

JUNE 2014

## KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday, May 15th members of our Society were joined by Bigbury History Society on a visit to Mothecombe House where we were warmly greeted by Sir Anthony and Lady Anne Mildmay-White on a glorious sunny day. Sir Anthony gave us a brief introduction about the history of the house which was built in 1710 for John Pollexfen, a farmer, and occupied by his descendents until 1800 when it was bought by Henry Legassicke. The original cross passage farmhouse, now much altered, still stands, and is the green cottage behind the main house. Then Henry Bingham Mildmay bought Mothecombe in 1873 to be near his wife's childhood home, Flete and her sister, Lady Revelstoke at Memland in Newton Ferrers. Three years later he bought the Flete estate and much land and property around Holbeton to join Flete and Mothecombe as all as constructing a five mile carriage drive beside the River Erme to connect the two houses. In 1925 Alfred Mildmay commissioned Sir Edwin Lutyens to design a new dining room to replace an ugly Victorian addition, the garden passage, vaulted courtyard and install bathrooms. Lutyens also remodelled the terrace and walled garden and designed the garden buildings with the characteristic sweep at the corners of the roof; we were then taken on a conducted tour of the property. The rooms were adorned with family photos and period furniture, the hallway was paved with black and white tiles with large Chinese blue and white pots containing Jasmine that perfumed the air. After our tour we were invited to walk in the beautiful gardens down towards the beach or wander past the thatched cottages, originally a small fishing community, before taking our leave.

**A reminder about our Ugbrooke House visit** This will now take place on **THURSDAY, JULY 17th, 2pm**, the cost is **£8**. Please let Margaret Cocks, at *The Limes, Kingston, Tel: 01548 810765* have your entrance fee by **THURSDAY, JULY 10th** if you wish to secure a place. More details about this visit in the next Newsletter although you can find out more about Ugbrooke House on their website **[www.ugbrooke.co.uk](http://www.ugbrooke.co.uk)**

Details of our publications, including "*Memories of the Second World War 1939-1945*" price £10 can be obtained from Joyce Masters on 01548 810340 or email to **[jayceem@talktalk.net](mailto:jayceem@talktalk.net)**

For any other information about the History Society please ring Jennie Stanley on 01548 810819 or **[stanz@stznz.plus.com](mailto:stanz@stznz.plus.com)** Also information about our Society can be obtained on **[www.kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk](http://www.kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk)** or Kingston Parish website **[www.kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk)**