

Redditch Local History Society

October 2019

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Newsletter...

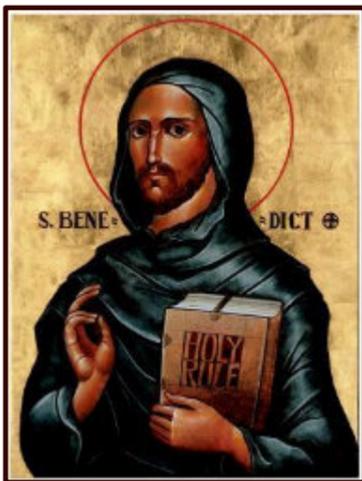
Latest meeting

The latest meeting of the Redditch Local History Society was held on Monday 14th October 2019 at the Oasis Christian Centre, Plymouth Road

For the meeting we had an attendance of 42 members and 3 visitors, giving a total of 45 attendees. The meeting was opened by the Secretary who welcomed members and visitors.

Presentation

The presentation today was entitled 'Bordesley Abbey' and was given by our Chairman, Don Vincent. Don has made a study of monastic orders and is particularly interested in the Cistercians and Bordesley Abbey, where he is a tour guide.

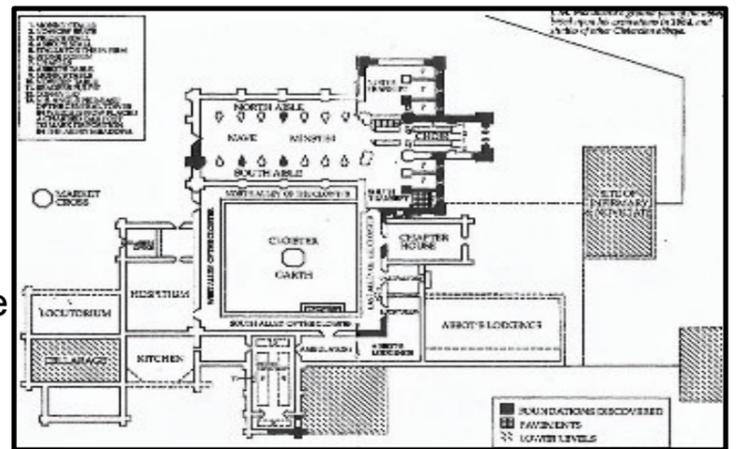


St Benedict

Don began with an introduction of the Cistercian Order, which began in 1098, when a group of Benedictine monks, appalled by the laxity into which the order had fallen, left their monastery at Molesme and began to build a new monastery at Citeaux, near Dijon. The Latin name for Citeaux is Cistercium which comes from Cisterna meaning a marsh - the Cistercians were born. The Rule of Benedict was the monk's handbook. It ran to some 72 chapters and governed all aspects of the monk's life. What to wear, what to eat, when and how often to pray, how to pass one's time, in what manner to build monastic settlements, absolutely everything.

The Cistercians expanded rapidly creating daughter Abbeys, and daughter Abbeys creating more daughter Abbeys at a rapid rate and by 1152 there were 333 Abbeys in Europe, of which 52 were in Britain.

The Bordesley story began in 1138 when an abbot and twelve monks arrived from Garendon Abbey to found a daughter abbey. The river was diverted, the valley was drained and the first wooden church would be built. Don described how over the 400 years the Abbey prospered and the many changes which were made to the building to reflect the number of monks and the changing wealth of the Abbey. Bordesley was unusual in having a water powered metal working mill - one of the oldest found in the UK.



15th century painting of the abbey by Woodward, showing how he imagined it might have looked.



Don explained in detail the various parts of the Abbey and the part they played in daily life, and described the different people involved in the activities of the monastery, both secular and practical. Come the dissolution, in 1538, the abbey complex was demolished and the stone, glass and ironwork etc. was sold to local dignitaries. The raised money would go into the king's coffers.

This is a very brief overview of a very detailed presentation which was much appreciated by the audience.

Next meeting

Our next Meeting at the Oasis Christian Centre is on Monday 11th November beginning at 2.00 pm. The talk is entitled 'The Paolozzi Mosaics' and is given by Philip Roberts

Philip previously did a short presentation at our Annual General Meeting in April 2018 and members said that they would like him to return with a full presentation.



Detail from Mosaic in Milward Square

Exhibition at Forge Mill Needle Museum



The 2019 RLHS Exhibition

31st October - 24th November 2019

In the Gallery of the National Needle Museum at Forge Mill - B98 8HY

See Forge Mill web site for prices and opening times

www.forgemill.org.uk

This exhibition features the memories of Redditch residents past and present, many recently recorded and never displayed before. Where possible, these memories have been illustrated with documents and photographs from the society archives.

For more details download our leaflet at:

http://www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk/documents/2019/Exhibition_2019.pdf

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)