

Newsletter...

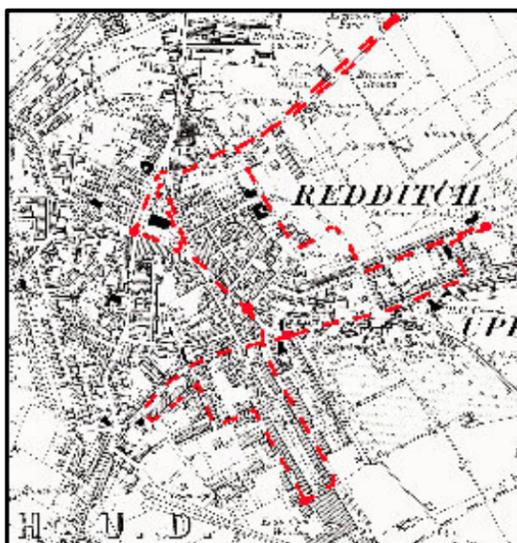
Latest meeting

The latest meeting of the Redditch Local History Society was held on Monday 9th September 2019 at the Oasis Christian Centre, Plymouth Road

For the meeting we had an attendance of 35 members and 10 visitors, giving a total of 45 attendees. The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed members and visitors.

Presentation

The presentation today was entitled 'A walk around Eastern Redditch using a 1903 OS map' and was given by our secretary Anthony Green (that's me!). The walk route was split into six sections. At the beginning of each section there was a video clip of how it looks today and this was followed by historic images of how it looked around the time of the map.



The route followed was **section 1** along Church Green West (The Parade), down Easemore Road to Meadowhill Road, which, at the time of the 1903 map was the town limit, **section 2** return and turn down Archer Road, into a small section of Grove Street, into a short stretch of Other Road, across to St Georges Road and on to the end, **section 3** return and turn into Grange Road, right up Beoley Road, onto Holloway Lane/Ipsley Street, up to the junction with Lodge Road, **section 4** on up to West Street, down Orchard Street, Oswald Street, Summer Street, down Marsden Road to Union Street, **section 5** up Lodge Road, across to Alcester Street and the Palace Theatre, and finally **section 6** from the theatre to Church Green East and return to start. The videos at the beginning of sections 1-5 were taken with my car using a dashcam, but section 6, which is of course a pedestrian area, really was a walk, and I used a hand held video camera.

Unlike the previous talk I gave on the west of Redditch two year's ago, much of this area is relatively unchanged, at least since the 1930s, as it consists largely of housing. The big change was the introduction of the car - before the streets were empty, now there is continuous parking. There are, however, numerous individual sites of historic significance including St George's church, Mount Carmel church, the Baptist Church, Smallwood Almshouses, the Salvation Army 'Citadel', the Warwick Arms and Kings Arms public houses, a number of Industrial sites and, of course, our town centre gem - Church Green.



The final video covering the Church Green was much longer than the others as not much has changed over the last 120 years and it was nice to view how attractive it still is. I hope the presentation showed that despite the belief that much of 'old Redditch' has gone, there is still so much of it to see in and around the town. I am pleased to say that the talk was well received and I had questions, comments and discussions both immediately after the presentation and during the coffee break. This makes it all worth the effort and I have already had 'bookings' to give this same talk to two local community groups.

Next meeting

Our next Meeting at the Oasis Christian Centre is on Monday 14th October beginning at 2.00 pm. And the presentation is entitled 'Bordesley Abbey' and is given by our Chairman, Don Vincent.

Don has done much research on the subject and is a volunteer guide at Forge Mill Needle Museum for both the Needle Museum and the Abbey ruins.



Notices

- Saturday 28th September is the Carnival Parade and Community Festival at the Bandstand. We are looking for support for the History Society stall.
- Saturday 5th October is the Headless Cross Apple Day. Pete will be organising our gazebo for the event and would like help/support.
- Our exhibition 'Redditch Memories' at Forge Mill Needle Museum runs from Thursday 31st October to Sunday 24th November.

Survey

A survey was carried out by Graham Smith at our August meeting and 36 members responded.

62.5 % of respondents were very happy with the talks they heard in the last year, 37.5% were quite happy and no-one was unhappy.

In terms of future talks, 39% wanted talks mostly on Redditch history, no-one wanted talks mostly on the history of Worcestershire/Warwickshire, 3% wanted talks mostly on the West Midlands and 58% wanted a combination of all the above.

In terms of topics members would like the Society to cover, 12 members responded, and the results were - Famous people of Redditch, History of Beoley/Feckenham, Authors/Artists of Area, Farming pre-Industrial Revolution, Effects of Industrial Revolution on Redditch area, Local Railways, Farms in locality, Redditch shops and owners, Streets and trades other than needles/fish hooks & springs, Fly dressing demonstration, Hewell Grange and the Windsors, Recent development of Redditch, History of Moons Moat, history of Astwood Bank, Tardebigge workhouse, History of local canals, Lime kilns at Tardebigge, History of Redditch Carnival, The role of women in Redditch history

33% of respondents used Facebook (which is higher than national use for over 65's) but no-one used Twitter.

81% of respondents used the Redditch Local History Society website, 53% on a monthly basis, 42% used other local history websites to research history. This is an encouraging level of usage.

There was a good response from members who were prepared to give talks, give readings and help with refreshments.

Our Meetings

The Redditch Local History Society meets, from February to December, on the 2nd Monday of the month (please visit our website for details). 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. This is 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

Visit: www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk

Telephone: 01527 404365 (Derek Coombes, Archivist) or 01527 61434 (Anthony Green, Secretary)

