

The John Buchan Society

The **John Buchan Society** is for anyone who is interested in the writings, life and times of John Buchan.

The Society was founded in 1979, and is an international group of readers, scholars, bibliophiles and enthusiasts for John Buchan's writing and works. It is strongly supported by his descendants.

Its aim is to promote a wider understanding and appreciation of the life, works and legacy of John Buchan, later Lord Tweedsmuir. Based in the UK, the Society has over 500 members worldwide.



It has a comprehensive website and publishes a Members' newsletter twice a year, and, annually, *The John Buchan Journal*, in which the range of interest in his life, work and legacy is reflected. The Society hosts its AGM and annual dinner in towns and places with Buchan associations. Occasional seminars are also organised for the discussion of aspects of John Buchan's life and work.

The Society has close links with, and contributes to, "**The John Buchan Story**", a new museum and study centre dedicated to his life and times in the town of Peebles in the Scottish Borders. The museum also features other members of the Buchan family, including his sister Anna and brother Walter. Open to the public daily from Easter to the end of October: Monday to Saturday, 10.00am–4.30pm.

Visit www.johnbuchanstory.co.uk for further information.

Joining the John Buchan Society

You'd be most welcome to join the Society.

A form is set out below which you are invited to complete (in capital letters, please) and to return to the following address:

The Membership Secretary,
The John Buchan Society,
31 Walmley Ash Road,
Walmley,
Sutton Coldfield.
B76 1JA
E: thomasmdrb@btinternet.com
T: 0121 351 3121

Current annual membership rates (all payable in £ sterling) are:

Full	£20.00 (£18.00 if paid by standing order)
Overseas	£23.00
Associate	£6.00 (no Journal)
Junior (17 or under)	£7.00

Please complete the form below, indicating the class of membership in which you are interested, and send your cheque, made out to "The John Buchan Society", to the Membership Secretary – see details above.
(Standing order forms are available upon request.)

Name:

Address:

Post code:

E-mail:

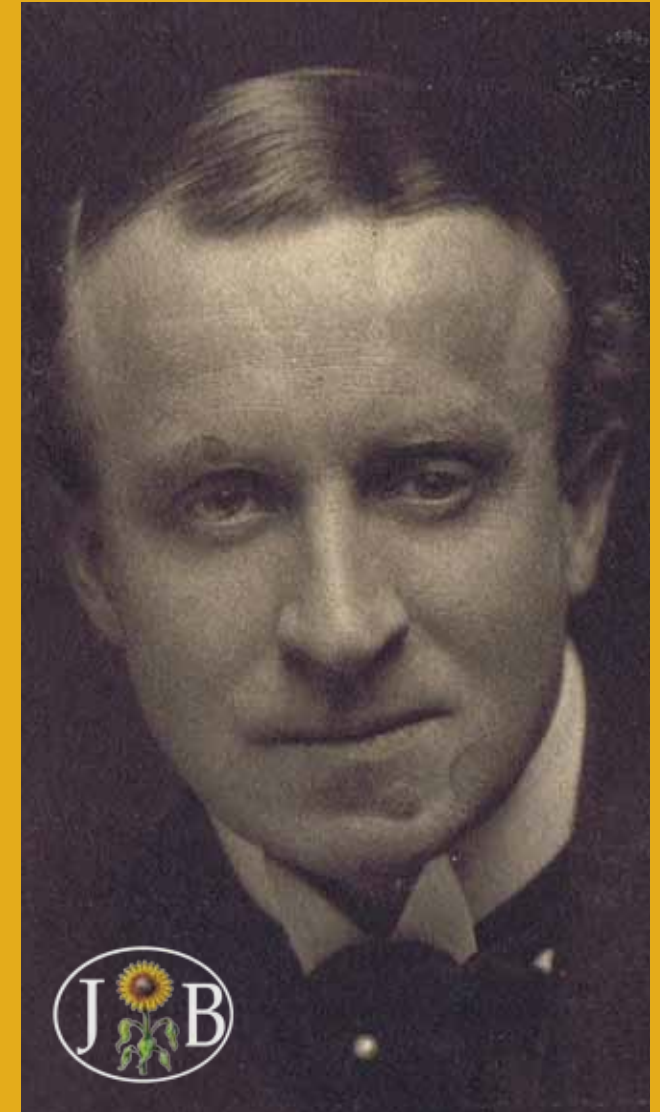
Telephone number:

Type of membership required:

Cheque enclosed for: £

An invitation to join -

THE JOHN BUCHAN SOCIETY



Scottish Charity Number SCO 06071

Why join the Society?

- Meet and correspond with people who enjoy reading, discussing and learning about Buchan's work.
- Read and contribute to *The John Buchan Journal*, which examines all aspects of Buchan's life, writing, politics, publishing career, journalism and place in history.
- Attend gatherings and hear speakers with Buchan interests and from his family, many of whom are also writers and fellow enthusiasts.
- Absorb and contribute to thinking about the literature and many other aspects of the world in which Buchan lived.

Publications of the John Buchan Society

Full members of the Society are automatically sent all of the publications of the Society.

These include *The John Buchan Journal*, which is published in October each year. This contains a variety of articles, both scholarly and of a lighter nature, on various aspects of the life and times of John Buchan.

Articles in recent *Journal* articles have addressed Buchan's ideas of empire, the range of his historical novels, the influences on Buchan of his time as a student at Oxford, his work as Governor General of Canada, the stage version of his famous novel, "The 39 Steps", and possible models for the character of Richard Hannay, the action hero at the centre of a number of his best known novels.

You can contact the editor of the *Journal* for more information at michael.redley@appleinter.net.

As well as the *Journal*, there is a regular newsletter containing information on developments that are of interest to Society members and on upcoming events. It comes out twice a year, in January and July.

The Society also has a well established website, containing a wide range of information on John Buchan and his literary output.

Visit www.johnbuchansociety.co.uk for further information.

John Buchan

– a fine writer, a remarkable life

John Buchan was born in 1875, a son of the manse and the oldest of six children, one of whom, his sister Anna, was the novelist, O. Douglas. The family returned to John Buchan's grandparents' home in the Scottish Borders every year when he was a child, and it was there, in the village of Broughton near Peebles, that Buchan absorbed the legends and traditions, the beauty and the wildness of the landscape that would colour so much of his writing.



After Glasgow University, he went to Brasenose College, Oxford and then to the Bar, also working as a reviewer for the *Spectator* magazine. He served on Lord Milner's staff in South Africa helping to rebuild the country after the devastation of the Boer War. In 1907 he married Susan Grosvenor, and had four children, and became a director of Thomas Nelson and Sons, the Edinburgh publishing company, where he was responsible for generating new business. Following his work for the British government on public information and propaganda in the First World War, Buchan became Britain's first Director of Information. He also found time to write the novels of espionage with Richard Hannay as their hero on which his reputation as a popular author was based, and the many-volumed *Nelson's History of the War*, a contemporary history, which appeared at intervals throughout the war. After the war, Buchan returned to publishing, and became Deputy Chairman of Reuters. In 1927 he became a Member of Parliament for the Scottish Universities.



From 1927 onwards, Buchan also began to emerge as a significant public figure. He represented the King as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1933 and 1934. As well as a continuing stream of novels, historical biographies, short stories and regular newspaper columns, Buchan wrote what became the semi-official publication marking the Silver Jubilee of George V, *The King's Grace*.

Buchan was appointed in 1935 as Governor General of Canada. Despite onerous duties, failing health and the storm clouds gathering over Europe, he was able to enjoy the vastness of the West, and the people and places of the Arctic Circle. John and Susan Buchan, as Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir, made a significant contribution to the development of Canada's self awareness as a nation.

John Buchan died in office of a cerebral thrombosis in February 1940, aged only 64, having written more than a hundred books which still enthral and delight readers today.