

NEXT MEETING AT THE UNION INN

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19TH 7.30 PM

THE BUILDING OF EXETER CATHEDRAL

John Allan will give an illustrated talk on 'The Building of Exeter Cathedral'. Acknowledged as Devon's leading archaeologist, John is the former director of RAMM Exeter and the current Consultant Archaeologist to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral. His talk will be based on his unique knowledge acquired during a lifetime's association with what has been acclaimed as 'the most celebrated example of Decorated Gothic architecture in England and one of the most lovely medieval structures in Europe'. Non-members most welcome - £4 on the door.

***MHS VISIT TO THE ROOF OF
EXETER CATHEDRAL EXETER
2010***

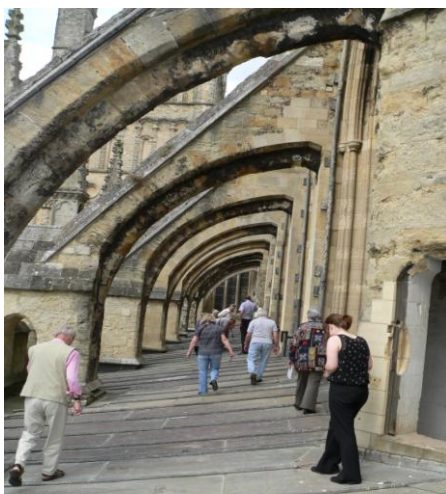
L: BENDY ROOF!

R: TOP VIEW!



L: FLYING BUTTRESSES

R: VIEW INTO THE NAVE



NOVEMBER MEETING

The History Society Meeting on 20th November 2013 took us from prehistoric times up to the present day. John Smith, who has been **historic metal detecting** for over eight years, brought a selection of his interesting 'finds' and talked to us about his time consuming but rewarding hobby.

The majority of his artefacts had been discovered in and around the Chagford and the West Country area. They ranged from three heavy bronze axe heads that were about three thousand four hundred years old, to a Nazi combat badge from the 2nd World War and many present day coins.

He explained that the metal detector was designed by Dr. Fisher and brought to England during the 2nd World War when it was used to search for land-mines. Such military use meant that the technology developed fast, and his current metal detector was light and easy to use, weighing under 5kilos. Slightly damp soil was preferable to dry soil as you need moisture in the earth to get a good reading.

He told us that you never went on land without first obtaining the owner's permission, and that any finds containing any gold or more that 10%silver, had to be declared to the authorities. Good places to search were near churches, or open areas that may have held a fair or market, where things were often lost or dropped, and he passed around two exquisite Victorian toy cannon in metal and brass which had come from the Sentry here in Moreton. Perfectly preserved, the wheels still went round, and they sat neatly in the palm of your hand.

He also allowed us to handle various coins. The first from Roman times showing the head of Emperor Vespasian (77-78AD) with the reverse having the image of a large well fed sow and three piglets (see photos below). This was quite a rare coin as the Emperor's rather plump features were facing to the right instead of towards the more usual left.



Another rare coin he passed round was a square, siege coin from the siege of the town of Breda in 1625. Due to the lack of money within the besieged town, and the need for coinage, the City Fathers cut up the city plate into small squares, stamped them with the city seal and distributed them on the understanding the coins would be returned after the siege ended. This coin was found in Tavistock, so obviously did not make it back to the Netherlands.

He also had with him a very delicate and beautifully preserved Roman Trumpet Fiddler brooch, still with the fine thin pin that fastened it attached to the shank. Nestled in a bed of foam it was passed carefully from hand to hand, a rare chance to hold something so old, beautiful and fragile.

In addition Mr Smith brought with him a selection of display cases full of fascinating things, which we all had the opportunity to look at after his talk.

His English coins ranged from an Edward I silver penny of 1279 and a Charles 1 penny of 1644, through the centuries to countless Victorian and Edwardian pennies, threepences, sixpences and guineas. There were heavy rimmed cartwheel pennies from 1797 plus foreign coins from Mexico and China. One case was devoted to silver thimbles, and another to a range of buckles of all shapes and sizes. A third held a selection of badges including a battered but lovingly recognised Robertson's Golly from the jam and marmalade manufacturers.



All in all an interesting and illuminating evening, and a chance to bring us all closer in touch (literally) with our rich heritage.

Brian Spittles

MEMBERS' INTERESTS I

UNDERWATER HISTORY – THE GLAUCUS PROJECT

Plymouth Sound has an impressive mile breakwater (built in 1812-1841) which serves to protect the sound from the worst effects of Atlantic storms and tidal surges. There's a lighthouse at the westerly edge and a mariner's shelter on the easterly side. In the middle of the breakwater, about 30m away from it, is the Victorian cannon fort. Nowadays the fort is pretty well inactive but around 40 years ago it was used for a lot of underwater training and development work. Divers can now see the remains of this work if they dive around the fort.



One of the more unusual structures lying near to the breakwater is an underwater cylinder that was built to show that humans could live underwater. The *Glaucus Project* was developed to show that cheaper alternatives to Cousteau's Conshelf Project (another underwater living project) were possible. The cylinder was laid down in 1965, and in September two brave (or mad) young men managed to spend 1 week in the cramped metal cylinder. The structure is about 4m long with a radius of about 2m and it is supported on legs that bed down into the sandy mud of Plymouth Sound at a depth of about 13m. Food and supplies were supplied via a hatch whilst breathing was made possible by outside air tanks and internal CO₂ scrubber filters. Unfortunately, the project didn't catch on but the remains of this innovative construction are still there.

Here is an internet link to a Pathe News video from 1965 that shows the cylinder and the crazy pair who lived in it for a week:

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/week-under-water/query/Glaucus>

Richard Knights

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

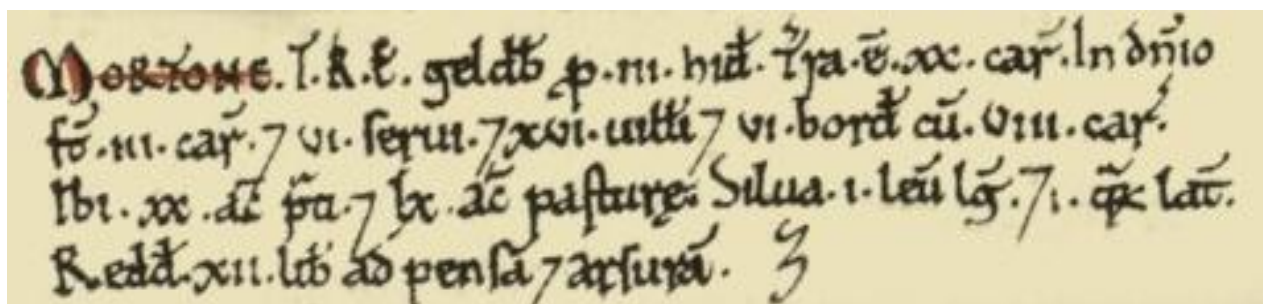
'HOUSE HISTORY IN MORETON - THE RICHNESS OF THE COURTENAY ARCHIVES.'

As befits someone who has written *Medieval Intrigue; Decoding Royal Conspiracies*, a bible for historiography, Dr Mortimer began with an emphasis on the vital importance of historians going back to original sources as far as possible. Documents are available in various venues and formats, including digitised versions online.

One aspect of this came from, and was exhibited by, uncertainty regarding the differences between manors and boroughs. Ian pointed out that today there are far more houses claiming the appellation 'manor' than there were actual manors. A manor was an administrative unit, as was a Borough; it did not refer to a house or property, and most Manor Courts were held in the open air and were of short duration as everyone then returned to work. A Borough was a separate administration unit originally set up to organise the market, but had evolved into a record of land ownership and the responsibilities connected to the upkeep of the road outside the property

Ian described the excitement he felt when he started to look at the 1639 Survey of the Manor of Moretonhampstead which Bill and Judy Hardiman had bought back from the Hamleden archives at Reading University, and how he realised the wealth of information now available for everyone to explore.

He began with the Domesday records of 1086 for 'Mortona' which listed not only land and animals but also 6 slaves. (*See below the original Latin text & a translation by MHS.*)



'Moreton. At the time of King Edward the Confessor it paid tax for 3 hides (*units of roughly 80-120 acres*). There is land for 20 ploughs. In lordship there are 3 ploughs and 6 serfs (*unfree labourers*) cultivating 1 hide; and 16 villeins (*villagers*) and 6 bordars (*smallholders*) with 8 ploughs cultivating 2 hides. There are 20 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture; the woodland is 1 league long and 1 furlong wide. It pays £12 in tax weighed and assayed'

The 1297 Manorial survey is the next important available source as it distinguished between the 2 classes of tenants: the free tenants (freeholders), and the customary tenants (who had their land on lease for 3 lives or 99 years). Although there is very little other documentary evidence about medieval Moreton, the landscape itself provides further information. E.g. we still have the league of woodland in the Teign Valley originally mentioned in the Domesday survey, and we should use both land and property as additional evidence.

He remarked that the parish as shown in the 1790 Manorial survey contains noticeable blanks, and further research shows that by this date, those areas were now privately owned, and no longer part of the manor property, albeit still paying 'head rent'

Ian used numerous slides of the maps and documents to illustrate his talk. He also handed out sheets of Manor records, and Name records, with details of subsidies and taxes. He explained that the Borough of Moreton consisted primarily of the centre of Moretonhampstead. The Tithe Map shows regular burgage plots arranged around the market square (now Greenhill) after the grant of the market by King John in 1207.

Ian used Mearsdon, where he lives, as a case history. The earliest deed for Mearsdon, a quit claim of 1300, confirms the layout of the burgage plots, and that most of the Borough properties had a field at each end of town for livestock. He discussed some of the owners and tenants of Mearsdon and the records available, for example the 1639 manor survey where you can trace not only the property but details about the owners. It lists both the freeholders and their property and, abstracts of all the leases for the estate, showing that at this time the vast majority of the manor was still leasehold. Ian highlighted also the Hearth Tax of 1664 that allows you to visualise the layout of each property;

As rental prices never varied it is possible to track a property from survey to survey, using the rental amount, and discover the freeholder for every single year. Such information also allows you to map out where the properties are and to reconstruct their history, and discover odd facts. For example, the rent in 1756 for one of the houses in Cross Street called Lakes tenement was 10 shillings 3 pence, and one capon.

Other documents in the Devon Record Office are equally illuminating - including an excellent map of 1790 (*see below*) which allows you to identify where everything was. Using that map as a starting point Ian explained the research procedure, taking us

through a series of documents to identify a specific property, and showing us how you would then use that information to trace it and its inhabitants as far back as 1639.



Moreton borough in the 1790 survey map

Although the documents covering Moretonhampstead are kept in many different archives, it is now possible to digitally photograph them and bring them all together to work on them.* This allows cross referencing and a more rounded and overall picture.

Ian's talk had obviously stimulated a great deal of interest through his use of old maps and documents and he answered a wide variety of questions before the meeting closed.

Brian Spittles

**The 1639 Survey is currently being transcribed and translated by members of MHS. The 1790 Survey and the 1839 Tithe Settlement are also being transcribed. Do let us know if you would like to join these groups. (Ed.)*

MEMBERS' INTERESTS II

THE HARAPPAN CIVILISATION

Ron Vachel was serving in India during the war and became fascinated by the country's rich cultural and religious heritage. On his departure after the war, he was given a replica collection of some ancient terracotta and bronze figures that had particularly taken his interest. He has treasured them ever since.

They come from one of the most fascinating yet mysterious cultures of the ancient world that existed 5000 years ago along the Indus River in present day Pakistan. It was named after the city of Harappa around which it was centred. Harappa and the city of Mohenjo-Daro were the greatest achievements of the Indus valley civilization. These cities are well known for their impressive, organized and regular layout. Over one hundred other towns and villages also existed in this region. The Harappan people were literate and used the Dravidian language. Only part of this language has been deciphered today, leaving numerous questions about this civilization unanswered.

Artefacts and clues discovered at Mohenjo-Daro have allowed archaeologists to reconstruct this civilization. The similarities in plan and construction between Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa indicate that they were part of a unified government with extreme organization. Both cities were constructed of the same type and shape of bricks. The two cities may have existed simultaneously and their sizes suggest that they served as capitals of their provinces. In contrast to other civilizations, burials found from these cities are not magnificent; they are more simplistic and contain few material goods. This evidence suggests that this civilization did not have social classes. Remains of palaces or temples in the cities have not been found i.e. they probably predated Hinduism. No hard evidence exists indicating military activity although the cities did contain fortifications and copper and bronze knives, spears, and arrowheads were used.

The Harappan civilization was mainly urban and mercantile. Inhabitants of the Indus valley traded with Mesopotamia, southern India, Afghanistan, and Persia for gold, silver, copper, and turquoise. The Mesopotamian model of irrigated agriculture was used to take advantage of the fertile grounds along the Indus River. Earthlinks were built to control the river's annual flooding. Crops grown included wheat, barley, peas, melons, and sesame. This civilization was the first to cultivate cotton for the production of cloth. Several animals were domesticated including the elephant which was used for its ivory.

Most of the artwork from this civilization was small and used as personal possessions. The first objects unearthed from Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were small stone seals of which Ron's collection contains excellent replicas. They were inscribed with elegant portrayals of real and imagined animals and were marked with the Indus script writing, suggesting a symbolic or religious intent. Stone sculptures carved in steatite, limestone, or alabaster depict a male figure who may be a god. Pottery figures were shaped into humans and animals. Very few bronze figures have been recovered. The Harappan civilization experienced its height around 2500 BC and began to decline about 2000 BC. The causes of its downfall are not certain.

My thanks to Ron for introducing me to this civilization and showing me his wonderful collection, some of which are shown below along with Ron (on right of the photo) on active service.

Bill Hardiman

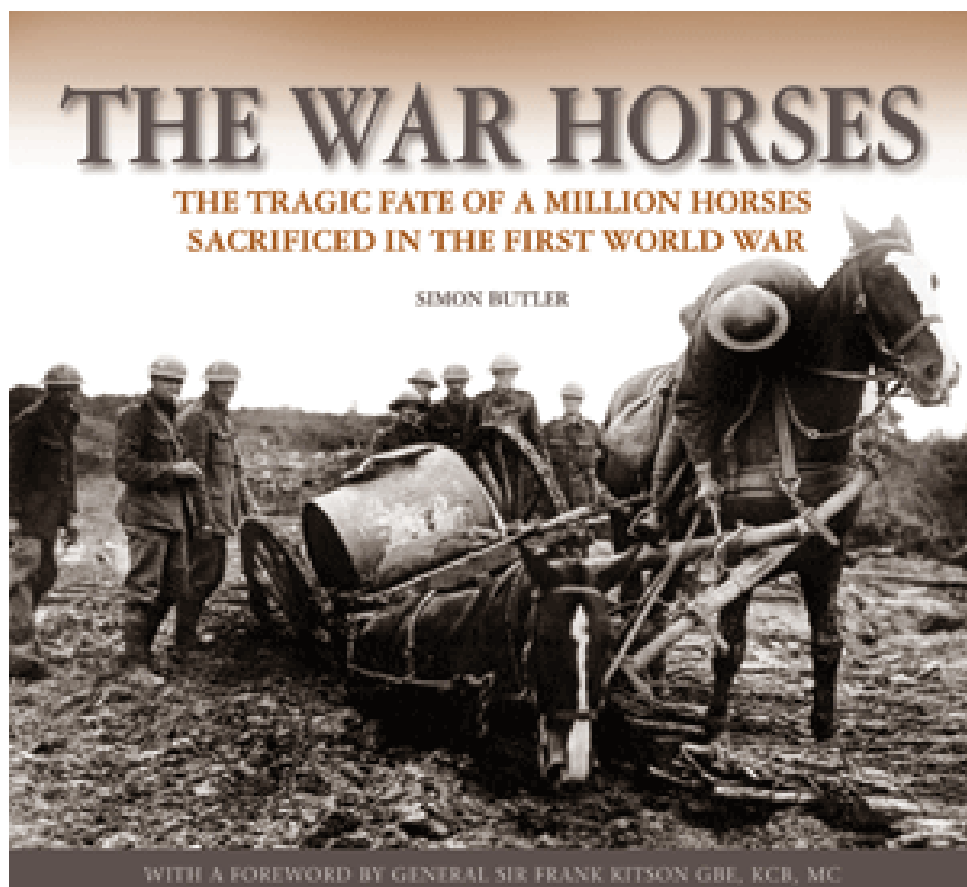


FEBRUARY MEETING

THE WAR HORSES 1914-18

We were very pleased to welcome Simon Butler, a new member, to give us this evocative talk. He has many connections with Moreton and is also helping the History Society with the reprint of George Friend's book *The Memories of Moreton* through his role with Halsgrove publishing. The talk he explained was based on his recently published book *The War Horses* which is about the use of requisitioned working horses on the Western Front by the British Forces, not the cavalry or those used with the field artillery.

To set the scene he reminded us that 100 years ago working horses would have been in the Stables of the Union Inn (our meeting venue!) eating their fodder after a day's work unaware of their future. Agricultural horses had increased in number to over 880,000 by 1910 but these had been supplemented by 300,000 imported horses. During the South African wars, at the end of Queen Victoria's reign, there had been an acute shortage of available horses and 300,000 of them had perished there. To overcome the potential shortage of horses they could be registered for use by the military for war use in return of a subsidy and a guaranteed purchase price and the military were also entitled to seize horses and carriages through the Army Act of 1881. At the outbreak of war the army only had 25,000 horses but over 5 times this amount were available through the registration and impressment schemes and many were freely given with the initial enthusiasm for the war.



*The front cover of Simon Butler's recent book *The War Horses**

In 1914 horses began to be collected, chosen by various criteria such as light or heavy draught horses. The loss of these horses was deeply felt by the farming communities and many gathered to watch them being led away. Ponies and mules were also taken but not John Galsworthy's pony Molly. He was living at Manaton at the time and rode her to Moreton to have her refused by the army, much to his relief.

The lengthy journeys for these sensitive animals by train and sea including being lifted and swung by cranes on and off the ships must have been very frightening. Once in France horses had to be paired up and equipped with the right size equipment and become accustomed to working together. Those at base camp were relatively safe but those transporting supplies to the front such as clean drinking water, equipment such as duckboards and ammunition or injured men were much more at risk, especially when the mud was deep and they slipped off the brushwood tracks and sunk. Sometimes they died where they fell. Horses serving at the front line suffered the same dangers as the fighting men with the freezing temperatures, barbed wire, poison gas, exploding shells, aircraft, and disease but also from carelessness from discarded nails and such objects left along the tracks. The horses sometimes did have gas masks but they were unable to take shelter in bunkers and had no protective helmets.

The horses were cared for by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. They were transported to the Veterinary Hospitals in their own special transport and when better returned to active service. The horses were shooed by farriers* at the base camps or close to the front. Unlike the new motorised forms of transport, the horses need 'fuelling' even when they were not in use. It is estimated that the daily requirement for fodder for the British Army alone would be 5,000 tons most of which would have to be transported to the front by horses.

During the war the British Army on the Western Front had 256,000 horses killed and it is estimated across all the fields of war 8 million died. There are numerous stories of soldiers caring for their horses and even risking their own lives to save their horses. Gradually during the war horses were partly replaced by steam and petrol driven vehicles, especially so when the Americans joined the War in 1918. By August 1918 there were still over half a million horses on the Western Front and many animal protection charities did their best to prevent these horses being slaughtered for meat and to allow them to return home.

Simon's talk was accompanied by a collection of evocative contemporary photographs which he had acquired during the research for his book. The questions and discussion after the talk showed the audience's appreciation of his work to record this emotive topic as we begin the centenary commemorations of the war that created it.

Judy Hardiman

**W. Sharland is recorded on the Moretonhampstead WWI Board of Honour in the Bowring Library as a farrier sergeant in the RAVC (Ed.)*

MEMBERS' INTERESTS III



A man aged 102 with his great-great-granddaughter (above). Calotype by the little-known English photographer **William Collie**, c. 1848. Collie worked mainly in Jersey. This photograph, never published before, is probably unique in showing a human-being born in the 1740s – around 1746, the year that Bonnie Prince Charlie quit the field at Culloden and 10 years before the birth of Mozart. This man was middle-aged when the Bastille was stormed. Had the girl survived to the same age she would have witnessed the Second World War

Audrey and Geoff Gooding are keen family historians. Recently they came across this item in one of the subject's journals and were fascinated by the idea that the earliest photos can act as a link to what we think of as very distant events. This man's life spanned so many events and developments that have shaped our world such as the Industrial, American and French Revolutions. While the girl by contrast would have lived in such a different world, including the coming of motor and air transport and possibly two world wars and the atomic bomb.

Do let us know if you have any old photos or artefacts that can act as a window into the past.

Bill Hardiman

EXPLORING DARTMOOR'S ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE EARLY SUMMER WALKING WITH TOM GREEVES, MA, PhD MONDAY 2 JUNE 2014 to SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2014

This is a lovely time for exploring the wonderful extent of Dartmoor's archaeology as bracken (especially if we have a cold Spring) is still in its early stages. Some remarkably preserved prehistoric cultural landscapes can be seen, intermixed with amazing tinworking features, besides stonecutting, peat cutting, military, rabbit warrening, religious & hill farming remains from medieval times onwards.

Please see http://www.tomgreeves.org/dartmoor_walks.html for more details

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY MARCH 22ND

CHURCH TRIP TO CREDITON, SANDFORD AND UPTON HELLIONS

Judy will send around details of this year's first historic churches' trip

NEW ARCHAEOLOGY COURSE AT GREEN HILL – TIN WORKING ON DARTMOOR WITH DR TOM GREEVES

Dartmoor contains, arguably, the finest tin-working landscape in the world. This introductory course will explore the remarkable documentary, archaeological and photographic sources for the long history of Dartmoor tin-working from prehistory to the 20th century. Where appropriate, emphasis will be given to evidence from eastern Dartmoor including; the historic framework (stannary administration, Lydford Castle, Great Courts, documentary sources, Moretonhampstead tanners), the Archaeological Landscape of 15th-17th Century Tinworking (tinworks, mills and lodges) Mines and Miners 1750-1930 .

On 3 Mondays starting 24th March 7-9pm at Green Hill and a field trip on Sunday 13th April from 10am-1pm.

All-inclusive fee: £44.00 / limited concessions of free places for those on benefits (please enquire) (*Heritage Lottery Fund*)

Please phone Katheryn on 01647 440775 or book on-line at www.moretonhampstead.com

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16TH at 7.30 PM

'A VIRTUAL STEAM TRAIN TRIP AROUND DARTMOOR'

Peter Gray, well-known Devon railway enthusiast, will show some of his evocative photos taken during the last days of steam rail on and around Dartmoor, including the Moreton line. Please note that this will be in the Parish Hall, Fore St.

WEDNESDAY MAY 21ST at 7.30 pm

'THE HISTORY OF PLYMOUTH BREAKWATER'

An illustrated talk by Nigel Overton, Maritime Curator of Plymouth City Museum

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11TH 2-4 PM

GUIDED BOAT TRIP AROUND HISTORIC PLYMOUTH SOUND & BREAKWATER

Nigel Overton will give a guided commentary during the trip.

Judy will send around details & booking forms for this trip on March 19th

MORETONHAMPSTEAD STREET NAMES

In the course of thinking about wheeled transport to and from Moretonhampstead, I started wondering about the street names. As most people will know, most cities' streets were named in medieval times. Long before 1700 most market towns too had their 'Market street', 'Church Street' and 'Butchers' Row' and so forth. However Moreton seems to have had no street names until the early eighteenth century.

Looking at the Neck papers in Devon Record Office, the earliest name of a street mentioned in that collection is **Pound Street**, mentioned in a deed of 1711.

Court Street appears thus named in 1734 but as recently as 1720 it had been described as 'the Road Leading to Plymouth'. In an early 18th century note of a deed dated 1676 it is described as 'the road leading towards Dartmore'.

Ford Street appears so-named in 1734 as well. In 1695 it had still been 'the street leading from the town to Okehampton'. It later became Forder Street, presumably because the fields at the end of the road were called 'Forder Fields': the Courtenay survey of 1790 refers to it as 'Forder Street' and so does *Pigot's Directory* of 1823. The censuses of 1841-81 and 1901 also refer to it as Forder Street. However, the 1861 census also calls it Ford Street when giving the address of the Union Inn. The 1891 census consistently calls it Ford Street. Clearly for a while both names were occasionally used before it reverted to Ford Street permanently in the twentieth century. Note that Forder Street East (where Moreton House is now) was described as 'Market Street' in 1841. A directory of 1866 also refers to this road as 'the Market Place', it being opposite the Shambles.

In the survey of 1639, **Lime Street** had no name, being then described as 'a certain lane leading to the lord's mill'. In 1726 it appears as 'the highway leading to Crediton'. The 1790 Courtenay Survey labels it 'Mary Steps'. Documents dating from 1807-1826 describe it as Mill Street. *Pigot's Directory* of 1823, however, calls it Lime Street, so its name was changing about that time. By the census of 1841 it had firmly acquired its modern name of Lime Street.

Fore Street was Foot Street or Footman Street in 1775-7. The name of Fore Street appears from 1834. Its parallel lane, **Back Lane** was described as 'Back Street or Back Lane' in 1777; by 1823 it was firmly 'Back Lane'. **New Street** first appears in *Picot's Directory of 1823*.

So far I have been unable to find a reference to **Cross Street** earlier than the Courtenay Survey of 1790. As with Greenhill, houses in the area were simply referred to as 'in the borough'. **New Cut** was created and named after the 1845 fire.

I cannot find any old references to **George Street**. I dare say it was named after the George Inn, which used to occupy the central block of buildings in the square. In that case it was so named in the late eighteenth century as the inn on the site was simply known as 'the Inn house' in the 1639 survey and in a deed of 1693 in my possession, and in borough records throughout the eighteenth century. The earliest reference to it as The George dates from 1779.

Ian Mortimer