



TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of Kennington History Society

Issue 6

Summer 2005

THE HISTORY SOCIETY'S SUMMER VISIT TO PORTSMOUTH'S HISTORIC DOCKYARD WEDNESDAY - 14TH SEPTEMBER 2005 - LEAVING AT 9:00AM - RETURNING 7:00PM

On calm July day in 1545, a French invasion fleet lay at anchor off Portsmouth, poised to attack England. On that day, Henry VIII's favourite ship Mary Rose sailed into her final battle. As the King watched from the shore a breeze sprang up and water entered her lowest row of gunports, left open are firing, and the over laden warship heeled over and sank, taking with her seven hundred men. The Mary Rose was lost for more than four centuries.....

The Mary Rose is on view in the dockyard, where a separate exhibition recalls the story of the ship and her recovery. The Exhibition features more than 1000 artefacts from the vessel, recreations of scenes of life aboard the Mary Rose and an audio-visual theatre.

Your all-inclusive admission ticket:

Members £20; over 60's £17. Non-Members £23; over 60's £20,

will also give you access to HMS Victory, HMS Warrior, the Royal Naval Museum and sailing Harbour Tours.

To reserve one of the remaining places contact George Ross on 01865-739208

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Due to a double booking problem by the speaker there is a change to the published programme for September the new topic will be:

'Tea, Temperance and Politics - a Victorian Oxford Grocer' - a talk by Robert Sephton.

QUOTATION

'Anyone who goes to see a psychiatrist ought to have their head examined'

Samuel Goldwyn

BLAST FROM THE PAST

'The village is not entirely dependent on Gas or Electricity for cooking. Most houses have kitchen ranges or open grates'. *Emergency cooking arrangements if gas and electricity are cut off - from the*

Top Secret WAR BOOK of Kennington's Local Defence Committee

LOCAL HEROES

In July the country commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the end of the 2nd World War and at these times we also remember the brave young men from the village who made the supreme sacrifice in the conflict like -

Flying Officer Dennis Bint DFM of Poplar Grove. *'On his 19th birthday Dennis took part in a low level attack on the Renault Factory in France' ...'He was decorated having completed a full tour of 30 operations mostly over the dangerous and heavily defended industrial Ruhr, with his bomber damaged by flak on three of these raids'...'Flying Officer Bint DFM was killed when the Wellington Bomber he was flying under wartime blackout conditions, on approach into RAF Little Horwood Airfield, crashed into Mursley Water Tower, Buckinghamshire, just one month after his 20th birthday'*

Extracts from the Society's publication **'Lest We Forget'** the

story of the people commemorated on Kennington's War Memorial. Copies available for **£3.00** from Shirley Jones on **01865 - 730416**

QUOTATION

'His Majesty's Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people'

Lord Arthur Balfour (1917)

'NEWS IN BRIEF'

THE SOCIETY ON THE WEB

Why not visit the History Society on the Kennington Village Website at www.kennington.org click on History and Local Societies.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see overleaf for the remaining programme for 2005.



CRITICS CHOICE – AN INTERESTING VISIT

PENDON MUSEUM

Pendon museum is situated at Long Wittenham, just south of Abingdon and was founded by Roye England, who came to England from Australia, in May 1925. He came to take out patents on some model railway equipment he had designed, and stayed with a relative at Wanborough near Swindon. He was a keen cyclist, and so toured the highways and byways around there, still largely chalk tracks, admiring the lovely old cottages, churches and thatched barns. They all looked glorious in the summer sunshine (the sun always shone in the summer then). He revelled in the polished brasswork on the GWR railway locomotives racing past pulling their primrose and chocolate coloured carriages, or hauling long trains of goods wagons, usually rather slowly.

But there were signs of change, and one farmer was replacing his old timber barn with a corrugated iron one, and a householder whose thatch needed replacing was having his bungalow tiled with pink asbestos tiles, which looked 'all wrong' to Roye's artistic eye. The local council had bought a tarmac laying machine, which made the roads much smoother to ride his bicycle on, but left them black in colour, with the old chalk buried beneath.

Roye could see that before very long the scene he so admired would be but a faded memory, so he decided to try to build a model of a typical Vale of the White Horse village, with a railway running through it as he saw it around 1930. But the model was to be as accurate as possible, in terms of the actual buildings, which are all faithfully modelled at 4mm to the foot, of shops, houses, farms etc which stood in the vale in the 1930's. And thus Pendon Museum was born. Although sadly Roye is no longer with us, he encouraged a number of volunteers to help him with his task, who are continuing to model and show the scene to visitors. The museum which is entirely funded through its visitors and friends, has been open to the public for just over 50 years, and has welcomed over a quarter of a million visitors, giving them a historical glimpse of how life in the Vale was about 75 years ago.

Mark Horseman

PROGRAMME

17th October 2005

The Abingdon Watertumpike Murder
- Crime & Punishment in 18th Century
Oxfordshire & Berkshire - Mark Davies

21st November 2005

The History of Brasenose College and its
Personalities – David Buxton

19th December 2005

Social History from Photographs
- Nigel Hammond

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