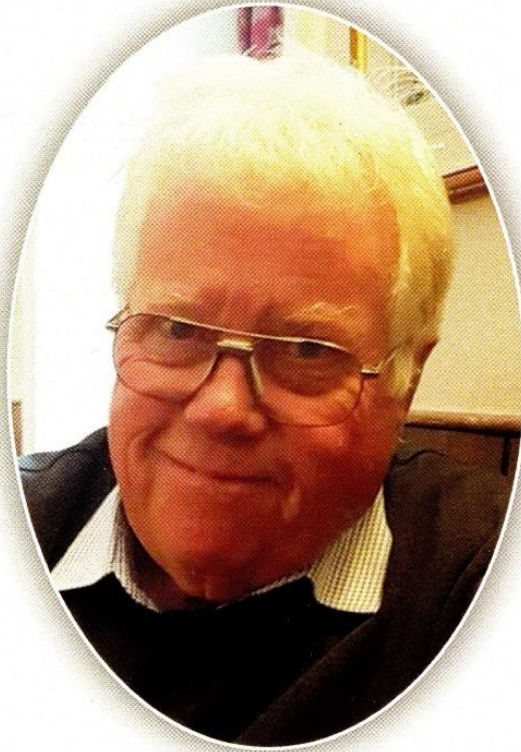




Auntie May. Ashbur Grove



Tim Castledine



It is with great sadness that I must report that Tim died on 2nd September.

After a long career in metalworking which took him all over the world, Tim had settled in retirement working with RDHT and especially Heage Windmill where he was one of the three millers.

He also wrote two books on the history of the Butterley Company, for which three generations of his family had worked.

He was a wonderful colleague: funny, generous and hard-working, with an enormous capacity for getting things done and an optimism which was infectious.

We will all miss him terribly.

Chain of Office



Gathering dust in the shed, we found a chain of office of the Chairs of Ripley Urban District Council between 1952 and 1984, when the council was subsumed into Amber Valley Borough Council.

Now, thanks to some hard work from Eunice, the badges have been polished and remounted on new tape, and we are planning to mount it in a frame, together with some details of the holders of the office.

The biographies of the holders of the office trace the development of

local politics over this period, and include the first female Chair, Elizabth Sheldon, Athur Daley who was a partner in the Pippin bus service and Bill and Mary Emmas-Williams, parents of the current leader of AVBC.

We are hoping that the chain will form the centrepiece of a display in the future.

The Mystery Photo Album

It started with an email from the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley: they had been gifted a photo album which they did not want. It was in an album containing prints from "The Garden" magazine which was published by William Robinson between 1872 and 1927 and Robinson was an inspiration for the foundation of the RHS, hence their interest. (see below).



They had contacted Derbyshire Record Office who didn't want it but had suggested us. The album has 257 photographs crammed into 35 pages but almost nothing to identify them, one of the few hand-written labels being *"the farm, Ripley, Derbyshire. Grandpa and grandma Murfin, uncle Joe and H"*.

Always up for a bit of Local History detective work, we began researching.

We are still working on it!

As far as we can tell at the moment, the album seems to have belonged to one of the children of Edwin Murfin, a grocer from Ripley who eventually had a successful business in Lincoln.

The grandpa and grandma in question seem to have been William and Mary Murfin of Sandham Farm, and "uncle Joe" was Joseph Murfin their son and Edwin's brother. This dates the album to the 1890s, though some of the later photographs in it are dated 1922.



The house shown here may well be Sandham Farm, though it is not the only house appearing in the album, so at the moment it's difficult to be sure.

Another picture in the album is easier to identify:





This is High Street, Lincoln, probably in the early 1900s. The cathedral can be seen in the background, and on the building to the right is the wording "MURFIN FAMILY GROCER".

We know from the census that Edwin and his family lived at 349 High Street in 1901 and there are many adverts like the one below in the Lincoln local newspapers – this one is from 1897.

There is more to discover, but the picture we're

getting is of a family who prospered: tracing "grandpa" Murfin back, he started as an agricultural labourer in 1851, then a miner, then a wharfinger before taking over Sandham Farm in the 1870s.

Edwin died in 1924, leaving a large house in Lincoln and a considerable sum of money to his family.

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 LINCOLN.

N.B.—CLOSE ON WEDNESDAYS AT TWO O'CLOCK.

BIT update

The Butterley Ironworks Trust are continuing to work with Amber Valley Borough Council to try to move on the planning permission for the Butterley site, though progress is slow. They are also in contact with Heritage England concerning the blast furnace wall.

Hippodrome Pictures

It seems like every time we plan to paint the wood behind the pictures on the Hippodrome, the weather turns wet! However, we're hoping that it will be done soon, and not only tidy up the frontage but make the photographs stand out better.

Marehay Talk

As you will see from the following page, BIT and RDHT are presenting a talk by Charles Wright about some of his ancestors.

He has chosen to talk about "Spotty Unicorns" (a reference to the Butterley unicorn logo); that is, the more eccentric and sometimes naughty characters in the Wright family.

The talk will take place at the usual venue, Marehay Miners Welfare, on October 23rd at 7.00pm. Admission is free but donations to BIT are welcome, and there will be the traditional raffle.

In addition to Mr Wright's talk, if there is time, we may get the chance to introduce other Butterley characters, like the man on the right here.



Butterley Ironworks Trust and Ripley and District Heritage Trust

present



Spotty Unicorns

**tales of some unusual, eccentric
and naughty members of the
Wright family**

A Talk by Charles Wright.

Wednesday October 23rd at 7.00pm in Marehay Welfare

Derby Road, Ripley DE5 8JN

Admission free but donations welcome.

Bar and refreshments available.