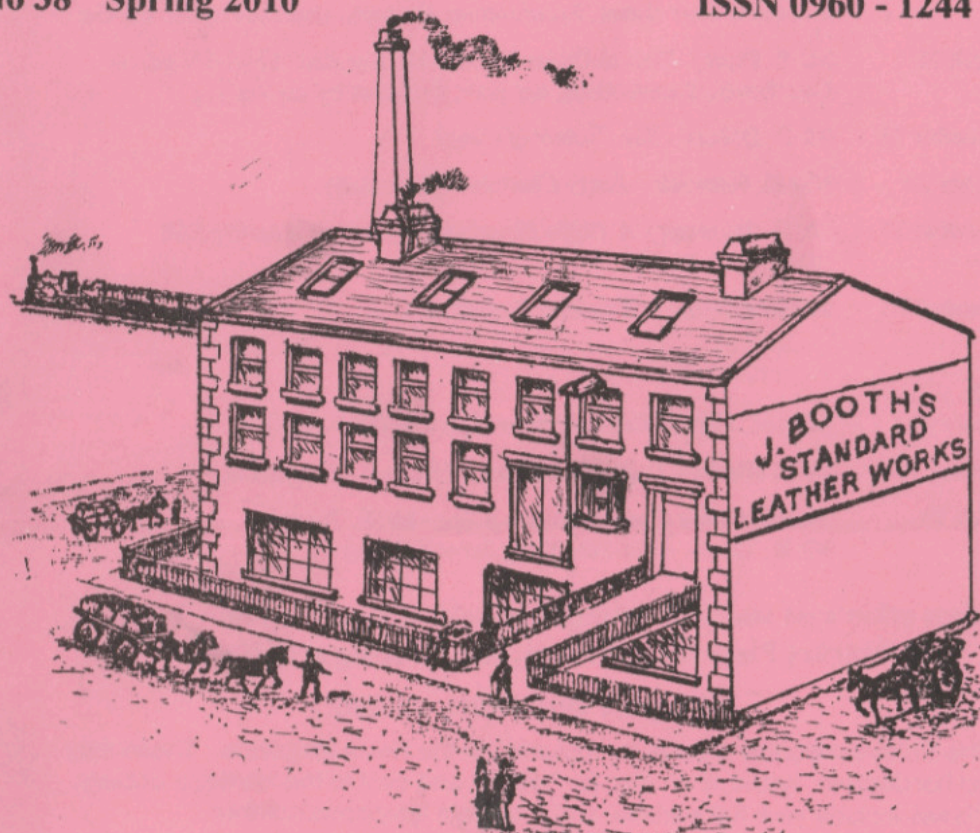


NEWS MAGAZINE

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**RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY,
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 82 7245**

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

2010:

June 16	Mrs A. Butterworth – <i>Memories of Life on Stage and Screen</i>
July 21	Mrs J. Murphy - Guided walk around Entwistle Reservoir. Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing
August 18	Mr R. Frost – Visit to Queen Street Mill, Burnley. Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing
September 15	Mr R. Bolton – <i>The Clatter of Clogs</i>
October 20	Mrs K. Fishwick – <i>Early Churches</i> (illustrated)
November 17	Mr G. Atkinson – <i>A 1920s Bleaching, Dyeing & Weaving Mill</i> (illustrated)
December 15	Social evening - Christmas Festivities

2011:

January 19	Miss M. Curry - <i>Beatrix Potter - part 2</i> (illustrated)
February 16	Dr P. Hindle – <i>Travel in Medieval England</i> (illustrated)
March 16	Photographic Competition – judge - Mr R. Turner Mr R. Turner – <i>Are You Being Served?</i> (talk)

**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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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Much as last year, this year began with exciting news, when the success of the bid for HLF funding to equip the Heritage space, for the future to be referred to as the Museum, at Ramsbottom Library with display equipment, and provide training for key members in archive appraising, cataloguing, and preservation techniques. Whilst the archive training will take place largely at Bury Archive, where the bulk of the Society's collections are held, the museum element of the project is linked to redevelopment of Ramsbottom Library, which has fallen behind somewhat due to the winter weather. Opening is planned for early September to coincide with Heritage Open Weekend activities; there is a great deal to be done and our display team is working with Bury Museum curator and staff to ensure a memorable opening. In the meantime other Society activities continue and you will read about some of them in this issue. The talk and walk programmes are being finalised, and there are plans to update the Society website and effect improvements to some of the places.

The Holcombe Moor Heritage Group, of which we are a part, whose planned early 2009 *dig* had to be abandoned upon the disbandment of Manchester University Archaeology Unit, has resumed activities in partnership with Salford University, with a dig at Cinder Hill Farm site early in March which revealed some unexpected findings, of interest sufficient to demand funds for more digging! The Group also has plans for re-development of the listed 17th Century Simon's Sundial Cottage, to provide a visitor and information centre; the building is in a poor state, and much needs to be done to realise the ambition.

So, a busy summer in prospect in many areas, and a hope for fine and sunny days.

Tony Murphy

OBITUARIES Alan HIBBERT 3.8.24-2.5.2009

Alan was born in Edenfield in August 1924 along with his twin brother Bob, and later he moved to Ramsbottom. Educated locally, he eventually went to 'Progress College', a commercial one, and at 14 years old he went to work for an accountant in Bury.

At 16, he became a member of the Home Guard, stationed on Holcombe Hill; and at 18 joined the army as a gunner - in the Royal Artillery (he had two choices, that or being a *Bevan Boy* down the mines). When he enlisted, older tradesmen were being recruited and it was from these fellows he learned many manual skills - hence his grandchildren's nickname for him - Ted Glenn (from Postman Pat). He saw service in Europe and was part of the 'D Day' landings, through France, Holland and Germany. As he was on his way to Japan, the war in the Far East ended, so he was sent on to India for the hand-over. At home he played football for St Paul's and one year they won the Sunday School League! He used to relate the story of how they played the final at Gig g Lane - a highlight in any amateur footballer's career. A sidesman at St Paul's Church since 1947, a stagehand with St Paul's Players, and an active member of Ramsbottom Photographic Society, more recently Alan enjoyed being involved with the Heritage Society where he helped with many displays and his entries in the Photographic Competition won the Dickensian Trophy twice. Few people know that Alan had appeared as an extra on television and had acted with the famous Minnie DRIVER in the drama *The Politician's Wife*. He also featured in *Cracker*- this he took in his stride just as he did everything else. A gentle, kind man with a great sense of fun, who sadly lost his hearing as a result of his war service, he therefore would so often miss out on conversations. However, he had perfected the art of smiling or shaking his head in all the right places. Alan is sadly missed by all his loved ones and remembered by many with great affection.

[We are grateful to Claire LORD, Alan's daughter, for his obituary.]

Waiter MILLS

In February Walter MILLS, husband of Norma, the Society's Honorary Secretary, died after a long battle with illness, bravely borne. Walter was born in 1939, at home at Foot o'th Rake, Ramsbottom, prematurely, weighing not more than a bag of sugar, and not expected to live; surviving, he was taken frequently by his father to Holcombe and Helmshore Road, where the air was thought to be beneficial. Schooled at St Andrew's and Peel Brow, Ramsbottom, Walter's first job was as apprentice to Schofield's, plumbers, of Ramsbottom, which he left after only a short time to join the Royal Marines as a regular soldier; 18 months later, injury, sustained during parachute jumping exercises, led to his leaving the service. There followed marriage to Norma, a former near neighbour, of Earl Street, married life beginning on Bolton Road West, in a cottage, formerly a butcher's shop, refurbished by Walter, soon followed by a move to Higher Tops Farm, where Walter founded Ramsbottom's first driving school. A life change came about whilst

watching a TV documentary about the ambulance service. Walter became a paramedic. After six years a long held ambition, fuelled by visits to the 'Shoulder of Mutton' inn, Holcombe, to run a pub, was realised when a move to Ainsworth to yet another house renovated by Walter, was very quickly followed by a move to 'The Pineapple' inn at Astley Bridge. After publican's lives of seven years, during which time daughter Alison was born, Walter and Norma moved to Egerton, to the former caretaker's cottage, after refurbishment by Walter, adjacent to Walmsley Old School and Church; Walter became Security Officer to Littlewoods, operating at several mills in the Bolton area. At age 50, then living at Belmont Road, Astley Bridge, in a house not requiring renovation, ill-health forced Walter to retire. After seven years there followed a move to an apartment in the former Harwood Reform Club. A chance discovery whilst on an evening walk led Walter and Norma to the Old Vicarage at Bradshaw, where they lived until Walter's death. His funeral service was held at Overdale Crematorium, Bolton, in the presence of very many of his friends, by whom he will be much missed.

Norma Mills with Tony Murphy

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2009 WINNERS

Dickensian Trophy:	First Prize	Kate Slingsby - Buildings
Category Winners		
Buildings	First Prize	Kate Slingsby
	Highly Commended	Joyce Sellers
Events	First Prize	Ian Summers
	Highly commended	John Leyland
Town and Country	First Prize	Joyce Sellers
Themes	First Prize	Ian Summers
	Highly commended	Kate Slingsby

Thanks to all who sent in photographs for the competition and congratulations to all the above winners and especially the overall winner, Kate Slingsby.

Photographs should be on display at the new Museum within Ramsbottom Library.

Music Review:

SINGING FOR RAMSBOTTOM -

recorded and produced on CD by Barry Aldous

Recorded live at Ramsbottom Civic Hall on Saturday 24 October 2009, the 16 tracks are a fascinating blend of words, music and narrative tracing the many aspects of Ramsbottom's textile and wider industrial heritage drawn from traditional and contemporary sources all delivered by Mark DOWDING, Chris HARVEY and Jonathan AL1 with clarity, wit and élan.

Each song in addition to its reference source is prefaced by information relating to the

history, evolution, development and working conditions of those involved in the various textile industry processes in and around Ramsbottom, which have made the town what it is. Those with experience of working in textile weaving may be struck by the rhythm of some of the songs as they are reminiscent of the clack clack of the shuttle, especially in the Overture.

The *Friends of the Ramsbottom Civic Hall* are to be congratulated for having the foresight in producing this exemplar) recording for posterity of our manufacturing traditions and it is warmly recommended.

Richard W Hall January 2010 Secretary of the Holcombe Brook & District Recorded Music Society

[Copies of this CD are available from the Heritage Society - Editor]

KIBBOTH CREW - A LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE

Although it is a long time since Spring 2007 when the Ramsbottom Heritage Society undertook an archaeological dig at Kibboth Crew, the official report of the dig has only recently been published. It is available to be read in Ramsbottom Library, or you can either borrow a copy or get your own disc copy from Kate SLINGSBY.

This account looks back at the features excavated and how they relate to what is known about the site. The building we excavated was known to be a fulling mill. Fulling being a process in which woollen cloth, is thickened by treating it with chemicals and then pounding it with huge mechanical hammers.

The series of maps we had at the start of the dig showed two things, firstly that the mill was powered by a small stream and secondly that it was very much larger and more complex in 1891 than it had been in 1842. The excavation, which was supervised by the University of Manchester Archaeology Unit, was undertaken to see what features of the fulling mill might still exist. Whilst the main structures uncovered belonged to the mid 19th century mill, beneath them was a limited amount of evidence the earlier much smaller mill

The maps show changes in the water supply, which would have made possible a major increase in the output of the site. The wheel pit, from the later mill, along with the rear wall of the building, abutted the dam wall, which held an enhanced reservoir by 1891. However, the 1842 map showed only two small mill ponds with no evidence of the dam which later spanned the valley. The dam both increased the size of the reservoir and, more importantly, added 16 ft or more to the fall of water. Whilst details of the wheel are not known, the wheel pit could have accommodated a an overshot or breast shot wheel up to 16ft in diameter and this would have produced considerably more power than was possible in the earlier mill The mill was built over the stream that powered it and when fulling was not in operation and the reservoir was full, the stream would have been diverted through a by-wash under the building. Several flagstones were lifted looking for this and it was eventually found running under machine mountings, whilst another culvert or drain, thought to come from the earlier mill, ran under the north east side of the building.

There was much speculation over two large purposefully shaped stones, which were supported on layers of brick and levelling slates, and which lay parallel to the wheel pit. Documents showed there had once been steam power somewhere on Kibboth Crew, so it seemed possible that these formed the base for a steam engine. However there was nowhere for the flywheel and the experts believed the stones were more likely to have supported some other kind of mill machinery. They did not, however, seem to be shaped to accommodate the hammer of the fulling stocks, which must once have been in the mill.

The archaeologists did not understand many other structures when they supervised the dig, and even with hindsight this fact still remains. Prior to the excavation, apart from parts of the sidewalls of the mill, the most interesting feature was a doorway like structure, which stood alone in the centre of the site. This stone archway had thick stone uprights and lintel, with an opening $1\frac{1}{4}$ ft wide but less than 5 ft high. The archaeologists, whilst certain it was not a doorway, could not explain what it was for, nor why it stood on the edge of a room which was sunken nearly 3 ft below the level of the rest of the mill. Nothing about this room was straightforward, with the floor being the most remarkable of all. Nearly the entire floor was made up of two huge slabs or flags each approximately 8 ft long and 8 ft wide. Positioned across the 18 inch gap between them was another large stone nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ ft sq and a foot deep and whilst it was felt that this was not in its original position no-one could suggest where it had come from. There was a square opening quite high up in the west wall of this room leading into another section of the mill and two small pipes passed out of the room, one emerging through the front wall.

This room alone raised more questions than it answered. The fact that some of the walls were built on top of the square flags suggests that the floor came from the earlier building, whilst their size raises the question of how they were transported and handled and why smaller flags were not used instead. Presumably they must have been to support heavy machinery, although the series of stone plinths or supports built across them were thought to be later in origin. Was this a boiler house? The archaeologists thought probably not. Did the square opening house a flue or a drive shaft and what was the purpose of the pipes and others connected to them? Yet again, no-one knew. Interestingly there is one feature on the site which though not understood at the time of the dig, can now be positively identified (if anything in archaeology can be said to be certain!) A small brick lined, stone building standing separately from the main mill was also once thought to be a possible boiler house, although the archaeologist felt that it would have been too small. Later documentary research showed that there was a brimstone stove on site and a description of the typical construction of such a structure was found on the internet. This led us to believe that this little building would indeed have been where woollen cloth was stacked to be bleached by the fumes of burning sulphur.

The number of artefacts found on site was very small and not only had the mill been

stripped of its machinery, most of the walls had been removed too - a fate which commonly affected old buildings, as they were recycled by the local population. Other than the machine bases, the only other indication of industrial machinery was part of a line shafting box, which would have housed and supported a drive shaft. This was not in its original place but had been left lying in front of the mill. Very little ash was found and since this was also outside the front wall of the mill, there was no indication where it had come from.

What is certain, however, is that the mill on Kibboth Crew changed many times over the years. Even the structure of the walls indicated several periods of adaptation and rebuilding and bear testament to a dynamic site where structural changes were repeatedly made to meet the needs of the day. Evidence of the eventual fate of the building, was plain to see, once it was understood. John WILD, the landowner told us that the dam had burst and a local woman was killed. Local newspaper reports in 1894 backed that up and stated that the building itself had fallen. Serial maps showed that the building disappeared in the same period that the stream could be seen to run through the dam wall, and that later the stream was culverted. Looking from where the mill once stood, the full height, V-shaped breach in the dam, could easily be seen, with the brick leat and cast iron pipe, which now convey the stream across the site. Whilst the dig was a fascinating experience for the 41 volunteers involved, it was surprising how little of what was found could be positively identified. The real importance of Kibboth Crew is to be found in the meticulous documentary research undertaken by Brenda RICHARDS, Kath HADDOCK and Andrew TODD. This shows that the site dates back far earlier than was previously known by authorities from the university, and it has a fascinating history. We look forward, hopefully, to the publication of this information at a future date.

Kate Slingsby

RECOLLECTIONS OF MRS MARY NEWBORNE nee SKELTON

At a recent meeting our Chairman, read out a letter from Mrs Mary NEWBORNE (nee SKELTON) which contains some recollections of her life in Rams bottom during the 1930s and 1940s. The Society is always pleased to hear from people who have information about the town in times gone by and when space permits we like to include them in the Magazine so that people who are unable to attend our monthly meetings may also enjoy them. Below is an extract from Mrs NEWBORNE's letter.

I was born Mary SKELTON at Ivy Cottage, Holcombe on 17 January 1927. My father died in 1929 and my grandfather also died in the same year at Tower View, Holcombe. My mother went to live at Tower View with her sister-in-law Mrs Eliza CUNLIFFE who was also a widow.

I had a terrifically happy childhood there. My brother Geoffrey (who some may know as he had an ironmongers and mill furnishing business in Ramsbottom) was four years older than myself. He made a sort of club room in the old harness room above

the deserted stables and he and all his village pals used to meet there, light a fire and sit and chat and plan mischief! Great fun for me and my pals!

I went to Hazlehurst school and was in the 'baby class' when Miss SMITH was the teacher. I was terrified of her and wet my pants on the first day! Miss WHITTAKER in the next class was lovely, as was Mrs MOORHOUSE in the Seniors. Mr BURTON, the headmaster was a really kind man and an excellent teacher. He managed to get us all through our exams, even dopes like myself!

I went to Bury Grammar School and, at 17 years old, to the Manchester Royal Infirmary to train for physiotherapy. In 1947, as a fully trained physiotherapist, I went to work at Bury Infirmary. I was there for a year and then went to Leicester, and subsequently to the Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford from there I married and did not return north. I now live in the Chilterns about four miles from Marlow on Thames.

Mary NEWBORNE (nee SKELTON)

JOHN WOOD (ENGINEERING) LTD, later WOOD'S ENGINEERS (RAMSBOTTOM) LTD

We are very grateful to those who have kindly contributed valuable information and photographs related to Garden Engineering Works and some of its employees. They include Miss Joyce FLETCHER, Mr W HANSON, Mrs Doris HIBBERT, Mr Geoff HINCHLIFFE, Mrs. Hilda PICKLES, Mr Tom SAVAGE and Mr David UNSWORTH

This business was started by John WOOD in 1881 in premises on Kay Brow, later removing to Railway Street. He had decided to have his own foundry while he was working for William SHARPLES and Company. In 1888 he is listed as an engineer and iron founder residing at 83, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom. By 1911 his home was at Park Cottage 43, Bury New Road. In its early days John WOOD'S engineering business manufactured textile finishing machinery, particularly for calico printing. Over the years the company supplied equipment extensively to Britain's textile trade and many countries overseas, comprising roller printing machines, agers and steamers, colour mixing pans and laboratory equipment. Customers included most of the well-known calico printers including TURNBULL & STOCKDALE (of Stubbins), Bradford Dyers and many small firms who used their calico printing machines.

In 1896, at about the time that he became actively interested in photogravure printing machines, John WOOD bought the whole of the large building on Garden Street alongside the railway line. (About 1830-40, as Garden Mill, it had been used for weaving.) WOOD'S pattern shop, pattern store, engineers' stores, a foundry and the stables were across the road, occupying another large site. The firm played its part in developing textile and paper printing and finishing machinery and its advances in the design of the simple machines first used in photogravure printing led to the production of high speed colour presses which were widely used in the printing and wallpaper trades (including one of the largest manufacturers of their time, Shand Kydd). Their machines were used for printing large circulation magazines such as the *Picture Post*. During World War 1, WOOD'S pattern maker Leemin FLETCHER *, worked on the

patterns for the first machine used for printing paper money in this country. This machine printed the first pound note, the old *John Bradbury*. A good proportion of food rationing cards used in World War I were printed on WOOD'S equipment and the firm supplied parts for the erection of the Mulberry Harbour which was built for the D Day landings of World War II.

When holidays were rather scarce workers had only Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Easter and one week's annual holiday in the summer. Christmas parties for all staff and workers were held in the canteen and apparently there was good food and free drink all night. Later the celebration was a dance and buffet at the Liberal Club. For a time on Shrove Tuesday the apprentices at the works loaded up with black grease bags and toured the town in search of other apprentices (joiners, plumbers, building trade workers etc) to smear and blacken. They then had the afternoon off. The practice carried on for a few years but was stopped as it was getting out of hand.

[Mr Leemin FLETCHER started at WOOD'S in 1899 at the age of 13 as an apprentice in the pattern department and had been foreman of the department for 12 years when he retired in November 1954, aged 69. having completing 56 years. His retirement terminated a total of 156 years service to the firm by the Fletcher family. His father Thomas FLETCHER had joined the staff in 1882 (the year after the firm was founded) aged 22 as foreman turner, later having complete charge of the machine and fitting department and served 54 years. Leemin's brother Tom FLETCHER (junior) started as an apprentice pattern maker and was at Garden Engineering Works for 24 years before moving to A V ROE's on the outbreak of World War II Another brother Arnold FLETCHER, who died in 1952 aged 49, served 22 years at Ramsbottom before taking up a post at Derby*

Mr John BARNES, foreman turner, also became a long-serving member of staff, retiring in 1955 after 51 years. Both men were honoured with presentations and farewell dinners at the Swan Hotel, Bolton. Miss Janet SPIERS was a secretary? for many years. In memory of John WOOD, this lady? donated the clock at the Council Offices - near the telephone box. She also donated a cover for the St. Paul's Church-organ.

In the Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Spring 1998 News Magazine, Fred HANSON wrote about his father Thomas Ashworth HANSON who left Holcombe Day School at 12 years old to become an apprentice at John WOOD 's Foundry. He became a fully-fledged engineer in 1911, working mostly as an outfitter.

Fred says: The apprenticeship cost £100 and took a full 7 years. He started at 5.30am and his first job was to take two three gallon cans to the pub, which opened at 6am, get them filled with beer at 1s a can, and have it in the Works by 6.15am. He went again at 10am and again at 2pm, six days a week.]

John WOOD had died in 1936 having apparently lived in St Anne's since before 1927, His nephews, brothers Johnny and Peter ARMSTRONG, ran the business after he retired. We are told that during World War II, Wood's worked on gun barrels and

trepanning. In the obituary of Mr J WARMSTRONG, it is mentioned that a brother and he (Johnny) had been the owners of John Wood, Engineers, Ltd until it had changed hands on his retirement about four years earlier. Great changes in the administration of the company had then taken place. During 1954 the company was taken over by a financier, Col. F Baden Powell WEIL of Maidenhead and Col C C L TOFIELD was appointed as managing director. This change in administration involved a complete reorganisation. Wood's Engineers (Ramsbottom) Ltd then took over J. WOOD (Engineers) in 1959. Machines were made mostly for the home market, but also for abroad e.g. Egypt, USA, Canada, South Africa, France and Holland. The main items produced around this time were printing machines for the newspaper industry ~ one customer was Heaton Mills (then opposite Heaton. Park.) and there were others. Also there was work for Sun Printers, Watford (photogravure printing machines and general engineering items). All drawings were supplied from Wood's drawing office and patterns from their pattern shop. (Fully qualified pattern makers still served a seven year apprenticeship.) The patterns were passed on to the foundry where the castings were cast (casting was usually twice a week) and then manufactured by the machine shop where equipment included lathes, drilling machines and planing machines. Fitters would then assemble the machines.

Contracts in 1964 included thirteen wallpaper printing machines for Imperial Chemical Industries (whose wallpaper was made at Hyde, Cheshire), photogravure machines for magazine printing at Watford and a duplex printing machine, claimed to be the largest in the world at 75' long, 20' wide and 26' high. It was designed to print textile materials in eight colours on each side (duplex). In May that year the Managing Director, Mr Keith CHERRY, slated that the labour force totalled. 120 and more workers were needed.. For about eighteen months they had been working three night's overtime a week, Saturday mornings and each Sunday almost without a break. Other estimates suggest 130, including approximately thirty men in the foundry, seventy machine fitters, and thirty draughtsmen and staff and that at its peak there were probably as many as two hundred employees.

Mr. A.K. SMITH also became a Wood's managing director when the Works Manager was Harry BESWICK, the Drawing Office Manager was Harry HUTTON, the Foundry Manager was George BOOTH, who was succeeded by Harry WRIGHT, and the fitters' foremen were Ike WILLIAMS and Jim WALLWORK. For sixteen years until 1969, Tom SAVAGE was the cost accountant with Bob HIBBERT as cashier.) Leemin FLETCHER was succeeded by Joe DUCKWORTH. Cricket team members included Bob HIBBERT, Keith MITCHELL (Time Clerk), John JENKINSON (Draughtsman), D. BELL (Clerk) and Tom SAVAGE. The team used to play friendly matches in the Rawtenstall area.

HINCILIFFE's provided transport for many of Wood's deliveries. At one time, possibly in the mid 1950s, a HINCHLIFFE dropside lorry was driven to Blackpool about once a month to bring back a load of about eight tons of sand for the foundry.

ED LAMP POSTS AROUND RAMSBOTTOM

named lamp standards just waiting to be recorded

to join the new craze of
Gas Lamp Post Spotting!

ions in relief

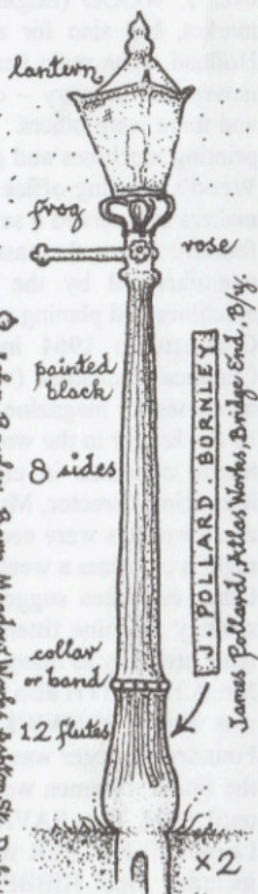
wired
8 sided
lantern

ainted white
& black

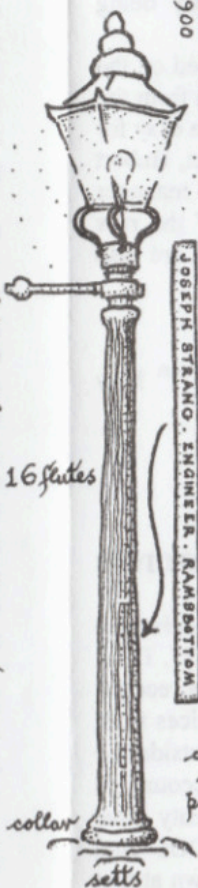
Elijah Craymer, Waterside Works, Dukinfield
& Willmott
c. 1880

flags

Hotel Grant Arms Hotel



The Mount
(up Plunge
Edenfield
from Bank St,
Rawtenstall

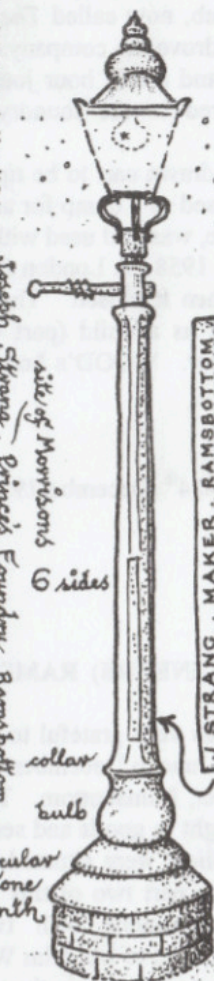


1 Rake Fold
2 Milton Street
3 Cliffe Mount
4 Near Ray Brow Lodge
5 Cross Lane, Holc.
(near Plant House)

lined at 116 Albert St.
c. 1900

Joseph Strong, Prince's Foundry, Ramsbottom
JOSEPH STRONG. ENGINEER. RAMSBOTTOM

circular
stone
plinth



Central Street Edith St
(near the steps
near the Vets
off Millhouse
Shuttleworth



The lorry was parked up on the roadside opposite the holiday camp and the sand was shovelled from the dunes, except after windy weather which could make the job a lot easier as there was often plenty of sand on the road. (Geoff HINCHLIFFE remembers these trips from when he was a six or seven year old boy helping with his smaller shovel, and also enjoying tea and toast at a certain pub, now called *The Trafalgar*. The lorry driver was a regular caller there as he often drove the company coaches on the frequent Blackpool outings which broke the two and a half hour journey at the pub.) The following morning the sand was delivered to the foundry by being shovelled through an opening in the street-side wall.

Waste from the foundry was taken in WOOD'S horse-drawn cart to be tipped on the riverbank opposite the paper mill. (The site was also used as a dump for ash from the boilers of many of the mills.) Victor, a large white horse, was still used with a dray for transporting small local repair deliveries for Wood's in 1958. A London firm, Hubert Jones (also based in Salford) owned the business when it closed. Their manager David UNS WORTH who lived at 10, Garden Street as a child (pan of the row numbered 6-10, now demolished) remembered Victor. WOOD'S horses are also remembered as being beautifully turned out.

REFERENCES

SLATER Trades Directory' 1888

Bury Times 17^h November 1927, 29th August 1936, 14th December 1957, 9th May 1964

Rams bottom Observer 12.11.1954 *Rams bottom Official Guide* (1962)

Census (1911)

BILLS AND RECEIPTS OF JOHN WOOD (ENGINEERS) RAMSBOTTOM (Part 1)

A few years ago the Ramsbottom Heritage Society was very grateful to receive the donation of a file full of receipts dating from the period June to December 1927. They had belonged to John WOOD Engineers, Garden Street, Ramsbottom. 'Hie receipts show that during six months in 1927 the company bought in goods and services from nearly 150 other businesses. While most of the suppliers were situated outside the Ramsbottom area (and hopefully will be the subject of part two of this account, in another issue of our Newsletter), there were transactions with twenty five Ramsbottom businesses. Most of the invoices are addressed to Mr John WOOD (and a few to Messrs WOOD). Their billheads teach us about activities in the town at that time and some of them feature intricate illustrations of goods manufactured here.

The headings on the invoices of John O HAWORTH (Proprietor: T WARBURTON), "Wholesale and Retail Mill and Furnishing Ironmonger" of 15, Bolton Street (now *Dine at Home* and *Midas Business Services*) mentions his warehouse on Smithy Street. We see that he could supply india rubber, belting, asbestos, red and white leads and that he dealt "in every class of oils, paints and

valves and steam fittings". A list of twenty five to thirty sundries such as screws, nails washers, floor cloths, brushes and small electrical items grouped for up to eight separate dates appears on each invoice but the monthly totals are no more than £7 10s 2d (and usually a lot less). Added to each month's list next to every item is a note in red ink, usually showing what is possibly a job number. Other notes seem to direct the item to the right department such as the tool shop, garage, stock, harness room, furnace, smithy and offices. (Four yards of twin flex and one 2-pin miniature electric plug were to go to Mr WOOD'S car.)

Much larger monthly bills, for amounts up to £147. 2s 4d, were submitted by John BOOTH, Paradise Tin and Copper Works, Ramsbottom. The billhead states that this "Maker of Tin & Copper Drying Cylinders of any diameter" carried out "Every Description of Tin and Coppersmiths Work for Printers, Engineers, Bleachers &c. &c". Although some troughs and dust boxes are shown on them, John WOOD'S orders are mainly for drying cylinders made of tin or copper. (Copper was probably cheaper than tin.) Workers at John BOOTH would use metal sheets and then fit steel ends and a bar running through the centre. A number of these cylinders would then be built into each paper printing machine manufactured at WOOD'S. In use the paper would run round and through the rows of steam heated rollers, drying in the process. The billhead of Fred MASON Ltd, Coppersmith, Iron & Tin Plate Worker &c (in Kelly's Directory of 1924 listed at Atlas Steam Tin Copper & Iron Works, Kay Brow) is the most lavishly illustrated of all WOOD'S 150 suppliers. Although MASON's did not seem to carry out as much work for WOOD'S as John BOOTH, they regularly made items for fitting on to the printing machines, including copper colour boxes and also did other welding jobs. *[See next page for copy of MASON's bill.]*

Although a regular account was held with Robert MATHER, "Maker of all kinds of Springs for Spinning, Weaving, and Engineering, also Textile Accessories of every description" at Carr Spring Works, Ramsbottom, the highest total amount invoiced is 17s 9d for quantities of wire and springs. Other work done was on tempering cutters. WOOD'S had only one order in the file from "engineers, machinists, iron and brass founders to bleachers, dyers, calico printers and paper stainers, chemical and colour manufacturers" Joseph STRANG Limited, Princes Foundry. It was just for a piece of mild steel costing £1 1s lid. Another single item from Victory Works, Wood Street (proprietor S S BROADLEY) "Machines Fitted with Best Sycamore Rollers. Light Carrying Done" cost £1 4s 6d.

Joseph BOOTH & Sons, Tanners and Curriers, Standard Leather Works, Factory Street, Ramsbottom, established 1877 "attended the Royal Exchange, Manchester on Tuesday and Friday". The company manufactured "Single and Double Leather Belting, Picking Bands and Strap Laces of every description. Buffalo and Leather Pickers, Buffers, Balata, Hair and Cotton Beltings and every description of Engineers' and Colliery Requisites". The asbestos fibre jointing WOOD'S bought from them would be compressed between two flanges on steam equipment as a seal

ESS.
MSBOTTOM."

Atlas Steam Tin Copper & Iron Works.
RAMSBOTTOM

Mr. J. WOOD.

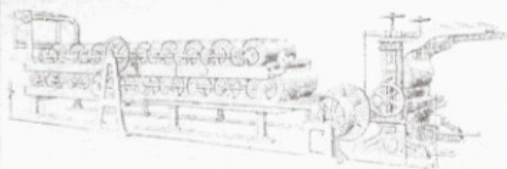
OUR PAN

T OF

Fred Mason
COPPERSMITH
IRON & TIN PLATE WORK

Steam Cylinders, Copper Colour Pans, Rollers

and all kinds of Tin & Copper



MANGLE & DRYING MACHINE



FOR PRINTERS, BLEACHERS,
ENGINEERS, MILL OWNERS

to stop the steam escaping. They also made brake straps for WOOD'S. Rollers were fitted with a cast iron wheel over which was a leather belt with a hook for hanging weights on. The heavier the weights the greater the braking force on the wheel.

There were frequent deliveries to satisfy WOOD'S timber and joinery needs from J H HAWORTH & Co Ltd, Irwell Saw Mills, Kenyon Street, Ramsbottom (Directors J WILSON, W STUART, A HAWORTH). The company is listed in Trades Directories of 1883, 1888 and 1913 as Joseph Hill HAWORTH. On each of their monthly accounts (with totals up to £74 per account and usually about twenty different items) are the notes in red ink. Three of the invoices include materials for Park Cottage (36ft lath 2"x 10ft sash cord and nails, 23ft planed board 6 x 1, 9ft ditto 5!4x1, 22ft planed board 7x1, 11ft ditto 6x1 11ft prime pitch pine 5x%) and work for Park Cottage: a joiner preparing timber at shop and hours of work at Park Cottage but together the cost is less than £10. In 1927 Park Cottage, Bury New Road, which was originally the manse to Park Chapel, was the home of John ARMSTRONG, nephew of John WOOD. (The brothers John and Peter ARMSTRONG, ran the business after John WOOD retired.) David ROSTRON, "Plumber, Glazier, Gas Fitter and dealer in Iron and Brass Fittings for Gas Steam and Water and also Iron Pipes" used to be at 23, Bolton Street (which is now the shop called *The Hidden Gem*). He mentions on his billhead that "Pumps, Baths and Water Closets" are "fixed and repaired on the most improved principle" but each of his bills to WOOD'S has totals only up to a maximum £6 2s 6d and is just for materials. Another plumbers and glaziers (who were also decorators) called STARKEY & RAMSBOTTOM (Spring Street) sent WOOD'S only one bill which was for some copper tube.

Understandably, Ramsbottom's textile companies do not seem to have been of much importance to John WOOD'S business. TURNBULL & STOCKDALE, Calico Printers, Bleachers and Dyers of Rosebank Printworks did supply an 8s carboy of vitriol (carboy to be returned) and later 561bs of white cloth at 2s per yard. Britannia Rope & Twine Co Ltd, Manufacturers of Ropes, Cords, Twines & Lines, of Edenfield, (established 1886) invoiced WOOD'S for 50ft of ³/₄ inch manilla rope, some ¹/₄ inch square cotton rope and two bundles of cotton twine on three separate bills. Also, SHEPHERDS Ltd, Cotton Waste Spinners and Manufacturers at Crow and Railway Mills provided 2 gallons of transmission oil and eight loads of what seems to be firewood for 9s and £6 9s respectively. Two invoices show that more oil was obtained from W H BIRTWISTLE & Co Ltd, established 1874, "Refiners and Pressers of Oil and Tallow. Motor & Lubricating Oils, All kinds of Sizing Materials". They had a telegraphic address of PORRITT, Refiner. (This company's premises, Carr Oil and Tallow Works, has now been transformed into the *Old Mill Hotel*.) Predecessors of the present-day soap manufacturers KAYs (Ramsbottom) Ltd were James KAY & Sons Ltd, *Britannia Works*, Soap and Oil Manufacturers at the same premises on Kenyon Street. In 1927 a bill shows Wood's had purchased from them one parcel of soap at a cost of 14s 5V4d. Another surviving business is *Station*

Garage, Railway Street. Messrs John WOOD had an account there in 1927 and Ramsbottom Motors Ltd were authorised Ford dealers with a registered office at Market Place. (This may explain the wooden “Garage” sign which was on the building at the corner of Market Place and Carr Street and pointing down Bridge Street.) The Ramsbottom Paper Mill Company Ltd. (of the mill recently closed) sold WOOD’S a 401b parcel of “fine gd wrapping”. They had a quaint telephone number, which was Ramsbottom No 2, and their telegraphic address was “Papier”, Ramsbottom.

In September 1927, the newsagent, stationer and tobacconist Frank ROTHWELL of 13, Bolton Street (now *Rachel Goddard Aesthetics*) submitted his quarterly bill for the *Manchester Guardian* (12s 0d) and the *Bury Guardian* (2s 2d). However, a “general and commercial” printers and stationers in Union Street, H SCHOLLES & Son, were suppliers of WOOD’S office stationery and materials: wage envelopes, paper, ink, ledgers, files, receipts etc. In the winter months WOOD’S offices also took delivery of two hundredweights of house coal weekly (and monthly in Summer) from CHADWICK Bros, Carriers and Coal Merchants, 72, Bolton Street and at Tanners Farm whose coal depot was on Stubbins Lane. At 18, Bridge Street (now *Horsebits*), there was a branch of the Leeds based TAYLORs Drug Co Ltd, (“The largest British Retail Chemists”). They had taken over the shop from J W BRACEWELL who had been at Orchard Mills, Railway Street as a manufacturing chemist. WOOD’S 1927 purchases from TAYLOR’S, who eventually became Timothy WHITE’S and TAYLOR’S, included quantities of methylated spirits, glue, size and various first aid supplies. There were also soda siphons at 8!4d each from TAYLOR’S, which were directed to the offices.

Plastering, distempering (Walpamur), burning off and painting was carried out, mainly in WOOD’S office, by WARDLE & HOLT, of Railway Street. They were “Decorative Painters and Paperhangers, Grainers, Sign Writers, Gilders, Plasterers etc”. A “choice of High Class papers” was kept in stock and “best workmanship and materials” were guaranteed. For the hours put in by J SHEPHERD (37), E ROTHWELL (7), J HOLT (14½) and L TAYLOR (29½), a total of £7 6s 5d was charged in September, on what appears to be the only bill. Materials increased the cost of the work to £9 14s 8d. LESTERs’ Laundry, also known as Fletcher Bank Steam Laundry, (“sole proprietors James and Thomas LESTER”) provided a weekly service with work listed for both WOOD and ARMSTRONG.

The collection of bills and receipts contains more details related to 1927 Ramsbottom commerce than we have been able to include in this account. It is also unlikely that we will be able do the WOOD’S company justice in a future article about the transactions which took place with other businesses nationwide. Very important to us, however, are any of our readers’ recollections which this account may have prompted so far. These would be welcomed for the Ramsbottom Heritage Society Archive and, hopefully, for inclusion in a future newsletter. (Editorial Team)

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Below is a follow up to an item by* Mr C R ECCLES which was published in our Spring 2009 News Magazine (Number 36). We do apologise for the poor quality of the copy of the RHS archive photograph which accompanied Mr ECCLES³ piece. The unusual photo depicted Humpty Dumpty falling down - from the back of a horse. Among other interesting information, Mr ECCLES, who took over the running of TURNBULL & STOCKDALE's design studio in 1954, told us that the Humpty Dumpty design had been one of their 1950s nursery rhyme series meant for use at events such as gymkhanas. The series had been described by Mr W and Mr J TURNBULL as being one of the annual \crazy season³ projects.*

I have for about forty years had the experience of running a works design studio in both printed and woven fabrics, wallpapers and other wall coverings. The difference I found is in the scale of the patterns. Larger designs could be used for furnishing fabrics eg heavy hand block prints and hand screen prints because of the width of the cloth compared with the width of wallpaper. Apart from this, the design approach and content are much the same. Today there is a wealth of ideas to inspire designer graphics: illustrations, paintings and prints both European and American, displays at museums, galleries and at exhibitions and above all from nature - flowers, leaves, colours and textures.

Historically and since William MORRIS (1834 - 1896), the founding father of the *Arts and Crafts Movement* and the establishment of MORRIS & Co in 1875, unique and imaginative designs proved to be an influence on wallpapers, textiles, carpets, tapestries, ceramics and interior design. Disciples of William MORRIS included Lewis F DAY (1845 - 1910), Walter CRANE (1845 - 1915) and C F Voysey (1857 - 1941). Commercial companies such as TURNBULL & STOCKDALE Ltd, SANDERSON'S and ESSEX & Co took full advantage of these designers' talents. Both textiles and wallpapers had been changed dramatically by the technological improvements of the Industrial Revolution which slashed the time and cost involved in their manufacture.

C R Eccles ARC A. Des RCA

GAS STREET LIGHTING - A VERY SHORT HISTORY AND A LOCAL CONNECTION

It is recorded that the first house in the United Kingdom to be illuminated by gas lighting was that of William Murdoch of Redruth, Cornwall as long ago as 1792 using coal gas from an iron retort.

Murdoch subsequently worked for Matthew Boulton and James Watt (two great names involved in the building of factory steam engines) at their Soho Foundry' in Birmingham. In 1798 he used coal gas to light the Foundry, another first, and in 1812 founded the Gas Light and Coke Company. It should be remembered that gas lighting at this time and for many decades to come, was by a naked flame or flames. On the 28th January 1807 the first gas powered street lamps in the United Kingdom

were introduced on London's Pall Mall. At their peak of operation it was estimated that there were about 60,000 gas lamps in the Capital each having to be lit and extinguished every day by a veritable army of Lamplighters.

By 1823 numerous towns and cities were lit by gas. It was estimated that gaslight cost up to 75% less than oil lamps or candles. By 1859 gas lighting was to be found all over Britain and about 1000 gas works had sprung up to meet demand for the new fuel. Gas lighting in homes, however, didn't really take off until the last quarter of the 19th Century

The next chapter of the gas lighting revolution was in 1887 when the gas mantle was invented by Austrian chemist, Carl Auer von WELSBACH (to name but a few!) an employee at Bunsen's laboratory in Heidelberg. He discovered by accident that asbestos soaked in "rare earth" compounds gave an intense glow when heated by a gas flame. The early gas mantles were not very efficient and were extremely fragile. They cost around 5/- (25p) each and the whole burner had to be sent back to the manufacturer if a new mantle was needed. The quality of gas mantles improved over the years however and they were used in street lighting in London for the first time in 1895.

Electric street lighting had, by the beginning of the 20th Century, begun to take over from gas though it took several decades to virtually eradicate gas street lighting. Today the largest street gas lighting network in the world is probably in Berlin with about 44,000 lamps. Street gas lighting gave way to low pressure Sodium and high pressure Mercury lighting in the 1930's and the development of electric lighting at the turn of the 19th Century replaced gas lighting in homes.

By the late 1920's and early 1930's the age of the Lamplighter had almost disappeared. An automatic switch on and off system had been introduced by the Newbridge and Horstman Gear Co Ltd, of Bath. This was basically a 14 day wind up clock which could be set to light and extinguish the lamp at pre-set times. This worked remarkably well and only required the services of a 'Lamplighter' to make fortnightly visits to each lamp to wind up the clock, adjust the time switches, clean the glass and replace the mantles when necessary. This system lasted until the almost fading away of the street gas lamp in the late 1960s to mid 1970s.

An interesting point at this stage is the fact that I grew' up and lived for the most part of my life in Blackpool. When gas lighting finished in the town in 1964 I, like many other people at that time, bought a redundant lamp standard and lantern with the intention of displaying it in the garden. The standard cost £3 and the lantern £2! I was offered £1,000 for it by an American some years ago! It has moved addresses with me on six occasions now and is currently awaiting erection in my garden in Ramsbottom. It was a working gas lamp (never electrified - I can't stand falseness) for some of the time in Blackpool and hopefully one day the same will happen in its new location getting it connected up to the main gas supply is a problem.

Of course one of the major users of gas lighting throughout its lengthy history- were

the railways. Even some major stations remained lit by hand operated gas lamps until, in some cases, their closure under the Beeching axe. From my own memory I can recall both Blackpool Central and Blackpool North both being lit by gas until their closure or demolition in 1964 and 1972 respectively. Many of you will recall similar gas lit stations within your memory. The last station on the British Rail system to be gas lit was Ilkley. North Sea gas was discovered in 1968 and the huge project to convert every household in the United Kingdom from coal gas to natural gas commenced in Burton on Trent in 1968 and went on until 1976. The last major gasworks to be in operation was, if memory serves me correctly, in Warrington. It was thought at the time that any remaining gas street lamps, which had hitherto used coal gas, would be unable to operate using the new natural gas. These fears proved to be unfounded; basically all it required was a larger mantle to take the extra pressure. And so to the present day. It may surprise many people to learn that there are still pockets of street gas lighting in operation in the United Kingdom. There are, for instance, around 300 - 400 working lamps in London. These are to be seen in various locations in the centre of the Capital including much of the Covent Garden area, all the Royal Parks and exteriors of the Royal residences - Clarence House, St. James' Palace etc and, if you picture all the festoons of lamps on the railings of Buckingham Palace then, believe it or not, these are all gas lit! If you are on holiday in London and are walking along Fleet Street by Temple Bar and the Royal Courts of Justice, just nip into the Middle Temple and Inner Temple complexes which cover the area from the Strand/Fleet Street to the Victoria Embankment, where many Lawyers' and Barristers' offices are to be found. These, of course, are two of the Four Inns of Court, the others being Grays Inn and Lincolns Inn. The whole garden interior of the complex is gas lit. It really is like stepping back in time and the silence just a few yards from the busy roar of traffic is truly amazing. Other venues which have a gas lit presence are the Park Estate, just behind the Castle in Nottingham and Malvern in Worcestershire. One or two lamps also survive in York by the Minster and in Leeds.

And so we come to the local connection and a remarkable survivor. Gas street lighting in Ramsbottom came to an end [*Does anyone know when a gas lamp was last lit in Ramsbottom? Editor*] and most of the new electrically lit lamp standards that succeeded them were of the either concrete or of a modern metal variety. It is, however, surprising to find that there are still several gas lamp standards that survive most of which have been 'electrified' by having a modern lamp or lantern affixed to the top of the standard or post. These can be seen in various parts of the town and most are identified in the wonderful John Taylor sketch elsewhere in this edition of the magazine. Also, as may be supposed, most of these cast iron standards were manufactured in fairly local towns including Ryder Bros, Beehive Works, Bolton, R. Haighton, Vulcan Works, Nelson and E. Woolley, Canal Foundry, Church, Accrington. However, and hardly surprisingly, many were made by Joseph STRANG at the Princes Foundry in Ramsbottom. Joseph was born in Nuttall in

1853. He served his apprenticeship as a mechanic with a Mr. LUND at his foundry, the Palatine Iron Works on Railway Street/Irwell Street situated somewhere near where the Empire Cinema used to be. He started his own business together with John WOOD c1878 and later branched out on his own at the Princes Foundry, on Prince Street, a site now occupied by Morrisons supermarket and car park. The foundry datestone survived thanks to the intervention of Ken BEETSON and the Heritage Society' and is now displayed at the south end of the car park. He lived variously at Albert Street, Bolton Street and Cross Street and went to live in retirement in Lytham, around 1st 17, where he died in August 1928 aged 75. His business continued as a Limited Company by his sons. If you should spot any of these original gas lamp standards on your travels around Ramsbottom, many have the names of the makers shown in the casting - some even have been highlighted in gold! However, there is one notable exception. I am fairly new' to the area and one day when on a walk round the town, i.e. up Peel Brow, along Whalley road and back through Stubbins, it was with some amazement that I spotted what appeared to be an original gas lamp standard but even more surprisingly complete with original lantern together with all its internal workings - burner, clock, mantle fitment etc still in situ inside the lantern. On closer inspection this proved to be correct. The lamp itself is in Edith Street, Shuttleworth and is well known to the residents of that Street. It would not have been lit for many, many years and has survived mainly because some residents resisted its removal wanting to keep it as a heritage reminder time past. It had been replaced by a concrete electric lamp some yards away. Cutting a long story short, enquiries were made with the Lighting Department of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council who were not interested as the lamp was not considered to be on the public highway. A visit to the location will explain why this is. Mick NIGHTINGALE, the Council Conservation Officer, has taken a keen interest in the lamp and has been very' supportive.

The lantern atop the standard was, as you may suppose, in a fairly poor state and has been removed for renovation. It is hoped that this will be re-instated sometime this year. The persons renovating the lantern incidentally are responsible for the installation and maintenance of all the working gas lamps on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, This refers to all the stations on the railway with the exception of Keighley. The Shuttleworth lantern is indeed in good hands.

The ultimate plan is to try and get the lantern fully restored to working order by various approaches to all manner of organisations. If this is achieved it will almost certainly be the only working gas lamp in its original location in the whole of Greater Manchester and probably Lancashire too. It is also felt it could be of some educational benefit as well as probably all of today's schoolchildren and maybe many adults as well, will have never seen a working gas lamp. Watch this space!

Graham Twidale 2010

(With thanks for additional information to Brenda Richards)

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 Website: 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. 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.

**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**

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 2010

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 welcome.

We hope everyone will enjoy an afternoon out and benefit from the exercise and friendly company. Sensible footwear and waterproof clothing is recommended. Be prepared for sun, rain or cold weather.

- Sunday 25th April** **Redisher Wood and Roger Worthington's Grave**
Meet at 2pm at the *Hare and Hounds*, Holcombe Brook for a walk of about 4 miles
Leader - John.B.Taylor
- Sunday 23rd May** **Chatterton – Irwell Vale – Lumb - Stubbins**
Meet at 2pm at the *Grant Arms*.
Leader – Linda de Ruijter
- Sunday 27th June** **NO WALK**
- Sunday 25th July** **Nuttall – the Village that Vanished**
Meet at 2pm at Ramsbottom Station
Leader – Kate Slingsby
- Sunday 22nd Aug** **Round Holcombe Tower**
Meet at 2pm at the *Grant Arms*.
Leader – Joan Young
- Sunday 26th Sept** **Exploring Holcombe Village**
Meet at 2pm at the *Shoulder of Mutton*
Leader – John Ireland