



Moretonhampstead History Society

Newsletter

Jan 2009

A Happy New Year to you all !

Newsletter—Change of Issue Date:

This Newsletter should reach you on or around the 1st January, whether in printed or email form. However, from next month it will be sent out a week prior to the monthly meeting. This is being done so that members get a more timely reminder of the forthcoming meeting and its subject matter. This was agreed at the last Committee meeting, in the hope that we can boost attendance levels at our meetings.

Attendance at our monthly meetings is generally around 35 to 40% of the total membership.

Annual Christmas Dinner:

This took place in the stable bar of the Union Inn on Wednesday 17th December. An excellent festive meal was enjoyed by all and our thanks go to Sian Colridge and staff for providing this feast. Numbers attending were down on previous years, there are so many other functions at this time that clashes are inevitable. Perhaps we should consider having a 'Post Christmas' annual dinner?

January Meeting:

Our first meeting in 2009 will be held on **Wednesday, 21st January** at 7.30 pm in the Community Club. The new programmes for 2009 will be available at this meeting.

The speaker will be our President, **Professor Ian Mercer**, who will talk about

'A Lifetime with Landscapes'

Ian Mercer is a well-known speaker in the county, and his genial, well-informed and wide-ranging presentation will certainly be popular.

The Time travellers Guide to Medieval England:

Dr Ian Mortimer, Chairman of the History Society, will be speaking about his most recent publication at Chagford and Widecombe during the next couple of months. 'The Time Traveller's Guide' is a handbook for visitors to the Fourteenth Century. It tells the reader where to stay, what to wear, what to eat and how to eat it; how to travel and with whom; how he will be treated if he falls ill – better not! This is not the text book history that we learnt at school but day to day living, certainly in a century a little way back, but with people who were our forefathers and were much like ourselves.

Ian will be speaking at Endecott House, **Chagford** on Thursday, 29th January at 8.00 pm, and at **Widecombe** in the Church House, on Wednesday, 4th February at 7.30 pm. These meetings are open to all.

Further information can be found on Ian's website

<http://www.ianmortimer.com/forthcoming.htm>. Ian is always pleased to sign copies of his books.

Wendy Coombes

Editors note:

If you missed Ian's first presentation of this which took place last year in St Andrews Church, you now have another opportunity to hear this fascinating talk.

Picture Puzzle:



I spotted this stone in a hedgerow not far from Moretonhampstead about 4 months ago, I cleared away the grass and other plants that had grown over it and took this photo. I think I know what it is and why it is there, but I may be mistaken. Can anyone else help, and perhaps shed more light on it ? Sorry about the pun!

I look forward to a flurry of replies!!

February Meeting:

Our February meeting will take place on Wednesday February 18th at 7.30pm, as usual in the Community Club

Haldon Belvedere and the Palks of Haldon House.

A talk by Chris Pidsley

Chris Pidsley was the Vicar of Chudleigh for many years, and is a local historian and railway enthusiast. He gives talks regularly in the local area and has recently published a book on Haldon Belvedere through Orchard Publications 'Intriguing, readable and well illustrated' a quote from The Dartmoor Magazine, Autumn 2008.

Non members of the Society are very welcome to join us for a donation of £2 payable at the door.

New Members:

A warm welcome to the following who have recently joined us: **Barry & Sally Hocken** and **Stafford Pulman**. We also welcome the return of **Sian Colridge** of the Union Inn who was a member some years ago. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings throughout the coming year.

Subscriptions - Reminder:

Jeanette tells me that she still has a significant number of subscriptions outstanding. Now that Christmas is over, we hope that these will be forthcoming. It's **£10** for a single membership and **£15** for two members living at the same address. Subscriptions can be either cash or a cheque made out to '**Moretonhampstead History Society**'. Jeanette will be available at the next meeting to take these.