

July 2022 Meeting

We had thirty at the meeting which included twenty-five members and five visitors which, considering that outside it was the highest temperature of the year so far, was not too bad. We now have forty paid up members.

This is now only a four-page Newsletter. I did mention the difficulty in creating an eight-page Newsletter in our June edition and, since I did get myself into a bit of a mess concerning my article on the Band Hut in Langley, which required me to revise and reissue the newsletter, I am convinced that it was too difficult to maintain an eight page Newsletter.

On page two is a modified meeting report of our Management Committee Meeting on Thursday 7th July. This gives an overview of the current situation and the need for support to maintain the existence of the Society.

I have produced a report of the July presentation, which I gave, on pages 3 and 4.

We are still hoping to increase our membership with old and new members and there is still time to join the Society with full membership at £15. But if you join in October, you pay only £7.50, and you can come to five talks.

You can pay your subscription at any meeting with cash or a cheque payable to Redditch History Society. Alternatively, it is 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: graham_smith33@yahoo.co.uk

**Our next Meeting is on Monday 8th August at 2.00 pm and is
'The re-creation of the gardens at Hanbury Hall' by the Head Gardener Neil Cook**

This is a talk with power point slides and describes the re-creation of the gardens at Hanbury Hall from the gardens from 1993 to today.

The journey includes snippets of the Vernon family's history at Hanbury Hall and the Park surrounding it.

The talk concludes with a quick trip over to a property in Holland.



The meeting will be, as always at the the Oasis Christian Centre, 4 Plymouth Road, Redditch, B974QB (location details <http://www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk/location.htm>).

Entry for Society members is free and there is a small charge £3 for non members. If joining on the day the £3 is refunded. There will be tea/coffee with biscuits (50p) after the meeting.

Report of Management Committee Meeting

On Thursday 7th July 2022 at Forge Mill Needle Museum

Present was Don Vincent (Chairman), Anthony Green (Secretary), Graham Smith (Treasurer), Elizabeth Simpson and Sue Tatlow. There were apologies from Pat Bushaway and David Spyer.

Next Year's Programme

We are having ten meetings next year, February to November, April is the AGM and so there is no speaker for that, so we need nine speakers. We have currently eight potential speakers, including six from the Society, although one is not confirmed, so we have need for at least one more speaker. However, it is important to understand that we cannot rely on Society members to give talks and need to allow in the future for more outside speakers including the additional cost.

I do not want to continue in the role of speaker organiser, but, following the meeting, Pat Bushaway has said that she is willing to take on the role and has several ideas for speakers. Pat is not happy to organise the audio/visual requirements, but it is not a problem for me to continue to organise this aspect of the speaker role.

Viability of Society.

This is a critical issue and Graham presented an overview of our accounts which demonstrated that we are now running at a loss, and judging from the situation with other Societies, this is not going to change any time soon. We also have a difficulty with an aging executive.

Grahams figures show that, assuming a membership of forty, plus visitor and refreshments profit, and four speakers at £50, with other costs considered we will have a deficit of around £125.

Regarding the committee/executive we have the following of import issues to resolve for the Annual General Meeting in April 2023:

Don is not prepared to continue as Chairman because, as he rightly says, he is eighty-seven this year. This is understandable.

I am 80 in 2023, and I am certainly feeling it! I am no longer prepared to do all my current activities – Secretary, which includes a meeting report, Newsletter Editor, Speaker Organiser, Website/ Facebook Manager, and various other smaller activities.

We discussed this thoroughly and it was thought that, now the pandemic was 'over' there was no need to produce an elaborate newsletter. So, if the newsletter was reduced to two pages, one page report of meeting plus next meeting/notices then this was not too arduous. So, I am prepared to continue the website/Facebook page and put together a 2-sided Newsletter if all the material was supplied.

I am also willing to take on the role of Chairman, i.e., standing up at the meeting, reading out notices, and introducing the speaker, if all the material is supplied. (When we created the History Society 13 years ago, I began as the Chairman, so no change there!)

Graham is prepared to continue as Treasurer but would like more support with the refreshments, particularly more volunteers to do the post presentation refreshments.

Elizabeth and David are happy to look after reception but are not willing to take on any additional work.

We need support in producing a one-page meeting report for the Newsletter, taking minutes of the Executive Committee and publicity. This could be split in two: minutes secretary and publicity.

With regards to our costs, a factor is the cost of the room. At Oasis we use a small room (the Reeves Room), with a capacity of about forty/fifty, for teas. Oasis have suggested, as it has an overhead screen and a PA system, that if we have financial problem, that we could have this at a reduced cost.

I have discussed the use of the 'Reeves Room' with Oasis, and they are prepared to let us have this at £17/hour (this is a reduction on their normal charge), a saving of £5/hour on our current special rate for the two rooms. This would mean a reduction of £15 per meeting and so £150/year (equivalent to ten members). Obviously, if our membership recovers, we can easily move back to the two rooms.

The question which still arises is a secretary and/or minutes secretary to take minutes of the meeting and produce a speaker report for the newsletter. This need to be resolved for the 2023 AGM.

For this newsletter I have produced a four-page version. Page 1 is conventional, notices, next meeting etc, Page 2 is a summary of our management meeting and Pages 3 and 4 give a summary of the July presentation.

Future newsletters will be two of four pages, depending on material available.

Report on July Presentation by Anthony Green

'Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Family and Redditch: 70 years our Queen'

This was my presentation and was principally about the involvement of Redditch in the Royal Family. It was not intended to be comprehensive, as not all visits to Redditch were include but it was held together by the timeline on the life of our Queen, The presentation was split into several sections, Elizabeth – her early years, her father, the new George VI becomes King and Elizabeth becomes the heir, WW2: the importance of the Royal Family and visits to Redditch, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and celebrations in the town, Royal visits to Redditch, Princess Margaret (1962) and Prince Philip (1978), Queen Elizabeth's visit to Redditch in 1983, two more Royal Visits and later milestones in our Queen's reign.

In this short write up I have skipped over the early period covered in the presentation and we arrive at the 6th of February 1952, when during a holiday in Kenya, word arrived of the death of the King and consequently we had Elizabeth's immediate accession to the throne.

The Coronation was on 2nd June 1953, and it was reported in the Redditch Indicator that 'The worst weather was not wet enough to dampen people's determination to celebrate the Coronation. Town and village, street, and estate, made the most of the occasion. Here, as in London, the weather tried, hard to ruin the Coronation, but the Spirits of most people, and their determination to enjoy themselves, were not damped.

Princess Margaret visited Redditch on the 23rd of October 1962. While here she planted a tree at the entrance to Abbeydale Estate and visited a resident. The Abbeydale Estate had been recently rebuilt with the post war 'temporary' prefabs being demolished and replaced with brick-built housing. It also included a tour of the British Needle factory in Victoria Street when both housing and industry was close by the town centre.

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, visited the Kingfisher Centre in the town and officially opened the YMCA complex at the Church Hill Centre in May 1978.

On 5th July 1983, the Queen visited Redditch and she officially opened Milward Square with the mosaic panels designed by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi CBE RA. She officially opened the mill and museum by unveiling a plaque and then rang a bell to set the water wheel in motion. The plaque reads: "National Needle Museum, opened July 5 by Her Majesty the Queen."



Report on July Presentation cont.....

She met all those who had put their time, hard work, and effort into getting the buildings ready. She also gained a brief insight into Britain's contribution to space-age technology when she visited the Hymatic Engineering Company. At Hymatic, she was shown some of the highly sophisticated equipment the company produces for aerospace and defence use in many countries.

In July 1986 the Queen's cousin, Princess Alexandra, opened the new district hospital. The name of the hospital, the Alexandra, was not known until only a few months before its opening as it depended upon which member of Royalty was available to open it.

In July 2014, the Queen's daughter, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Princess Anne, HRH formally opened RSA Academy Arrow Vale and Ipsley CE RSA Academy.

On the 9th of April 2021 Prince Philip died aged ninety-nine. He was consort to Queen Elizabeth from the accession to the throne as queen ion the 6th of February 1952 until his death in 2021. The funeral took place at St Georges Chapel, Windsor during the Covid pandemic and, abiding by the rules of the time, she sat alone and was not able to be comforted by her family. The Queen surpassed her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, to become the longest-lived British monarch on 21 December 2007, and the longest-reigning British monarch and longest-reigning queen regnant and female head of state in the world on 9 September 2015. On 6 February 2017, she became the first British monarch to commemorate a Sapphire Jubilee, and on 20 November, she was the first British monarch to celebrate a platinum wedding anniversary. She is, obviously, the first British monarch to have a Platinum Jubilee and she does not intend to abdicate And She has overseen fourteen prime ministers, from Winston Churchill to Boris Johnson.

This presentation was well received by the audience.

