



PRESS RELEASE

WI OPEN DOORS FOR HERITAGE WEEKEND

WI House in Gloucester's Brunswick Square will be open to members of the public as part of the National Heritage Open Days this coming weekend.

On Sunday afternoon (10th), visitors will be able to tour the listed, three storey, Victorian town house, built around 1850. Pemberton House, as it was originally called, was home to Samuel Moreland, owner of Gloucester's famous England's Glory Match Factory, and his daughter Ella. Later, Miss Moreland lived there alone with her housekeeper and nurse.

The house was bought by the WI in 1949, after Ella Moreland died, as the first permanent home for its county headquarters in Gloucestershire.

County Chairman, Gill Thomas, says: "Rather amusingly, the £4000 needed to buy the property was raised with a series of Whist Drives, which meant that by the end of 1954, the house loan was paid off and there was enough money left over to decorate the interior."

Visitors will be able to hear more about life in the house over the last 150 years, the history of the WI in Gloucestershire, and enjoy some traditional WI refreshments, as well as visiting the WI shop between 1.00pm and 4.00pm on Sunday afternoon.

Details of all the buildings open for the Heritage Open Days in Gloucester can be obtained from the TIC in Southgate Street or by visiting www.gloucester.gov.uk/heritage.

Information for editors:

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