



# EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2008

## Chairman's Remarks:

I wish all our members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Looking back to 2007, the visit to St Mary Steps was extremely enjoyable. Dr Tegwin Harris gave an excellent talk and he then took small parties up to visit the working side of Matthew the Miller clock (pictured below). Exeter Civic Society is paying for the annual maintenance of this famous clock for the next 5 years. Richard Parker has written a most erudite piece on the history of the clock for this newsletter. (It may be possible to repeat this visit).

The Local History Day in the Guildhall was a great success. Mrs Harvey sold a number of publications and we gained some new members.

The tour in late November of the Ethnography Stores at the Royal Albert Museum was most impressive. The curator, Tony Eccles, showed us some of the most significant artefacts – such as ceremonial clubs presented to Captain Cook.

The AGM in the Devon and Exeter Institution went very smoothly and I would like to say how grateful I am to all the committee members for their hard work and support over a difficult year. Pamela Wootton and the Planning Subcommittee members also deserve our thanks for scrutinising planning applications so well. Mrs Harvey and Mrs Adcock do a great job of filling envelopes and posting newsletters – our thanks to them and the auditor, Mr Adcock. David Snell too copes admirably with our late copy, the newsletters, and the website.





Mrs Levers organised a varied programme of talks and visits. Please note that we still need a secretary, so if you can spare a couple of hours a month, do ring me.

Our thanks are also due to the members who filled in the questionnaires sent out with the last Newsletter. The comments have been very helpful. The Executive Committee are planning several new initiatives in the coming months.

We are hoping to install a seat on the canal towpath in May to mark the centenary of the birth of Professor W. G. Hoskins. I will contact the members who expressed an interest in funding and dedicating other seats soon.

The Exeter Civic Award Scheme is being actively planned by Geoffrey Harding and a small team of helpers. (See his article in this newsletter). Peter Caspar and Julia Neville are making plans for the new publication on Exeter Trams and Tramways. We are most grateful to John Perkin of Taunton for supplying the archive of photographs.

Paul Faulkner, Exeter City Council, has asked if some members of Exeter Civic Society would be willing to liaise with him on plans for their local parks. We already have volunteers for Pinces Park and the Hoopern Valley play area. If you are interested perhaps you could ring me.

Last week Geoffrey Harding and Stephan Bouloux accompanied me to Launceston for the Civic Trust meeting. This was a very intensive session and we were most impressed to hear how other neighbouring Civic Societies are faring. The chairman of the Tiverton Civic Society has suggested that we have a joint meeting to consider the implications of the new towns that are planned in the Exe Valley. We hope to arrange this later in the year.

Readers of the Express & Echo may have noticed that Exeter Civic Society was one of the objectors to the recent University planning application. Our objection was about the amount of tree felling involved, and not to the new buildings.

Jean Levers has found some interesting speakers for us this year, including the Lord Mayor in the Guildhall in April. I look forward to seeing you at these events.

Margo Swift, Chairman.

### **New Members:**

Since our last Newsletter was published, we have been glad to welcome the following new members:

**Mr & Mrs Hall Moore, Mr C.R. Laskey, Mrs B. Looser and Mr A Rosevear.**

Stephan Bouloux, Membership Secretary

