

October Meeting

We had an excellent response for our October presentation, with an attendance consisting of 40 Members, 5 new Members and 13 Visitors, so a total of 58.

This was again assisted by an excellent article, based on Pat's press release, in the Redditch Standard.

This month we had a presentation by Chris Jackson of historic postcards. His presentations are always fascinating and there is a report of the meeting on pages 3 and 4.



A Word from the Editor...

It is now more than six years since I began producing the Societies' Newsletter. It began as a two-page publication but during the 'lockdown' it increased to eight pages. However, during that time it has always been produced as a portrait A4 document suitable for printing. However, with everyone now viewing it on a computer, tablet or smartphone, it seems more appropriate to change to a 'screen friendly' landscape format. I have kept the same arrangement with regard to sections, but, for me, the format gives more flexibility in presentation.

I am pleased this month to have input from people who have contacted me with local material.

On pages 5,6 and 7, I have given extracts from the 1978 (50-year anniversary) Redditch Carnival brochure supplied by Stella Barber, and, on page 8, three early postcards of Redditch supplied by Jean Thompson.



**The last exhibition of 2025 runs from
Wednesday 22nd October to Sunday 23rd November.**

CREATIVE APPROACHES

Oddfellows Art, are nine artists, each with their own specialism – ranging from pottery to textiles, and printing to painting, who collaborate to bring together an exhibition celebrating the natural world.

Working in both 2D and 3D, the artists use pattern, colour and texture to make their striking creations.

ADMISSION DETAILS at:

<https://www.forgemill.org.uk/web/events/>



**Our next meeting is on Monday 10th November and
is 'Needle making in Worcestershire and
Warwickshire 1640 - 1940' by Richard Churchley**

We are pleased to have Richard again at the Society to give a presentation. He is always interesting and entertaining and he is an experienced local historian, who was awarded a doctorate at the University of Birmingham for his study of changing occupational structure in the rural area around Redditch and Alcester.

So, we can expect another well researched and fascinating dip into the early industrial history of our local area.



*Report by Anthony Green
13th October meeting : Early Postcards of Redditch Town
Centre' by Chris Jackson (1 of 2)*

Chris has probably the largest range of original postcards of Redditch currently available, and we are fortunate that he is a member of the Society and is willing to present a selection for us. To date, Chris has given us a tour along the A441 from Bordesley Corner to Crabbs Cross, and postcards from the roads off the main route. In this talk, Chris looked at the areas around the town centre including Alcester Street, Church Green and roads which no longer exist.

Chris used 76 postcards to illustrate his presentation and I have selected twelve of them to illustrate my meeting report. In his tour, he began at Church Green, perambulated down Church Green East (left), arriving at the area between Church Green East/Market Place and Alcester Street/Red Lion Street (right).



*Report by Anthony Green
13th October meeting : Early Postcards of Redditch Town
Centre' by Chris Jackson (2 of 2)*

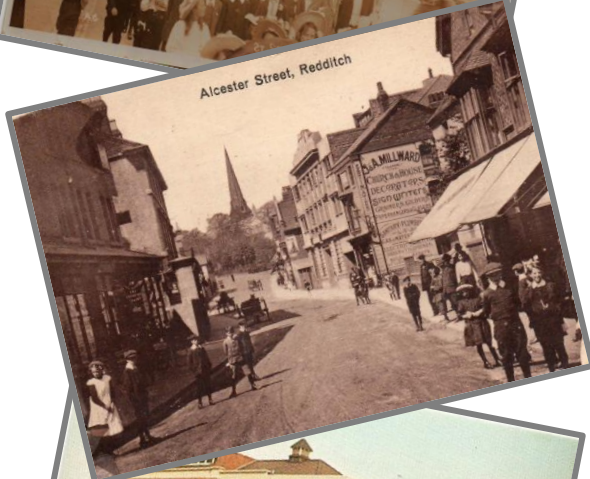
Moving along, we then went down Alcester Street to its junction with Ipsley Street (Pool Place) and Chris showed us a wide range of different views of the area at different periods.

Amongst the cards, he showed the evolution of the Palace Theatre. Left are three of the cards: top is range of buildings before the Palace was built, middle, the Palace was built but the shop next to Grove Street still existed and, bottom is the new entrance built at the time of the Redditch New Town development.

We then returned along Red Lion Street, with the Fire Station etc, and back to Market Place.

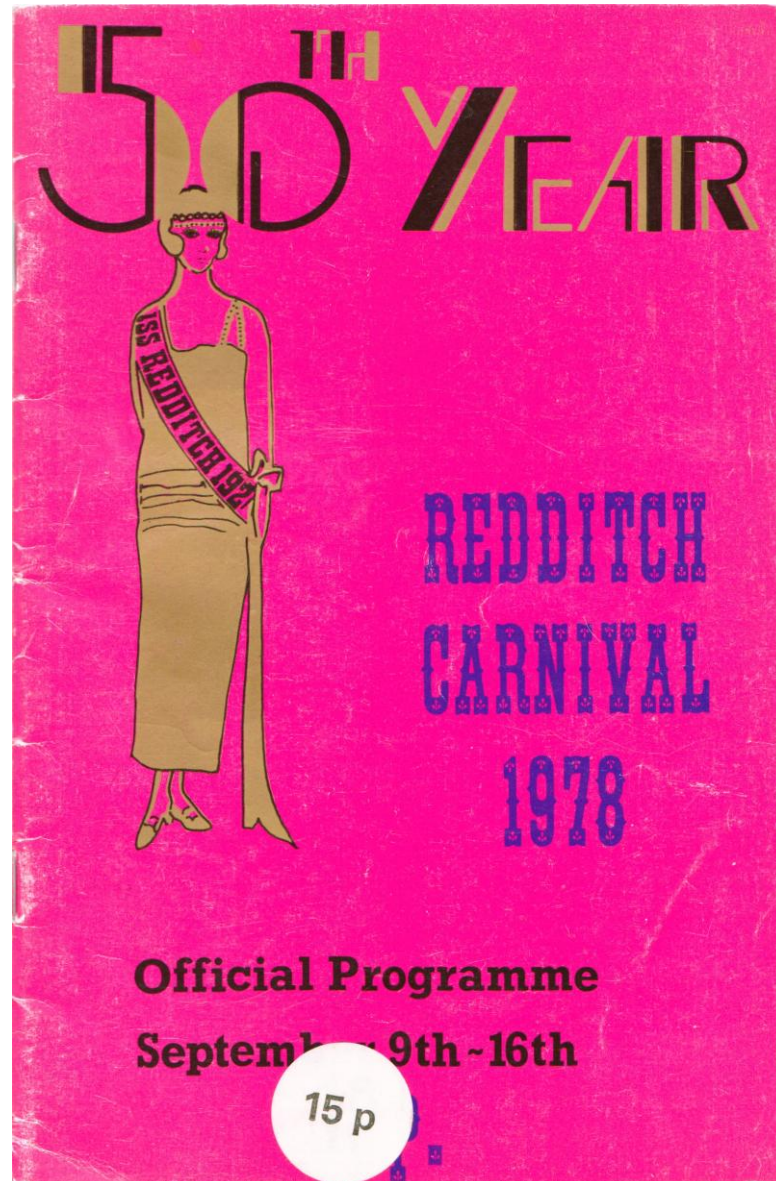
Amongst the many views of Market Place, and the market, Chris showed us the evolution of Woolworths (right), from no Woolworths, to single width shop, to the final store which we knew.

This was another fascinating tour of old Redditch by Chris, and it was much appreciated by the audience.



Redditch Carnival

50 years anniversary in 1978 (1 of 3)



I am always pleased to receive input concerning the history of our town, and Stella Barber contacted me concerning Redditch Carnival. She was clearing her mother's house recently. Her mother was a Redditch girl and was Carnival Queen possibly in 1947. Her name was Lynnetta Spencer of Spencer Needle industry and later Spencer's Mineral Water Co. Stella found a 50th Anniversary programme of the Redditch Carnival in 1978 and contacted me before she threw it away. As I was interested, she kindly posted it to me and, over the next three pages, are extracts from the guide. These publications are easily destroyed as having no value but, in terms of social history, it gives a snapshot of how we lived at a particular time.

FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS OF REDDITCH CARNIVAL

In case you haven't heard, this is Redditch's fiftieth carnival. We are celebrating our Golden Jubilee just a year after we celebrated the first twenty-five years reign of Queen Elizabeth.

A large number of people have worked very hard to try and make Carnival 1978 one to remember, and all thanks are due to them; however, I know that all those individuals, some on the Carnival Committee, but many others as well who are not, will feel most satisfied, if you, the people of Redditch, do your bit.

All we ask is that you buy the magazine—we have included far more jokes than previous years to give you better value, support the Carnival events with your presence and your money, and come out on September 16th to watch the procession.

It's not a lot to ask, but if you all join in, we could make the fiftieth carnival one to remember, and a record-breaker for our donations to the local charities we help to support.

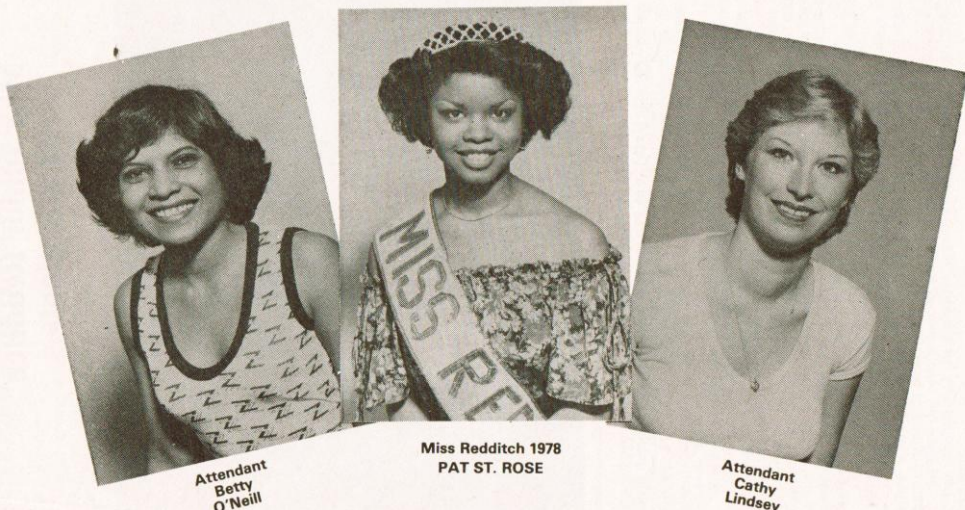
So put your hands in your pockets as a start and buy this magazine rather than just read it—there are too many jokes to read on the shop counter !

Thanks a lot
CHRIS TAYLOR
Editor

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Photos by courtesy of Linden Studios



Miss Junior Redditch
and attendants



Miss Junior Redditch 1978
(Centre: 11 year old Amanda Hadley, with Princess Julie Pullen, left, and Deborah Bishop)



THE BAND OF THE 1st BATTALION
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND
SHERWOOD FORESTERS.

CARNIVAL WEEK AT THE PALACE THEATRE : CARNIVAL WEEK AT THE PALACE THEATRE : CARNIVAL WEEK AT THE

Tickets available for all shows at the Palace Theatre
from Information Centre, Kingfisher House, or
Ticket Sec. Mrs. P. Sullivan, 17 Red Hill, Lodge Park
Telephone : 27436

Saturday 9th September

SHOWTIME

*Musical Extravaganza of your Local Societies, featuring
Woodrow Players — Redditch Operatic Society — Astwood Bank
Operatic Society — Alvechurch Musical Society
Studley Operatic Society*

Admission : Circle & Front Stalls 75p, Rear Stalls 50p, (Children
& O.A.P.'s 40p & 30p)

Sunday 10th and Monday 11th September

OLDE TYME MUSIC HALL

MASTER OF CEREMONIES : Mr. RICHARD RYAN

Starring

PAUL SCOTT - Magician

(from New Faces)

BARBARA WILKES

(scintillating songstress)

JOHN HALL

(comedy capers)

COLIN WHEELER

(all round entertainer)

Seats : Circle & Front Stalls 15/-, Rear Stalls 10/-
(Children & O.A.P.'s 8/- & 6/-)

Produced and Directed by Mike Whitfield

TUESDAY NIGHT — SEE STOP PRESS PAGE 39

Wednesday 13th, September

"SOUNDBUSTERS"

The Complete Cabaret

Sponsored by Redditch Liberal Club

Admission : Circle £1, Front Stalls £1.20, Rear Stalls £1

Friday 15th September

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

IN CONJUNCTION WITH 'CLUB INTERNATIONALE'

Watch out for full details

Admission : Adults 95p : Children and O.A.P.'s 65p

Saturday 16th September

BAND CONCERT

BY THE BAND OF THE

1st Battalion The Worcester and Sherwood Foresters

Featuring Vocalist

Mary Rose

Seats : Adults 75p : Children and O.A.P.'s 40p

AT THE PALACE THEATRE : CARNIVAL WEEK AT THE PALACE THEATRE : CARNIVAL WEEK AT THE PALACE THEATRE :

PALACE THEATRE : CARNIVAL WEEK AT THE PALACE THEATRE :

CARNIVAL WEEK

JOKES

JOKES

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Shapely blonde to salesman. "Might I try the dress on in the window?" "Yess," replied the salesman, "but don't you think you'd be more private in the fitting room."

INSECTS v. BEETLES

A football match was taking place between some insects and some beetles. At the end of the first half, the beetles were leading 20 goals to nil. In the second half the insects fielded their "reserve" a centipede.

The game ended Insects 200 goals - Beetles 20.

"Why on earth didn't you play the centipede in the first half?" the insects were asked. - "We couldn't, he was getting his boots on!"

I.H.H.

There was a man crawling through the desert, when an Arab came up to him on a camel.

Man : "Water, Water."

Arab : "Nice ties, Red, Green, Blue."

Man : "No, Water, Water."

The Arab went off and left him. Later on another Arab came up to him on a camel.

Man : "Water, Water."

Arab : "Nice ties, Red, Green, Blue."

Man : "No, Water, Water."

The Arab went off and left him.

At last, the man arrived at a hotel. He crawled up to the bar and said desperately : "Water, Water."

And the man behind the bar said : "Sorry Sir, we can't serve you without a tie."



'How does the mixer work since I fixed it?'

Q: Why did the orange stop half-way up the hill?

A: Because it had run out of juice.

A guide was conducting a party of tourists around the Post Office Tower when, on arriving at the revolving restaurant, one of the American tourists stopped the guide and asked him, "Do people fall off here often?"

To which the guide replied, "Nope, only once."

A hefty man walks onto a building site looking for a job. "O.K.," said the foreman, "How good are you?"

So the man picks up 3 bags of cement under each arm and throws them two storeys to the bricky.

"Start tomorrow," the boss said.

Next day the man said, "Can my brother start, he's twice as strong as me."

"Is he?" said the foreman, "Get your cards, your brother starts tomorrow."

A man ordered a brandy in a bar, drank it, ate the bowl of the glass and threw the stem over his shoulder. After doing this about six times, he noticed the barman staring at him, "I guess you think I'm crazy, don't you?" "I sure do," said the barman, "The stems are the best bit."

A drunken Irishman dashing around on a zebra crossing — Policeman: ("Evening All") — "Aye! Aye! What are you doing on that crossing?" Irishman: "I'll play this piano if it kills me!"



"Good day. I represent . . . Oh, never mind."

One woman to another at a hen party : "Did your fiance ever mention that he once proposed to me?" Other woman : "No, but he did say he'd done a lot of silly things before he met me."

★ ★ ★

"If you don't like hen parties why do you go to one every week?" asked a bewildered husband. "If you don't go, you're the one they talk about," explained his wife.

"How was the day at the office dear?" asked the wife of a high ranking Whitehall warrior. "Oh terrible," he said, "the computer broke down and we all had to think."

Two seagulls flying over Blackpool beach:

1st: "Look at those crowds down there."

2nd: "Yes it takes all the skill out of it doesn't it?"

The honeymoon couple arrived at the Hotel Fiesta and the bride changed into a seethru' nightie and put her arms around the groom's neck. "Darling," she whispered, "say something soft and sweet and gooey to me."

The husband replied, "Lemon Meringue Pie."

Paddy was granted one final wish before he was due to be shot by a firing squad. "O'd like to sing an old Irish folk song, just once before oi doi - Ten Million Green Bottles Hanging On The Wall."

Man walks into a psychiatrist with a penguin on his head, and the penguin says, "How can I get this man from under my feet?"

Is a 5-foot magistrate one of those little things sent to try us?



"An experienced bird watcher does not observe a feathered friend directly overhead."

Taxi driver : "That will be 50 pence, sir." Fare : "Sorry, I've only got 30. Could you take me back a bit."

★ ★ ★

Attractive secretary counting slips from suggestion box, to boss : "You got two and I got twenty-six."

"How did you get those scars on the bridge of your nose?" "From glasses." "Why don't you get contact lenses?" "They don't hold enough beer."

★ ★ ★

"Is this flight fully booked?" "Yes, madam, but we'll let you know immediately someone falls out."

JOKES

JOKES

and finally....

Three Early Postcards

Jean Thompson contacted me concerning some postcard photos of Redditch, probably pre-WW1 which were in her grandparent's collection. She asked if we would like them and, of course, I said that we would be delighted to have them. They are all early cards, late 19th/early 20th Century and here they are...



Looking across 'The Parade' to Church Road, showing the Literary and Scientific Institute and, on the left, the cottages which predated the Redditch Building Society building.



Redditch Railway Station with quite a number of passengers waiting for the train south to Studley, Evesham and on to Ashchurch.



Looking down Evesham Street towards the town centre cross roads. Who needs wide pavements when you can walk in the road!

This Newsletter is edited and published by Anthony Green, Society Secretary, Redditch History Society and is produced on behalf of the Society.

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