

April 2022 - Annual General Meeting

Hi All,

It was encouraging to have an Annual General Meeting' (AGM) on the correct date and to enable members to be directly involved in the organisation and future of the Society.

The attendance was 31 which included 4 new members. 26 members paid subscription in cash or cheque and one paid by bank transfer. Bank Transfer is a new facility which we offer which is becoming a more 'mainstream' method of payment. Members have until June to update their membership.

We had two apologies from members who were unable to attend.

We always have problems with finding members for the refreshment rota but this is looking much better. Two members for every month except September and December. We appreciate members doing this role as it provides an extra facility for members to meet socially.

The elections were followed by a 40min film on Redditch History which was very much enjoyed by the audience and, we have been too successful, so we will have to find something similar for 2023's April AGM..

We followed the film with membership renewal in the adjoining room and refreshments were also available.

On the remaining pages of the Newsletter, we have:

On page two is the 'Coming Events' section.

Next months presentation is a talk on Monday 9th May 2022, 'The Sweet Life in Bournville: the Cadbury and Bournville story from 1878' by Bob Booth, chairman of The Bournville Society.

Also on page two we welcome the return at Forge Mill Needle Museum of the popular 1940s event.

Pages three, four, five and six have the report of the Annual General meeting.

Pages three and four are the officers reports

Page five has a copy of the accounts.

Page six has the results of the elections.

On page seven and eight, well I warned you in my Secretary's Report, is an introduction to my story of growing up in Redditch. This is quite easy to write and I am sure that many members have stories to tell. Please don't hesitate to send you stories to me and also any history projects you may have worked on. Pictures are particularly good in illustrating a story.

Next Meeting...

The talk on Monday 9th May 2022, 'The Sweet Life in Bournville: the Cadbury and Bournville story from 1878' by Bob Booth, chairman of The Bournville Society. There is more on this presentation on Page 2.

The meeting will be, as always at the Oasis Christian Centre starting at 2.00 pm.

Take care and stay safe

Anthony Green, Society Secretary

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Coming up.....

Next Meeting Monday 9th May 2022

The Sweet Life in Bournville: the Cadbury and Bournville story from 1878.

Presentation by Bob Booth

Cadbury was established in Birmingham, England in 1824, by John Cadbury, a Quaker who sold tea, coffee and drinking chocolate.

Cadbury developed the business with his brother Benjamin, followed by his sons Richard and George.

George developed the Bournville estate, a model village designed to give the company's workers improved living conditions.

Dairy Milk chocolate, introduced in 1905, used a higher proportion of milk within the recipe compared with rival products.

By 1914, the chocolate was the company's best-selling product.



Cadbury, alongside Rowntree's and Fry's, were the big three British confectionery manufacturers throughout much of the 19th and 20th centuries.

In the 1950s and 60s, I remember it well, it was a real treat for children to go on a school trip to visit the factory, to sample the products and be presented a bag of Cadbury chocolate at the end of the day.

Our speaker is Bob Booth, who is chairman of The Bournville Society. He has spoken to many groups and is the author of Bournville Through Time published by Amberley Publishing and The Sweet Life in Bournville: 100 years of the Bournville Works Housing Society.

Pictures from many personal collections will be used in this presentation and aspects of the Cadbury legacy, the village architecture, the community and some of the lesser-known facts about Bournville will be revealed.

Forge Mill Needle Museum

On Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th May 2022: from 10.00am to 4.30pm is the popular 1940s weekend.

This was a regular event before the lockdown, and it is great to have it back.

Here, you can travel back in time to the 1940s and get a taste of life in World War 2 Britain.

Come and meet costumed re-enactors and see period vehicles.

Bring the whole family! ADULTS £4.00, CHILDREN FREE, this includes entry into the museum

In the evening of Saturday 7th from 7.00 to 10.00pm is an evening of 1940s music in the cloisters with the Violettes and Helen Pearson.

All Tickets £6.00 -Bookings in advance for the evening event, see <http://www.forgemill.org.uk/web/events/>



Annual General Meeting Report

Executive Reports

Chairman's Report

I'm pleased to report that we have started up again this year after a gap of nearly two years.

We will have a full programme of talks.

During the lockdown your secretary has done sterling work producing a monthly newsletter. Also your committee has kept in touch via email.

During the lockdown it was decided to broaden our horizons with regard to the subject matter of our talks and this year's programme reflects that decision

At a recent live committee meeting it was agreed that some serious decisions will have to be made if we are to continue past the current year in a viable state.

We have to recognise that prices for everything are rising. We are not immune to the situation.

I would especially like to thank your hon. Secretary for arranging a full term of talks for this year. Also your hon Treasurer for keeping a close eye on the finances.

Don Vincent

Chairman, Redditch History Society.

Secretary's Report

What a relief! We are now back with a full programme and the Annual General Meeting on the correct date.

It really has been a difficult two years for everyone, and I would like to thank my fellow Officers and the Management Committee for their work in keeping the Society alive.

Last year we kept our outlay down, and Graham will say more on that, by having all our presentations by members.

This meant that although we kept the outlay by the Society to a minimum, it was very much a one-off.

However, this did allow us to restart with minimum cost.

The 2022 programme of talks, has a wide range of history subjects.

This expands our range of talks beyond Redditch, which was our aim in removing 'local' from our title, and into the West Midland area, and beyond.

I am currently looking at the 2023 programme, so, if you have any ideas, contacts, willingness to give a presentation, please contact me.

Something I am pleased about is the Newsletter which is now a permanent 8-page document.

This has been successful, and the mailing list of members is seventy, which includes current members and ex-members, and supporters is forty-four.

I also send out three printed copies to four members without e-mail, and, of course, there are also those who download the newsletter from the website due to the alert on Facebook.

Naturally, I am continually looking for copy to put in the Newsletter and I am sure that members and supporters have stories to tell which will be of interest.

Do not hesitate to send them to me, otherwise I will have to subject you to my life story!

Regarding publicity...

Our website www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk had 603 visitors in March and this included 184 links to the Newsletter, which gives an indication of how many people read it.

Our Facebook page <https://www.Facebook.com/RedditchHistorySociety> has 1771 followers and, in the last month reached 879 people.

Annual General Meeting Report

Secretary's Report..... continued

The Editor of the Redditch Standard <https://redditchstandard.co.uk>, Ross Crawford, has been very helpful in promoting out talks, and I will continue to give him copy regarding our future presentations.

We need to look at our income and outgoings. Our costs are increasing, but we wish to avoid an increase in our membership fee.

We have, therefore, a proposal to cut our annual meetings from eleven to ten.

We will say more when we discuss the Motion from the Management Committee.

Just a final comment.

The current management team are very willing to continue, but we are all getting a bit older.

If you are interested in being involved in the management of the Society, please let us know.

Anthony Green

Secretary, Redditch History Society.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for 2021 show a much healthier picture compared to those of 2020.

We were able to resume our monthly meetings in August and the committee felt that a £10 subscription was appropriate for the shortened year.

For this subscription members could attend 7 meetings.

We were pleased that 49 members were happy to sign up for another year.

Not unexpectedly the number of visitors was down on previous years but 19 visitors gave a small income of £57.00.

Due to Covid we decided not to provide refreshments in the five meetings held in 2021. Our total income for 2021 was £547.00 compared to just £97.00 in 2020.

Our expenditure for the year was much improved as we had already paid for 4 meetings at the Oasis Centre in 2020.

This meant we had only to pay for our December meeting (£63.00).

Our talks in 2021 were by our own members and we are grateful to them for volunteering their services.

We have now decided to discontinue keeping newspaper clippings of events in Redditch so no expenses are recorded for sketchbooks.

We have continued our membership of the Worcestershire Local History Forum (WLHF) and the British Association for Local History (BALH) costing £85.00.

Thus, total expenditure for 2021 was £148.00.

Our surplus of income over expenditure for 2021 was £399.00.

Our bank balance on 1st January was £798.47 and with the £399.00 the balance at year end was £1197.47.

At that time we held £37.88 in petty cash, thus giving total Society funds at £1235.35.

I would like to thank Gil Barlow for the time he spent examining the accounts.

A copy of the Income and Expenditure Accounts to December 2021 is given on page 5.

Graham Smith

Treasurer, Redditch History Society

Annual General Meeting Report

Income and Expenditure to December 2021

Redditch History Society Income and Expenditure Account For the year ended 31st December 2021

2020 £	INCOME	2021 £	2020 £	EXPENDITURE	2021 £
-	Full Membership (49) @ £10.00	490.00	378.00	Room hire (December only) (4 meetings paid for).	63.00
75.00	Visitors to meetings (19):	57.00			
22.00	Refreshments	-	95.00	Payment to Speakers	-
			19.00	2 Sketchbooks for cuttings	-
			79.74	Secretary's Expenses	-
				<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS:</u>	
			10.00	WLHF	10.00
			75.00	British Association for Local History	75.00
			(656.74)		(148.00)
			-559.74	Deficit/ SURPLUS of Income over Expenditure	399.00
97.00		547.00	97.00		547.00

2020 £	Balance Sheet as at 31 st December	2021 £	
1358.21	Bank at 1 st January	798.47	<p>I have examined the Account Book, receipts, bank statements and vouchers presented to me by the Treasurer.</p> <p>I confirm that in my opinion these accounts show a true and fair view of the income and expenditure of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2021.</p> <p><i>G.R.T. Barlow</i> 12.02.2022 Accounts Examiner Date</p>
559.74	Deficit/SURPLUS end of year	399.00	
798.47	Balance c/fwd at 31 st December	1197.47	
798.47	Represented by: Bank Account at 31 st Dec.	1197.47	
38.56	Plus Petty Cash	37.88	
837.03	TOTAL SOCIETY FUNDS	1235.35	

Annual General Meeting Report

Election Results

Election of Officers:

Executive Posts

Chairman - Don Vincent was re-elected unopposed.

Secretary - Anthony Green re-elected unopposed

Treasurer - Graham Smith re-elected unopposed

Non-executive posts:

Newsletter Editor - Anthony Green re-elected unopposed.

Speaker Organiser – Anthony Green re-elected unopposed. Pat Bushaway was interested in taking part in organising the speakers for the Society and will be involved in the 2023 speaker programme.

Website Administrator/Social Media - Anthony Green re-elected unopposed.

Management Committee

The Management Committee consists of the 3 executive members, Chairman Don Vincent, Secretary Tony Green and Treasurer Graham Smith plus non-executive posts and additional elected members .

The current member representatives. Elizabeth Simpson, Dave Spyer and Sue Tatlow were re-elected unopposed.

Pat Bushaway wished to join the Management Committee and was duly elected.

This brings the Management Committee to seven members.

Accounts Examiner:

Gil Barlow was re-elected unopposed.

Executive Committee Resolution

Reduce number of meetings from 11 to 10 per year.

The Executive Committee at their meeting on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at Forge Mill Needle Museum had a discussion on ensuring that the Society continues to be financially viable. The costs for the Society was increasing because the number of members prepared to give talks was reducing, so it was necessary to have more outside speakers. The cost of outside speakers was also increasing. Also, although cost increases were small, it is expected that the cost of the meeting room will increase

There were several solutions discussed...

1. Increase the membership to 60-70 - this is not obvious and not guaranteed .
2. Increase our subscriptions fee above £15. With the current economic situation this was was not considered to be fair to our members.
3. Reduce our meetings from eleven to ten by eliminating the December meeting. This meeting has never been popular and would give a cost saving over over £100, which is equivalent to seven members subscriptions.

The Executive Committee Resolution proposed solution 3, and this was approved unanimously by the meeting. This will operate from 2023. This year's December meeting is still operative.

What happened to my Redditch!

Part 1 - An introduction by Anthony Green

I was born in Bridley Moor Road on the 26th June 1943.

My parents had had a difficult time during World War Two. They were living in Kathleen Place, which was just off Evesham Street, in 1939 when a German bomber dropped incendiaries on the town, possibly just spare bombs it released on a return from a bombing raid in Birmingham. However, it may actually be related to the attack on 'The Batteries', which took place at around the same time. It is, of course, impossible to establish if this was the case as everyone involved is no longer with us, and I wasn't even born!

This destroyed their home and my bother Vincent, who was only a few months old at the time, was cut by sprinters from broken glass. They spent the next few years moving from different rented properties as, with the influx of 'war workers' property was in short supply.

This is when I did my bit! (I am joking). With a second child on the way Redditch Council found them a council house in Bridley Moor Road (Number 4), which is where I was born. I always say that this is my claim to fame and is where my story begins.

My earliest memory, I must have been about two, was when my Dad took me to the gate at the top o,f the road and showed me cows grazing on Bridley Moor Farm.

In the nearly 79 years which have passed since my birth significant changes have occurred. Some have been positive, some negative, but only those who have lived through it can really appreciate on a personal level how much the town has changed.

This is very much my own account, as my Mum, Dad, and my brother Vince are no longer with us. The image right shows us in a typical 'professional' photograph taken at the time.

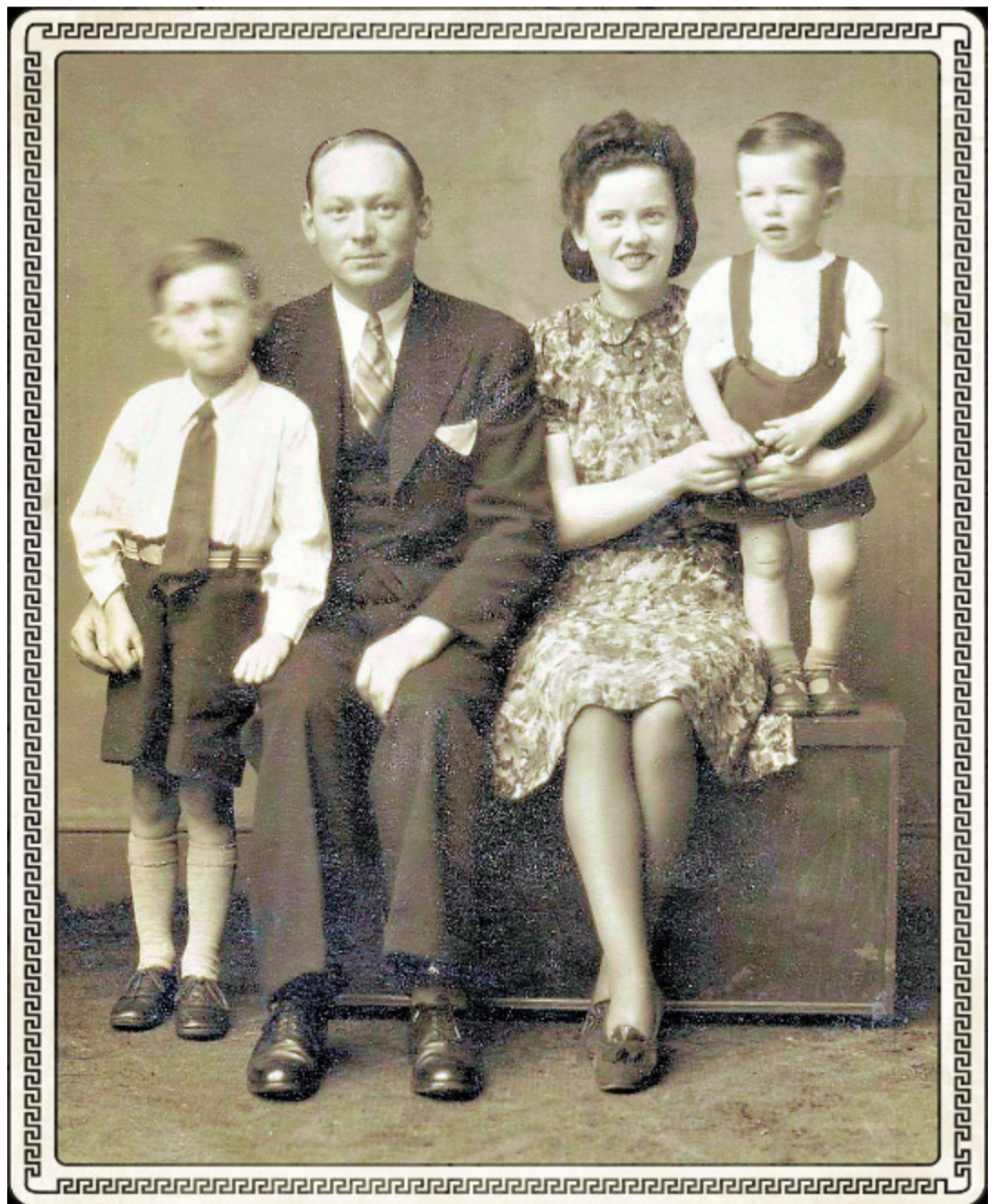
The picture shows my brother Vince, Dad, Mum and yours truly, looking, as usual in early photographs, a bit gormless.

Vince was nearly four years older than me. He obviously thought that I was a bit of a pain, understandably for an older brother, and I learnt a lot from him but never admitted it.

Vince was very much attached to my Mum, and I was much closer to my Dad.

I still feel that, apart from my wife Margaret, that Dad was the best friend I have had.

He was really kind and was prepared to help anyone.



What happened to my Redditch! Cont....



The picture above is of the Bridley Moor Road street party for VJ day, we were not, for some reason, involved in the VE day street party. I think that we were visiting one of our many relatives. If you look carefully at the picture you can see the top part of my head above a lady on the right, my Mum next to me, and holding me up, and Vince is sitting at the table below us. I do not remember any of this as I would have been about two year's old at the time.

Growing up starts from no memories and everything you see has a major affect on your memories. From three to thirteen there are no cares or worries, exams are some way away and work even further away.

My territory is shown in the aerial view below of Redditch in 1945 from Google Earth. Bridley Moor Road is shown with the red circle and the area I roamed was 1-2 miles walking, and 2-5 miles by bike. I will look back at various journeys I went on a regular basis, and I plan to produce some short articles on my memories.

