



TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of Kennington History Society

Issue 11

Winter 2006

SUBSCRIPTIONS UNCHANGED FOR A FIFTH YEAR

As a result of another very successful 12 months the History Society's Committee has decided once again to peg subscriptions and visitor fees at the 2003 level. Apart from the exceptional number of members that regularly attend meetings, the other encouraging features of the Society's activities from a financial point of view, are the excellent sales of our publications and the many visitors we attract. These factors have ensured that the healthy state of the Group's reserves has been maintained.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE AT SANDFORD : OXFORD WIN

It's a fine winter's Thursday, the 18th February 1943. As a result of the hostilities the annual Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race is being contested on a 11/4 mile course along the stretch of the Thames from Sandford to Radley.

All day crowds of spectators have been gathering along the river bank and at the time of the race the attendance is estimated at almost 10,000, many having travelled to the river-side via Sandford Lane in Kennington.

Following a close contest Oxford gain narrow victory.

QUOTATIONS

'The amount of sleep required by the average person is about five minutes more'

Max Kauffman

'The first essential for a prime minister is to be a good butcher'

William Ewart Gladstone

FEEDBACK

The History Society owes a great debt of gratitude to our Speakers' Organiser, Robert Sephton, for the outstanding nature of our events. Nevertheless, bearing in mind we are fully booked for the next 12 months, if you would like to suggest a subject of interest or a speaker, Robert would be pleased to hear from you on Oxford 730627.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions are due at the end of the year, there is a reminder of the rates shown over. Subs. can be paid, with the completed form provided, either at meetings or to Treasurer, Doreen Horseman, 9 Manor Grove, Kennington, Oxford OX1 5QY.

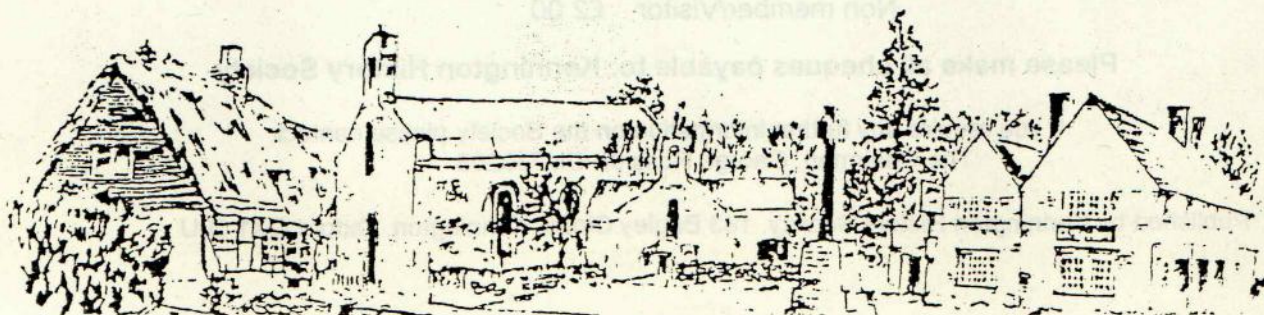
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see overleaf the programme for the next three months.

MEMBERS' EVENING

On 19th February 2007, following the AGM, the Society is holding its annual Members' Evening which is an opportunity for any member to give a short talk (10 to 15 minutes) of a historic nature on their own chosen subject.

Due to limited time there are only 4 spots available if you would like to book one, please contact the Chairman or a committee member.



LINCOLN - A CITY OF LIVING HISTORY

In September, as a joint birthday present for Carole and I, my son David and his wife arranged a weekend break for us in the City of Lincoln, a place we had never visited. Driving towards Lincoln along the A46 we caught our first glimpse of the City's world famous Cathedral, glinting on the horizon in the early morning sun. Unbelievably we were still more than 20 miles from our destination, equivalent to being able to see Magdalen College Tower when you are north of Banbury!

Once we had settled into our hotel, which was located in the heart of the old city, our first port of call was the Castle. Lincoln Castle, along with the Cathedral, dominate the City's distinctive skyline, sitting as it does on the edge of a hill overlooking the surrounding countryside below. It was started in 1068 four years before the Cathedral, which is situated just a short walk down the picturesque cobbled Castle Hill from the East Gate of the Castle. Lincoln is one of only eight castles known to have been directly commissioned by William the Conqueror, shortly after the Norman Conquest of 1066; being built on the raised area exploited by the Romans 1000 years earlier. The Castle walls can be easily circled on foot which is highly recommended as it gives you a full appreciation of the building's size and beauty. The views from the battlements are quite breathtaking, particularly to the East where the Cathedral is in the foreground as you look down upon it from the top of the Observatory Tower. Inside the Castle's perimeter walls, known as the Bailey, there is a huge area of manicured grass used for summer concerts, Christmas Markets and jousting festivals. There is also a well preserved Victorian Prison and Lincoln's Crown Court built in 1826 and still in use today. Another part of Lincoln Castle's older prison buildings built in 1787 holds one of the only four surviving original copies of Magna Carta drawn up in 1215. These are just a few of the attractions of this historic site, which was the scene of many bloody battles for England's Crown from the dispute between two of the grandchildren of William the Conqueror, Stephen and Matilda, to the English Civil War when Cromwell's troops 'slighted' the Castle to prevent its further use for military purposes.

From the Castle we made the short walk along the cobbled medieval street, made more attractive by a farmer's market, to the Cathedral. Lincoln Cathedral is undoubtedly one of the most incredible buildings in Europe and is the third largest Cathedral in England after St Paul's and York Minster. It was commissioned in 1072 by William I, with at the time Lincoln part of the largest diocese in medieval England, stretching from the River Humber to the River Thames. Many renovations have been carried out over the years with its striking three towers not built to their present height until the early 15th century. Space allows only a brief description of the delights of this outstanding building, from the breathtaking carvings of the West Front through the spectacular Nave to the Great East window, the oldest and largest Gothic 8-paned window in the country. Attached is the Chapter House, with its huge flying buttresses, where King Edward I held one of the first ever parliaments. The building is featured in the film, The Da Vinci Code. Lincoln, its historic centre conveniently separated from the modern City by a steep hill, is a place very well worth visiting.

George Ross

PROGRAMME

18th December 2006	Raworths of Oxford and Kennington - Chris Raworth
15th January 2007	National Parks : Not ours but ours to look after - Adrian Thornton
19th February 2007	Society's Annual General Meeting and Members Evening

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