



Kellys Directory Extract 1903

Fonthill Gifford



FONTHILL GIFFORD is a parish, 2 miles from Tisbury station on the Salisbury and Yeovil branch of the London and South Western railway, 16 west from Salisbury, and 7 ½ north-east from Shaftesbury, in the Southern division of the county, Dunworth hundred, Tisbury petty sessional division and union, Shaftesbury county court district, Chalke rural deanery (Tisbury portion), archdeaconry and diocese of Salisbury. The adjunct Gifford seems to have come from a family that held this with 14 other manors in Wilts soon after the Conquest. A stream which rises in the parish flows onwards to Tisbury, thence to Salisbury. The church of the Holy Trinity, built in 1866, at the cost of the late Marquess of Westminster, is of stone in the French Gothic style of the 14th century, and consists of apsidal chancel, nave, transepts, porches, vestry, and a south-west tower with pinnacles and spire, and containing 1 bell: there are three stained windows placed as a memorial to the late rector: the pulpit, of alabaster and marble, sculptured with the heads of the four Evangelists, the font, of freestone, supported by a column of green marble, were given by the late Alfred Morrison esq. of Fonthill House. The date of the foundation stone of the old church, built into the wall of the vestry of the new, is May 18th, 1748. The register dates from the year 1518. The living is a rectory, net yearly value £200, with 38 acres of glebe and residence, in the gift of Sir Michael Robert Shaw-Stewart bart. and held since 1886 by the Rev. William Henry Lewis M. A. of Lincoln College, Oxford. In the Dean portion of the parish is a Congregational chapel. On the downs here, now nearly covered with woods and pastures, the late William Beckford, Esq., M.P. erected in 1795 and subsequently that modern display of architectural grandeur called Fonthill Abbey, which had a magnificent octangular tower, full 300 feet high, visible from an eminence at 20 miles' distance on the London road, 4 miles before entering the city of Salisbury: the buildings are said to have cost, during a period of 16 years, not less than £273,000: so long as they stood they excited great curiosity, but had unfortunately more pretentiousness than solidity, for soon after the estate had passed into the hands of John Farquhar esq. of London, for a sum of £330,000, the central tower, on account of its defective foundations, came to the ground for the second time on St. Thomas' Day, 1825, levelling in its fall the whole of the western part of the Abbey: the structure was never repaired, but was soon after sold and the ruins removed. Mr. Beckford, after disposing of Fonthill, lived at Bath, where he died 2 May, 1844. The estate and land in the parish is now divided, Hugh Morrison esq. J.P. possessing the old park and Sir M. R. Shaw-Stewart, bart. the remaining portion of these beautiful grounds, including the site on which stood the Abbey, near which the Marquess of Westminster erected the present mansion now called Fonthill Abbey, the seat of Sir Michael Robert Shaw-Stewart bart. D.L., J.P. Fonthill House, the residence of Mrs. Alfred Morrison, is seated in park-like grounds containing a large lake. The soil in some parts is sand and in others heavy clay land; subsoil, clay and gravel and chalk. The chief crops are wheat, barley, oats and some land in pasturage. The area is 1,996 acres of land and 8 of water; rateable value, £1,917; the population in 1901 was 357.

Wall Letter Box cleared at 7.10 a.m. & 5.40 p.m.; Sundays, 9.10 a.m. Letters from Tisbury R.S.O. which is also the nearest money order & telegraph office, arrive at 8 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Elementary School (mixed), built in 1846, & subsequently enlarged in 1889, for 80 children; average attendance, 50; & supported by Sir Michael Robert & Lady Octavia Shaw-Stewart; Miss Minnie Fryer, mistress.

Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Lewis	William Henry	Rev., M.A.		Rectory
Morrison	Alfred	Mrs.		Fonthill House
Morrison	Hugh	J.P.		Fonthill House
Morrison	James Archibald	M.P.		Fonthill House; & 139 Harley Street, London SW.
Shaw-Stewart	Michael Robert	Sir, Bart., D.L., J.P.		Fonthill Abbey
Shaw-Stewart	Walter Richard	J.P.		Berwick House
Tucker	John	Surgeon-Major		Dean House (Postal Address, Hindon)

Commercial

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Ashley	Edward B.		Farm Bailiff to Sir M. R. Shaw-Stewart, Bart	Fonthill Abbey
Benjafield	Maurice		Hotelier, Brewer, &Farmer	Beckford Arms Hotel
Coombs	Alfred	Mrs.	Blacksmith	(Postal Address, Hindon)
Dunford	James	Mrs.	Wheelwright	(Postal Address, Hindon)
Fryer	Minnie	Miss	Schoolmistress	
Gardner	George A. H.		Head Gardener to Mrs. Alfred Morrison	
Green	Frank		Grocer & Baker	
Garrett	Hugh		Forester to Sir M. R. Shaw-Stewart, Bart.	
Jesty	John Jesse		Road Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector & Deputy Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages	
Macey	John		Head Gardener to Sir Michael R. Shaw-Stewart, Bart	
Palfrey	Frank		Farm Bailiff to Walter R. Shaw-Stewart, Esq.	
Shaw-Stewart	Walter Richard		Farmer	Berwick Farm
Watling	Everett		Clerk of Works	Lawn Lodge