



Moretonhampstead History Society

Newsletter

June 2007

May Meeting:

On the 16th May, 39 of us went on a trip to Great Fulford House, where we enjoyed a guided visit around the house by the present incumbent, Francis Fulford. In last month's Newsletter, Ian Mortimer wrote fulsomely about this unique building, and I'm sure none of us were disappointed. Francis was a charming host and gave us access to most areas, much of which is still used as his family home. It is difficult to pick out just one thing, but for me it was the Great Hall, with its very high ceiling and the fantastic carving on the oak wall panels. It was a great place to visit and, like many of you, I have visited countless old, and somewhat grander buildings, but nothing quite like this house. I think we were all left wondering if it could ever be fully repaired and restored given the scale and extent of the work required. Francis Fulford is remarkably unfazed, and said rather wistfully at one stage "it costs nothing to dream"!

Can you help ?:

The History Society urgently needs somewhere to store its' Archive material. The majority of it is in paper form, some of it, unique records and documents which must be preserved. If you have a spare corner of an ordinary room which is relatively warm and dry, this would be ideal. The Society would be willing to pay a reasonable amount to rent such a space. If you think you could help please contact our Chairman Ian Mortimer, who can provide more information. He would love to hear from you.



Members of Moreton History Society at Great Fulford

June Meeting:

Down in the programme as 'site visits'. Notwithstanding the Tyntesfield Trip, Wendy Coombes does not have time to organise anything for this, however she does have some contact numbers, should anyone else wish to arrange anything of this nature during June.

Tyntesfield House:

This visit took place on 30th May- Report on this next month.

Membership Update:

We now have **83** members, with several new members already this year. This consists of 29 family memberships and 25 individual memberships.

Picture Puzzle:



Now come on, this really is an easy one, probably the best known example of its type on Dartmoor (no, it's not the remains Roman Villa!). Answer and more details next month.

July Meeting:

Will be held as usual in the Community Club at 7.30pm on the 18th July. The subject will be:

Exeter's Buildings

The talk will be given by Mike Perriam, local historian and Dartmoor National Park Guide.

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

New School in Moreton:

Extract from the newspaper 28th February 1822.

“ Mr Phillips (late asst to Mr Dymond, Heavitree) begs to announce to his friends that, at Lady-Day next, he intends to open a boarding-school at Moretonhampstead for the instruction of young gentlemen in the classics, and mathematics and also in the ordinary branches of an useful education. The house, which is very commodious and replete in every comfort, is situate in a retired and pleasant part of town, and has a spacious play-ground attached. Mr Phillips begs to assure those friends who may confide their Sons to his care that it will be his anxious study, by constant attention, to promote both the mental and religious improvement as well as the health and comfort of his pupils.”

How did the enterprising Mr Phillips fair? More on this next month!

Do please let me know if you can say where in Moreton this School was located. Does the building still exist?



History Society Members on the Grand Staircase with Francis Fulford

I do hope that you have enjoyed this latest edition of the Newsletter.

Anyone can contribute; please send articles to: christopher.pilkington@tesco.net