

KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR MAY 2016

At our April meeting we welcomed Nigel Overton, from Plymouth City Museum, who gave us a very lively & extremely detailed talk about the building of the four famous lighthouses built to mark the dangerous Eddystone reef, the treacherous group of rocks that lie 14 miles South West of Plymouth. Nigel traced the history of Winstanley's Light (1698-1703) in which he was swept away, together with the keepers, in a violent storm in November 1703; Rudyard's Light (1708-1755) a timber clad building which burnt down when the oil lamps caught fire; next came Smeaton's Light (1759-1882) the top half of which was re-erected on Plymouth Hoe after the rocks beneath it crumbled away. Finally Douglass' Light was built in 1882 & stands to the present day, it became unmanned in 1982. Nigel illustrated his lecture with an amazing amount of pictures & diagrams entertaining us with stories of past heroism & adventure. He relayed one rather gruesome story about keeper Hall who attempted to extinguish the fire in Rudyard's Light unfortunately a portion of lead fell into his open mouth while he looked upwards eventually killing him, fortunately the remaining keepers were saved. The meeting ended with refreshments in the Reading Room followed by a pint or two in The Dolphin! Our next meeting is on Thursday, April 28th when John Risdon, Historian from Brixham, will give a lecture entitled "Defence of the Realm-One Thousand Years of Fortifications within South Devon" John will be giving us an account in words & pictures of the Southern bastion of Devon, from the mouth of the River Exe to the mouth of the Tamar. Then 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 www.morwellham-quay.co.uk 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. Any other queries 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