Professor J.R.R. Tolkien wrote and revised the passages “At the Sign of the Prancing Pony” from *The Lord of the Rings*, in his study at Northmoor Road, Oxford between 1939 and 1940. Some of his inspirations for the Town of Bree and The Prancing Pony and similarities are listed:

“The Village of Bree had some hundred stone houses of the Big Folk,…”

> Moreton in Marsh houses are typically stone built.

“The gates were closed at nightfall; but just inside them were small lodges for the gatekeepers.”

> Moreton in Marsh is a curfew town and still retains its curfew tower.

“For Bree stood at an old meeting of ways; another ancient road crossed the East Road just outside the dike at the western end of the village….”

> Moreton in Marsh stands on the ancient Fosse-way Roman Road running from east to west (or west south west to east north east). This also meets the North to South ancient Road from Oxford to Worcester at Moreton in Marsh.

“The Inn at Bree was still there, however, and the innkeeper was an important person. His house was a meeting place for the idle, talkative, and inquisitive among the inhabitants, large and small, of the four villages;”

> Moreton in Marsh is where four shires meet and inhabitants from these four areas meet.

“The houses looked large and strange to them. Sam stared up at the inn with its three stories and many windows…”

> The Bell Inn in Moreton in Marsh is stone built and on three stories with many windows.

“Even from the outside the inn looked a pleasant house to familiar eyes. It had a front on the Road, and two wings running back…” “There was a wide arch leading to a courtyard between the two wings, and on the left under the arch there was a large doorway reached by a few broad steps.”

> The Bell Inn fronts the high street (Fosse-way) and has a wide arch running back into a courtyard between two wings. These wings are now accommodation and some low single storey buildings, also The Bell Inn used to have stables and was a coaching Inn. The large entrance door is today at the front of the Inn. 20 years ago the entrance was on the left under the arch with a few broad steps. This has now been bricked-up.

For additional information on J.R.R. Tolkien and his association with the area please contact www.adcbooks.co.uk or phone 01608-674620 (Three Farthing Stone Smial)