

KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR JUNE 2015

Our first outing for Kingston History Society members this year was in April when we went to the Cookworthy Museum in Kingsbridge & It was a delight to see so many interesting exhibitions in the old Grammar School building. We were greeted by Holly who led us into the old schoolroom where she gave us an introductory talk about the history of the building that was built & endowed by a local benefactor, Thomas Crispen in 1670; she also told us about William Cookworthy, also born in Kingsbridge, who trained in London as an apothecary & became a Quaker Minister but is best remembered for his discovery of China Clay in Cornwall; he was the pioneer of manufactured porcelain goods in England. Holly drew our attention to a splendid collection of Cookwothy Porcelain in a display cabinet. After our talk we were free to explore the many exhibitions & displays including one on the history of a local farming family, photographs & memorabilia relating to the First World War & another featuring local needlework & embroidery. Holly was on hand to bring out any hidden treasures from the Museum archives & I was fortunate enough to view a book entitled "Malt & Malting" donated by my family William K Pitts who owned & worked Malthouses in the South Hams & Plymouth. Finally we were served tea & cakes at the end of a very interesting afternoon; we would like to thank the staff & volunteers for their hospitality. Our next visit will be in May to Lady Astor's house in Plymouth. After our Summer break the next meeting will be the AGM on October 22nd at 8pm in the Reading Room when there will be a chance for you to elect new/old members of the committee. One of our Archivists & long standing members, Anne Scarratt, sadly died after a short illness, we will all miss her company, her expertise & her fantastic knowledge so we will be seeking nominations for this post as well as that of Treasurer & IT Consultant/Webmaster. A reminder that all details of our new programme will be on our website kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk & Kingston Parish website kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk A list of our Publications can be obtained from *Joyce Masters* 01548 810340 jayceem@talktalk.net for any other information about the Society please contact Chairman *Jennie Stanley* 01548 810819 or stanz@stanz.plus.com