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www.poltimore.org

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NEWSLETTER

Peace Treaty at Poltimore

It is tempting to try and imagine the scene at Poltimore House when the little band of Kings' men from Exeter led by Berkeley, with their swords and

plumed hats, dismounted from their horses and entered the hall to begin the lengthy negotiations. Sir John Bampfylde and his wife Gertrude Coplestone had already received General Fairfax as a guest.

Sir John started the war as a royalist, changed sides to become 'a zealous partisan of the Parliament' and then changed back to royalism again at the end of the war! So on Thursday the 9th of April

rords and 1646, Fairfax and Berkeley signed the Treaty in the presence

ARTICLES EXETER With the help of Peter Hood and 'PastPresent' we will re-enact these stirring events at 2.30pm on April 9th. A dramatic costume play with horses, words and musketry. Entry £3, children under 16 free.

CONTRACTOR TOTOLOGICA

EDITORIAL

Hello!

Recent events have highlighted for me the issue of people in relation to the House. I believe we are in danger of concentrating exclusively on the physical condition of the house and grounds, important though that is, to the detriment of the people who share its history.

But people are the core factor that makes the saving of the building so interesting and vital. There are crowds out there who will have friends and relations that have connections with the house in some way or other.

Like the story from Virginia Stokes that we highlight this time. Virginia, a new member from Australia, can trace her ancestry right back to Sir Richard Bampfylde who built the original Tudor mansion in 1550. Part of this building is still there. Then there's the nurse who was part of the Poltimore NHS days who I met at a Wimborne talk recently. Two dedicated committee members were born at Poltimore when there was a maternity unit. And now there is a lady whose grandmother had an appendectomy on the kitchen table! So much unrecorded 'family' history.

This, plus the fabric, is what makes our quest to save the House a fascinating and compelling activity. We must sustain a Poltimore that they and others will still be able to recognise - where their roots are deeply embedded. Do you know who you are?

David Burks

OPEN DAYS Help! says Margaret McLachlan

can! Free Parking.

Come in costume if you

Well, here we are at the start of another year, and we are planning some interesting events.

Last year, our Sunday Open Afternoons were very successful, and the small but loyal band of helpers enjoyed making new Friends, and showing off the improvements we have made in the garden.

Are your Sundays repetitively quiet and dull? Why don't you come and join us occasionally? We would be very pleased to welcome your help and it would be a good opportunity for you to learn more about the house and garden, and to be involved at the beginning of planning for the future. If you can spare a few hours occasionally on a Sunday afternoon and would like more details about what is involved, please call me, Margaret McLachlan, on 01392 873304.





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FEASIBILITY WORKSHOP

December Trustees meeting

Joseph Marchant, a Director of LHC Group Ltd, reports

Those of us present at the most recent Trustees meeting considered that it might be a good idea to examine our core objectives given that things are picking up pace. We are a broad church, with different ideas and contributions, "our strength" it was concluded. However, as we approach a time when we need to make appointments, decisions and direct progress towards changing the present position of Poltimore we probably all need clarity and common ownership over our objectives, and more importantly the scope of intervention we consider appropriate to meet our objectives. To be able to articulate our views as a single body will become important and will give individual ambassadors the comfort of speaking on behalf of us all.

Alongside the above, it was also considered important to widen the number of trustees, and to invite 'types' of people to join our cause who represent our needs in terms of professional abilities, personal attributes and commitment (one or all three assets). We could set up for example core teams on different matters so there is support between members, where presently it could be difficult for a single individual to offer a wide spectrum of tasks because of knowledge, management or demands on time. It was felt that a wider number of trustees could be restricted to having an executive core for decision making, possibly even subject based. We discussed a structure similar to a business - different individuals with roles and responsibilities offering different skills towards the support of common goals.

In brief it was concluded we need change, and that this might take the shape of two questions;

- What do we want?
- Who do we need on the team to make it happen and as part of what structure?

To explore further both the above points and without the need to focus on detailed items on an agenda it was considered that a workshop to discuss the above would be a good idea and that this should take place soon. This would allow any recommendations to be approved/and or discussion at the Trust AGM in late January.

FRIENDS OF POLTIMORE HOUSE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2005

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Letter to the Editor

Tirana, Albania. December 2005

Sir,

Heritage Training Centre

Well now, fancy that idea coming up. I shall try to write a fuller set of questions on my return from Albania – where I am part of a Council of Europe team looking at a Heritage training centre in Tirana! The other good bit of news is that the EU has just decided that heritage training is a major target in their fifth programme!

There are big questions. What level? On the whole the university level is already reasonably well covered, the big gaps being in the NVQ field. Though the gap between the two is much less than previously, and my own department – Conservation Sciences in Bournemouth is

involved with the NVQ end also.

Local or International? There are some fields where the UK is a natural leader and could be international.

ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

Carol Harvey in conversation with Gabrielle Hoad

'I was really struck by the sense of mystery,' says artist Carol Harvey of her recent visit to Poltimore House. 'The idea that very little is known about the property and that its history has to be unravelled bit by bit. I like the fact that even people who know Poltimore well are discovering new things all the time.'

Carol is drawn to abandoned places, having previously filmed and photographed a former camp for Polish displaced persons from the Second World War. She hopes that Poltimore will be an inspiration for future work. 'I'm looking for personal things that tell me something about the presence of the people who've lived, worked and stayed here in the past,' she explains. The neglected, vandalised state of Poltimore makes this quite a challenge, as evidence of human occupation is sparse. 'On the lower floor there was very little I could use, but as Keith Weedon took me further up into the house, I began to notice details that interested me. 'Door handles, window latches, shelves, baths and wallpaper might be thought of as mundane, but they conveyed to Carol an important sense of intimacy with previous lives: 'These are things that people have touched day after day and many will show signs of that use."

Carol wants to recover the human stories that lie buried in this location. She is particularly interested in people who occupied the house in the first half of the 20th century. 'I'd like to learn about the children who went to school here, the What do you mean by heritage? If you *just* mean 'architectural conservation' then there are still some gaps – although West Dean does a good job – but that is not the way heritage is going. Do you include intangibles? Do you include interpretation eg, Peter Hood's ideas in the last newsletter; natural heritage – Devon Wildlife etc and very importantly do you include curatorship and the museum trades?

One needs to be careful of capitalisation costs. The more you go towards the technical side, the more you will need a lot of laboratories and equipment. But short courses in 'How to speak Tudor', or 'Nature Conservation – Dos and Don'ts', 'Archives' and 'Historic Gardens', do not need much more than a good classroom. And Devon Archives are now close by.

But clearly there is a need for this, in many fields of heritage.

Peter Howard Trustee PHT



Born to Anglo Danish parents Carol spent her childhood in Germany and later in Denmark. It wasn't until she was 19 that England became her home. After having two children she pursued a career as a play leader, enjoying organising creative opportunities for young children. After devoting 7 years to encouraging young people to enjoy art, Carol took a year out to indulge her own creativity in Fine Art on an Access Course in Exeter. 'The course was a changing point in my life where art became more than just a treat and instead part of who I am,' says Carol. Now five years on after a BA (Hons) in Fine Art, she is undertaking an MA (Master of Arts).

patients who were hospitalised and the people who worked here. I know there must be many good memories associated with this beautiful place but, for me, unhappy recollections are just as important. My perspective is an imaginative one. I want to discover as much as possible about the past of the house – particularly its human occupants – and my work will grow creatively out of that knowledge.' Her work should be an interesting complement to the archival photography and historical research carried out by Friends.

Friends of Poltimore House are grateful to Brian Boult of Pathfinder Village for his kind donation of a 4ft x 5ft trailer. We've been looking for another trailer for some time so this fills a long felt want! We're still looking for all sorts of tools too.



The crane from Apex Scaffolding Ltd lifting the temporary roof protection into place.

FROM THE TRUST

An update from Alan Payne, acting Chairman of the Poltimore House Trust

'There is no commercial future for Poltimore House'. These were the words of Peter Livesey of PJ Livesey Ltd who are perhaps the leading developers in the country in connection with the built heritage. The problem which caused him most concern is that Poltimore House isn't enough of a wreck to justify gutting the building and starting from a shell. He also considered that he would need so much 'enabling development' (new build) that the very setting of the building would be adversely affected. He also echoed the views recently expressed by a another major developer in the heritage field in that they are not interested in working alongside a charitable trust who were dependent on public funding to bridge the so called 'conservation defecit'. There are just too many uncertainties for them.

We are currently in the middle of a Feasibility Study to investigate options for the future of the building. I am sure that ideas will be forthcoming and while I have no wish to pre-empt the study I do wonder that if we are to be dependent on public funds we must be able to deliver a product which has enormous public benefits. This may mean an educational dimension and I for one will ask that in the study we look at Ivan Randall's idea of a Heritage Training Centre for the historic built environment. By this it is meant training in practical skills. I recently attended a seminar run by English Heritage where it was explained that thanks to failures in apprenticeship schemes a few years ago there is a crisis of skilled labour about to manifest itself.

What is certain is that there is no easy fix for Poltimore House and it may need a very complex combination of commercial funding, public funding and community effort.

The Trust was set up in 2000 with the objective of creating a home for the Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World. With the failure of this project at Poltimore (it has moved to Haldon Forest) we have had no clear objective. If there is no

ELEVATION & PLAN

News from the architectural front by Andy Davey of Simpson & Brown

Now that the scaffolding roof contract is drawing to a close - for which great credit is due to the professionalism of Alan Hogg and his team at Apex Scaffolding Ltd - Poltimore House will at last be afforded protection from the elements. While this work is obviously intended to arrest further decay, it is important to remember that during the prolonged drying-out process the building will face a number of new threats as the moisture content of its historic fabric begins to decline. Previously sodden timbers will be prone to attack by dry rot as the moisture evaporates to a level which encourages growth of the destructive fungus, and lime plaster may shrink and lose its key with the substrate of masonry or riven lath. It will take at least two years for the internal environment to reach a reasonable level of stability, and we all need to be vigilant during this period to look out for fresh outbreaks of rot, areas of collapsing plasterwork and other associated problems.

Although the temporary roof has been designed for a ten year life span, and will undoubtedly survive for considerably longer if called upon to do so, we must not allow the comfort of its protection to lull us into a sense of complacency about finding a new use for the house.

To this end, we are now concentrating our efforts on completing a feasibility study, sponsored by the Architectural Heritage Fund, which aims to identify a beneficial and viable future for the building. The formal terms of reference for this exercise have recently been greatly expanded by the offer of further grant aid by English Heritage which will allow for additional professional input on business planning and marketing matters. The study will now be jointly prepared by Simpson & Brown (Architects) and Prometheus (Strategic Planning Consultants) with assistance from Bare, Leaning & Bare (Quantity



Plan courtesy of Simpson & Brown, Architects.

Surveyors). It will investigate the architectural and financial implications of a number of options for the re-use of the building and its grounds, with the aim of identifying a preferred long-term solution to an equally long-term problem. To find such a solution which is acceptable to all the interested parties is, as you can probably imagine, something of a tall order. It will ultimately call for some very difficult decisions to be made regarding, among many other things, the retention or otherwise of certain elements of the house and the extent, scale and location of any 'enabling development'* that may be necessary.

The options currently being appraised include housing, hotel use, commercial offices, and a mixed-use development, all of which will strive to maintain some degree of public access. Other possibilities may well come to light as the study progresses but unless a committed end-user comes forward - as happened with the sadly defunct CCANW initiative - we tend to be working in something of an architectural vacuum. There is always the chance, I suppose, that Madonna or Bill Gates will be in touch tomorrow looking for a pied-a-terre in the West Country upon which to lavish their fortunes, but in the meantime we will need to soldier on in the real world. In this respect we continue to encourage anyone with a sensible and potentially viable idea for how the house could be re-used to make their opinions known to us.

*'enabling development' allows new build to take place eg., housing. Ed



clear commercial user and no well funded public user, it may well be that in a complex and challenging way we will have to drive the restoration of Poltimore House through ourselves. There are good strengths amongst the Trustees but we are weak on the business and creative financial side. We seek people who can

give their own time and energy to drive ideas forward. It seems to work out that individual Trustees take personal responsibility for a specific aspect – although there will be support from other Trustees. I believe that there are strengths among the enthusiastic Friends that should be used. We would welcome approaches from individuals to become Trustees who can commit themselves to help us drive the restoration forward. We rely heavily on contact through e-mail and if anyone would like a chat please contact me in the first instance on polthouse@lineone.net so that we can arrange to meet.

Planning Thoughts

"Planning is an unnatural process. It is much more fun to do something."

"The nicest thing about not planning is that failure comes as a complete surprise, rather than being preceded by a period of worry and depression."

Sir John Harvey-Jones



A Knotty Problem Revealed Margaret McLachlan

After almost two years of hacking, digging, grubbing out and burning, the garden is almost clear of the brambles, weeds and dead trees that completely covered the whole area. We can now think about the future. We know there used to be a number of interesting features – aviary, rosary, Chinese garden for example – but it is not possible to regenerate these – yet!

Rather it is suggested that a series of small gardens could reflect the period gardening styles since 1550, starting of course with a Tudor garden. I had visions of cosy evenings by the fire poring through old books with a glass of mulled wine, or pleasant days out visiting other gardens to get ideas. Oh no! I have had to bite the bullet and tackle 'search engines' and 'Google.' I have been surprised to learn just how varied garden plants were in Tudor times!

The Tudor garden was both practical and aesthetic. So there was always plenty of herbs - well the poor old cook had to be able to mask the smell and taste of meat and fish that might be slightly on the turn! Medicinal use too was an important role for valued herbs. Every housewife would have her favourite selection of 'simples' that she used to treat ailments that affected her household. Infusions of feverfew helped treat fevers and soothe winter coughs. Lavender was used for migraines, faintness and to perfume. It also deterred moth from household linen and clothing. Rosemary had innumerable uses in the stillroom, kitchen and bedroom - from cleaning teeth to relieving gout, improving eyesight and averting nightmares! Hyssop was introduced in the late 16th Century. It was highly prized. The bruised leaves were laid over cuts and wounds to purify them and speed up healing. An infusion of Hyssop improved black or bloodshot eyes. Hyssop oil removed head lice and hyssop tea aided the complexion.

Life was hard, washing definitely considered unsafe and cleaning materials made by the housewife must have left a lot to be desired. Doubtless a major part of running a house was the ability to mask disagreeable smells. Consequently, aromatic herbs such as rosemary, woodruff, hyssop and other pleasant smelling plants were used to strew on the floors of the houses. Lavender features very strongly. It was believed that strewing Lavender on the floor of a house would help keep off the plague. Whilst many herbs could be garnered from the countryside, the most popular ones would have been cultivated in the garden.

Knot gardens and Tudor go hand in hand! These were high fashion. The intricate pattern of low hedges kept trimmed at varying heights appeared to weave over and under each other – hence 'knot' – and they could best be appreciated by looking down on them from the windows of the house. Once again lavender and hyssop were planted and trimmed as low hedges, joined by other plants such as box, wall germander and santolina so that the various ribbons of colour would stand out in the knot. Traditional knots often featured gravel of different colours between the hedges to accentuate the design, but plants, such as wallflowers (gillyflowers) could also be used to fill spaces with colour.

Food for thought and maybe that glass of wine after all, as we decide on final plans.

Australian Cousins

From Friends archivist Kate Weedon

The Friends are fortunate in having the support of the immediate descendants of the Bampfylde family including the current Lord and Lady Poltimore and Sir Hugh Stucley but there are many other Friends who can claim some Bampfylde ancestry. Among these is one of our newest members who can not only claim Bampfylde descent but was also our first member to join over the internet – from Australia too! Her connection is interesting, particularly as this year the Friends will be concentrating on Poltimore's links with the Civil War.

Virginia Stokes' 9th times great grandfather was the Rev James Bampfylde 1602-1663, he was the sixth son of Sir Amias Bampfylde and Elizabeth Clifton of Barington, Somerset. Those of you who have a copy of the book 'A Devon House: the story of Poltimore' by Jocelyn Hemming will know, or be able to check, that Sir Amias was the son of Sir Richard Bampfylde who built the original house - so Virginia has some illustrious ancestry! Being a younger son, Sir Amias had 12 sons and 5 daughters, James would have had to make his own way in the world. He entered Oxford university in 1620 aged 18 receiving his BA on 9th May 1621 and his MA on 4 February 1623/4 becoming vicar of Black Torrington in Devon in 1627. He married Wilmot Savery, a descendant of the Cary family of Clovelly in 1634. From 1634-1650 and again from 1660-1663 he was the vicar of Rattery.

The gaps in those dates are interesting, 1649 -1660 was the period of the Commonwealth,

BY THE WAY ...



The Daily Telegraph reported recently that four Siberian Chipmunks are on the loose on the Hampshire/ Berkshire border and that DEFRA say they pose a threat to the ecosystem if they survive. Thirty chipmunks escaped in May and 26 have so far died, or been shot or trapped.

The Countryside Alliance posed the question: 'How many dogs is it legal to use in the recapture of a chipmunk?' To which the answer is: 'The chipmunk is not an exempt species under the Hunting Act 2004 so ordinarily it would only be legal to use two or less dogs to flush one to a gun.' However, because the chipmunks have escaped from captivity the situation is different. It is legal to use an unlimited number of dogs in the recapture (dead or alive) of an escaped mammal ...

Does this herald the return of bloodhounds?



formed after Charles I was beheaded. From research that a cousin of Virginia's has done from a near contemporary book, Walker's 'Sufferings of the Clergy', it appears that James fell foul of Cromwell's Protectorate, in particular the Ordinance Against Pluralities and 'was Dispossessed of his Living (Rattery)...being also Rector of Black-Torrington in this County'. He was however permitted to keep Black Torrington 'by the Stratagem of setting up a Godly Lecture in his Parish'. He was likely to have had royalist sympathies and been a bit of a thorn in the flesh of Parliament as he 'was also several Times Plunder'd and once carried away Prisoner to Dartmouth' however he 'purchased his Liberty again at the Expence of 50/-'. His successor at Rattery was a John Searle 'who lived to deliver it up again (to James) immediately after the Restoration.'

We can only wonder how Sir John Bampfylde of Poltimore, a Parliamentarian, viewed his relative but it is one example of how families were divided during these difficult times.

WORKING PARTIES ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Further information and to confirm activity phone 01404 822753

FEBRUARY

Saturday 4th: Work in grounds and outbuildings Saturday 18th: Work in grounds and outbuildings

MARCH

Saturday 4th: Work in grounds and outbuildings Saturday 18th: Preparation for Open Day Sunday 19th: Open Day 2pm–4.30pm

APRIL

Saturday 1st: Work in grounds and outbuildings Saturday 8th: Preparation for Treaty Signing Sunday 9th: 360th Anniversary of Treaty Signing 2.30pm

Saturday 22nd: Preparation for Plant Sale Sunday 23rd: 3rd Annual Plant Sale 10am– 4.30pm

MAY

Saturday 6th: Work in grounds and outbuildings Saturday 20th: Preparation for Open Day Sunday 21st: Open day 2pm –4.30pm

JUNE

Saturday 3rd: Work in grounds and outbuildings Saturday 17th: Preparation for Open Day Sunday 18th: Open Day 2pm–4.30pm

IN MEMORIAM

Barry Marshall lived on the hill above Poltimore House and admired it greatly from a distance and although he never visited the house or grounds he apparently thought of the park as an extension to his garden and for this reason left the Trust a very generous legacy when, sadly, he died last year.

To mark the legacy the Trust planted a Fagus sylvatica purpurea – a Copper Beech in Barry's memory at the entrance to the House where it will have room to grow into a magnificent addition to the trees already present in the gardens. The tree was planted by a friend of Tracey Marshall, Barry's wife, .

'Post-it notes' by Pat Read

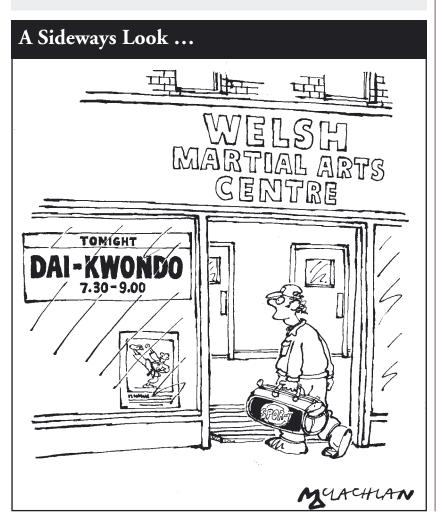
There will be a 'letterbox' trail, translated from Dartmoor, in the grounds of Poltimore House on Plant Sale Day, April 23rd. This is to add an additional zest to the day as well as raise additional funds for the restoration of the house and grounds.

For those not familiar with 'letter-boxing', it is something between a treasures hunt and orienteering. Those taking part will need to have a compass, an inkpad and some white



card or paper on which to take copies of each stamp when they find them. Each group or person will be given a sheet of clues at the start.

All the 'boxes' will be hidden in the grounds and the idea is to collect copies of each stamp – not to take the actual stamp – and then return both stamp and box to its hiding place for the next person to find. At the end of the walk you should have collected 12 copies from the twelve stamps hidden – one for St George's Day, April 23rd, and one to celebrate the Queen's 80th birthday on the 21st April.



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Peter Salter of Leadenhall Contracts Ltd

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- Advertising there is a zero-rating relief for advertisements, on issue of a certificate on the first occasion of using a particular publication.
- Fund raising events there is an exemption for fund-raising events organised by charities. These are seen by HMR&C as being balls, fetes, dinners, concerts etc. Their purpose must be to make a profit for the benefit of the charity. The exemption is helpful, since the VAT on the expenses in running such events will be much less than the potential output tax if the ticket income was liable to VAT. In addition, since this activity is exempt, it does not count towards the VAT registration threshold. Most membership subscriptions are outside the scope of VAT as donations.
- The newsletter, being fully printed and not having any part for completion in writing and return, is Zero Rated for VAT. If the printer charges extra say for biking proofs over, or for some external costs to do with the production, such charges are part of the supply of the goods and thus no VAT should be charged. Leaflets and flyers are usually zero-rated, but where there is a part for completion and detachment, then provided the part does not exceed 25% of the whole document it retains its zero-rating. A document that is wholly for completion in writing, posters and laminated printing is liable to VAT.
- When a mailing house is used to do a large mail-out, the contract should state that the Friends are to be charged the exact postage, allowing for any bulk discount. The Friends should also have a complete list of the addressees. This results in the postage being treated as a disbursement and as postage supplied by the Royal Mail is exempt, no VAT is charged.
- With these issues, suppliers will need to be advised, since they usually want to charge VAT on everything.
- Building there is a zero-rating relief for approved alterations. This does not include repairs and maintenance, nor any professional fees. An alteration can include demolition, new construction, blocking up doorways and windows (permanently) or opening up the same. A new roof can constitute an alteration – it just depends on the circumstances. However, fundamentally, to qualify for any relief, a building must be used, or be intended to be used, for a charitable purpose, other than as a business. There are other restrictions.

Advice should always be sought as rules and policy can change and restrictions and definitions are legion. petersalter@vat175.fsnet.co.uk



20 Quality Specialist Nurseries Refreshments and Letter Box Trail Grounds open. Talks about the House Sunday 23rd April 2006 11am to 4pm Admission Adults £2, children under 16 £1 Ample Free Car Parking



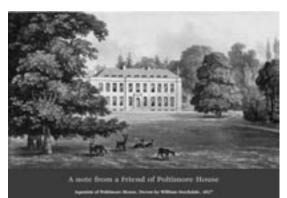
NEWSLETTER

NEW services and gift ideas from the Friends of Poltimore House ...

POLTIMORE WEBSITE

The Friends and the Trust share the website www.poltimore.org. It is regularly updated to provide news as well as access to some of our archive material. The site also offers the chance to enrol as a member of the Friends and the opportunity to purchase the Friends' merchandise on-line through a secure payment system. Virginia Stokes joined on line – you could too!

www.poltimore.org



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POLTIMORE HOUSE NOTELETS

8 quality FULL COLOUR Notelets, as shown, with envelopes and boxed. Support the House and the Friends Posted to you for £5.95 inc p&p. Cheques payable to FOPH please. Send your order to FOPH, PO Box 409, Exeter EX4 5WZ Or order on line from www.poltimore.org **Spring offer: 4 packs for only £20.00 including p&p**

A DEVON HOUSE: the story of Poltimore

The book "A DEVON HOUSE: the story of Poltimore" has been written by Jocelyn Hemming, edited by Peter Howard. Published by Plymouth University Press, it is a paperback, 128 pages, profusely illustrated in colour and black and white. The book can be ordered now by sending a cheque, payable



to the Poltimore House Trust, for £9.99 plus postage and packing £1.46 (£11.45) to Jocelyn Hemming, Poltimore House Trust, PO Box 409, Exeter, Devon, EX4 5WZ Or order from the web site www.poltimore.org.

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Unframed: £11.75 each including p&p by first class post Framed: in an ivory mount and a ¾" glazed antique pine frame £28.00 including NextDay delivery UK only. These are framed to order only, so please allow up to 14 days for delivery

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Size 250mm x 50mm, CleanPeel, in the Friends of Poltimore House colours of egg yolk yellow and grey. Price £1.00 inc p&p from FOPH, PO Box 409, Exeter, EX4 5WZ or from the website: www.poltimore.org **Spring offer: 6 stickers for only £5.00 including p&p**





PRITHEE KIND FRIEND MAKE A DATE! THE FIRST EVENT OF 2006!

Sunday April 9th 2006 2.30pm at Poltimore House "360th Anniversary Celebration of the signing of the Treaty of Exeter". Entry £3, Children under 16 FREE This treaty effectively ended the Civil War in the West Country. *Past Present* will re-enact the signing in costume - drama with words