



# TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of Kennington History Society

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY - YOUR HISTORY SOCIETY IS TEN YEARS OLD

On the 1st January 2013 Kennington History Society will be ten years old and it is interesting to look back over those years just to see how well we've done. Since our formation the Society has used 100 speakers giving talks on a wide variety of history related subjects. These varied presentations have attracted an aggregate attendance of more 5000 people including many visitors. The Society has also organised eight very successful Summer coach trips with visits to Portsmouth, Bath, Bristol, Salisbury, Gloucester, Worcester, Chichester and St Albans.

### BLAST FROM THE PAST



Monday the 4th October 1784 was a pleasant autumn day and a small crowd gathered in Christ Church Meadow to witness Oxford pastry cook, James Sadler become the first Englishman to fly, ascending 3600 feet into the atmosphere. He travelled high over the Oxfordshire countryside before coming down six miles away near Woodeaton.

James had begun experimenting with small gas-filled balloons while working as a laboratory technician in the University's chemistry laboratory. He was to make many more flights and when he died in 1828 he was buried in the Church of St Peter-in-the-East now the St Edmund Hall College Library.

### QUOTATIONS

#### Last words -

*'Don't let poor Nelly (Nell Gwynne) starve'*

Charles II 1685

*'I'm bored with it all'*

Winston Churchill 1965

*'Get my Swan costume ready'*

Anna Pavlova 1951

### SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2013. Renewal Notice enclosed, please complete and return to the Treasurer.

You will see that for the first time in 5 years it has been necessary to make a modest increase to £12 for Individual Membership and £20 for Family Membership.

### HISTORY SOCIETY WEBSITE

Latest details of the Society's events can be found by logging on to [www.kennington.org](http://www.kennington.org) and click on History.

### FEEDBACK

The Committee would like suggestions from members for future speakers/ subjects and would also welcome any member who wished to join the Committee at the AGM.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21st January 2013

Charles Babbage - his life and achievements : 200 Years to Recognise a Genius - David Holt.

18th February 2013

AGM and Members' Evening

18th March 2013

'Passport to Paris' : The start of a family story. - David Butler

### PROGRAMME FOR 2013

Our Speakers' Organiser, Terry Cale, has now arranged next year's Programme and a copy is enclosed with this Newsletter.



## THE MARY ROSE A CONTINUING STORY

On a calm summer day, the 19th July 1545, a French Invasion fleet lay at anchor off Portsmouth, poised to attack England. On this day Mary Rose, Henry VIII's favourite warship, sailed into her final battle. The French had ordered forward several oared galleys to harry the English ships immobilized by the calm when a breeze sprang up enabling the English fleet to retaliate. It was then, with the King watching from the shore nearby, that Mary Rose listed over with the wind allowing water to enter the lowest row of gun ports left open from firing causing the warship, over laden with ordnance, to heel over and sink beneath the waves, taking with her seven hundred men.

The Mary Rose was lost for more than four centuries.



The wreck of the Mary Rose was rediscovered in 1971 and her hull was excavated over the next 11 years, yielding an incredible hoard of Tudor artefacts, over 19,000 to date. Then in 1982 a global TV audience watched anxiously as her hull slowly emerged from the waters of the Solent for the first time in 437 years, in one of the most complex and expensive projects in the history of maritime archaeology. The Mary Rose was laid down in Portsmouth in July 1510 being completed in 1512 and after serving for 33 years in several wars against France, Scotland, and Brittany was substantially rebuilt in 1536. The recovered section of the ship and the thousands of related artefacts, which include weapons, sailing equipment, naval supplies and a wide array of objects used by the crew are of immeasurable value for the study of the Tudor period. Since it was raised the hull has undergone extensive conservation (which many members will have seen - picture above right) and now in the final stages the preserved hull is to take its place in a stunning new museum soon to open in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard. The Museum will feature a series of galleries positioned opposite each deck of the original hull and these galleries will display thousands of treasures found with the Mary Rose.

As the History Society's first coach trip was a visit to the Dockyard, including the exhibition of the ground breaking conservation work on this historic ship and as the long awaited new Mary Rose Museum is to open in the spring, a second History Society visit to Portsmouth in 2013 would seem a good idea.

**George Ross**

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