



Moretonhampstead History Society

Newsletter

August 2007

July Meeting:

On the 18th July Mike Perrium gave us a talk entitled 'Exeter's Buildings'. Mike spoke first about the Roman fortress & settlement built between 180-200AD. Over the centuries, Exeter was further influenced by the Saxons, Danes and the Normans. The development of the Cathedral was of particular note. The original Saxon building was burned down, replaced, and extensively modified in the 13th Century. At this time, the Cathedral Close was walled and gated to protect the priests. Some bomb damage was sustained during the Second World War, but this was relatively minor compared to the rest of the city. The nave & choir roof is the longest unsupported stonework vaulting in Europe. Elsewhere in the city, many old buildings remain, including the SPCK bookshop built in the early 15th century. The current Guildhall was started in 1330. and the supporting columns are made of granite from Blackingstone Quarry. Thorntons is a Tudor building, and the facades above Tesco & Lakeland are original, do take a look when you next shop in Exeter. Our thanks go to Mike for putting Exeter's architecture in its historical context.

My thanks to Wendy Coombes for the notes on which this report is based.

August Meeting:

Please note, in accordance with our usual practice there is no meeting this month, however details of September's meeting will be given in the next issue of this newsletter

Picture Puzzle:

Stairway to heaven?
Where can these unusual steps be found?
It's not far from Moretonhampstead, perhaps
2 miles or a mile as the crow flies. Also can
anyone tell me when the steps were put there?



Can you help – Repeated Appeal:

The History Society urgently needs somewhere to store its' Archive material. The majority of it is in paper form, some of it, unique records and documents which must be preserved. If you have a spare corner of an ordinary room which is relatively warm and dry, this would be ideal. The Society would be willing to pay a reasonable amount to rent such a space. If you think you could help please contact our Chairman, Ian Mortimer on **440129** or **440153** who can provide more information. He would love to hear from you.

Unseasonal Weather-Global Warming?

Moretonhampstead— On Sunday we had a very fervent sun accompanied with a degree of heat such as at times seemed almost scalding with scarce a breath of air. Towards evening the sky became cloudy but still very sultry and as the day closed flashes of lightning were seen in a westerly direction and distant thunder was heard. This veered from the west to the south west evidently nearing the town. About 10 at night the lightning came in quick succession and extraordinary vividness— indeed presenting the appearance as if some silvery liquid were flowing through the streets while peals of thunder were awfully grand so close upon the earth as in the reverberation to cause the very houses to shake. The rain now began to fall and came down in torrents—a state of things that with short intervals continued for 2 to 3 hours. Between 2 and 3 o'clock on Monday morning the storm commenced anew, the peals of thunder being terrific and the lightning more vivid if possible than on the preceding night. The rain also poured down and this continued for some time. At North Bovey near this town where the storm was equally severe, two cows, one of them in calf and the other having a calf, the property of Mr Hole of that place, butcher, which were in a field, were found dead next morning close to the gateway. These had been seen lying in this place the preceding evening and it would appear must have been struck dead instantaneously as there was not the least appearance of their having struggled. It is said that a mark resembling a slight burn was to be seen across the cheek, passing on to Mr Hole who is a very steady and industrious young man not long in business the loss of these bullocks is very great, being estimated at not less than £25. At Chagford and Manaton also the storm was very violent.

Extract from the Local Newspaper dated 27th June 1844.

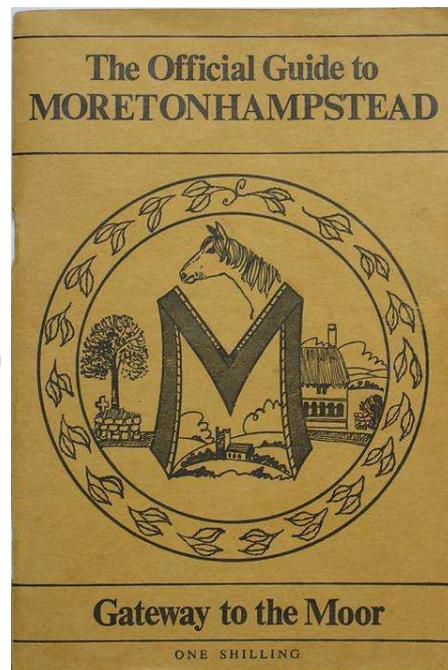
Old Guide:

No, not a Girl Guide! I'm referring to an **Official Guide to Moretonhampstead** that was found some time ago in the Information Centre, which David Cannon has now passed on for safe keeping in the History Society Archive. The date of its publication is not given, but David has spotted a few clues: Priced at one shilling it must have been produced pre decimalisation; which we all know took place in 1971. It also refers to the bowling green - *which will be finished in the summer of 1969*. My guess is that it was published in 1968 or early 1969.

I shall be soon be popping along to The Central Garage to pick up a brand new Morris 1300 from **£696.4.0d** as advertised in the guide. I presume it will have air conditioning and a CD player? Would anyone else like one?

Of further interest is the fact that the Guide was printed here in Moreton by Shobrooke & Collier (Peter Collier)

It was very interesting for me, as a newcomer to flip through the pages, look at the many advertisements, and note the wide variety of shops and other businesses that there were in Moreton just around 40 years ago; most sadly now gone forever.



I do hope that you have enjoyed this latest edition of the Newsletter. Anyone can contribute; please send articles to: christopher.pilkington@tesco.net