

## KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR JUNE 2017

On Thursday, April 27th a few of us went to Totnes Elizabethan House and Museum where we were met at the Reception area by the Curator who gave us a brief tour of the Merchant's house and told us the history of this interesting historic building. We were then given the opportunity to look at all the rooms with their extensive displays. The Reception area was the original Merchant's shop with a door through to the office where he would have supervised his clerks. On display in this room was an "Elizabethan treasure" a Lee Ring, which has a twin in the V&A; also on display were coins minted in Totnes over 1,000 years ago including one from the reign of King Canute. Other things of interest in the Tudor house were the Fore Hall or main living room, the Pharmacy, the Nursery and the Elizabethan kitchen and Still room. One of the most interesting rooms was on the second floor as it housed an exhibition dedicated to Charles Babbage, acknowledged by many as the father of modern computing. He attended King Edward VI Grammar School in Totnes for a brief period. Babbage developed the cow catcher, the precursor of the flashing light-house and ophthalmoscope, amongst many other original concepts. As it was a lovely sunny day we wandered out into the fascinating herb garden before going to "The Steam Packet" for a delicious lunch.

Our next event will be in Kingston Reading Room on **Thursday, May 25th** 7.30 for 8pm when **SW Ambulance Service NHS Trust** will be giving a presentation on the evolution of the ambulance service in Devon from its early days. Then on **Thursday, June 22nd Graham Phillips**, Chairman of the Hope Cove Lifeboat, will be giving a talk about the history of the lifeboat since it was given as a gift by the Freemasons in the 19th Century to the present day.

We are beginning to prepare our events programme for 2018 so please let us know if you know of any interesting speakers or places of historical interest; one of the places mentioned has been The Citadel in Plymouth but before we can make a booking we need to know who is interested in going. Finally, please contact Jennie Stanley 01548 810819 or [stanz@stanz.plus.com](mailto:stanz@stanz.plus.com) if you want any information about the Society; have a look at our website [kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk](http://kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk) for our events programme, archive listing and publications, these can also be obtained from Viv Freeman, our President 01548 810255. We hope to welcome you to our next meeting with refreshments available from 7.30pm.