



Newsletter

June 2011

May Meeting:

This was held on Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm in the Stable Bar of The Union Inn, and was well attended. Derek Gore from Exeter University gave a first class talk on King Alfred The Great. With a strong Inheritance from his father and Grandfather, there has sometimes been an exaggeration of Alfred's pioneering achievements. Nevertheless, his abilities as war and political leader, development of written law, and promotion of culture and learning, did lead Dr Gore to conclude that he deserves his unique title among English rulers. All this was illustrated with some very stunning images, including the Fuller brooch and the Wiltshire aestel. Our thanks go to Derek Gore.

Judy Hardiman

Visit to Vitiifer & Golden Dagger Tin Mines :

This trip will take place on **Wednesday 20th July**.

We shall meet at Bennett's Cross at 2pm. Local expert Dr Tom Greaves will lead the tour and it will last about 3 hours. These mines are approximately a half a mile away from our meeting place, not over level ground and therefore stout shoes or walking boots are the recommended footwear.

Please contact Judy Hardiman if you intend to go, so that she knows how many are attending. Non members are welcome as well, at a cost of £2 per person. For those wishing to go who do not have your own transport please contact Judy Hardiman who will endeavour to arrange a lift for you.

Commemorative Stone located! :

The Railway line to Moretonhampstead was opened in July 1866. However, no commemorative plaque or stone was placed to record this momentous event.

In 1925 a Mr Edwin Cumming of Langhill decided to rectify this situation and commissioned a Commemorative stone. This was erected near the station, without ceremony, in the same year.

The inscription read:

'Moretonhampstead and South Devon Railway: July 4th, 1866 - Directors, Earl of Devon, T. Wills, W.R. Hole, J. Divett, E. Cumming and T. Woollcombe.'

When the railway line closed in the 1960's, this commemorative stone disappeared. The stone has recently been located in the storerooms of the York Railway Museum! How it came to be there is unknown; however, they have agreed to its return, and there are plans to have it re-installed, close to its original location on the new Wray Valley Trail. More on this story later.

Young Rector :

On 4th Dec 1525 a Papal dispensation was given to a Richard Parker, a Clerk in the See of Exeter, now in the **Eleventh** year of his age to hold the living of Moretonhampstead till he reach his eighteenth year, and afterwards to retain it by title. This dispensation was given by Pope Clement VII.

Richard Parker is on the list of Rectors of St Andrews from 1526. He resigned in 1539 and was replaced by a Thomas Parker. We don't know whether Thomas was related to Richard, or even if Richard carried out any duties as rector of Moretonhampstead, it seems unlikely. Perhaps he just benefited from the tithes?

A remarkable story, the details of which were discovered by Bill Hardiman, from information held in the British Library, but why did someone go to such trouble to do this? We will never know!

I wonder if this Papal dispensation was requested in the form of a letter; if so, might it still exist in the Vatican City's huge archives? Pope Clement VII began his Papacy on the 19th November 1523 and it ended on 25th September 1534. One of the posts he held prior to becoming Pope was Cardinal Protector of England.

Council Clippings :

Gary Cox has transcribed selected minutes from the Parish Council meetings for the first 50 years from its inception in 1895 to 1945. Each month we will take a brief look at some of the issues of the day. The minutes show things that were serious at the time but may seem trivial or even amusing today. We also learn when such things as public telephones and tarmac road surfacing arrived, when particular houses were built and of various disputes which have cropped up. This month we start with:

1911- 'CRIME' IN THE LIBRARY!!

The Parish Council offered a £1 reward at the July 1911 meeting after it was found that someone had torn out and carried away the map from Kellys Directory in the Library, The Clerk was instructed to print bills detailing the reward for information leading to the conviction of the offender. The September meeting had correspondence from Mr Withycombe who complained about the speed of motor cars and from a visitor who moaned about litter in the Sentry. The Sentry came under further discussion when the Council accused the Rector of 'completely neglecting' the paths therein which were his responsibility to keep clear. (The Council and the Rector had a history of disputes as we will read in subsequent clippings). In the November meeting it was reported the replacement Cross Tree had not grown and it was deemed necessary to take it up and replace it with a copper beech.

Next Month: The Moon and the street lights!!

Praise for our Website :

'Just wanted to say a big THANK YOU for such a wonderful Moretonhampstead website. Your parish register transcripts have answered many of my Hext family questions, and it was wonderful to see my great-grandmother's name in the School Registers. Thank you again! '- an email from a Julia Bristow.

This is just one of many pieces of positive feedback that our Chairman Bill Hardiman has had recently. The statistics for our website show that we had over 1000 'hits' in January 2011, and only slightly less in the following month. Although many of these 'enquiries' emanate from the UK, they also come from far and wide. Many from the USA, Australia, and New Zealand. Perhaps more surprisingly some from China and the Ukraine!

School Memories Afternoon:

On **Saturday 25th June** there will be a 'School Memories' Afternoon (2-7pm) in the Parish Hall. If you have any memories, photos or mementoes of the old Greenhill and Pound Street Schools bring them along. Please also let me know if you would like to help with the event.

Judy Hardiman

Plymouth Naval Base Trip on June 29th :

Our first trip of the year is to the Plymouth Naval Base. The visit will include a tour of the base by bus. We shall also see the ropery galleries, and visit the museum and the model ship galleries. I'm sure it will be a fascinating day.

This trip is now fully booked, but a report on it will appear in next months Newsletter.

For those going on this visit:

The bus will depart at 10am sharp, from the Station Road car park so please make sure that you are there on time.

Email Addresses:

If you change your internet service provider, and as a result now have a different email address, do please remember to let me know so that I can update my records. Also if you have to date been receiving a printed version of the Newsletter, but are now 'online', do let me know.

Chris Pilkington