



Moretonhampstead History Society

Newsletter

Oct 2008

September Meeting:

We met on Wednesday 17th September John Risdon returned this year and gave us another photographic presentation, this time on the East Dart river. Some 35 members attended this talk, which was both entertaining and informative, I'm sure we all learnt a little more about that area of Dartmoor. John led us down the East Dart from its beginnings on the High Moor to its eventual confluence with West Dart at Dartmeet. Along the way, he left the river frequently to point out many other features ranging across many centuries from the Bronze to the Victorian age. This river, like others on the Moor, was used as a source of water power for various mines and mills by way of leats leading off at various points. Some leats were also used for domestic water supply and many are still in use today. They are all superb examples of latter day engineering. I expect most people knew about the Powder Mills, but how many knew of the Stannon Starch Factory, a mile or so north of Postbridge, or the sheep measure at Laughter Tor?

October Meeting: AGM

Our October meeting will take place in the Stable Bar of the Union Inn, on Wednesday 15th October, and not in the Community Club, our usual venue. This meeting will begin with the **AGM**. Do, please, make every effort to attend this meeting, the formalities of the AGM are soon dealt with and this will be followed by an entertaining evening devised by the Chairman!

Subscriptions Now Due!

It is October and your annual subscription is now due. Once again the cost is not being increased. This means that bearing in mind inflation, it is even better value than last year! £10 for a single membership and £15 for two members living at the same address. Do, please, let Jeanette Webster, our treasurer, have your subscription in good time, it can be either cash or a cheque made out to '**Moretonhampstead History Society**'. Jeanette will be available at the next meeting to take these. If you are not able to be at the next meeting, then subscriptions can be posted or delivered to:

Jeanette Webster at 26 Forder Meadow, Moretonhampstead, Devon. TQ13 8JB.

We very much hope that you will all continue being members. Wendy Coombes has been extremely busy organising next year's programme, including some exciting field trips for the summer.

Additional Meeting in October – Reminder:

On the first Thursday in October, the History Society is hosting a special talk. The speaker is Adrian Colston, who works for the National Trust and is Manager of their Dartmoor Estate. The title of his talk is:

"Facing the Challenge – a National Trust perspective on climate change"

Date **Thursday 2nd October**

Venue St Andrews Church Time 7.30 pm

Adrian Colston is an excellent speaker. His talk illustrates how the National Trust, probably the most important conservation body in the country, has "grasped the nettle": to continue to preserve the past it has had to face the future. There is no charge and this talk is open to non-members. Refreshments will be offered. Everyone welcome.

Picture Puzzle:

What and where is this water feature?



I expect many of you will know what this is and what it is called, but can you give the specific location? I took the photo this 'summer', it has a certain rarity value, as it has some blue sky in it!

Annual Christmas Dinner:

Please note that the date for this will now be Wednesday 17th Dec, **not** Wednesday 10th Dec as previously published. More details about this will given next month.

The Lustleigh Society:

On Wednesday 29th October their meeting is entitled:

'The Wag from Widecombe'

Speaker— Tony Beard— farmer, Broadcaster & Entertainer. As a keen preserver of local life and culture Tony will recall the changes he has seen in the countryside and the methods of farming. On display will be a fascinating collection of historic memorabilia found on his own land. This promises to be an evening not to be missed.

The Society meets in the village hall in Lustleigh at 8.00pm with refreshments from 7.30pm.

Visitors very welcome.

Ian's Latest Book:

I'm sure that you will all be very interested to hear that our Chairman Ian Mortimer's latest book has just been published.

The Time Travellers Guide to Medieval England

'A handbook for visitors to the Fourteenth Century'

'The past is a foreign country this is your guidebook'

'Being a guidebook many questions are answered which do not normally occur in traditional history books, the result is the most astonishing social history book you are ever likely to read.'

This is definitely going on my Christmas present list! The cover price in hardback is £20, and will be available in

bookshops from **2nd October**. Waterstones will be selling it at £5 less than the cover price, and on the Internet from Amazon it can be purchased for just £12! Ian is happy to sign copies for members of the History Society. Why not buy a copy and take it along to our next meeting for signing by the author?