



The I Remember Redditch Photographic Collection



***Photographic memories of old
Redditch to remind us of what
the town was like before the
New Town.***

***Compiled By: Derek & Jill Coombes
Date: August 2026***



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Document: Memories of Old Redditch 01.ppp

Version: 1.03

Last Update: 20 August 2026

Introduction

Despite occurring over 50 years ago, the tag “New Town” still lingers over Redditch despite Redditch never being a new town.

The seeds of Redditch were planted when Cistercian monks founded Bordesley Abbey on the banks of the river Arrow in the 12th century.

The the gate-house community of lay workers grew and even when the Abbey was subject the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII. They carried for a couple of hundred years at the Bordesley site but eventually moved south the the plateau at the end of the Ridgeway, the site we know today as Redditch.

Since then the town has embraced the Industrial Revolution and became the home for many world-wide brands. The factories and supporting commercial organisations that funded Redditch’s growth were second homes to many families and the community spirit of the town was second to none.

The development of the “new town” came at an opportune time when many of these traditional industries were suffering as world trade grew, particularly in the Asian market.

The new town brought an new, wider commercial market economy as well as an influx of migrant families from both other areas of the UK as well as overseas.

The new town was not welcomed by all and many of the town’s residents who grew up in the old town still fondly remember the shops, schools, clubs and community of old Redditch.

We cannot turn the clock back to those pre new town time but we can still enjoy our memories of the past times.

The photographs in this book are present to aid those memories.

Derek Coombes

The Palace Theatre



The Palace Theatre - 1913 The New Theatre and the workers who built it.

Source: Palace Theatre Archives



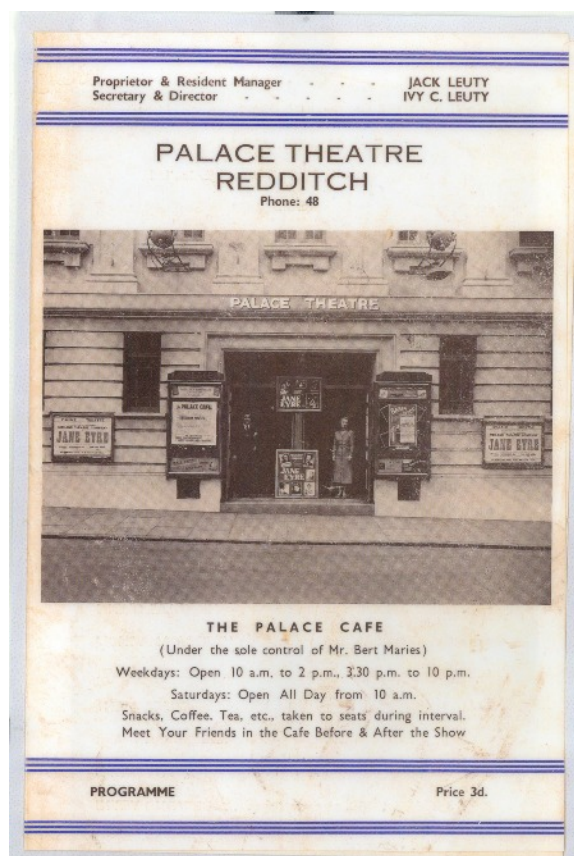
The Palace Theatre - 1913 The New Theatre and the workers who built it.

Source: Palace Theatre Archives



The Palace Theatre - Bertie Crewe, the theatre designer.

Source: Palace Theatre Archives



The Palace Theatre - A typicla programme from the 1950s.

Source: Palace Theatre Archives



The Palace Theatre - The original Bar in the theatre c1950s.

Source: Palace Theatre Archives



The Palace Theatre - The original entrance to the Palace Theatre in Alcester Street. In the doorway are Jack Leuty and his wife who managed the Palace Theatre in the 1950s. This photo appeared on the front page of the theatre programme.

Source: Palace Theatre Archives

Redditch Landmarks



The Bates Hill Methodist Chapel.

Source: RLHS Archives



Redditch Institute - Redditch Institute on the corner of Church Road & Church Green West.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Market Place - Looking up Market Place to the junction with Evesham Street and Prospect Hill.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Evesham Street - Looking South on the West side of Evesham Street from just past the jctn with Unicorn Hill/ Church Green West/Market Place.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Alcester Street - Looking North on Poole Place up Alcester Street.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Evesham Street - Looking North on Evesham Street from the George Street junction.

Source: The Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Easemore Road - Former Indicator Printing works.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Red Lion Street - The Old Fire Station.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Evesham Street - Browns Arch again but now most of Evesham Street has been lost to the Kingfisher Centre clearly visible on the left hand side of the photo.

Source: Vince Green



Evesham Street - The Congregational Church.

Source: Vince Green



Peakman Street - Clearly Peakman Street and St. Stephen School.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Evesham Street - Looking South towards the junction with George Street on a wet afternoon.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Evesham Street - The top of Eveshamm Street, locally known as Front Hill with Smokey Joe's cafe on the corner of Park Road.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Evesham Road - Needle makers cottages on Evesham Road Headless Cross.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Evesham Road - St.Luke's School on Evesham Road Headless Cross.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Ipsley Street - Warwick Arms Hotel.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Ipsley Street - Millsborough House looking East.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Ipsley Street - Millsborough House looking West.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Evesham Road - The Star & Garter Public house.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Mount Street - The Alms Houses.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Hewell Road - The Royal Enfield factory with the office block behind the car park.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Railway Station - Ballast for building stocked up at the Railway station.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Red Lion Street - A view from Car Park 2 across the end of Red Lion Street to Ipsley Street and Millsborough House.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



Railway Goods Yard - Railway Trucks loaded with Ballast for New Town construction work.

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection



New Street - View from the north side of New Street showing Heaphies Shop and Evehsam Street in the distance.

Source: Vince Green



Smith Street and two well known Public Houses

Source: The Geoff Holmes Collection

High Duty Alloys



High Duty Alloy - The Erie Hammer in operation at High Duty Alloys.

Source: High Duty Alloy Archives



High Duty Alloy - A 12,000 Ton Forging Press in operation at High Duty Alloys.

Source: High Duty Alloy Archives



An early Merlin Powered Spitfire with pistons made at High Duty Alloys.

Source: High Duty Alloy Archives



To mark the opening of the Redditch HDA factory on 16th August 1939 a copy of this bronze plaque, the work of sculptor Fred Kormis, was given to some of the more important guests at the ceremony.

Source: High Duty Alloy Archives

Redditch In The News

Page 4—The Redditch Indicator, Friday, September 25th, 1959.

CANDID CAMERA SCENES FROM THE 30TH ANNUAL CARNIVAL



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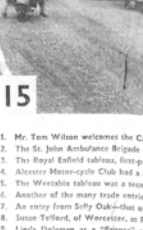
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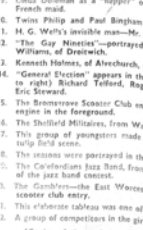
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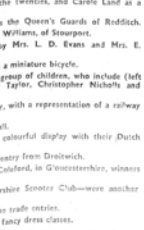
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1. Mr. Tom Wilson welcomes the Carnival Queen at the fun fair.
2. The St. John Ambulance Brigade ladies' tableau.
3. The Royal Enfield tableau, first-prize winners.
4. Alcester Motor-cycle Club had a mixed tableau.
5. The Weetabix tableau was a second-prize winner.
6. Another of the many trade entries.
7. An entry from Silly Oak—this of Ariel Motors Ltd.
8. Janet Telford, of Worcester, in Babylonian Crusade.
9. Linda Doleman as a "Gipsy" of the twenties, and Carol Land as a French maid.
10. Twins Philip and Paul Bingham as the Queen's Guards of Redditch.
11. H. G. Wray's invisible man—Mr. J. Williams, of Seagrave.
12. "The Gay Nineties"—portrayed by Mrs. L. D. Evans and Mrs. E. Williams, of Droitwich.
13. Kenneth Holmes, of Alchurch, as a miniature bicycle.
14. "General Election" appears in this group of children, who include (left to right) Richard Telford, Roger Taylor, Christopher Nichols and Eric Seward.
15. The Remembrance Scout Club entry, with a representation of a railway engine in the foreground.
16. The Sheffield Militaires, from Walsall.
17. This group of youngsters made a colourful display with their Dutch wig ball scene.
18. The scenes were portrayed in this entry from Droitwich.
19. The Calverton Jazz Band, from Calverton, in Gloucestershire, winners of the jazz band contest.
20. The Gamblers—the East Worcestershire Scout Club—were another scout club entry.
21. This elaborate tableau was one of the trade entries.
22. A group of competitors in the girls' fancy dress classes.

(Copies of these photographs may be obtained from Linden Studio, Erchem Street, Redditch.)

Redditch Carnival - Redditch Indicator 25th September 1959 – Scenes from the 30th annual Redditch Carnival.

Source: RLHS Archives

REDDITCH INDICATOR & ALCESTER CHRONICLE, DEC. 22, 1981 9



Three pupils of the St. Stephen's C. of E. school taking part in their nativity play performed on Wednesday. They are Elizabeth Burton, aged 7, the Angel, Ann Chesteron, 6, Mary, and Neil Harrison, 7, Joseph.



Pupils of Beoley County Primary School costumed for the dress rehearsal of their Christmas nativity play in the village hall on Monday of this week.

IT'S CHRISTMAS

(In case you'd forgotten!)



Seen above are pupils of St. Stephen's C. of E. school who performed their nativity play last Wednesday.



Sarah Judge, aged 11, Susan Smith, 10, Sara Cooke, 11, and Robert Jones, 10, rehearsing a scene from their school play, "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, at Beoley village hall. As the fate of miser Scrooge illustrates, Christmas could be a nightmare for those haunted by spirits even in the days before breathalysers.



Youngsters of the St. Stephen's C. of E. school costumed and ready to take part in "Christmas Praise," a playlet which was performed in addition to the traditional nativity play.



Studley Brownies performed their nativity play during the open evening at the village hall last week. It formed part of a varied programme of activities by both Guides and Brownies with the aim of raising funds for the Leamington Children's Home.



Charming young women of 1st and 2nd Studley Brownie packs waiting to serve visitors to the bazaar at the open evening in the village hall last week. Altogether the Brownies and Guides raised £45 for the Leamington Children's Home.

LEFT
Waiting for the curtain to rise: the 1st Studley Guide troop choir who sang carols and songs from "The Sound of Music" for the entertainment of visitors to their open evening at the village hall last week.

Redditch in the local press.

Source: RLHS Archives

Telephone Classified - REDDITCH

THE REDDITCH INDICATOR & ALCESTER CHRONICLE, JUNE 10, 1977 13

Jubilee Picture Spectacular



As the rain streamed down during Tuesday afternoon, youngsters from Northwech Close, Church Hill, crowded into the contractors canteen to compete in the fancy dress competition.



Parents saw traditional children's games at Alvechurch Crown Meadow School Jubilee and tenth anniversary party.



Mrs. Peggy Raggatt, chairman of the governors, presented souvenir mugs at Alvechurch Crown Meadow First School, which celebrated both Jubilee and the school's tenth anniversary.



Mrs. Teresa Dixon presents Jubilee silver crowns at Old Alvechurch party.



A cautious start to the egg and spoon race at Latimer Road, Alvechurch.



Extreme concentration was called for by youngsters who took part in a ball-catching game, one of the events at an "It's a knock-out" contest at Great Ains playing fields, Great Ains, on Tuesday.



One of the village of Inkberrow's Jubilee celebrations included a bonfire and fireworks display at the village hall. The bonfire was timed to start shortly after The Queen started the chain of official bonfires which stretched the length of the country.



Residents of one of the newer estates in Hunt End, Walkwood Green, managed to give us a good send off to our next job when we eventually caught up with them in Boultons Lane.



On now to Millsboro Road where we found that last a minute street party had been arranged and it was obvious by the mood that it had created just as much enjoyment as the ones which had taken long and careful preparation.



Down in Wirehill Drive, Lodge Park, they celebrated with rather the air of a gracious country garden party.

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12 THE REDDITCH INDICATOR & ALCESTER CHRONICLE, JUNE 10, 1977

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Jubilee Picture Spectacular



Despite the dreadful weather on Monday afternoon, these youngsters from Wishaw Close, Greenlands, were determined not to let it spoil the fun and were obviously enjoying the party even though they were all crowded into a tent by the rain.



Hopwood Playgroup kiddies enjoying their Jubilee party.

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Taxi driver Cliff Brownlow of Aldington Close, Lodge Park, not only decorated his taxi but took the kids from the close on a tour of the town as they waited for their party to begin on Tuesday.



Uncle Eddie makes friends with some of the youngsters at the Romsley and Shawbury Silver Jubilee celebrations on Winyates East.



Everyone was obviously in a jovial mood and enjoying the party when our photographer called in on the Romsley and Shawbury Jubilee celebrations.



Residents of Lander Road, Greenlands, held an old fashioned street party with the tables set out the he road and were obviously well into the festive spirit by the time we reached them on our grand tour of the town.



Youngsters of Chaddesley Close, Lodge Park, seen here as they queue up for their Jubilee mugs after the tea had been cleared away.



By the thumbs up sign that we got these youngsters of Redhill and Winyates Hill had obviously enjoyed the tea which had been laid on for them by the mums and dads.



"Noye's Fludde" performed at Hanley-in-Arden.



Just relaxing in the sunshine and helping the celebrations go with a swing were these residents in Southcrest Road who were all in a festive mood when we called on them.



During the morning's frequent downpours, youngsters from Wolverton Close were entertained by Clown Boot and Clown Tina seen here with the kids in fancy dress in the hall of Arrowvale High School.



Wolverton Close, Ipsley, managed to secure the services of lovely Lyn Parry, Miss ATV of 1977 to present the prizes at the party and Lyn is seen here with fancy dress winners Clare Bradney (right) and Brett Knight who had to be consoled by his mum before he would go and get his prize.

RAY WILLETTS

deep freeze

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1977 - Queens Jubilee - Redditch Indicator 10th June 1977 - Queens Jubilee celebration in Redditch.

Source: RLHS Archives

WITH THE QUEEN ON HER ROUNDS BEFORE THE PROCESSION

The Redditch Indicator, Friday, September 25th, 1958—Page 5



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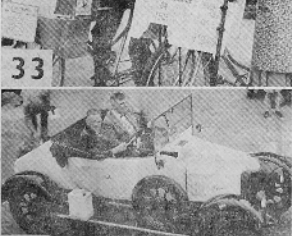
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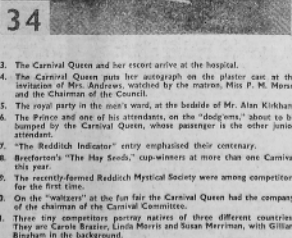
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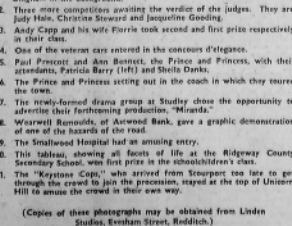
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23. The Carnival Queen and her escort arrive at the hospital.
24. The Carnival Queen puts her autograph on the plaster cast at the invitation of Mrs. Andrews, visited by the matron, Miss P. M. Moss, and the Chairman of the Council.
25. The royal party in the men's ward, at the bedside of Mr. Alan Kirkham.
26. The Prince and one of his attendants, on the "dodgems" about to be bumped by the Carnival Queen, whose passenger is the other junior attendant.
27. "The Redditch Indicator" entry emphasised their centenary.
28. Breckford's "The Hay Seeds," cup-winners at more than one Carnival this year.
29. The recently-formed Redditch Mystical Society were among competitors for the first time.
30. On the "dodgems" at the fun fair the Carnival Queen had the company of the chairman of the Carnival Committee.
31. Three tiny competitors parading natives of three different countries. They are Carol Brazier, Linda Morris and Susan Merriman, with Gillian Bingham in the background.
32. Three more competitors awaiting the verdict of the judges. They are Judy Hale, Christine Steward and Jacqueline Gooding.
33. Andy Cagg and his wife Florrie took second and first prize respectively in their class.
34. One of the veteran cars entered in the concours d'elegance.
35. Paul Prescott and Ann Barrett, the Prince and Princess, with their attendants, Patricia Barry (left) and Sheila Drake.
36. The Prince and Princess setting out in the coach in which they toured the town.
37. The newly-formed drama group at Studley chose the opportunity to advertise their forthcoming production, "Miranda."
38. Westwell Barnside, of Acrewood Bank, gave a graphic demonstration of one of the hazards of the road.
39. The Smallwood Hospital had an amusing entry.
40. This tableau, showing all facets of life at the Ridgeway County Secondary School, won first prize in the schoolchildren's class.
41. The "Keystone Cops," who arrived from Stourport too late to get through the crowd to join the procession, stayed at the top of Unicorn Hill to amuse the crowd in their own way.

(Copies of these photographs may be obtained from Linden Studios, Evstham Street, Redditch.)

Redditch Carnival - Redditch Indicator 25th September 1958 – Scenes from the 30th annual Redditch Carnival.

Source: RLHS Archives

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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Centre of town

Fritz Heaphy dies and the Nashs take over

THE Heaphy family, with their staff, customers and suppliers, celebrated 100 years of trading in Redditch with a dinner party at Holt Hill Cafe, Beoley.

Good relations between customers and staff have been the cornerstone of the business's success.

Mr L. Farr, who started with the firm first in 1936, and Mrs B. Gray (nee Crowl) started as a young girl. They are both valuable and active members of the current team.

When Fritz Heaphy died in 1952 Cyril Nash continued the business appointing his wife Margie as company secretary — a position she still holds.

Redevelopment

The business continued to expand and a new branch was opened in Church Green West.

At this time, Redditch, with a population of 25,000, was designated a new town with a planned expansion to 80,000 in 1981-82.

To make way for redevelopment the New Street shop was demolished in 1973 when Heaphys moved to the Kingfisher Centre.

By a twist of fate the site of this shop is in the same area where George Heaphy set up his stall in 1831.

Cyril Nash died in 1978 after 48 years service to Redditch. He was succeeded by his son Robert who is the current steward of the Heaphy heritage.

The business continued to develop with the extension of the Church Green shop in 1976 which provided space for their own workshops on the premises — an even greater element of service to their customers.

In 1980 the firm were awarded the Gold Award for staff training and for the high standard of service to customers by the Distributive Industry Training Board.

The firm's story started in difficult times and today's uncertainties are as concerning as any before. But with the Heaphys trading principles of a "fair deal" and a genuine interest in local people for 150 years "opportunity" should enable continued service for the people of Redditch.

The company thanks John G. Rollins for his generous help and information given so willingly to us, and also for authentic pen and ink drawings.

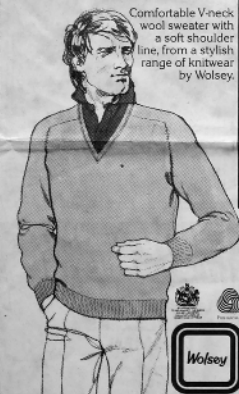
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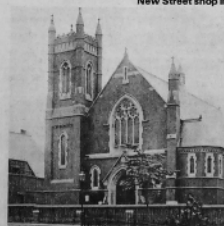
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Heaphys of Redditch

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George Heaphy, junior, and Fritz with the family's gamecart outside the New Street shop in 1898.



J. G. Rollins '80

Mr Cyril Nash.

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More scenes from Redditch's and Heaphys' past. (Top) The Baptist Church in Ipsley Street, and (bottom) the view along Church Green West looking towards the then new Smallwood Hospital.

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Heaphys - Redditch Indicator 23rd October 1981 - A supplement celebrating Heaphys 150th anniversary in Redditch.

Source: RLHS Archives

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

THE REDDITCH INDICATOR & ALCESTER CHRONICLE, OCTOBER 23, 1981 (3)

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150th BIRTHDAY OFFER
Bespoke BRITISH TAILORING
QUALITY & STYLE available from
both shops
of
Heaphys

BEN WILLIAMS
SUPPLIERS OF BOYS
SCHOOL & LEISURE
CLOTHING

Congratulate Heaphys
on their 150th Birthday.
Fine schoolwear
by

EVRON

Ireland to Redditch Heaphys' intriguing tale

HEAPHYS is a business very much concerned with the present and future. It is looking to the years ahead with hope and confidence sure that its 150 year association with Redditch will continue.

The story of the House of Heaphys is a fascinating tale with its beginnings in trouble-free Ireland more than 200 years ago.

Trouble in Ireland caused many families to seek a better life and the Heaphys family were among those who moved from the Waterford area to England.

The family settled in the small Devon village of Plympton where Thomas Heaphys was born in 1817.

They worked as "packmen" extending their journeys to the Midlands using a donkey.

Family tradition

Thomas Heaphys died at the young age of 42 leaving two sons, Thomas, born in 1848 and George, born four years later.

In 1847 the brothers, following the family tradition, travelled north from Plympton to Redditch with their stock carried on a donkey.

After selling their goods the brothers loaded up with stock and set off south. They left town by way of the steep climb

"up the stones", known to many as Frost Hill, then on to Mount Pleasant.

Brothers split

At this point fate took a hand — the troubled donkey had a head, stuck and died.

The brothers split the stock. Thomas returning to Devon while George stayed in Redditch, using by trading in the surrounding countryside.

In 1851 during the reign of William IV, George Heaphys set up a stall in the Shambles, later known, successively as Devon Street and Worcester Road and the Redditch Shopping Centre.

He was an honest, hard working non-conformist with a belief in fair trading.

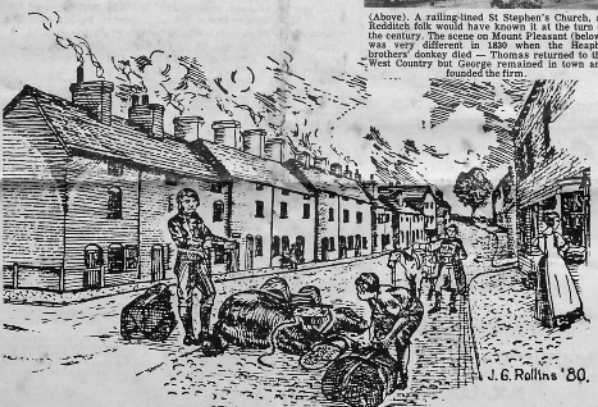
After surviving a cholera epidemic in 1850 he continued trading in the town and in 1841 he married Miss Margaret Bashford.

A year later they had a son named George.



(Above). A tall, lined St Stephen's Church, as Redditch folk would have known it at the turn of the century. The scene on Mount Pleasant (below) was very different in 1850 when the Heaphys brothers' donkey died — Thomas returned to the West Country but George remained in town and founded the firm.

George Heaphys... 'an honest, hard-working non-conformist with a belief in fair trading'



J. G. Rollins '80.

Heaphys
are part of
the history of
Redditch~

and 150 years of
quality + service
is now part of the

**Kingfisher
Shopping Centre
Redditch**



1981

QUALITY SUITS
JACKETS & TOP COATS

Supplied to **Heaphys**



Congratulations on your
sesquicentenary (150 years).
We look forward to trading
with you in the year 2131

(300 years)

Gurtex
TROUSERS



HOPSACK & FLANNEL
£17.95
QUALITY & FIT



ROBERT BUCK

**ROBERT R. BUCK
& SONS LTD.**

Congratulate Heaphys's
on their 150th Birthday
and wish them
every success
in the future

Heaphys - Redditch Indicator 23rd October 1981 - A supplement celebrating Heaphys 150th anniversary in Redditch.

Source:RLHS Archives

IN THE REDDITCH INDICATOR & ALCESTER CHRONICLE, OCTOBER 23, 1981

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Classic Knitwear
in pure new wool

PIERRE SANGAN

The finest, most elegant pure wool knitwear bears the Pierre Sangan label. We always stock a selection of timeless classic styles in the very latest shades of the season. Prices are reasonable... the quality is superb.

Ask for PIERRE SANGAN for Men at...

Heaphys

CHURCH GREEN SHOP
REDDITCH

1831

Heaphys

1981

'The old private and family business'—what the Indicator had to say 47 years ago

Every now and then the public are told of the vicissitudes of the small personal business under the terms of the multiple firms on the one hand and of the "stomach" on the other. Such a gathering as took place at Bosley on Wednesday in last week proved clearly that such tales can be told.

For over 100 years now the firm of Geo. Heaphy & Sons, of the last vestiges of the firm, was served at 3.30, the party having been conveyed from Redditch by Mr. W. J. Wray.

Mr. W. J. Wray, who acted as M.C., proposed the toast: "Geo. Heaphy & Sons."

The toast was received with a great deal of enthusiasm, and the speaker, who was also a private citizen, remarked that he had to bring sunshine into the lives of others. "Mr. H. G. Wray, who attended the toast, said he could endorse heartily all that had been said by Mr. Wray. His (Mr. G. Wray's) connection with the business was one of a general and practical character, and he had no doubt that the business was one of the best known and most respected in Redditch and district, and his son was his worthy successor. Wherever any charitable or educational effort was made, Mr. F. J. Heaphy was always ready with his sympathy and support. Very few people knew what a benefactor he really was; and he would the firm continued success and prosperity.

The toast having been drunk, the company standing, Mr. F. J. Heaphy, nephew, and most how pleased he was to have the encouraging words of Mr. Wray and Mr. G. Wray. The gathering was a reunion of many workers, who for twenty years had taken some personal interest in the business. The war robbed all firms such as Geo. Heaphy & Sons of their own folk, and the definition of the war period were very real ones to a firm like these who did a country trade. It meant losing his place of the son. They could, however, be seen by bus or rail to most out-of-town houses, and by date lived

help the business was held together in a unique way. He (Mr. Heaphy) would like to say "Thank you, not only to the present staff but to those who had worked and left, but whose interest in the old place had never waned, and who often dropped in, as friendly visitors, for old time's sake. The business retained a lot of work, for 12,000 pairs of trousers were made annually. That meant a lot of work, for each pair of trousers required about 750 yards of material, and the staff, who were not just being employed, but were specially selected and prepared. The firm was very grateful to the "Indicator" for all the help in advertising means to them, and all things considered it was no wonder that the business had grown with the ever-changing world. After a few amusing stories of the country trade, Mr. Heaphy and he was sure the party had to be limited by various, helped and the staff, who each brought a good, and he asked each of the ladies present to accept a piece of broken china on a memento of the occasion. (Applauds.)

Mr. J. E. G. Wray proposed the toast of "the staff and helpers." He complimented the staff and the proprietor on the efficient and pleasant way their business was conducted, and remarked that he never knew of any other firm where the staff were so well treated as in this case. It is Heaphy one, made especially to their requirements—and the needs of what the company flatteringly as-

long friendship with Mr. Heaphy, and of his kindness and consideration for others. Mr. E. C. Nash, replying, said there were no "thunder storms" because the sky was always clear. The staff loved their work and were very happy in it. It was difficult to visualize a business carried on under happier conditions. Mr. Nash, too, paid a tribute to the good influence of Mr. Heaphy on the business generally and himself (Mr. Nash) particularly, and in closing he presented Mr. Heaphy with a handsome Latin ash tray from the staff, as a memento of the occasion.

Mr. Walker, of Birmingham, representing the wholesale trade, spoke of business from the point of view, and expressed his appreciation of business houses run on family lines such as Geo. Heaphy & Sons. The rest of the evening was spent in community singing, and songs were sung by Mr. H. G. Wray, which were much appreciated. At the close of the proceedings Mr. H. G. Wray thanked the Rev. W. J. Wray for his skilful work as M.C., Mrs. F. J. Heaphy, accompanied Mr. H. G. Wray for undertaking the various duties of evening, and Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, both of Redditch, who so splendidly decorated their dinner table and looked

Reprinted from the "Redditch Indicator," December 6th, 1934.

"ABROVIAN"

of
Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire
TROUSERS FOR MEN



Heaphys written records with Hebden Bridge go back to 1908 when they had already been supplying Redditch with Quality Trousers for many years.

The heavy moleskins and Saxony flannels are still available but the modern man needs modern blended cloth for his changed life style.

ASTIN GREENWOODS have adapted to change as have Heaphys and together will continue to TROUSER THE MEN OF REDDITCH



Heaphys today—a fair deal, complete service

HEAPHYS today, as always, aims for a fair deal across the range of menswear.

And the company's staff aim to be masters of the trade with a complete service.

They stock the sizes other stores lack and as a consequence the lines that many a chain store would reckon out of date or of such small interest as to be unmarketable. Heaphys keep behind the counter—in just in case a customer comes up.

Old-style nightshirts, breeches, country clothes,

and cloths which many might think went out when men stopped wearing hats as a matter of course—all are there should they be required.

And the firm doesn't ignore the other end of the scale.

"Families come in here with their boys to buy him his first suit for a wedding. With them will come grandfathers for his new suit. We will have the designs to fit out both of them," said Mr. Robert Nash.

The suits available will fit almost every shape and size of man around. If a little slackness or fullness still remains, adjustments can be made to off-the-peg clothes.

And, of course, made to measure is still available.

Finest Selection

If a special occasion is in the offing, suits can be hired not just morning top hat and tails or evening dress, but even a smart suit for daytime. Customers come from over a large area of the Midlands just for this service.

"We've got the finest selection of dress wear in the county," said Mr. Nash. A range of suppliers and an old-established tradition of best business should be done have proved surprisingly durable and even today Heaphys have found the big stores by cutting out the intermediate warehouses and transport a large operation demands.

Discerning

Cheapness isn't the main aim here, but value for money. The firm might be able to sell cheap shirts more cheaply—but they

(Above) Heaphy's reward for years and years of first class service to the people of Redditch and the Midlands, the Gold Award for staff training and the high standard of services presented on behalf of the Distributive Industry Training Board by the then Mayor, Councillor Alan Jones. Looking on as Mr. Robert Nash receives the award were Mr. Cyril Nash's widow, Margot, and Mrs. Pauline Meier, chairman of the town's chamber of trade.

would rather sell good shirts at a reasonable price. And much of the stock couldn't be bought anywhere else in any case. It is Heaphy one, made especially to their requirements—and the needs of what the company flatteringly as-

met to be a discerning customer. And through it all runs the old skill of expertise.

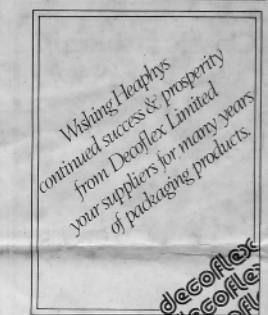
"We know what we are doing," said Mr. Nash. "There is always a market for someone who knows his job."



Trutex have the leisure look to please the ladies in the family. From four to teenage, Superbly made beautifully styled leisurewear that keeps its good looks through the most active day. Trutex know how to satisfy sons... and their mums!

Available from: **Heaphys**

The Kingfisher Boyswear Centre
REDDITCH



Wishing Heaphys continued success & prosperity from Decoflex Limited your suppliers for many years of packaging products.

decoflex

Glenmoor International
ELEGANT SUITS AND BLAZERS FOR MEN

Congratulations to George Heaphy & Sons Ltd. celebrating 150 years in business.

High Street Mills
Heckmondwike
West Yorkshire
Tel. No. Heckmondwike
(0924) 405217

Folkes Limited
Manufacturers of Folkestone Newwear



Heaphys

VARTEX (TEXTILES) LIMITED
Congratulatory to

Heaphys



VIYELLA
SOME INVESTMENTS GENERATE GREATER INTEREST THAN OTHERS

Heaphys
CHURCH GREEN SHOP
REDDITCH

wishing

Heaphys

continued success for the future

Alexander Rose Ltd.
MENS FASHION SUITS

Copier & Heywood
at Nottingham

Makers of Fine Tailorware for Men extend their best wishes to Heaphys on their 150th Anniversary

As bankers to Geo. Heaphy & Sons Limited, we at the Midland offer our congratulations on their 150th anniversary.

Midland
Come and talk to the listening bank

Heaphys - Redditch Indicator 23rd October 1981 - A supplement celebrating Heaphys 150th anniversary in Redditch.

Source: RLHS Archives

THE REDDITCH INDICATOR & ALCESTER CHRONICLE, OCTOBER 23, 1981

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

DISCOVER THE
SECRET
OF QUEST.

Quest. The suit with a secret.
A pocket in the trousers,
that acts like a safe.
Quest. A superb range of top
quality suits—and not too hard
on the pocket.



Quest

SUPPLIERS OF ENGLISH
QUALITY SUITS & SLACKS

FIND OUT THE SECRET AT:-

Heaphys
OF REDDITCH



FARAH

Heaphys OF REDDITCH



FARAH FARAH

CLIFF
OF NOTTINGHAM
MADE IN BRITAIN

CONGRATULATE

Heaphys

on their
150th Anniversary
Mens & Boys Jackets

JSM

J. A. & S. M. HARRISON

Congratulations from
J. A. & S. M. Harrison
an excellent achievement on reaching 150 years
trading. May we wish you future success towards
the 200.

1831

Heaphys

1981



J.G. Rollins '80



Double Two Shirtmanship is the creation
of distinctive shirts from fine
fabrics chosen for their quality,
richness of design and easy
care properties.

2 Shirtmanship

Cicero
Fashion
Suits

from **£49.95**

Congratulations
from

NEW VITOSHA
U.K. Ltd

YOUNG FITTING TROUSERS



Best
wishes
from

CHAS. TEMPLE
& SONS LTD.



ROCOLA **SHIRTS**
Heaphys HIRE DRESSWEAR
CHURCH GREEN, REDDITCH

Fritz Heaphys and John Morris took advantage of an opportunity to indulge
in a little impromptu advertising as they paused outside Great Alne's
Mother Huff Cap Inn one day in 1885. The results of their efforts (above)
can still be seen. (Below) Fritz Heaphys, a picture from the family album
taken in 1943.

The family's links grow stronger

THE Shambles was demolished in 1861 and George Heaphys
took a shop in Evesham Street, assisted by his son George,
who married Miss Sarah Sanders from Plymtree in 1870.

They had a son, Fritz, born on July 21, 1872, who remained a bachelor,
and five other children. Their older daughter, Grace, was the principal of a kindergar-
ten school in Redditch for many years.

The Heaphys family moved into a house
on the corner of Walford Street and New
Street. They opened another shop next to
the house, with its stables and quadran-
gle, in 1882.

Heaphys had by this time developed a
close association with the town.
This is shown in the old St Stephen's
records when many families were given
clothing coupons to exchange at Heaphys



for overcoats and other winter clothing.
The Evesham Street shop was closed in
1880 and the shop in New Street expanded.
By this time Fritz was playing a part in
the business helping his father.

In 1884 Heaphys bought a game-cart to
use for country visits to meet of town custo-
mers.
George Heaphys, the second, died in May
1899 leaving Fritz to take over running the
business.

He had a clear understanding of the
junior trade, and became a familiar
figure on his bicycle — still remembered
by the older generation in Redditch.

The game-cart was still used for longer
journeys and once when local grocer John
Morris was on the same trip, he and Fritz
decided on some impromptu advertising.

On a barn wall near the Mother Huff
Cap Inn, at Great Alne, they painted a
sign which still reads — "Wear Heaphys
Trousers" and "Drink Morris's Tea".

Helped by his sisters, Fritz continued to
run the business during the early years of
the century. In the depths of the depres-
sion of the 1930's Cyril Nash joined the
business.

The shop was redesigned, extended and
a show room was opened in the basement.
During this time 15,000 price tags were
sewn by hand into garments each year. A
school department was established with
the then Redditch County High School.
This has grown to the point where Heaphys
now supply boys clothing for 31 local
schools.



Three views of old Redditch. (Top)
Evesham Street at the turn of the
century with the Heaphys shop sign
jutting out above the pavement on
the left hand side of the road. Church

Green East is still recognisable de-
spite the passing of 80 years or so,
while (below) the fountain on church
green itself enjoys rather more secu-
larity than these days.



'Y-FRONT' Only from Lyle & Scott.
All British. All Cotton. Y settle for less?
CONGRATULATIONS

to
Heaphys

of
REDDITCH

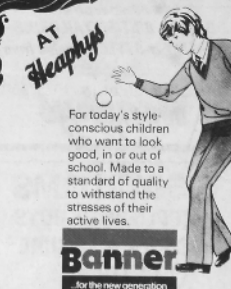
on their 150yrs
Successful Trading

Bladen
JACKETS and TWEEDS a
Classic!



Excellent English Elegance
available at

Heaphys
CHURCH GREEN SHOP
REDDITCH



For today's style
conscious children
who want to look
good, in or out of
school. Made to a
standard of quality
to withstand the
stresses of their
active lives.

Banner
for the new generation



Style — Fit
Elegance are
only part of the
story. We take
pride in the
selection of beautiful
Youthful Wools
in which to build
our quality. Remember
trousers are our
business — not only business.

150 YRS HEAPHYS

**Heaphys - Redditch Indicator 23rd October 1981 - A supplement celebrating
Heaphys 150th anniversary in Redditch.**

Source: RLHS Archives

Page 4—The Redditch Indicator, Friday, September 25th, 1959.

CANDID CAMERA SCENES FROM THE 30TH ANNUAL CARNIVAL



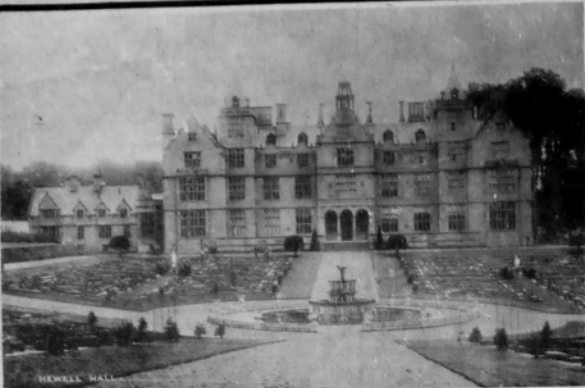
Redditch in the local press.

Source: RLHS Archives

Telephone Classifieds — REDDITCH 08247

THE REDDITCH INDICATOR & ALCESTER CHRONICLE, MAY 6, 1963 11

THE REDD



The picture above was supplied to us by Mr Robert Nash, of Heaphys tailors, and shows Hewell Hall, now Hewell Grange Borstal. The photograph was taken in the early part of this century.



There was not too much need to worry about traffic when this picture of the junction of Ipsley Street and Red Lion Street was taken.



Evesham Street — the old heart of the town before the development corporation arrived.



It may have been wartime but at least the buses were running.



Terrys Springs all dressed up for the Coronation in 1953.

Old Redditch — a trip down memory lane

FLASHBACK to days gone by — these photos of old Redditch may not mean much to some people in town.

They were all taken before the development corporation began its mammoth task in the mid-60s and transformed the face of Redditch.

But whether or not you do remember what Evesham Street pre-Kingfisher Centre looked like, or even if

you never saw traffic rolling past the former Royal Hotel, now Reddies, they remain part of the town's heritage.

The pictures were loaned to the Indicator by former colleague Fred Mitchell, of Lodge Road. Like us, he wonders how many people will recall their views.

Let us have your old photos and take another trip down memory lane.



Another view of the town centre as it once was — this time Alcester Street.

Redditch in the local press.

Source: RLHS Archives



More Press reports of the Queens visit in 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives

REDDITCH INDICATOR SPECIAL JUBILEE SUPPLEMENT, JUNE 3, 1977

A new life in the New Town



The Woodrow meeting rooms provide a home for many activities including this playgroup.

Redditch has never seen such great changes as those resulting from its development as a New Town to help relieve overcrowding in the West Midlands Conurbation.

And as well as providing a better life for thousands of newcomers, the development of Redditch has also invigorated the old town.

We hope you share our pride in the results of our efforts: a balanced community with new industry, new housing, new shops, new leisure facilities for all.

James Chesshire, M.C., F.R.I.C.S.
Chairman, Redditch Development Corporation.



Riding high! This little girl finds plenty of fun on one of the well-equipped play areas.



Super sporting facilities for all are available at the town's Abbey Sports Hall.



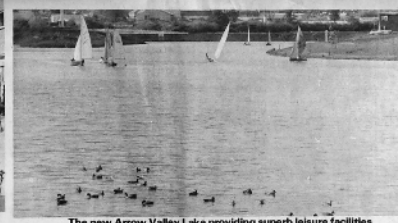
Winyates: one of the well-equipped play areas in the New Town.



Where toddlers play in absolute safety, pictured at Lodge Park housing area.



The toddlers play area at Winyates.



The new Arrow Valley Lake providing superb leisure facilities.



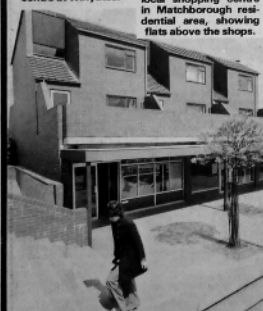
... and you can paddle your own canoe in Arrow Valley Park.



Wild and wide open spaces at Ipsley Alders Nature Reserve.

What's Happening About Your Town
A REDDITCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FEATURE ADVERTISEMENT

Blending the old with the new: the crafts centre at Winyates.



Bingo! The meeting rooms provided by the Corporation at local community centres cater for a wide variety of activities. This is the Ten Acres meeting rooms.



Excellent accommodation is provided for senior citizens. This is Chiltern House in Matchborough.

Room to breathe ... room to grow

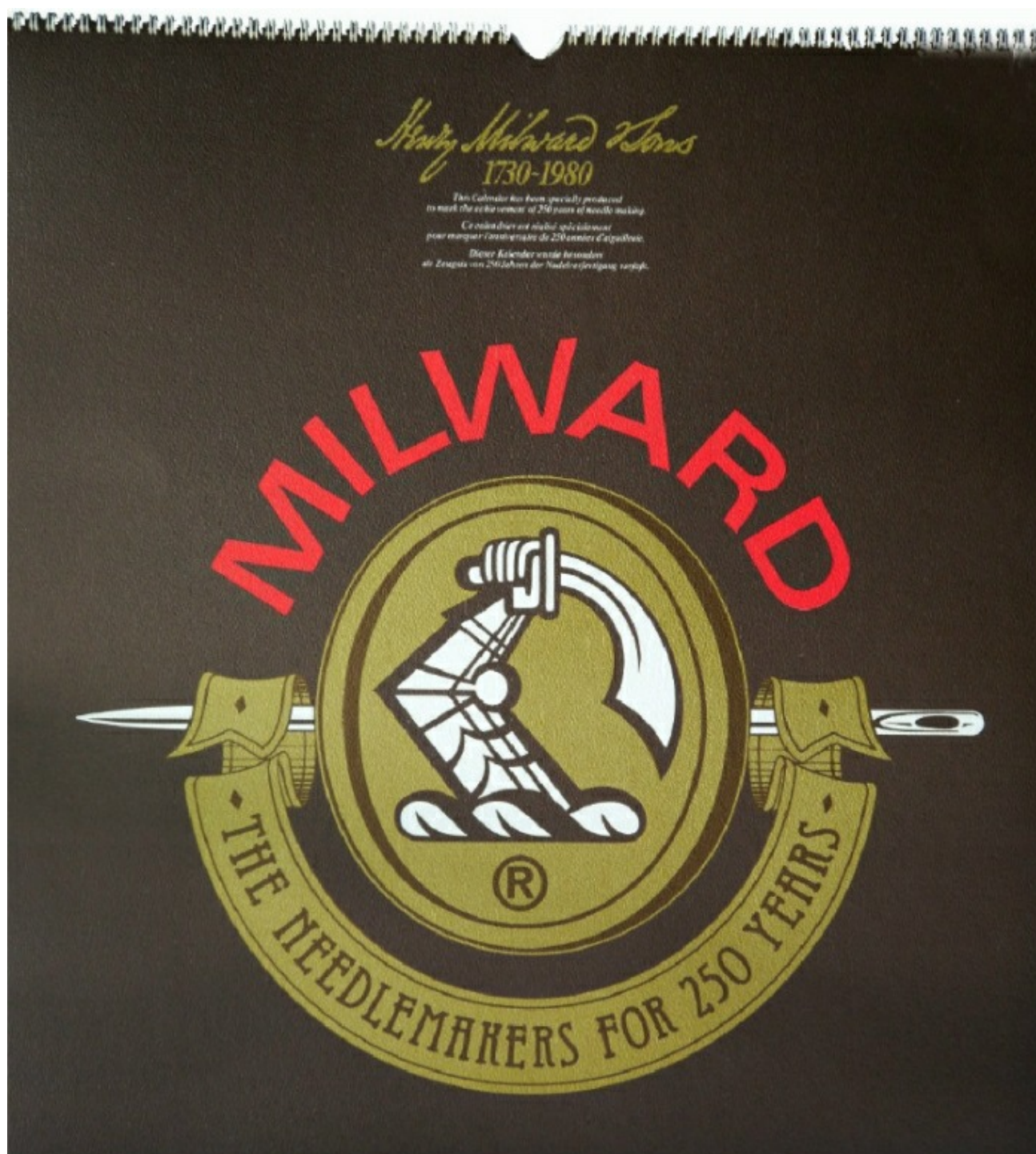


Great fun and plenty of action at this toddlers playgroup held in the Ten Acres meeting rooms.

A new life in the New Town

Redditch New Town - Redditch Indicator 10th June 1977 - Scenes depicting a New Life In a New Town.

Source: RLHS Archives



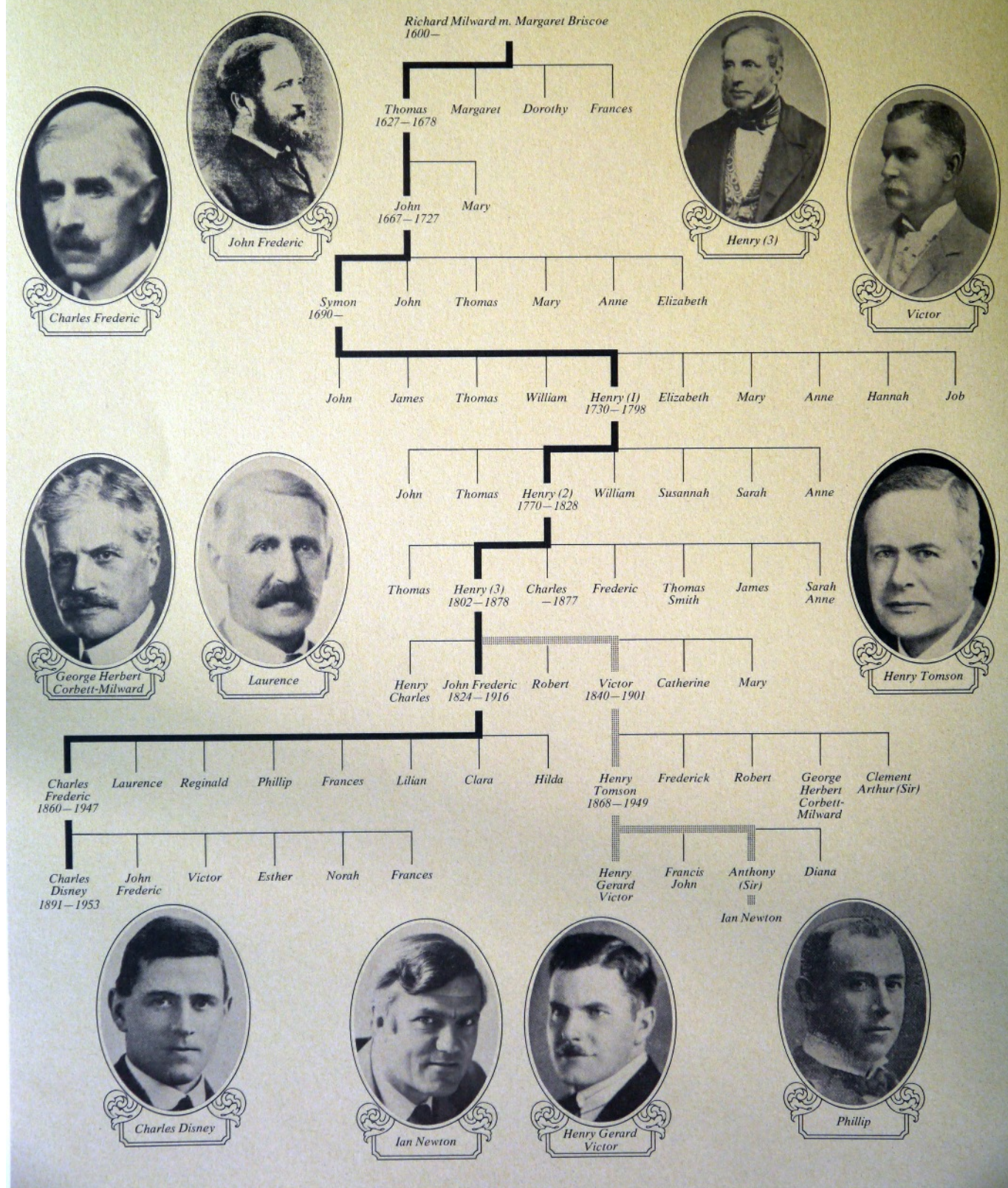
Milward 250th anniversary calendar - A page from the 1980 Milward 250th anniversary calendar showing an early advertisement for Milward's needles.

Source: Milward 250th anniversary calendar in RLHS Archives

Milward Family Tree

L'arbre généalogique de Milward

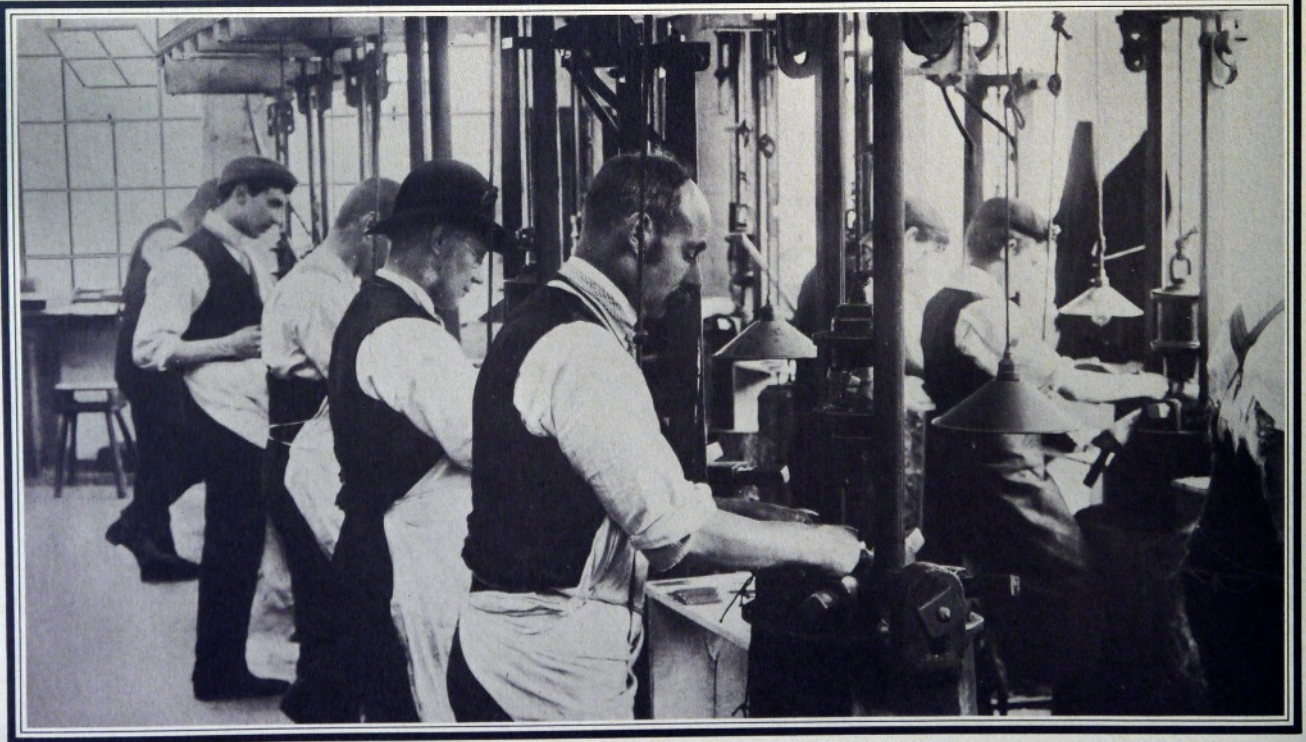
Stammbaum der Firma Milward



Milward 250th anniversary calendar - A page from the 1980 Milward 250th anniversary calendar showing an early advertisement for Milward's needles.

Source: Milward 250th anniversary calendar in RLHS Archives

This photograph dated 1860 shows a group of the Long Crendon needle makers who "trekked" up to the Redditch/Studley area from South Oxfordshire to continue their trade in the growing needle district of Redditch. Making the eye impression on a Kick Stamp in the 1880s. This method superseded the old skills of striking by hand. It was subsequently replaced by the Spring Stamp and later by the combination Stamping and Eyeing machines which were introduced in the early part of the 20th Century.



Milward 250th anniversary calendar - A page from the 1980 Milward 250th anniversary calendar. Needle workers ready to leave Long Crendon for Redditch.(1860) and Needle Eyers at work on kick-stamp machines (1880)

Source: Milward 250th anniversary calendar in RLHS Archives



Milward 250th anniversary calendar - A page from the 1980 Milward 250th anniversary calendar showing an early advertisement for Milward's needles.

Source: Milward 250th anniversary calendar in RLHS Archives

A range of the
different types of packaging from the early 1880s up to 1947.



Milward 250th anniversary calendar - A page from the 1980 Milward 250th anniversary calendar showing a variety of packets of Milward's needles ranging from the 1880s to 1947.

Source: Milward 250th anniversary calendar in RLHS Archives

Redditch Carnival



Redditch Carnival.

Source: RLHS Archives



Redditch Carnival.

Source: RLHS Archives



Redditch Carnival.

Source: RLHS Archives



Redditch Carnival.

Source: RLHS Archives



Redditch Carnival - Fancy Dress Entrants.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Redditch Carnival - Fancy Dress winners.

Source: B. Lashbrook



Men's Outfitters - Do you recognise the gentleman or the shop?

Source: Redditch Indicator



Royal Visit - Visit to Redditch by H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent to open clubs for war workers I Prospect Hil. Accompanied by the Earl of Dudley and welcomed by Councillor C. H. Blackford and W. Irving Watkins, Clerk of the Council.

Source: B. Lashbrook



Garden Party - Mr. & Mrs. Dance at Houndsfield Garden Party.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Redditch Carnival - The Carnival Queen and her attendants visit a patient in Smallwood Hospital.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Redditch Carnival - A group of youngsters with Flags of the World ready for Redditch Carnival.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Redditch Carnival - Your guess is as good as mine who these two are meant to be? Apparently its Len Jarrett on the right.

Source: B. Lashbrook



Redditch Carnival - Bill, Ben & Weed – The kids of today don't know what they missed!

Source: Redditch Indicator



Redditch Carnival - First Prize winner for "Spaceman Pat".

Source: Redditch Indicator



The Carnival Parade - A nice view of the 1970 Carnival parade showing a Band, The Carnival Queen, Floats and at the side the fair.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Carnival Fancy Dress Prize Winners - Some very proud children who have one prizes for the costumes in the Carnival's Fancy Dress competition.

Source: B. Lashbrook



Redditch Carnival - Library Girls.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Redditch Carnival - The winning Float?

Source: Redditch Indicator



Redditch Carnival - Fancy Dress competition entrants.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Redditch Carnival - Fancy Dress competition entrants.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Redditch Carnival - Redditch Carnival - Mr Eddie Crumpton and R. Charman.

Source: B. Lashbrook



Redditch Carnival - Redditch Carnival - Matron of Smallwood Hospital and the Queen of the Carnival.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Redditch Carnival - Redditch Carnival - Prince (Stanley Slade) and Princess (Jacqueline Slade).

Source: B. Lashbrook



Redditch Carnival - Redditch Carnival - Mrs L. Jarrett - Queen of the Brewers.

Source: B. Lashbrook



Redditch Carnival - A likely pair!

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Redditch Carnival - The Barrow Poets.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Group of Workers - Taken in a shop with selling records - possibly Woolworth's.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Carnival Queen - Redditch Carnival - Queen - Mavis Hawthorne with Doreen Taylor and Betty Barry.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Groups of Judges and Officials - Group of Judges and Officials with Headmaster.

Source: B. Lash brook



A Redditch Carnival Float.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Carnival Queen - Redditch Carnival Queen, Margaret Southwick behind the counter of her father's store.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Victory Fete - First Prize.

Source: B. Lashbrook



Washford Bridge - Opening Washford Bridge within the people shown is Pat Beddows, Mr Cheshire (Chairman R.D.C), Mr Singleton and Mr Grier (General Manager R.D.C.).

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



John Frederick Milward, J.P.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Wedding - Wedding -William J. Wray/Margery Hewson.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Cubs and Scouts on Parade.

Source: Redditch Indicator



Birmingham Road VE Party off to Dudley Zoo.

Source: B. Lash brook



St. Lukes Memorial Hall - Home Coming Party.

Source: B. Lash brook



Children's Fete on Church Green.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Redditch at War - Home Guard.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Redditch at War - Birmingham Evacuees Children in garden.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Redditch at War - Women's Army Recruits.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



.Victory Party.

Source: C. H. Blackford



.Victory Fete procession.

Source: B. Lashbrook



Victory over Japan party.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



VE Celebration Tea 4:30.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Public Library School of Art.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



.VJ Party Baby Show.

Source: B. Lashbrook



.Victory Queen

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Thanksgiving service procession in Mount Pleasant/Rectory Road. Procession led by Councillor J. H. Taylor, Chairman, Mr. N.I. Watlins, Clerk and Mr. Wilkinson.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



"Farm Sunday" procession in Evesham Street. Day intended to stimulate production of food at home.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



VJ Party

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



Victory Party procession.

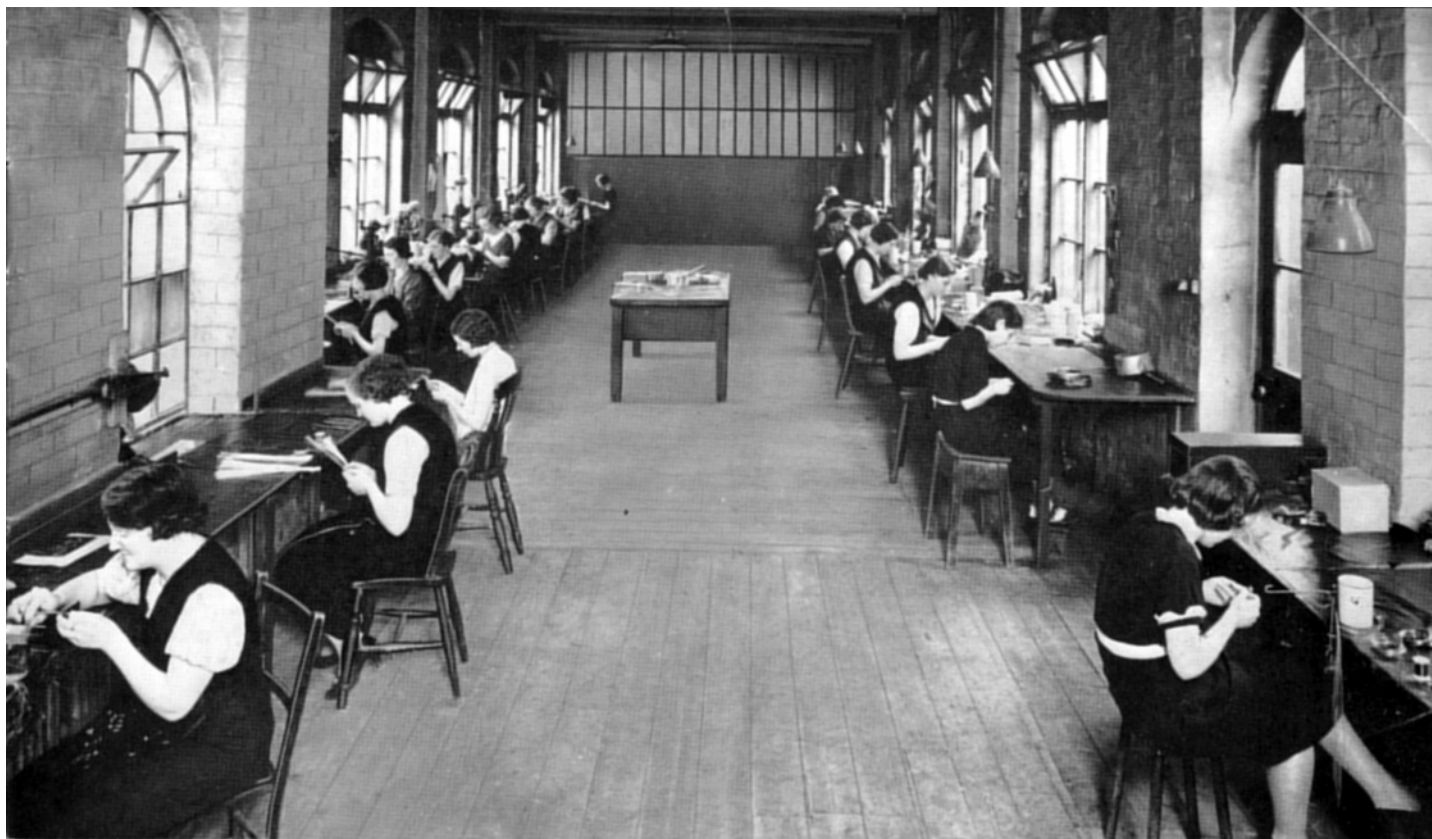
Source: B. Lashbrook



.E. Day on Church Green.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library

Redditch At Work



Allcock's - Fish Hook Manufacture at Alcock's factory in Clive Road.

Source: Vince Green



Allcock's - Clean and warm, by the radiator in evidence, conditions in this early 20th century fish hook factory.

Source: Vince Green



Allcock's - The S. Alcock's Bait Stock Room with thousands of artificial baits waiting for despatch world wide.

Source: Vince Green



Ashleigh Works - Another impressive building which is still standing and occupied today although reports say the upper floors are near derelict.

Source: Vince Green



Needle Making - Needle manufacture at Milward's. Notice the brown paper packs of needles on the shelves in the background.

Source: Vince Green



Ferny Hill Brickworks - A group of workers outside the Ferny Hill Brick works. It is believed these are construction workers building or extending the facilities rather than brick makers.

Source: Vince Green



End of Shift

Source: Redditch Development Corporation



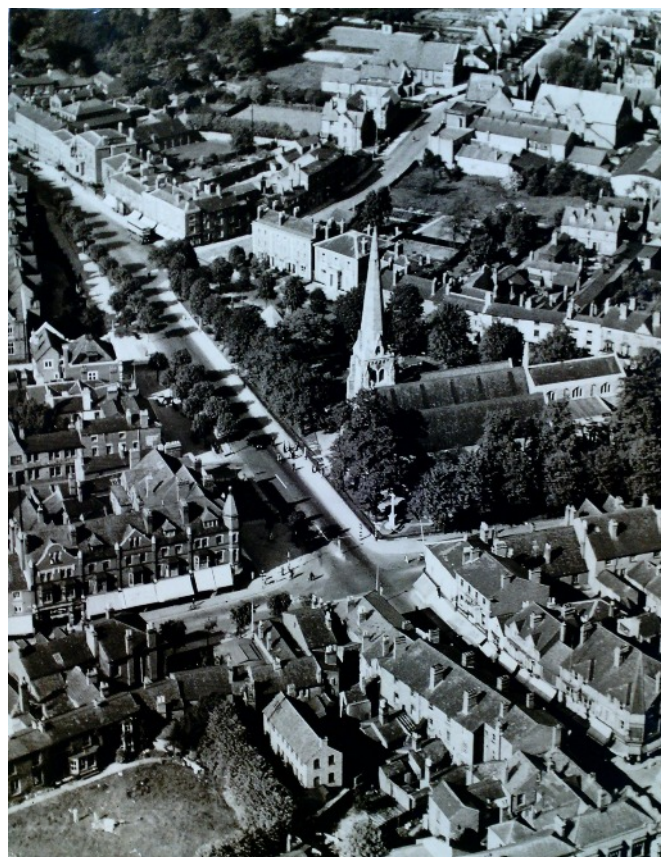
Polishing Premier Works - Machines used for polishing needles or hooks at Premier works.

Source: Vince Green



A Parade in Easemore Road.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library



General View of Redditch Church Green from the air.

Source: Unknown/Redditch Library

Redditch's Royal Visitors

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QUEEN MUM'S VISIT — SOUVENIR PICTURE ISSUE

HER Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, flew into Studley yesterday to a fantastic welcome from the people of the village and hundreds of visitors.

STORY — MARTIN LEWIS
PICTURE — PAUL FRANCE

The Queen Mother was in the village to open Mountbatten House — the new headquarters of the Royal Life Saving Society, and originally Studley's Manor House. Weeks of careful planning swung into operation as the Royal Flight helicopter with its distinctive red livery clattered into sight above the Birmingham Road headquarters of Needle Industries.

The company had reserved space for the 100 residents of Abbeyfields Hospital where handicapped people had a special view.

And the company had a special gift for the Queen Mother and her companion, the Countess Mountbatten of Burma, after whose father the RLSS headquarters were named.

A display of needles was presented to both members of the royal party by managing director, Mr Allen Macfarlane — with an extra presentation package was given to the Queen Mother to take back to Clarence House for Lady Diana Spencer.

Cheering crowds, including hundreds of school children waving more than a thousand flags, lined Alcester Street which was specially decorated for the occasion.

All the shops took part in a special competition for the brightest decorations, and the winner was the Village Stores, owned by Mr and Mrs Pemberton. The winning house was 20 Alcester Road, owned by pensioner, Miss East.

As the motorcade neared Mountbatten House, a huge cheer rose from the Scouts, Guides, Brownies, and the Studley Life Saving Society. Then the lady herself stepped out of the royal limousine dressed in a turquoise-blue dress and hat over a flowery dress with white shoes and accessories.

Her first duty was to plant a juniper tree with a plaque donated by Studley lawnmowers Ltd, flower garden, and parish clerk, Mr Jim Clarke, proffered the plaque to Her Majesty. After a short speech by RLSS president, Prince Michael of Kent, the Queen Mother

stepped forward and said she was "delighted" to be in Studley once again. "I remember so well my visit to this beautiful countryside a long time ago," she said. Then the brass band of the West Midlands Constabulary played as the Queen Mother was introduced to hundreds of members of the RLSS. The clouds lowered and a fresh wind blew as she walked through to the outdoor swimming pool.

"It's absolutely freezing, isn't it," her Majesty was heard to remark as schoolboys plunged into the water to give a demonstration of life-saving. Then the Royal party was ushered into the Hong Kong room — named after the brand of the RLSS which raised more than £30,000 towards the cost.

Inside the room the Queen Mother was delighted to be shown copies of the Redditch Indicator dating back to 1929 — the year when she last visited Studley as the Duchess of York. She found the newspapers of great interest.

Then came Studley's proudest moment as civic leaders from the village were introduced to the Queen Mother.

Parish council chairman Mike Gilbert enjoyed a brief conversation as he, his wife Lynn and children Adrian, aged six, and Vicki, aged four, were introduced.

Then the gift of the village — a beautiful drawing of Gerrard Hall, drawn by 15-year-old Robert Slater of Manks Drive, with pressed flowers by Mrs Irene Hamling, of Mansdown Road, in a frame provided by the Parish Council — was presented.

Next in line for the Queen Mother's attention was a young man with the job was Steven Quincey, aged eight — a handicapped boy from Brackley Lane, who was with his proud parents James and Barbara.

Next in line for the Queen Mother's attention were Sally Anne Rolfe, aged 14, of Green-don Close, Matchborough, West, who gave the Queen Mother a posy.

Her friend, Sarah Bradley, of Inkberrow, had a small bunch of flowers for Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

And then it was back to the cheering crowds for another quick drive through the town and onto the village.

And local folk knew they had experienced a great day in the history of the village. Even the rain held off until after Her Majesty left.



The Queen Mother waves to the crowds before leaving on her way to open Mountbatten House, accompanied by the Countess Mountbatten of Burma. More pictures on page 12.



The First Church Hill Majorettes, led here by 13-year-old Sharon Carey, gave the Martfield Barn Open Day celebrations a flying start. For more pictures see page 2.

New Market Place Salon opens in style

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for appointments.

THE new Martfield Barn threw its doors open to the public for the first time — with great success.

A steady stream of visitors enjoyed the stalls and displays at the new Church Hill community centre.

The barn is half completed and needs another £20,000 to finish the job.

And Ken Sommer, chairman of the Church Hill Residents and Community Association, said the open day did the project a lot of good.

"There were many people who enjoyed themselves and had a good look round Martfield Barn," he said.

"And we also had the opportunity to put the position over to several people from the development corporation."

A display by the Church Hill Majorettes, led by Irene Kennedy, stepped up the parade of the club.

The water is deep and cold — and unwary dippers could be seized with cramps.

Council chief amenities officer John Carle said: "We are very concerned about this. Obviously now the hot weather has arrived people will be tempted to go into the lake."

"It is very dangerous — the water is far deeper than it looks."

The children especially were at risk, Mr Carle said. "The larks shiver sleepily and they could be quickly out of their depth."

TENANTS 'PRESSURED' AFTER RENT INCREASE

HUNDREDS of jobless Redditch council tenants were forced into rent arrears because social security payments did not make up to match April's massive 40 per cent rise.

The delay caused real hardship to some proud tenants who struggled to pay the extra rather than run up arrears. Labour councillor John Redditch said: "Some tenants are only two months after the 40 per cent rise. Some people in dire need were suddenly under pressure to find the extra rent."

Labour leader Walter Strang said: "The people concerned are often those who have been in arrears. They are under pressure to leave their standard of living to subsistence levels because we have forced up their rents."

Independent councillor Paul Dymond said he knew of a man who paid half his take home wage in rent.

He said many people did not know they were entitled to a rent rebate while others were unwilling to claim.

"Forms for repayments should have been sent to every tenant at the time the rents went up to encourage them to apply," said Mr Dymond.

"There are people in this town who would normally get a rebate but through pride of ignorance they are not," he added.

Labour Councillor Frank Cardy complained that Redditch rent increases of often over 40 were more than the

£2.85 suggested by environment minister Michael Heseltine.

But after the meeting chief housing officer Charles Girvan said no pressure had been put on tenants whose benefit had not gone up in line with rent increases.

He said it was difficult to estimate how many people were affected by the delay but council officers were always ready to look at tenants' problems with sympathy.

A DHSS spokesman said most of the problems had been cleared up and social security payments had been increased.

More jobs at computer firm

A REDDITCH computer firm is the first company in the country to get a loan under a special Government scheme to help small businesses.

Enterprise Bank. The loan will enable Infinitex to press ahead with expansion plans which should see turn over double in over 100,000 this year.

The company employs just seven workers but extra staff will be taken on thanks to the £25,000 loan from Oakwood Loan Finance which is owned by the National

Enterprise Bank. The loan will enable Infinitex to press ahead with expansion plans which should see turn over double in over 100,000 this year.

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Jane's challenge!

JUST as we are recovering from the invasion of creatures from out of space, a new craze is sweeping the country, capturing everyone's attention.

This new pastime is so gripping that people are near to having nervous breakdowns in an attempt to beat it.

So what is it that's causing the fuss? It's the Rubik's Cube — a cubic puzzle is made up of different coloured squares on a swirl.

The idea is to turn the sections of the cube until all squares of the same colour are on the same surface of the cube.

But it is easier said than done — unless your name is Jane Stock.

Jane takes just two minutes 10 seconds to complete the puzzle, when most people will still be trying to crack the combination hours, days, even months later.

Jane, 12-year-old daughter of Commander Brian Stock, of "Mavericks", Bentley, is so good she has issued a challenge to the people of Redditch to try and beat her.

And the Redditch Indicator has a new Rubik's Cube to give away to the person who achieves the fastest time.

The challenge is taking place at St Leonard's Church, Bentley, on Saturday, July 4. The fate of the cube and anyone who thinks they can beat Jane's time should go along and try to win the cube.

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And the Redditch Indicator has a new Rubik's Cube to give away to the person who achieves the fastest time.

Jobless figure drops

THE Redditch jobless total dropped this month — defying a nationwide trend of rising unemployment.

Redditch is the only town in the troubled West Midlands to show a drop in the number of unemployed.

The figure fell by 100 to 1,570 which jobscentre manager Stan Bonas called a "significant improvement."

"It's not much consolation to the 4,000-plus jobless in Redditch, but we've kept the figures more or less stable since January," he said.

And he added the figures here out what he anticipated earlier in the year. "We were expecting stability through the spring and early summer — and now hope for increased activity on the jobs front," he said.

But he warned against becoming too optimistic, as a large number of school leavers are sure to boost next month's unemployment figures.

Mr Bonas also pointed out that the steady figure of around 4,300 jobless in Redditch disguised a high turnover of movement in and out of work.

We place between 800 and 1,000 people in work each month, which shows a lot of industrial and economic activity in the area," he said.

The Confederation of British Industry is to conduct a special unemployment survey which will feature Redditch. The survey is scheduled for next week at the National Westminster Bank.

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Press coverage Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother when she visited Studley.

Source: RLHS Archives



The Queen Mother visits Studley.

Source: RLHS Archives



The Queen Mother visits Studley.

Source: RLHS Archives

6, 1981 THE REDDITCH INDICATOR & ALCESTER CHRONICLE, JUNE 26, 1981 Telephone Classifieds - REDDITCH 0811

THE QUEEN MOTHER VISITS STUDLEY



The Queen Mother steps from the helicopter to rousing cheers from Studley people and visitors.




Parish council chairman, Mike Gilbert, his youngsters Adrian and Vicki meet Her Majesty.



Majesty — the Queen Mother with a back-number of Studley's local paper, the Redditch Indicator. The Indicator was on the scene as usual — photographers Adrian Beach, Jeremy Pardo and Paul France did the work.



RLSS director Keith Sach swaps pictures with the Queen Mother.



●TIGHT security in the train of recent scares was laid on for the Queen Mother's visit — but police reinforcements only had to be called in when keen cub scouts threatened to spill into the Alcester Road.



●THE Chief Constable of Warwickshire, Roger Birch, took a personal hand in preparations — he is regional chairman of the RLSS.

●THE opening was timed to coincide with the birthday of Lord Mountbatten of Burma, president of the RLSS from 1945 to his death in 1979.




Their best curtsy — Sally Nne Rolfe of Matchborough West with flowers for the Queen Mother. Sarah Bradley from Inkberrow looks on.

Press coverage of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother's visit to Studly.

Source: RLHS Archives

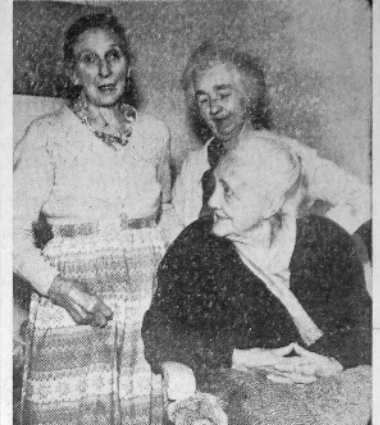
ROYAL DAY AT REDDITCH



Mr. E. W. P. Keesey, the Chairman, made a presentation to Princess Margaret after her tour of the British Needle Co. factory.



One of the happiest pictures of the day as Councillor W. J. Stranz, Chairman of Redditch Urban Council presented Mrs. Stranz to the Princess.



OLD PEOPLE WHO LISTENED IN

RUNNING commentaries on Princess Margaret's visit to Redditch were given for old people in the cottages in Victoria Street, opposite the needle factory. Mrs. Isobel Miller, who is blind, heard a description of the scene from her sister, Miss Florrie Blundell (centre) as the Princess passed through the crowded street. Miss Julia Blundell, who is confined to bed or a wheelchair, heard about the visit from her niece, Mrs. Winnie Whittington. One house was empty. Mrs. Gerrie Locke, who has lived there for 50 years and "always wanted to see Royalty," was ill in hospital.



Earlier the Princess had seen processes in the manufacture of needles with Mr. C. E. A. Buckle (Sales Director) and ...



... taken a close look at how they are automatically packed.



Families waited to greet the Princess as she left the house of Mr. and Mrs. Terence Mogg, at 28, Hubbard Close.



Smiles and flags at the ready to welcome the Princess to Abbeydale Estate.



Princess Margaret performing the first planting ceremony at the site of the estate, matched by Queen.

Press reports of Princess Margaret's visit to Redditch in 1962.

Source: RLHS Archives

Page 4—The Redditch Indicator, Friday, October 6th, 1962

A MEMORABLE MORNING IS CAUGHT BY THE CAMERA



1. Moments after the Princess arrived at the Abbeydale Estate. Left to right are Coun. R. J. Dickens, Mrs. Stratz, Coun. W. J. Stratz and Princess Margaret.
2. Princess Margaret steps from the Royal car as Admiral Sir William Tennant, the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, prepares to present Coun. Stratz.
3. Coun. Stratz presents Mrs. Stratz to the Princess.
4. Vincent Marchwood, director of George Wingate and Co. Ltd., is presented to Redditch's Royal visitor.
5. Smiles from Princess Margaret and Mr. Stratz. In the foreground are Mrs. Dickens and Coun. R. J. Dickens.
6. The Royal visit is over and hundreds of happy spectators, leading homewards or office-bound, surge down Pullman Street in the wake of the Royal car.
7. Coun. Dickens escorts Princess Margaret between 32 Huband Close and No. 33.
8. "Come in," says Mrs. Josephine Hogg of 33 Huband Close, to Princess Margaret and Coun. Dickens. A little girl looks on in wonderment.
9. The Princess, still smiling, enters the British Needle Company's offices followed by Mr. Stratz.
10. Cheered by scores of British Needle Company employees, Princess Margaret leaves the factory carrying her presentation needle-case gift.
11. The Princess at various points during her tour of the needle factory. All five pictures tell the same story: each illustrates the Princess's keen interest in everything that was shown to her.

Copies of these and other royal visit pictures taken by our staff photographer can be obtained from Linden Studios Ltd., 109 Bresham Street, Redditch.

Princess Margaret's visit - Redditch Indicator 6th October 1962 – Photographs of Princess Margaret's visit to Redditch touring local industry and officially opening the Abbeydale housing estate.

Source: RLHS Archives

The Visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Redditch on Tuesday July 5th. 1983.



A wave for the Advertiser staff. The Queen's Lady-in-waiting checks on the safety of the royal flowers as the limousine passes the Advertiser office in Church Green East.

The Queens arrives in Redditch on her visit in 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives

The Visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Redditch on Tuesday July 5th. 1983.



Most schoolchildren had been given the day off to see the Queen. They were out in their hundreds on Tuesday to greet Her Majesty. This was certainly a day there were never to forget.

The queen on a walk-about during her visit to Redditch in 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives

Redditch Advertiser

Millennium Issue

Alcester Chronicle



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Redditch Indicator Millennium souvenir edition - The cover of the millennium special souvenir edition of the Redditch Advertiser.

Source: RLHS Archives

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ISSUE NO. 418
7th JULY, 1983

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The Royal cavalcade moves down Church Green West to cheers from crowds thronging the street.



Others certainly had their arms full . . . the Queen stoops to make life easy for one young supporter.



Hello Redditch . . . the wave and the smile say it all as the Queen steps from the royal limousine at the start of her four hour visit.

A SUNSHINE SOVEREIGN!

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

BY

RUTH PULLIN

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 people of a town festooned with flowers piled even more onto the Queen until she was laden down with blooms and policemen had to step in to help.

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 for ever.

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.

COOL

The Queen looked cool, calm and collected as she stepped out of her car and into throngs of people - some had made sure of a place by getting to the town centre as early as 6am!

Wearing a drop-waisted mint green dress sprigged with pretty pink flowers, a matching picture hat with ruched

crowns, white gloves, and black shoes and handbag, the Queen made her way through the Kingfisher Shopping Centre but was stopped every few yards by outstretched hands either empty or waiting to be shaken, or clutching bundles of blossoms.

CHEERS

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.

But at the last moment, one little girl got stage fright! As the Queen neared the end of the line of Redditch Development Corporation officials, the youngster stepped forward, posy of flowers at the ready, but then had second thoughts, and Mum had to finish off the job for her.

A fanfare from the Band of the Royal Marines heralded Her Majesty's arrival into Millward Square which she officially declared open by unveiling a plaque.

She then moved through the market and walked down Alcester Street which was crammed with excited folk, flag-

waving and shouting and creating an atmosphere probably never experienced in the town before.

After the queen had enjoyed lunch with 170 guests she left for Forge Mill and the National Needle Museum. She was so interested in the centuries old mill that she arrived at Hymatic Engineering Company 20 minutes late - but those privileged enough to see or even talk to her didn't mind one jot.

Ian McKay of the development corporation who among others had worked so hard to make it a day to remember, summed up the Queen's visit in just one word: "Perfect".

For more details and pictures see inside.

IN YOUR ADVERTISER
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Pages 25-46.

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Press coverage of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Redditch.

Source: RLHS Archives

TUESDAY JULY 5th 1983

ROYAL SUPPLEMENT - 15



The Queen looks on intently as this young lady goes about her everyday business.

SIX CHEERS FOR ROYAL VISITOR!

'I LOVE you Queen' was the message on a banner held up by a youngster lining the route as the Queen made her way to Hymatic Engineering Company in Moons Moat.

And when the employees met their Royal guest, it seemed the

message from them was the same - not only was there loud applause as the Queen passed by each section of workers, but three cheers for Her Majesty rang out loud and clear - TWICE!

One lucky lady who could not believe her luck was Alison Peplow, a skilled assembler who

got the chance to explain to the Queen exactly what she was doing.

The Queen seemed very interested in my work. I think she is absolutely wonderful. What a great honour! exclaimed 23-year-old Alison who has worked for Hymatic for three and a half years.



Phil Hill shows the Queen how it all works as she tours one of Redditch's newest firms - Hymatic.



Apprentice Colin Evans won't forget this chat in a hurry! The Queen stops for a talk on her tour of Hymatic.



The Queen meets Oliver Gray at Forge Mill Museum and finds something interesting in a wooden seat.



Alan Mackrae bows his head as the Sovereign shakes his hand on her tour of Hymatic.

More Press reports of the Queens visit in 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives

TUESDAY JULY 5th 1983

ROYAL SUPPLEMENT - 7



The Queen had a slight shock as she walked up the steps of the town hall - for there to greet her was a fiery dragon, along with children of St. George's First School singing a welcoming song and performing a short play called 'Emmas Dilemma'. The school is celebrating its centenary this year but will remember 1983 for other reasons too - particularly a Royal visitor who stepped to see exactly what St. George was doing to the dragon! David Barnard and Justin Franks, both aged nine, admitted to Her Majesty that it was mighty hot inside the dragon's costume, and were pleased to free themselves for a moment for a quick chat. Also lucky enough to be included in the Royal revelry were Mrs Pat Smith who wrote the play and pianist Kay Williams, plus pupils Paul Davis and Amar Raze.



POSY PROBLEM

Young Rebecca Fowkes had her dream come true when she met the Queen on Tuesday morning.

The officer made arrangements for her to meet the Queen and present a posy of roses which she made up in the early hours.

Rebecca waited in Evesham Street from 6am in the morning to get a glimpse of Her Majesty and got more than she bargained for, when the policeman befriended her.

Rebecca, who's 11-years-old, goes to Ridgeway Middle School, and was in tears when she returned to her family!

More Press reports of the Queens visit in 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives

14 ROYAL SUPPLEMENT

TUESDAY JULY 5th 1983

This was the delightful meeting for Her Majesty's visit for the young 1000 residents. She remained perfectly calm and relaxed as cameramen creased their necks to get a better picture of her.

A step back into history

IT WAS over 800 years ago the last reigning monarch visited Redditch. That was in 1228 when Edward III came to see Cistercian monks at Bordesley Abbey.

As in the 13th century, the Queen's visit to Redditch was a historic occasion. The Queen's visit to Redditch was a historic occasion. The Queen's visit to Redditch was a historic occasion.

Space shuttle needle is Queen's gift

MEMORIES OF A MILL

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO REDDITCH WAS A HISTORIC OCCASION. THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO REDDITCH WAS A HISTORIC OCCASION. THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO REDDITCH WAS A HISTORIC OCCASION.

Museum opens to the public

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More Press reports of the Queens visit in 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives

KINGFISHER NEWS

Number 3

Summer 1983

Flowers all the way for Queen

SUNNY SMILES GREET QUEEN

Redditch residents had been waiting a long time for a royal visit — 655 years to be exact.

Redditch has changed out of all recognition since Edward III came calling in 1328 but as the Queen discovered on July 5 it's been a change for the better.

The sunny weather brought out thousands of people anxious to see their Queen. They were also eager to show Her Majesty the town's new showpiece retail complex, the Kingfisher Shopping Centre.

The Redditch Development Corporation had been trying to arrange the royal visit for years. The opening of the Centre by the Queen was especially pleasing to Professor Denys Hinton, Redditch Corporation chairman.

"This is a very important day for us, the enjoyment and recollections of which will not diminish with time," Professor Hinton said.

Professor Hinton wasn't the only Redditch resident impressed by the Queen's visit. Sally Davis, the youngest employee at Kingfisher Centre's Marks and Spencer store, had the honour of presenting the Queen with a posy of flowers.

Everyone agreed that the Queen herself was the most stunning 'flower' of the day, though. She was charming and radiant, dressed in a pretty green summer dress, white gloves, and wearing a matching hat.

And everywhere she went, Her Majesty was presented with flowers by the star-struck crowds which had gathered to see her.

While visiting the Kingfisher Centre, the Queen was met by disabled groups, Girl Guides and town centre officials. She also inspected a model of HMS Kingfisher, the last war corvette, which has links with the town and from which the Centre gets its name.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the royal visit to Redditch was the Queen's opening of and tour of the new Kingfisher Centre, which promises to usher in a new era of economic prosperity for the Redditch area.

Her Majesty made many stops during one of her now famous 'walkabout' tours of the centre to speak with people who work at the centre. One man who spoke with the Queen was Mike Pozzi, Kingfisher Centre manager.

After meeting Her Majesty, Mike said he was prouder than ever of the Centre.

"It was once in a lifetime occasion," Mike and after meeting the Queen. The Queen also stopped to be presented with a bouquet of flowers from a two-year-old girl who had an attack of stage fright at the last moment and so couldn't manage to give the flowers to the Queen.

The girl's mother had to step into the breach and wound up giving the flowers to the Queen herself.

Another highlight of the royal visit to the Centre was the unveiling by the Queen of a series of mosaic panels



in the Centre's Milward Square recognising the industries in the Redditch area.

The panels were designed by Eduardo Paolozzi, who was on hand to meet the Queen during the opening ceremony. The panels emphasise particularly the town's needle-

making industry for which it has been famous for generations.

Later the Queen listened to a fanfare from the Royal Marines Band. Following that she joined 170 dignitaries at the town Hall. Twenty lucky Redditch residents joined the Queen after their names had been

picked out of a hat by the Mayor, Councillor Betty Passingham.

It was all over in four hours but for Redditch residents it will remain a day to remember forever, and a day they hope will put Redditch firmly on the map as the centre of the Midlands.

Come on lads!

THE WORLDS of dance and fashion come together August 16 and 23 at the Kingfisher Shopping Centre when Anna Hambling and Lorraine Hall, operators of Redditch's Lorana Dance School, present the Kingfisher Back-to-School Fashion Show.

The show will feature the latest in back-to-school fashions, courtesy of the fine stores at Kingfisher.

This innovative way of presenting the best of Redditch's fashion and dance worlds promises to make the show a special event indeed.

But a lot of hard behind-the-scenes work has to be done by choreographers Anna and

Lorraine before the show can come off. That involves planning every move the more than 40 children, aged five to 16, will make.

The children will be modelling the clothes under the date palms of Kingfisher Centre to the accompaniment of music.

In all it promises to be quite a good introduction for the young models to the world of modelling.

Says Lorraine: "It will do the children's personalities a world of good. It will teach them confidence, standing up in front of a crowd. You have to be quite brave."

As the day of the show draws near, Lorraine and Anna say they would love more teenage boys to get involved with the event. Who knows, lads, this could be your big chance.

The local press reports the Queens visit in 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives

Redditch Indicator

Incorporating the Alcester Chronicle and the Wythall and Hollywood Indicator.

No. 6,434

Telephone Circulation
REDDITCH 8807

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1983

Editorial
FACSIMILE 8811

15p

ROYAL VISIT SOUVENIR ISSUE

The radiant smiles of the Queen turned a bright summer's day into a brilliant one for thousands of Redditch people on Tuesday.

This special indicator colour supplement is a bright souvenir, to help you remember and treasure the rarefactive sensations of that all too brief visit.

It began shortly before midday, with the Queen arriving in dazzling sunshine to a riot of red, white and blue flags, cheers and music from the band of the Majesty's Royal Marine Commando Training Centre.

The Lord Lieutenant of the county, Captain Thomas Dunne, introduced her to the Mayor, Mrs Betty Passingham, her husband, Roy, development corporation chiefs and dignitaries.

She was then taken past cheering crowds, some of them waving from shops above Evesham Walk, into the Kingfisher Centre.

She received a poem from two of her latest Queen's Guides, Dawn Fryer and Clare Harwood, who afterwards said: "I can't remember what we talked about."

At Market Square she unveiled a plaque before an invited audience and was introduced to, among others, Eduardo Pappalardo, whose mosaics decorate the walls.

She visited the Queen Owen and Marks and Spencer stores, then made her way past thousands of sun-baked, happy fans crowding the market and Alcester Street, to the Town Hall.

With her five police-women escort loaded down with flowers, she moved on to lunch with 170 invited guests — 17 of them chosen by Mrs Passingham's "lucky dip".

Afterwards she set off by motorcade for Forge Mill, where she was to open the National Needs Museum.

There the long-held which signalled the starting of the restored wheel — and Mr Oliver Gray explained how he and his sons had rebuilt it.

She also met 76-year-old Les Jackson, of Manders Road, who told her how the scoring beds worked.

With the theory of needs-making firmly in her mind, the Queen was then off to Hymanic Engineering, past thousands of cheering children along Park Way.

It was the turn of eight long-serving workers at the factory to make the Royal acquaintance, and sponsor Colin Adams presented her with a memento of her visit.

A spokesman for the development corporation, who hosted the visit, summed up the day simply: "It was perfect."

The security forces were also pleased.

They don't comfortably with the one agency, a suspect case left at an Alcester Bank pub four miles away. The "bombs" turned out to be a brief case full of papers.

On this page of your super supplement you can read in detail about the Queen's glorious welcome in the Kingfisher Centre.

On page two there are pictures and the full story of the Queen's trip to the mill.

Page three gives you the same full treatment of the outing to Hymanic Engineering.

Page four contains another full colour photograph, plus reports on what some of the people who turned up to see the Queen had to say.

As a bonus, as well as the supplement, there's a whole page of pictures to be found on page three inside the Indicator Chronicle.

With the Queen throughout her visit was our reporter PAUL HOWLETT. The pictures are by PAUL FRASER and ADRIAN BEACH.

Because of the Royal visit, the Alcester Chronicle and Wythall and Hollywood Indicator have been incorporated into the Redditch Indicator for this issue. Normal editions will be published next week.

'IT WAS A PERFECT DAY'

Sun shines on Majestic town centre walk

BREEZING into Redditch in bright sunshine, the Queen was greeted by thousands of cheering, waving people intent on welcoming her wherever she went.

The crowd kept up a right Royal commotion as she was introduced to town dignitaries and led along Evesham Walk to the Kingfisher Shopping Centre.

Dressed in a pale green dress with matching hat she looked remarkably cool and charming among the clustered, heated onlookers.

She made her way slowly, stopping to talk to members of the crowd.

"She asked me if I was born and bred in Redditch and I said I was and the town's changed a lot," said All Pinfield of Manders Road.

In Worcester Square, she received a poem from two Queen's Guides Dawn Fryer and Clare Harwood, and asked centre manager Mike Ford how he managed to run the whole place.

by Paul Howlett

Further on she delighted the welcoming party from the Dorothy Terry home. "Isn't she beautiful?" said Mrs Dorothy Harris.

The entourage of Queen, retailers, development corporation bosses, police and media made its way to Millward Square, where Eduardo Pappalardo's bright mosaics decorate the walls.

By now the gifts of flowers were piling up and there was a portrait of the Queen by Warren Lowe of Evesham Road among them.

She spent 15 minutes in the air-conditioned comfort of Queen Owen before continuing.

One little girl advanced with her pony, got stage fright and retreated, leaving her mum to make the presentation.

In the square an invited audience heard corporation chairman Professor Derek Hinton warmly welcome the Queen to Redditch.

Her visit brought together the people who had contributed to the town's growth

for over 20 years, he said. "It has been a marvelous partnership."

"Throughout the whole development programme the dominant theme has been the impact of change in long-cherished trends."

The Queen's visit would help extend the partnership to face the future with confidence, he said.

She then pressed the button which unravelled the plaque proclaiming the square open — to the sound of signs of relief as the curtains opened correctly.

Following a close look at the "Fresh made in Redditch" stall at Marks and Spencer and talks with staff members, she emerged again into sunlight and cheers at the open market.

The market was packed with people as the Queen stopped to talk with stall holders and shoppers and accept posies from Laura (four) and Nicola (seven) Green.

"She said thank you — I'm glad we waited," Nicola said.

Little Carl Cuskerly wasn't so sure — he stumbled and on two-year-old legs to offer a posy, and forgot who to give it to.

The packed crowds continued all the way down Alcester Street, to the Town Hall, and the Queen, who was there to meet the people was not to be hurried.

"She wanted to know how long we've lived in Redditch, and whether we shopped here a lot," said Albert and Amy Bellamy of Tyfled Close, Lodge Park.

Finally arriving at the Civic Square, the Queen was greeted by St George and the dragon, who turned out to be four centenary-rejoicing children from St George's First School.

Her escort of five police-women were laden with flowers she had received.

After meeting several councillors she was ushered into the Town Hall for lunch with some 170 guests, a tenth of them lucky winners of Mayor Mrs Betty Passingham's draw.

The Redditch people who had come to see her kept shouting and cheering as she disappeared into the Town Hall. It had been a very warm welcome.



The radiant charm of the Queen turned a bright day into a brilliant one in Redditch on Tuesday. Picture: Adrian Beach.

FLAG-WAVING YOUNGSTERS LINED THE STREETS OF REDDITCH TO SEE THEIR QUEEN



Concentration on the face of one young Royal-watcher.



"Hey, wake up — I think she's here!"



Rough treatment for this union flag — but a lad has to amuse himself until the Queen arrives.

More Press reports of the Queens visit in 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives



Day to remember for Premier Shopping Centre

The final jewel in the crown that is Redditch — that was how the Queen's visit to the town was seen by all involved in the development of what is now recognised as the hub of the Midlands.

From the day Redditch Development Corporation announced the impending arrival of the first reigning monarch to visit the town for 665 years (Edward III visited Bordesley Abbey back in 1328) the town had been buzzing with anticipation and was still basking in a Royal glow days after the Queen had left.

Tuesday, July 5, was an extra special day for the Kingfisher Shopping Centre which, in the morning, provided the main setting for the sovereign's tour of the town.



The local Press reports The Queens visit to Redditch 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives

2 - REDDITCH ADVERTISER SILVER JUBILEE SPECIAL, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2000

Advertising: 01527 453500 Trade Classified: 01527 879211

25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Life through a lens: by royal appointment



NOT many people can say they have turned their hobbies into a career but that's exactly what can be said about Mike Cater, the Redditch Advertiser's long-time photographer.

Originally specialising in sports pictures, Mike started his time at the paper as a freelance in 1977, just two years after the Advertiser had come into being.

In 1980, he was asked to become a permanent member of staff and he readily agreed. Through the years, he has taken pictures of a huge variety of subjects, as diverse as the Queen to an abundance of kissogram girls.

And he has seen a great number of changes at the Advertiser over the years.

Mike said: "The technology of developing and printing has come on leaps and bounds through my time here. I also think the paper as a whole is more professional now."

As well as being the man behind the pictures in the Redditch Advertiser, Mike has also received national accolade for his skilled work.

He said: "In 1988 I won the award for the All England Free Newspaper Photographer of the Year."

"Obviously I was thrilled with this. It's nice to have your pictures seen by thousands in the paper every week but to



● A myriad of memories: Mike Cater

receive national recognition for what you do is fantastic."

Mike has taken many pictures of which he is extremely

proud but lists royalty as one of his favourite subjects.

He said: "When the Queen came to Redditch I got some great photos of her. I have captured a lot of the royals on film."

"Perhaps my favourite of all would be a picture of Princess Diana I took." Despite spending 23 years working for the Advertiser, Mike has never been tempted by any other offers.

He said: "I like working here as you don't know what to expect from one day to the next. Every day differs."



"Photography isn't just my work. If I wasn't doing it as a job, it would still be my hobby and my greatest interest."



More Press reports of Royal Visits.

Source: RLHS Archives

TUESDAY JULY 5th 1983

ROYAL SUPPLEMENT - 3

REGAL SMILES!

OUT OF thousands of people who had all hoped for even just a few words with the Queen, some were luckier than others and will no doubt cherish the memory of a couple of sentences for ever and a day.

Mr Alf Binfield from Marsden Road seemed quite overcome. "She's beautiful isn't she? She asked me if I was born and bred in Redditch, which I was, and then asked if I thought the town had changed a lot."

Mrs Valerie Price of Flyford Close, South-

crest thanked the Queen for coming, to which the Royal visitor replied: "It's a pleasure."

GUIDES

But it was a particularly memorable day for guides Dawn Fryer and Claire Harwood who presented a posy to the

ROYAL REPORT

Queen in Worcester

Square.

They exchanged a few words with the Royal guest about the subject of their Queen's Guides awards which they received the same evening at a guide meeting.

"She asked us about the badges, but I was so overcome I can't remember what else she said. We were thrilled!" said an excited Dawn.

Edith Hall and Doris Randall who were with a party of people from Redditch Stroke Club based in Church Hill claimed the Queen was "just lovely" as did Lilian Wackrow and Beatrice Lewis of the Dorothy Terry Red Cross Disabled Club who the Queen told to "keep up the good work".

Mrs Gladys Bassford of Southcrest Gardens who was there with her

daughter Mrs Eileen Shrivington of Bromsgrove, told the Queen Redditch was the most marvelous place in the world. By the time she had left she had probably begun to believe it, so enthusiastic were the people about their home town!

SMILE

The darlings of the day were the children who stepped out and stopped the Queen along the route - and she was only too willing to talk or give a lovely smile.

Laura and Nicola Green of Walkwood Road, aged four and seven respectively, had waited all morning to see the Queen and perhaps get the chance to present a posy. They were lucky - as she walked through the market the Royal guest spotted the pretty pair who reckoned it was well worth the wait.

And the ladies of WH Smith who had waited patiently for the Queen to make her way through the market and past their shop literally jumped for joy as they saw her in all her glory.

"The Queen has come to see the people - that is her one aim," said a corporation spokesman just before she arrived - how right he was.



Ladies in waiting - Advertiser editor Pat Griffiths and Mayor Betty Passingham met for a quick chat in Market Place before the festivities got into full swing.



In the heat of the day one little boy knew just how to keep his cool. Clutching his flag and putting his feet up, he had a sip of orange juice before waving the Royal entourage on its way.

More Press reports of the Queens visit in 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives

Royal occasion at first national needle museum — Forge Mill

Down at the mill the big wheel is turning and finally a unique part of Redditch's heritage has been given a right royal blessing.

The Queen has opened the first national Needle Museum at Forge Mill and strangely her visit on July 5 has brought the wheel of history full circle. Apparently her ancestors, Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I were the first to establish and regenerate the British needle industry.

And if you didn't know, needle — making is what we in Redditch are world-famous for. Our needles are still said to be the best in the world. At one stage we were pushing out 52 million a week, and many of the families involved today are descendants of the original needlemakers.

But as the new manager of the Forge Mill museum, Bryan Gee, said; "We take simple things like the needle for granted yet forget how important they are. Alongside the hammer they were probably one of the first things man needed. How else did things get stuck together? And we are still using them in modern technology today."

"It's a Redditch needle that sewed on the thermal panels to the Space Shuttle. And so this National Museum here in our town is a great memorial to this fine Redditch tradition."

The Forge Mill itself used to be involved in the final process of polishing needles known as scouring. The 32 scouring beds are still there — in fact this is the only water-driven scouring mill left in the world.

And thanks to The Forge Mill Group — a small group of dedicated people from all walks of Redditch life they have been well restored for us to appreciate today.

The project took 12 years and many involved have since become Forge Millers — their membership money going towards the keep of this fascinating museum.

The Queen certainly enjoyed her tour round the 250 year old Mill which is now split into three display floors. One floor is dedicated to the history of needles, one to the families who worked in the mill and another has working models and machinery of the whole process of needle making.

Now you can enjoy the treasures at 75p for adults and 50p for children and OAP's with reduced rates for parties. The museum will be shut for the winter months except for school parties but Mr Gee is hoping to organise special party evenings to include a buffet and film show.

The Forge Mill can be found on the Birmingham road A441.



A carriage clock was then presented by on behalf of Owen Owen to Her Majesty The Queen. This elaborately hand-engraved, gold-plated Anglaise style clock was made by the Worcester Clock Company Ltd., Redditch, and is the first model to be made in this latest design. It is the only UK company to specialise in making a wide range of carriage clocks, all based on original early 15th Century designs, but says Mr. Bligh, Managing Director, "Nearly 80 per cent of the clocks we make are for export — we sell to 18 countries throughout the world!"

Hymatic welcomes Queen

The Queen had a peek into the future when she visited the Hymatic Engineering Company during her visit to Redditch on July 5.

All Hymatic employees were on hand to greet Her Majesty during her tour of the company's factory. She was welcomed at the beginning of her visit by company chairman John Kuipers and Brian Longbottom, Hymatic managing director.

Six-year-old Angela Twine, daughter of manufacturing director Bob Twine, then presented the Queen with a posy of flowers.

As well, eight employees of the firm were selected to greet the Queen upon her arrival. They had been chosen in a draw held among all Hymatic staff members who had spent more than ten years working for the company.

Hymatic produces aerospace and defence products that are sold around the world and during her visit the Queen got a chance to see some of the firm's products.

In the foyer the Queen saw a display of the Milan anti-tank missile for which Hymatic produces the cryogenic cooling system in the missile's infra-red night-sight system.

Once inside the factory itself the Queen was shown a

dummy of a fighter pilot wearing one of the 'anti-G' pressure suits for which Hymatic designed the control valve. Fred Clark, factory manager, was on hand to explain to Her Majesty how the suit works.

After that the Queen went to

visit the factory's 'clean room' where intricate assembly operations are carried out in specially sanitised conditions with the aid of microscopes.

Then the Queen went on to pay a visit to the company's training centre where currently 30 employees are undergoing

full-time training. Here she was presented with a memento of her visit by 18-year-old Colin Adams of Redditch.

On her way out of the factory the Queen passed through lines of workers and their families who gave her a warm send-off.



THE Queen was shown many of the firm's aerospace and defence-oriented products including the 'anti-G' force suit designed for fighter pilots shown above. Hymatic makes the suit's control valve, vital in maintaining constant levels of oxygen at high altitudes.

The local Press reports The Queens visit to opening The National Needle Museum, Forge Mill.

Source: RLHS Archives



● AN OCCASION that Les Jakeman, of Marsden Road, Redditch, won't forget in a hurry was when he met the Queen during her visit in

1983. He demonstrated needle making to her as she opened the Forge Mill Needle Museum. He is pictured, aged 78, chatting to Her Majesty.

The picture was taken secretly as no cameras were supposed to be allowed in the mill.

Her Majesty the Queen visits Redditch - The Queens meets Les Jakeman then last needle scourer at Forge Mill.

Source: RLHS Archives



Smiles all round from the Queen with Mayor Councillor Mrs Betty Passingham as they go on walkabout.

The Visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Redditch on Tuesday July 5th. 1983.

Her Majesty the Queen visits Redditch - The Visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Redditch on Tuesday July 5th. 1983. Shown here with Mayor Councillor Mrs Betty Passingham as they go on walkabout.

Source: RLHS Archives



KINGFISHER Centre manager Mike Pozzi is presented to the Queen.



IN the Market Square bouquets abounded.



CROWDS filled Worcester Square to see the Royal visitor.



REDDITCH'S mayor Cllr Mrs Betty Passingham, conducts the Queen around the open air market.



AT the entrance to Kingfisher Centre, the Queen paused to greet some chairbound people.



INSIDE the Centre chairbound residents greet the Queen.

The local Press reports The Queens visit to Redditch 1983.

Source: RLHS Archives



The National Needle Museum, Forge Mill - 1983 The Queens visit to open the museum.

Source: RLHS Archives



The National Needle Museum, Forge Mill - 1983 The Queens visit to open the museum.

Source: RLHS Archives



The National Needle Museum, Forge Mill - 1983 The Queens visit to open the museum.

Source: Redditch Library Archives



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