

Did You Know?

First in a new series on
little-known historical Exeter
by Margaret Smith

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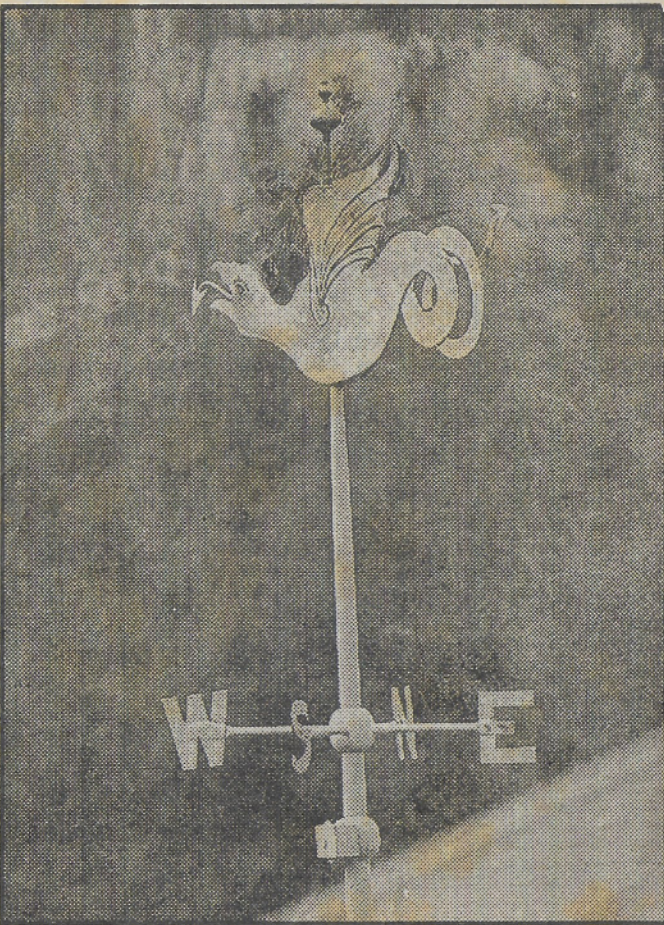
A dragon in Exeter

When the ancient city gates were demolished the North Gate was the first to go. A stone on the Iron Bridge now marks its site, alongside the weather vane which once stood atop the gate.

The pole carries that strangest of mythical creatures, the wyvern: a winged two-legged dragon with a scorpion's tail.

Flying bullets from the 1662 Prayerbook Rebellion hit him hard. You can see the dents on his plump little body – evidence of insurrection.

When the North Gate bit the dust the weather vane was taken down to the quay, where it stood above the Wharfinger's office. It was restored to the North Gate site by Exeter Civic Society.



PICTURE: Derek Meredith