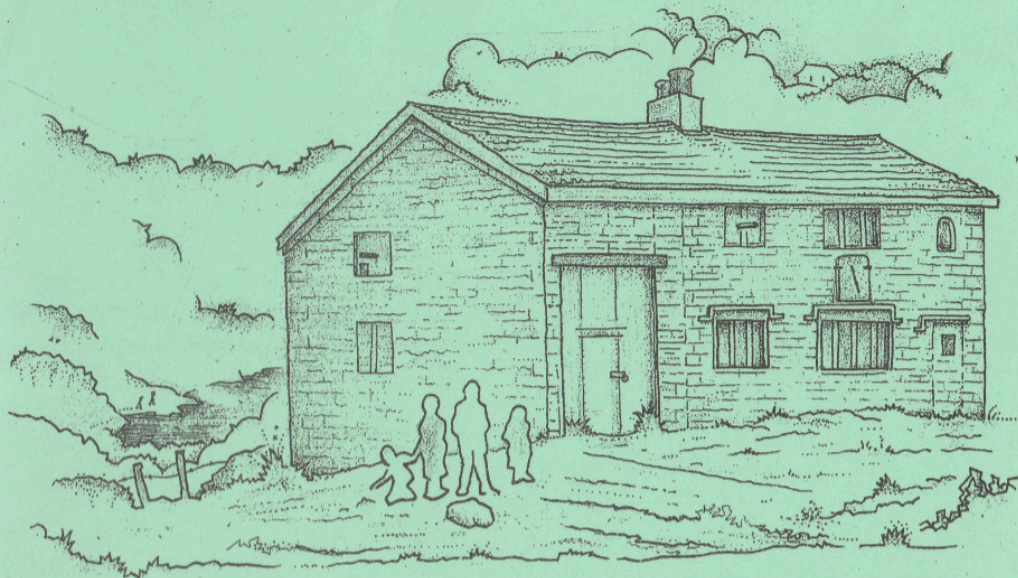




NEWS MAGAZINE

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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

2010:

- November 17 Mr G. Atkinson – *A 1920s Bleaching, Dyeing & Weaving Mill* (illustrated)
- December 15 **Social evening** - Christmas Festivities

2011:

- January 19 Miss M. Curry – *Beatrix Potter* - part 2 (illustrated)
- February 16 Dr P. Hindle – *Travel in Medieval England* (illustrated)
- March 16 **Photographic Competition** – judge - Mr R. Turner
Mr R. Turner – *Are You Being Served?* (talk)
- April 20 Mr R Frost – *Textile Engineering Manufacture in North East Lancashire* (illustrated)
- May 18 **Annual General Meeting and Members' Night**

**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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Front cover: Simon's Sundial Cottage near Simon's Farmhouse, Redisher, Ramsbottom by John B Taylor 2010.

Much of this issue of the News Magazine is a tribute to the work of John B TAYLOR, whose wonderful quirky pen and ink drawings are to be found on the front covers and as illustrations within many articles of this and earlier news magazines. The drawings add much to our images of the Ramsbottom area and they are beautiful, miniature works of art. We'll miss you, John.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At last the often referred to Museum, subsequently formally named Heritage Gallery, has been opened; with due ceremony, on 10th September, Mayor of Bury John BYRNE officiating, with the adjacent, linked classroom, for use by Bury Adult Education Services, being separately opened by, and named for, retiring Mayor and Councillor Sheila MAGNALL, who has been a great supporter of the project. The event was accompanied by activities associated with both the Society and adult education provision at Ramsbottom. Histories of both the town and the Society, scripted, with appropriate illustrations supplied, by members, are depicted on wall boards, produced by Bury Museum Service, at the Gallery entrance, whilst the exhibition, which will run until July 2011, comprises cinerary remains of Bronze Age inhabitants of the area, recovered from nearby Whitelow Hill by members of Bury Archaeological Group in 1960, a fitting link between c21st townspeople and their ancestors. Further details of the excavation and finds appear elsewhere in this issue, with thanks to Richard BURNS, Curator, Bury Museum. The Gallery is open during Library opening hours, with Society members providing advice and information at week-ends. Sunday opening will be reviewed as time goes on and visitor patterns have been determined. Please visit the Gallery whenever you are in Ramsbottom. Archive management training and outreach activities continue, and you will find more about the archive in the piece in this issue by Society member Dave

HADDOCK. Preparations for, and the event itself, have overshadowed other Society activities, which have carried on throughout the summer. Now autumn is upon us and our programme for next year is being prepared. In advance of it we will again have a table at a Ramsbottom Christmas Market, on Sunday 19th December, and I hope you will visit us there. Good wishes to everyone for a happy Christmas and New Year.

Tony Murphy

JOHN B TAYLOR

In April we learned with great sadness of the death of John B. TAYLOR, whose artwork is to be found in many issues of the News Magazine. Although not a member, John's support for the Society and its endeavours has been considerable, with lectures, walks, and artwork, from its founding until his passing. His loss will be keenly felt by many both within and outside the Society. John's life story appears in this issue.

Tony Murphy

THE HOLCOMBE MOOR TRAINING AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT Holcombe Moor is an area John B TAYLOR loved. His passion for the hidden valley is evident through his guided walks and illustrations. His views on the importance of the moor are now being backed up by new research, sadly too late for John.

Holcombe Moor has been described by experts from Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) as remarkably unspoilt and probably one of the most important historic landscapes in Greater Manchester. Their comments follow two boundary surveys carried out by archaeologists in 1995 and 2006 that allowed the reconstruction of the training area's landscape prior to 1600. Those archaeological surveys indicated that human activity within the bounds of the Training Area occurred as early as the Mesolithic period (c. 8000 to c. 4000

BC) and that there is some pollen and archaeological evidence to show that woodland clearance began at Holcombe during the Bronze Age (c. 2500 to 700 BC), with renewed woodland clearance activity in the area of Holcombe Moor during the Iron Age (700 BC to AD 43) and the Roman periods (AD 43 to 410). By the end of the Iron Age the uplands around Holcombe had become dominated by heather moorland (OAN 2006, 10-12). After some woodland regeneration in the Early Medieval period (AD 410-1066) the Holcombe area emerges into history as 'Holcombe Forest' in 1176. This was an area within the large manor of Tottington governed by Forest Law (OAN 2006, 12-3). Forest Law governed the Training Area until 1507 when this was lifted and palaeo- environmental evidence suggests that the upper Holcombe Valley remained wooded during the medieval period, although there is evidence for a growth

in clearance activity¹. There is also evidence of possible medieval ridge and furrow which might indicate the presence of older farmsteads but the 2006 survey found evidence of huge earth bankings separating different ancient farmsteads and discovered how field systems mentioned in the 17th and 18th centuries still survive. The fact they still exist is down to a quirk of history. When the army first created the range in 1912 they demolished three farms, Stonerooks, Old Meadows and Old Hoyles. But they left behind the landscape which has now fossilised into what we see today. Work is ongoing to unravel the complex nature of Holcombe Moor. Recent archaeological digs at Cinder Hill Farm have uncovered remains of a late 16th century house. Intriguingly a trench also uncovered a previously unknown farm building.

The ruins of Cinder Hill Farm lie east of Holcombe Brook, the 1995 and 2006 surveys identified the remains of the farmhouse, a pond to the north, a possible building platform immediately to the south of the farmhouse and around 40m to the south of this complex another platform with at least two stone-lined tanks.

The earliest documentary reference to the Cinder Hill area appears to be two entries in the Tottington Manor Court Rolls from the late 16th century. In 1578 Robert HOLT leased to Henry NUTTOE (presumably Henry NUTTALL) for 21 years one close of land called 'Synderhill (LRO DDHcl3/72 & 60). However, in 1590 Robert HOLT gave a new lease to Henry NUTTALL for one message, other buildings, and two acres in Holcombe Hey called 'Synderhilles'. This appears to the moment at which the farmstead later known as Cinder Hill was created from the earlier medieval holding of Holcombe Hey (OAN 2006). In 1688 Thomas AINSWORTH held Cinder Hill, which at the time comprised 'a message , other buildings and 12 [Lancashire] acres of ancient copyhold land' (LRO DDHcl 3/202). A lost datestone from the farm gave a date of 1715, which might have marked a change in tenancy (OAN 2006, 69). In 1794 the tenancy was held by John BRANDWOOD when an engine house, location unknown but it has been suggested that this was at the Cinder Hill Factory site (Tyson 1989), is also mentioned as part of the tenancy (LRO DDX/118/139/29). The Brandwoods are also attested here in 1802 (LRO DDX 118/154/3) but the farmstead was unoccupied in 1838 when the tithe apportionment was compiled

The excavation of Cinder Hill Farm thus fits within a wider pattern of research on post-medieval farmsteads within the Greater Manchester area. What makes this particular site unusual is that it is a research excavation on an upland settlement, of which there are very few examples within the city region. Within the context of Bury,

The Holcombe landscape, of which Cinder Hills Farm forms a part, is a significant example of early upland enclosure from the 16th to mid-17th centuries (Nevell & Redhead 1999, 19-21). The farm appears to be one of a number of enclosure

dwellings built in this period, including Boardman's Farm, Bramley Fold, Holcombe Hey Fold Farm, Holcombe Head Farm, and Hollingrove Farm.

As with most evaluations it has left many questions that could be answered by further excavation work. Only a small area of the farmhouse was evaluated and much still remains to be investigated. The remainder of the house's footprint and interior could be revealed and its association with the eastern outshot building examined. Also the relationship of the stone-lined pond off the north eastern corner could be investigated. Equally the full form and function of the outbuilding requires further work as only a small portion of the walls were revealed and none of its interior. Should further work be carried out (and if the intention was to open up the remains for viewing) then consideration should be given to consolidation of the remains and its method of presentation and interpretation.

Cinder Hills Farm contains a great deal of potential for demonstrating the activities that occurred in the valley over a fairly long and important period of post-medieval rural history. Together with the many other post-medieval and industrial sites in the valley further investigation could reveal good evidence of how such communities functioned and developed.

Volunteers have also pin pointed the remains of a late 18th century textile mill at Bottoms next to the Red Brook close to Cinder Hill. Work is ongoing to plot the dimensions of the building which could be one of the earlier known examples in the Bury area. The very hard and exceptionally dry winter provided a key to start unlocking the puzzle of Bottoms Mill, for the unusual amount of vegetation die back allowed a glimpse of a distinct platform by the side of Red Brook in the Holcombe Valley. Once we had stumbled across Bottoms Mill we organised a day for examining the site and recording it, followed by a later date by geophysics (During the initial examination we found stonework and geological features that suggested a sluice, possible walls and a rather puzzling area of the pond that had been dug out on the stream side. The 'sluice' was still draining water from the old pond into the brook, and opposite was found what we thought could be another pond. This made us think that the wheel was situated in the brook. Examination of the platform edge by the brook showed erosion had occurred, but what appeared to be the edge of a flag floor had been exposed as a result. In the brook lay some large slabs of stone, but whether for paving or some other purpose is still not known.

On the day of the geophys the party split into two sections. One conducted the geophys across the only area that the vegetation allowed. The other, deep in the nettles and hawthorns, measuring and recording the site of what we believe is the mill building that is situated at the Northern end of the platform. Subsequently we sent the sketches to the Army archaeologist who then visited the site and pointed out that there may be a filled in channel in the pond that could mean the wheel was at the opposite end of the building to that which we thought. However, he is making arrangements for removal of the willows and the two hawthorns growing in the

middle of the mill. We can then apply herbicide and start doing some work by means of trenches, test pits and sondages

Members of the Holcombe Moor Heritage group are also conducting resistivity surveys of the sites of Stonerooks and Old Meadows in an attempt to discover if any of the foundations remain despite demolition at the turn of last century.

But the moor is not all about ruined buildings. One building does survive. Sadly Simon's Sundial Cottage is currently on the English Heritage at risk register. The building is a Grade II classic example of early Stuart Lancashire vernacular architecture with mullioned windows and the remains of an early sundial which gives the farm its name. Its current owner Defence Estates is working closely with the Holcombe Moor Heritage Group to try and bring it back to life.

[See John B Taylor's map of this area in centrefold of this issue, and John B Taylor's drawing of Simon's Sundial Cottage on front cover.]

The building has remained unoccupied for several years and sadly it is in a state of disrepair and has recently been placed on The Buildings at Risk Register by English Heritage. Holcombe Moor Heritage Group now wants to bring this historic building back to life for community use. Simon's Sundial is close to the Redisher Wood Nature Reserve and National Trust land on Holcombe Moor and could form a focal point for all those who use this unspoilt landscape. A preliminary scheme has been drawn up by a local architect and the estimated costs amount to more than a quarter of a million pounds. The group have already obtained the voluntary services of a professional project manager and are working closely with Defence Estates to ensure the building, once restored, has a viable future. Jonathan Ali *Jonathan wishes to credit and acknowledge the work of Rick Bowden and Barry Simpson of the Holcombe Moor Heritage Group and also that of Mike Nevell and Brian Grimsditch of the Centre of Applied Archaeology, University of Salford.*

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES.

Evolution of the Collection.

There have been many articles in the RHS News Magazine over the years, documenting the evolution of the Society's archive collection. At the time of writing, a further significant step is being taken in a second major repackaging and cataloguing of the documents in the collection which will further help preserve them and make them available to a wider audience. Members may be interested to know just how far matters have progressed since the project commenced in May 2010.

From its earliest days, until recently, the Society has had an Archives Officer who has diligently catalogued material as it has been donated and ensured its safe storage. Mostly, donated items were at first kept in members' homes. The opening of the former Heritage Centre on Carr Street in June 1990 meant that

the filing cabinet, which had for two years effectively been the home for many of the Society's documents, photographs and artefacts, was able to be moved into the office there. In issue 2 of the RHS News Magazine (Winter 1990/Spring 1991, Archives pp7,8), the then archivist, Brenda DECENT, describes how, with the advice of Bury Archives and Museum the storage of this material progressed from the filing cabinet to a dedicated cupboard in the Heritage Centre. Plastic bags, old envelopes and cling film gave way to archivally sound containers. Clearly the success of the collecting efforts of the Society meant that additional help was needed and Brenda describes how she and a team of volunteers set about the process of indexing and computerizing the records.

The process of computerisation was described more fully in Geoffrey JOHNSON-BRETT's article written for issue 4 of the RHS News Magazine (Winter 1991/Spring 1992 Using the Present to Preserve the Past, pp5,6). As the number of items collected doubled to over 2000, the recording of information on a card index became increasingly cumbersome. Although categories could be expanded along with new material, the sheer number of cards meant that retrieving information proved to be increasingly difficult. Therefore, not without some trepidation it seems, the Society purchased an Amstrad PCW computer which was used to create a database having 30 subject categories. The details of items listed within these categories could rapidly be retrieved by searching for specific words in their description. It is perhaps a measure of how much more comfortable we have all come to be with computers nowadays, that even a short 20 years ago, it was considered advisable to design the screen entries to resemble cards so that '... people coming to use it are not frightened off...'.

A new beginning.

Since 1998, the Heritage Society's collection of documents, photographs and some of the artefacts has been held in the care of Bury Archives Service under a permanent loan agreement. This situation has benefited the Society as pressures on storage space in our own premises continued unabated alongside an ever increasing amount of material. Ownership of the collection remains with the Society and it has been freely accessible in the secure and staffed environment of Bury Archives. However, with the passage of time, the storage and cataloguing procedures adopted by archives generally has changed. Some would call this progress, but the consequence has been that now, archives staff and some visitors find the database, that was painstakingly compiled by that aforementioned dedicated group of members, difficult to follow. Furthermore, particularly since the demise of the Heritage Centre, the Society has received a significant amount of additional material that has been neither catalogued nor deposited in Bury Archives.

Several options to address these problems were considered in early 2009- Matters could have been left to drift but that option, however unacceptable to most, was swept away when in May 2009 the Society was deprived of its temporary storage facilities in the basement of Ramsbottom Civic Hall, which was about to be refurbished. An urgent call went out to members several of whom took boxes of documents into their homes for safe keeping; at the same time the opportunity was taken to raise a basic list of their contents.

On the table before the Society at this time was a suggested revision of the permanent loan agreement with Bury Archives Service, in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund Ramsbottom Revisited Project. Many months of discussion followed concerning these proposals which would involve training a group of Society volunteers to catalogue and pack the collection to a professional standard and include it in an online database. This group, comprising initially Brenda RICHARDS, Dave HADDOCK and Kath HADDOCK, and soon to be joined by Anne MORTIMER, were at pains to protect the Society's interests through the process of negotiation. Although ultimately a pragmatic decision had to be made in the light of other aspects of the bid, the fundamental principle of the Society's ownership of the collection will not be compromised.

Once the Heritage Lottery' Fund bid had been approved, the Project plan could be implemented.

A Project Archivist, Karen SAYERS, was duly appointed by Bury Archives Service to work on a part time basis for 18 hours per week over a 12 month period solely on this project. Karen began working in June 2010. Her role not only includes giving guidance and instruction to the Heritage Society volunteers in the cataloguing procedures, but also Karen will identify and ensure other collections relating to Ramsbottom held at Bury Archives are also catalogued and cross-referenced with our own collection.

The cataloguing process

There are a series of processes involved in cataloguing the Society's collection, and these are now well under way. Firstly the Group had to check which documents are actually in the Archive. The existing computerised records proved to be invaluable in this process. The need to actually reconcile and handle each document has also been a worthwhile exercise on another level. Because every item has had to be studied, already much information has been revealed that might have otherwise passed unnoticed for despite the amount of detail held on the existing record, many of the documents could be relevant for a variety of different unrecorded reasons. The new more comprehensive database will eventually facilitate the retrieval of a wider variety of information from most documents.

Bearing in mind the distribution of the additional material that had been moved from the Civic Hall some 12 months previously, Bury Archives Service agreed

that these could be brought into the process at this stage rather than at the end. Thus, the second stage of the process involving re-sorting all the existing documents and filtering in those additional documents could begin.

Karen advised the Group that in many archive collections owned by local societies such as ours, records are grouped together under the name of individual donors. However, given the good subject index that we already had, we have chosen to adapt the existing method rather than spend extra time reconciling each donor record with each item. It is perhaps pertinent to note though that existing donor information is still held, albeit in paper form, and details are only recorded on the new computer database where this information would be of particular benefit.

The subject index, henceforth called the Cataloguing Hierarchy, has been revised in order to help users retrieve items in the collection and each document is being allocated a new unique number to make it easy to identify. The group has created 21 main categories called 'series', which represent different subjects, and which in turn might be divided into 'sub-series' within which are 'files' and 'items'. An example might help to clarify what is at first sight rather complicated.

The category 'Industry' is a series (RHS/2), 'Mills' is a sub-series (RHS2/1), 'Barwood Mill, Barwood Lea, Ramsbottom' is a file (RHS/2/1/1) which contains individual items relating to Barwood Mill (RHS/2/1/1 /...). Files have been created for 21 different mills. The series 'Industry' includes 8 different sub-series including for example Bleachworks (RHS/2/2) and Engineering Works (RHS/2/6). Some of the series are larger than others but all are recorded in the same comprehensive way which means that additional material can be brought into the collection and retrieved from the archive store more quickly and with a minimum of handling.

The cataloguing of the collection is being undertaken in line with ISAD (G) which is the 'International Standard for Archival Description (General)'. This standard governs which descriptive elements should be included at each level of the hierarchy. It represents conformity of approach which has become necessary with the advent of computer/internet technology, while at the same time is able to be adapted to the unique elements of collections such as ours. As might be seen in the example given for Barwood Mill, description proceeds from the general to the specific. The documents are being catalogued on to an electronic 'CALM' database. CALM is an archives management system which is used by over 100 holders of archives in the UK. Users will be able to search on the Ramsbottom Heritage Society website as well as that of Bury Council. The CALM software as well as a laptop computer were purchased for the Society through the Heritage Lottery Fund bid and it is hoped that when all the collection has been catalogued, the computer will be available for research at the Heritage Gallery when staffed by

RHS members.

Packaging and preservation

As intimated previously, standards change over time and what was previously regarded as acceptable packaging has changed. Acids which form in paper and card over time have been found to attack archives. Apart from the obvious dangers of contamination from bluetac, sellotape and other adhesives, even the dyes from coloured tape has been found to leach into archives. The metal in paperclips and staples can corrode leaving rust stains. Acid free folders, unbleached tape and brass paperclips have been purchased to replace existing materials and to overcome these problems. Photographs also present handling problems from fingerprints as well as the acid in packaging. So polyester sleeves have been purchased which are robust enough to withstand a lot of handling and, being clear, enable photographs to be viewed without removing them from the sleeve. The acid free storage boxes that have been purchased to house the collection now also have brass staples to secure them. These boxes are stored in Bury Archives at a stable temperature of around 18°C (68°F) and a humidity of between 45-60% so as to stop the archives drying out or becoming too damp.

While these new techniques of storage will suit the vast majority of the Collection, there are some items that due to their age, exceptional importance or fragility will require special treatment. The Group intend to seek professional advice where appropriate regarding any special measures that need to be taken in such circumstances.

Current position

The Archive Group has» since May 2010, collectively spent almost 300 hours at Bury Archives checking, sorting and receiving tuition from Karen. We are now at the stage where we can confidently start to put the first tranche of each item's description onto computer. We hope to have completed this by the end of January 2011, when there will be further procedures to be followed before the re-catalogued Collection can be launched. Additionally other aspects of the Collection are being addressed such as the vast collection of photographs that are held. Although most of the photographs have been digitised and are available on the Society's website, ideally, the originals should be preserved and catalogued in exactly the same way as the documents and we are looking at ways and means of addressing this. It may also be possible for help to be given in the transcription of audio taped memories that the Society holds.

As can be seen, there is much work still to be done and although we have until May 2011, the group would welcome help from a similar small additional team of volunteers to catalogue the photographic collection. By the time this goes to press, it is hoped that we will have an appreciation of how much work will be involved and whether any additional assistance from Bury Archive Service will be available,

but if other members feel they might be able to help us, the Group will be glad to hear from them. Dave Haddock September 2010

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP REPORT Autumn 2010

Looking at back copies of the magazine I have found many issues that have either taken a long time to come to fruition or that work on them is progressing: The Conservation Area Management Plan

In Spring 2008 the group first provided Bury Council Conservation Officer Mick NIGHTINGALE with information and it will be this autumn that we finally complete our task. Presumably he will publish the plan next Spring. Several issues were highlighted as we worked on descriptions of the town and Andrew TODD and I felt that the official English Heritage descriptions of each of the Grade II Listed buildings in Ramsbottom should be reviewed. This was particularly true of SPENCER's Hazelhurst Engineering Works as this factory had been described as being used for weaving, with a fine example of weavers' windows on the top floor of the building. This is in fact not true. SPENCER's, a family firm since 1840, has always made machinery for printing cloth. For many years rollers were engraved there until modern technology replaced them in 1988

The garden on the site of the New Jerusalem Church

.Members of the Conservation Group are nothing if not persistent. You will have read in the last few magazines, of various plans for this garden. Brenda RICHARDS and Anne MORTIMER, after months of frustration, have now teamed up with Incredible Edible Ramsbottom and have applied for a grant. If this comes through the garden on the corner of Ramsbottom Lane and Factory Street will be have plants that are both colourful and edible.

Volumes 1 - 25 of the RHS Magazine

These are now available on the www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk website, but owing to the various electronic processes they do need proof reading. All you need is a computer to be able to do this, so please get in touch with either John LEYLAND or myself if you feel you could help..

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society collection of paintings The Society has long held a number of paintings, including a very fine oil of Capt. Richard PORRITT who was killed in World War II. It was hoped that several paintings would be hung in the new Heritage Gallery, but gallery but sadly there isn't enough space. Three paintings by Joe BARLOW were on show for the opening and two of these are of historical importance because they show scenes, which no longer exist. The other paintings and framed photographs are now stored in the top floor of the Civic Hall. The Society's collection of artefacts, which has been in storage in Ramsbottom Mill for several months, is now housed in the Heritage Gallery. In order for them to be used in displays in the Gallery we need to know more about the history of each item. If any of the older members feel they might have more information, please let me know and we can look at the artefacts together. Planning applications

Planning applications

There seemed to be few applications for the group to consider over the summer. Plans for the Electricity Sub-station in Paradise Street were re-submitted and the group again objected to the windows, requesting that they should retain the style that was typical of this kind of building. The very modern design for the extension of Holcombe School was also objected to, as this would have been the only building in a non-traditional style in the village. There has, however, been good news from the Council Planning Committee in that permission has been granted for a microbrewery to be opened in the former Bentex building (a small unusually-shaped building just above Morrison's supermarket) and you may have seen that work on the building has started.

Double Yellow Lines - does this sound familiar?

The last time this was an issue was in Autumn 2007 but recently most of the town has been repainted incorrectly. The double yellow lines should be 50mm wide and primrose in colour, but somehow the council seems unable to remember this. You will find many of these more discreet lines in Holcombe and Bury', but the only place they can be found in Ramsbottom is at the bottom of Bridge Street.

If you would like to come along to the Conservation Group Meeting you would be most welcome, just get in touch with me on 01706 281 998 Kate Slingsby

THE WHITELOW HILL EXCAVATION

[BURY MUSEUM AND PREHISTORIC RAMSBOTTOM]

In May 2005, Bury Museum re-opened after a total refurbishment and redisplay funded by Bury MBC and the Heritage Lottery Fund. During this period of great change the museum was visited by David BARROWCLOUGH, an archaeologist who was undertaking research into the Neolithic Period and Early Bronze Age in the North West. This work subsequently led to the publication of his 'Prehistoric Lancashire' in 2008 by The History Press. Whilst he was here he remarked, almost casually, that Bury had one of the best collections of Bronze Age material that he had seen in any museum. This came as something of a surprise to the curatorial staff, a pleasant one I should add, and led to a determination to include some of it in the new museum displays. He singled out for particular praise the finds from the excavation of Whitelow Hill near Ramsbottom carried out by the Bury Archaeological Group between 1960 - 65. In looking at the collections prior to their re-display, what struck the museum exhibition team particularly was that before the establishment of permanent settlements, itinerant communities passed through the borough, passed through Ramsbottom in fact, pausing to make their mark upon the landscape before moving on; be these Neolithic tribes, Bronze Age traders or Roman legions.

The difficulty, as ever in terms of museum display, is the paucity of material left behind with which to tell the stories of these ever changing communities.

The finds at Whitelaw Hill represent a spectacular exception to this. Unfortunately, lack of space prevented us from doing these finds full justice in Bury in 2005.

The development of the new Heritage Gallery in Ramsbottom, however, has presented Bury Museum and the Ramsbottom Heritage Society with a wonderful opportunity to display for the first time in many years the beautiful Early Bronze Age artefacts that were discovered at Whitelaw Hill in their entirety. It was felt appropriate to display them in a space not too far distant from the site where the finds were originally found. For these reasons the inaugural exhibition in the new gallery has focused on Prehistoric Ramsbottom, rather than on any later period of its history.

The seemingly vast spans of time that bring us to the Roman occupation and the start of 'history' as it is commonly understood, are defined by the technology employed by people living during these periods: the Stone, or 'lithic' Ages, Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic, when stone and flint tools were used; followed by the

Bronze Age when copper and tin were smelted to make the raw material from which a much greater variety of tools was fashioned; the discovery of iron led to the manufacture of stronger and more durable tools in the Iron Age and to the beginning of permanent settlements. It is quite a jump from the finds at Whitelaw Hill to the Industrial Revolution which defined Ramsbottom in a way that we might clearly recognise today, but in terms of the long history of the occupation of the area the last two centuries may be described as a mere blip, albeit an important and formative one.

Yet the site near Ramsbottom is an important one. A clay stud found there deserves special mention as it is a unique discovery for Lancashire, and only rarely encountered in excavations elsewhere. More than a dozen cremation burials were revealed by the excavation at Whitelaw Hill and besides a large quantity of cremated bones many were accompanied by artefacts and pottery of a relatively early date. One of the accompanying artefacts was a bronze, tanged awl which has led Mr. BARROWCLOUGH to confirm that all of the objects are probably Early Bronze Age.

Mr BARROWCLOUGH has questioned the description of this clay stud, of which only four are known, as a cloak fastener, which is what it was thought to be in the early '60s. He thought that because the 'stud' was made of fired clay it made it much more likely to be an ear plug; that is, an object of adornment inserted into the ear lobe (which had been previously stretched). Examples from African tribes of this sort of thing are numerous. He looked up some similar objects found with collared urns, as is the case at Whitelaw Hill, and found that they all seem to be ear plugs and not cloak studs. He considered that a cloak stud or button made of fired clay would in any case be too weak to be fit for purpose. It is by no means certain what the Whitelaw 'stud' was used for;

perhaps future finds at other burials with associated objects will settle the issue once and for all.

A large quantity of cremated bones was found at the site; the contents of the five cinerary urns also found there. After the dig was completed, some of the skeletal deposits were examined by Mr. E.L. PATTERSON at the Department of Anatomy, University of Manchester. Some of the bones were later sent elsewhere for further investigation but failed to arrive and were subsequently lost track of. In May 2010, Bury Museum was contacted by English Heritage who had been working on a project at their store in Portsmouth to review the archaeological material that they held. The aim of the review was to accurately quantify what was held; to determine its condition; to research its history; and to return material to the appropriate museums where this was feasible. During this review they discovered a group of bones simply called Irwell 814. By a process of elimination staff at Bury Museum together with English Heritage identified this grouping as the missing Whitelow Hill bones, which had been sent away for analysis in the 1960s.

It was a remarkable coincidence that the missing bones should turn up just at the point when all the excavated material was about to be put on display. In the end not all of the bones were included, but enough to suggest the great quantity that were found. In a formal handing-over ceremony at the opening of the Whitelow Hill Burial Mound exhibition on the 10th of September 2010, English Heritage gave back the bones so that they could once again become part of the Whitelow Hill archaeological collection at Bury Museum.

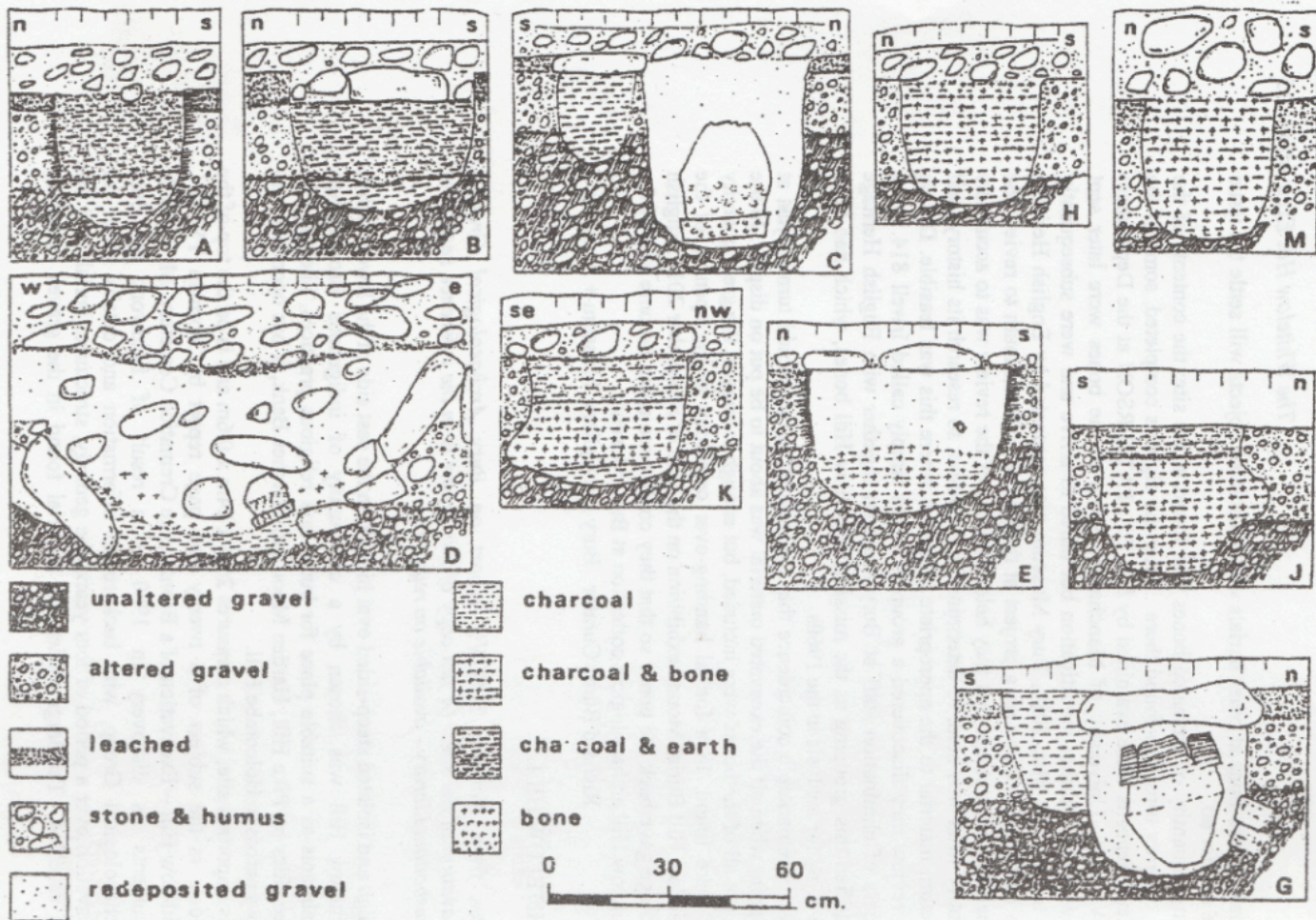
Richard Burns Curator Bury Art Gallery, Museum + Archives

WHITELOW HILL

Notes from Norman TYSON's report on Bury Archaeological Group's excavation of the site. (A full copy of this report is in the reference section at Ramsbottom Library - available on request.)

A high and isolated steep-sided oval hillock on the east side of the Irwell valley, Whitelow Hill was chosen by a community of indigenous Bronze Age inhabitants as a suitable place for burial and religious practices. Sheltered on three sides by Pike Hill, Harden Moor and Fletcher Bank, it has open westerly views across to Holcombe Hill.

This important site, which measures 26m x 24m x 0.6m and is on the top of the hillock, is the subject of a twenty two page report by Norman TYSON, 'Whitelow Hill - Excavation of a Bronze Age Cremation Cemetery. Mr TYSON documents its discovery' in 1960 as a result of fieldwork by Bury Archaeological Group, with background information and details about the excavation over a period of four years; the geology, structures, burials and fire pits revealed. The large variety of



material found in the graves including cremated human bone fragments and outstanding examples of pottery is described. The report includes scale diagrams of burial pits, which we have reproduced. The pits' sizes and contents are shown in the diagrams. Depths were between 30 and 46cm and diameters averaged 36cm (except for 'Burial D' - see extract below). The actual burial pits were dug through the subsoil into the underlying gravel. Twelve cremations and one pit containing pottery' only were found and they are described in the report in order of excavation. The ten smaller fire pits on the site averaged 20cm in depth and width. Two extracts from different sections of the report:

BURIAL D

An oblong pit with an east-west orientation 92cm x 60cm x 46cm deep dug into the enclosing bank and partially lined with large stones, contained a basal layer of charcoal 8cm deep with a small complete collared urn inverted over the east end. Shards of a plain accessory vessel were found against the um and distributed throughout the clean subsoil filling, which also contained calcined remains of a single incomplete skeleton, probably a young adult. The um contained three soil samples deposited in the following order:-

Unburnt fine brown earth with charcoal, and about eighteen small pieces of well-calcined compact bone, probably from limb bones, none of which could be identified and clearly a token deposit.

Red burnt soil with pebbles, flat stones and charcoal
Black earth with pebbles and charcoal

Conclusions

The designated area contained a large gritstone erratic subsequently enclosed by an oval bank of locally collected material, encompassing a semi-circular inner stone bank in its northern half. This inner bank partly defined by three small perimeter boulders was reinforced where necessary by a terrace of larger stones. Two small rectangular-sectioned monoliths had been erected south-west of an eccentric cairn, which covered two cremations. A further seven cremations were buried in southern parts of the site, an eighth inside the inner arc, and two more in the enclosing bank. Of ten small pits containing charcoal only, four surrounded the gritstone erratic and four lay within 50cm of burials.

PARK COTTAGE, BURY NEW ROAD, RAMSBOTTOM

[This was prompted by the articles "John Wood (Engineering) Ltd later Wood's Engineers (Ramsbottom) Ltd" and "Bills and receipts of John Wood (Engineers) Ramsbottom (part I) " in Spring 2010 [no 38] edition of the News Magazine.]



Park Cottage by John B Taylor [from "Datestones in Ramsbottom"]
 From "History of Park Congregational Church, Ramsbottom" by Rev W E Harding, 1931. "On 21st September 1846 an indenture of lease was made between the Earl of Derby ... and Joseph Porritt, Robert Comstive and James Ramsbottom ... of a piece of land east of the road leading from Walmersley to Ramsbottom (Bury New Road) containing 826 square yards. The lease was for a term of 99 years and was subject to the annual rent of £3 10s. ... By October 4^h 1848 Park Cottage, intended for the use of the minister had been erected on this land. "

THE FIRST OCCUPANTS - ANYON FAMILY

Park Congregational Church - Old Ground - gravestone

"Sacred to the memory of James son of Rev. John & Sarah Anyon of Park Cottage, Ramsbottom who died 5 Nov 1848 aged 19 yrs, 10 months. Also of Alice Fletcher the daughter of Rev. J Anyon who died 10 Jan 1911 aged 76 yrs.

1851 census - Park Cottage, Walmersley cum Shuttleworth

John Anyon	head mar 54yrs	Indep'tent Minister Park Chapel	born Leyland
Sarah Anyon	wife mar 54yrs		Bolton LAN
Jane Anyon	dau unmar 24yrs		Chorley LAN
Sarah Anyon	dau 18yrs		Eccles LAN
Alice Anyon	dau 14 yrs	scholar	Eccles
John Anyon	son 10 yrs	scholar	Eccles
Thomas Ainsworth	visitor 9 yrs	scholar	Manchester
John Anyon	visitor 6 yrs	scholar	Chorleyr

1861 census Park Cottage, Walmersley cum Shuttleworth

John Anyon	head	mar 64yrs Independent Minister Park Chapel
Sarah Anyon	wife	mar 64
Alice Anyon	dau	unmar 22yrs
John Anyon	son	unmar 20yrs
Emma Ravencroft	visitor	18yrs at school

Park Congregational Church- gravestone 285 "Sacred to the memory of Rev. J Anyon of Park Cottage Ramsbottom formerly minister of this place who died 7 Nov 1867 aged 72 yrs. Also the late Sarah Anyon the beloved wife of Rev John Anyon of Park Cottage Ramsbottom who died 1 Feb 1862. Also of Priscilla Jane the beloved wife of John Anyon of Heaton Norris who died 7 April 1895 aged 54 yrs." Park Congregational Church - tablet in chapel "This tablet, raised and inscribed by the members of the Church and congregation assembling in this place of worship in memory of the Rev. John Anyon who was their pastor for twenty-two years, bears grateful testimony of their high regard and esteem for his character and work. Born October 12^h 1795, died November 7th 1867, A good minister of Jesus Christ. Also to Sarah his wife who died February 1st 1862 aged 65 years. "

NEXT OCCUPANTS - LUMSDEN FAMILY

1871 census - Park Cottage

Robert E Lumsden	head mar 42yrs Indep Minister Park Chapel	Scotland
Mary R Lumsden	wife mar 42yr	Irelands
Stephen M Lumsden	son 13 yrs scholar	Sheffield
Rachel M B Brown	niece 22yrs income from dividends	St Helens
Jalia [<i>sic</i>] Sullivan	serv 34 yrs cook, domestic servant	Ireland
Mary Evans	serv 18 yrs housemaid	Bangor, Wales

s

NEXT OCCUPANTS - BANKS FAMILY

1881 census Park Cottage

Henry Banks	head mar 49 yrs Indep Minister Park Chapel	Staffordshire
Fanny Banks	wife mar 46 yrs	Northumberland
Henry Villiers Banks	son unmar 19 yrs	Middlesex
Arthur Stanley Banks	son 15 yrs	Staffordshire

1888 Slater's Directory

Park Cottage, Bury New Road - Rev Henry Banks

NEXT OCCUPANTS HOYLE FAMILY

1891 census Park Cottage, Bury New Road

William Hoyle	head mar 26 cotton manufacturer employer	Pendleton LAN
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Joshua Hoyle cousin 24 cotton manufacturer employer
Jane Thompson servant 42 cook

Bacup LAN
Nottingham

From "History of Park Congregational Church, Ramsbottom" by Rev W E Harding, 1931.

"1891 .. Church undertook the letting of Park Chapel which had been the Manse since the coming of Mr Anyon"[page 121] "1892 .. For salary he (Mr Gibson) was offered what income could be derived from pew rents, rent of Park Cottage less ground rent etc, interest from the legacy, marriage fees and burial fees. " [page 121]

NEXT OCCUPANTS - WOOD FAMILY

1901 census -22 Loch Promenade, Conchon, Douglas, Isle of Man

Thomas Cowin & family & servants boarding house keeper

John Wood	visitor mar 56 yrs printing machine maker	England
Maria Wood	visitor mar 42 yrs	England
Evilin [sic] E Armstrong	unmar 22 yrs	England

1901 census - Park Cottage

Martha Kay	servant 36	Old Colwyn North Wales
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1911 census - Park Cottage

John Wood	head mar 60 yrs engineer employer	Ramsbottom
Maria Wood	wife mar 52 yrs [married 27yrs, no children]	Little Lever
Louisa Harriet Lloyd	serv/ unmar 39 yrs housework	Liverpool
Jeannette [?] Reid	serv unmar 22 yrs housework	Workington

NEXT OCCUPANTS - ARMSTRONG FAMILY

Bury Times 14th Dec 1957 "Mr J W Armstrong. One of the former owners of John Wood Engineers, Ltd Rams bottom, Mr John Wood Armstrong died at his home. Park Cottage, Bury New Road, Ramsbottom, on Wednesday after a fortnight's illness.

Mr Armstrong was 71 years of age. A brother and he were the owners of John Wood, Engineers, Ltd until it changed hands about four years ago, when Mr Armstrong retired. The founder of the firm, the late Mr John Wood, was Mr Armstrong's uncle. Mr Armstrong, who leaves a widow, was connected with St Paul's Church and very interested in Ramsbottom Cricket Club. He was also a very keen motorist and had held a driving licence for more than 50 years. Interment took place at Ramsbottom Cemetery yesterday afternoon following a service at S Paul's. "

[His wife, Ethel May Armstrong, died 2^{na} April 1976 and her friend and companion Margaret Adlum continued to live at Park Cottage for a while.]

NEXT OCCUPANTS - SLEIGH FAMILY from 1978.

NEXT OCCUPANTS - DUXBURY FAMILY 8* August 1986 onwards.

Elizabeth Duxbury

Readers of this Magazine, and indeed all members of the Society, will be familiar with the valuable work the late John B Taylor did for the Heritage Society - leading walks, giving talks, and perhaps above all his beautiful, detailed drawings, which so often featured in our Magazine. However, many people may not be aware of the extensive work he did in other areas, especially the Rossendale Valley, so we are very grateful to his family for this review of his most interesting life and work.

JOHN B TAYLOR 1941-2010

John was a “one-off” from the very start. Not for him a normal birth at the local maternity ward - no he made his arrival in the back of a taxi en route to the hospital on the 9th March 1941.

He lived all his life in the same house in Bacup and had a great passion for and knowledge of the town. He was very proud of being a Bacupian and the son of a highly respected Mayor and Mayoress.

He and his elder sister, Lesley, attended Tunstead C.P.School, Stacksteads and after passing the 11+ he was a student at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School from 1952-1959. As he studied both Arts and Science subjects it was difficult to do a degree course at university and instead did a teacher training course at Alsager, Cheshire, being on the last cohort of students to do the course in two years.

He taught at only one school - Fearn's High School at Stacksteads where he was a Science teacher with an over-riding interest in Botany. He introduced many of the students there to outdoor activities, indeed pushing them to their limits. They were taken exploring old copper mines, climbing high peaks, hiking, river walking, rock climbing and other exciting pursuits. Nowadays in the age of “risk assessments” and fear of being sued, knowing his disregard for officialdom, he would probably not be allowed to take a school-party beyond the school gates. So no more trips along the bed of the River Irwell under the centre of Bacup!

John was always interested in sports and was a stylish cricketer for Waterbarn Baptist Chapel which his family attended, and when his playing days were over he was a vociferous supporter of Bacup Cricket Club's home matches. Another sport he excelled at was basketball and he played for the Old Rossendalians until well into his 40s. He also refereed and coached the sport. In his later years he played a bit of golf.

As a youth John became interested in rock climbing and would cycle or hike over to Widdop, near Hebden Bridge, for a couple of hours boulder practice. Later he joined the Lancashire Caving and Climbing Club. He retained his membership to the end and was thrilled to visit the hut at Tranearth near Coniston Old Man and walk high in his beloved Lakeland Fells just eight months before he died. He had also climbed in the Alps and arctic Norway.

A year into his teaching career John started with health problems: in 1962 he was diagnosed with diabetes, then in 1967 with TB. He was a patient in Fairfield Hospital, Bury for a very long period and during this time he was encouraged to go out to exercise and get fresh air. It was during this time that his interest in vernacular architecture really flourished. He drew the datestones of the nearby Bircle/Birtle area which were included in Arthur J DOBB's book *The Vanishing Parish*, Bircle published in 1967.

John attended lectures on vernacular architecture and drew in exquisite detail every datestone within Rossendale, eventually compiling them into a book which he published privately. He later produced a book on the datestones of Ramsbottom.

On 21 August 1971 he married nurse Ann Bennett at St Michael's Church, Lumb in Rossendale. They had two children: daughter Victoria who is now a solicitor, and son Ian who is a medical doctor. Ann died suddenly in 1999. John's health deteriorated and he had to retire after about 25 years of teaching. This left him with plenty of time to immerse himself in absorbing and recording the history of Rossendale.

John was instrumental in routing the popular Bacup Boundary Walks, each year on a different historic theme. These became the inspiration for the Round the Hills Walk, and also Haslingden High School's Boggarts Jaunts. He was on the formation Committee of the Rossendale Groundwork Trust and was a passionate supporter of Arthur Baldwin's highly successful Guided Walks programme jointly sponsored by Groundwork and the Borough Council which helped keep the Valley's complex network of footpaths open. Goodness knows how many miles John walked on these paths, creating a portfolio of A4 sheets detailing everything from lamp-posts and drainpipe heads to farm troughs and Waterboard stiles. And of course the intricate maps in his distinctive calligraphy which he produced for each of his guided walks have become cherished collectors' items. And how lucky were the people who received one of his Christmas cards!

When the Valley towns were amalgamated to create the Borough of Rossendale he and his friend Eddie ROBERTS trudged the 45 mile boundary several times making notes for a descriptive route that John was in the forefront of popularising. He proposed the commemorative Panoramic Indicator at Top o 'Lench that bears the names of the towns on the five sides. He must have spent days designing the bronze plate depicting the view, only to have it stolen. The cairn remains as a tribute to John at the heart of the district he loved so much.

He accompanied and advised Ian GOLDTHORPE during the preparation of his Rossendale Ramble books, and he helped plan and map Lady Mary TOWNLEY's Loop, a 48 mile spur off the long distance trail, the Pennine Bridleway, and for his work received a letter of thanks from HRH Princess Anne.

His artwork can be seen at the viewing point of the Halo, the Panopticon above Haslingden, and also at the Millennium Garden at Lumb. He was also responsible for the Datestone Garden outside the Nat on Yorkshire Street, Bacup. He contributed most years to the annual Rossendale Museum Local Artists' Exhibition. He was fascinated by the life and works of Edwin WAUGH, the Lancashire dialect writer and was a member of the Edwin WAUGH Dialect Society, leading the annual pilgrimage to Waugh's Well, whatever the weather!

The highlight of his week was his Thursday night visit to the Nat at Bacup, then on to the exclusive Kimberley Club for a pint or two in the convivial company of like-minded members. He also enjoyed Monday nights at the Griffin in Haslingden where the equally exclusive Klondike Club meets.

J.B. was a real character. He grew a beard claiming he led a fuller life by not having to waste time shaving each morning. He would never take you on an easy path when there was a more challenging option. On the very last walk he led (four days before he died) he scared elderly people by taking them on hazardous paths on a quarry walk, and he once scared his family on a crossing of Morecambe Bay by insisting he could take them in another direction to the one the official guide was taking!

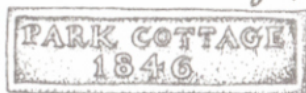
But he was a most interesting leader who will always be remembered for the immense care and preparation he took in his themed guided walks, not least the popular, innovative and entertaining "Call My Bluff walks with his friends Richard and Colin. He was a sociable person who

enjoyed chatting with participants on the walks, especially if they had nuggets of information about the Valley.

His friend Eddy ROBERTS at John's funeral on 2nd June 2010 said "John was a character, something he cultivated along with his handlebar moustache, but it was at a time when people were becoming homogenised, as well as milk. To use an old fashioned word...he was SINGULAR. Singular implies not just "one-off" but also someone who is distinctive, extra-ordinary, with admirable qualities. John was that rare creature: an ENTHUSIAST.

Thanks J.B. You've left us with lots of anecdotes to share. Rossendale will miss you"

1846 PARK COTTAGE *Park Cottage, 43, Bury New Road.*



Former manse of Park Cong. Church

AND FINALLY, DON'T MISS YOUR COPY OF THE

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

Published by the Society last May using information from 1939 editions of *The Ramsbottom Observer* and our archives, the first issue (twelve A4 pages at only £1) was so popular during the ELR War Weekend that it sold out.

ISSUE 2 WILL BE ON SALE AT THE 2011 EVENT.

It will concentrate on the year 1940.

(A few copies of Issue 1 will also be made available following a reprint.)

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 Pip Cowling, 33, Windhill Old Road, Bradford, BD10 0SE – tel 01274 611087, 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

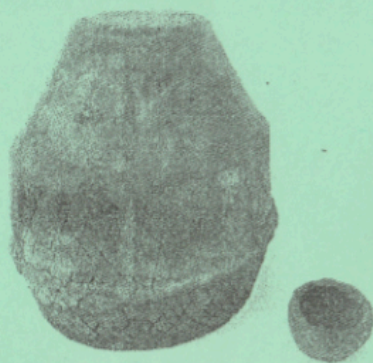
The library boasts a brand new Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery (see details overleaf), a state-of-the-art IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation and a microfiche reader. Back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 are available on film. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history can be accessed on request.

Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

***A new home for Ramsbottom Heritage Society at
Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre***

**Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery provides the opportunity
for the local community and visitors alike to access the
heritage of the area with exhibitions and information.**

Inaugural Exhibition Whitelow Hill Burial Mound 10th Sep 2010 – 4th Jun 2011



During 1960-1965 an important Bronze Age Cairn-circle, Whitelow Hill, Ramsbottom was excavated by members of the Bury Archaeological Group. More than a dozen cremation burials were uncovered with accompanied artefacts and pottery.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society:
www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Open:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
9:30am-7:30pm

Sat 9:30am-1:00pm

Sun normally 1:00pm-
4:00pm*

Members of the
Ramsbottom Heritage
Society will be in
attendance at
weekends to provide
information and
assistance

*(*check press and
website for details)*

Location:

Ramsbottom Library and
Adult Learning Centre
Carr Street, Ramsbottom
BL0 9AE
Tel: 0161 253 5352



LOTTERY FUNDED

