

KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR AUGUST 2013

It was unfortunate that we were such a small group who visited Port Eliot in June as the building is full of historical features & dates back many centuries. For the first 628 years it was occupied by Augustinian Monks & the next 443 years by the Eliot family; it is thus the oldest continually inhabited dwelling in the UK. The house is called Port Eliot because it was formally known as Port Priory, a flourishing monastic port in the Middle Ages trading far & wide as well as up & down the coast locally. There were many family portraits of the Eliot family on view together with a detailed illustration of their family tree; each successive generation has added something to the patrimony of Port Eliot, none more obvious than the "new Lord Eliot", as he was referred to by Dr Johnson, who was a patron of Sir Joshua Reynolds as well as providing Edward Gibbon an income whilst he was researching & writing *Decline and Fall*. Moving forward into the 1980s the present Lord Eliot commissioned Robert Lenkiewicz, 1941-2002, to paint a mural, on canvas, depicting "The Condition of Man" as he saw it. This mural covers the entire walls of the Round Room & took Lenkiewicz 20 years to complete his masterpiece; it is a very powerful work of art. Some of us visited the Priory church, a gem of a building, where local choirs were practicing their repertoire for an evening performance. We only wished more people had been available to join us on this very interesting visit. We are all taking a rest now until the AGM on October 24th 8pm in the Reading Room when our new programme of events will be available. Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past year, especially to the hard working committee members who meet every quarter. Please let one of us know if you have any ideas for future meetings, events or historical places to visit. Details of our Publications, including our latest one-"Memories of the Second World War 1939-1945" Price £10, can be obtained from Joyce Masters on 810340 or email to jayceem@talktalk.net

For any more information about the History Society please give Jennie Stanley a ring on 810819 or email stanz@stanz.plus.com . There is also quite a bit of information about us on our website www.kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk as well as on the Kingston Parish Website www.kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk .