

Quantock u3a Local History Group Visit to Alfoxton House 21st November 2022

Attendance: Sheila Collins, Lynne Dunton, Carolynne Fawcett, Norma Frood, Pat Hayward, Sarah Hayward, Pat Pardoe, Sue Spicer, Jane Turner, Jon Turner, Angela Wells, Vanessa Wolfman, Philip Comer +2 guests

The visit was preceded by some pretty awful weather which put off a few of our members sadly. It was an interesting visit, but slightly depressing and perhaps rather less interesting than we had hoped. The house is in a terrible state, with the upper floors out of bounds due to the state of the roof. We had an enjoyable wander around the walled gardens, saw the very splendid Oak in the grounds, and the sad swimming pool, and toured the ground floor in the very pleasant company of Hannah, one of the current residents. It is a surprisingly comfortable size – not as grand as you might think from outside. And we all remarked on how it seems to be “back to front”, facing away from the approach and the view. We were entertained to see a rather splendid sauna block they have installed. And bemused by the thought of living alongside the work as the residents of part of the stables do.

And there were some interesting folders containing old fliers and postcards from the various incarnations of the building as a hotel since the 1930s until early 2000s. The most urgent need is the repair of the roof which needs upwards of a quarter of million.

Here are links to other sources of history and information about the place, but it might be worth me chasing up someone at the Holford History Group who might have more information about the house’s history.

<https://www.savebritainsheritage.org/news/item/564/Building-of-the-Month-June-2019-Alfoxton-House-Holford-Somerset>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1057418?section=official-list-entry>

<https://wordsforsam1.wordpress.com/2015/11/25/alfoxden-hall-holford-wordsworths-house-in-the-quantock-hills/>

<https://sites.google.com/site/holfordhistorysociety/home/alfoxton>

Here are some photos from the day:

