

# Newsletter

Redditch  
History  
Society

September 2021

Volume 3 / Issue 6

## September 2021 Issue

Hi All,

With our first meeting in August, rather than February, this has certainly been a strange beginning to our year.

However, fingers crossed, we are now returning to some level of normality, and we had an excellent talk from our Chairman, Don Vincent, at our September meeting.

At the meeting we had an audience of 40 consisting of 35 members and 5 visitors. We now have 45 paid up members of the Society, which is better than I had expected at this stage.

We did not have refreshments afterwards but, as the Oasis Christian Centre have started to re-open the refreshments room, we have decided to make this an option after the meetings.

Our October Meeting, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October at 2.00pm is, in fact, our annual general meeting. This is all very strange but meets our requirement to have an AGM every year.

However, as they say, we are living in interesting times. Our programme for next year puts our AGM at the correct date in April.

With regard to our programme for next year, I am delighted to say that all dates have been filled and we have a wide range of speakers for every date. I will give more details at the October meeting.

### In this newsletter we have...

On page 2 is the 'Coming Events' section which has.....

- Information on next month's Annual General Meeting including the ongoing management of the Redditch History Society.
- Some information on the National Lottery grant which has been obtained by Redditch Local History Museum

Page 3 and 4 we have a summary of the presentation given by Don Vincent on 'The Windsors of Hewell Grange'. I will admit that I cheated on this as Don created the text for me and I added the picture of Hewell Grange. This was an excellent talk as Don always finds new information. It was followed by many excellent questions from the audience.

In the remaining four pages, 5 to 8, I have produced a pictorial view of the Forge Mill Heritage Open Day on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

This really was an excellent local community event, and all aspects of Redditch history was represented.

It is organised by members of the Redditch History Society and volunteers at Forge Mill Needle Museum, and we had our best attendance yet since we began the event.

It is noticeable that we publicised the event through social media, Web sites and leaflets at the Museum and our meetings.

### Next Meeting...

We hope to see many members and supporters at our AGM meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October.

Take care and stay safe

Anthony Green, Society Secretary

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



# Coming up.....

## Next Meeting - Annual General Meeting - 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

The annual general meeting, which is probably the most boring of our meeting for many members is, in many ways, quite important.

It is here where we elect our Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and members of the executive committee, we decide our programme of events for the next year, and, obviously, without these actions the Society could not exist.

So, the format for the meeting is that the current Chairman (Don Vincent), Secretary (Anthony Green) and Treasurer (Graham Smith) give their annual reports and this is followed by the election of officers for the current year.

Fortunately our current officers have agreed to continue in their posts. With regard to elected members of the management committee, Elizabeth Simpson and David Spyer are prepared to continue in their roles, but Pete Harris, due to his commitments to the RLHM feels that he cannot give it the attention required. However, I am pleased to say that Sue Tatlow has agreed to join the Management Committee, which will help to improve the gender balance. Our Accounts Examiner, Gil Barlow, is also happy to continue in the role.

Of course, if anyone is interested in being involved in the management of the Society we are pleased to welcome them. There is no limit to the size of the Management Committee, so we can add more members, and if anyone wishes to put their toe in the water we can create deputies for all the roles, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Media, Website Manager, Newsletter Editor, Speakers Programme. You name it - we have it!

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by some films related to the local region and its history.

We will continue to ensure the well being of our members by requesting face-masks be worn and the Oasis Church will have social distanced seating.

We have decided that after the meeting we will reintroduce refreshments in the 'tea room'. We will follow the guidelines which are already being used by the Oasis Church and, of course,

## Redditch Local History Museum receives grant from National Lottery

The funding is specifically aimed at supporting the development of the Redditch Historic Archives, a facility within the museum to record, store and interpret historic artefacts donated to the museum. This project is just the first, but very important step, in establishing a long term home for these archives.

Of the money awarded, two thirds is split evenly over two key activities. Firstly it is to help fund the necessary fixtures, fittings and support equipment to create a suitable environment to hold the archives. Secondly, it will be used to obtain professional support and training for volunteers who will be running the archives. The third focus area will be to provide digital display facilities on the museum display to enable visitors to directly access the digitised records of the archives.

It is important to set standards and objective for the long term aim of becoming an accredited museum and money from the grant is also planned for the establishing an artefact management system compliant with Spectrum, the international open standard for collections management.

Derek Coombes  
RLHM cio Trustee



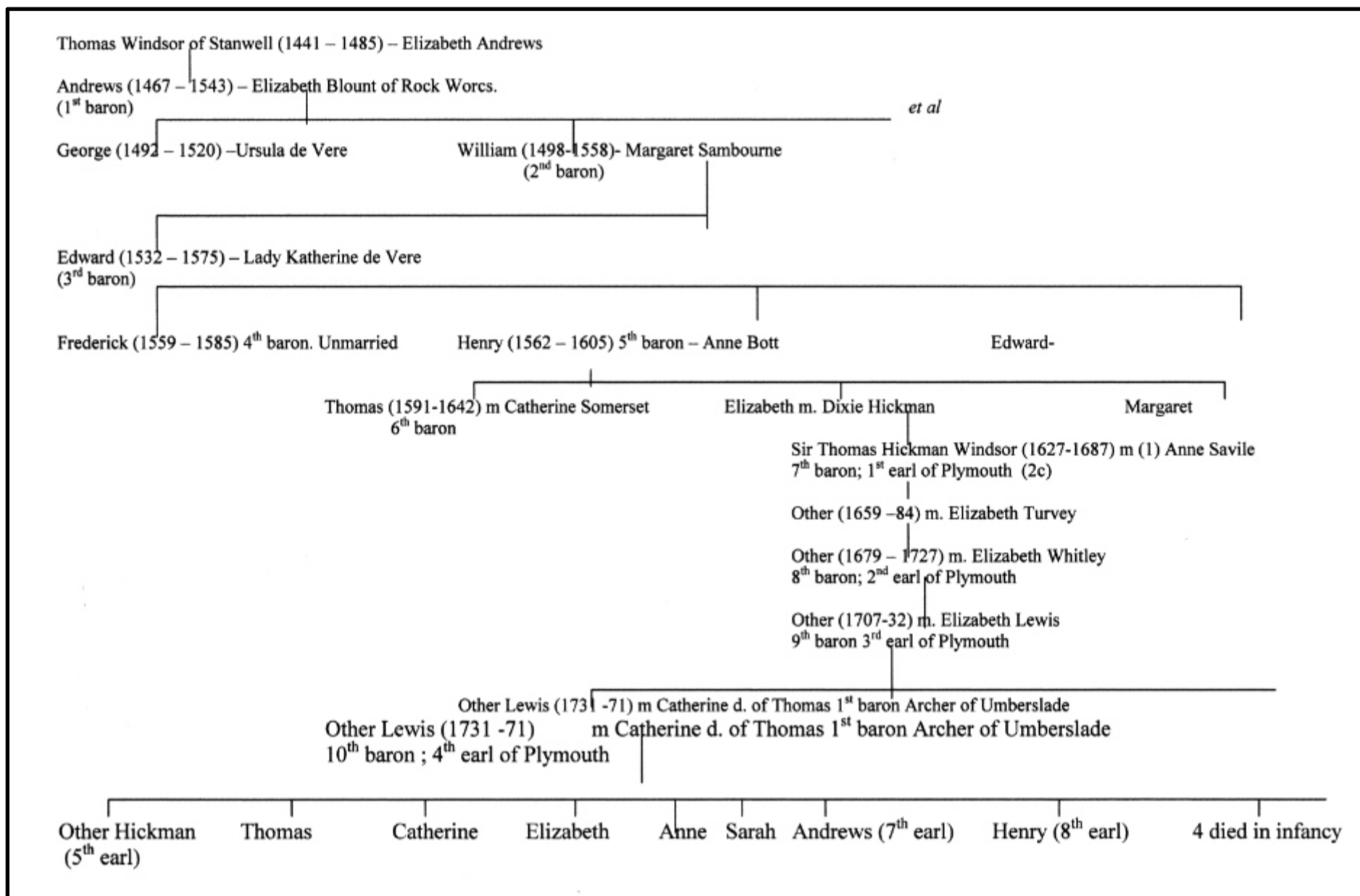
*The Redditch Local History Museum stand at the National Heritage event at Forge Mill Needle Museum.*

# September Presentation - by Don Vincent

## The Windsors of Hewell Grange

The talk at the September meeting was a Powerpoint© presentation entitled The Windsors of Hewell Grange.

The speaker was our Chairman Don Vincent and he provided a partial family tree to assist the audience.



In his opening remarks Don urged the listeners to note that the Windsors displayed little imagination in choosing forenames for their children. he also mentioned that some of the names of persons and places will be familiar to Redditch inhabitants.

He asked listeners to note the strong connection between successive Windsors and the monarchy apart from the early Hanoverians and also asked listeners to consider the religious leaning of the Windsors.

Don took us way back to a Florentine nobleman Gherado Gheradini ( 985 – 1075) and his son Other.

Some say these were the first of the Windsors some say it is adding two and two and making five.

Whatever an Other was present at the court of Edward the Confessor and Other received extensive estates from the Crown.

Other's son Walter fitzOther was to become Keeper of the Forest a high rank.

He was also tenant in chief for the King's manors in five of the home counties. He also held the manor of Stanwell.

## September Presentation ..... cont

The lives of successive Windsors was touched upon including Thomas Windsor born somewhere between 1440 and 1444 he would die in September 1485 both occurrences at Stanwell.

Thomas had fought on the side of Richard III at the battle of Bosworth Field 22nd August 1485.

His eldest son and heir was Andrew Windsor who married Elizabeth Blount of Rock Worcester and together they produced eight children.

The interest to Redditch people is that Andrew was forced by King Henry VIII to surrender the manor of Stanwell to the Crown. In exchange Andrew was awarded £2197 and string of ex-monastic estates in Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Surrey, Sussex, Westminster, Wiltshire and important to Redditch people, Worcestershire.



*Hewell Grange in the 1920s - Postcard Hodges Photographic*

Andrew was granted the house and site of Bordesley together with the lordships of a string of localities.

Don charted the lives of successive Windsors how they were made Baron Windsor later to be awarded the earldom of Plymouth.

- How they gradually made Hewell their main home instead of Bradenham.
- 
- The full title is baron Windsor of Bradenham.
- 
- He noted the great esteem in which the family were held locally.

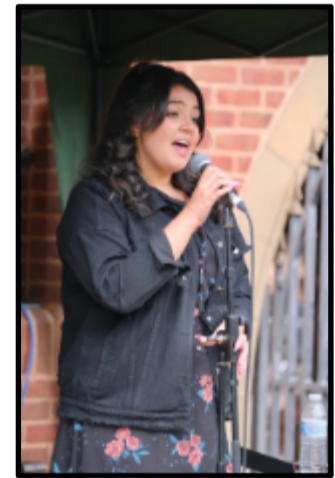
Noting the joyful celebrations when Robert George Windsor-Clive came of age in August 1878. There was a peeling of bells at Tardebigge, salvos fired by a small battery of field artillery at Hewell, 250 people attended a luncheon at Hewell and in Redditch two Herefords had been slaughtered, were roasted for some four hours and the meat given to the poor who had been issued with tickets.

# Heritage Open Day in Pictures

By Anthony Green

We had a terrific day at our Forge Mill Needle Museum Heritage Day, Sunday 19th, September which ran from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

We had a bit of a wet start for setting up but by the time the visitors were due to arrive it developed into a nice sunny day. It was very busy, and we had a total of 548 visitors to the event.



Indigo Arts entertained us with their singing throughout the day with their Young Indigo Singers, The Violettes and Yasmeen Shaaban. They are always popular with our visitors and are regulars at events at the Mill.

These images are from the Indigo Arts Facebook page. You can see many more at

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/indigoartscharity/posts/>

This was the first year for the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust at our Heritage Day and we gave them a gazebo near the entrance.

Their representative was pleased with the interest received and signed on some new members.



## Heritage Open Day ... continued 2



Our regulars, the regional Royal Enfield owners Club with their superbly maintained bikes surpassed themselves this year with a superb poster display which included timelines and other information. They are always popular with visitors everywhere.



Arts in Redditch were housed in the newly refurbished meeting room and attracted many visitors. They had an extensive display of their material, which included a wide range of different formats, both for display and for sale, and activities for children.

## Heritage Open Day... continued 3



The Radford Model Boat Club display just gets bigger every year and had spread from one side of the cloisters to moving up one side.

With their highly detailed model boats and excellent displays they attracted many visitors.

Below is Redditch History Society member, John Newey with his superbly detailed models.



Derek asked me for a location which put the Redditch Local History Museum and the Moons Moat Conservation Group together.

I was happy to do this and they had a nice sunny spot in the cloisters and had a wide range of visitors.

## Heritage Open Day ..... continued 4



A big hit of the day was the penultimate day of Lee Bradley's Marvel Exhibition. Nearly everyone who came on site visited the exhibition and Lee spent all day talking to visitors. He was worn out by the end of the day!

Scour, artists Keith Ashford and Elizabeth Turner, had a multimedia exhibition illustrating their ambitious art project from 2020-21 exploring the Arrow Valley and Forge Mill.



Typically, while I was going around photographing everyone else, I missed out our stand for Redditch History Society and the Forge Mill Volunteers.



We were based in the meeting room with AIR and we were a meeting point for volunteers and History Society members where we could have a chat and organise tours etc.

The tours by our volunteer guides of the Needle Museum and the Bordesley Abbey Ruins were well attended and we increased the number of mill tours to five to keep the group sizes down to about eight. The Abbey tours were, of course, outside so group size was not a problem.

The Mill Side Coffee Bar was busy all day and the new offer of toasted sandwiches was a great success.

It was great to have the site buzzing with visitors after such a long time. Let's hope that next year Forge Mill Needle Museum can get back to its normal wide range of events, exhibitions, and activities.