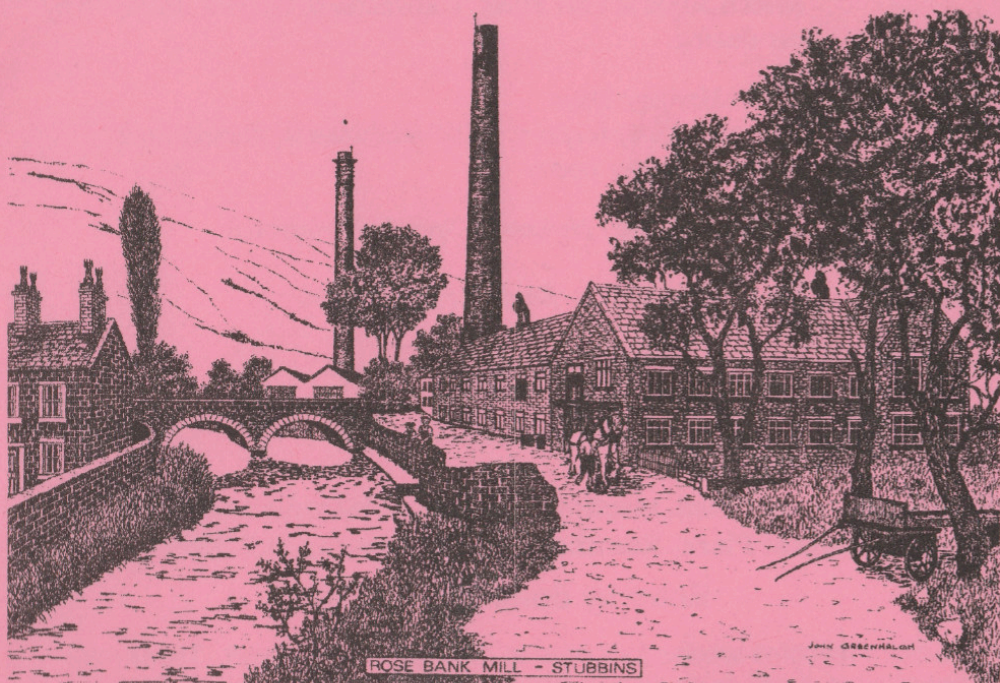


## NEWS MAGAZINE

No 42 Spring 2012

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ROSE BANK MILL - STUBBINS



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The objects of the society shall be:-

- a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).
  - b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.
  - c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom
- 

**PROGRAMME 2012:**

- June 20            Ms Veronica Walker – *Dickens and his Fallen Women*
- July 18            Mr Denis Collins – A walk round the Whitworth Doctor's Trail.  
Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by  
car sharing.
- August 15        Mrs Kathy Fishwick – A walk round Rawtenstall Heritage Trail.  
Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by  
car sharing.
- September 7, 8 and 9 - Heritage Days  
*Shops and Shopkeepers*: NEW exhibition in Ramsbottom  
Heritage Gallery opens
- September 21    Mr John Ireland - *Holcombe Sporting Traditions*
- October 17        Mr Alan Seymour – *English Folk Customs*
- November 21     Mrs Jean Seymour – *The Larks of Dean*
- December 12     **Social Evening** – Christmas Festivities

**Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at Ramsbottom Civic Hall,  
Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30pm.**

**Entry by donation, please.**

The Editors welcome articles for inclusion in the News Magazine. These may be handwritten, typed or on disc (in "Word") and sent to the Heritage Society. Please include your full address and a contact telephone number.

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	Norman Kay
	Geoffrey Asten

*Front cover - Turnbull & Stockdale's Croft End works, Bolton Road North, Stubbins by John Greenhalgh,*

Until mid-August 2012, striking and beautiful examples of the Company's printed fabrics are featured in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery's exhibition *Ramsbottom's Hidden History: Textile Printing*.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - LET'S CELEBRATE 25 YEARS!**

We are now well into our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. It is a time for remembering and a time for looking forward, both at our membership and at our achievements.

In the last six months our loss of Dorothy Moss, Geoff Asten, Jenny Beech, Peter Bowker and Norman Kay, mentioned elsewhere in the magazine, has been a cause of great sadness. However I'm sure they would have wanted us to look forward and I am glad to report new members and an increase in activity, as so many of you are volunteering to help. We now have four teams who open the Heritage Gallery every Farmers' Market Day and forty-two of us are involved with the Anniversary Extravaganza on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Our activities are something to remember with pride and look forward to with expectation. What a lot the Society has achieved over this quarter of a century! Ramsbottom Heritage Society started in 1987 with our collection of documents, artefacts, recorded memories, historical photographs and the photographic competition. The Heritage Centre opened in 1990, when the first news magazine was also published, and charitable status was gained in 1994.

Publishing has been a feature of our achievements, which have included *Around Ramsbottom* (1995) and *Nineteenth Century Ramsbottom* (2001).

*Nuttall Park and the Porritt Legacy to Ramsbottom* was published in 2008 to accompany the interpretation board and large commemorative stone and plaque, which were erected there by the Friends of Nuttall Park, with our assistance. The Crow Lane Project took place in 2002, the DVD *Ramsbottom 's Heritage* was released the next year. The 2009 show, *Singing for Ramsbottom*, was produced on CD.

In the last six years we have gained grants for blue plaques commemorating Peter McDouall (2006) and William and Grace Grant (2007) and also for the archaeological dig at Kibboth Crew (2007). A grant of £47,900 was awarded for the joint venture with ourselves, Bury Museum and Archives Service, and Ramsbottom Library. This funded the Heritage Gallery, which opened in the library in 2010 with its display cabinets and storyboards, the employment of a professional archivist and an outreach worker, training for the RHS Archive team and the provision of equipment and materials. The archiving work, which ensued, has proved to be a monumental and continuing task. 2003 was important as our Conservation Group started its work of preserving the historic buildings and local environment of Ramsbottom.

What of the future? Our many activities still continue and are as relevant as ever. The Gallery 's exhibition, of local fabric printing, will be replaced by *Shops in Ramsbottom* for the national Heritage Weekend in September and a further grant of around £15,000 is currently being sought, to erect street signs with historical names of areas, roads and paths in Ramsbottom. The well- earned party we have promised ourselves, will take place at Christmas.

With your help the next 25 years will be as fruitful and exciting as the last.

Kate Slingsby (Chair)

## **LOCAL GARDENING NEWS 2010 - 2012**

### **Open Gardens In Stubbins And Edenfield**

My first experience of the open gardens scheme was a few years ago when I went on an open garden trail in Helmshore and was quite enchanted by the whole business. It was a joy to see such a variety of gardens ranging from small patches outside council flats to rambling manor house gardens to gnome-bedecked bungalow gardens. They were all so different but the common thread was that they were loved and cared for by their owners. Gardeners relate well to other gardeners and so it was a very sociable event. While following the trail you met up with other visitors and found yourself comparing notes about what you had seen.

In 2010 I was invited to join the local scheme run by Edenfield Horticultural Society and I opened my own garden for a day. I was a bit nervous about it as my garden is not top of my priority' list of things to do, though I love it dearly. I am a fair weather gardener and am not to be found weeding and pruning on wet and windy days. My garden has to take its place amongst my many other interests. It is not a manicured haven but it is full of plants and it is a surprising garden because it is low down at the end of the terrace where I live, set between the houses and the River Irwell.

When I first came to live in the house, the 'garden' -was just a piece of wasteland with a derelict wooden garage on it and chest high weeds, including Himalayan Balsam, which I believe was brought in by Victorian plant hunters as a pretty addition to gardens. What a mistake that was! As I was battling with the weeds and the litter that passers-by so obligingly toss over the wall, neighbours used to walk through the garden to throw rubbish over the wall into the river. (For some people rivers are an extension of the council refuse system so much more handy than, the wheelie bins. Needless to say I remonstrated with the litter louts and eventually it stopped.)

Over the years with help and advice from a friend who is a very keen and knowledgeable gardener. I have gradually cleared away many of the weeds and acquired a good selection of perennials, not to mention a vigorous ivy which has to be severely cut back every year but which provides a home for several birds and lots of insects. People who are keen on wildlife always exhort gardeners not to be too tidy, well there is no danger of that in my garden. There is a tiny pond which has disproportionately large plants in it but it hosts a community of newts. I can't get frogs to take up residence though and I don't know why. The garden has stone walls around it so it is a paradise for slugs and snails. If they had some commercial value and I could harvest them, I would be a wealthy woman!

The garden is low down and not obvious to people walking by so it was called *Patricia's Secret Garden* for the purposes of the trail. When I told two dear friends who live in North Yorkshire that I was opening my garden to the public, they insisted on coming to stay and were the best possible help. While I was swanning around the garden talking plants with enthusiastic gardeners, Maureen and Charles were acting as my butler and housekeeper supplying visitors with plenty of tea and cakes which we had baked beforehand. I had also stitched bookmarks which were on sale and with donations for the refreshments we raised £117 for the Alzheimers Society, a cause dear to my heart. The first visitor was on the doorstep at 10am and the last didn't leave

until long after closing time, It was lovely to spend time with people who enjoy gardens and the variety of gardens locally is amazing. Up the hill from me in Stubbins are gardens which open as part of the prestigious National Gardens Scheme, way out of my league, and another garden in the village boasts a healthy banana palm and other tropical features. From the tiniest backyard to the grandest garden complete with waterfalls like mini Niagaras, mature trees and parkland, there is so much to enjoy on an open garden trail. Edenfield Horticultural Society organises a garden trail every two years and the next one is on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012, so this is your chance to come and see some very charming and interesting gardens where you can chat with other enthusiasts and enjoy homemade cake. I can promise you a most enjoyable day and some real surprises in the gardens you will visit.

Patricia Barrett - January 2012

### **Treasured Gardens in Bury: Ramsbottom Civic Hall**

The weekend after John and Gill WILD's opening to the public of the garden at Kibboth Crew, Ramsbottom, (reported in RHS Newsletter number 41, Autumn 2011) there was a unique garden visit opportunity at a *Treasured Gardens in Bury* charity event. On Saturday and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011 several superb gardens were on view including the new garden outside Ramsbottom Civic Hall. This specimen alpine garden was built for the enjoyment of the local community by the Alpine Garden Society working with Bury Council. The Society, which had been approached by the *Friends of Rams bottom Civic Hall* has held its monthly meetings at the Hall for twenty five years.

The project at Ramsbottom Civic Hall (on the raised bed running alongside the back of the building) was recognised at the Alpine Garden Society as a Society project under the leadership of John DOWER, Chair of the East Lancashire Alpine Garden Society. John DOWER and Eddie JONES were responsible for the briefing and supervision of the team of Alpine Garden Society members helping at the garden. The designation of the garden as an AGS project will support members in helping on future occasions.

The group visited Marshalls quarry where samples of local stone were made available. The company then supplied thirty to forty' pieces of stone to an agreed specification. Bury Council transported the stone to the site, repaired the hard landscaping and prepared the garden beds.

Bury Council gardener Terry TREEN and John DOWER took responsibility for the final selection and ordering of the plants while! the railings and commemorative gate for the short flight of steps, matching the ironwork of the



main gates were provided by John DOWER and the Alpine Garden Society. Final planting placements and construction of the garden took place on two AGS members' days (4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010) when members brought the plants that they were donating to be placed as directed. Following more hard work tidying and cleaning, the project was complete.

The planting of a backdrop (of foliage plants and bulbs) in another bed behind the Civic Hall was also done in Autumn 2010 by the Hawkshaw Flower Club. Thanks to this screening the garden/patio area will become an attractive area and be seen as an important facility for when special events such as weddings take place at the Hall. The plants will also in due course be a useful resource for demonstrations at the Hawkshaw Flower Club's monthly meetings. They are one of the longest term users of Ramsbottom Civic Hall. Their members' creative talent is much valued and is regularly demonstrated in floral displays within the Hall.

### **The Frank Woods Cup**

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011, the Edenfield and District Horticultural Society Show was well-attended and held as usual at St Philip's Hall, Chatterton. The event featured for the first time the presentation by Councillor Darryl SMITH of the Frank WOODS Cup. Frank, who had been a committee member for many years had sadly passed away. (He was also a long-standing and much valued RHS member - obituary RHS Newsletter number 41, Autumn 2011.) As a lasting legacy to him his family had kindly provided the cup which was won by fellow committee member Maureen HODKINSON.

### **Glimpses into local gardening History**

The following extracts are from *A History of Edenfield and District* by John Simpson 2003

*"In August 1882 Turn village hosted a celery show. Competitors paid an entrance fee of 2s 6d to exhibit their heads of celery for the chance of winning a first prize of £1, second 2s 6d and third a copper kettle. By this date full- scale flower and vegetable shows were held once or twice a year in neighbouring towns., although some of them were confined to the well-to-do who could afford staff to look after their gardens. Entrants at the Ramsbottom Floral and Horticultural Society's 4<sup>th</sup> annual chrysanthemum exhibition in 1887, for instance, included Mrs RUMNEY (widow of Stubbins Printworks owner), Thomas G STARK, one of the partners at Rosebank, and James PORRITT of Stubbing Vale Mill"*

*“At the Edenfield Horticultural Society’s inaugural show in August 19J4, there were over 380 entries including a marrow weighing 25 1/4 lbs grown by Edwin WAKELIN of Stubbins*

## **SHOW DATES 2012**

**Ramsbottom Horticultural Society:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Ramsbottom Cricket Club

**Edenfield and District Horticultural Society:** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at St Philip’s Hall, Chatterton

**Plant sale:** 12<sup>th</sup> May at Edenfield Community Centre (The Edenfield Society hosted Gardeners’ Question Time in March 20 W. On a previous visit by the programme in 1952 listeners were told, “Gardening here is no easy task as so many of the gardens are situated on the windy rainswept hills. Editor)

## **BILLS AND RECEIPTS OF JOHN WOOD (ENGINEERS) RAMSBOTTOM (Part 2)**

*The transactions of John WOOD Engineers, Garden Street, Ramsbottom with 25 other Ramsbottom businesses were the subjects of an article in RHS News Magazine No 38 (Spring 2010). The account was based on the donation to the Ramsbottom Heritage Society of a collection of receipts dating from the period June to December 1927. The piece was very well received so we now publish Part 2, based on more of the collection. Also, most of the John WOOD’S suppliers not mentioned in the two articles are listed on pages 10 and 11 (For the column headed ‘Total paid out’ balances from the number of invoices shown were added together and the results given to the nearest pound.) Finally, we have reproduced part of a document with John WOOD ’s own billhead which was shown to RHS members at a talk by Mr Mike TOWN END of Burnley Museum Service.*

Receipts, which had all belonged to WOODs, show that during six months in 1927 the company bought in goods and services from nearly 150 other businesses. Carriage was often by LM&S Railway to Ramsbottom Station or by ‘lorry’ or ‘motor’. Most of WOOD’S suppliers were situated outside the Ramsbottom area, so details on their invoices provide a glimpse, not only of John WOOD’S business in 1927, but also of the UK engineering industry over a wide area at that time. Advertising on the billheads includes information about many of the companies being contractors to the Admiralty, War Office,



India Office, Crown Agents of the colonies or on their lists. Information on various websites suggests that some of WOOD'S suppliers are still in business and obviously there may be others. Costs shown on the invoices may be compared to the price of Mr John WOOD'S petrol: Is 2'Ad per gallon. (On 1<sup>st</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> September 1927 his car had to be towed into a garage where a new batter)' and a set of terminals were filled - total cost £8 7s 6d.)

The names of international businesses surviving from 1927 feature in the collection. It is likely that the **Carborundum Co Ltd**, Trafford Park (in 1927 making abrasive and refractory materials and supplying Woods with 18s 6d worth of goods) was a founder company of the present Carborundum GB Ltd with its headquarters in Manchester. **Chas Macintosh & Co Ltd**, Cambridge Street, Manchester now seem to be owned by Dunlop. (Macintosh are advertising their new designer clothing which has recently featured on the catwalks.) In 1927 WOODs obtained four rubber-covered rollers from Chas Macintosh at £4 10s each. Two invoices to WOODs from **Hans Renold Ltd**, Burnage Works, Didsbury. Manchester are for a total of 29 feet of chain. Founded in 1879, Renolds developed and manufactured chain in different designs and materials and also up to an enormous size. Listed on their website now are Renold Chain, Bredbury and Renold Gears, Rochdale but the site of the extensive Burnage Works has been redeveloped. Renold is now a global company but the head office is still in Manchester. (Hans Renold's son and the Chairman of Renold Pic. Sir Charles Garonne Renold laid the foundation stone of The University of Manchester's Renold Building) Another 1927 WOODs supplier, **Brampton Bros Ltd** of Oliver Street Works, Birmingham eventually became part of Renolds in a merger. SKF, now another global company registered in Sweden, was already well established on four continents by 1927 when WOODs obtained bearings to the value of just 17s 4d from their **Skefko Ball Bearing Company**. Manufacturers of petroleum products. **Alexander Duckham & Co Ltd** advertised on their billhead that they were the selling organisation of the Trinidad Central Oilfields Ltd. In 1970 they became part of the BP group. Companies which we believe are still trading from their 1927 sites include felt and anti-corrosive paint manufacturers **D Anderson & Son Ltd** of Park Road Works, Stretford. They supplied WOODs with three one-hundredweight drums of paint at 67s each in 1927. The firm seem to be trading still as Anderson Waterproofing Limited. The similarly named W R Anderton & Co. Railway Iron Works. Manchester Road, Castleton who were engineers and millwrights in 1927 (with a Woods order costing £20). is now part of a

group of businesses. Nowadays the advertising for their work at Castleton mentions engineering and laser cutting machinery. Engineers' merchants **F R Smith & Co**, Daisy Bank Mill, Newton Heath, Manchester who supplied WOODs with a single order for two hundredweights of cleaning paste also seems to be still trading from their 1927 address. **William Pinder & Sons**, was listed at 7, Fenwick Street, Hulme, Manchester at the time when they supplied Woods with "scotch sandstones" and 'blue stones' to the value of £4 11s 4d. This address may have been the Manchester office of a firm of exactly the same name and line of business existing in Sheffield. William Pinder & Sons on the Sharston Industrial Estate, Manchester still supply doctor blades, files and engravers' accessories. A 'Lancaster Steam Trap' (150lbs superheated), ordered by Woods and costing £8 11s 6d, was supplied direct to F W Grafton & Co Ltd, Broad Oak Print Works, Accrington by Pendleton company **Lancaster & Tonge Ltd**. They were engineers, iron and brass founders. The company name is still in use by an Oldham business but websites give no details of present activities.

John WOOD'S overheads included the costs of visits to trade fairs and advertising. A second instalment of £24 was paid to the **Standard Catalogue Co Ltd**, London for advertising in the *Textile Machinists' Standard Catalogue* and the annual subscription to the *Manchester Guardian Commercial* was 18s, paid in advance. **Tillotsons (Bolton) Ltd** 'attended the works taking three negatives (one by flashlight)' supplying three 10" by 8" prints from each. At the end of each month a statement was sent from **The Lancashire Electric Power Company**, Royal London Buildings, 196, Deansgate, Manchester. It showed the separate readings for power and light and the highest total payment (for November 1927) was just under £39. WOOD'S coal contractor was **John Heaton** (coalyard on Stubbins Lane) who submitted six invoices totalling £88 over the June to December period. Office sundries included a set of pneumatic speed keys bought from a London firm for an Empire Typewriter.

Many WOODs suppliers from the engineering industry have also since been involved in acquisitions, mergers and closures. **Hoffman Manufacturing Co Ltd** of Chelmsford (steel balls, ball bearings, roller bearings), who in 1927 received five orders totalling £12 10s 6d from Woods, eventually became part of Ransome, Hoffman and Pollard. RHP was acquired by the Japanese company Nippon Seiko (NSK) in 2008. **Stewarts and Lloyds Ltd** manufacturers of tubes and fittings, established in 1861 and based in Birmingham were important suppliers with twelve WOODs invoices for a

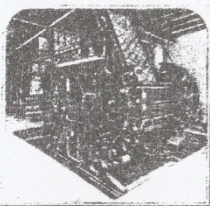
Bills & Receipts - John Wood (Engineers) 9

PRINTERS RAMSBOTTOM  
ABINGDON AND BLENDERS WORKS  
TELEPHONE NO. 10



GARDEN ENGINEERING WORKS

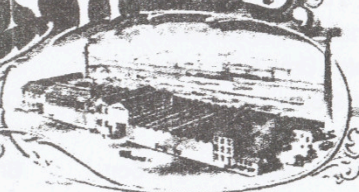
RAMSBOTTOM,



NEW LIGHT LAMP WORKING MACHINE.

MEMO: FROM  
**John Wood,**

ENGINEER TO W.A./J.S.  
Bleachers, Dyers & Calico Printers.



9th. October, 1930.

J. W. Drew, Esq.,  
Eversley,  
Milnthorpe,  
Westmorland.

Dear Mr. Jack,

Please accept thanks for your letter, from which I am pleased to know that the tracing and print suited you.

I set off to visit you at Lowerhouse today, but was stopped on the way and was unable to complete the journey. I was bringing along with me confirmation of the order. Probably Mr. Morton will have told you we have been discussing the terms of your written order of the 2nd. inst.

However, I enclose copy of my confirmation of order, which I am taking to your works to-morrow, and I trust this will be agreeable to you. I may say I am well on with the job.

Hoping to see you before long.

Yours faithfully,

*John Wood*

Burnley Archives



Company Name	Address	Type of work carried out by company	No of invoices	Total paid out
Barlow and Chidlaw Ltd	Pendleton Gear Works, Manchester	engineers - machine cut gearing specialists estab 1846	29	£150
Wm Oxley & Co Ltd	Park Gate Steel Works, Rotherham	manufacturers of steel files and rasps, steel hammers etc	8	£12
Samuel Robinson	St George's Chambers, 2 Rook St, M/cr	general factor - tools, bolts, engineers' stores	7	£4
Joseph Webb & Sons Ltd	Irwell Forge and Rolling Mills, Bury	iron & steel manufacturers and merchants estab 1846	7	£40
F Ford-Smith Ltd	Ordsall Hall Iron Works, Salford	estab 1872	6	£60
John Heaton	54, Corporation Street, Manchester	coal contractor	5	£97
Armstrong Stevens & Son	Whittall Street, Birmingham	founded 1835	4	£4
R & J Dick Ltd	77, Bridge Street, Deansgate, M/cr	makers of driving belts	4	£5
Muntz's Metal Company Ltd	Selly Oak Works, Birmingham	manufacturers of brass + copper tubes, yellow metal etc	4	£64
Fenton Bros & Tarpey	Market Street, Bury + Croston Works	drysalts, manufacturers paint, oils, varnishes, grease	4	£20
Holt & Bury Ltd	Ormerod Street, Rawtenstall	printers, account book makers, stationers	3	£4
William Pinder	7, Fenwick Street, Hulme, M/cr	file makers, engravers, accessories, steel merchants	3	£5
Thomas Goldsworthy & Son	Britannia Emery Mills, Hulme, M/cr	manufacturers of emery & glass cloths, agents for glues	3	£5
Jackson Bros	Technical Works, Armley, Leeds	mathematical instruments, drawing office requisites	3	£10
J Casartelli & Sons Ltd	18, Brown Street, Market Street, M/cr	opticians and scientific instrument makers estab 1790	3	£14
S S Stott & Co	Laneside Foundry, Haslingden	engineers, makers of stationary engines	3	£15
R M Walker	16, Palmes Street, Moss Side, M/cr	engineers' tools	3	£16
Schofields Foundry Company	Littleborough	makers of cast iron and malleable iron castings	3	£21
C C Dunkerley & Co Ltd	Store Street Warehouses, M/cr	iron and steel stockholders	3	£24
Thomas Oldham	Wellington Boiler Works, Stockport	boiler and gasometer maker	2	£111
John Bibby, Sons & Co Garston Lt	Garston Copper Works, Garston, Liverpool	manufacturers of copper, yellow metal, naval brass	2	£126
James Hargreaves	Pippin Bank Mill, Bacup	cotton waste, rags, engine cleaning waste estab c1820	2	£7
W H Bailey & Co Ltd	Albion Works, Oldfield Road, Salford	pumps, compressors, valves, testers, recorders, gauges	2	£7
William Allen (Manchester) Ltd	Union Brass & Iron Works, Gt Ancoats St	engineers, brass and iron founders	2	£8
William Park & Co	Wigan	iron and steel merchants, forgemasters, spades, shovels	2	£8
Hardman & Co Ltd	The Baum, Yorkshire Street, Rochdale	wholesale electrical factors	2	£9
Walter Phillips	Eureka Brush Works, Accrington	wholesale brush manufacturers estab 1863	2	£24
David Moseley & Sons Ltd	Chapel Field Works, Ardwick, M/cr	india rubber manufacturers	1	£2
Whittaker Hall & Co Ltd	Black Lane Engineering Works, Radcliffe	engineers	1	£7
Sanderson Bros & Newbould, Ltd	Attercliffe Steelworks, Sheffield	crucible cast steel, files estab 1776	1	£5
John Wolstenholme & Son Ltd	Albert Iron & Brass Works, Radcliffe	hydraulic, mechanical and electrical engineers	1	£83
John Tinline Ltd	Heywood Street & Parker Street, Bury	stone sawing, moulding mills, timber yards, saw mills	1	£8
T M Birkett & Sons Ltd	Hanley, Staffordshire	steam and water fittings, boiler mountings estab 1882	1	£8
James Robertshaw & Sons Ltd	Climax Works, Church St, Rochdale Rd	cases, crates, bundles, parcels, packages	1	£11
J Eric Fearnley & Co	Dorset Street, Bolton	machinery and metal merchant	1	£26



total of £107. Stewarts & Lloyds moved to Corby, Northamptonshire in 1932. F it\* company's end came with the second steel industry<sup>7</sup> nationalisation in 1967 and they were then part of British Steel. The Corby site closed in 1980. The **Broughton Copper Co Ltd**, Broughton Copper Works, Manchester were copper smelters and manufacturers from whom WOODs bought nearly £M>0 worth of goods in 1927. In 1934 the works went to ICI Metals but were closed in 1954/5 after ICI chose Kirby, Liverpool as their new copper tube plant. There is an invoice (with no company address) for 12s 6d to WOODs from **Metrovick Supplies Ltd**.

As well as telephone numbers, many of the billheads give telegraphic addresses. An iron and steel merchants' telegraphic address was 'Hematite, Manchester'<sup>1</sup> (John Kidd & Sons Ltd) and other Manchester telegraphic addresses include names such as 'Bolts' (Samuel Marsden & Sons Ltd), 'Nuts' (Blakemore & Co Ltd, Atherton), 'Nickel' (Sykes & Harrison), 'Brushes\*' (Kra Brushes Ltd, Oldham) and 'Driving' (Renold). There was even 'Tornado, Leeds' (Whitley Partners Ltd).

***Ramsbottom War News***  
*Life in Ramsbottom during WW2*

ISSUE 3 1941: THE REALITIES OF WAR HIT HOME

TWENTY A4 PAGES ~ STILL ONLY £1

**On sale ~ May '12<sup>th</sup> at our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event,  
and during the 2012 ELR War Weekend**

Published by the Society using information from editions of *The Ramsbottom Observer* and our archives.

**War News issues 1 and 2, published in 2010 and 2011, have been our  
most popular publications ever.**

**DON'T MISS YOUR COPY OF THE LATEST ISSUE.**

## STUBBINS PRINTWORKS/ STUBBINS PAPER MILL

Early in 2011 the Heritage Society was contacted by a member of staff from the Georgia Pacific Corporation at Stubbins. They were celebrating a centenary of papermaking at the mill and requested help from the Society regarding its history. This article is based on the research I carried out in the summer of 2011.

The present mill stands on the old Stubbing Estate. After the Norman Conquest the land became part of the Honor of Clitheroe, which was a big feudal estate belonging to the de LACY family, Earls of Lincoln. The name of Stubbins originates from the old English word meaning 'land covered in tree stumps'.

In 1540 the sixteen acre estate was bought by Thomas WARBURTON from Richard RAMSBOTTOM and it contained several farms. Most farmers of that period supplemented their income by textile manufacture. They would spin and weave the wool in the farmhouse and sell the finished cloth. During the eighteenth century many of the farmers abandoned the land and relied solely on textile making for their livelihood.

The estate changed hands a few times until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century when, in about 1781, it was purchased by the Reverend DEAN and enlarged to 28 acres. In 1785 Charles LEIGH leased part of the Stubbins estate and built a calico print works on the site. He used water from the stream, which ran down from the hills above, for the printing process. Unfortunately he became bankrupt after three years and the works was empty until 1795 when Samuel MILNER from Manchester and Thomas SANDIFORD from Blackburn, also calico printers, rented the site. They were responsible for constructing the weir across the stream at Buckden Clough and the lodges and reservoirs behind the printworks. The SANDIFORD family ran the printworks until the 1840s. In 1851 another calico printer, David GREENHALGH, who had previously lived and worked in Barcelona, took over the printworks and together with his partner, Thomas KENYON, employed about forty people. Later, when KENYON left, GREENHALGH was joined in a partnership by William RUMNEY and by 1861 the workforce had grown to almost 275 people. This partnership was dissolved during the 1860s and William RUMNEY acquired the business and estate. Like GREEN HALGH, RUMNEY and his family lived at Stubbins House. David GREENHALGH died in 1871. Under RUMNEY the business expanded rapidly and he also operated at mills in Shuttleworth, Ramsbottom and Bury. RUMNEY built houses for his workers in Stubbins Street and Stubbins Fold. RUMNEY died in 1882 but the company remained in business. In 1899 they joined the Calico Printers Association but shortly afterwards the works was closed for 're-modelling'. Unfortunately it never re-opened. About three hundred people lost their jobs and were forced to move from the area to find work elsewhere. The works remained empty for a number of years and many of the buildings were demolished. In 1906 Richard and Austin PORRITT bought the remaining

buildings to use as offices. The PORRITT family had bought another part of the Stubbins estate in 1850 and built nearby Stubbins Vale Mill Towards the end of 1911 the printworks and adjoining land were bought by the firm of J.R, CROMPTON & Brothers who had established their papermaking business at Elton Paper Mills, Bury in 1856. The business was run by three brothers James Richardson CROMPTON, Ralph CROMPTON and Percy R. CROMPTON. They were sons of James Roger CROMPTON (1822-1874) and Elizabeth FARRINGTON-RICHARDSON and descendants of the CROMPTONs of Ringley Hall, a local paper making dynasty. Mr J.T. ENTWISTLE was sent from Elton Paper Mills, where he had started his working life in 1881, to be Manager-in-charge and on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1911 at about 9.30am the first sheet of paper was produced at Stubbins Paper Mill. At that time, there was only one papermaking machine in the works. The mill quickly became known as 'Crompton's Paper Mill'.

In 1917, a separate company was formed - Crompton's (Stubbins) Limited. During the First World War they began to produce cigarette paper and by 1922 they had three machines working night and day. In 1940 British American Tobacco gained an interest and eventually took over the business, putting control of the works into the holding company of Wiggins Teape Ltd. The business continued to expand and after the Second World War many alterations were made to plant and buildings, with the installation of a large modern paper machine, which greatly increased output at the mill. Production at the mill was brought to a standstill In November 1962 when the roof of raw material storage warehouse at the back of the works, collapsed in flames. Firemen from Accrington, Ramsbottom, Bury, Bolton and Rawtenstall rushed to the scene in time to prevent the flames spreading from the warehouse to the main works. The bales were burning fiercely and fumes billowed out of the building across the valley.

In April 1967 it was announced to the 236 strong workforce, at a special meeting, that Stubbing Paper Mill was to close later that year. The firm's largest papermaking machine, purchased in 1949 at a cost of £120,000 was dismantled and sent to India and the other two were broken up for scrap. The reason for the closure was said to be the high cost of transportation of the raw materials, which all had to be imported. During this era many of the textile mills in nearby Ramsbottom closed and were eventually demolished and this could so easily have been the fate of Stubbing Paper Mill. However, in 1969 an entrepreneur called Peter NEWTON acquired the site; he had many small international businesses and operated under the name 'Sterling'<sup>5</sup>. The *Bury*

*Times of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1969 reported that papermaking was to re-start at Stubbins. It went on to say 'during the past 12 months part of the mill interior has been almost completely rebuilt to house new machinery which will produce facial and toilet tissues and towelling. Filters and engineers from Walmsleys (Bury) Ltd are busy installing a Walmsley tissue machine which they have supplied and which is fitted with a huge 'Yankee' drying cylinder weighing 75 tons which took one hour to transport by road from Bury to Stubbins recently disrupting traffic as it made its snail-like progress to the mill.' The site became known as 'Sterling Stubbins'.*

The company continued to expand and in 1971 they bought the converting operation of Mansell Hunt & Catty at Horwich and became known as Sterling Mansell. A twin wire tissue machine was added in 1976 when the mills output was around 35,000 tonnes. In the early 1980s, the paper mill, in an effort to reduce costs, experimented with recycling waste paper and developed a de-inking plant and pulp processing plant, to enable it to produce tissue products from waste paper by using recycling technology. At this time the Fort Howard Corporation, a large American based recycled tissue operation, expressed an interest in Sterling Stubbins and Sterling Mansell and bought a share of the business in 1982, acquiring total ownership in 1984. The two companies then became known as Fort Sterling Limited. After more investment and upgrades to the machinery' output was increased to in excess of 50,000 tonnes. In 1993 Fort Sterling's £70 million two-year expansion programme at Stubbins Paper Mill was successfully completed on schedule and there was an official opening of the new plant during the summer of that year. In 1997 Fort Howard merged with James River, an American company and created 'Fort James'. Three paper making machines were operational, producing 100,000 tonnes of tissue per annum.

In the year 2000 the Georgia Pacific Corporation acquired Fort James and they still manufacture tissue paper at Stubbins Paper Mill today.

Kath Haddock

Sources:

RHS Collection held at Bury Archives.

John SIMPSON, *A History of Edenfield and District* (Edenfield Local History Society 2003)

*Bury Times*, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1962, 15<sup>th</sup> April 1967, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1969 and 19<sup>th</sup> February 1993

*Rams bottom Observer* 17<sup>th</sup> March 1911 and 30<sup>th</sup> December 1932



## OBITUARIES

### DOROTHY MOSS

It was no surprise to learn on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November that Dorothy had died that morning: she had been struggling bravely with cancer for some time. But what a shock to contemplate our heritage society without Dorothy's quiet presence. Those members who recall our early meetings which Dorothy instigated and catalysed must agree with Tony MURPHY's assessment of her 'inspiration, enthusiasm, and ability to inspire others'.

Born in Camberwell in 1929, and later working in London for British Overseas Airways Corporation, Dorothy came to Greenmount in 1966 as husband David joined Tetrosyl Ltd at Walmersley. Within three years of living so close to Ramsbottom, they had moved here. I think they spotted that here was a town with a sense of community more readily found in nostalgic TV depictions of the past than in modern depersonalised, anomic, consumerist Britain.

Dorothy savoured this communality first hand in the many activities in which she immersed herself. The *Society Sketch* in News Magazine no 26 (Spring/Summer 2004) listed her involvement in jazz appreciation, the town twinning movement, the WI, St Paul's Ladies Group, the Recorded Music Society and the original Ramsbottom Local History Society.

1987 was a year of contrasts: we all looked forward incredulously to the arrival of tourists on steam trains, yet at the same time began to look backwards at the historical ambience that would attract them. Dorothy caught the spirit of the time by writing a letter to the *Bury Times* suggesting a revived but more populist history society. A bubbling public meeting in the now defunct St Paul's school hall created a steering group. At its first meeting in March 1987, Morris dancer Dave COOK described how a recent rushbearing revival after 60 years had brought old people out onto the streets of Whitworth to reminisce about events of the early 1900s. And this, I think, was Dorothy's vision - bringing people together through the medium of a shared cherishing of common heritage.

As a beginner-chairman of our new' society, I had a lot to learn. Dorothy would ease me in the right direction at committee meetings with a discreet 'Mr Chairman, I wonder whether '... She was a stickler for due protocol, quickly offering the vote of thanks that I omitted when the Rev RR CARMYLLIE, at Dorothy's invitation, addressed our first public meeting! And when I wrote to the *Bury Times* as chairman castigating Thwaites

Brewery for ripping out the town's last Victorian bar room at the *Clarence Hotel*, she gently explained in committee how I had to speak for the Society, not for Andrew TODD! Perhaps we represented different strands of the heritage movement: I saw that tourism would bring increased property values and therefore pressure to 'develop' the town, whereas Dorothy foresaw the potential divisiveness of conservation, pitting those who owned from those who wanted to preserve.

In later years. I have shared Dorothy's appreciation that heritage is as much about the intangibles of personal relationships as about stone and mortar. She was caring and deeply sympathetic when things went wrong, and very' human: she always asked about my children, having seen them growing up in the shop as she came in for her regular Society photocopying! Always supportive, but from the sidelines, never to the forefront.

I watched the Armistice celebration at 11 am in the Memorial Gardens that Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011; then an hour later, those black horses and that traditional glass-sided hearse. Suddenly it struck me things had fallen just right - she was centre stage for once! Well done, Dorothy, Ramsbottom's funeral of the century so far, and on a once-in-100-year day - 11<sup>th</sup> day, 11<sup>th</sup> month, 11<sup>th</sup> year! An hour later, Dorothy was buried at the town's cemetery. This is a magical place, a different type of community'. Here, the living often chat casually across the grave plots they are visiting, brought together by their connections with community that went before. And I was delighted to see Dorothy's grave just a few steps from my mother's. So, I can have the odd word with her too. on my visits.

Dorothy is survived by David, and her sister Iris and nieces, and will be greatly missed by everyone of us all. Thanks to Iris and to Tony MURPHY for their help with this farewell to a very special woman.

Andrew Todd

## **JENNIFER MARY BEECH 1948 -201**

**2**

Jennifer Mary BEECH was born in Shuttleworth. She later moved to Bury with her parents. Many years later she was to return to the area to live in Ramsbottom. This came about as a result of one of her many passions - football! She was an avid supporter of Bury F C — and later Liverpool — and became friends with another avid Bury' supporter who lived in Ramsbottom. When she heard he was moving house she jumped at the chance to buy it.

I first met Jenny when we were both working for Bury Social Services. Her main area of work as a social work assistant was visiting the elderly. This

obviously laid the foundations for her later activities. She had a caravan and would organise car boot sales selling refreshments from the van - one in the grounds of Killelea House - with the proceeds going to the home's Amenity Fund. Jenny was never still.

She later took up work as a driver for a local company on the school runs in her famous orange and cream bus. She loved the children most of whom were handicapped. I lost count of the places she took people, especially residents in local care homes: *Last of the Summer Wine* country, *Emmerdale*, Blackpool Illuminations, Fleetwood Freeport and countless shows in Manchester and Blackpool - nearly always accompanied by the obligatory flasks of tea and refreshments - and fish and chips in Blackpool! She always had a laugh and a joke. One notable occasion was a trip to a craft fair in Harrogate in November. It snowed and snowed and snowed! We also had a flat battery! Jenny stood up and said we would all have to get out and push. Soon she had managed to sweet talk four young men who were behind us in a Land Rover to give us a tow. Six hours it took to get home with no lights and many a laugh on the way. It could only happen to Jenny!

I hope I'm right in saying that her photography was one of the great joys of her life. She loved Ramsbottom and the surrounding areas, and this shines out from the photographs she took of the area. She walked miles searching out hidden beauty spots to such stunning effect. She was never happier than tramping the countryside with her camera. Jenny received many awards from the Ramsbottom Heritage Society for her photographs and also spent many hours making cards from the images which she sold to raise money for charities. An article by Jenny appeared, in *Lancashire Magazine* along with marvellous photographs covering the funeral in Bolton of Fred DIBNAH, There is so much more - all the small things she did. but which meant such a lot to so many individuals. She gave of herself and it was recognised and she was rewarded: a certificate from the Bury Council for Voluntary Service 1988/9 - Special Recognition for Voluntary Work and a nomination in 2003 for Lancashire Woman of the Year. When she received a Community and Voluntary Service Award for work within the community from Ramsbottom Rotary Club she was also presented with a certificate and a carriage clock. Again from Ramsbottom Rotary Club she was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship - a very prestigious award - and rarely given.

She will be missed.

Jean Spencer, friend and neighbour

## PETER BOWKER

In November we learned of the death of Peter BOWKER, then living in Bamford, who had been a member for a number of years, with an interest particularly in family history. We are indebted to Peter's widow June for details of his life. Peter was born in Heywood on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1937, was schooled at Bullough Moor School, and Heywood Grammar, where he became head boy, taking a keen interest in sports and theatricals, joining the Scouts, gaining his Queen's Scout Badge, rising to become Senior Scout Leader, and earning a Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Medallion in the swimming pool. Peter's National Service was spent in the Military Police Force, largely in Gibraltar, where he played water polo for the army, and also had his meticulously polished boots inadvertently stepped upon by the Duke of Edinburgh as Peter held open a car door for him. He was later to meet Princess Alexandra, on presentation of his MA in Systems Management, and Princess Anne, at Marlborough House, where she hosted a BESO Garden Party. In his 20's he joined Round Table, serving for a period as Chairman. His later working life, 35 years, was spent with ICI, at Blackley where he rose to be Head of Work Study Department, later moving to Management Services Department at the Hexagon House Headquarters. During his life Peter ensured his children led as active a life as possible, taking part in sporting activities, and he also found time to engage in family history<sup>7</sup> research, with ancestry locally in Ramsbottom, Holcombe Brook, Hawkshaw and Tottington.

Tony Murphy

## NORMAN KAY

In October 2011 we learned of the death of Norman KAY, then living in Sheffield, a member of the Society from its earliest days. He may not now have been known personally by many local people but he would have been familiar to all by name from contributions to Society publications including his introduction to the world of work (*Ramsbottom Reminiscences* vol 1 1992,). RHS news magazines have also featured articles by Norman: early 1930's achievements of the football team of St Joseph's School, Ramsbottom (Summer 1993), parish activities at St: Joseph's between the wars (Spring/Summer 2004) and a moving piece about the impact on the Kenyon Street area and the Kay family, of the River Irwell flood of 1936 (Spring 2008).



We are indebted to Norman's daughter Cathie PARKIN for details of his life. Norman was born in Ramsbottom on 13th July 1923, having eventually a brother and four sisters. Schooled at St Joseph's, and worshipping at St Joseph's Church, Norman began his working life with Ramsbottom UDC Transport Department, married wife Eileen in 1947, and, continuing a lifelong career in municipal transport undertakings, moved respectively to Birkenhead, West Bromwich, where a son and daughter were born, to Bury as Transport Manager, upon deregulation in 1969 to SELNEC, the amalgam of local operations, and finally in the 1970's to Sheffield, initially as Director of Operations and Planning, subsequently as Director General, until retirement in 1984. Norman's wife pre-deceased him, and toward the end of his own life, illness necessitated his residing in a nursing home. His funeral service was held at St Joseph's Church, Ramsbottom, on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Tony Murphy

### **GEOFFREY ASTEN (31<sup>st</sup> March 1939 - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011)**

Geoff ASTEN was very active member of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society for many years, eventually joining both the committee and the audio-taping team. He was always willing to volunteer and was meticulous in presenting his well-planned ideas to the committee. He also made a very notable contribution to the current exhibition in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery, with his specialist knowledge of dyes for printing fabric. Geoff, and son Kevin, also took part in the archaeological dig at Kibboth Crew.

Born in Rochdale, he was the elder of twin brothers and from being a boy he sang in the choir in Rochdale Parish Church. Having gained a degree in chemistry at Manchester University he worked in the laboratories of firms in Rochdale, Widnes and Bury, until after redundancy at the age of forty five, Geoff trained to be a teacher. Geoff loved family life and was a keen walker. He married Pat in 1966 and they had three children Yvonne, Kevin and the youngest Paul who now lives in Australia. Geoff was also very close to Hannah, his granddaughter. It was when he was visiting Paul that Geoff had his first heart attack in 2009, but after heart surgery he was fit and regularly did his exercises with Middleton Heartline. It was therefore a great shock when Geoff sadly collapsed and died.

We will miss his friendship and his contribution to many activities in the RHS very greatly indeed.

## LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society has no staff, and cannot offer a research or query service.  
The following institutions could be approached:

**Bury Museum and Archive, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG tel: 0161 253 6782**

**Email: [archives@bury.gov.uk](mailto:archives@bury.gov.uk) Website: [www.bury.gov.uk/archives](http://www.bury.gov.uk/archives)**

**Opening Hours:**

Tuesday	1pm - 4pm	2nd Saturday of the month 10am - 4pm
Wednesday	1pm - 4pm	
Thursday	10am - 4pm	
Friday	10am - 4pm	

We ask that people get in touch to make an appointment in advance of any visit to the archives as these opening hours could be restricted at short notice due to staffing levels.

Our new searchroom features large reading tables, computer and internet access, microfiche readers and access to Picture Memories. Paper catalogues are available in the searchroom and in Reference and Information Services, Bury Library. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time, and we hold details of researchers in the area who offer fee based services. The building has lift and ramp access, lockers and public toilets. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan.

**Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services), Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 0DG – tel 0161 253 5871** has publications on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older OS maps for the whole of Bury MBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

**Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary David Burgess, 10, St Andrew's Drive, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7TR – Tel 01132695512, email: [membership@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@lfhhs.org.uk).** Ordinary membership is £12 per year (concessions £9.50) and this entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. More information is available on [www.lfhhs.org.uk](http://www.lfhhs.org.uk).

**Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE  
tel 0161 253 5352 (IT -tel 0161 253 5354) email: [Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk](mailto:Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk)**

The library boasts a state-of-the-art IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the last Thursday of every month (except December) from 3pm to 7pm.



## SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2012

### Guided circular walks

Led by volunteers with a particular interest in and knowledge of Ramsbottom and district.

2 – 3 hours in duration over distances between 3 to 5 miles; taken at a leisurely pace, the walks are suitable for reasonably fit adults and children. Dogs on a lead are welcome.

We hope everyone will enjoy an afternoon out and benefit from the exercise and friendly company. Stout footwear and waterproof clothing is recommended. Please note that paths may be uneven.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May**     *The Industry of the Kirklees Valley*  
4 to 5 mile circular walk. Mostly level with some uneven pathways. Meet at Greenmount Old School at 2pm.  
Leader – Marjorie Knight

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**     *To Burrs and Back*  
4 mile circular walk. Meet at the rear of Summerseat School & Church at 2pm.  
Leader – Linda de Ruijter

**July**                      **No walk**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug**     *Some Pubs & Clubs of Ramsbottom*  
Learn about the changing face of the drinking scene. Meet at 2pm at the *Grant Arms*, Ramsbottom. Leader – Andrew Todd

**Sunday 23rd Sept**     *Upper Redisher Wood: Was this the Original Holcombe?*  
2 to 3 mile circular walk. Partly gradual hilly climb. Meet at 2pm at the *Shoulder of Mutton* car park.  
Leader – John Ireland

**For more details contact Linda 01706 827602**