



TIMES PAST

The Newsletter of the Kennington History Society
Issue 28
Winter 2019

KENNINGTON HISTORY SOCIETY IN 2019

2019 has again been one where wide variety of speakers have entertained us with their knowledge and expertise about their subjects, which were wide ranging. These included Rogues and Rakes which included songs and stories, Alex Wenham, Kennington's own award-winning Stonemason describing some of the buildings he has worked on and an informative talk about Radley College, which was followed a week later by a guided tour, which was very much enjoyed by the participants.

The Pilgrim Fathers

A large number of the people who boarded the Mayflower were known as Separatists from towns and villages in an area of the East Midlands.



They had broken away from Henry VIII's new Church of England, becoming known as Separatists - but they faced prosecution for not following the

King's church. So they went to Holland, which was more liberal, where they settled. However, times changed in Holland and they then set out for America in two ships called Speedwell and Mayflower. However, the Speedwell was not really seaworthy, and so they put in to Southampton to make repairs. A second attempt was made, but again the Speedwell was unable to continue, so they returned to Plymouth.

On 16th September 1620, the Mayflower, with 102 passengers and about 30 crew on board, left the Mayflower Steps on Plymouth's Barbican. This was the last time the Pilgrims were on English soil before heading to the New World and a new life.

Extensive celebrations are being made in Plymouth to mark the anniversary in 2020.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20th January: Recent archaeology in Oxfordshire & antiquities scheme

Anni Byard

17th February: AGM and Members short talks evening. We have one speaker offering a short talk, but if you would like to speak, please contact a member of the committee. *(no pressure)*

16th March: 19th Century women travellers and explorers.

Katherine Bradley

FULL PROGRAMME FOR 2019

A copy is enclosed with this newsletter.

HISTORY SOCIETY WEBSITE

Keep up to date with the latest details of the Society's events via the village website www.kennington-pc.gov.uk and click organisations and clubs, then History.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE (NO INCREASE)

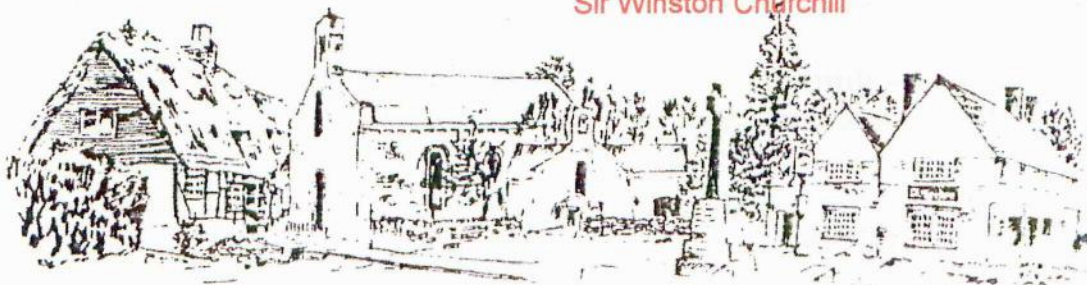
Annual Subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2020. A renewal form is enclosed.

£12 Individual £20 family

QUOTATIONS

You may delay, but time will not
Benjamin Franklin

It is not enough that we do our best, sometimes we have to do what is required
Sir Winston Churchill



SKARA BRAE - AT LAST!!



I've always been interested in the history of Skara Brae on the island of Orkney. This five thousand year old Neolithic settlement was once buried by sand and unknown until 1850, although there is evidence that it had been seen before but not investigated before it was buried again.

In the winter of 1850 there was a terrific storm one night and the following morning the Laird of Skaill, William Watt, who lived in Skaill House adjacent to Skara Brae, went to the beach to see what damage had been done by the

storm. To his amazement he found the uncovered settlement.

Since then it has been extensively excavated as eight dwellings linked with a series of now grass-covered passages.

I had always hoped to see it one day and several years ago went on a Round Britain Cruise with two friends. We had to cross from the ship to shore by tender as the port is too shallow for such a large vessel. However Kirkwall, the capital, was also very interesting and we spent the day exploring it.

Missed opportunity number one!!

I embarked on this cruise again a few years later and this time booked my excursion in advance. On the appointed morning I waited at the meeting place on board with the other people on the trip. Sadly the Captain announced over the address system that, although it was a lovely sunny morning, the wind had been steadily increasing and although he was sure that we could land on Orkney he couldn't guarantee getting us back!!

Missed opportunity number two!!

Last September I decided to try again and duly booked my place. This time SUCCESS!!

On a bright sunny, breezy morning we were taken by bus through the lovely fields of Orkney and arrived at our destination. It lived up to my expectations and the thought of those people living there so long ago was truly amazing. The only downside was that, as we stood looking down into one of these little dwellings with their stone beds, an enormous black cloud appeared from nowhere and drenched us – not even time to get the mac out. We dried off on our tour round Skaill House (by which time the sun was shining brightly!!)

I'm so glad I made it – third time lucky.

If you get the chance do visit – there isn't a lot of it but the atmosphere is wonderful. It's well worth it.

