



Welcome to our first newsletter. Our aim is to distribute it, mainly by e-mail, three or four times a year. It may only be quite brief at first : the more items members submit, the more we can include in the newsletter. Any member can e-mail items to the editor on pcs1003@btinternet.com.

Meetings and Working Sessions

Our next meeting will be in the Town Hall room, (variously known as “the cupboard” or “the shed”) on February 3rd 2015.

Working sessions will be each Thursday at 2pm in the Town Hall.

Cataloguing

So far we have catalogued 642 documents, 935 pictures and other illustrations, 782 artefacts and books, and 462 items relating to the Butterley Company. We still have lots to do, but are hoping that sometime in the new year we will be able to start adding more material to the collection. In the meantime, if you or anyone you know has original documents, pictures or (small) artefacts relating the history of Ripley and district, please hang on to them and let us know about them.

HLF Bid

We’re beginning to think about putting together a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to help us produce more publications, organise more talks, and begin to open up what we have to the general public. We’re also considering whether as part of the bid we can increase or improve our accommodation. Whilst we are very grateful to Amber Valley Borough Council for the use of the Town Hall room, it is very small to both store the collection and work on new items. If there are more than half a dozen people in the room, it can get very cosy!

Cover pictures : the scene at Marehay Miners’ Welfare on 5th October during our first Heritage Day, and Tim and Jane in studious mood on the day.

Somercotes Heritage Day : 8th November

Heavy rain produced a steady trickle of visitors to Somercotes, but we enjoyed chatting to the other exhibitors and did manage to make a few sales. We learned that there are at least three other heritage calendars on sale (all of them undercutting ours!) and that people love looking through big albums of photographs.

The event will be repeated next year.

Butterley News

Work continues to catalogue the remaining Butterley photos and documents although the job is becoming increasingly more difficult as the majority of the remaining photos have no identification on them. Two new probable sources of photos have been identified and it is hoped to borrow these for scanning in the next couple of months.

The Works Yard remains under 24 / 7 dog patrol security. John Chambers is to try to reconnect with BDO as the telephone numbers used in the past are 'unobtainable'. He has also placed an article with R+H News asking the general public for any Butterley memorabilia they might have.

Mike Frost has completed the 'Degge Bates' DVD and his family have received 30 copies many of which are being sent to relations in Australia and New Zealand. Degge sadly died on November 1st just three months after the interview was carried out. He was 101 and 3 months old.

The 2015 Butterley DVD is now under construction, (Tim Castledine and John Hardwick) under the expert guidance of Mike Frost. It is hope to complete this job by early Spring.

Brian Key's Lost Industries Talk

Brain tells us that he intends to cover, among others, coal mining, iron working at Morley Park, Ogles engineering, brick-making, Sawmills stone works, quarrying, dyeing at Bullbridge, flax and lace making, framework knitting, timber, milling and Ripley Co-op. Could be quite a talk!

Membership

Having just begun our membership scheme, we now have 23 members, all but two of whom are contactable by e-mail. Unless specifically requested to send an e-mail to both partners, I shall assume that couples will share the e-mail, and send only one to the first e-mail address on the list.

Membership cards will be issued shortly, and will entitle members to free entry to RDHT functions.



*Workers at Ogles
Engineering in the early
1900s*

The Lost Industries of Ripley and District

An illustrated talk by Brian Keys

On Wednesday 19th November at 7pm for 7.30pm start

At Marehay Miners Welfare

Derby Road, Ripley DE5 8JN