

## **KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR JANUARY 2018**

On Thursday November 23rd our speaker Nigel Overton, Curator of Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery, explored the links between Plymouth & this famous ship. Through a series of prints & Newspaper articles of the time the sequence of events were revealed. We learnt that there was a shortage of coal in 1912 so some passengers thought themselves fortunate to be transferred to the Titanic from other White Star liners such as the RMS Olympic; Edward Smith also commanded both of these ships. After the terrible disaster on March 28th 1912 several of the surviving crew members were brought into Plymouth aboard the GWR tender, Sir Richard Grenville, where they were detained & questioned before eventually being released ; they had to fight to get their pay for the return journey back to New York if the ship had survived. Three of the crew members came from Plymouth and there is a ceramic plaque dedicated to the survivors on the wall at Millbay Docks. The SS Mackay-Bennet was one of the ships which had the grim task of recovering 306 bodies but only had 100 coffins on board so many of the bodies were buried at sea. 1st Class passengers were buried in coffins & 3rd Class passengers in shrouds; nobody seemed to appreciate the scale of the disaster. The meeting ended with refreshments after a really fascinating talk packed with information. Our second event took place on December 7th at The Dolphin when we enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Craig & his team; it was a festive evening & a great way to end 2017. Our first lecture of 2018 will commence at 7:30pm (Please note time) on Thursday, January 25th in the Reading Room, when we welcome Robert Hesketh to talk about "Smuggling in Devon-the truth behind the fiction" We welcome new & old members, the subscription is only £3:50pp or if you just want to come as a visitor it is only £2. We hope to see you there! For more details of the society why not visit our website [kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk](http://kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk) or contact Jennie Stanley [stanz@stanz.plus.com](mailto:stanz@stanz.plus.com)