



# REDBOURN VILLAGE MUSEUM

**Friends of the Museum Newsletter**

**Spring 2023  
Issue 140**

## Touch of Spring



We have an elegant new bird table at the museum. It will shortly have a plaque in place showing that it is memory of three of our sadly departed trustees, Peter 'Podge' Fox, Maria Maynard and Pauline Allcroft. It is also in memory of Charles Milner who played a vital role during the construction of our portico. Charles designed the supporting structure for the portico and also designed the garden behind it.

All four people are sadly missed as they all contributed hugely to the life of the museum and also played vital roles in the day to day running of the museum.

Please give them a 'nod' as you pass by the bird table.

## Subscriptions

These are due on April 1st and I will send out email reminders nearer the time to those who are due to pay.

Our rates have remained the same since 2018 and so we are making a small increase this year partly to offset a financial operating loss which we incurred last year.

(John, Chairman RVM)

**Email: [redbournmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:redbournmuseum@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.redbournmuseum.org](http://www.redbournmuseum.org)**

**Museum Registration No: 2106 Company Registration No: 03652790 Charity No: 1072828**

## A New Service For Our Visitors - And Voluntary Staff



Network: Redbourn Museum

Password: RVMGuest

Or scan the QR code below:

Redbourn Museum



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## The Sphere 1900 - 1964

You will remember mention in the last newsletter of the strange publication called The Sphere. I'm indebted to museum friend Mike Richardson for the following information:

*The Sphere: An Illustrated Newspaper for the Home*, was an illustrated weekly newspaper which began publication in London in 1900. Its founder and first editor, Clement King Shorter, left his role as editor of *The Illustrated London News* to begin the publication of *The Sphere*. It was dedicated to world-wide reporting, as symbolised by its initial front cover of two women, representing East and West, carrying a globe between them.

The publishers of *The Illustrated London News* began publication of a new newspaper, *The Spear*, two days before the first issue of *The Sphere*, in order to confuse readers and steal customers from *The Sphere*. In its advertisements, *The Sphere* repeated its name, spelling it out as S-P-H-E-R-E, and warned its audience 'REMEMBER THE SPHERE is spelt S-P-H-E-R-E. You want THE SPHERE: insist upon having it – you may be offered something else instead which you don't want.'

## Christmas Tree!



Just in case you missed it, this was the Christmas Tree in the portico during December /January.

Looks pretty good?

No excuses for including this in the newsletter as Christmas is my favourite time of the year.



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## Unwanted Furniture

The trustees recently took the decision to get rid of a computer table and chair and a Formica topped large table from our upstairs Skillman Gallery to give us more room for displays and to allow more seating for film shows.

As it happened...I spotted a Facebook appeal from The Elms Medical Practice in Harpenden for donations of office furniture. We got in touch and two lovely ladies from The Elms came over and took all of the items which they were extremely happy with, and all of which fitted perfectly into the room they had set aside for a new NHS service they were setting up.

All in all, everyone benefitted which is how it should be in an ideal world.

The Elms will be making a financial donation to the museum.





# REDBOURN VILLAGE MUSEUM AGM

to be held at St. Mary's Church Transept  
on Monday March 6th 2023

7 pm 24th Annual General Meeting  
Followed by refreshment interval



**8 pm: “The City under the Park” from Lexi Barbakoff**

Lexi Barbakoff is a St. Albans Guide and gave a very entertaining talk on 2000 years of St. Albans, several years ago. By popular demand, Lexi returns to give a more in depth presentation on Roman Verulamium.

**Free admission, donations for refreshments appreciated**

**Please e-mail [redbournmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:redbournmuseum@gmail.com) or phone 01582 626055 to reserve your place.**



## From Our Cornwall Correspondent



Thanks to Alan Waller for this photo - I hope I've got all the names right! Alan thinks this was about 1958 when Redbourn were unbeaten that year and won the Herts. Junior Cup, The Bingham Cox Cup, and the league. He was playing for Vauxhall Motors in the Spartan League but used to put in a guest appearance from time to time, for Redbourn. The players labelled \* were Markyate 'lads'.

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## The 'sumup' Card Reader Arrives!

We've got the card reader!

We opened our doors on 4th February for the 2023 season and had a steady flow of visitors. Two of them came up to the admissions desk with credit/debit cards in hand wanting to make a donation - that has never happened before. Long may it continue!



## From Our Edinburgh Correspondent

### The High Street Scene - Written In 1977

Reading this brought back many memories, although I left the village to go to university in 1956, and have only visited infrequently since 1988. By 1977 there had been many changes during the previous 20 years, and many more since, as evidenced by Google's Street View. My memory has faded somewhat, but I do remember Jack Cooper's baker's shop on the High Street, with the bakery behind; Ethel worked in the shop and Mr Farley the baker, and his family, lived on the premises as well. For 3-4 years I did a van bread round on Saturday [with Eric Neville, the van-man]; at 0630 I would arrive to help load the van. We would set off up the A5, towards Bylands Farm and Norrington End, then back down to Luton Lane [where every Easter I was given a goose egg by a smallholder – Mrs Edwards rings a bell] and Harpendenbury Farm, along the Ver valley to Harpenden Lane. This is where I may have been ahead of my time – we had an electric bread van and, with a bit of badgering, Eric would let me drive the mile or so from Luton Lane to Harpenden Lane. We then did Ver Road [a cul-de -sac then], Harpenden Lane, Lamb Lane and back to base to reload. We then went up the A5 to Blackhorse Lane to get to Bettespole Meadows, Crouch Hall Lane and Gardens, then along Lamb Lane, around North Common, down Fish Street and across the A5 to finish the round at Crown Street and Waterend Lane, with any luck between 16.00-17.00. All for the princely sum of 5 shillings [=25p], and the odd doughnut. To increase my income I moved to do a paper round for the last year or so before I left school, which included Nicholl's Close, off Lybury Lane, which is where our Cornish Correspondent lived [or it may have been Tassell Hall] – we went to the same school, and on Sundays took me out to Redbournbury. In search of a little more income I also went to the George Inn on Sunday mornings to restock the bar shelves – as a 16-17-year-old, I'm pretty sure that would not be allowed now.

At the north end of the High Street there was a corner shop, Beesley's, where Harpenden Lane met it and, opposite, a grocers [Halsey rings a bell] and I did a Friday night grocery delivery for them, with an 'Open All Hours' Granville-type delivery bicycle. Just along from Beesley's was a garage [the clock is still there], and fire station behind. On the corner of Lamb Lane, Draper's green grocers; continuing down the west side of the High Street was the Co-op, George Wilson's chemist shop, the entrance to Shepherds Row, the Queen Vic. pub and then the baker's shop. Opposite these were the Post Office/general store, and the entrance to Crown Street. Then came the Village Hall and Bill Brooks' newsagent. Further down the street on that side was Red House, Gertrude Peake Place [a newly built care home with independent living but also communal facilities, which is where my Grandfather moved to after his house on the corner of Lamb Lane, was demolished], Waterend Lane, Russell Harborough's Jam factory and a tan yard. Crossing the road to head north was a pub [the Railway Inn?], Fish Street, one or two shops, including Jarman's, then the Priory and the alley [now called the Ruins apparently] leading to The Common, with a side entrance to Dr Totton's surgery, then Bill Sibley's blacksmiths and cobbler's shop I don't remember if there were two different enterprises .

Mike Richardson



Programme of

Official  
Opening  
of  
Redbourn  
Public  
Hall



St. Valentine's Day  
Tuesday, February 14, 1922  
At 7.30 o'clock

Programme of Ceremony

1. Mr. Stanley Dunn will sing  
"Redbourn's Chorus Song"  
Cheer, boys, cheer, and let's be marching,  
Marching with the times that are ahead,  
Will you give the work a hearty welcome  
To show that each and all have done their best?  
Will you raise your voice and join the chorus,  
Joining in the music bright and clear?  
With a heart that's good and sound,  
Let us show the country round  
That the future can be faced without a fear.
2. All the Audience will sing the Chorus.
3. Mr. H. E. Arnold will introduce and ask  
Mr. H. Tait Moore to open the building.
4. Mr. Moore, accompanied by the Council and  
those representing Associations, will proceed  
to the entrance of the Hall.  
*God save the King*
5. Mr. Moore will address those assembled.
6. Col. W. de Falbe will propose a vote of  
thanks to the Parish Council.
7. Mr. Boucher will second the vote of thanks  
to the Council.
8. Mr. H. E. Arnold (Chairman) will reply.
9. Mr. S. W. Skillman (Hon. Clerk) will also  
respond.

Programme—contd.

10. Selection ... .. *Lehar*  
MRS. SKILLMAN'S ORCHESTRA.
11. Song and Dance—"London Bridge" ... ..  
THE INFANTS
12. Song—"Your wonderful heart of gold" ... .. *M. Scott*  
MISS D. MATHEWS
13. Selection ... ..  
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN TRAINED  
BY MISS H. HILLARD & MRS E. PIPER
14. Song ... ..  
MR. P. JARMAN
15. Song—Selected ... ..  
THE GIRLS
16. Chorus—"Lord Ullin's daughter" ... .. *Jackson*  
THE REDBOURN MUSICAL SOCIETY
17. Song and Dance—"I wish I were a tiny bird" ... .. *Hermann Lubr*  
MARY AND JUDITH COOPER
18. Song—"My Ships" ... ..  
MR. STANLEY DUNN
19. Song—"Grandmother's old" ... ..  
THE BOYS
20. Selection—Gypsy Love ... ..  
MRS. SKILLMAN'S ORCHESTRA
21. Duet—"I'd love to fall asleep" ... ..  
MISSES L. FOX & M. NEES
22. Selection ... ..  
REDBOURN MUSICAL SOCIETY
23. Mr. Peake will propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Moore  
and Visitors.
24. Mr. Anstee will second.
25. Mr. Moore will reply.
26. Mr. Reynolds will also respond.
27. Twelve of the oldest residents will sing the Doxology.
28. All will repeat standing.

## Finances

Unfortunately the museum made a significant financial loss last year which could perhaps be attributed to the lack of fundraising events during COVID.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Please share the love this month and support Redbourn Village Museum on #easyfundraising, you'll raise FREE donations with your everyday shopping. It's quick and easy to sign up! Plus, once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it! Sign up now: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=pyvq9r&char=295977&referral-campaign=c2s&utm\\_campaign=referral-2023](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=pyvq9r&char=295977&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=referral-2023)

In the last newsletter I asked if our Museum Friends could sign up to easyfundraising which is totally free and raises much needed funds for your museum. Sadly, only three Friends, and myself, have signed up to help raise money. In around three months we have raised £31.15. We have over 100 Friends and if everyone signed up we could potentially raise almost £4000 a year which would be a great help. There are over 7000 retailers signed up to the scheme who donate when you shop with them on-line. Please consider joining the campaign. Link above.

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## The Saga Of The Back Wall



The render has been removed from the museum's back wall and the brickwork is exposed to the elements.

Regrettably, the new render was not applied towards the end of last year and it is currently too cold to apply lime render.

We hope that work will commence when the temperature rises sufficiently.

One avenue which is now being explored is to use wood cladding which would obviously avoid any future problems with failed render.

This approach would need the approval of our local building conservation officer.

Better news to follow next time?



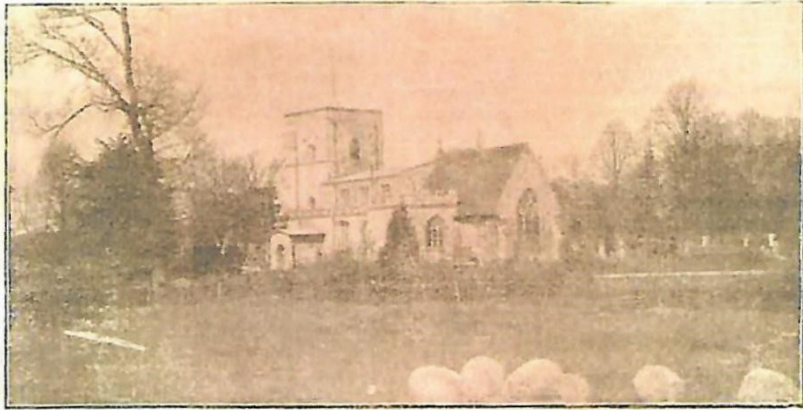
# Labour Of Love

Many thanks to our new Museum Friend, Samantha Statham who has scanned the entire contents of this parish magazine. I will print assorted pages from it over the next few issues.

## Redbourn Parish Magazine

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No. 357. JANUARY, 1935. 2d.



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<p><b>Holy Communion.</b>—Every Sunday, 8 a.m. First Sunday, 12 noon. Saints' Days, 8 or 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Mattins.</b>—Sundays, 11 a.m.</p> <p><b>Evensong.</b>—Sundays, 6.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Children's Service.</b>—First Sunday, 2.30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Churchings.</b>—At any of the Services.</p>	<p><b>Holy Baptism.</b>—First Sunday at 8 p.m., or by arrangement.</p> <p><b>Holy Matrimony.</b>—By special arrangement.</p> <p><b>Funerals.</b>—By special arrangement.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vicar.</b> Rev. H. W. BIRKHEAD BERRY, B.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Churchwardens.</b> Dr. J. TOTTON (Vicar's). Mr. J. LAXTON (People's).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sidesmen.</b> Messrs. H. ARNOLD, G. PUXTED, J. LOVETT, W. READING, G. DANIELS, A. WOODSTOCK, B. F. TRASK, B. READING, C. REED, W. TAYLOR, A. SEARS, F. COOTE, K. G. BETTS, R. WALLERS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Church Council.</b> Messrs. C. MAILING, J. TAYLOR, K. G. BETTS, W. HALL, W. J. LOVETT, J. PUXTED, B. MARSHALL, G. DANIELS, B. F. TRASK, E. T. DEXTER, J. MARSTON, Miss A. KING, Miss M. LUCK, Mrs. B. REED.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parochial Representatives:</b> <i>Diocesan Conference</i>—Miss G. V. PEAKE. <i>Parochial Conference</i>—Mrs. J. TOTTON, Mrs. VISE, Mrs. WALWYN TAYLOR and Mr. K. G. BETTS.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hon. Choir Secretary.</b> Mr. C. MAILING.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hon. Treasurer Free-will Offering Fund.</b> Mr. B. F. TRASK.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Guild of Servers.</b> Messrs. C. MAILING, WM. FLATT, J. TAYLOR, L. HOBBS, S. CRIPPS, W. HALL, J. DEXTER, D. FLATT.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday Schools.</b> 10.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mothers' Union.</b> <i>Enrolling Member:</i> Mrs. WALWYN TAYLOR.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mothers' Meeting.</b> Mrs. BERRY.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bell Ringers.</b> Mr. G. DANIELS (Leader).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hon. Magazine Secretary and Treasurer.</b> Mrs. MILLER.</p>
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H. A. Richardson Ltd., Printers, St. Albans.



## Redbournbury Mill

# Mill sale grinds exceeding slow

**THE FATE** of the county's last working water-mill is still in the balance a year after a new lease of life for it seemed certain.

The Crown Estates Commission last March accepted an offer, believed to exceed £150,000, for Redbournbury Mill from St Albans businessman John Roberts.

Mr Roberts intends to fully restore the 17th-century grain mill and last week members of the district council's plans (north) sub-committee agreed to a listed building application for a facelift of the millhouse.

The matter could, however, be finally decided by the Department of the Environment.

For it was confirmed this week that Mr Roberts is still not yet the owner of what is probably the last working grist-mill in Hertfordshire, which comes complete with original equipment and tools.

Negotiations for the sale have yet to be finalised, it was disclosed. Mr Roberts' partner in the venture, Mr Julian James, said this week that discussions were still in progress with the Crown Estates Commission.

By IAN BROWN

Mr James, who plans to live in the millhouse with his wife Mandy, will act as resident caretaker.

Following in the footsteps of the last person to work the mill commercially 25 years ago, Miss Ivy Hawkins, whose family had been millers there since 1841, Mrs James — whose family were water millers in Hampshire — plans to become the next miller.

Mr Roberts and Mr James propose to use Manpower Services Commission community programme workers to help with some of the restoration work and also hope to enlist the support of the building department at the Hertfordshire College of Building.

When fully restored, Mr Roberts plans to open the mill to the public. He also hopes to use it as a field study centre and produce



Redbournbury Mill: Sale yet to be completed

project material for use by schools.

This week, a spokesman for the Crown Estates Commission could not say why negotiations were taking so long to finalise but repeated that Mr Roberts' plan had been the most attractive

among 20 other offers — many involving more money.

She said: "Most wanted to convert the place for residential use and we would like to see it working again. The sale is proceeding."



Thanks to Museum Friend, Margaret Metcalfe for this reminder about Redbournbury Mill estimated to be around 1985.



# Ring for the King - the bells are calling.

## The Coronation - Saturday May 6th

Details have not yet been confirmed for ringing for the Coronation of King Charles but this is a very important occasion for bells to ring out across Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Peals are rung to mark important events such as the Coronations of King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II and the late Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Each peal involves about 3 hours of bellringing and a mental and physical challenge for members of the band.

## The Sound of Change ringing

There is a magic about the sound of change ringing that many people recognise but it is very different from traditional tunes. A ring of bells is not suited to conventional music because most tower bells are large and heavy. When church bells swing, each acts like a pendulum and the bell swings full circle every couple of seconds. This limits the placement of the bell in the sequence to moving one place at a time. English bellringing is known as change ringing and is very different to the way that bells are rung on the Continent.

## The Bells at St. Mary's Church

It is not known exactly when the first bells were hung in the church tower, constructed more than 900 years ago, but it is likely that there were some bells in the 15th Century. In 1552, an inventory stated that "there were ffyve belles in the steple". The ring was increased from 5 to 6 in 1716 by recasting all the bells and in 1770, 1830 and 1875, 3 bells were recast again because of cracks.

During the 1920s, the bells were becoming difficult to ring due to damage to the wooden frame. All 6 bells were re-cast in 1953 by Messrs John Taylor of Loughborough and each carries an inscription giving details of who paid for recasting and also historical details taken from the old bells. The newly recast bells were re-hung on a new steel bell frame funded by money collected around the village totalling £1666. The Bishop of St. Albans came to dedicate the bells on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1953 and a peal was rung in June to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

## When do the Bells Ring?

At St. Mary's the bells are rung every Sunday morning from 9 – 9.30 am and some Sunday evenings from 6 – 6.30 pm for Evensong. Many couples ask for bells to be rung after their wedding and the Vicar requests bells for special church services. The Church of England can ask for bells to be rung for important national occasions, such as the death of the late Queen and the Proclamation of King Charles III. It was an honour to be involved on both occasions.

To maintain our high standard of ringing, the bellringers practice on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.15 pm.

## How to find out more

St. Mary's Church bellringers are holding Open Tower events on March 4th/5th when you can see a demonstration, learn what is involved and have a try if you would like to. Bellringing is a hobby for anyone aged 12+, providing you can climb 26 steps to the ringing room with confidence. For more details of the Open Tower events, contact Liz Middleton on 07952 641529 or e-mail: [lizmiddleton10@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lizmiddleton10@yahoo.co.uk)

## Dates for your diary

Monday March 6 at 7 pm	AGM	St. Mary's Transept
Monday March 6 at 8 pm	The City under the Park Talk by Lexi Barbakoff	St. Mary's Transept
Saturday April 1 at 2.30 pm	The Home Front Talk and songs by Steven Potter	St. Mary's Transept
Thursday April 20 at 8 pm	Film of 1983, the year that Redbourn By-pass was built	Redbourn Village Hall
Thursday August 17	Outing to Whitchurch Silk Mill and the Museum of English Rural Life, Reading	By coach
Wednesday October 4	Outing to Peacock's Auction Centre, Bedford	By coach

## Exhibitions coming up

Our curators are seeking items relating to previous coronations for our next exhibition in May. We have received a precious souvenir newspaper from the Coronation of King George VI which is fragile and currently being scanned to put on display. If you have a relevant item of interest to loan or donate, please contact our curator, Diane Whiskin, on the museum e-mail: [redbournmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:redbournmuseum@gmail.com)

The other topic for 2023 is Sport and there is plenty of information to present because Redbourn has historically been a very sporty village, excelling in football and cricket.

## Museum Grant Applications

We recently applied for two grants from St. Albans City & District Council.

The first relates to equipment to improve access and engagement for people with limited mobility. We have requested funding for doorstep and threshold ramps which could enable access, at least to the ground floor, for wheelchair users. If funds allow, we will also buy one or two tablet computers and load these with information about the collection housed upstairs.

Our second application would support the establishment of a new Friendship Group so that people can meet at the museum and take part in an activity, talk or film show whilst enjoying a warm space and refreshments in the company of others.



## Planned Outings For 2023



Thursday 17th August

Whitchurch Silk Mill with coffee/tea on arrival, guided tour of the working silk mill followed by a light lunch before departing to...



The Museum of English Rural Life on the campus of the University of Reading.

Refreshments and toilet facilities available. We then depart for Redbourn around 5:00 pm and arrive home at a time dependent on the traffic!

Further information next time.

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Wednesday 4th October



W & H Peacocks Auction Centre

This is a long way ahead, but on enquiry, there were only 4 dates available in 2023 for what is obviously a popular outing.

We will travel the short distance to Bedford by coach and will be given an introductory talk and a tour of the sale room before enjoying lunch in the Auction Centre's own restaurant, all included in the ticket price.

More details to follow, but this trip should appeal to fans of Bargain Hunt!

For full details, including the all important prices!, please see the next newsletter.

We aim to keep the cost as low as possible but the initial quotation for the coach to Whitchurch was a staggering £950. Since then we have found a more realistic option.

**We gratefully acknowledge the generous support received from the following:**

Redbourn Parish Council



Ashtons Estate Agents



Aylett Nurseries



Changing Views



Halsey (Builders) Ltd

Hertfordshire County Show



J.G. Bryson (Printer)



R.S. Harding Ltd



Redbournbury Mill



Redbourn Electrical Contractors

Redbourn Porsche Owners Club



The Cricketers Public House



The Miller Group of Companies



Tring Brewery



**Would your company like to become a**

**Business Friend of Redbourn Village Museum?**

**The cost is £30 per year**

**Please contact [redbournmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:redbournmuseum@gmail.com)**

**for an application form - many thanks!**

**Redbourn Village Museum  
Silk Mill House  
The Common  
Redbourn, Herts. AL3 7NB**



Museum Location:  
[oasis.royal.shared](https://www.oasis.royal.shared)

**Patron: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon**

**Museum open February to November  
Saturday & Sunday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

**Last admission 4:30pm**

Tel: 01582 793397

Email: [redbournmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:redbournmuseum@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.redbournmuseum.org](http://www.redbournmuseum.org)

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John Ridgwell:	Membership Secretary
	Newsletter Editor

Co-opted Committee Members

Colin O'Donovan	Parish Council Liaison
Tom Finnis	I.T. Advisor

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