

KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR JUNE 2013

On Thursday, May 23rd Kingston Local History Society members were entertained by an animated talk given by Robert Hesketh from Bovey Tracey who introduced his talk by telling us that when he was a boy he had become fascinated by the Pub sign of "*The Welcome Stranger*" in Bovey, where he grew up, showing a stork carrying a baby. The story behind the sign tells of how the landlord found a baby left lying on his doorstep; Robert told us that many of Devon's most ancient buildings are inns and a great proportion are listed with long and often varied histories. We saw eighty slides which illustrated this point and showed that the sign painter's art is still very much alive in our rich and varied county. We were transported on a magnificent "pub crawl" from Bideford to Chagford then right across Dartmoor to "*The Warren House Inn*" and "*The Plume of Feathers*", the latter being named in honour of the Prince of Wales, George IV. Robert then took us to Plymouth with the Navy connection of "*The Admiral Mc Bride*," named after a famous Naval Commander; these are a small proportion of the Pub buildings and their signs that we learnt about; finally the journey concluded at our own "*Dolphin Inn*" here in Kingston with its Dolphin Inn sign proudly displayed. Other Inns mentioned are too numerous to name but Robert is a prolific writer and he brought a selection of his books on Inn signs and also on a variety of walks in and around our County.

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 .