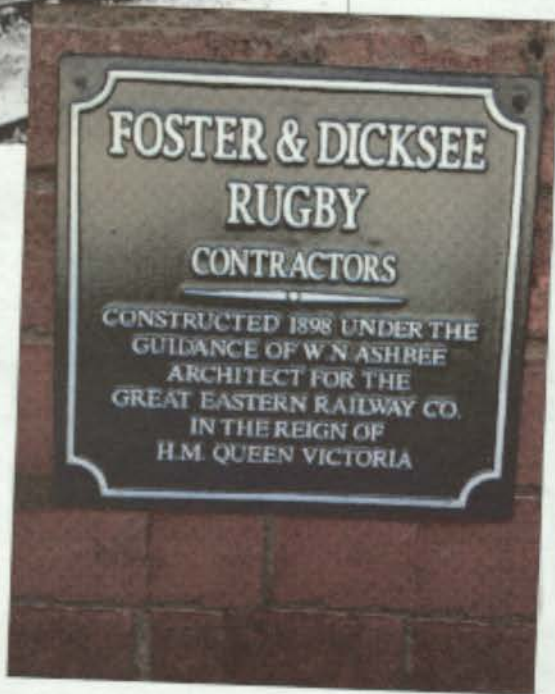




LEFT This picture shows workers from Rugby building firm Foster and Dicksee after building the railway station in Wolferton, on the royal estate in Sandringham. (s)

BELOW A plaque commemorating the building of the station by Foster and Dicksee in 1898. (s)



Tracking down the railway workers

THIS Victorian-era photograph shows workers from Rugby building firm Foster and Dicksee soon after building the royal Wolferton railway station in Norfolk.

Situated on the Queen's estate at Sandringham, the famous station served the royal family's trains from King's Lynn to Hunstanton for over 100 years until 1966 when the last one ran.

Owner Richard Brown is now keen to release the photograph in a bid to try and find out more about the people and company which built the station in 1898.

History

He said: "It's a very distinctive company name, and there's such a gang of men in the photo you'd expect they'd have descendants in Rugby."

"It would be great if somebody could come forward and shed some more light on the company and the people who built the station. I'm fascinated by the history of it."

In 1982, roofers working on the sta-

tion uncovered a hidden message in a bottle in the retiring rooms there.

Placed inside a Victorian lemonade bottle, it is thought to have been written by two of the men who built the station for Rugby building firm Foster and Dicksee 104-years-ago.

The cryptic message, written on tattered and torn paper, but still legible, is thought to read: "If who should find this perhaps will wonder how it came here." It is signed by B.A. Chapman and Charley Brown, and dated 1898.

Foster and Dicksee presented the key used to open Rugby's war memorial gates at the entrance to Whitehall recreation ground on Hillmorton Road at their unveiling in 1922.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Richard Brown at The Royal Station, Wolferton, by emailing richard@wolfertonroyalstation.co.uk or calling 01977 642212.