

A Word from the Editor..

So, here we are in February with our first meeting of 2026 — so let me start by wishing everyone a very Happy New Year.

We are now entering our seventeenth year since formation and, despite the odds, we are still going strong.

Speaking of going strong, I've now been officially signed off by Droitwich Hospital following my left knee replacement. It's now down to me to keep up the exercises, and I'm pleased to say I expect to be back volunteering at Forge Mill Museum in March.

Planning is already underway for this year's Heritage Day at Forge Mill, which will take place on Sunday 13th September. This is very much a community activity, so, if you have knowledge of any groups who wish to be involved, please contact me or Forge Mill Museum.

I am, however, a little sad that I'm not receiving much support from members and supporters when it comes to contributions for the newsletter.

I can always find material to fill the pages, of course, but I would much prefer it not to be solely from me.

February Meeting

We began the year with our February meeting, which saw an excellent turnout: 41 Members and 7 Visitors, making 48 in total. February is usually our quietest month — the weather rarely helps (has it stopped raining yet!) — so this was a very encouraging start.

Once again, we were delighted to see the Redditch Standard feature us with a great article, thanks to Pat's press release.

Our February speaker, Mark Jackson, gave us a well-researched and fascinating history of the Worcestershire Regiment (now part of the Mercian Regiment). Mark is, without doubt, an expert on the subject — he served in the regiment himself and, in retirement, is President of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association in Worcestershire. His presentation was rich in detail, and in my write-up I have provided a general overview.





Forge Mill Needle Museum has now reopened after the winter closure

MAIN SEASON - 1 March to 1 November 2026
MUSEUM, SHOP and VISITOR CENTRE All days: 10.00am to 4.00pm
GROUNDS and COFFEE BAR All days: 10.00am to 4.30pm

The EARLY SPRING SEASON - 1 to 28 February 2026 is the same except closing at 3.00 pm.

GUIDED TOURS of Forge Mill are run every Tuesday at 11.00am from April to September inclusive. Normal museum entry charge applies.

The programme of exhibitions has now been published, and you can find this on page 6.



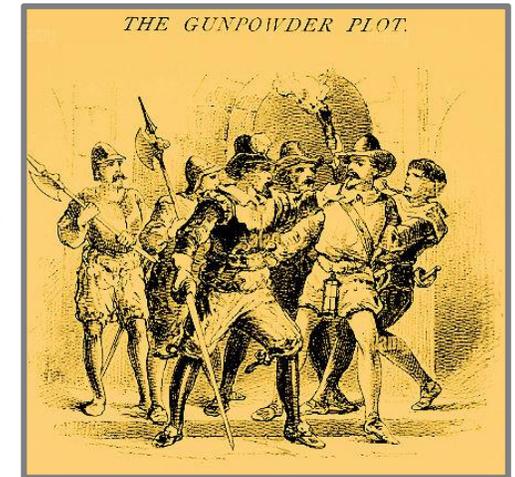
Our next meeting is on 9th March 2026. The presentation is The Gunpowder Plot – A Midland Uprising by Philip Bowen

The Gunpowder Plot of 1605 was a failed assassination attempt against King James I by a group of provincial English Catholics who were led by Robert Catesby.

Author Philip Bowen will speak about conspirators from

Worcestershire and how local houses played a part in the story.

He will also discuss what caused the plot, how close it came to success and consider its long-term legacy.



'The Worcestershire Regiment' by Lt.Col. Mark Jackson retd. (1 of 2)



The Mercian Regiment Mascot, a Swaledale Ram, known as "Private Derby" is held on the official strength of the Regiment. He is looked after by The Ram Major and Ram Orderly.

The Worcestershire Regiment is woven deeply into the life of this county. For generations, families here have watched sons, brothers, fathers—and now daughters too—march under its colours. For many local residents, its story is also their own family story, carried in photographs on mantelpieces and memories passed down at the dinner table.

It is a story our speaker, ****Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Mark Jackson OBE****, knows not only through study but through lineage. His family served in the regiment across both World Wars and in Malaya, and he himself followed that path into a full military career. Mark's service took him from Northern Ireland during the Troubles to the tense final years of the Cold War, and later into UN and NATO operations.

After 9/11 he served as a Liaison Officer in the United States with the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. He commanded the 1st Battalion between 1993 and 1995, and after leaving the Army became CEO of St Richard's Hospice. Today he is President of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association in Worcester, and in 2020 he served as High Sheriff of Worcestershire.

It is this breadth of experience—personal, professional, and historical—that shaped the illustrated presentation he shared with us. Through his eyes, the long arc of Worcestershire's infantry regiments comes alive: their origins, their battles, their transformations, and the imprint they have left on the county.

'The Worcestershire Regiment' by Lt.Col. Mark Jackson retd. (1 of 2)



*Above: Then and now
Below: Gheluvelt Park Opened by Field
Marshal Lord French of Ypres in 1922*



The regiment's story begins in 1694, when it was first raised as Farrington's Regiment of Foot. Over the decades it evolved through several identities before becoming the 29th (Worcestershire) Regiment of Foot in 1751. In 1881, the Childers Reforms brought a major change, uniting the 29th with the 36th (Herefordshire) Regiment of Foot to form the Worcestershire Regiment as it would be known for nearly a century.

From there, its history stretches across continents. In the Boer War, both battalions were sent to South Africa—one based largely at Ladybrand, the other fighting hard near the Modder River. In the First World War, the regiment's contribution was immense. Multiple battalions fought on the Western Front, earning nine Victoria Crosses but suffering terrible losses: around 10,000 men killed. In the Second World War, the 1st Battalion served in the Middle East and fought in the North African Campaign until its capture at Tobruk in 1942.

The regiment's identity continued to evolve. In 1970 it merged with the Sherwood Foresters, and in 2007 it became part of the newly formed Mercian Regiment—ensuring that the Worcestershire lineage lives on within a modern infantry structure.

Yet beyond the dates and reorganisations, what endures is the human story: the traditions, the courage, the sense of belonging. The Worcestershire Regimental Archives preserve thousands of records, letters, photographs and personal accounts—treasures for historians and families alike, and a reminder of how deeply the regiment is interwoven with the life of this county.

Mark Jackson's talk brought all of this together: centuries of service, sacrifice, and identity, told by someone who has lived the regiment's legacy from the inside. It was a compelling journey through Worcestershire's military heritage and the people who shaped it.

It goes without saying that it was thoroughly appreciated by the audience and Mark was inundated by questions well after the presentation was finished.

Redditch History Society 2026 Season

www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk

About the Redditch History Society

The Redditch History Society was founded in 2009 as a local community group.

We aim to promote interest in the history and heritage of Redditch and encourage members to research, record, celebrate and share their histories of the town and the surrounding area.

Our Programme of monthly presentations now also includes talks of more general historical interest as well as those on local Redditch history matters and is always available to view on our website.

Monthly Newsletter

We publish a monthly Newsletter featuring society updates, a report on the latest presentation, news, activities, details of the next meeting, and short articles contributed by members and supporters. The Newsletter is available on our website.

For more information about the Redditch History Society, please visit:

www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk

You can contact the Secretary by email at secretary@redditchhistorysociety.org.uk or by telephone on 01527 61434.



Programme of Presentations for 2026

www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk



DATE	Subject	Presenter
January	No Meeting	No Meeting
9 th February	The Worcestershire Regiment	Lt.Col.(ret'd) Mark Jackson
9 th March	The Gunpowder Plot – A Midland Uprising	Philip Bowen
13 th April	AGM, with films	The Society Executive
11 th May	Art goes to War, 1939-1945	Henrietta Lockhart
8 th June	'Body on the Bromyard Line' – local archaeology	Emma Hancox 'Explore the Past'

DATE	Subject	Presenter
13 th July	Local Law and Order and Popular Protest pre 1850	Richard Churchley
August	No Meeting	No Meeting
14 th September	A History of the Fish Hook	Anthony Green
12 th October	Through the Letterbox: Historic Redditch and its Postal System	Chris Jackson
9 th November	A History of Canal People and their Working Lives	Tony Conder
14 th December	A Victorian Christmas – in costume!	'From Time to Time'

Redditch History Society Meetings

www.redditchhistorysociety.org.uk

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month, with occasional changes when national holidays or other circumstances require it. We hold ten meetings a year and do not meet in January or August. Meetings begin at **2.00 pm** and run for approximately two hours. The presentation lasts around one hour, followed by refreshments.

Visitors are very welcome. Non-members are asked to pay a £4 entrance fee, which is refundable if they choose to join at that meeting.

Venue: Oasis Christian Centre, 4 Plymouth Road, Redditch, B97 4QB, close by the Bus Station.

Parking at the Centre is very limited, but on-street parking is available in Plymouth Road, Cemetery Lane, Edward Street and Britten Street. Paid parking is also available close by at the Railway Station and Kingfisher Centre Car Park 1.

We make every effort to keep to our published programme, but we reserve the right to change speakers or dates if circumstances require. If you are planning to attend a specific event, please check our website or Newsletter for the latest information.

Our compact new design four-page A6 leaflet has now been launched. It is available from Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch Library, the Palace Theatre, and, when they reopen, Redditch Local History Museum.

Visit <https://www.forgemill.org.uk/web/exhibitions/> for more details

**Sunday 1st February to
Sunday 8th March**

TEXTILE WHISPERS
An exhibition by IDC College

The Alumni and students at the IDC college in Bromsgrove, under the guidance of Ruth Parkinson-Johns, have chosen for their theme 'Textile Whispers' which comes from the voices in our head which inspire us to respond to new experiences by creating Art.

**Wednesday 11th March
To Sunday 19th April**

SHAPE IT MODERN
Bristol Modern Quilting Group

What makes a modern quilt? This is the theme that the group explored, each member taking inspiration from artists such as Hundwasser, Hepworth, Klee, Suetin and Malevich, Some used part of a picture, others used the shape, form or colour palate of the artist.

**Wednesday 22nd April
to Sunday 31st May**

PATHWAYS
Contemporary Textiles Group

Every two years a challenge is set which is a juried event for members of the Contemporary Textiles group (part of the British Quilters Guild). The resulting exhibition is an amazing example of contemporary textiles, worked at the highest level.

**Wednesday 3Rd June to
Sunday 12th July**

STORIES OF THE BOWERBIRD
Stephanie Redfern

Stephanie is a celebrated textile artist who works in textiles and mixed media. Her work is influenced by natural history, and she chose the Bowerbird as it neatly describes her artistic method of working, collecting ideas and materials from a wide range of sources.

**Friday 17th July to
Monday 31st August**

OUR FREEDOM AND YOURS
An exhibition by Sean Szmalc

A unique exhibition told through the eyes of a soldier serving in the Polish Army throughout the Second World War, from recruitment and the battlefields of September 1939, through to D-Day and Berlin.

**Saturday 5th September
to Sunday 11th October**

THE HEALING GARDEN
An exhibition by Hilary Beattie

Renowned textile artist Hilary Beattie returns with an exhibition celebrating nature's restorative power. Using applique, hand-cut stamps and expressive stencils, she explores plants with the ability to heal mind, body and soul.

**Wednesday 14th October
to Sunday 22nd November**

FREEFORM
Westhope Lace Group

The group members bring Freeform to life with an inspiring breadth of imagination. Each artist has taken the theme in a distinct direction, showcasing a deep understanding of traditional lacemaking.

TO CLEAR
 At 2/- and 3/3
 per pair
 Several pairs of Lady's
 DRESS SHOES
 in Bar, Court, and Buckle.
 Original Prices
 from 2/11 to 6/11 per pair.
HUINS, The Boot Metropole.

The Redditch Indicator

A NON-POLITICAL NEWSPAPER FOR REDDITCH, BROMSGROVE, KING'S NORTON,
 ESTABLISHED 1850. ALCESTER, STUDLEY, AND DISTRICT.

Christmas Annuals.
 Presentation Plates suitably
 framed make beautiful
 pictures for the home.
 have a stock of the latest
 designs in Mouldings, and
 make a speciality of
PICTURE FRAMING.
 GRAY, — TORACONIST, —
 5, EVESHAM ST

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[REGISTERED AT THE
 GENERAL POST OFFICE.]

REDDITCH, SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1911.

ONE PENNY

REDDITCH PETTY SESSIONS.

WEDNESDAY.—BEFORE MR. J. MORGAN (CHAIRMAN), MR. L. F. LAMBERT, COLONEL F. C. MILWARD, MR. H. ADCOCK, MR. F. J. NEWBOULD AND MR. F. C. DOLPHIN.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.—Richard Avery, Walford Street, Redditch, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Walford Street, on January 4th.—Defendant pleaded not guilty.—Police-constable Ford said at 11.30 p.m. he saw defendant, who was very drunk and creating a disturbance. He advised him to go home, but he refused and said he wanted to be locked up. He again advised him to go, but defendant declined to do so, and witness brought him to the police station.—Defendant said it was the officer, and not him, who was drunk.—Superintendent Hayes: Do not make imputations against the policemen.—The Chairman (to defendant): That will not help you.—Defendant complained that the officer pulled him about and gave him a "clout." He was suffering from lameness, and was not drunk. The policeman ought to be ashamed of himself.—The police-constable denied striking defendant.—Inspector Wagstaff who saw him at the police station, corroborated as to defendant's drunken condition. Defendant was very violent, and refused to be searched. Earlier in the evening he had spoken to defendant, who was drunk.—Defendant, who had been before the court twelve times for drunkenness and indecent language, was fined 5s. and 4s. costs. Allowed until Saturday to pay the money, or in default seven days' hard labour.

ADJOURNED.—A case against Howard Wilkins, late of Cobby Hill, Alvechurch, of obtaining a pair of boots of the value of 7s. 6d. from the shop of Henry Morris, draper and clothier, Mount Pleasant, Redditch, on October 31st, was adjourned for three months. Defendant, it appeared, was at present undergoing a sentence for stealing, at Worcester gaol.

STUDLEY FARMERS' DIFFERENCES.

ACTION AT ALCESTER COUNTY COURT.

At Alcester County Court, on Wednesday—before His Honour Judge Ingham—an action was brought by Arnold Hodgett, Priory Farm, Studley, who sought to recover from Thomas Bloor, Washford Farm, Studley, the sum of 10s. 9d., damage to a bicycle. Defendant put in a counter-claim of £3 for an assault alleged to have been committed by plaintiff.—Mr. George Thomas (Alcester) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Symonds (Philip Baker and Company, Birmingham) represented the defendant. Plaintiff stated that he resided at Priory Farm, Studley, and was a farmer. On October 9th last six or seven of defendant's cattle strayed on to his land, and did considerable damage to his mangolds and swedes. Witness fastened up the cattle, and the following day Bloor's son came for them. He told him he could not have the cattle until the damage was paid for, adding that he wanted one shilling for each cow. Bloor, junior, waited for some time, and then went away remarking that he would fetch his father. The cattle had been on and off his land all the week. The following evening he was cycling in the direction of Mappleborough Green, when he met Bloor, who was accompanied by his son and a dog. Bloor pulled up, and witness got off his bicycle. They had a conversation in reference to the cattle, and plaintiff again said he should not let them go until he had been paid for the damage they had done. Bloor said he was going to have them, and at the same time struck at him over the bicycle, which up to this time had been between them. He (plaintiff) loosed the bicycle to defend himself, and it fell down. Defendant then had a kick at him, and also set the dog on him, telling the animal to bite his legs off. Bloor afterwards jumped into the back

wheel of his bicycle, and did damage to the amount stated in the claim. Continuing, witness said he ran away, but defendant ran after him and struck at him. The dog was also biting at his legs. As Bloor was coming towards him he (plaintiff) turned round, and struck him in the eye with his fist. Bloor fetched the cattle next day, and paid him ten shillings.—In the course of cross-examination by Mr. Symonds, plaintiff said his farm joined that occupied by defendant, but the fence which the cattle came through was not his. He denied that his cattle strayed on to Bloor's land. He did not ask for six shillings, but refused to let the cattle go until the damage had been paid for. It was untrue that he put his hand into his pocket, and he would swear that he did not strike defendant with a spanner or anything of the kind. He struck Bloor with his fist, and one eye was discoloured. Defendant jumped on the wheel of his bicycle purposely.

George Lamb, Studley, carter, said he was employed by Messrs. T. and M. Dixon, and as he was driving a coal cart along the Washford Road he saw plaintiff and defendant there. Hodgetts was on the footpath, and Bloor struck him first. Plaintiff loosed the bicycle, which fell to the ground, and defendant jumped on the back wheel. After some words, Bloor again struck at Hodgetts, who struck back in self-defence.—Cross-examined: He was prepared to swear that defendant jumped on the bicycle.

John Thomas, Ipsley Mill, farmer and miller, was also called, and stated that he was driving along the road and saw defendant strike at Hodgetts over the bicycle, which was between them. The dog was jumping about, and barking at plaintiff. Bloor put his foot on the bicycle, but he was not prepared to say whether he did it intentionally or not. He did not see any iron used.—Cross-examined: He did not see defendant jump on the bicycle.

Alfred George, Studley, cycle repairer, said the damaged bicycle was brought to him for repairs. The rim was so badly buckled that it had to be replaced. Several spokes were also broken, and the total damage amounted to 10s. 9d. In his opinion the damage was committed by great force.

This concluded plaintiff's case, and Mr. Symonds immediately placed defendant in the box. In reply to questions, Mr. Bloor stated that he occupied the adjoining farm to plaintiff. It was true that six of his cattle strayed on to Hodgetts' farm, but plaintiff's cattle had also got on to his land, and he had had them back without any charge being made. On October 10th he was walking towards plaintiff's farm for his cattle when he met Hodgetts riding his bicycle. He got off, and said to him, "Are you going for the cattle?" He (defendant) replied that he was and Hodgetts then said that We could not have them without the money. As he stood in the water table plaintiff struck him with something hard—he believed a spanner. The blow cut his forehead in two places, and the blood ran down his face, and into his eyes until he could not see. At this time he accidentally stepped into the bicycle. He did not strike Hodgetts at all; in fact, he could not see for the blood. Plaintiff ran away, and he could not catch him, otherwise he should have struck him. He denied that he set the dog on Hodgetts; in fact, when the dog ran after him witness's son whistled him back again. As a result of the blow which plaintiff gave him his forehead was deeply cut, both eyes were discoloured and swollen, and his lip was also split.—Benjamin Bloor, defendant's son, gave evidence in substantiation of his father's remarks, and John Wheeler, the bailiff of the court, who was also called, stated that when he served the summons on Bloor, he asked him if he had met with an accident. He thought he must have done so owing to the condition of his face. Witness did not think it was possible for the cuts to have been made by a man's fist.—In summing up, His Honour said he did not think Hodgetts struck defendant with a piece of iron, otherwise he would have dealt severely with him. He considered both parties were responsible for their own actions, and he gave judgment for plaintiff on the claim for 10s., and for defendant on the counter-claim in a like amount.

and finally....

Pictures of the Railway Station from 1967

My brother Vince—who is sadly no longer with us—was, like me, an enthusiastic photographer. Also like me, he tended to overlook his own surroundings and instead amassed an extraordinary number of holiday photographs. But when the Development Corporation announced its demolition plans for the town, Vince took his camera out and recorded the threatened areas. I have copies of those photographs, and I thought that some images—however poignant—of our railway station shortly before it was demolished might be of interest. The buildings had stood for more than a century, yet they could not survive the New Town expansion. The originals were, of course, monochrome, but I've used AI to render them in colour.



Station Entrance



Signal Box South



Station Platform

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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