

# Redditch Local History Society

July 2019

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## Newsletter...

### *Latest meeting*

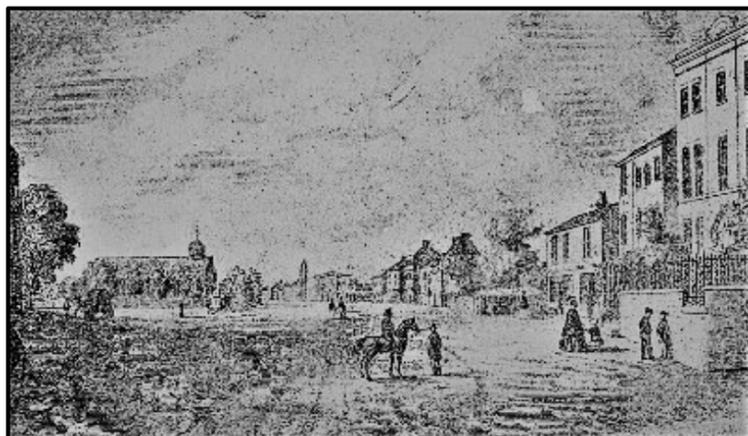
The latest meeting of the Redditch Local History Society was held on Monday 8th July 2019 at the Oasis Christian Centre, Plymouth Road

For the meeting we had an attendance of 34 members and 6 visitors, giving a total of 40 attendees. The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed members and visitors.

### *Presentation*

The presentation today was entitled 'The People of Church Green in the 19th Century' and was given by our Treasurer, Graham Smith. Graham has carried out much research on the history of Church Green and given several presentations to the Society and other organisations on this area of the town. This was a further presentation based on his work.

To clarify this timescale in the history of the town he considered it as two periods, 1800 to 1850, 'Riots, Constables and Needles', and 1850 to 1900, 'Wealth, Improvement and Gentrification.'



The period from 1800 to 1850 began badly. Redditch was typified by poor housing, low wages and lawlessness. In the early part of this period were the bread riots, where the Bromsgrove Militia were sent in to quell riots in the town. This was a failure and in 1806 the Redditch militia was created.

Early entertainment was brutal. The main interests were bull baiting, cock fighting (both of which were made illegal by before 1850) and bare knuckle boxing.

There were three contributing actions which changed this situation:

Religion: the Chapel at Bordesley was moved to the Church Green in 1807 and became the Chapel on The Green.

Education: 'Dame' schools were created and the first National School was opened in 1846.

Police Force: The Worcestershire Constabulary was created in 1839 which created a professional and organised force to replace the traditional, poorly paid and organised, Parish Constables.

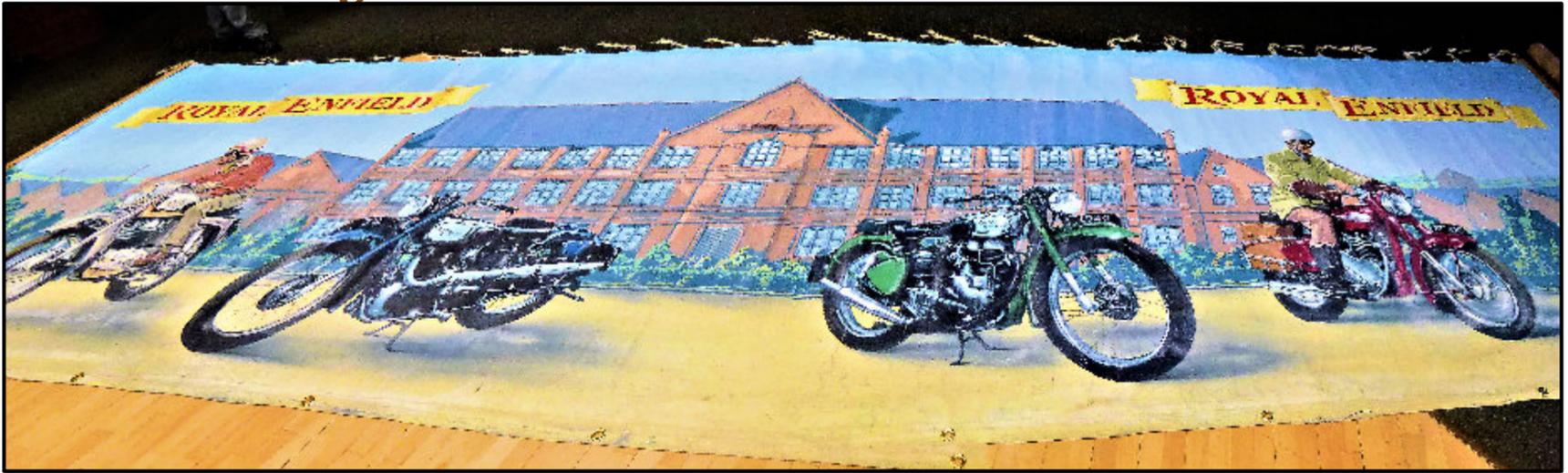
In 1800 the population of Redditch was about 1,000 and by 1900 this had increased 14 fold to 14,000.

Graham moved onto this later period from 1850 to 1900 with the important changes which occurred in the town centre and Church Green with St Stephens Church, Smallwood Hospital, the Literary and Scientific Institute, the Bartleet Fountain, the Bandstand and the wonderful range of buildings in Church Green East. It would have looked very much as we see it today - but clean, bright and brand new!

This brief summary cannot give justice to Graham's entertaining and wide ranging presentation and it was much appreciated by the audience.



## Next meeting



Our next Meeting at the Oasis Christian Centre is on Monday 12th August beginning at 2.00 pm.

The presentation is entitled 'Story of the Royal Enfield and the men who made it' and is given by John Budgen who is the Chairman of the Midland Group of the Royal Enfield Owners Club.

John has been supportive of Royal Enfield activities in Redditch with events at Forge Mill Needle Museum, Church Green and Arrow Valley Visitor Centre and is heavily involved in many other activities in Redditch. His talk is based upon the people who made the Royal Enfield and he has an enviable knowledge of the range of motorcycles produced by this iconic brand.

This is a 'must see' talk by anyone interested in the Royal Enfield Motorcycle Company.

## Notices

- The Worcestershire Local History Forum Day School will be held on Saturday, 16 November 2019 in The Studio at The Hive, Worcester from 9.30am to 4.00pm. Please note that lunch is not included although participants are welcome to bring their own or use The Hive Café which is located on the ground floor. Please contact Graham for further details.
- 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! Please contact Derek with any stories.
- Subscriptions for existing members are now overdue. All subscriptions should have been paid by 8th July. Please contact our Treasurer, Graham Smith if there is a problem.

## 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)

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