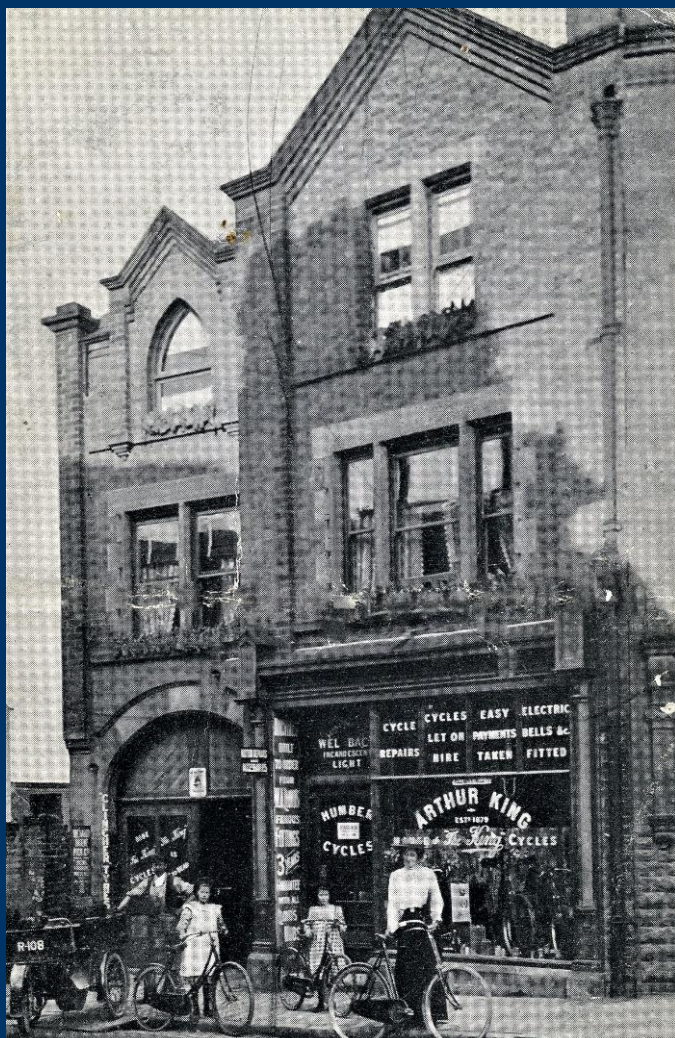


RIPLEY & DISTRICT
HERITAGE TRUST
DERBYSHIRE

Newsletter



Number **Nine**

November 2017

www.rdht.org.uk

Welcome to our ninth newsletter. We distribute it, mainly by e-mail, three or four times a year. Remember : the more items members submit, the more we can include in the newsletter. Any member can e-mail items to the editor on pcs10033@gmail.com.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **11th January 2018** at 2.15pm in the Town Hall. We're usually in our room in the Town Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm for working sessions. Pop in and see us.

Co-op Day

We will be having a stall in Ripley Co-op on **Friday 8th December**. The aim is to publicise what we do, and have equipment there to scan any photos or documents that people bring along. We'll be there from roughly 9.30am to 3.30pm. Come along and join us.

Website Progress

Our website, www.rdht.org.uk, now has a shop attached to it selling our publications. In just a couple of weeks we have received a dozen orders for DVDs and books. We're also continuing to add articles to the site.

Postcards

Thanks to the generosity of the owners, Mr and Mrs Rose, we have been given permission to scan a collection of period postcards of Ripley and district. We hope to be able to display some of the copies, possibly enlarged, at a later date. The picture on the cover, of King's Cycles in Co-op Square, is taken from one postcard.

Wilkinson Sword

Does anyone know anything about a real sword presented by Wilkinsons to the Town Council in the 50s or 60s? Get in touch if you do.

Butterley Site and BIT Update

(as at 17 / 11 / 2017)

It is now just over two years since the site was sold to London based Aquarius Estates and approximately 20 months since the formation of the Butterley Ironworks Trust (BIT). During this time BIT has become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) enabling it to more easily apply, if required, for grants etc. It has also formulated a set of ideas to develop the site as a visitor attraction, and retail and industrial park. These ideas have become known as the Tunnel Vision, (playing on the fact that the Cromford Canal's Butterley Tunnel lies beneath the Works). Whilst the owners have known about BIT's ideas, there has been very little contact between the two in spite of BIT's attempts to have meaningful discussions.

However, in the past couple of months things now seem to be moving as a local entrepreneur and property developer has been negotiating to take a long term lease on that part of the site where the listed buildings are situated. The exact area



is currently under discussion and it is not yet known if the Furnace Wall will be included but it is certain that the owners want enough area to develop as much housing on the site to maximise their initial outlay, believed to have been around £1.3 million. The developer's company has however already been involved in on-site work, having temporarily sheeted over the roof which had been stripped of its slates by thieves a few weeks ago. Work has also been carried out to make the buildings far more secure, an important move as vandalism has been rife over the last 12 months.

The developer naturally enough has his own plans for the site but he is more than happy to work with BIT. It is expected that BIT's representative will have onsite visits to acquaint the developer with some of the site's history and invisible features. The next few months should indeed be far more interesting than the past twenty four.

Note: By the time you are reading this article in the Newsletter, it is highly probable that the lease has been signed and the redevelopment work has begun.

Ripley Pubs

Public houses, Inns and Alehouses have been at the centre of the social and economic history of most towns and villages since medieval times and have provided refreshments and beds for travellers and places for friends to meet.

During 1577 a survey was conducted on all Alehouses in the British Isles with the intention of raising taxes. At this time Ripley and Pentrich together had 10 Alehouses -

**PENTRIG &
RYPLEY**

**William Sainte, Henry Kirland, Thomas
Brackshaw, William Lewcock, Jamys
Robynson, Robert Wodhous, Thomas
Wodthorpe, Vyncent Scowter, Charles
Poope, George Fox.
Alehowsis x.**

There were far fewer than today, but then, Ripley was tiny, so 10 alehouses for a population of only a few hundred was quite a lot !

We have found a total of 43 pubs and inns in Ripley and 3 in Pentrich, many of which no longer exist and have been altered or demolished.

During 1643 an excise duty was imposed on beer, initially to raise money for the Parliamentary forces during the Civil War. An Act of 1792 regulated the granting of licences which could only be obtained through the annual Brewster Sessions. Both these records help us to trace some of the pubs.

Beerhouses were premises which could only sell beer and the Beerhouse Act of 1830 allowed anyone with sufficient accommodation to apply for a licence to brew and sell beer, cider or ale. Many of these houses later became fully licensed premises like, for example, the *Albion Inn* on Butterley Hill.

In most market towns, there is a cluster of Inns around the Market Place and Ripley is no exception. There were also smaller establishments located close to the Market Place in streets such as Moseley Street and Oxford Street.

Ripley's population in 1932 was 13,000 and there were 20 public houses. Whereas now with a population in excess of 21,000 there are only 15 public houses still open.

In some cases the licences of the pubs was transferred to other members of the family upon retirement or death. For example, the *Devonshire Arms* licence was transferred to John Vallance's widow Harriett; the licence for the *George Inn* (shown here) was transferred firstly to William Hawkins's widow and then to his son. Other licence transfers occurred during the First World War when the wife of the landlord, upon conscription, was granted a temporary transfer.





Other pubs in the town have seen many licence transfers with some tenants only staying a few months whereas others stayed for much longer periods. One landlord stayed for 19 years at the *Pear Tree* !

Many landlords moved between pubs in the town and also within the surrounding area – at one time the landlord of the *Jessop Arms* transferred from a pub in Heage.

We would like to hear from anyone in the area (or outside) whose family were at some time engaged in the licensed trade in Ripley and who may have personal memories, photos or stories that have been passed from generation

to generation about their lives in the pub which they would like to share.

Contact us in the "shed" or via the website.

Unfortunately pubs are closing every day somewhere in the country and it is important to try and save those we still have:

“When you have lost your inns, drown your empty selves,
For you will have lost the last of England”

Hilaire Belloc 1870-1953

Jane Brownson

W I History Progress

Our project to digitise and republish the W.I. History of Derbyshire from 1931 is moving ahead : we are obtaining copyright permissions and have been researching in the archives. Meanwhile, anyone who knows anything about any of the five authors, do please contact us. They were : **Marion and Mabel Turner, Evelyn Jowitt and Mavis and Enid Langton**. Four of them taught in Ripley and two of them later became headteachers.

Butterley DVD

Sales of the Butterley Documentary are exceeding expectations. Not knowing what the public's response might be to our 67 minute long documentary we ordered 300 copies from our duplicating house based in Gloucester.

Amazingly, and very gratifyingly, the DVDs have sold like there is no tomorrow!

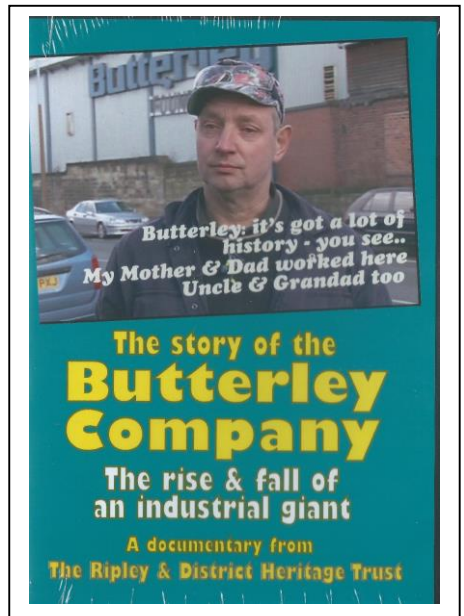
On the day I received them we sold about 50 copies and since then thanks to David Clarke of Clarkes Outfitters on Grosvenor Road and Adele at the Ripley CVS on the Market Place we have had difficulty keeping up with demand. Tim has also placed many copies with Midland Railway Centre and the Cromford Canal folks such that we have had to reorder twice and as I write we have sold or placed about 400 copies.

And that's before we have a pitch at the Ripley Coop's Community day on December the 8th when we have all day to sell copies to the Coop shoppers.

Tim and I have also been working hard on publicising the documentary by placing posters in as many local places as possible and I have managed to get two articles about the DVD in the Ripley & Heanor News plus an interview on Radio Derby. I'm also trying to get a feature on Amber Sound local radio.

The trust's website is now able to take Paypal orders and we are now starting to receive orders via the internet and with Jane, Eunice, Vera and Peter's 'order and dispatch' system in place we have posted out numerous copies to internet purchasers.

Who knows what the final sales figures will be like? Anyone taking on bets at 700 sales by this time next year?



Frank Mansey 1926-2017

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Frank Mansey, at the age of 91.

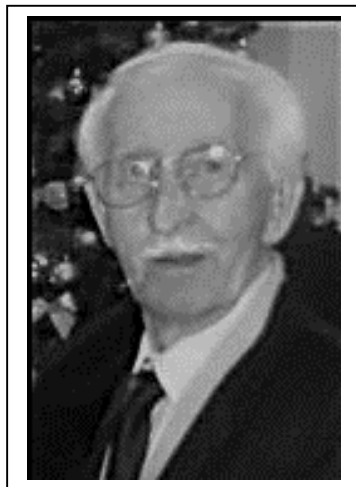
Frank, along with a small group of dedicated local historians, was responsible for the formation of RDHT in 1992. Initially the Trust met at the Red Cross Centre on Heath Road. Eventually accommodation was found at 33 Market Place and it was here that a Heritage Centre was created. There was space to display artefacts and set pieces including a replica of a pit face and a Victorian scullery.

The Centre was popular with visitors and provided an educational experience for school groups. Donations of artefacts poured in at this stage and the collection expanded. Frank was therefore devastated when he was told that the accommodation was needed for the CVS and the whole collection was unceremoniously collected and taken over to the Town Hall and thrown into one small room with a promise that it was a temporary measure only and that more accommodation would be found.

It was at this stage that an SOS was sent to the U3A Local History Group for help. This help was given and although the offer of additional accommodation has never been honoured the work of the Trust continues.

Frank was also responsible for the compilation of a number of local walking Guides (which we still sell) and for the acquisition and installation of the pit tub which stands at the corner of the market place in remembrance of our mining fraternity.

Our thoughts are with Frank's family; we hope that the work of the Trust will continue, in Frank's memory, for many years to come.

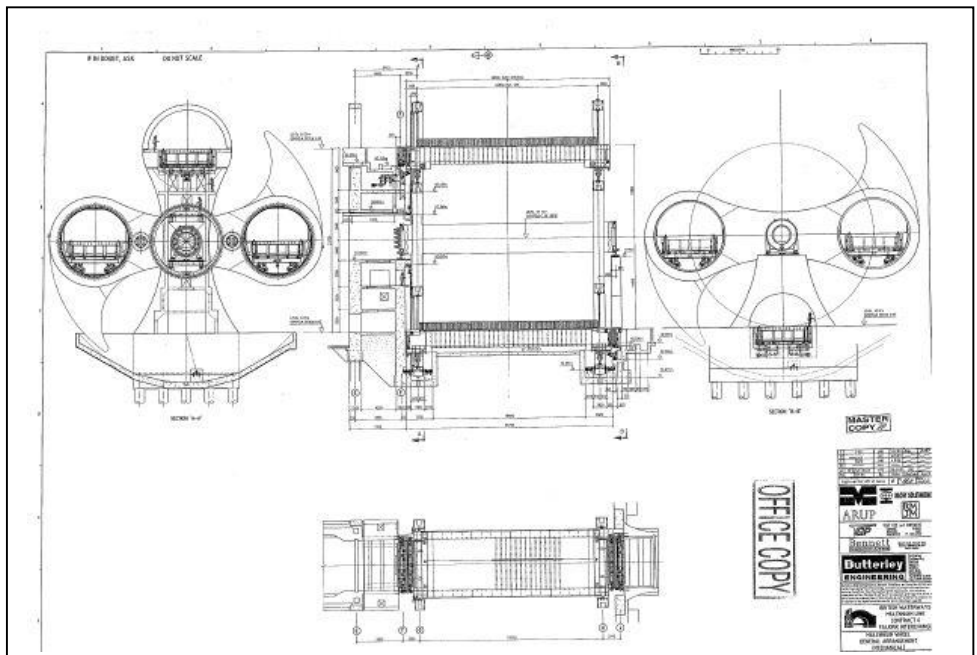


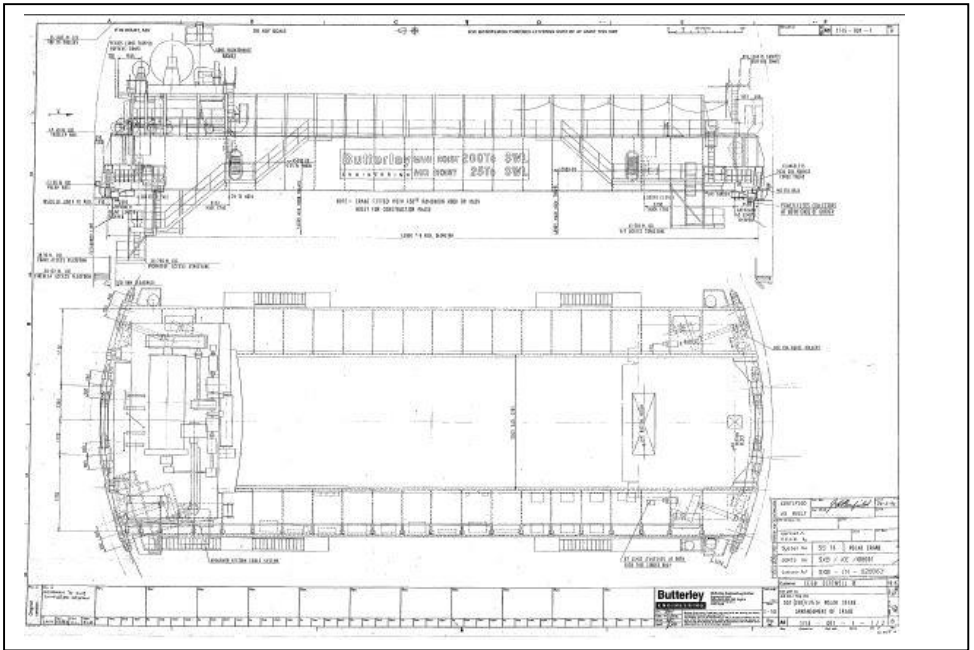
Joyce Slack. Chair.

Engineering Drawings

RHDT's 'Butterley desk' has recently received copies of engineering drawings for several of the Company's more recent well known iconic structures. Donated by Mrs Reeves of Alfreton, wife of the late Richard Reeve, a former welding inspector at Butterley, they include those for the Falkirk Wheel, Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth, the Charing Cross Bridge and the huge 'polar' crane for Sizewell B nuclear power station. The drawings will be scanned and placed on the Trust's computer although we do already have a set of pdf copies provided by Mr Reeve before his death this summer. In instances where hard copies are in duplicate, the spares will be offered to the Matlock Records Office for inclusion in the Butterley Company 'D503' file.

Whilst the drawings are unlikely to be put on display because of their size and fine engineering detail, they do add to our collection of other older Butterley drawings currently stored in the RDHT office. Two examples of general layout drawings for the Falkirk Wheel (2000) and Sizewell crane (1990) are shown below.





Membership

At our meeting on 24th November, it was decided to change the way membership of RDHT works. From January 1st 2018, membership will be **free** and open to all. If you're receiving this newsletter via email, you will continue to do so until you let us know you don't want to receive it any longer.

If you want us to send you newsletters by post, it will cost you £3 a year, payable in January (or before the next newsletter anyway). You'll get three or four newsletters per year.

We'll no longer be producing membership cards.

Facebook

We now have a Facebook page, accessible if you are signed up to the site.

Butterley Ironworks Trust Meeting

There will be a meeting to discuss the recent developments concerning the Butterley Ironworks site on 13th December at 7.30pm at Marehay Miners Welfare, Derby Road, Marehay.

This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome.

Can you help?

We have hundreds of photos that we can't identify. From time to time, we'll publish one or two in the hope that someone will be able to tell us who and when and where.

This proud chap, for example : who is he, and where is he and what sort of bike is it ?





The Market Place in the early 1900s.

In the days before motor vehicles, everyone seemed to feel they could stand around in the middle of the road! Note that there aren't that many stalls – later in the 1920s there were many more – and, just hidden by one of the stalls, but given away by the smoke from its chimney, is one of the early mobile fish and chip stalls. The shop in the background is that of Metcalf and Co.

For more information on the Market Place and other streets, go to our website on **www.rdht.org.uk**.