move because it had never seen trees before! After his visit two-month expedition, which cost £100.16.8d., Baring-Gould published his substantial and comprehensive book 'Iceland, Its Scenes and Sagas'

Baring-Gould appreciated all forms of life and at Lew Trenchard he employed a gamekeeper and groom and kept dogs and peacocks in the grounds. He also kept poultry and although not personally involved he permitted the hunt to meet on the estate.

St Mary the Virgin, Virley

The vicar of St Mary's, Tollesbury is seeking financial assistance so that he can 'smarten up' the ruins of **St Mary's Church, Virley**, which features prominently in '**Mehalah**'. If you want to learn more contact Rev. K Lovell, The Vicarage, 12 King's Walk, Tollesbury, Maldon, Essex CM9 8XH. Tel: 01621 869393. E-mail: keith_lovell@hotmail.com

TRANSACTIONS OF THE SBGAS ISSUE NUMBER THREE

This third issue of the annual SBGAS *Transactions* brings us up to date for the new millennium. It is based primarily on the talks and excursions of the 2002 AGM Meeting. There is an in-depth examination by Philip Weller of the real Dartmoor locations used by SBG in *Guavas the Tinner*. There is a comprehensive archaeological account of medieval tin-mining on Dartmoor by Jane Marchand, which explains many of the technical aspects of *Guavas*. There is a fascinating account by Martin Graebe of SBG's expeditions on Dartmoor collecting folk-songs.

The Supplement reproduces one of SBG's rarer early stories, 'Jack Hannaford' (1865), which has not been re-published since 1897. This is another bumper issue of the *Transactions*, with 50 large-format (A4-size - 210 x 197 mm) pages and card covers, and with illustrations (22) for every item, including some aerial views of Moor sites and our first-ever full-colour reproduction with Martin's wonderful map of the locations on the Moor where SBG gathered music from the song-men.

We have arranged a discount price for the initial, bulk print run, but you need to order NOW to avoid the possibility of having to pay more for a single print run after the end of October. Prices, including postage, are as follows:

UK - £6.00; Rest of Europe - £7.00/€10.00; Rest of World - £8.00/US\$14.00.

Cheques, drawn on a British bank, or with American Express Travellers Cheques, payable in British Pounds, should be made out to "Sherlock Publications". To avoid the extra costs of paying for a British bank draft or an American Express cheque, overseas members can pay in Pounds, Euros or US Dollars, as indi-

cated above, in cash (currency only – no overseas cheques of any sort or credit cards). Orders should be sent to: Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 3RU, England.

The Transactions are already building up to form an invaluable source of research material on SBG, but most of us will be aware of the situation where one joins a literary society and finds that the number of back issues of the society's journal makes purchasing all of the back numbers prohibitively expensive. If you have not already obtained Volumes 1 & 2 of *The Transactions*, they are still available at the above prices, while they last! If you have any queries, especially if you wish to order copies of Volume 3 after 31 October, you can contact Philip Weller at the above mail address or on 01329-667325 or at <philipweller@acd-221b.info>

Lewtrenchard Church Baring-Gould Heritage Centre

Mary Rolfe reports: The Parochial Church Council has now secured sufficient funding to take the project forward and is confident that further funding will become available. EKOS, who carried out the feasibility study suggested three options. The option favoured by the PCC is to build an extension to the rear of the Church which would house a small exhibition area and toilet facilities. There would be a car park to the right of the Church, as viewed from the road. A walkway from the car park, suitable for the disabled would lead into the Churchyard. . The next step is to obtain permission from the Diocesan Advisory Council in Exeter. Assuming they report favourably, planning permission will then be sought from West Devon Borough Council. An architect has been appointed, an agent is to be appointed and a press officer will be employed for two years.

SBGAS and You

Until recently, annual gatherings and newsletters have been the principle means by which the Society has fulfilled its aims. I.e. *To enable those interested in the man and his work to share their enthusiasms and spread the interest among others.*

One of our problems is that, apart from the 30 members who reside in the county of Devon, the other 38 UK based members are scattered across the length and breadth of the realm. The remaining 14 members reside in the USA, South Africa and New Zealand. So, although we do our best to meet in different parts of the UK and at *venues with some association with Sabine Baring-Gould*, it is easy to understand why most of our members do not get to meetings and rarely make contact. Their interests and thoughts about what the Society does or does not do, remain largely unknown to the committee.

A number of issues have now arisen which have persuaded the committee to ask what **you** think it should be doing on your behalf and how it can increase the participation of the membership in the Society's activities.

1. Over the past 12 months the first two volumes of the *Transactions of SBGAS* have been published. Despite being well advertised in the Newsletter and good value for money, only 15 members have subscribed. This seems a meagre return on a large amount of time and effort spent on what is an invaluable archive. What do you think?
2. There has been growing concern on the part of some Devon members that the Society does not meet often enough in and around Lew House, which they feel should be seen as the heart of interest in SB-G. An annual one-day spring gathering at Lew has been suggested, with a trial run in May 2004, in the hope that this would attract members who do not otherwise come to meetings. The committee needs to know your thoughts on this.

3. The other fairly recent creation is the Society's own website. The committee needs to know the extent to which you use this site and whether it meets your needs.

As an insert you will find a short questionnaire which attempts to answer these and other questions **Do not put it to one side for later; fill it in now and return it to the editor, Ron Wawman.**

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the year 2003-2004, which became due on 1 October, remain at a modest £6.00. For those few members who have yet to pay their dues for the year 2002-2003, a discreet black spot on your newsletter is a gentle reminder that the day to day expenses of the Society, including the Newsletter, have to be met.

I must apologise to **overseas members** for the confusing and inaccurate overseas membership rates that have appeared in the Newsletter, the website and in direct mailings. I am assured by the secretary that past minutes make clear **the overseas rate, to cover the additional costs of postage, is £7.50.** USA resident members are reminded that if they have difficulty sending a sterling cheque, payment can be made by sending a cheque for \$12.50, drawn on a US bank account, and payable to Dr Merriol Almond at 17 Hillsboro Drive, West Hartford, Connecticut 061107. Other overseas members should add the equivalent of a further £1.50 if payment is by non-sterling cheque. Sorry it is so complicated. All I can say is that if you have already paid at the lower rate –congratulations!

Love and Respect

A love that is without respect is most volatile. As certain dyes are fixed by salt, so is love made fast for life by reverence.

Bladys of the Stewponey
Sabine Baring-Gould

Kinver October 2003 - Bladys of the Stewponey

Becky Smith writes: Well, Roger Bristow did it again. The Kinver Annual gathering was as well-organised, instructive and inspiring as any we've had to date. This year there was more open air exploration, less listening to talks, than usual – which of course mirrors the book under scrutiny – *Bladys of the Stewponey*. The narrative takes place almost entirely in pubs, prisons, castles and rock dwellings. It is also a book which seems to have less connection with theory or major historical events than many others by Baring-Gould. When trying to find relevant background material, according to David Bills, one quickly runs into mystery and complete absence of fact.

And so we began, on Saturday afternoon, in Shrewsbury. The weather was cold and grey with flurries of harsh rain – perfect for a tour centred upon a public burning and a forced marriage in which the bride resolutely rebels against her self-appointed husband.

I had never before been to Shrewsbury, and can probably assume that any subsequent visits will forever be haunted by Dorothy, our delightfully enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide, as well as by Bladys and her tribulations. We began at the Abbey, where the prisoner in the story is burned at the stake, then proceeded to cross the English Bridge (as opposed to the Welsh Bridge at the other end of town), and stood for a while outside St Mary's Church, which has peripheral significance to the story, but Dorothy likes it. It has two gigantic London plane trees in its grounds, which provided very atmospheric storm sounds in the brisk northerly wind.

By way of the prison and the castle, to the gatehouse, beneath which we huddled and debated the delights of trying to match fictional events to real life history, topography and architecture. Dorothy was very good on this subject. She had read *Bladys* specially, before embarking on the tour, which was beyond the call of duty, and immensely increased the relevance and enjoyment of

the afternoon.

Then we had a seriously magnificent tea, courtesy of the Nesscliffe W.I. in a spanking new (well, refurbished) Village Hall that had us all open-mouthed. All thanks to the National Lottery, it seems.

On full stomachs, we climbed up to Kynaston's Rock, which was home to a famous outlaw many centuries before Baring-Gould's time, and briefly featuring in the book. It has three or four kinds of bat living in it, and has been rendered disappointingly safe by the National Trust. However, to their credit, they still permit ordinarily fit and adventurous people to mount the original flight of sandstone steps, which Baring-Gould describes.

On Sunday, in glorious golden October sunshine, we left our cars in an isolated farmyard and walked through woodland to the site of the Stewponey, which is close by the Worcester and Staffordshire Canal. It is also a stone's throw from Stourton Castle. These are points in the early pages of the book, but one's imagination flounders somewhat as one strains to hear Roger's talk over the roar of traffic. The area has been comprehensively brought into the 21st century, except for the lovely canal.

A short walk further brought us to the site of the Rock Inn, where Bladys first meets Nan in the story. We held a vote as to where precisely we thought the tavern had stood, with some debate as to the minimum size of room thought probable, and the original angle of slope of the ground.

Then a return walk through the woodland which was so distractingly pleasant that some of us prolonged the experience by taking a wrong turning, and arriving late back at the cars.

Finally, we visited Holy Austin Rock, which has become a great tourist attraction in Kinver. This small town remodelled itself as a venue for the Midland middle classes seeking diversion, when its industrial base declined a century or more ago.

The Rock is now National Trust property, and a warden, deliciously named Evadne, lives there and conducts tours. She gave us the Five Star Tour. She told us everything: demonstrated, de-

scribed, embellished and extolled for quite a long time, without a single mention of Baring-Gould or Bladys. The rock dwellings and rock houses are extraordinary, unforgettable, and from the top we could see for miles. This all took rather a long time, and prevented us from including a visit to Meg-a-Fox Holes. At the time this came as something of a relief; with hindsight it is cause for regret. SBG specifically mentions this as a major part of the inspiration for his book.

Nonetheless, we certainly came away with a great deal of new information and insights to process and savour.

Tramways, Troglodytes and Transactions

Ron Wawman writes: The indoor bit of the meeting might have taken up less time than usual, but it was no less fun than the outdoor phase so vividly described by Becky. The proceedings, started, just as they do in the novel, with the clarion call of the town crier - well, me actually. And, as it started, so it carried on with Roger treating us to a lively resume of story, interspersed with apposite readings, and relating this to the places we were to visit over the weekend. Then David Bills, describing himself as the local village poisoner, told us all about the film of Bladys, produced by a local industrialist in 1919 and mostly shot locally. We had great fun trying to guess what scenes from the novel each of a series of stills - all that survives of the film - portrays. David then went on to tell us something of the history of Kinver, its economic ups and downs as a wool town, a steel town and as a tourist attraction. He turned the troglodytes into real people for us and the caves into real homes with piped gas even. It came as a surprise to learn that at the turn of the century sleepy Kinver was the destination for armies of trippers carried thence from the neighbouring cities by fleets of tramcars. The cave dwellers, at whom they had come to gawp, enterprisingly eked out their existence by flogging them postcards and teas.

The AGM wasn't quite as exciting but it was business like. We had updates on the website and the Transactions; Keith Lister spoke of his work as research co-ordinator; it was agreed that, as a trial, a one day meeting will be held at Lew in the Spring. At the close we then found ourselves feeling sorry for all those poor souls who could not be with us at Kinver, and wondering how SBGAS could meet their needs. "Make 'em fill in a questionnaire. That'll larn 'em!" they said. And on that note, very contented, we all went home.

Very Happy at Mersea

Dalton was a very dreary and depressing place but not so dreary and depressing as East Mersea. At neither place are there pretty walks, lanes and woods. But then Dalton was near a railway station and within three miles of Thirsk. Moreover the pretty Hambleton Hills were visible from it and accessible by train. If we had had a pony carriage we might have got about and seen some pretty bits of country, but we were obliged to walk, the curacy was £150 and a house, and the expense of the church and services fell entirely on me. I cannot say I was happy at Dalton. At Mersea I have been very happy, though nothing can be more dreary and uninteresting than that place. Still I have now a library and pretty furniture and pictures, and in the summer, have always friends staying with us, and in winter, I run up continually to town. At Dalton I was so completely isolated from friends and relatives that I felt more utterly dull and desolate than at Mersea.

1 December 1880
Sabine Baring-Gould

Visit www.sbgas.fsnet.co.uk

for news and information, not to mention a link to the full text of Bladys and two other novels! Regularly updated. Send your contributions to Martin Graebe at martin.graebe@btinternet.com

Cambridge Meeting - 18, 19 September 2004

Roger Bristow has negotiated extremely favourable B&B rates at Westcott College on the nights of 17, 18 September, but to benefit from this rate you will need to register your commitment and pay a deposit before the end of February 2004, so look out for full details and an application form in the February Newsletter

References in Print

This regular feature in the newsletter is of more than passing interest because, not only does it point to sources of information about SBG, but it is also a measure of his influence on present day writing and thought. We are indebted to David Shacklock for most of the references but, for the bang up-to-date ones, we are dependent on the sharp eyes of our members as they read the wide variety of books, papers and journals out there. So come on, give the editor a break: when you see something, let him know.

Western Morning News 26 August 2003: 'Mill girl who became squire's fair lady', middle page spread drawing on Keith Lister's book.

Western Morning News 8 August 2003: 'Chapel's profound sense of peace' tells that St Clether's on Bodmin Moor is alive today and reminds that SB-G was responsible for its restoration.

Western Morning News, West Country Farming, 1 October 2003: Anthony Gibson, regional director of the NFU, wondering what SB-G would have made of the mid-term review of the CAP, ingeniously relates this to the story of the 'Spreyton Demon' in 'Devonshire Characters and Strange Events'.

Victorian Village Life. Neil Philip. Albion pbk. 1993. P. 55f quote.

The Album: vol. 1 supplement Feb. 25 1895 –portrait of SBG... won a place in the front rank of living novelists, by many studies of country life, replete with local colouring. Mehalah, John Herring, Cheap Jack Zita and Kitty Alone are among the most popular.

BARING-GOULD TITLES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

This list is constantly expanding, and older titles are gradually being left out, to save space. There are, however, almost certainly some omissions. Bossiney Books and Llanerch are regularly producing books by or including SBG. If anyone is aware of additional titles, please let the Editor know.

"Bladys of the Stewponney" Praxis Books 2003. £8.50

"Myths of the Middle Ages" Edited by John Matthews. Hardback. Blandford 1996. New illustrations. £16.99

"Yorkshire Oddities, Incidents and Strange Events" Smith Settle. Paperback. 1987

"Lives of the British Saints" Llanerch. 1990 onwards. Various volumes.

"The Book of Werewolves" Senate 1995. Introduction by Nigel Suckling. Paperback

"Five Devon Seafarers". Taken from SB-G's *Devonshire Characters*. Bossiney Books. 2000. £2.99

"Six Devon Rogues" Taken from *Devonshire Characters and Strange Events*. Bossiney Books. Paperback 2000

"A Book of Folklore" Paperback. Praxis Books 1993. £5.00

"Through Flood and Flame" Paperback. Praxis Books, 1997 £8.50

"Winefred". Paperback. Praxis Books 1994 £6.50