

# Redditch Local History Society

April 2019

Vol 1 / Issue 1

## Newsletter...

### Latest meeting

Our Annual General Meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> had good support with 36 members and 7 visitors, of which we had 35 renewals/new members at the meeting

Following the welcome to the meeting and apologies for absence, the minutes of the April 2018 AGM meeting (which were printed on the back of the agenda) were agreed and approved.

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer gave their reports. The Society is now entering its 10 year and in that time it has become a well-established and respected organisation in the town. The Chairman thanked the Officers and Management Committee for the work which they have put in throughout the year. There was cause for concern that the level of membership had fallen from 75 in 2017 to 64 in 2018 and we are making efforts to increase publicity for our wide range of activities which include our locally themed history talks at the OCC, the many live events where we are present, our annual exhibition at Forge Mill Needle Museum and our archives, which continue to steadily increase.

# AGM

Our website has around 700 visitors per month, a 15% increase on last year, and now has a news 'blog' which gives an update of happenings between meetings. Our Facebook page has 1103 followers, an increase of 12% on last year, and we have 962 Twitter followers, an increase of 5% on last year. Our web presence is important, not only to give updated information for members, but also for individuals who cannot come to the meetings or do not live locally, and this extends well beyond the UK.

The Treasurer presented the Statement of Accounts showing our finances are healthy with a positive balance of £1345.32. The statement of Accounts, which had been examined independently, were approved by the meeting.

Election of Officers:

Executive Posts

- Chairman - Derek Coombes was stepping down from this role. Don Vincent agreed to stand and was elected unopposed.
- Secretary - Anthony Green re-elected unopposed
- Treasurer - Graham Smith re-elected unopposed

Non-executive posts:

- Newsletter Editor - Derek Coombes did not want to continue with this role as it exists due to the high workload. No volunteer was found to take this role on and so a new format will be used (see later).
- Society Archivist – Derek Coombes re-elected unopposed
- Speakers Organiser – Don Vincent was stepping down and, in the absence of a volunteer to take this on, the post was left in abeyance. The programme for 2020 had been organised by Don and so there is no urgency at the moment.
- Website Administrator - Anthony Green re-elected unopposed.

Management Committee

The Management Committee consists of the 3 executive members, Chairman Don Vincent, Secretary Tony Green and Treasurer Graham Smith and non-executive member (Derek Coombes). The member representatives. Elizabeth Simpson, David Spyer and Pete Harris were re-elected unopposed.

Accounts Examiner:

Margaret Daw was not at the meeting and so Graham Smith would check that she happy to continue in this role.

### Presentations

Directly after the AGM there were two films from History West Midlands. These were a short 6 min film on the 1833 London to Birmingham railway and a longer 25 min film on the building of the 1851 Great Exhibition which was constructed from components, metal and glass, manufactured in the West Midlands.

### Newsletter Redesign

To reduce the workload on one individual, there will be a Newsletter, produced monthly, which will be an enhanced Meeting Report with expanded information on Society Notices, the Next Meeting, etc. It would be in digital form but printed copies would be available at the following meeting. Redditch History Matters would then become a genuine local history publication containing articles, pictures and other material of historical importance produced each year and professionally printed. How this would be financed, making a small charge for copies for example, will be reviewed depending on the cost. The Newsletter would be the responsibility of the Secretary, and Redditch History Matters the responsibility of the Archivist. So, the role of Newsletter Editor will disappear. There will be a final copy of the monthly Redditch History Matters for April.



Produced by Anthony Green - Secretary - Redditch Local History Society

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## Events

There was a call to members for support at the Headless Cross May Fayre on Monday May 6th, 2019. Please contact Derek Coombes if you are able to help.

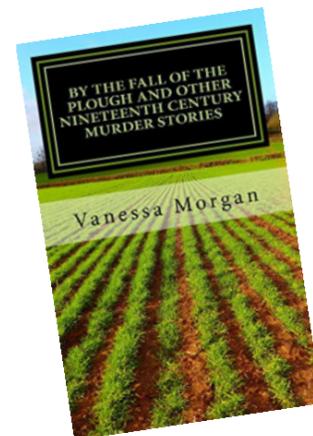
On Saturday 27th April there is an 'Exploration of art and symbolism' at Hanbury Church. For details visit [www.hanburychurch.org](http://www.hanburychurch.org)

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the Redditch Local History Society will be on Monday 13th May 2019 at the Oasis Christian Centre, Plymouth Road

The presentation for the meeting is 19th Century Rogues and Murders in Worcestershire and is given by Vanessa Morgan.

Born and brought up in Worcestershire, Vanessa has always had an interest in history and for the last twenty years worked as a professional genealogist. She is also a local speaker and gives numerous talks which include genealogy and local murders.



## Annual Exhibition

Our exhibition at Forge Mill Needle Museum this year is entitled 'My Redditch Memories', and runs from Thursday 31st October to Sunday 24th November 2019.

In this 'living history' exhibition, the Redditch Local History Society are collecting together stories about people and events in the town from a wide range of residents.

We looking for as many residents as possible to write down one or more of their memories for us to include in the exhibition, to give a good overall view of the recent history of the town.

For more details on how you can contribute please visit: <http://www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk/exhibition.htm>

## My Redditch Memories



## Our Meetings

The Redditch Local History Society meets, from February to December, on the 2nd Monday of the month (except December which is our Christmas social and is on the 3rd Monday).

Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and last for approximately 2 hours, it begins with a presentation, which lasts about one hour, and this is followed by refreshments and society business, event news and project reports.

Non-members welcome for whom there will be a £3 entrance charge.

(Refundable against membership fee if subsequently joining the society the same day.)

## Contact

For details of how to join the Redditch Local History Society or to contact us:

**email:**

[contact@redditchhistorysociety.org.uk](mailto:contact@redditchhistorysociety.org.uk)

**Visit:**

[www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk)

**Telephone:**

01527 404365 or 01527 61434

## Publications

This **Newsletter** is produced monthly following each meeting. It is distributed free in digital form and printed copies are available at the following monthly meeting. It is produced by the RLHS Secretary, Anthony Green, who can be contacted at [anthony.green@RLHS.org.uk](mailto:anthony.green@RLHS.org.uk) or telephone 01527 61434.

We have an annual magazine, **Redditch History Matters**, which contains articles, photographs and other material of historical importance to Redditch which has been submitted by members and others. This is produced by the RLHS Archivist, Derek Coombes, who can be contacted at [derek.coombes@RLHS.org.uk](mailto:derek.coombes@RLHS.org.uk) or telephone 01527 404365.

The publications can be downloaded from our website [www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk), where more details and earlier issues can also be found.



Produced by Anthony Green - Secretary - Redditch Local History Society

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