



## Reed Hall Streatham Drive Exeter

In 1867 Richard Thornton West, a retired East India Company Merchant moved from London to Exeter and built his home, a villa in the Italianate style and named the building after his home in London, Streatham Hall. Thornton West was the only millionaire ever to reside in Exeter but by the early part of the Century all the Thornton West's had died out so Streatham Hall stood empty until 1922.

In 1922 Alderman W H Reed, who at that time lived at Thomlea, now the home of the Drama Department, bought Streatham Hall along with eleven acres of the estate and presented it to the University College of the South West who were originally in Gandy Street in a building backing onto the Castle.

As well as Streatham Hall the University College purchased, with the help of donations, a further 100 acres of the Estate that formed the beginning of the campus as we know it today. In his honour Streatham Hall was renamed Reed Hall.

The grounds of Reed Hall were laid out in the late 1860s by the firm of Veitch whose plant collectors travelled across the world in search of new species to adorn the gardens of Britain. Among them were the renowned E H Wilson and the Lobb Brothers who introduced *Torreya Californica* (the Californian Nutmeg) to England in 1851, an example of which is growing in the Reed Hall gardens today.

The ambiance of the house is in keeping with Thornton West's idea of the perfect family home. The interior with its beautiful central staircase leads up to the first floor and into the magnificent Upper Lounge and Thornton West dining suite. The original bedrooms of the house are on the top floor and offer a selection of ensuite and standard rooms that are all unique and offer wonderful views over the grounds and outskirts of Exeter.

Reed Hall today has kept many of its original features and is a popular venue for weddings and special occasions and is regularly used for meetings and day conferences.

Over the last 30 years Reed Hall has been known within the University as the 'Staff Club' and still to this day offers an excellent lunch every week-day and accommodation to visiting Academics and VIPs.