

## David Roberts Remembers.....

# Growing Up In Old Redditch



**St. Stephen's School In Peakman Street**

Image: RL-BX13-0079.jpg from the Redditch Library Collection

I played for works cricket teams in Redditch from the age of 13 and was helped massively to develop my skills. There was a Redditch youth Football League and I played for Beoley United which was a successful team. We played in Beoley village having changed in the garage of the “big house” next to the church and it was a long walk down the hill to the pitch.

I then played for Crabbs Cross youth team in the Bromsgrove League. Our early games were played on the “side of a mountain” in Crabbs Cross and then on the sports field of Reynolds Tube on Studley Road. We won the League in 1958. I continued to play cricket, playing at Entaco, Studley, Astwood Bank and finally Redditch. At all of these clubs I met and played with a number of people who were very helpful and encouraging towards me. I left school in 1958 and worked at High Duty Alloys, being paid £5/week! Education continued with day release working towards an H.N.C. in Chemistry. The working day was interesting whilst learning the job but became rather mundane once the methodology was understood. At this time there was a thriving Redditch Football League mainly consisting of works teams and as an employee I played for H.D.A. In 1960/61 I left H.D.A. to work for British Cast Iron Research Association in Rowney Green. There was a works bus which picked up employees; I think we paid about 2/6d (15 – 20p) per week for this! I continued living at home and working at BCIRA until 1966 when I left the area to work for Shell Research in Manchester.

David Roberts

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## St. Stephens School Football Team 1950-51



Image: David Roberts

### Back Row(l to r)

David Roberts, ?, Neville Heath, ? Davies, Derrick Higgett, ? Burns, ? Davis.

### Front Row(l to r)

? Worrall, ? Banner, Robert Chatterley, Alan Finer, Michael Paddock, John Cross.

The Teacher in charge was Mr Johnson from the paper shop at the end of Alcester Street opposite Terrys.

Do you remember any of these boys and perhaps some of the missing names? If so please get in touch.

David Roberts