



# TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of Kennington History Society

Issue 3

Autumn 2004

## RELEASE OF NEW HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATION

Kennington History Society's publication 'Lest We Forget' the story of the men from the village who died in the two World Wars is now available to members at a cost of £3.00. Reserve your copy to avoid disappointment.

When Kennington's War Memorial was established in 1921 the names of the twelve local men who had died in 'the war to end all wars' were listed. Tragically less than thirty years later six additional names had to be added; being those of the young men from the village who had lost their lives in a second world-wide conflict. Now almost sixty years after the end of the Second World War many of the names of these brave young men, who made the supreme sacrifice, have become unfamiliar to the passer by and even to those who attend Kennington's annual Act of Remembrance when these names are honoured. The purpose of this booklet is to relate what is known of these local men's lives, give a brief commentary on the theatre of war where they died including details of their final resting place and the site of their official memorial.



Philip Martin presenting George Ross with his original sketch of George, used on the front cover of the October edition of The Kennington Chronicle, at the Society's October meeting

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

#### MARY ROWLEY'S PENSIONS – KENNINGTON'S AGED POOR

By her will of 1897, Mary Rowley, widow of the Rev H Rowley, made provision for 'poor labouring women and men', members of the Church of England, who had resided in Kennington for two years or more so long as they continued to live there and their incomes did not exceed 7/- per week. It would be forfeited, however, if, in the unanimous

opinion of the Vicar and Churchwardens, after full enquiry, the recipients 'had proved themselves unworthy by intemperance, immorality or misconduct of any kind'.

In 1908, when the Charity Commissioners made a return of all the Charities in Berkshire, £1,440 was invested in the fund and payments of 5/- per week were made to one married man of 80, a widower of 76 and a widow of 80.

It is understood that the origin of the Charity was an accident that befell Mrs Rowley while passing through

Kennington in her pony carriage. In gratitude for the kindness and help she received from the local people.

### QUOTATION

Human blunders usually do more to shape history than human wickedness

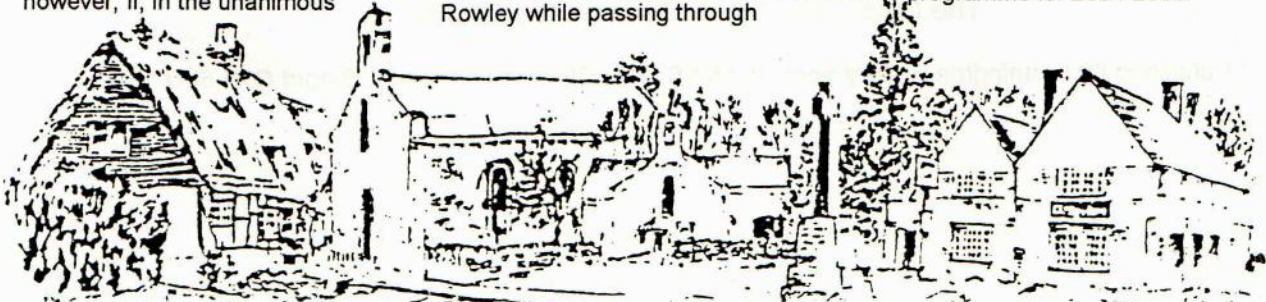
A. J. P. Taylor

1906-1990

Origins of the Second World War

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see overleaf for the Society's programme for 2004-2005.





## WHO LIVED IN THE PAPER HOUSE

Some members were wondering about the occupancy of the Paper House after the recent talk by Rob Kinchin-Smith. When the final stages of the house were finished Towle took in tenants: a Mr & Mrs Bulford and, later, Len Vine, a painter and decorator, and his mother.

After John Towle's death in 1885 at the age of 89, his widow, Mary, brought in Watson Morley Welbourne to manage the mill. He would have lived in the house and was probably related to John Towle whose sister had married James Watson, who was also on Oxford City Council and, for a number of years leased City Farm, Garsington, from the Council. Mary died in 1893 and possibly left the mill to Welbourne who managed it until his death in 1903. His widow went to live at 43 Pembroke Street, Oxford, and brought in George Hambridge Turner and his wife Rosa, to run the mill - or she may even have sold him the house and mill. They had two children George William and Lucy.

Turner died in 1923 which is when the mill probably ceased to operate. There is a faded photograph of it in a ruined state dated c.1930 in the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. Their son, George William, married Victoria 'Queenie' Bumpstead and they lived in the house with his parents. Their daughter, Rosemary Johnson (nee Turner), who lived in the house until 1987, when interviewed by Rob Kinchin-Smith at her home (in Hertfordshire?) in 1997 was able to recall how each room was used.

Robert Sephton

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 2004-2005

### KENNINGTON HISTORY SOCIETY

7:45pm in the Methodist Church

15th November 2004	Members Evening - Opportunity for short presentations by Members
20th December 2004	Story of the English Civil War - David Buxton
17th January 2005	Beneath Your Feet - the mystery of prehistory - an illustrated talk by - Phil Powell, Hon. Associate Curator in Geology at University Museum
21st February 2005	Society's Annual General Meeting

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Family Membership	£14.00	Single Members	£8.00
Student	£ 5.00	Distant members	£3.00
Non member/Visitor	£2.00		

Please make all cheques payable to: Kennington History Society

If you require any further information on the Society please contact:  
The Chairman, George Ross on Ox.739208

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