



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The Worcestershire Local History Forum's AGM for 2022 will be on Saturday 21st May. For the first time, it will be held in the Boardroom at the Beauchamp Community, Newland, on the outskirts of Malvern WR13 5AX. There's plenty of roadside parking. Refreshments will be served from 2pm and the AGM will start at 2.30.

Two events will follow the AGM. The first will be the presentation of the Local History award, the Outstanding Achievement award and result of the Photographic competition. The second event, starting at 3.30, will be a guided tour of St Leonard's Church, its graveyard, the Bromsgrove Guild gates and the Beauchamp almshouses, followed by more refreshments. The tour costs £10 per person, 50% of which will be paid by WLHF.

If you would like to attend the AGM and/or join the guided tour, please book your place with Jane Tinklin at jane.tinklin@outlook.com Space is restricted to 40 people at the time of writing. (January 2022).



The Victorian Gothic Beauchamp almshouses look exactly the same today as when this photograph was taken. St Leonard's church is to the right of the picture.

St Leonard's, a Grade I listed building, is perhaps the finest example of the Gambier Parry fresco technique in the country. It was built for retired workers from the Madresfield Estate and for the poor of the parish, its liturgy based on Anglo-Catholic principles. Until 1945, the church and almshouses maintained their own choir school. An exhibition on the once famous Newland Choir School, to which Elgar was a frequent visitor, is on show in the Library.

NEW WLHF COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NEEDED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN, LET CORA KNOW BY 7th MAY.

Thank you in advance.

WLHF Day School 2022

Unfortunately, the Friends of Worcester Archives (FWA) are not able to host our Day School this year. If your group would like to step in, please contact the chairman, Cora Weaver
E: cora@malvernspa.com

Local History Awards and Photographic Competition 2022

The awards and competition for 2021 were cancelled but are scheduled in our calendar for 2022. Submissions from last year will be judged this year. Last year's photographic competition theme 'What a fine doorway!' will remain the same.

For information about this year's competitions, turn to page 7 and 8.

WORCESTERSHIRE'S LOCAL HISTORY UNCOVERED

MEMBERS' EXHIBITION

DATE: Saturday 6th August 2022

TIME: 10.30am - 3.30pm

VENUE: Ronkswood Community Centre, Canterbury Road
Worcester, WR5 1PJ

**This is an opportunity to showcase YOUR local history -
your research, discoveries, publications, projects & lectures**

- * Come along and set up your own exhibition**
 - * Sell your publications**
 - * Give a 20-minute presentation**
 - * Meet other WLHF members**
 - * Discover something new about Worcestershire's history**
- * The main hall and kitchen have been booked.
Refreshments will be freely available but bring your own lunch.**
- * Set up time from 10.30am, to start at 11.00am. Dismantling time 3.00pm, out of the hall by 3.30pm.**
- * WLHF will provide projection facilities. Members who wish to give a presentation will need to bring their presentation on a memory stick.**
- * If you would like to bring an exhibition please let our secretary (Jane Tinklin) know as soon as possible to reserve space and tables.**
- * If you would like to give a presentation, let Jane know as soon as possible so that an agenda for the day can put together and circulated E: jane.tinklin@outlook.com**



Entrance in Canterbury Road



Ronkswood Community Centre

Malvern Museum - Closed but Continuing

Malvern Museum of Local History is very tiny inside and has been described by visitors as a tardis; there isn't the space to swing a stick insect. It closed at the end of October 2019 and has not reopened. How could we keep our members and volunteers interested, assure them that they were not forgotten, maintain their continued and vital support and keep some teamwork alive?

1. We have a thrice-yearly newsletter, which has always been 12 or fewer pages in length. This was increased to 20, so included lots more items. People who had never previously contributed had time to put pen to paper and submitted really interesting articles.

2. At Christmas 2020, we sent all our members a Season's Greetings card. The front showed the north side of the Priory Gatehouse, and the back showed the south side.

3. In September 2021, all stewards and committee members were invited to tea and a wander around the garden of the Dell House in Malvern Wells as a thank-you for their past stewarding and for maintaining an interest during the closure and for working behind the scenes during that time. Unfortunately, that day it hosed down and we couldn't go out into the garden, but there were presentations by house owner Elizabeth Rolph on a history of the house and gardens and by museum curator Faith Renger. Tea was delicious; it was a chance to catch up with people and a new volunteer was recruited to replace our Membership Secretary who, sadly, is retiring after 12 years in the job.

4. As a result of volunteers coming forward at the Dell House tea party, the curator organised several archive workshops with up to five volunteers per time. They compiled an inventory of many of the artefacts (framed prints, jugs, household items, medieval timbers, bicycle etc), recording their accession numbers, size, and location in the museum. Progress was also made on auditing framed prints and photographs, assisted by those with smart phones who captured each image. These were loaded onto the museum's Collections file and linked directly to the inventory list. It also allowed for an inspection of artefacts and some new accession numbers being given.

5. It was agreed in committee that we shouldn't hold our autumn and winter lectures in the usual hall, so we investigated Zoom and have had two online lectures. They haven't been as well attended as the those in the hall were, which perhaps indicates that our members like the museum's social activities.

6. Requests for information arrive regularly and are dealt with by the museum's research team. In 2021, someone wanted to find out about a relative engaged in radar work during the war. There were other enquiries - on quarrying, house histories and Malvern-related events. We provided information on our small collection of butterflies for a Countryfile item on the reintroduction of **Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries**, which was shown on Sunday 12th December 2021. Two enquiries, which came via the website, involved a lot of work by the research team. One was on some Second World War diaries written by local lady Lorna Lloyd and another about the life of Jewish artist and refugee Frieda Salvendy, who fled to England from Vienna c.1938 and spent the last years of her life in Malvern, where she died in 1965.



Where science meets history: volunteer Felicity Ebsworth captures images of museum artefacts on her smart phone.

7. Finally, 2021 was the fortieth anniversary of Malvern Museum being at the Priory Gatehouse. Friends' Treasurer Jane Tinklin suggested that every member should have a commemorative goody bag. She chose the contents and organised everything and three volunteers helped Jane to deliver to the local members. The compostable paper bag contained a cotton shoulder bag, a local history book written by a Friend of Malvern Museum, a leather bookmark and a leather coaster, both bearing a commemorative inscription, and some chocolates.



A New Local History Museum in Redditch Town Centre

by Derek Coombes Trustee, RLHM



Redditch suffers from the tag of 'New Town' despite a history that stretches back nearly one thousand years. Although we have the Forge Mill museum, Redditch's history is so much more than needles, fishing tackle and Bordesley Abbey, which is the focus at Forge Mill. This was first identified by local historian Alan Foxall back in 2002 when he raised the topic that a town centre museum should be created to represent the diverse scope of our history that made the town what it is today. Despite numerous attempts to create such a facility, a second museum never emerged.

The Redditch Local History Society, founded in 2009, became the latest organisation to pursue this ambition to provide facilities to safely store and give public access to its artefact collection.

As the archivist for the society, I looked at all the alternative options in term of location, cost and access to store the society's collection. I came to the conclusion that the only option we had was to take matters into our own hands and create the long proposed town centre museum. After much debate by the society's Management Committee, it was agreed that a separate organisation should take on the project to protect the society from the risks involved.

This was ratified at the AGM of the society in 2019 and in November 2019 the Redditch Local History Museum was established as a registered charity. The decision to go with a separate organisation seemed to be vindicated as we were quickly plunged into the implications of the Covid pandemic and the activities of the society ground to a halt.

However, the museum trustees were not deterred and proceeded to create a business plan for the museum. In November 2020, those plans were published and the team set about obtaining funding and a permanent site for the museum, the two major challenges to the museum's creation. Within six months of concerted effort, both of these objectives were met and funding was raised that covered the cost for the first two years operation but we still have the challenge of long-term financing to address.

The other key requirements was to secure premises from which to operate. Such premises need space in which we could establish an archiving facility as well as an area where exhibits based upon these artifacts



The interior when we took possession



The fitted out museum begins to take shape

could be displayed. The trustees were all conscious that the location should maximise visitor accessibility.

We were again fortunate to identify that an empty shop at 5 Market Place in Redditch town centre as a very good fit to our requirements as it has, in addition to the ground floor exhibition area, a basement in which to create the archiving facility and a first floor meeting and exhibition room.

This has turned out to be a very shrewd decision as the owners of the property are also the owners of the Kingfisher Centre and they have been very supportive of the decision to create the museum. Commercial lease negotiations were a bit of an

eyeopener for the trustees who had never previously had any experience of this topic but again the Kingfisher management have been very helpful. We were also pleased to be successful in obtaining a grant of £17,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund specifically to support the building of the archiving facility.

We took possession in late September 2021 and set about recruiting volunteers to help build and run the proposed museum. Since then, we have worked tirelessly to create exhibits and fit out the property. To do this we have begged, borrowed and scrounged fittings and services from local businesses and have, through Facebook and some good coverage in the local press, also attracted a pool of volunteers who are helping create the initial museum offering.

We opened to the public on the 3rd November and are currently open three days a week - on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from ten 'til four. Feedback from visitors has been very positive, the essence of which is "Much needed, so much to see, we'll have to come back".



The interior

We are now planning our outreach activities for 2022 and how we fund the operation long-term.

Visit us at 5 Market Place on Church Green in Redditch or on-line at rlhm.online



Redditch Local History Museum

Histories of People and Landscape

University of Hertfordshire **UH** Press

Essays on the Sheffield region in memory of David Hey

David Hey (1938–2016) was one of the leading local and regional historians of our age and the author of a number of highly regarded books on the practice of local history.

His work on surnames was pioneering and he was amongst the first to identify the potential of DNA in historical studies.

In this collection of essays in David's memory, friends and colleagues celebrate his commitment to the landscape, economy and society of south Yorkshire – especially Sheffield – and Derbyshire, which together make up 'Hey country', the area in which he grew up and to which he returned to work.

This lively volume will be of interest to anyone who shares David Hey's curiosity for the people, economies and landscapes of the part of England he made his focus.

At the same time the essays will prove to be of interest to all those concerned with the workings of English local society and economy.

Covering a wide range of subjects and periods, they include accounts of the early English steel industry, Sheffield cutlers, Lord William Cavendish's canny use of his stepson's wardship, the lost woodlands of the Peak District, First World War food production in Derbyshire, south Yorkshire deer parks and a brief history of Little Londons.

The contributors are some of the key researchers in academic local history: Melvyn Jones, Richard Hoyle, Peter Edwards, Dorian Gerhold, Ian D. Rotherham, John Beckett, Alan Crosby, Nicola Verdon, John Broad and George Redmonds. A tribute to David Hey by Charles Phythian-Adams opens the volume.

Richard Hoyle is Visiting Professor of Economic History at Reading, having previously been Professor of History at the University of Central Lancashire (1998–2000), Professor of Rural History at the University of Reading (2000–2014), and Professor of Local and Regional History at the University of London (2014–16).

Buy your copy online at www.UHPress.co.uk or return the completed order form below

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Histories of People and Landscape
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in memory of David Hey
Edited by Richard Hoyle

Volume 20, Studies in Regional and Local History
UH Press

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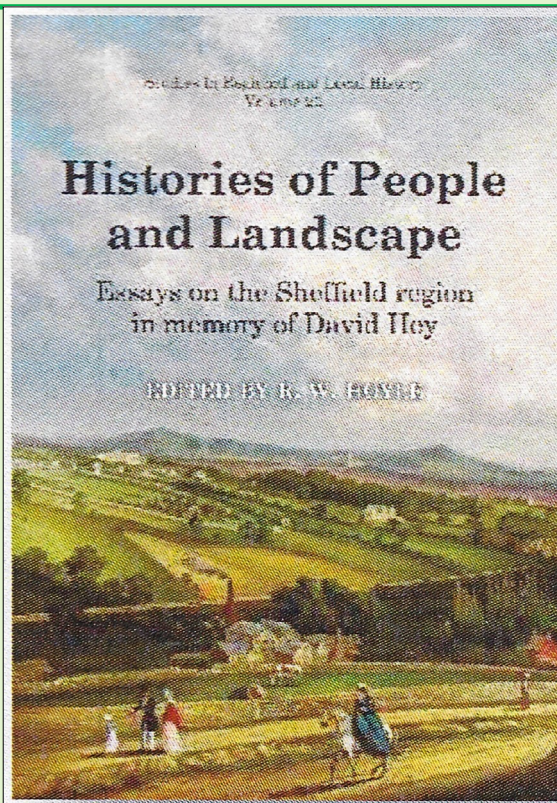
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LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS



THE INDUSTRIOUS CHILD WORKER

*Child Labour and Childhood in Birmingham
and the West Midlands, 1750–1900*

MARY NEJEDLY

Studies of child labour have examined the experiences of child workers in agriculture, mining and textile mills, yet surprisingly little research has focused on child labour in manufacturing towns.

This book investigates the extent and nature of child labour in Birmingham and the West Midlands, from the mid-eighteenth century to the end of the nineteenth century.

Child labour in the region was not a short-lived stage of the early Industrial Revolution but an integral part of industry throughout the nineteenth century. Parents regarded their children as potentially valuable contributors to the family economy, encouraging families to migrate from rural areas so that their children could work from an early age in the manufacture of pins, nails, buttons, glass, locks and guns as well as tin-plating, carpet-weaving, brass-casting and other industries.

The demand for young workers in Birmingham was greater than that for adults; in Mary Nejedly's detailed analysis the importance of children's earnings to the family economy becomes clear, as well as the role played by child workers in industrialisation itself.

In view of the economic benefit of children's labour to families as well as employers, both children's education and health could and did suffer. As well as working at harmful processes that produced dangerous fumes and dust or exposed them to poisonous substances, children also suffered injuries in the workplace, mainly to the head, eyes and fingers, and were often subjected to ill-treatment from adult workers.

Attitudes towards childhood changed over the course of the period, however, with a greater emphasis being placed on the role of education for all children as a means of reducing pauperism and dependence on the poor rate.

Mary Nejedly's clear-eyed research sheds fresh light on the life of working children and increases our knowledge of an important aspect of social and economic history.

Mary Nejedly is a research associate at the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham and also has a PhD from the University of Birmingham.

Buy your copy online at www.UHPress.co.uk or return the completed order form below

Please supply:

The Industrious Child Worker
Child labour and childhood in Birmingham and the
West Midlands, 1750–1900

by Mary Nejedly



West Midlands Publications - an imprint of UH Press

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WLHF Photographic Competition 2020-22

Theme: [What a fine doorway!](#)

Entries

The subject chosen must be currently in existence within the county of Worcestershire. The photograph must have been taken between 2020 and 2022.

Submissions will be judged in two categories: Individual and Society. Any member individual, or member society, can submit one entry per year. Please indicate in which category the submission is to be judged.

Each photograph **a) the building itself and b) the doorway of that building** should be accompanied by an account, up to 300 words, of how the subject meets the competition's theme. See **Judging details** for guidelines.

Photographs should be submitted in jpg. format **by email** to cora@malvernspa.com by 4th April 2022.

Submissions will receive confirmation of arrival by email. If no confirmation is made within five days of submission an email enquiry should be made about its progress.

There will be a first prize of £50 and a second prize of £25 in each category. The prizes will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, where entrants may choose to give a five minute talk about their photograph.

Copyright of photographs remains with the photographer, but submission of a photograph confers the right of the WLHF to use that photograph in the course of its normal activities, which excludes any commercial use.

Judging details

Photographs will be judged on the following:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| * Your description of the building's location and period of history it reflects | 25% |
| * The reason you chose this doorway | 25% |
| * Why your photographs might appeal to a wider general audience and be worthy of display in an exhibition to promote interest in Worcestershire heritage | 50% |

The judges' decision is final. No appeals will be heard.

There will be three judges, none of whom will know the identity of the group or individual who has made an entry. If YOU would like to be a judge, please email Cora Weaver at cora@malvernspa.com. The judges' decisions will be declared after the WLHF AGM on Saturday, 21st May 2022 in The Boardroom, Beauchamp Community, Newland WR14 5AX. See page 1 for more details.

Application Form 2020-2022: What a fine doorway!

Section:(Individual or Society)

Name:

Email contact:



Worcestershire History Forum

Guidelines for Assessing Local History Competition Entries

First prize in each category £50 ; second prize £25

Each question carries a maximum mark of 10 points.

For Groups

1. Has the project achieved new knowledge about the county's history in this field of research?
2. Has the project achieved new interpretation about the county's history in this field of research?
3. Has this project helped to preserve one or more aspects of the county's past?
4. To what extent can this project be used to understand the present?
5. To what extent has the work been published
 - a) within the county?
 - b) outside the county?
6. How accessible are the results of the project to the public?
7. To what extent have professional services been used?
8. To what extent did the project fulfil its aim?



For Outstanding Achievements by an Individual

1. Has the nominee provided new knowledge about the county's history during his / her activities?
2. To what extent can residents in, and visitors to, the county appreciate the nominee's activities?
3. Have their activities helped to preserve one or more aspects of the county's past?
4. To what extent has the work been published
 - a) within the county?
 - b) outside the county?
5. For how long and in what ways has the nominee been involved in promoting Worcestershire local history?
6. To what extent has the nominee worked with other groups, societies or individuals in order to promote Worcestershire Local History?
7. To what extent has the nominee promoted Worcestershire local history?

Please email your submissions to Cora Weaver at cora@malvernspa.com or post to Cora Weaver, 4 Hall Green, Malvern WR14 3QX. You will be notified by email as soon as your submission is received.

SPEAKERS' DIRECTORY



DO YOU GIVE LECTURES OR PRESENTATIONS?

If so, you can advertise in the WLHF Speakers' Directory.

It's free to members; £5 to non-members.

Send your details (lecture titles, fees, travel expenses, contact details, other requirements &c to Jane by the end of February at

jane.tinklin@outlook.com

The Speakers' Directory is sent to all member groups/individuals free of charge every two years. The next directory will be available at the AGM in May.

WHAT'S ON IN WORCESTERSHIRE

This is the WLHF publication that lists our members' lectures and events for the year.

If your group has a lecture programme and list of events for 2022, send the details as soon as possible to Norman Broadfield at

normanbroadfield@hotmail.com

Don't forget to include the name of your group; where and when you meet; details of the speaker and lecture title; any entry fees for non-members and a contact name, email address and telephone number for enquiries.

To find out more about Worcestershire Local History Forum, visit www.wlhf.org.uk



WLHF PROJECTOR

WLHF has invested in a useful resource: an Epson EB-X51 Projector with XGA resolution, remote control and a separate laser pointer.

It is available for members to hire at a modest charge.

Perhaps its first outing will be to the Annual General Meeting in May so come along and get familiar.

For details of availability, contact Richard
drradaw2003@yahoo.co.uk