

# Redlynch & District Local History Society

## Graffiti in the Cathedral - The Walls that Talk

by Steve Dunn

The Redlynch Local History Society welcomed Steve Dunn to our April 18 meeting to speak about his ongoing project: Graffiti in the Cathedral - The Walls that Talk. Steve is a former Head Guide of Salisbury Cathedral and by his own admission has had an obsession with graffiti since childhood.

With the upcoming 800th anniversary of the Cathedral, he has taken on the massive project of recording all the items of graffiti. This involves 60 volunteers searching the building and recording the individual drawings. The task will be undertaken three times so as not to miss anything so when completed, there will be as complete as possible database.

Most of the graffiti is of a religious nature, crosses and pentangles, and many would have been done by the clergy. There is a large concentration of marks near the old main entrance, the old North Door, indicating people scratched marks as they entered a place of pilgrimage. There are also many Masons marks and also plans of the Cathedral done in situ as building work was progressing.



It was also interesting to hear that many other churches and Cathedrals are also doing similar projects across the country. This in turn may help the understanding of graffiti; as Steve stated at the beginning of his talk, possible and probable play a large part in the current understanding.

Our next talk is "The Earls of Radnor and their Country Estates" by Steve Hobbs, at 7:30 on Tuesday 1st May at Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Hall, all welcome.