



# TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of Kennington History Society

Issue 4

Winter 2005/4

## SUBSCRIPTIONS UNCHANGED FOR A THIRD YEAR

As the result of a second very successful 12 months the History Society's Committee has announced subscriptions and visitor fees will again be pegged at the 2003 level.

Membership whilst slightly down on those heady days that immediately followed the Society's launch has been more than offset by an increase in regular visitors numbers which has resulted in the very healthy state of the Group's finances being maintained.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS

Following the publication, in November last year, of 'Lest We Forget', as we go to press Shirley Jones booklet about the 'Evacuees in Kennington' is with the Proof Reader prior to going to the Printer.

This latest publication tells the fascinating story of the many young people who were moved to the village at the outbreak of the Second World War, together with details of the host families in Kennington that housed them

### MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

The Donkey House Players & Guests present a celebration of our Traditional Folk Music Heritage, commencing with early music, proceeding through the centuries to the popular songs of the 20th Century.

St Laurence Church, South Hinksey  
on Friday the 1st April 2005 at 7:15pm.

Tickets (including refreshments) £3.50 in advance, from Richard King (01865-739469) or Elizabeth Halcro (01865 730850) or £4.00 on the door.

Children under 16 Free.

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

#### BIRTH OF THE PARISH

It is Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1936 and more than 200 residents of the newly formed Parish have gathered in the Memorial Hall (a wooden building located on the eastern side of the Kennington Road opposite Edward Road) to elect, by a show of hands, the 7 members who would make up the very first Kennington Parish Council. Even now, almost 70 years on, the names of some of those elected that night still have a familiar ring ..... George Simpson, Bill East, Edith Burton, Bill Gray, Monty Robinson, Horace Chasney and Ernest Harold Smith

#### QUOTATION

History, like wood, has a grain in it which determines how it splits; and those in authority, besides trying to shape and direct events, sometimes find it more convenient just to let them happen.

Malcolm Muggeridge 1903 -90  
The Infernal Grove (1975)

### VISIT THE NEIGHBOURS

On Monday the 14th February 2005 Radley History Club is having a talk by Dr John Wilson of Cogges Farm entitled 'Farming Life in the 19th Century' This will be held in the Church Room, which is behind the Church, starting at 8:00pm

Radley make a visitors charge of £2.50

### LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

2005 certainly started well. Phil Powell's talk 'Beneath Your Feet', *the mystery of prehistory*, was very well received by the large number of members and visitors present. Discussions since the meeting suggest some members may be interested in purchasing a book on the subject Phil Powell has just written. After his talk Phil told the Chairman about this book and promised to send him details once they are available. WATCH THIS SPACE!

### SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Annual Subscription are now due, the rates are shown over, and can be paid either at the AGM or to the Treasurer, Doreen Horseman, 9 Manor Grove, Kennington, Oxford OX1 5QY.

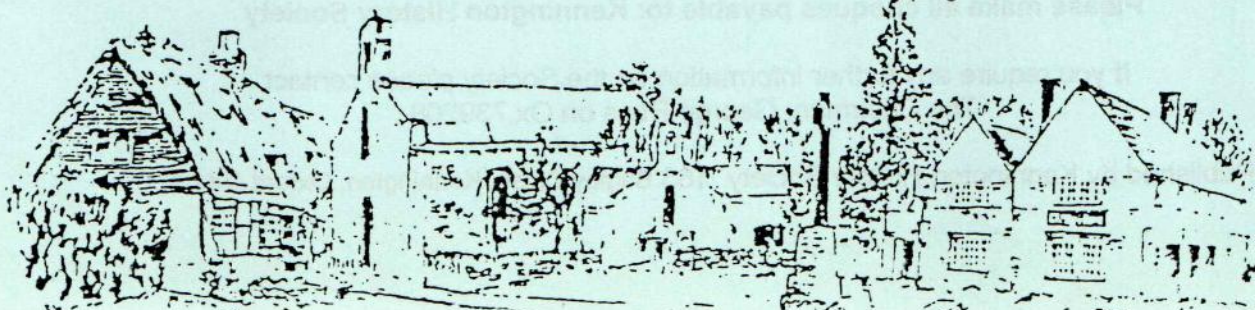
### FEEDBACK

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 3 months.





## CRITICS CHOICE - A JOLLY GOOD READ

### 'THE PARISH CHEST'

BY W. E. TATE

For anyone interested in Local History, the book 'The Parish Chest' is a must.

In the Tudor period, it was decreed that each Parish should provide itself with a chest for the safe keeping of all the documents relating to parish affairs. This, of course, was only formalising what was already standard practice in many parishes anyway. Many old churches still contain these large chests, some even dating from the mediaeval period. Over the centuries it became the practice to house all sorts of documents in these chests and the "Parish Chest" described both the chests and their contents. The contents can be divided into Ecclesiastical and Secular documents and many of them were never intended to be formally stored but who cares it is all grist to the historian's mill!

The reader will find, although it is a scholarly book, it is surprisingly easy to read and particularly with its copious use of quotations, often an entertaining one too! It is reckoned to be the definitive work on the subject, and I certainly know of no other covering the same ground in such detail. I can't resist including one of the Miscellaneous quotes this from the Registers of Betley, Staffs.

Among the burials of 1657, 'Robert Stud and Tobey Dean born in nuting time. Sara dean his born in the coucumber time. Joseph Dean his A very sober young man and mind the larming Bisnis. So that his father dotes him more thin all his Ribbis and says he will buy him a litle horse and shall ride and up on doben tooe.' Apparently it was felt that inclusion in a Register gave the record some extra sanctity! (Spelling, punctuation, and Capital Letters, copied 'verbatim'.)

So, an enjoyable and worthwhile read. 'The Parish Chest' was first published in 1946, by Phillimore, with further editions in 1951 and 1969, priced around £10.00 to £15.00.

i found my copy at one of Oxford's Antiquarian and Second Hand Book Fairs.

Peter Hooper

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7:45pm in the Methodist Church

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|--------------------|---|
| 21st February 2005 | The Annual General Meeting & Village Voices<br>'the recorded reminiscences of some<br>of Kennington's well-known characters of the past'. |
| 21st March 2005    | The Story of the Mary Rose<br>an illustrated talk by - Steve Griffiths  |
| 18th April 2005    | Antiques from the Kitchen and Dairy<br>- Dr. John Wilson of Cogges Farm   |

## 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