

Historians Visit to Redfern Museum, Uttoxeter
21 October 2022

Redfern's Cottage Museum of Uttoxeter Life



Historians thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Redfern Museum in the centre of Uttoxeter in October. It was well worth the hunt to find the museum, well hidden behind scaffolding, in a Uttoxeter side street. After a welcoming talk with coffee and cake, the guide, Gordon, took the group on a tour of this small museum, a grade 2 listed building, and recounted not only the history of this 16th century house and its owners, but also the history of Uttoxeter itself. One of the most notable people who lived in the cottage was Francis Redfern, a cooper, historian and writer who ran his barrel-making business between 1851 to 1895.

During the Civil War, Uttoxeter was the local market town which supplied the two opposing armies. The wise traders flew either the Royalist or Parliamentary flags depending on their customers! The water meadows of the River Dove made perfect grazing grounds for cattle, which in turn drove the butter/cheese, tanning and leatherwork industries. In the present day, of course, it is also home to JCB.

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Afterwards the Historians group retired to a local pub for lunch.

