

# Redditch Local History Society

May 2019

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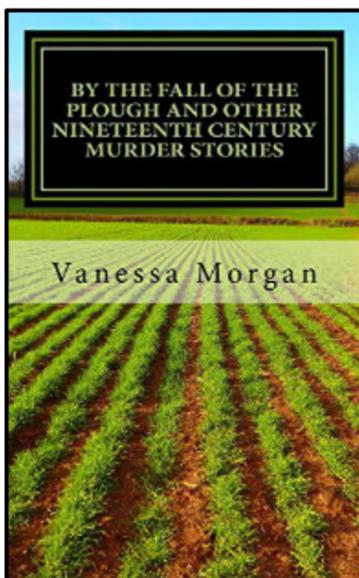
## Newsletter...

### *Latest meeting*

The latest meeting of the Redditch Local History Society was held on Monday 15th May 2019 at the Oasis Christian Centre, Plymouth Road

For the meeting we had an attendance of 46 members and 6 visitors, giving a total of 52 attendees. We had 3 new members joining at the meeting.

The meeting began with an introduction by the Chairman who welcomed members and visitors, read the Society notices and introduced the speaker.



For today's talk, Vanessa Morgan told the story 'Nineteenth Century Rogues and Murderers in Worcestershire' whereby, using contemporary newspaper articles and census data, she related a series of stories on a variety of crimes, some serious and others not so serious..

The talk included many stories including the story of Joshua Hollis who, in 1832, after a day spent drinking with friends ended up dead, Charles Bollis (alias Smith), who stole some items of Redditch Railway Station and was given 15 months hard labour, and an habitual offender, James Heath of Redditch – a fish hook maker, who between the 1840s and 1870s he was up before the magistrates for many offences e.g. poaching/threatening behaviour/drunkenness and sent to prison many times.

Vanessa concluded her talk by describing how the law changed concerning hangings. From hangings that took place near the scene of the crime witnessed by thousands of people, to taking place outside the main prisons such as Worcester and Warwick. In 1868 the law changed and until 1902, hangings took place inside the prison with reporters present and a black flag raised to show it was happening. For horrendous crimes the body was taken down and sent for dissection by medical students.

The talk was well received by the audience and there were a number of questions.

### *Notices*

- The Society will be at the June 15th Bandstand Event. This is themed as a "Vintage Day" and we will be sharing the Community Gazebo with other groups and will be promoting this year's Carnival Event being held on September 28th. Members are invited to help us promote the society or just come along and share the event.
- The Redditch Local History Society website has been updated to include links to the new newsletter and our new 'queries' site developed by Derek which allows questions to be posted and answered.
- Our exhibition at Forge Mill Needle Museum this year entitled 'Redditch Memories', will run from Thursday 31st October to Sunday 24th November. We still need your stories!

The talk was followed by tea/coffee and biscuits in the adjoining room.



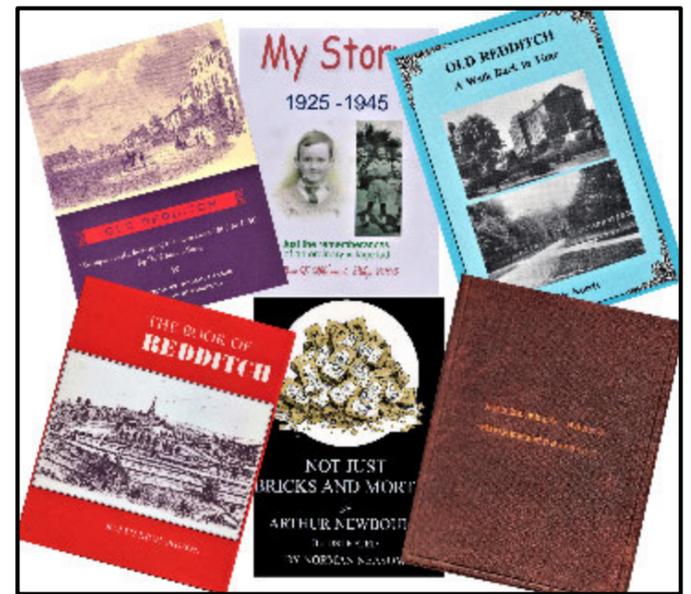
## Next meeting

Our next Meeting at the Oasis Christian Centre is on Monday 10th June and is entitled 'Remembering Redditch'.

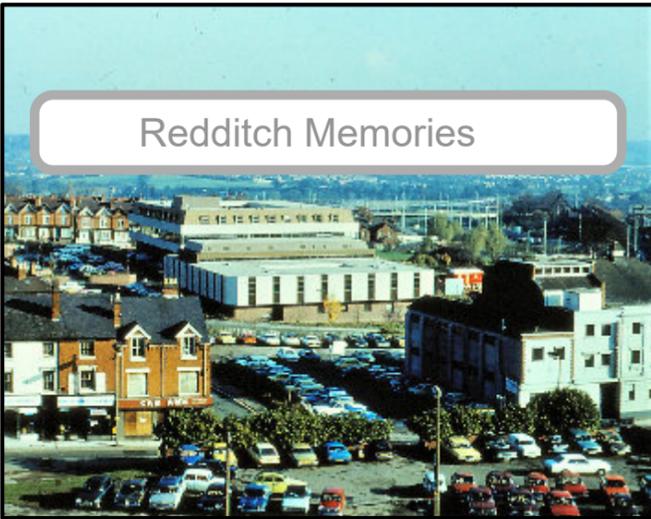
This is an audio/visual presentation of stories about old Redditch read by members, with an appropriate visual support.

The stories range from his 19th Century description of the original excavation of Bordesley Abbey by JM Woodward to a view of the Development Corporation by Ralph Richardson.

Please support this member run presentation.



## Redditch Memories



## 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>

## 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 short **Newsletter** is produced monthly following each meeting. It is distributed free to every member by e-mail and printed copies are available with the agenda 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 also are planning a yearly publication called '**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.

Our 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.

