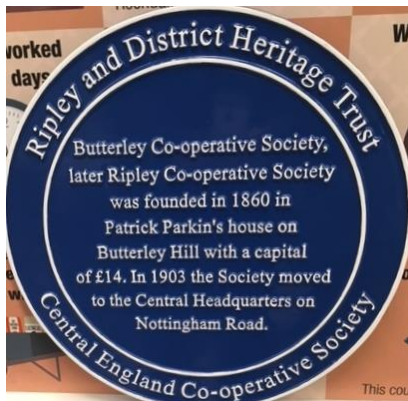




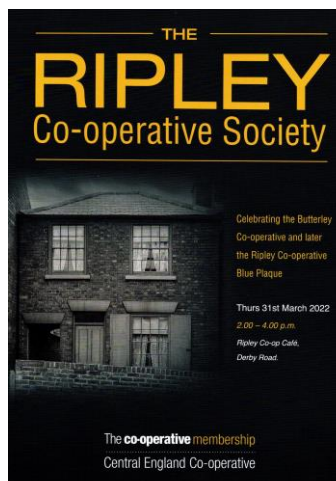
Co-op Plaque Unveiled



Some time ago, the Central England Co-op decided that they wanted to commemorate the establishment of the Butterley (later Ripley) Co-op in 1860.

It has taken a while to put together, but on 31st March, the plaque was unveiled in a ceremony in the current store.

Roland Emmas-Williams, Mayor of Ripley Town Council, and Elaine Dean, Vice-President of the Central England Co-operative introduced the plaque, and Tanya Noon, member and Community Relations Officer of the Central England Co-op produced a display of items of memorabilia from the local Co-op group. RDHT contributed four display boards which will now be added to our collection.



The cover picture and this one show the display.

There was also an information leaflet, shown here, giving a brief history of the Ripley Co-op. The plaque will be mounted on the outside of the store.



Jubilee As It Used To Be

The celebrations in July may be the only occasion we have marked 70 years of a monarch's reign, but they won't be the first for a Jubilee.

On Tuesday 22nd June 1897, 125 years ago, the people of Ripley, along with the rest of the country, shut up shop and prepared for a holiday to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, 60 years after she came to the throne.



On the Sunday, the actual anniversary, there were special church services and a United Sunday Schools demonstration in the Market Place, with banners and the Ripley Silver band playing. The vicar, W.E. Bradstock, reflected on the changes in the area since Victoria came to the throne in 1837. He would have had plenty to comment on!



A souvenir mug from Bourne's

The holiday, though, was on the Tuesday. The streets were covered in bunting and shops competed for the most patriotic window display. At 3pm, the Butterley detachment of the Sherwood Foresters marched from their headquarters to the Market Place, headed by the Volunteer Band. Each man received a shilling in the Queen's honour, and they provided a marching and drill demonstration.

At 4pm a free tea was provided for all the town's children in their respective schools, and each child received a mug, made by Bournes of Denby Pottery, (see above) and a medal made by Rylands of Birmingham. After the tea there were games on the Derby Road and Butterley Hall fields, and nuts, oranges and sweets were distributed.

The Volunteer band played in the Market Place all afternoon, and the Crossley family provided a "meat tea" for 150 old people in the Public Hall.

At 10pm rockets were set off and a bonfire was lit in the fields off Heage Road: the Butterley Company provided 1500 (yes, 1500) railway sleepers to build it, and it could be seen for miles around.

To round off the day, then as now, there were celebrations in the traditional manner: the pubs stayed open till midnight!



A similar bonfire : this one was in Belper

PoW Memories (Part 1)

With two Prisoner of War camps close to Ripley, the Italians at Heage Firs and the Germans at Swanwick Hayes, it was inevitable that they would often be seen around the area. A lot of the Italians worked at the Flax Factory on Heage Road, whilst many of the local farms used both nationalities as labourers.

During 1944 the Americans were responsible for guarding Swanwick Hayes and their Military Police were a common sight in Ripley in their white helmets, belts and spats and armed with a hefty "nightstick". "Got any gum chum" became a regular request by kids when they spotted soldiers in the street. Another ploy to get gum was to go down to the outer camp gates. These were situated on the A61 between Hickton Road and the entrance to Butterley Grange. The barbed wire came down almost to the road but the actual prisoner compound was out of sight over the top of the field. When the working parties returned the guards would open the outer gate to allow the lorries in, then closing the gate, before guards on the vehicles handed over their firearms. The vehicles would then carry on up the compound into the main camp.

During the second week in June 1944 I was to witness, close hand, one the most amazing scenes ever enacted at Butterley Station. I was late leaving school



Butterley Station

(Swanwick Hall) and so caught a bus home much later than usual. As we approached the lane down to the station a policemen directed the bus into the car park near to the main entrance to Butterley Ironworks. The police had closed the road at the bottom of Swanwick Hill and at the bottom of Butterley Hill and, for

some reason any traffic within the closures had to remain. The bus driver asked the police what the problem was and was told a trainload of German POW's was due to arrive. Everyone got off the bus and went as near to the station entrance

as the soldiers would allow. The train arrived and soon the guards were forming up, maybe two to three hundred prisoners, into columns of three. This was a week or so after D Day and so they must have been straight from Normandy. All together a sorry looking sight, odd ones with wounds bandaged, many covered in mud and all looking very dejected. Once lined up they marched up to the camp in the middle of the A61 with plenty of armed guards on either side.

A few years after the war I was to learn the procedure for closing the road. The Police Sergeant in Ripley in 1944 was Sgt Birch and he explained it to me after he retired. Only the Civilian Police could close the road so the Americans had to request their presence when this was necessary. A jeep would collect two officers from the lock up in Moseley Street and take them down to the two closure points. The first time the request came Sgt Birch went himself together with another constable. Having completed the transfer of the prisoners a soldier came, as Sgt Birch expected, to take them back into Ripley. But he came with a much better offer, an invitation from the Camp Commandant to go up to the camp for lunch. Now remember Britain had been under draconian food rationing since early 1940 and it appeared the Americans were under no such restraint. Sgt Birch and his constable enjoyed chicken and ice cream and food the average Brit hadn't seen for years. After that every time the request came Sgt Birch made sure he attended and the message to Mrs Birch was "I shan't be in for lunch"

In addition to The One That Got Away (albeit not completely from Swanwick) there were other escapes from time to time. We were always aware of this at school when the guards would come into the school grounds to search the air raid shelters which were situated between the main drive and the Headmaster's House. Their search also involved prodding with their bayonets between the rows of cabbages and brussel sprouts which the school gardener (Mr Sam) was growing on both sides of the main drive for school dinners...Digging for Victory of course!!

There was always an eager queue of pupils for the bus home to Ripley. In those days the bus stop was situated in front of the church. The pavement was rather narrow and the wall surrounding the church yard was still standing. Imagine our surprise one day when a group of high ranking German officers, escorted by a British Army officer and a sergeant, rounded the corner and started to walk towards the bus queue. The officer had a revolver and the sergeant a bayonet.

This strange procession then had to make its way between the children and the church wall. There was total silence as the upper echelon of the Wehrmacht, in their immaculate uniforms continued their afternoon stroll round Swanwick. They were, I believe, Generals etc who had been captured in the Western Desert campaign.

In later years I have often contrasted the events of that day with the infamous picture, published after the war, of Himmler and his henchmen inspecting a concentration camp and the look on the faces of those children. Yes we were indeed lucky kids.

Eric Brown

BIT Update

A Heritage Lottery Grant of £10,000 has recently been awarded to BIT, boosting the fund required to undertake a feasibility study and the development of a business plan for a proposed Heritage Centre, hopefully to be situated in the oldest part of the Machine Shop. In earlier times this was known as the 'Engine Manufactory'.

Ripley Town Council have also generously agreed to match the grant and this, along with our Crowdfunding Appeal, makes the Trust's funds to be in excess of £30,000, thereby allowing BIT to move on to the next stage as outlined above.

Recently, (March 22nd), the Mayor of Ripley, Councillor Roland Emmas-Williams, held a Charity Event and Charity Raffle at Greenwich with the proceeds (which raised over £1,000) going to his two chosen charities, the Butterley Ironworks Trust and the Midland Railway Trust, thereby swelling BIT's coffers by a further £500.

Mr. Chris Weightman donated approximately sixty fish and chip suppers from 'Ripleys' and the very generous businesses of Ripley also donated many gifts for the Raffle.

Many thanks especially to the Mayor and to everyone else who contributed towards making this an extremely successful evening.

Godkin Holdings have done a magnificent job of clearing undergrowth and bushes from the front of the blast furnace wall and removing the large shrubs and trees growing out of the vertical faces of it which have resulted in severe cracking of the stone blockwork in some critical areas.



This work has been followed up by 3D scanning of the structure as part of the work to establish **a)** its true condition and **b)** to help estimate the cost of repairing / stabilising the wall and to determine possible future maintenance costs. This will significantly help satisfying the planning application's S106 requirement.

Godkin Holdings are however very keen to get the old Pattern Shop and adjacent building into commercial use as soon as possible to begin to generate income initially to cover costs generated to date. A separate planning application has been submitted to AVBC to open up these two buildings before the S106 requirement is satisfied. At the time of writing, the verdict on this application is due in the very near future.

The accompanying photos show the newly cleared furnace wall and RDHT members including Charles FM Wright, a direct descendant of John Wright, one of Outram & Co's founders and Julie Webster, who does a great job looking after BIT's Facebook page.



Overall, it can be concluded that whilst progress is agonisingly slow (as realistically expected) the whole project is gradually creeping forward.

Tim Castledine

Marehay Hall

We have recently had an enquiry about Marehay Hall. Not the current building, but the one that preceeded it, which seems to have dated from the late eighteenth century.

It appears in a debtors' notice in the Derby Mercury of 1814, when it was owned by Robert Whysall. When he died in 1865 the building may have been let, but by 1891 it seems to be in the ownership or tenancy of William Crooks, and it stayed with that family until at least the 1950s. It's tricky to research because it is known by different names : Marehay Hall, Marehay Farm, possibly also Marehay Old Farm and Street Lane Farm: it's actually some way from Marehay, accessed off Street Lane.

If anyone knows anything more about it, especially about the more recent history, please do get in touch.



Marehay Hall in 1898. The figures are William Crooks and his wife.

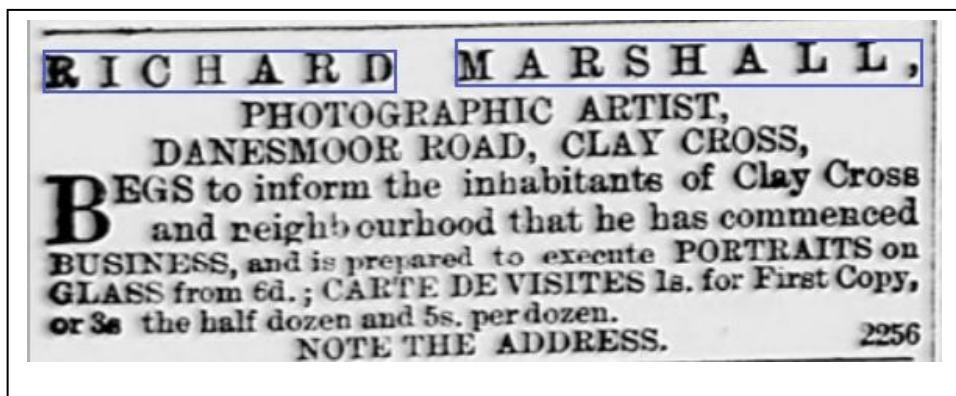
The Marshall Project

Now that we can move around a bit more freely, Mike and I have begun to resurrect our project on the history of the Marshall family of Ripley. The end result will, we hope, be a video which can be put on Youtube and accessed via the website, though a few DVD copies should be available.

The first stage will be to gather more footage, including some of the Marshall shops in Oxford Street and some background on the family's migration from Heage to Clay Cross and thence to Ripley.

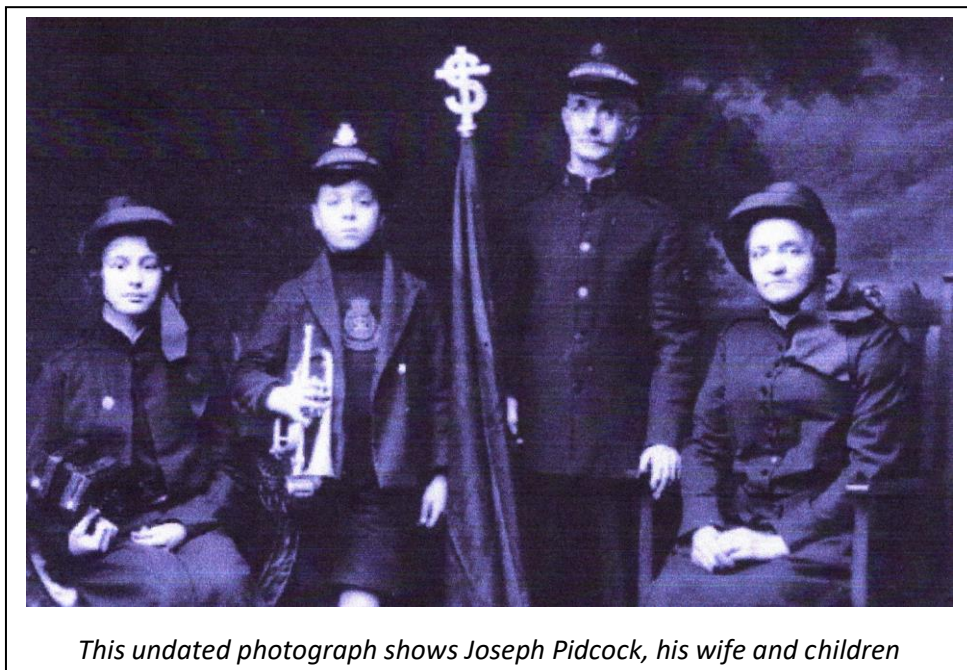
It is well known that John Marshall was interested in photography: we have his photographs taken from the roof of the Oxford Street premises, as well as his movie films taken to be shown at the Hippodrome, but it may not be so well

known that his father, Richard Marshall, as one of his businesses in Clay Cross, was also a photographer, as seen here:



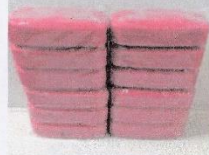
This dates from 1872. John Marshall was 3 years old. Somewhere, someone has probably got an old photograph of a long-forgotten ancestor with the name Richard Marshall on it. If that someone happens to be you, please let us have a copy!

From the Salvation Army archive



This undated photograph shows Joseph Pidcock, his wife and children

Ripley and District Heritage Trust Butterley Ironworks Trust



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'MY MUM HAD ONE OF THOSE'

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