



TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of Kennington History Society

Issue 7

Spring 2006

MYSTERY SOLVED

Copies of a research paper entitled **Searching for 'Halshanger'** will be available at the Society's next meeting. It follows from the appeal for information, accompanied by a photograph, published in the previous issue of *Times Past**, and relates how it came to be identified as the home of a famous resident in spite of having adopted several aliases.

Robert Sephton

*Unfortunately there were no correct entries for this competition

VISIT TO BRASENOSE COLLEGE

The History Society's evening tour of Brasenose College, kindly organised by David Buxton, will be on Monday, the **21st August 2006** and not on the 15th August 2006 as shown in some programmes.

Details of meeting point etc. to follow.

QUOTATIONS

'Always forgive your enemies - but never forget their names'

Robert Kennedy

'The executioner is, I believe, very expert and my neck is very slender'

Anne Boleyn

LATEST HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATION

Copies are now available the History Society's latest history booklet ***The Kennington Story***. This 40 page publication tells the fascinating story of the development of the village from its earliest settlement to the present day. Included is the ***History of the Street Names*** and copies of many of the old maps of the village.

This new booklet can be purchased for **£3.00** either at the Society's monthly meeting or by ringing **01865-739208** or **01865-730416**

BLAST FROM THE PAST

It was 10.00am on the fine Sunday morning the **18th May 1986** when more than 100 residents, of various ages, set off from Templeton College to walk the eight miles of the parish boundary, thus repeating the original **'Beating of the Bounds'** ceremony, carried out 50 years before in May **1936**, to celebrate the formation of the Civil Parish of Kennington.

The participants, including a handful of those who took part in the original event, walked through Bagley Wood to the boundary with Radley, then on to Sandford Lock. There 60 of the villagers had a special treat going up to the Isis public house near Iffley on a riverboat, whilst the rest walked along the towpath before finishing the course.

QUOTATION

'I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a King'

Queen Elizabeth I 1588

DAY TRIP TO BATH

Following the great success of last September's coach trip to the Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth, it is planned, this year, to arrange a similar midweek visit to the

Historic City of Bath.

Further details later.

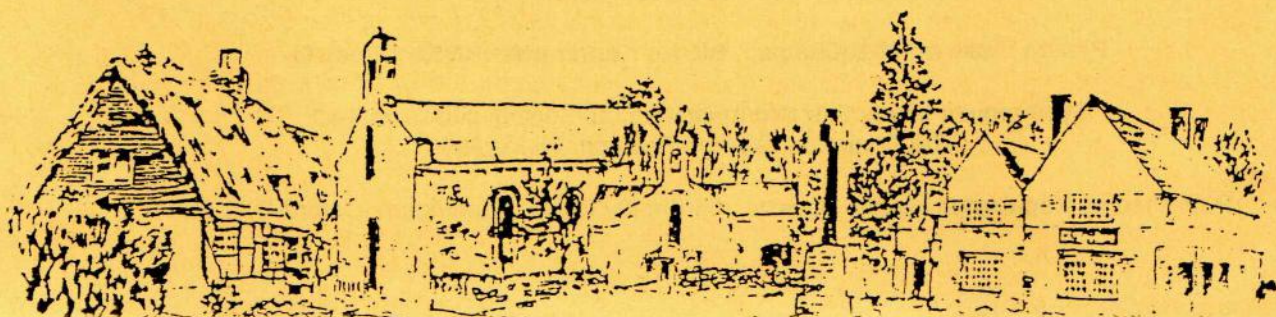
FEEDBACK

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 georgrossken@aol.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



CRITICS CHOICE
CONTINUING EDUCATION – HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

I retired six years ago, just as the Continuing Education Department of the University sent out its list of archaeology courses for the coming autumn, and here was an opportunity to catch-up on all the revisions in history since I was in school.

During the first course the lecturer explained that these course were grant-aided and we were expected to write one big 2,000 word essay during the course. At work I had to write 30,000 word reports, so 2,000 words was no problem. It was explained that you got 10 CAT points for each essay and a certificate if you managed 120 points! I logged on to the Continuing Education WEB site and found I was doing the Certificate of Higher Education in Archaeology. Even better, I would get a Distinction as well if I achieved more than 70% of the marks and attendance. Alas, this was for the following Certificate course, not mine, despite having something like 85%-90% of the marks.

In January 2005 I had got the last essay in and got all 120 points and was told I would get a Certificate and this would be awarded the next spring at an Award Ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre! WoW!!!!. The evening of the Ceremony was set for Wednesday, 8th March, so dressed to the Nines - Suit!, Shirt, Clean tie and highly polished Shoes, off I went, accompanied by my son.

The Sheldonian Theatre, designed and built by the then Professor of Astronomy, some chap called Christopher Wren (long before he got his knighthood), looked like a Hollywood extravaganza based on a Roman palace, with us acting the part of the Public Mob, with the Vice-Chancellor and Lecturers acting the part of the Roman Senate!!! [I know, I have been watching too many films on Romans, don't tell me]. The Ceremony lasted about an hour, with more than 200 of us getting a wide variety of certificates, diplomas etc – I lost count and some of the subjects sounded more like science fiction titles, rather than real courses.

Finally, the Ceremony ended, I, clutching my new certificate, with son in close attendance, headed into the Divinity School Building [another fabulous building] for a small snack and a couple of largish glasses of wine, at the end of a memorable evening and 5 years slog.

Was it worth it? Oh yes, because now I can sit and watch Time team and criticize them when they start making things up to explain their problems away. The courses have been worth every moment, because we have had the best lecturers, explaining the most recent digs and findings, coming-up with all the latest theories and ideas – absolutely marvellous – and VERY different from the old history I was taught 50 years ago.

ROGER GELDER

[CERTIFICATED, OR IS THAT CERTIFIED?]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7:45pm in the Methodist Church

18 th April 2006 (Easter Tuesday)	The Story of Kennington: a Basic History George Ross
15 th May 2006	The History of Nuneham House Gerald Howat
19 th June 2006	The Oxford Waits and Their Music Tim Healey

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