



# Moretonhampstead History Society

Newsletter

2007

September

## September Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th September, when Paul Rendell will give us an illustrated talk about:

### **The Tracks, Roads and Railways of Dartmoor.**

Many ways of moving about on the moor have been used over the years - packhorse routes, old railways and roads will be covered in this talk. Members will remember Paul's informative talk on the Tamar Valley last year. As usual, we meet in the Community Club at 7.30 pm.

*Non members of the Society are very welcome to join us for a donation of £2 payable at the door.*

## October Meeting:

This will be the AGM, but don't be put off by this; by tradition the formal business is over in a jiffy. I think the record is about 15 minutes! Then we have a bit of fun, and enjoy a glass of wine or a soft drink and a few nibbles as well. I think Ian is organising something along the lines of a quiz.

The downside is this is also the date that your subscriptions become due for the following year, so don't forget either your wallet or purse. The treasurer, Jeanette, will be happy to take your money!

There is no increase in subscriptions for 2007/2008, and membership remains at £15 for a family membership and £10 for a single membership.

## August Newsletter Picture Puzzle:

Many of you correctly identified the steps leading to the top of Blackingstone Rock. It is believed that these were constructed in the 1870's. If you climb these steps beware! They have very narrow treads, and the steps are very steep. It is better to treat it as a ladder, particularly when descending! One member told me he climbed it first some 70 years ago!

Some statistics now: Blackingstone rock is one of the highest tors in the Dartmoor national Park, and measures 24 metres from base to top. It affords wonderful panoramic views of Dartmoor, but is not a place to go if you suffer from vertigo! I'm sure you all know where it is, but just in case you don't: OS map No 191 grid ref 788857.

## Carefree Bygone Days:

*From the Newspaper dated 4th August 1880.*

The children of the Church Of England Sunday Schools had their annual treat at Stover Park on Thursday by permission of the Duke of Somerset. The Children (150) and their teachers and friends assembled at the school house on Greenhill at 1220 pm and marched in procession through the streets to the railway station, singing school songs. On their arrival at the park the procession broke up and the park was soon covered with merry faces enjoyed in various pastimes. A bountiful tea was provided and after tea the youngsters resumed their various pastimes with unabated vigour. The day was splendid. All went merry as a marriage bell and the youngsters returned to their houses shortly after 9 o'clock. The Moreton Brass Band was in attendance and played some lively music during the afternoon and evening.

### Editor's Notes:

I would like to be able to tell you what the 'various pastimes' were that the Children enjoyed in Stover Park, in the 1880's but, alas, the writer does not say.

The expression '**merry as a marriage bell**' is a new one to me, has anyone ever heard it used before? I'm sure Rev.Ian Hellyer would be very pleased to have 150 children attending the Sunday School today, but it he would need many more helpers and supervisors!

### Picture Puzzle:

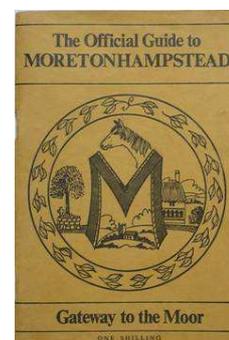


Do you recognise these buildings that can be seen in the heart of Dartmoor. They had an interesting part to play in the industrial economy of Dartmoor in the not so distant past. I look forward to hearing from someone who can say what part they played!

### Old Guide:

If you remember, last month I wrote about the Old Guide to Moreton found in the Information Centre. The Guide from about 1968 was sponsored by businesses in the town. These are listed below, in the order they appear. The ones in **blue** are still here, a few others also survive, albeit with new owners, however most have gone. So many shops etc!!

[The White Hart](#). Nuthatch Café. Moretonhampstead School of Motoring. [The Central Garage](#).  
Antiques— The Maltsters House. H.G Grant—Builders. [Court Street Garage](#).  
Taxi Service —W.R.Manley. [The White Horse Inn](#). P.E.Seppings— Butcher  
G. Brimblecombe & Sons— Timber Merchants. Plymouth Inn. G & E. Mallett— Dairy.  
F.C.Hudd—Plumber. H.&H. Mounsdon—Drapers. Mearsdon Manor Guest house.  
D.J.Perring—Newsagent. [The Bell Inn](#). [The CO-OP](#). Three Ravens— Art & Handicraft.  
W. Hiron —General Store. Moretonia— Radio & Electrical. Cherringtons— Newsagent.  
Duckyls Stud. The Health Stores. L.Hill —Blacksmith.  
[Moretonhampstead Estate Agency](#). The Alexandra Café and Restaurant.  
Charles Lynch—The Emporium. Gay & Stevens—Builders & Decorators.  
Elm View Stores— Grocers. Sunnymead Guest House.  
H.H.Jeffery & Son- Builders & Decorators.  
F.M.Pollard —Fish & Chips & General Store  
Hobbs' Store— Grocers. Antiques —The Old brass Kettle.  
R.C.Brooks—Baker & Confectioner. H.E.Rihl(Chemists) LTD.  
Mootels Ltd - Cow cubicle maker! Manor House Hotel.



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