



## Restoration and reinstallation

Initial attempts to retain the panelling in place failed, and it was stored temporarily in the museum. Meticulous cleaning and restoration work by Mc Neilage Conservation and Hugh Harrison commenced in summer 2008.

It was reinstalled in November 2009 behind a screen specially designed on the museum's advice to ensure the best possible environmental conditions and protection for the panelling, as well as maximum visibility.



*The later botanical painting on the door*     *Cherry tree painting being uncovered by Carolyn Robinson, Mc Neilage Conservation*

## Acknowledgments

Many people and organisations have been involved since 1995. The reinstallation was supported by the Conservatory Restaurant, Exeter City Council, and Exeter Historic Buildings Trust.

*The  
Conservatory  
Restaurant*



**Exeter City Council**

## Painted Tudor Panelling



*Watercolour by Edward Ashworth, 1887, showing earlier front (No. 18, to left)*

## The Building

The Conservatory Restaurant in North Street occupies the ground floor of an unassuming but important listed building. Typically, a later front hides a much earlier building behind – here a Tudor merchant's house and shop built around 1600, in the last years of Elizabeth I. Originally it had a timber framed front like Laura Ashley's in the High Street, but this was an early victim of road widening. Built as a pair with No. 17, it had a typical layout – with the shop and reception rooms at the front with the domestic rooms over, and linked to a separate kitchen block at the rear (now rebuilt as the restaurant kitchen) by a two storey gallery. Later, after the Civil War, the interior was extensively refurbished. Although many historic features have been lost, some - the passageway, rear window, and the restored panelling, can still be seen.