

FEBRUARY

KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR JANUARY 2014

On Thursday, January 23rd Mike Torrens & his wife Isobel came to tell our History Society about the South West Coast Path Association as well as to enthral us with some of the photos they took when they walked from Minehead to Poole Harbour in 2011. The picturesque route runs continuously for 630 miles along the magnificent coasts of Somerset, Devon, Cornwall & Dorset; the path includes two UNESCO World Heritage sites, the Jurassic Coast plus the Cornwall & Devon mining landscape. Mike & Isobel walked about twelve to twenty miles each day, depending on the terrain they encountered, but were lucky enough not to experience bad weather on their journey. Mike reminded us that ^{in the past} there have always been footpaths along the coast made by fishermen, farmers, miners, smugglers, patient soldiers watching for invasions &, of course, coastguards but it wasn't until about forty years ago that the Association was formed by a group of enthusiasts who wanted to develop & improve the coast path & try to link it up to form the continuous path we are able to walk today. The Association works closely with Natural England, local authorities & other more general groups such as the Ramblers' Association. Mike told us one or two stories about past incidents when law cases were fought & won by landlords ^{versus} & walking groups then the evening ended, as usual, with a few questions followed by refreshments provided by the committee, this gave everyone a chance to look at the Association guide book, a map of the coast paths & information leaflets.

An interesting & informative evening for all members & visitors who came along.