

# Redlynch & District Local History Society

## A History of Redlynch Lodge and its Inhabitants

**By Malcolm Birch**

Malcolm Birch gave the January talk on what is now known as Redlynch Lodge, situated on The Ridge opposite Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall. The site dates back to the late 1600s when it started life as a brick kiln. There was a dwelling on the site at that time, but it was not until 1838 that the building which was referred to as Brick Kiln House first appeared on a map. This forms the smaller older section at the rear of the current house and by its style, was probably built just after 1822 in the late Georgian period



After initially being owned by Joseph Stokes, the property remained in the ownership of one family, the Reeves (John, his son John, David, another John, and finally yet another John). William Pressey lived in the property for a short while as a tenant to the last John Reeves. The brick kiln then came under the ownership of William Plaskett, who was proprietor of the Kings Head. Plaskett more than doubled the size of the original dwelling in 1865 by adding a large building in front of the original. The brick works produced pipe work, tiles and all manner of clay-fired articles besides bricks and these are almost certainly used in the construction of the house. The 1878 Ordnance Survey map shows that there were extensive buildings for drying sheds as well as the kiln.

The property remained in the hands of Plaskett and his descendants for the next 60 or so years, passing to his niece Mary Ann Atkey (when the property was known as Redlynch Villa), she had two husbands who worked the kiln but on her death in 1906 the production of bricks is believed to have ceased. The well-known author Bertram Atkey inherited the property from his mother, and the property was rented out to firstly a civil servant, Thomas Chalk, and secondly Cyril Cheshire who served in the army from late 1915. Bertram moved back in to the property after the First World War (c.1920) until he sold the property to Joseph March, a medical officer at Porton Down, and his wife Grace. The property finally came into the hands of the Rogers family, Herbert and his wife Margaret (aka Iris), who died in 1970 and 1981 respectively. Their son Herbert inherited the house on Iris's death; Herbert became a lieutenant-colonel and was awarded the OBE, dying without issue in 2000.

The Society next meets on Tuesday, 5 February at 7.30pm in Woodfalls and Morgan's Vale Village Hall, when Alex Belbin will be giving a talk on 'The Tintometer Works in Salisbury'.