

# Newsletter...

## Latest meeting

The latest meeting of the Redditch Local History Society was held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at the Oasis Christian Centre, Plymouth Road

For the meeting we had an attendance of 28 members and 3 visitors, giving a total of 31 attendees. The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed members and visitors.

## Presentation

Our presentation today was entitled 'The Paolozzi Mosaics' and was given by Philip Roberts. However, the title was misleading, as Philip gave a wide ranging talk covering the evolution of Eduardo Paolozzi as a major artist, the explosion of post war civic art, how the Milward Square mosaics were conceived and the techniques used in the manufacture.



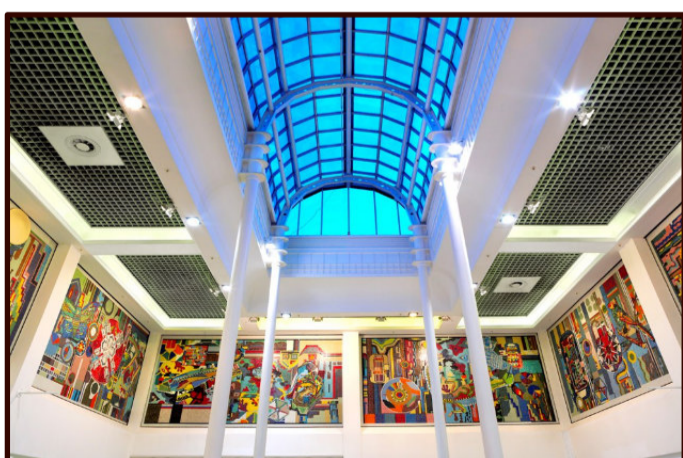
*Eduardo Paolozzi*

Eduardo Paolozzi was born Edinburgh in 1924, to Italian parents. His early life was traumatic as in 1940, aged 16, he was interned for 3 months as an enemy alien, his family confectionery business was looted and his father and grandfather drowned at sea on the way to Canada when the SS Arandora Star was sunk by a German U-Boat. However, in 1942 he enrolled at Edinburgh School of Art which awakened his interest in modern art. This was followed by post war periods at the Ruskin School of Art and the Slade School of Art. From 1947-49 he was in Paris and became part of the artistic community where he worked in collage and colour. In the 1950's and 60's he collaborated with Peter Blake and Richard Hamilton, and was teaching in London, Hamburg and California. In 1979 he becomes a Royal Academician and in 1989 he was knighted.

The Redditch Mosaics commissioning and funding was essentially the initiative of the Redditch Development Corporation and the Chairman, Professor Denys Hinton (Architect). However, it was also supported by the Needle Industries Group, the Worshipful Company of Needle makers and the Arts Council of Great Britain. The total cost was £125,000. The design concept was created by Paolozzi drawing and refining motifs and symbols related to that important part of Redditch history, the Needle Industry.



*Spilimbergo Mosaic School today*



*The Milward Square Mosaics today*

Paolozzi's design was interpreted and produced using glass mosaic pieces by internationally recognised craftsmen from Spilimbergo, Italy.

There are 12 Mosaic panels, each 6.5 metres wide by 3.5 metres deep producing a total of 288 square metres.

Commissioned in 1981, and formally unveiled in 1983. Milward Square was officially opened during the Queen's Visit to Redditch on the 5th July 1983.

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

## Next meeting

Our last Meeting of 2019 is at the Oasis Christian Centre on Monday 16th December beginning at 2.00 pm. (tea/coffee/biscuits/mince pies included)

At the meeting we will have...

Graham Smith is giving a talk is called 'The story of Christmas Traditions'. He'll be looking at the history of 10 Christmas traditions including Christmas food, trees, cards and crackers.

There will be some fun questions about Christmas for the audience to answer and it will finish with some pictures of Christmas in Redditch in 2019.

We will be distributing our programme leaflet of speakers for our 2020 season with an overview of the different talks.

This meeting is no longer a 'members only' meeting and non-members are welcome (subject to the normal £3 entry charge)



## Exhibition at Forge Mill Needle Museum

Our Redditch Local History Society Exhibition, 'My Redditch Memories', continues until the 24th November 2019 in the Gallery of the Forge Mill Needle Museum

This exhibition features the memories of Redditch residents past and present, many recently recorded and never displayed before.

For details of opening times etc. please visit <http://www.forgemill.org.uk/web/exhibitions/>



For more details download our leaflet at:

[http://www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk/documents/2019/Exhibition\\_2019.pdf](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](mailto:contact@redditchhistorysociety.org.uk)

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

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