



# TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of Kennington History Society

Issue 2

Summer 2004

## SOCIETY'S SPRING PROGRAMME WELL RECEIVED

The Society's varied programme of events so far this year have been very well received, with perhaps the highlight being the talk about the history of Christ Church Cathedral given by Jim Godfrey; can't wait for Part II.

Special thanks is due to our Speakers' Organiser, Robert Sephton, for maintaining such a high standard of topics, *well done Robert*.

### SUMMER VISIT

A summer visit has been arranged to the Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage. All those wishing to come should meet at the Methodist Church Car Park at 1:15pm on Wednesday 28 July 2004. The admission fee to this very interesting local collection will be subsidised by the Society.

Further details from the Chairman – Oxford 739208.

### QUOTATION

Like most of those who study history, he [Napoleon III] learned from the mistakes of the past how to make new ones.

A. J. P. Taylor  
The Listener  
6th June 1963

### ABINGDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FRILFORD VISIT

A visit has been arranged to the Roman Site at Frilford at 7 pm on Wednesday 28 July 2004. If you would like to attend please contact Roger Gelder on Oxford 436081

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

#### SUNDAY IN KENNINGTON

Sunday last being the Feast Day at Kennington, a Village near this City, when Country People had had assembled in the Afternoon for the usual sport of Wrestling and Backword Playing, a Dispute happened between one Earle and a person known at these diversions as Hen-Toe. The Affront was occasioned by Earle's telling Hen-Toe that he was not Man enough for the Business he had undertaken, which was whipping out in the Ringing. Upon this they agreed to decide their Manhood by Battle and accordingly stripped and went to it by the Water Side; but after fighting about six or seven Minutes, finding the Crowd press them to much, they crossed the Isis with each his Second, and on the other side fought One and Twenty Minutes more, when Hen-Toe was obliged to give out; and we hear he is since dead.

Jackson's Oxford Journal  
7th August 1762

It is thought 'whipping out in the Ringing' was having a fight in a circle of Spectators - unless you know better?

Backword play originally involved duelling with one-sided blades; but on this occasion probably meant no more than using sticks.

What about Kennington's Feast Day? - as the JOJ was published on Saturdays it must have been either the 1st August 1762 or close to 25th July 1762

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

#### KENNINGTON ARREST

On Saturday last a Supervisor and three Officers of Excise seized seven bags of tea, and ten Half Anchors of Brandy with the cart on which they were loaded, on a ground near Kennington Common, about a mile from this City.

Jackson's Oxford Journal  
6th October 1761

What is an 'Anchor' -  
a measure of liquid?

Where is Kennington Common -  
the Thames side water meadows?

### 'NEWS IN BRIEF'

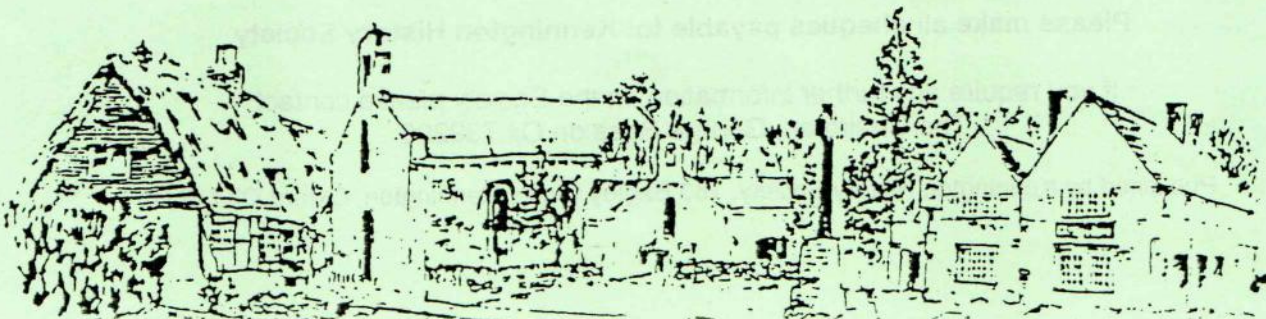
#### RAILWAY HISTORY

Vic Mitchell and Keith Smith have recently produced four books on the growth of the railways in this area. Each consists of about 120 black & white annotated photographs with largescale early O.S. maps of the stations.

They are all published by Middleton Press, at £13.95 or £14.95 each.

The titles are :-

- (1) Reading to Didcot, inc. Wallingford Branch.
- (2) Didcot to Banbury, inc. Abingdon, Blenheim and Woodstock Branches.
- (3) Branch Lines to Princes Risborough from Aylesbury, Oxford and Watlington.
- (4) Princes Risborough to Banbury.





# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR 2004-2005

## KENNINGTON HISTORY SOCIETY

7:45pm in the Methodist Church

20th September 2004	The Paper House at Redbridge - Rob Kinchin-Smith and the man that built it - Robert Sephton
18th October 2004	History of Kennington's Street Names - George Ross
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
21st March 2005	The Story of the Mary Rose- an illustrated talk by - Steve Griffiths
18th April 2005	Antiques from the Kitchen and Dairy - Dr. John Wilson of Cogges Farm
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	To be arranged
21st November 2005	Members Evening
19th December 2005	To be arranged

## 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