



# TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of Kennington History Society

Issue 5

Spring 2005

## RELEASE OF LATEST HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATION

The History Society's latest local history booklet "*Evacuees Tell Their Stories*" is now available to members at a cost of £3.00, reserve your copy on 01865 - 730416

This eagerly awaited publication by the founder of the Kennington History Project, Shirley Jones, includes within its 60 pages, not only the personal accounts of many of the young people evacuated to Kennington, at the outbreak of the last war, but also the reminiscences of some village families that played host to these children.

### OXFORD CASTLE AND PRISON

As members will be aware the buildings of the former Oxford Castle and Prison are currently being developed into an hotel, restaurant, shopping and heritage complex and interestingly Don Poore is due to talk to Abingdon Archaeological & Historical Society about the archaeology of this site.

The meeting will be held in the Northcourt Centre, Abingdon on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm. The Northcourt Centre is in Northcourt Road and visitors are very welcome.



### QUOTATION

"I went to Charing Cross, to see Major-General Harrison hanged, drawn and quartered, which was done there; he looked as cheerful as any man could do in that condition."

*Samuel Pepys*

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

By 1844 Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Great Western Railway line had reached Oxford, crossing Manor Farm just to the east of the farmhouse, effectively cutting off the village and the arable land from the pasture of the water-meadows. Despite the track-bed being laid along the edge of the floodplain through the village, reports indicate that the line regularly flooded at Kennington.

On the 5th November 1852 Stephen Mundy writes, in the Manor Farm's account book, "Two carriages of the GWR was [sic] brought up at the crossing by G Thorpe's garden [rear of The Tandem], when the Conductor, Mr Brooker, applied to me for some carriages to take them to Oxford Station by the Botley Road. I ordered two horses, and a waggon driven by Simmons took up the load. The great engineer Brunel was among the company of about 20 passengers taken with their luggage."

### QUOTATION

"I've been on a calendar, but I've never been on time."

*Marilyn Monroe*

### MEMBERS EVENING

21<sup>st</sup> November 2005 is the History Society's Members' Evening, the annual opportunity for any member to make a short presentation (10 minutes) about their historic interest. At the time of writing only one member has volunteered to make a contribution to the event.

If you would like to participate, please contact the Chairman on 01865-739208, with subject details.

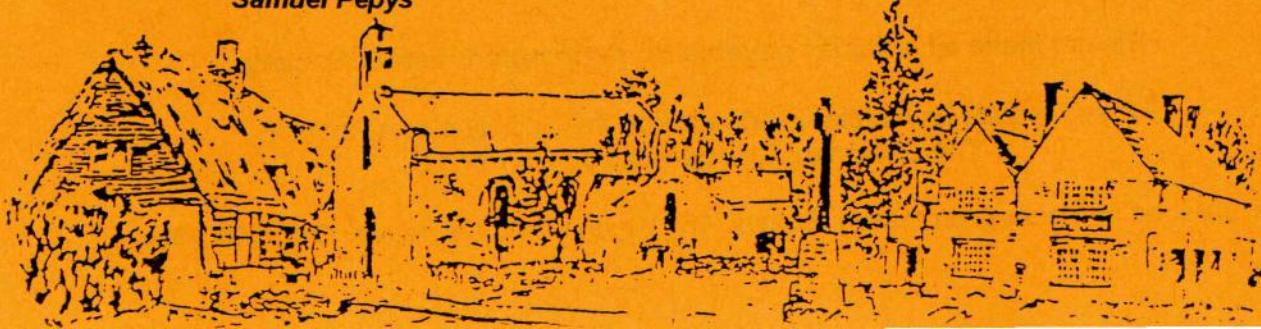
### FEEDBACK

The Committee is keen to find out members views on the content of the Society's programme and events. Did you enjoy a particular talk?

Can you suggest other subjects which would be of general interest? How do you feel about the progress of the Society, can it be improved? Please tell the Chairman, his address is overleaf or e-mail to [georgerossken@aol.com](mailto:georgerossken@aol.com)

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see overleaf for the Society's programme for the next 4 months.





## CRITICS CHOICE - FAMILY HISTORY WEBSITES

### 'THE REVOLUTION IN RESEARCH AIDS ON THE INTERNET'

When I talked to the Society, almost two years ago, about tracing your Family History I did say in conclusion that the ever increasing development of Internet resources was changing dramatically how the research for this task might be undertaken, but I could scarcely have imagined at that time just how quickly many of these useful searchable databases would become readily available to us all online.

I think, in my talk, I did explain how useful I have found the website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which provides at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), a free of charge searchable version of the International Genealogical Index, commonly know as the IGI, with the 1881 Census. But, because of the recent significant improvements to the additional data they provide, two further websites should now, in my view, be put in the 'must use' category.

The most dramatic changes have taken place on the 'Ancestry' website which now provides at [www.Ancestry.co.uk](http://www.Ancestry.co.uk) access to more than 185 million names from the United Kingdom & Ireland including searchable indexes for the UK Censuses taken in 1871 - 1881 - 1891 & 1901. Whilst there is a small charge for viewing the original images of the enumerators returns much of the research can be done free of charge.

The second recommended site, because of its improvement, is [www.1837online.com](http://www.1837online.com) which now, apart from providing access to the General Register Office Indexes, also promises, in the next few months, a full searchable index for the 1861 Census, with already some southern counties returns available. This pay-per-view website makes visits to libraries or a register office unnecessary and you can also order the certificates you require online.

"Good hunting."

GEORGE ROSS

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7:45pm in the Methodist Church

16th May 2005	Churchyards and their Monuments an illustrated talk by - Liz Young
20th June 2005	Preserved Railways an illustrated talk by - Phil Darlaston
19th September 2005	Oxford Waits and their musical world - Tim Healey
17th October 2005	The Abingdon Watertumpike Murder - Crime & Punishment in 18th Century Oxfordshire & Berkshire - Mark Davies

## 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