

KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR JANUARY 2012

On Thursday January 26th we were entertained to a very interesting illustrated talk entitled "Prawle Point and the Coast between Start Point and Salcombe Bar" given by Roger Barrett the manager of National Coast Watch Institute at Prawle Point. The lecture was packed with information and some stunning photos of the region. We were informed that in Old English Prawle Point means *Lookout Hill* and that throughout time people had gathered there to look out for invaders, raiders, pirates or smugglers. In the last three hundred years buildings have been erected along these shores to protect sailors who have ventured forth into inhospitable waters around our coastline. We were treated to amazing photos of artefacts dating from 1000-900 BC including gold braided jewellery, Bronze axes, copper & tin ingots and a vast haul of gold coins retrieved by divers on the many wrecks in the area. We were transported through time visiting ancient chapels, battle scenes against the Spanish and French fleets and the many shipwrecks scattered along this stretch of the coast. Finally, we were brought up to date with views of the National Coast-watch Institute (NCI) building at Prawle Point now manned by volunteers who keep a visual watch along our shores. We ended our evening with questions and refreshments.