



Tim surveying records left in the stores in the Butterley site.

Number Three

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www.rdht.org.uk

Welcome to our third newsletter. We distribute it, mainly by e-mail, three or four times a year. Any member can e-mail items to the editor on pcs1003@btinternet.com

Membership

We now have over 30 members, all but a few 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 are available running now until 01.04.2016.

If you know of anyone who would like to join, please ask them to contact us via the website or in the "shed" on Thursday afternoons. The more members we have, the more we can do !

Autumn Footprints Butterley Walk

On September 19th, 14 people, accompanied by 4 members of RDHT, completed our second annual Butterley walk. The weather was fine, and our visitors were guided by Tim's commentary as we visited some of the sites associated with the company.



HLF Grant

At the beginning of August, we learned that we had been awarded a grant of £8400 from the Heritage lottery Fund for our project **“Transforming a**

Community : The History and Legacy of the Butterley Company in Ripley”.



The grant will enable us to employ a professional to rebuild our website and make much more of our collection available to the general public. It will also pay for equipment which will permit us to film the memories of our oldest inhabitants, and put on a programme of good quality talks about the Butterley Company and its influence on the town.

We want to work with anyone who has memories, or pictures or documents, concerning the Company : not just the Works, but the houses it built, its farms, the social activities : anything, in fact, that it did that affected the lives of Ripley people.

Please do get in touch if you know of anyone who can help.

The grant will provide, among other things :



A video camera for recording interviews and memories, and a scanner for digitising documents and photographs.

Len Wood Photographs

Someone (and we have to admit that we've forgotten exactly who) recently donated some 30 small photographs to the Trust. They are all pretty well known, and seem to be from the Len Wood Collection, copies of which are stored in Ripley Library and most of which are on the Picture the Past website (www.picturethepast.org.uk) .

On the back of most of them, though, are stickers or stamps giving Len Wood's professional details, and (rather shaky) handwritten descriptions. (See below.) It seems likely that they are part of his collection, or at least copies that he kept, which makes them especially interesting.

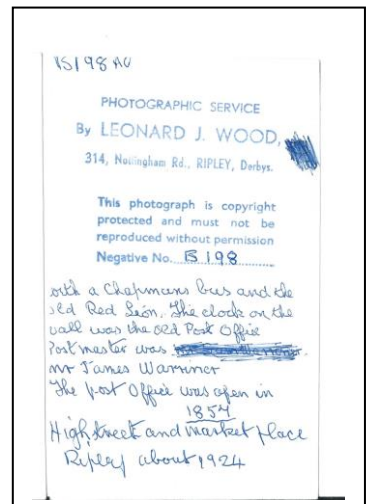


This photograph is of High Street in 1924.

On the back of the picture (see below) is a stamp giving Leonard Wood's details, giving a negative number (B198) and a handwritten

explanation. Of the picture : *"with a Chapman's bus and the old Red Lion. The clock on the wall was the old Post Office. Postmaster was Mr James Warriner. The Post Office was open in 1857.."*

Is this Mr Wood's handwriting ? Or someone else who collected his photos ? If anyone has any further information, do get in touch.



Butterley Site Update

As most readers will know, the Butterley site is now set for sale by auction on October 22nd. The latest brochure from FHP, the selling agent, mentions the fact that there is a scheduled ancient monument on the site, and two grade 2 listed buildings. The expectation seems to be that all or a substantial majority of the site will be sold for housing development.



Tim made arrangements with FHP to gain access to the site to assess what documents remain on site, with a view to removing them for safe keeping. At that meeting, he and the two Johns accessed the site with Sarah Chubb of Derbyshire Records Office. (See cover photo.) As a result, there is a good chance that some of the material will be removed by Derbyshire County Council to the Records Office for examination, before the site is auctioned.

As part of our campaign to try to save at least part of the site, some of the committee had previously met with our local MP, Nigel Mills, on 6th August. Without committing himself, he took note of our concerns about the site and helped set up contacts with the selling agents, a process also helped by local councillor David Williams.



Tim with Nigel Mills MP at the Butterley site – on a sunny August day.

Barnes Wallis Donation (to us)

Among recent donations to the Trust have been a collection of Barnes Wallis memorabilia, from Geoff Walters.



As well as two display cases with models of Wellington and Lancaster aircraft, there are framed pictures, cuttings and articles. Many thanks to Mr Walters for these beautifully presented materials.

Heage Windmill Donation (from us)

At our recent meeting we agreed to send a donation of £100 towards the repair costs of Heage Windmill. Much as we'd like to give more, we hope that every small amount contributes to the restoration to working order of this important local heritage attraction.

Derby University “Then and Now” Photography Project

Mike has been in touch with Derby University’s Photography department to discuss a possible project where students would take photographs of Ripley today to compliment and contrast with our photographs of Ripley in the past. It would focus on the way the town has changed from an industrial “Company Town” to the much more varied place it is today. Like this, perhaps...



.....or maybe better
photography !



Forthcoming Events

24th October : Somercotes Heritage Fair at the Village Hall, Somercotes
9.30am to 4pm. (We will have a stall.)

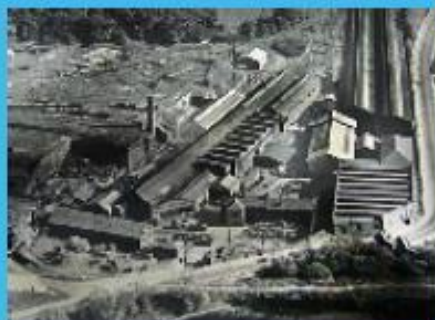
3rd November : Our Next Meeting, at 2pm in the Town Council room in the
Town Hall

29th November : Michaelmas market – details to be confirmed.

And finally :don't forget..

RIPLEY & DISTRICT HERITAGE TRUST
Amber Valley Camcorder Club

Outram's Legacy



The Butterley Company

Illustrated talk by Tim Castledine

Wednesday 14th October 6.45 for 7.15

Marehay Miner's Welfare, Derby Rd, Ripley

Free admision, but donations welcome
Jumbo Raffle/Excellent parking