

# Redditch Local History Society

Summer 2020

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## Newsletter...

### *Current Situation*

When we originally cancelled our April 2020 AGM meeting, I had planned to produce a monthly newsletter. However, the situation became much more serious than we imagined at the time, and it had not been possible to give clarity regarding our next move.

The Committee has now agreed that we will resume our meetings at the Annual General Meeting in April 2021. However, this will obviously depend on the situation concerning the pandemic at that time and could be subject to change.

On our return we will have a shortage of officers for some posts. In particular we do not have a programme of speakers for 2021 or anyone to organise it. If we cannot fill this post then, obviously, as this is the mainstay of the Society, it is difficult to see how we can continue.

The Executive Committee will be meeting before the 2021 meeting to discuss our future.

If you are interested in taking a more active part in the Society and taking on an Executive role please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are all becoming a bit 'aged' and we really need new blood to take the Society forward to another successful decade of representing Redditch History within the local community.

Society Secretary Anthony Green

### *A request for help from Pete Harris*

I am at present writing up a history of Colin Cooke who had the shop called Josephines on Market Place and previously Evesham Street. I would be grateful for any information or memories which members may have of this gentleman and his shop.

I would also appreciate information on TN Gold, Veterinary Surgeons of Church Green, Redditch. Contact me on 07825 336 015 or farmerpiles43@lineone.net.

Executive Member Pete Harris

### *Redditch History Books and Publications On-Line*

I have taken advantage of the lock down to work on a number of projects which I have not found the time to do under normal circumstances.

I have, in my head, a number of books on Redditch which I would like to produce. There are five at the moment, where I have all the information, but until now, not the time to create.

The first two are 'Redditch History Walks', which is effectively my <http://www.redditchwalks.org.uk/> walks produced in a book and 'Essays on Redditch History' which is a range of essays covering different aspects of the history of Redditch. You can view these books as a flip-book or download them at <http://www.exploreredditch.org.uk/publications.htm>

I am also making some historic Redditch publications available as 'flip-books' or PDF downloads. These include wartime publications and the Queen's Coronation. These can be found at <http://www.redditchhistory.org.uk/publications.htm>

Please feel free to share and copy these publications.

Anthony Green, Society Secretary



**Press Release from the Redditch Standard Online**

## *Feckenham Forrester loses founding member*

For more than 30 years historian Elizabeth Atkins, aged 86, was the driving force behind the society's talks, meetings and activities.

Elizabeth spent much of her life researching the history of Feckenham and has left behind a huge amount of her work.

Brewin Books recently published a reprint of Elizabeth's book 'A History of Webheath'.

Some of her published items are also now on sale at local outlets including ASAP Printing in Headless Cross and Feckenham Village Shop.

Both are selling her book 'From Slate to State' which details the history of the village's schools.

And decorative maps of Old Feckenham, researched by Elizabeth and drawn by a local artist, are on sale for £1.

Society member Richard Churchley said: "Last year Elizabeth became the president of our society which I know was a real honour for her. I'm glad that happened in her lifetime because she was truly thrilled and it showed how much effort she had put in over the years. We will all miss her tremendously."

Proceeds from the book and print sale will be donated to The Primrose Hospice, for which her husband Bernard was a trustee for many years.

Further information can be obtained from Richard Churchley at [rachurchley@totalise.co.uk](mailto:rachurchley@totalise.co.uk)

## *Heritage Open Day at Forge Mill Needle Museum*

This is not a Redditch History Society Event, but members of the Society are also volunteers at our local museum, Forge Mill Needle Museum and Bordesley Abbey Visitor Centre.

It has been decided that with social distancing, even at 1 metre, it is not viable to open the museum and this will continue for some time, probably until the end of the year. This means that the Heritage Open Day in September this year will not take place as an event at the Museum.

However, all is not lost!

The Heritage Open Day organisation are pushing for sites to do on-line events and this is the route that the volunteers, with the support of the Museum staff have decided to follow.....

On the site we plan to have:

- Virtual guided walk around the Bordesley Abbey site
- Virtual tour of the Forge Mill Needle Museum with its working waterwheel and scouring beds..
- Online songs and music by the Indigo Arts lock down choir, a local charity dedicated to inspire creative practice in education & leisure time activities.
- Slide show of previous displays of motor cycles by the regional Royal Enfield Owners Club.
- Slide show of working model boats by the Little Radford Model Boat Club from previous HODs.
- A slide show of an exhibition of local art at the Museum Gallery early in 2020 by members of the Redditch Art Circle.
- Plus 'make your own needle maker worker's hat from a newspaper and other craft activities.

The event with these details has been registered on the HODs site and, as the website is still a prototype, I will let know the address nearer the Heritage Open Days in September.

Anthony Green