

KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR APRIL 2016

On **Thursday, February 25th** Nigel Blenkarne gave a very interesting talk on the History of Bigbury Golf Club, he traced its history from its formation in 1923 when it was known as Burgh Island & Hexdown Golf Club; the land was given by Commander Evans & the original course was designed by John Henry Taylor & Frederic Hawtree. The course was ripped up in the 1940s to grow potatoes as part of the war effort but by 1945 a limited company was formed by Eastertide so it opened as an 18 hole course by J. C. Willacy. In the 1950s golf became very popular with professional players like Arnold Palmer presenting several TV series, this added to its popularity. But unfortunately in 1964 tragedy struck as the Bigbury Club house was burnt down by an Arsonist, the club was saved by dedicated volunteers who rolled up their sleeves, kept things going & a new Club house opened in 1966. Nigel took us through the 1980s/90s when he felt that too many golf courses were built with potential players putting their names on several lists; also rents went too high & membership numbers dropped. At the beginning of the Twentieth Century a new water system revitalised the surface of the Greens at Bigbury so by 2006 when Nigel joined, as a professional player & part of the management team, a business plan was produced & the Club eventually was set up as a new company. Our next meeting is on **Thursday, March 24th** when Nigel Overton, from Plymouth City Museum, will be giving an illustrated talk entitled "The Eddystone Light" when he will be looking at the story of all 4/5 lighthouses to guard the Eddystone-Winstanley's (the world's first rock light); Ruyard's timber clad building; Smeaton's pioneer stone built clad building and Douglass's grand Victorian pharos, which is still standing. (please note that the meeting commences at 7:30pm) Then on **Thursday, April 28th** John Risdon, Historian from Brixham, will give a lecture entitled "Defence of the Realm-One Thousand Years of Fortifications within South Devon" Finally, on **Thursday, May 26th (Please note a change of date to avoid a clash with the Church May Fair on the Saturday)** there will be a trip to Morwellham Quay, near Tavistock. Please let Margaret Cocks know if you are interested in going, she can be contacted at "The Limes" (01548 810765) It will be helpful to know numbers wishing to go in order to book places for the special day of Historical activities. The cost will be £7.50pp & activities start from 2-5pm; when we know numbers we can organise transport. We have a large Color Laser Jet Printer 2605dn, together with several coloured cartridges, on offer & if you are interested please contact Jennie Stanley, Chairman, at Brae Cottage (01548 810819) or stanz@stanz.plus.com. A list of our Publications is on our website kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk or can be obtained from Viv Freeman, our President on (01548 810255) An update of our Events programme may also be found on Kingston Parish Council website kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk