

KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR JULY 2016

Our trip to Morwellham Quay on Thursday, May 26th was a great success and we all had a very interesting day out. We were invited to step back in time into the Victorian period when Morwellham was a thriving inland port on the River Tamar where locally mined copper and tin ore were loaded onto sailing ships and exported throughout Europe, making it the busiest copper ore port in Queen Victoria's Empire; the Queen herself visited in 1856. Local craftsmen & historians were on hand encouraging us to get involved in the various activities available. The village school was in session giving visitors an insight into how children were taught in the Victorian era; their lessons, discipline and recreation. We were told about child labour and how very young children were exploited in the various tasks they were expected to perform. Rope making was demonstrated & we were invited to "have a go" using an authentic period rope making machine. For some of us the highlight of the visit was the train ride which took us into the George and Charlotte copper mine along the beautiful banks of the River Tamar before entering the mine deep into the heart of the hillside; our driver took us "backalong" in time stopping the train at relevant places to explain the history, the social impact and giving us an insight into what it must have been like underground working by candlelight. Several of us visited Ruth's Cottage which was used in the TV series "Edwardian Farm." It was enlightening to witness how Victorian/Edwardian miners' families lived & worked in such cramped conditions. Finally, the day ended with a welcome cup of tea before heading home after a busy but extremely interesting day out.

If you have any suggestions for places to visit or interesting speakers we can include in our next programme please contact Margaret Cocks at The Limes, Kingston (01548 810765) Alternatively if you have any historical subject or past memories you would like to tell us about we would love to hear from you; perhaps you have an interesting family history you would like to share. After the Summer break our next meeting is the AGM on Thursday, October 27th in Kingston Reading Room when our 2016/17 programme of events will be available. A list of our publications can be found on our website- kingstonlocalhistory.co.uk or may be obtained from *Viv Freeman our President (01548 810255)* Any other details about the Society from *Jennie Stanley (01548 810819) stanz@stanz.plus.com*