

## May 2022 Meeting

Hi All,

We began our first meeting after the Annual General Meeting with an excellent talk by Bob Booth on the history of Bournville and the Cadburys.

The attendance was 39 which included 30 members and 9 visitors. We had 5 membership renewals and two new members, which brings our paid up membership to 35. Members have until June to update their membership, without having to complete a new membership form.

I am pleased to say that we have one new member who lives many miles away but wishes to support the activities of the Society and has paid his subscription by BACS. (see page 2 for payment methods)

### **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 13th June 2022, by Pat Witherspoon entitled 'The Wag Woman'. A light-hearted perspective on the history of Education.

Also there is information on how to pay your subscription to the Society. We are now able to accept payment by Bank Transfer (BACS) and details are given on how this is done. We are also happy to receive donations.

The third item concerns a change at the Redditch Local History Museum organisation. This is a very unfortunate situation and we send Derek and Jill our best wishes.

#### **On page three and four**

Pages three and four is a report on the May presentation by Bob Booth 'The Sweet Life in Bournville: the Cadbury and Bournville story from 1878'

#### **On page five and six**

I have a little 19<sup>th</sup> Century booklet, with tiny print and in poor condition, with various articles of the time. It is quite difficult to extract text from it but it is quite interesting. The Victorians were great moralists and I thought that these poems were both fascinating and amusing. I hope that you enjoy them.

#### **On page seven and eight**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> it will be the Queens platinum jubilee and it is worth remembering the Her Majesty The Queen visited Redditch in July 1983. This month I have put in some images of her tour of the town centre, next month it will be when, on the same visit, she opened Forge Mill Needle Museum and, of course, in July I will be giving a presentation on the story of our Queen and Royal Visits to Redditch.

### **Next Meeting...**

Our next Meeting is on Monday 13th June and the meeting begins with a talk by Pat Witherspoon entitled 'The Wag Woman'. This is a light-hearted perspective on the history of Education and 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

E-mail: [anthony.green@rhs2020.org.uk](mailto:anthony.green@rhs2020.org.uk)      Tel: 01527 61434

# Coming up.....

**Next Meeting is on Monday 13th June**  
**There will be a talk by Pat Witherspoon**  
**entitled 'The Wag Woman'**

**A light-hearted perspective on the history of Education.**

In her own words.....

"What on earth is a 'Wag man/woman?' " I still get asked the question .

Of course the good folk of Redditch would never have truanted from school and therefore would never have meet a wag woman.

I would like to share with you some serious and humorous stories of persuading children, young people and parents that school can be a most fulfilling experience.

Part of the truant officers job was also monitoring Children in Employment and in Entertainment, no more down the pit !!

Always however the motto remained, 'For Every Child A Chance'.



## How to pay subscriptions/donations

You can pay your subscription at any meeting with cash or a cheque payable to Redditch History Society.

In addition, it is now possible to pay by bank transfer (BACS).

Our bank details are as follows: Sort Code: 54 30 35. Account number: 38724154

This is a NatWest account. Please use as Reference: Subscription followed by your name.

Please follow up by emailing the Treasurer to say you have paid the subscription.

Email: [graham\\_smith33@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:graham_smith33@yahoo.co.uk)

*Please note that the Redditch History Society account is not a business account.*

## Redditch Local History Museum

This statement was issued on the RLHM Facebook page on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

### *Personal Statement*

*As you are aware, creating the Redditch Local History Museum has been a long held ambition of mine for many years and I am very pleased that, with the support of so many others, this ambition has been realised.*

*I now face a new challenge, that of supporting my wife Jill through a serious illness. There is no question as to where my efforts need to be directed and therefore I have relinquished my position of Chairman of trustees of the museum with immediate effect..*

*The challenge of completing the work of the museum, particularly the Historic Archives, and establishing its longevity still remain, so I sincerely hope that you will continue to support it, as I will do as a volunteer, in whatever way you are able.*

*Thank you. Derek Coombes 03/05/2022*

On behalf of the Redditch History Society, I would like to send Derek and Jill our best wishes and that we are thinking of them.

Anthony Green, Secretary, Redditch History Society.



# Report on May Presentation by Bob Booth

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

Our speaker for the May meeting was Bob Booth, who gave a talk on the history of Bournville, and Cadburys entitled 'The Sweet Life in Bournville: the Cadbury and Bournville story from 1878'.

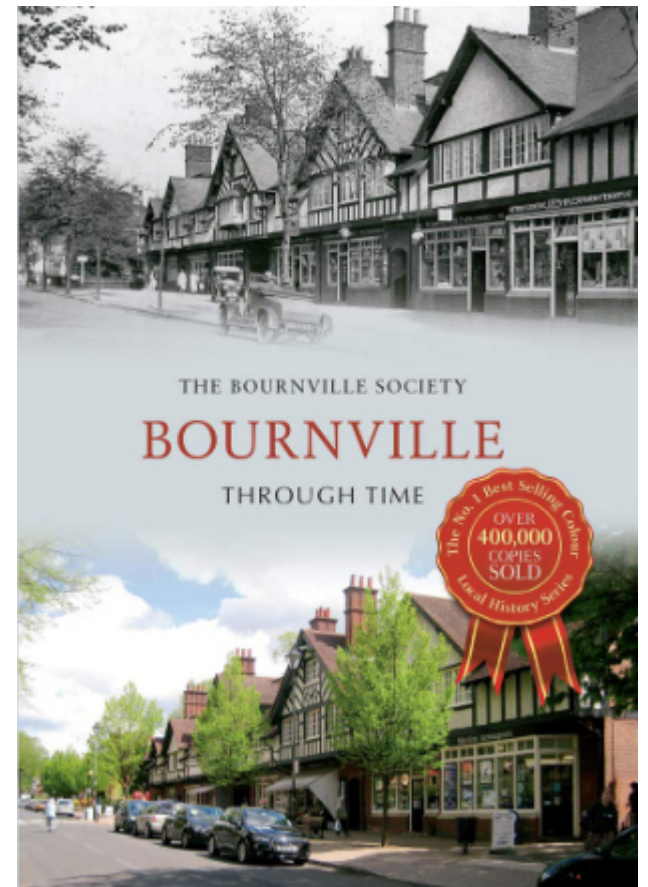
Bob, chairman of The Bournville Society, has spoken to many groups and is the author of 'Bournville Through Time' published by Amberley Publishing and The Sweet Life in Bournville: 100 years of the Bournville Works Housing Society.

In his presentation, he used a wide range of pictures from his personal collections which covered aspects of the Cadbury legacy, the village architecture, the community, and some of the lesser-known facts about Bournville.

He supplied me with a selection which I have used to illustrate this meeting report.

The presentation was a very complete and wide ranging introduction and included many interesting facts concerning the area and the factory.

It is only possible for me to give a general overview of the story in this report. However, the publication 'Bournville through time' has much to recommend it.



Having taken over their father John Cadbury's expanding business in 1861, the Quakers George and Richard Cadbury decide to move their cocoa and chocolate factory from central Birmingham to a greenfield site to allow for expansion.

Cadbury were reliant on the canals and railways for the delivery of their main ingredients, milk and cocoa, and so they looked for a site which was undeveloped and had easy access to both canal and rail. The new development of the Birmingham West Suburban Railway ran from central Birmingham south along the path of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal and into the then green fields of southern Birmingham and northern Worcestershire.

So, in 1879, they moved their business to Bournbrook Hall, four miles to the south of Birmingham. The location was chosen as it was cleaner, healthier and more amenable to longer-term expansion plans.

The Cadburys named the area 'Bournville' after a local river named The Bourn with the addition 'Ville' (French for 'town') being added setting Bournville apart from the local area.

Then the Cadburys began to develop their factory in the new suburb.

Loyal and hard-working workers were treated with great respect and relatively high wages and good working conditions.

Cadbury also pioneered pension schemes, joint works committees and a full staff medical service.

*Top: The Bournville Society: Bournville through time  
Middle- The 'Quadrangle' at Bournville  
Bottom - 1900 colour image of school*



# Report on May Presentation by Bob Booth cont.....

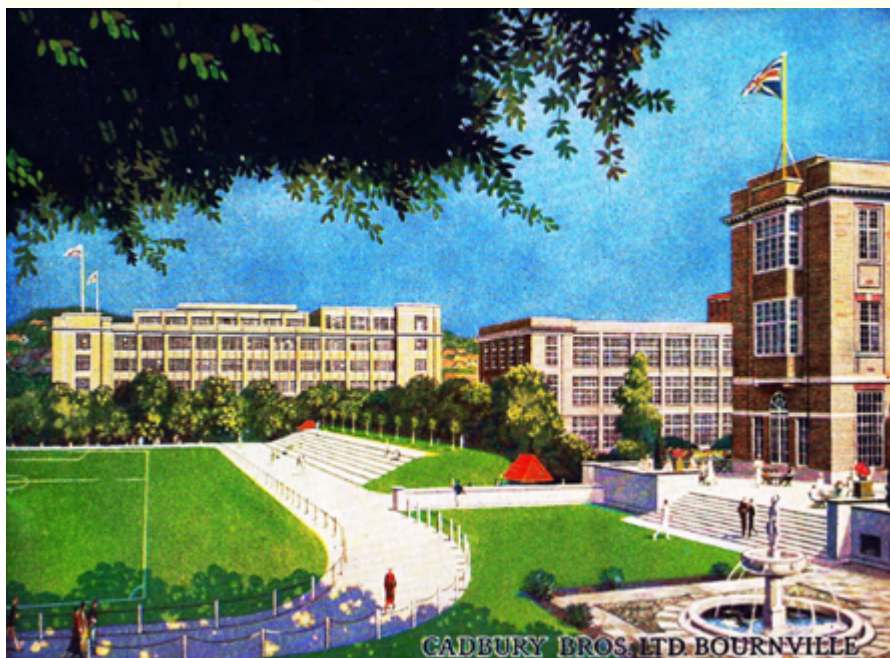
In 1893, George Cadbury bought 120 acres (0.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of land close to the works and planned, at his own expense, a model village which would "alleviate the evils of modern, more cramped living conditions".

These 'Arts and Crafts' houses were traditional in design but with large gardens and modern interiors and were designed by the resident architect William Alexander Harvey.

These designs became a blueprint for many other model village estates around Britain. It is also noteworthy that, because George Cadbury was a temperance Quaker, no public houses have ever been built in Bournville.

The Cadburys were particularly concerned with the health and fitness of their workforce and created park and recreation areas into the Bournville village, encouraging swimming, walking and indeed all forms of outdoor sports. Rowheath Pavilion was designed and built in accordance with the instructions of George Cadbury and opened in July 1924.

In 1900, the Bournville Village Trust was set up to formally control the development of the estate, independently of George Cadbury or the Cadbury company. As Bournville is a conservation area, another job of the Bournville Village Trust is to accept or reject plans for building extension and modification.



A campus feel evolved, with a triangular village green, infant, and junior schools, the School of Art and the Day Continuation School (originally intended for young Cadbury employees) and a host of events such as fêtes and Maypole dances.

The carillon and a Quaker meeting house are also beside the village green.

Bournville is still regarded by its residents as a village and still has very much a village atmosphere.

The number of workers in the factory increased dramatically over the years, in 1878 there were 25, by 1800 300, by 1895, 2685 and by the 1950s over 10,000 (which included 60 gardeners!).

In 2010, Cadbury became part of Craft Foods and is a subsidiary of Mondelez International, an arm of Kraft.

Cadbury is still one of Birmingham's main employers, although, due to automation, the number has now fallen to 1900 and continues to make chocolate products, including 1million cream eggs a day.

The presentation was very much appreciated by the audience and Bob was inundated by members of the audience with comments and discussion.

*Top: Bournville in the spring time.*

*Middle- Cycle shed Cadbury 1910*

*Bottom - Cadbury Factory shot 1930s*



# POEMS ON THE OLD LOCK-UP.

The following poems, which obtained prizes given by the committee of the Saturday Evening Entertainments, are from the programme of November 11th, 1865

## The Old Lock-up

Built in 1824, it stopped being used as a lock up at about the time of these poems, and was finally removed in 1898

It was at the junction of Alcester street and Red Lion Street. The route of Red Lion Street lies roughly under Threadneedle House and the Town Hall.



## FIRST PRIZE.

### “ON THE HOLE.”

Unfurl thy wing, O Muse, to Knock-up,  
Something on the Redditch Lock-up,  
Just to help the rhyming stock up—

On the “Hole.”

A halo more of gloom than glory,  
(With thy Stocks and Stones so hoary)  
Dwells about thy dismal story—

On the (W) “Hole.”

How oft the strong has found thee stronger!  
How from the wronged thou held'st the wronger!  
“In durance vile,” with cold and hunger—

In the “Hole.”

How fain from thee the fierce would falter!  
In the palmy days of “Salter!”  
Tho' with no prospect of a halter—

In the “Hole.”

Thou wert not built for rogues gigantic, —  
They may cross the wide Atlantic, —  
But petty theft and drunken antic, —

On the (W) “Hole.”

Our modern Limbo now must shame thee,  
Thou worthless ‘Jug’ none seem to claim thee;  
No old acquaintance cares to name thee—

On the (W) “Hole.”

My rhyming room's now getting scanty,  
I've wrote my road through eight and twenty  
Lines, the which I think are plenty

On the “Hole.”

W. GUISE.

Redditch, Nov. 6th, 1865.

## POEMS ON THE OLD LOCK-UP. Cont....

### SECOND PRIZE.

#### THE OLD LOCK-UP.

Neglected and decayed our Lock-up stands,  
Gone are its terrors, —gone the stubborn hands  
That once, relentless, locked its heavy door  
On vagrant, thief, or the besotted boor  
Who staggered drunk along the quiet street,  
Insulting everyone he chanced to meet.  
If its old walls could speak, how sad a tale  
Would strike our ears, and make us all grow pale.  
'T would tell a tale of good advice forgot,  
'T would tell how that old poor decrepit sot,  
Though he had money, yet would never save,  
But have his drink, and make himself a grave,  
And he who, tempted by the glittering sight  
Of gold or silver, thinks not if it's right  
To take what is another's ; but who steals  
The useless stuff—Who would like what he feels ?  
When in his dungeon he thinks calmly o'er  
His wicked act and knows that never more  
Can he be happy. Character is gone,  
And he's disgraced, and wretched, and alone.  
This and much more these grim old walls could tell;  
But now no more its dreary little cell  
Will hear the thief in misery repent  
or curse the cause that brought his punishment.

ALBERT STRATTON.

### THIRD PRIZE.

#### LINES ON THE OLD LOCK-UP.

Redditch Lock-up is condemned;  
We want to see it down.  
It stood for many years a friend  
To Justice in our town.

Its cells have been, for strength encased  
With walls of thickest bounds,  
While Salter went about and chased,  
And watchmen beat their rounds.

Rioting days—sad state of things, —  
We will not give detail;  
We had to send for Jemmy Kings,  
He came and fill'd the Jail.

A dungeon, in whose dark recess  
The vilest found a place,  
So full of anguish 'and distress,  
When Justice they must face.

Now it rejected, and forlorn,  
The object of a slight.  
In former times hearts have been torn,  
When tenanted for night.

Then why despise the poor old jug, —  
It answered for the past.  
Tell me where you would find a mug,  
That would for ever last?

So great has been the change of late,  
Under Police control;  
They cease to slam thy Iron Gate—  
Farewell! our Redditch Hole.

WILLIAM BENKETT.



# The visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Redditch on the Tuesday 5th July 1983



It may have been just another working day for the Queen but for the whole of Redditch, it was a once-in-a-lifetime visit - one to be recorded in diaries and captured on film forever.

The Royal entourage was about five minutes late getting to its starting point in Evesham Walk because of large crowds on the way from Elmdon Airport.

A sun drenched Redditch welcomed its sunshine sovereign on Tuesday as cheering crowds declared what everyone was thinking: "Isn't she lovely?"

It was a right Royal party for the whole town as adults stopped work and children took the day off school, lining the streets in their thousands and cheering their Royal guest every step of the way.

The town was festooned with with people and bunting when she stepped out of her car.



Some people had made sure of a place by getting to the town centre as early as 6am!

Loud cheers and applause greeted the Royal visitor wherever she went and many had the chance to have a quick chat to the lady they had been waiting months to see.

*(All text taken from front page of Redditch Advertiser Issue 418 July 7th 1983)*



## The visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Redditch on the Tuesday 5th July 1983 cont....

