



NEWS MAGAZINE

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Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 62

Spring/Summer 2022

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Front Cover

Draba Street taken by John Leyland - See Lost Street Names Project for further details

Back Cover

A selection of photographs from the Heritage Photo Day 25th February 2022

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We returned to meetings in December with the delayed Annual General Meeting and Christmas meal, which was attended by 30 members. We will hold another short AGM on May 12th to bring the date back into line. We have also held 3 meetings with speakers, including Mark Fletcher on the History of Burrs Country Park, and Mark has a book available, the details are on page 20.

Keith Burroughs organised a Photo Day on the 25th February to capture a day in Ramsbottom, and to celebrate 35 years of the Heritage Society. There were over 100 photos submitted, a selection are on the back cover, and all are available on the photographic database on the website, alongside the 5,000 photos taken since 1987 as part of the Annual Photographic Competition. The committee have decided not to hold the competition again, but will accept any photos taken in the year. Keith has also organised a You Tube channel and has created 25 videos of buildings and events of local interest. The eventual aim is to produce a QR code near the building, to link to the video. You can find the videos by searching for Ramsbottom Heritage Society in YouTube.

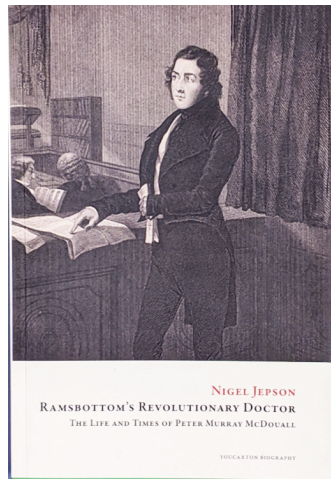
We are looking for members to help with the next exhibition in the Heritage Gallery in 2023. If you are interested, please contact me.

John Leyland

SOCIETY NEWS

Nigel Jepson, a local historian and member of the Heritage Society, has written a book about Peter Murray McDouall, inspired by the blue plaque at 18 Bolton Street, which the Heritage Society installed.

The book is available for £10.99 from Hearts for Homes on Bridge Street, the Heritage website, or Amazon. A full description of the book is also on the website



Nuttall Park Bandstand – fantastic news

After holding fundraising events, receiving lots of donations from local groups and individuals and obtaining a large grant from Bury Council, the Friends of Nuttall Park have been able to engage an architect and engineers to carry out the task of constructing the bandstand's steelwork structure.

Work to reinstall the bandstand started four years ago and by 2019 a Bury Council grant, as well as a financial contribution from our Society, enabled us to have its stone plinth renovated and additional hard standing put in front of it. The Friends of Nuttall Park then began the really hard work to raise the money for the bandstand itself.

It is very pleasing that so many people have come together, helping to make sure this exciting project is completed. Following the installation of roof panels and the completion of ornamental ironwork on the bandstand, the Friends group plan to carry on holding events with items on the bandstand.



Installation day 14th February 2022 - Photo by John Leyland



Photo taken by Keith Burroughs as part of the Photo Day project.



**FRIDAY 3RD JUNE
11 a.m to 4 p.m.
JUBILEE FUN DAY AT
NUTTALL PARK**

Everyone is invited to join the Friends of Nuttall Park and Ramsbottom Rotary to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
AND the bandstand's unveiling
with a Brass band, a ukulele band and local singers.

Various food stalls, a bar, children's games, Lancashire Hawks and Owls, stalls for other community groups and more

If you are able to help at a Heritage Society stall at this event, please contact John via the contact details on the inside front cover.



GEORGE THE THIRD, AGED 71.
In the Fiftyth year of his reign.

THE JUBILEE OF GEORGE THE THIRD

"THE FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE."

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE CELEBRATIONS OF
THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES
THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM
ON THE FORTY NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF
HIS REIGN, 25TH OCTOBER 1809**

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES

We have recently been asked by Russ Pashayev about an article in the above book published by John Bumpus, 350 Oxford Street, London in 1887, which mentions an event outside Grant Lodge to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of George The Third in 1809, as he entered his 50th year of his reign.

RAMSBOTTOM.—At the printing works of Messrs. W. Grant and Brothers, all the men, women and children, partook of plenty, whether belonging to the works or not.—At half-past two they assembled at the front of Grant Lodge, where were placed two covered tables, the one with beef, and the other with bread and cheese, and two barrals of strong beer at each end, the whole arranged in the form of a crescent—the people were placed in ranks, and partook of the abundance of provisions, spirits, ale, &c., provided.—Appropriate songs selected for the occasion were then sung, and afterwards the rustic sports of leaping, wrestling, &c., commenced.—At eight in the evening, the band of music played several patriotic airs; dancing then commenced, and continued until twelve at night, amidst the loud acclamations of gratitude and applause.

Russ now lives in the USA, but has an interest in South Lancs folk sports, and is interested in any leaflets or posters of the event. There is a small reference to this event in the Manchester Mercury from the 32st October 1809, but we cannot locate the source of the article. Please contact the Society if you have any information. George III died in 1820 but had mental health problems from about 1811 onwards and his son, who later became George IV, then acted as Regent for him.

The Ramsbottom War Memorial Project is now nearing completion with just some more planting of new trees and shrubs remaining. The cenotaph has been professionally cleaned and the lettering and sword re-painted. The new stone plinths are in position around the cenotaph and the names of those who fell in conflict during WW1 and WW2 from Ramsbottom and surrounding villages have been engraved on them.



REPRINT NOW IN STOCK

Meticulously researched, this book brings to life the history of a once-vibrant industrial village, now hidden beneath undergrowth. Essentially, it is a story about people, with emphasis on the living memories of some of the last villagers to live in Nuttall.

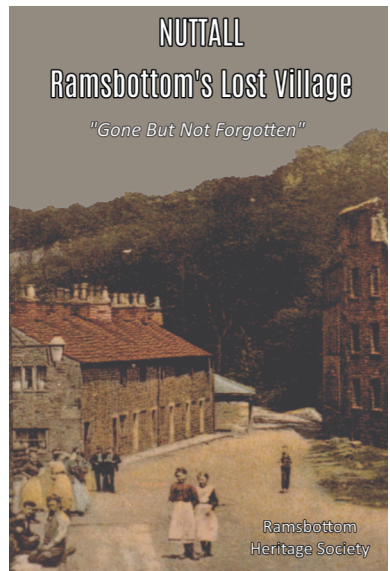
150 pages with over 100 illustrations £9.99

available at

Hearts for Homes, Bridge Street

Also from the website

www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

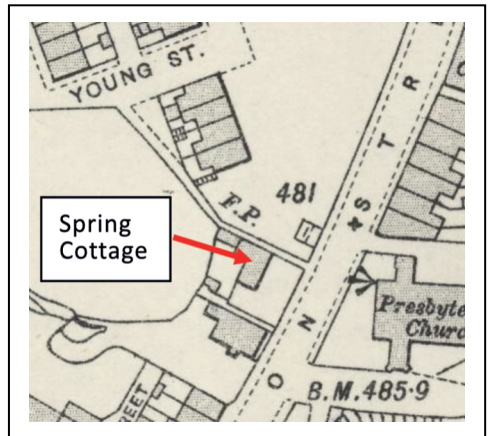


Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Lost Street Names Project

We are slowly spending more of the monies raised from the sale of Nuttall: Ramsbottom's Lost Village on a project of resurrecting long-forgotten street, track and path names by erecting Heritage Society signs. Phase One has focused on four locations - Grant's Entry, Chapel Gate, Gutter Lane, and Draba Street ('Draba Brow').

1 GRANT'S ENTRY

The 25 inch OS map of 1908 shows this ginnell (marked F.P.) besides Spring Cottage, 132, Bolton Street, opposite the summit of Kay Brow. It runs up to 'Tory Town' i.e. Victoria and Albert Streets. Historically, the path continued directly NW across what is now the Earl Road and Heapworth Avenue estate, a direct route to Tanners. It provided



a footpath from Carr, Tanners and Holcombe, a shortcut for workers at Square

Mill and other factories in the town centre.

We believe it was named not after William & Bros, but Major John Sueton William Grant, their estate steward. He lived at Spring Cottage from the 1860s until 1893, when he retired to Scotland.

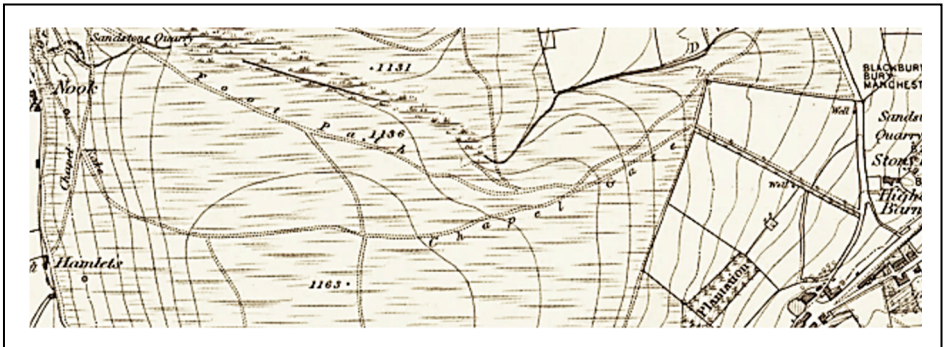
Grant was closely associated with the Ramsbottom Volunteers - part of the Rifle Volunteer Corps, established nationally in 1859 in response to a threat

of invasion by Napoleon III of France. The *Major* hotel, 100 yards up the road, is also named after him.



2 CHAPEL GATE

The valley of Red Brook stretches northwards from Redisher Wood to the brink of the moors at Holcombe Head. Today, it is unpeopled, remote and atmospheric, but until the mid-20th Century was dotted with small, stonebuilt farmhouses. The 1840s Ordnance Survey map below shows **Chapel Rake** climbing steeply from between Nook and Hamlets, and up onto the moor top, where it was known as **Chapel Gate**.



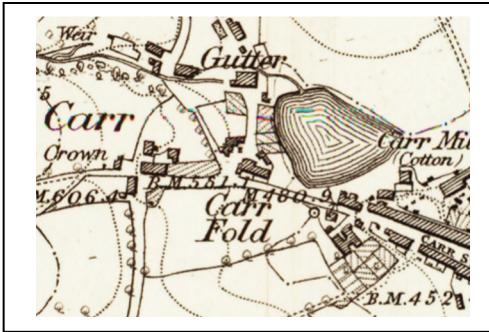
Never more than a rough track, and often running through mist, heading west-east at 1,000 feet and above, this 'gate' originated as the most direct route from the valley to Holcombe Village. Here, a chapel of ease has stood since Tudor times for the convenience or 'ease' of Bury's upper Irwell Valley parishioners. Gate was an Old English word for a road or way, and survives in the Bolton names Deansgate and Bradshawgate.

Before the Second World War, this often windswept moorland track was still used by children in summer as the quickest way to Holcombe school; in winter they used Moor Bottom Road.

3 GUTTER LANE

It may be unglamorously named, but **Gutter Lane** is one of the oldest roads or tracks in Ramsbottom. Gutter was a group of modest cottages near the modern site of The Old Mill. The 1840s Ordnance Survey map below shows the tree-lined lane running NW from Carr Street, past Gutter, and on to the early industrial site at Kibboth Crew, which is just to the north. The Rose and Crown

seems to have had gardens to the east, now replaced by the late 19th Century terrace, 82-94, Carr Street.



Gutter Lane was never more than the rough track we see now by the Rose and Crown bowling green. The line of trees disappeared some time later in the 19th Century. The lane existed as early as 1606: it was the sole access to a fulling mill at Kibboth Crew, first recorded then.

The mill had appeared in a 1632 legal case over an attempted fraud by its owner Samuel Schofield. His 15 creditors were geographically spread from Yorkshire to Shropshire and London, suggesting regular long distance packhorse train traffic along Gutter Lane to and from the Kibboth Crew mill. In all probability, the lane will be much older, giving the only access to farms around Top Wood and Dickfield. Cattle were driven along this route well into the 20th Century.

The name 'Gutter' may have referred to a watercourse. There were probably many such brooks, drains or soughs carrying water off the moor above Holcombe down to the Irwell. At least two streams, culverted in the 19th Century, ran openly down into lodges in the town centre.

A second possibility is that the name 'Gutter' derived from the Old English/Old French meaning 'drop/spout'. It could therefore



John Ireland talks to the owner, whilst his son Michael screws a major selling point to her house – the name *Gutter Lane*!

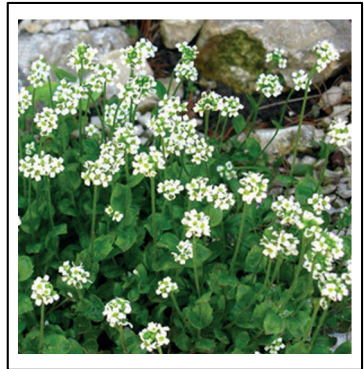
have referred to the reliable spring known within living memory as ‘Judy Spout’. This supplied water to Carr Fold into the 1930s, and was in the vicinity of the cottages known as Gutter.

The cluster of cottages, as well as the lane, was also referred to as ‘The Gutter’.

4 Draba Street

This cobbled street runs down from Silver Street to Prince Street, and is one of Ramsbottom’s five brows, often pronounced brew, its local name being ‘Draba Brow’.

Draba (see photograph) is a large genus of white or yellow flowering plants in the family Brassicaceae, commonly known as whitlow-grasses. Originating in the



Caucasus Mountains, its preferences for sun, and well-drained soil or rock crevices, may indicate be a clue about the appearance of this east facing slope before the construction of the Old Ground in 1783.

Details of the further three signs/plaques which we hope to erect in Phase Two of the Lost Street Names Project should follow later this year.

THE GRANTS’ BARREL ORGAN

The sound of a barrel organ belonging to the Grant family could be heard in Ramsbottom as early as 1806, when William and Grace and their sons moved into the town. In fact, they must have already purchased this expensive instrument while they were still living in Bury, as it was known to have been played there too.

Whilst singing and musical instruments had always been a part of people’s lives, recorded music was much later in development, with the phonograph being invented by Thomas Edison in 1877¹. However, barrel organs were invented a hundred years earlier and whilst the “barrel” had similarities to a musical box, the complete organ was much more complicated.

In a V & A museum catalogue² it states that they were often fitted with organ pipes and bellows, with a crank-handle which rotated a wooden cylinder or barrel. This also pumped air as well as controlling its supply to the individual pipes and enabled different tunes to be played. Longman and Broderip, who made barrel organs, traded from 1776 to 1795 when they went bankrupt.

The organ belonging to the Grants was in a handsome wooden case and its design was secured by "By His Majesties Royal Letters Patent," as the "New Invented Patent Barrel Organ, with Bell, Drum and Triangle, by John Longman of London". It would seem that the Grants were always very forward looking and wanted the best quality. This was evidenced both by their choice of musical instrument and their factory, Square Works, which they later built in Ramsbottom. This was said to be "the largest and most convenient works of any in Europe" ³(p.130) and that "they seem to have availed themselves of every new invention that can be considered an improvement in calico printing".

On page 71 of his book³, Reverend William Hume Elliot explained that when William and Grace Grant and the family first came down from Scotland in 1783, they moved to Bury. There they learned their trade as cotton producers and printers at Hamson's Mill. They also owned a shop in Bury, in which they could sell their wares and around this time they must have bought the barrel organ. Hume Elliot says, "While at Bury, old Mr Grant used on special occasions to regale the lieges near the shop with music from a hand-organ, which must have been a costly instrument in its time."² He also commented on the Grants' barrel organ, "A costly instrument it must have been, with its four barrels and two and thirty tunes."

The Grants took their barrel organ with them when they moved to "Top o' th' Brow", Ramsbottom, which they then renamed Grant Lodge and which later became the Grant Arms. (*now redeveloped into offices - Editor*) The organ's next move was to William and Daniel Grant's home, Springside, Walmersley. It was there until 1855 when Daniel, the last of the "Cheeryble" brothers, died. The barrel organ was then sold and yet its whereabouts were known for a further fifty years.



At the Springside sale the Bentley family of Ramsbottom bought the barrel organ. At the time the Bentleys were living in either Back Bridge Street or Scotland Place, off Square Street. Arthur Bentley had been the first iron founder in Ramsbottom and in 1868 he had expanded into property development to build Lodge View, a terrace of four houses, 67 to 73, Bolton Street. Having nine children surviving out of twelve births, he had moved his family into number 67, which was slightly bigger than the other houses, and let the remaining three.

We would never have known of their barrel organ's existence were it not for the Reverend Hume Elliot, who had a close connection with the Bentleys. He had moved to Ramsbottom as pastor of St Andrew's Dundee Presbyterian Church two years before Arthur Bentley's death in 1876. With the Bentley family also being Presbyterian they were, no doubt, in his congregation. After Arthur died Sarah, his widow, first moved her children into number 73 and later into 71, Bolton Street, where she lived until just into the twentieth century. Presumably Sarah must have greatly valued the barrel organ as she moved it with her from house to house.

In 1901 Hume Elliot became one of Sarah Bentley's lodgers in Lodge View, when he moved next-door-but-one to 67, Bolton Street. At some point he seems to have come across this 'ancient organ' in Sarah Bentley's home,

describing it in his 1893 book³. Then in his second book⁴ published in 1906, he not only referred to the organ again, but also included a picture of it, along with his thanks to Mrs Bentley for her permission to publish its photograph.

No doubt the barrel organ stayed with Sarah until her death in 1908 at the age of 85. Then the last of her children moved out of number 71 and the house was sold. This must have been around one hundred and thirty years after the Grants first bought the organ. Regrettably we have no further information about what eventually happened to it.

References

1. Wikipedia – Thomas Edison, Phonograph
 2. Victoria and Albert Museum Catalogue of Musical Instruments.
 3. Reverend William Hume Elliot The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers 1893, p130, p 71, p95,
 4. Rev William Hume Elliot The Story of the 'Cheeryble' Grants: from the Spey to the Irwell 1906 p 99 & p 101(photograph)
- Ancestry.co.uk ; Deeds of 73 Bolton Street ; Trade Directories 1818-1888

Kate Slingsby

SUMMERSEAT

In News Magazine no 61 we published an extract from the memoirs of David Malin which focused on life at Bird Hall, Rowlands Road, Walmersley. Regular readers will remember that Mr Malin has lived in Australia since 1975, becoming an astronomer with what is now called the Australian Astronomical Observatory. He had been born in 1941 in Summerseat but mostly lived with "my ever-patient grandparents until I was 12 or so, then briefly in Heywood and later at Pollard's Farm, in Queens Place, Summerseat". Until he was about 10 years old he was being brought up by his grandparents, at Bird Hall. Later they moved to Arden Terrace. Remembering them with great fondness, he describes them as simple, hard-working people whose life was hard and says, "I have written something of their domestic life that might surprise people in these modern times."

The following article is a compilation of more extracts from Mr Malin's memoirs.

Summerseat village is an out-of-the-way sort of place, at the southern end of the Rossendale Valley. It was initially settled around farms and small-holdings around a broad bend in the River Irwell, with other housing scattered along the sides of its wide valley that rises into extensive farmlands, mostly dairy. As the Irwell enters the village the river is enclosed by imposing sandstone cliffs on its eastern and southern banks, broken by steep, wooded valleys. I spent many hours exploring them as a youngster, often finding bits of interesting archaic machinery swept down the river, and fossils in the sandstone, millions of years old. It was a paradise.

Until cars became common in the 1960s, the main way in and out for most Summerseat villagers was the railway. This became possible when the north-south Bury to Bacup line opened in 1846, linking it to Manchester and beyond. The original motivation for the line was to transport goods to and from the numerous cotton mills in the valley, and the 1840s Ordnance Survey map (page 17) shows factories, artificial reservoirs, the railway, and rows of houses in the northern part of the village, with others on the banks of the southern loop. In Summerseat today there remains the railway goods shed with its own railway siding and with its original windlass. The two main highways in the district run north from nearby Bury, and both bypass the Summerseat on its eastern and western sides. Both roads are a couple of kilometres from the heart of the village, hence its relative isolation until the railway arrived.

The older parts of Summerseat village are a mixture of late 17th and 18th century stone houses and farms linked by tracks, and surrounded by widely scattered smallholdings. The later part of the village is mostly on the valley floor and is largely the result of the growth of the cotton industry from the late 1700s onwards. Most are rows of small, stone-built terraced dwellings, erected by the mill owners, and these included Long Row, arrowed on the map, which was built along a raised bank of the River Irwell.

Later, terraces of brick houses were built in regimented rows in the lower part of the village, known as Brooksbottoms, a name probably derived from

'Brox', noted on early maps. They were to provide dwellings for what was known as Joshua Hoyle's mill. The riverside portion of the mill's grand edifice still stands today in stark architectural contrast to anything else in the village. The mill was built in the 1870s for Edward Hoyle using local stone, and is a recognised architectural achievement. It stands on the site of mills originally built by Robert Peel and Yates in 1773 and by Richard Hamer in 1812, and was acquired by John Robinson Kay of Rawtenstall in 1830. These names, and the Hamers mentioned elsewhere, still survive in families and monuments around the village.

In recent years the village has expanded and is now adjacent to the M66 with handy links to Bury and Manchester, so it has evolved into a small dormitory town. When I lived in the village as a lad, the Brick Houses in Brooksbottom were almost a slum, and some of their occupants rough and ready, and usually up for a fight. The houses have been gentrified a bit in recent times, as has Hoyle's Mill, and the latter is now a block of upmarket residential flats. At about the same time as the brick houses appeared, grander terraced houses were built at Queens Place for managers and overseers, adjacent to Pollard's Farm, (where I lived in the 1960s). By this time, most of the village was lit by gas, supplied by the local gasworks, then a novelty.

My grandparents moved again, down into the village of Summerseat on to Railway Street, renting one of the long, snaking row of houses in Long Row and I lived there in the early 1950s. The thirty or so stone dwellings were built in the early 1800s almost opposite the later Post Office. The tiny dwellings were below road level and backed onto the river, and they were universally known (in Summerseat at least, and perhaps disparagingly) as the "Dolly-Tub Row", a dolly-tub being a dustbin-sized container in which laundry was pounded to death with a wooden paddle—the dolly. The name implied working class dwellings and primitive conditions, both of which were appropriate to these tiny houses.

The four rooms were small with low ceilings, and were cramped, even smaller than Bird Hall. It was quite a come-down after the comparative luxury of Arden Terrace—and my grandparents were paying rent again. A bit of research



The view along Railway Street, Summerseat c1920. Long Row is the terrace on the right believed to have been built c1795. It was demolished in 1965.

reveals some interesting facts about the 'Dolly-Tub' Row and some of its history. I quote a passage below.

Peel, Yates & Company employed a large number of children aged between 10 and 12, some of whom were pauper apprentices from as far afield as London, and Long Row on Railway Street was built to house them. Apprentices worked a 12 hour shift with an hour off for meals and recreation, sharing beds with children on the alternate shift. They were not paid, and worked for food, clothing and lodging only. In order to ensure an adequate water supply, Peel channelled the Irwell to create a reservoir in the river bend and constructed an aqueduct over the river to Upper Mill. Peel went on to develop a very large business ...

Extract from Summerseat Conservation Area, Bury document, Kathryn Sather and Associates, 2010. <https://tinyurl.com/mw36psms>



Lower Summersat in the 1940s, and the Long Row (arrowed). The tiny black dots are likely the outdoor toilets. The railway had recently arrived, and the layout of this part of the village was soon to change dramatically with the introduction of steam in the cotton mills.

The course of the diverted river can be seen on an 1840s Ordnance Survey map (above), and the Long Row houses (arrowed, diagonal hatching) seem to be surrounded by the Irwell. All the waterways on the southern side had long gone when I was a youngster, as had Twist Mill and Cotton Mills identified, and I assume from the map that these were originally water-driven. Sir Robert Peel, as he became, was an MP and twice British Prime Minister. He was created a Baronet in 1800, about the same time as Long Row was built but he is best remembered for introducing the first civilian police force in Britain. He is also commemorated locally by a sturdy monument (Peel Tower), a landmark on the top of nearby Holcombe Hill.

At the time my grandparents moved into Long Row, in the house arrowed, the River Irwell at the back of the houses had been a stinking industrial sewer for many years. Its most obvious characteristic was its ability to change colour several times a day as the numerous dye-works along its length emptied their vats directly into the stream. More penetrating was the stench, mostly of

industrial chemicals, with delicate overtones of human sewage. All the residents of the Dolly-Tub Row appeared to gift contents of their outdoor toilets to the multicoloured stream, even though there was the village sewage farm that was visible or detectable from a distance in other ways, on the other side of the river.

The outside toilets along the Long Row were each shared with a neighbour. Ours was the tiny black dot at the end of the arrow on the 1840s map above. It housed a semi-automatic 'tippler' lavatory. This is a long-vanished system that used a large bucket to collect the waste, pivoted across a sewer pipe some distance beneath the toilet seat. The attitude of the bucket remained constant as it filled, but beyond a certain point it suddenly inverted. If you happened to be sitting there when it did so, there was a powerful suck of wind as the bucket tipped and emptied, followed almost immediately by a blast of stinking air in the opposite direction as it reset itself. The experience was unsettling but memorable, and I recall it as a kind of robotic attempt at vacuum castration followed immediately by a toxic updraught of stinking sewer gas. I still lived with my grandparents a lot when they were in the Dolly-Tub Row and often had my evening meal with them. I remember that I had not long been at Bury High School, so this would be mid-1953. There is no doubt that my grandmother was deeply unhappy living alongside the River Irwell in houses built for paupers, but my grandfather did not offer an opinion, and/or was indifferent. She also strongly disliked living near the large and vocal family who lived in the house next door. However, they were stuck there for a while, since my grandfather had to find a new job, which he eventually did at a nearby dye and bleach works. It was shift-work again, and he was soon appointed as a foreman. It was hard work for a man in his mid-50s, and he was not a natural foreman, but he endured until he retired a decade or so later.

Not long after he took his new job, and after much argument and persuasion, my grandmother convinced him to buy a house. They had never had a mortgage and my grandfather did not want one, a working-class mindset that I inherited (until reality set in when I married in 1967). The house on offer was

owned by the generous woman who had employed my grandmother as a home help and cleaner for many years.

My grandparents, by then fully retired, later lived in Cockermouth in Cumbria, not far from where they married in the 1920s.

David Malin

ASTRONOMICAL IMAGES

As a scientific photographer and later an astronomer David Malin is principally known for his spectacular colour images of astronomical objects. A galaxy is named after him, Malin-1, which he discovered in 1986 and which is the largest spiral galaxy so far known.



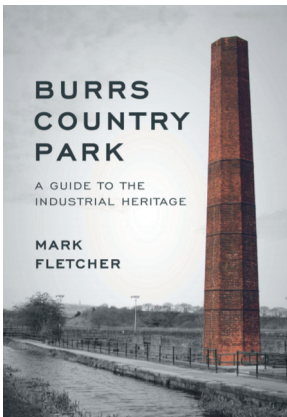
Horsehead Nebula in Orion. Anglo-Australian Telescope, photo by David Malin - <https://images.datacentral.org.au/malin/UKS/001>



Malin-1 (centre) compared to the Milky Way (inset, upper left).

Credit: Boissier et al./Astronomy & Astrophysics/ESO/CFHT

BURRS COUNTRY PARK



This new guidebook, provides a potted history of the industrial heritage of Burrs Country Park and explains its significance. It is illustrated with over 50 photographs, drawings and maps.

Mark Fletcher has undertaken a considerable amount of investigation at Burrs. He is a landscape and buildings archaeologist who was born in Bury and grew up at Woodhill, just to the south of the Country Park.

Mark is in the process of trying to get the book listed on Amazon, which is proving not to be easy. On Amazon, it will be £10.00 plus p&p. Alternatively, anyone who would like a copy for just £10.00 could message Mark on Facebook, or email him on mletcher@matrixarch.co.uk, and he'll post one out with bank details for payment online or by cheque.

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection is on permanent loan to Bury Archives. The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service.

Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Ramsbottom Library's family history help sessions have restarted – every 3rd Thursday of the month 1pm – 4.30pm.

Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG

Access is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact us in advance to arrange a visit on 0161 253 6782 or email us via archives@bury.gov.uk

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Closed

Tuesday-Friday – 10.00am-1pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm

Every Saturday – 10.00am-1.00pm

Catalogues of collections and the extensive range of records, (including Ramsbottom's) held at Bury Archives are at <http://archives.bury.gov.uk> as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at <http://library.bury.gov.uk> – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'.

The address for Bury Archives' image website is www.buryarchivesonline.co.uk and our blog is at www.buryculture.wordpress.com

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society

Meetings and activities are starting to resume and the Oswaldtwistle research centre has re-opened (Thursday 1 to 5pm). Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details and updates.

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS AND ACCESS – now back to normal:

Tuesdays from 10am to 4.30pm Wednesdays from 10am to 4.30pm

Thursdays from 12.30pm to 7pm Fridays from 10am to 4.30pm

Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm

An Order and Collect service for books (catalogue access via www.bury.gov.uk) and limited public access to computers are still available. Customers can order books online or by telephoning the library on 0161 253 5352. Computer access may be booked by calling 0161 253 5352 but booking is not essential.

Back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film for use on a 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. The IT suite, boasts a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation.

