



Post Office Directory Extract 1855



Fonthill Gifford

FONTHILL GIFFORD, 1½ miles east of Hindon, and 16 west of Salisbury. The name of Gifford seems to have come from the name of a family that held this manor, with 14 other manors in Wilts, soon after the Conquest. This parish contains only a few scattered houses; it is in Dunworth Hundred, Tisbury Union, South Wilts. The acreage is 1,977; population 442. The Marquis of Westminster is lord of the manor. There is a stream called Fonthill River, which rises in the parish and flows onward to Tisbury, thence to Salisbury; on its banks a cloth factory was established, in 1824, by George Mortimore, Esq.; the factory is still standing, but the works have ceased for several years. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the Marquis of Westminster, value £320; the Rev. William Coxe Radcliffe, M.A., is the incumbent. The church, built by the late William Beckford, Esq., alderman of London, is in the form of a Grecian temple, with a pediment supported by four pillars; it has a tower with a dome and 1 bell. There is some arable land, but the greater part is down. There is a National school for boys and girls. In the neighbourhood, where once stood the Abbey of Fonthill, are the downs, now nearly covered with woods and pastures. It was on the side of one of these natural elevations that the late Mr. Beckford erected that modern display of architectural grandeur - Fonthill Abbey, which had a lofty and magnificent octangular tower, full 300 feet high, and could be seen from an eminence at 20 miles distance on the London road, 4 miles before entering the city of Salisbury. The scene of magnificence which was displayed when this building was standing excited great curiosity; but that extraordinary object had more beauty than solidity, for soon after it passed into the hands of John Farquhar, Esq., of London, it came to the ground on St. Thomas's day, 1825, with a crash which was heard as far off as Hindon (2 miles distant), levelling in its course the whole of the western part of the Abbey. Fonthill Abbey was never repaired, but soon after sold and the ruins removed. The estate is now divided, James Morrison, Esq., possessing the old park, on which stands the Pavilion, which has been altered as one of his seats; the Marquis of Westminister possesses the remaining portion of these beautiful grounds, including the site on which stood the Abbey.

Letters through Hindon, which is also the nearest money order office.

CARRIER TO:-

SALISBURY Richard Perrett, Tues. returning same day.
SHAFTESBURY Richard Perrett, Saturday, returning same day

Gentry

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Morrison	Alfred	Esq.		Fonthill House
Radcliffe	William Coxe	Rev., M.A.		
Spencer	Richard	Esq.		

Traders

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Bell	Edward		Farmer	Berwick Farm
Bishop	Ambrose		Smith	
Cole	Job		Gardener	
Cook		Miss	Mistress Of National School	
Doggerell	Noah		Gamekeeper To The Marquis Of Westminster	Home Farm
Harris	John		Superintendent Of Police	
Newbury	John		Parish Clerk	
Rubie	John Parsons		Bailiff To The Marquis Of Westminster	Home Farm
Ovens	James		Baker	
Titt	Stephen		Publican & Brewer	Beckford Arms

Vincent	Jonathan		Farmer	
Whittle	William		Farmer	