



NEWS MAGAZINE

No 67 Autumn / Winter 2024

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**RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY,
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE**

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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 for 2024 - 25

Note that monthly meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m.

Christ Church Neighbourhood Centre, Great Eaves Road, Ramsbottom, BL0 0PX

Check the website or Facebook the week of the meeting in case of late changes

December 5 Festive Christmas meeting. - Tickets £8 -

Contact John using details above before the end of November if you would like to come.

2025

January 16	Andrew Todd	The Lloyd George Census: The 1910 Survey of all 4581 Properties in the Parish of Ramsbottom.
February 13	Brian Groom	Made in Manchester: A People's History of the City that Shaped the Modern World.
March 13	Nigel Jepson	Beeching Cuts of the 1960s, as they affected the East Lancashire Rail Network.
April 10.	Alan Davies	The Pit Brow Women of the Lancashire Coalfield
May 15.	AGM then	Kevin Illingworth: Vernacular Buildings of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Pennines
June 12.	Anne Falloon	The Byrons of Rochdale & Lord Byron's Visit to Middleton

Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 67

Autumn / Winter 2024

CONTENTS

Meetings programme		inside front cover
Secretary's Report	<i>John Leyland</i>	Page 2
United Utilities' Combined Sewer Overflow Chamber		
	<i>Ian Smith</i>	Page 3
Rochdale Town Hall visit	<i>Patricia Barrett</i>	Page 4
Heritage Open Day walks		Page 4
Bull Hill Circular Walk	<i>Nik Taylor</i>	Page 5
Chatterton Heritage Trail	<i>Nigel Jepson</i>	Page 6
Pubs and Clubs of Ramsbottom	<i>John B. Taylor</i>	Page 12
Holcombe Last Public Execution - 1305	<i>John Ireland</i>	Page 13
History of a Blacksmith Business 1938 - 2000		
	<i>Alan Clayton</i>	Page 16
Gala Day at Ramsbottom: Hospital Pageant 1908		Page 21
Local Research		Inside back cover
Ramsbottom Past and Present Volume 1 - Transport		
	<i>Keith Burroughs</i>	back cover

Front Cover

Ramsbottom Community Choir performing on Nuttall Park bandstand on Sunday 21st July 2024, as part of Ramsbottom Festival.
Photo taken from the Ramsbottom Community Choir Facebook page.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In July, Ramsbottom Rotary held a 2 day festival around Ramsbottom, holding events in the Civic Hall, Nuttall Park and the town centre. This reminded me of the Millennium Festival that the Heritage Society held in June 2000, which lasted a week and was held in many venues, and there is an article from Alan Clayton in this issue. Barry Aldous produced a video at the time, and he kindly allowed myself and Keith Burroughs to convert it to digital and upload it to You Tube, as 15 separate small videos in the weeks leading up to the festival, and also the complete video. There are currently 88 videos on our You Tube channel, with the most popular one having been viewed over 3,500 times.

It was the 30th Anniversary of Heritage Open Days, which we have previously participated in to showcase the Heritage Gallery. For this special year, Linda de Ruijter organised 5 local walks on the 7th and 8th September, and lead walkers have written reports of the walks and the stories behind them.

It has been decided to delay the changing of the current exhibition in the Heritage Gallery until the new year, as a result of the recent death of Alan Slingsby. Alan helped his sister Kate with the exhibition, as well as helping with teas at the public meetings, and the bookstall at the Civic Hall markets, and was a valued member of the Heritage Society.

John Leyland

Page 3 Photo taken on the 14th September 2024 by Ian Smith.

United Utilities' Combined Sewer Overflow Chamber under construction on the site of Nuttall village's old loom shed. This new storm tank will be able to hold up to 3.5 million litres of water (more than an Olympic swimming pool). It will play an important role in helping to improve water quality by reducing the need for sewers to overflow in times of heavy rainfall.



Rochdale Town Hall

A recent visit to the newly refurbished Town Hall was a delight for me and the seven visitors in our group. I last visited the building decades ago so it was a revelation to see the clean up and conservation work funded by a Lottery grant. Everywhere we looked on our tour we saw beautiful decorative features. It was designed as a showcase for the wealth and success of some members of the local population in Victorian times. As this wealth came from textiles and coal that was the theme of many of the murals and ceiling decorations. We had an excellent guide, Karen, to take us around and she was interesting and enthusiastic about the restoration. The Town Hall is no longer used for council business so it is a wonderful community asset. It is a beautiful venue for events such as weddings, concerts and festivals. Volunteers assisted with the cleaning and conservation work and now they are helping in many other ways. There were children's activities in the big hall and a good number of people visiting. We ended our visit in the Martlet cafe having lunch and a chat about what we had seen.

I will definitely go back to look again at the stunning murals and tiles and woodwork.

Thanks go to Linda and the Heritage Society for an excellent outing.

Patricia Barrett

Heritage Day Walks

Saturday 7th September 2024

Nik Taylor	Bull Hill Circular Walk
Nigel Jepson	On the trail of the Chatterton Riot of 1826
Andrew Todd	Pubs and Clubs of Ramsbottom

Sunday 8th September 2024

John Ireland	Heritage Walk around Holcombe Village
Andrew Todd	An Historical Saunter around Ramsbottom Town Centre

Bull Hill Circular Walk



Half a dozen hardy souls turned up promptly at Lumb Carr car park for 10am on Saturday, 7th September 2024. As rain was forecast in the afternoon, we were eager to begin the six mile walk in order to make Bull Hill in time to take tea and biscuits in dry weather whilst overlooking the peatland restoration area.

Passing the remains of the lost farmsteads along Moor Road, we talked about the history of the MOD training area and the historical grazing rights of the Holcombe Moor Commoners. As we rambled along, we were nicely interrupted by a large group of Hirondelles including swifts, swallows and house martins and we looked but did not find the illusive green hairstreak butterfly on the edge of the upland heath.

After a steady ascent, we reached the newly laid stone path (made largely from reclaimed flags from the floors of Lancashire mills) which meant we could easily cross the deep peat plateau, Wet Moss to the north and Black Moss to the south and finally we finished the climb at Bull Hill for refreshments.

Overlooking the plateau we saw 3500 scallop bunds and over 500 peat dams created to hold water back and rewet the whole moor. In turn this provides ideal conditions for the planting of over one million sphagnum plugs which by trapping carbon, will help in our fight against climate change in the future.

We then had an easy decent to Peel Tower via Harcles Hill with the ever-changing cityscape of Manchester in the background. Unfortunately the tower was not open so we could not climb the 128ft memorial to Sir Robert Peel but nevertheless with stunning views all around it made a great place to finish the heritage week walk.

Nik Taylor, National Trust Lead Ranger, Gawthorpe Hall, Stubbins Estate and Holcombe Moor

Chatterton Heritage Walk

The event started under cover at St Philip's Church, where a set of embroideries, kindly loaned for the occasion by Lavinia Tod, was on display depicting scenes associated with the fateful morning of Wednesday 26th April 1826. *(4 of these scenes are in this article - photos taken by John Leyland)*

Thankfully, upon setting out from the church, the weather remained dry. We began by trying to enter into the mind of William Grant at the start of that day in Chatterton, now nearly 200 years ago. Local Justice of the Peace and mill-owner of The Square Works in Ramsbottom, Grant must have felt a weight of responsibility on his shoulders. Considerable damage had already been done that week by a discontented group of thousands of East Lancashire workers, mainly weavers, who had embarked on a trail of destruction on the Monday, smashing power looms in mills in Accrington, Oswaldtwistle and Blackburn, before switching to Clitheroe, Darwen, Huddlesden and Helmshore on the Tuesday. On these first two days, a total of 573 machines had been destroyed.

With no strong local police presence in these times, it had taken until Tuesday for a small contingent of soldiers to arrive in the area from Manchester. Colonel

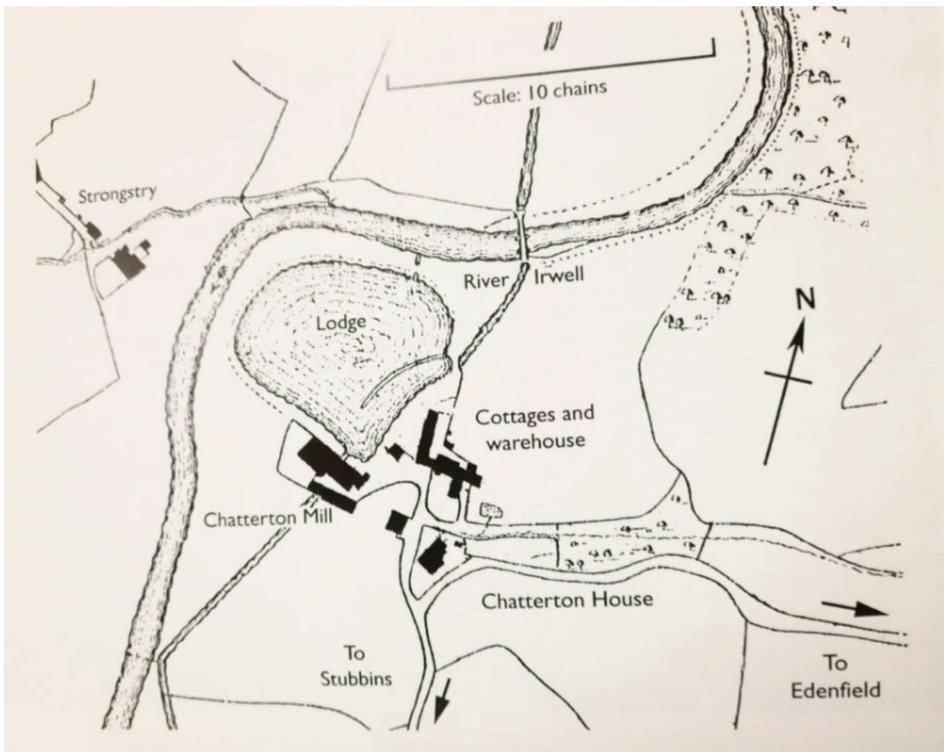
Kearney was the officer in charge. Grant had invited him to stay at his 'Springside' residence on the Tuesday night. With reason to believe the action would spread the next day to the Ramsbottom area, they had discussed tactics.

Early on the Wednesday morning, a group estimated to be over 3,000-strong had inflicted more damage on mills in Rawtenstall and at Dearden Clough in Edenfield. Next target was the Aitken and Lord mill at Chatterton.



Grant and Kearney had agreed on taking a stand here at Chatterton, positioning the soldiers across a narrow stretch of the road at the bottom of Chatterton Old Lane, with Grant prepared to read out the 'Riot Act' should it prove necessary. The map below shows Chatterton as it was in 1826.

Just as Grant did in 1826, I took up position at the bottom of Chatterton Old Lane, along with the group of 14 in attendance, adjacent to Chatterton House. This was where mill-owner Thomas Aitken lived at the time – although on the day he had thought it more prudent to take himself and his family out of harm's way.



Cited in *A History of Edenfield and District* by John Simpson 2003'

Grant and Kearney had a force of 35 or so soldiers, consisting of troops from the 60th (Duke of York) Rifle Corps and the Queen's Bays. These men were very well-armed. The Rifle Corps carried Baker rifles, a muzzle loading flintlock which was far superior in accuracy and range to the normal musket in use at the time. It was hoped that a mere show of force, and appeal to reason, would be enough to deter the insurgent crowd from seeking to break through to the mill lying fifty yards or so beyond.

Meanwhile, our party's route took us up Chatterton Old Lane back towards Edenfield. At the top of this lane, the emphasis switched to looking at things from the perspective of the 3,000-plus contingent now storming downhill towards the Chatterton hamlet at about 11 o'clock on 26 April 1826. Determined to put more power looms out of action, they believed these machines had robbed them of their traditional livelihood as handloom weavers, plunging themselves and their families into destitution. The severe economic depression that had taken hold in 1825 made the large group of weavers desperate now to vent their frustrations out on the wretched machinery.

Having faced no real opposition up to this point, they might even have been forgiven for thinking there was sympathy for their cause. However, they were soon to be disabused of any such notion.

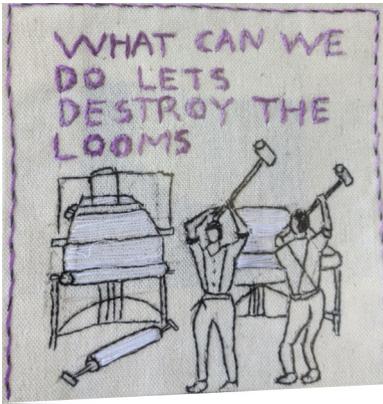
Despite being confronted by the line of soldiers, their central aim remained to reach the mill, hell-bent on streaming forward, many skipping over walls into adjacent fields to circumvent obstacles in their path.



Grant read out the Riot Act:

'Our Sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons being assembled to disperse themselves and peaceably depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business upon the pains contained in the act, made in the first year of King George, for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies. GOD SAVE THE KING!'

The setting around us was very quiet on 7th September 2024 but it had been very different on 26th April 1826. There had been so much noise that the message conveyed by Grant was largely lost on the surrounding crowd. However, the formal reading out of the Riot Act bore great significance in that it gave legal justification for the troops to open fire.



An estimated 600 bullets were discharged by the riflemen. Some bullets might have been fired over people's heads by way of warning, but many carried deadly intent to kill or maim 'rioters'. Not that this action succeeded in achieving the aim of safeguarding the mill machinery. All 46 power looms on site were destroyed with soldiers powerless on the day to protect them.

According to official records, four workers were killed outright during the first bout of soldiers' shooting, although many more might have died in later days from wounds inflicted. The immediate victims were James Lord, John Ashworth, James Rothwell and Richard Lund. In other even more controversial circumstances though, Mary Simpson and James Whatacre were subsequently

to suffer similar fates. The deaths of the six recorded fatalities are commemorated on a plaque put up by the *Edenfield Local History Society* on the outer wall of 12 Chatterton, which we stopped to read.



Photo by David Moss
2003 Photographic Competition

Subsequently, the verdict passed on the deaths of James Lord, John Ashworth, James Rothwell and Richard Lund was 'justifiable homicide' (that is, in the light of the Riot Act having been read out), but those of the other two fatalities on the day - Mary Simpson and James Whatacre – were different.



It was thought that Mary, who lived in Haslingden, had wandered down to Chatterton on the day merely to see what was happening and been caught in 'cross-fire', being shot in the left thigh and bleeding to death. This led to a verdict of 'accidental' death. Precise circumstances surrounding the death of James Whatacre proved yet more contentious. Apparently, as a by-stander on the scene merely checking up on the day on the welfare of the occupier of 12 Chatterton, a Mrs Upton, he was observed to have been cut down in cold blood at the front door by a soldier of the 60th Rifle Corps. The verdict on his death was 'wilful murder', very much a damning indictment.

John Coupe, a Haslingden weaver, who had witnessed the killing of Whatacre had been prepared to testify with regard to giving a detailed description of the soldier in question but was not allowed to do so by the coroner, Thomas Ferrand, who conducted the inquest that had opened on Thursday 27th April at the Horse and Jockey Inn in Edenfield. With strong suspicion of collusion between coroner and the military, no further effort was made to pursue the identity of the 'murderer' in question. By way of further protecting the culprit, the 60th Rifle Corps happened to be moved to service abroad in Portugal within a week of this preliminary inquest..

In sharp contrast, the authorities had acted like mustard in identifying and meting out severest sentences possible on 'rioters' seen to have played an active part in events during that week. 41 death sentences were handed out. ¹

Ironically, by the time it came to formal trial at Lancaster Assizes in August 1826, all death sentences had been commuted, mostly to prison sentences. In those cases regarded as more serious, eight men and two women, Ann Entwistle and Mary Hindle, were sentenced to transportation to Australia. At these proceedings, amazingly no reference was made to events taking place at Chatterton other than to acquit one William Barnes of the rather low-level charge of having thrown stones at mill windows. It was as if the authorities, sensitive as to how reprehensible their own behaviour had been on 26th April were more intent on sweeping things under the carpet.

After events at Chatterton, on the Wednesday, more power looms had been destroyed at mills in Summerseat, Elton, Waterfoot, Stacksteads and Bacup. By the end of the week, a total of 1,139 looms had been destroyed. Chatterton was the only site where soldiers had confronted workers. While significantly, mill-owners were given full compensation by the authorities for damage done to machines that week, no effort was made to try and address the workers' grievances that had caused them to feel desperate enough to take the action they did. The poverty and hardship went on unabated.

N.B. Plans are underway to commemorate Chatterton 1826 on a full scale when the 200th 'anniversary' arises in two years' time. Under the chairmanship of Dr. David Scott of the *Open University*, '*A Weavers Uprising Bicentenary Committee*' has already been very active in preparing commemorative events, with *Ramsbottom Heritage Society* and *Edenfield Local History Society* contributing to the process.

Notes

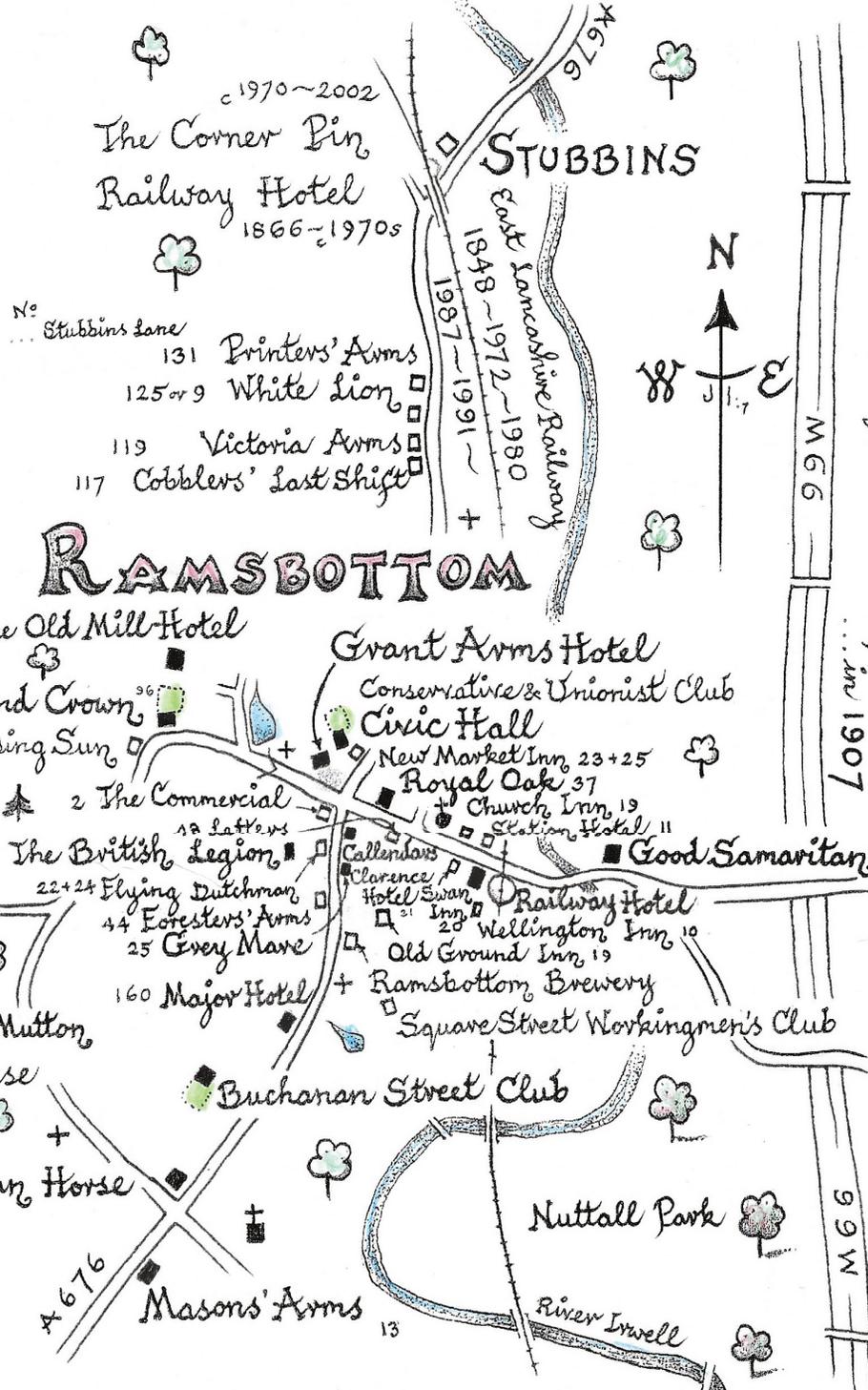
1 For comprehensive details of sentences passed, followed by commutations delivered later in August 1826 at Lancaster Castle, read Appendix 2 – pp. 196-198: '*Riot! – The Story of the East Lancashire Loom-Breakers in 1826*' – written by William Turner (1992). This book is recommended reading for a fuller account of events.

Some PUBS AND CLUBS OF RAMSBOTTOM

John B Taylor's illustrated map of the 2007 Pubs and Clubs walk. Andrew Todd's walk on the 7th September wasn't planned to cover all the businesses shown.

There were over 20 licensed houses within 10 minutes walk of the Market Place

One of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society rambles



Do you know them?
Do you know of others?

- See - 'Around Ramsbottom'
- 'Drink & Drinking in Ramsbottom 1890-1891'
- 'Trade Directory Reprints 1818-1888'

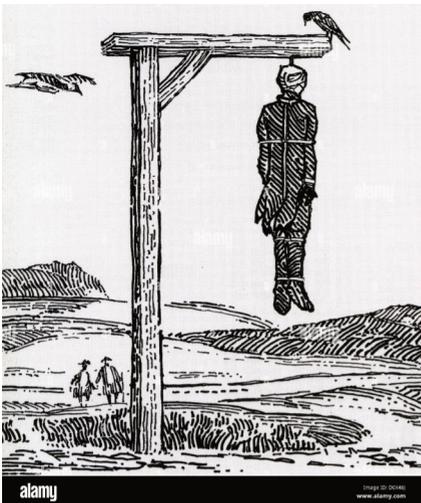
John B. Taylor
2007

Heritage Walk Round Holcombe Village

HOLCOMBE'S LAST PUBLIC EXECUTION 1305

The winter of A.D. 1305 was the severest that had been known for many years. The snow lay deep and drifted and, along with a hard frost, had continued for many weeks. Robert Attridge was born in Holcombe in 1266 and was living with his wife and children in a small cottage by Holcombe Hill. He was forty years old and by all accounts a quiet, good natured and worthy man, who had bravely fought under his feudal lord Henry de Lacy against the Scots at Falkirk (1298) before returning to Holcombe.

One cold fateful day that winter, when his wife and children were almost starving, he decided to try and catch some game to feed them. Regardless of the penalties under the Norman forest laws that meant certain death for anyone killing the 'king's deer' he set off in the late afternoon, accompanied by his lean and faithful dog Wat. Before long and somewhere near Pilgrims Cross he spotted and shot with his bow and arrows a fawn, which he hid nearby intending to collect it after dark. Unfortunately for him, Alan Estock, a herdsman under the Forest Greave (gamekeeper) had witnessed the whole event and after allowing him to take the fawn home, denounced him to the Forest Greave.

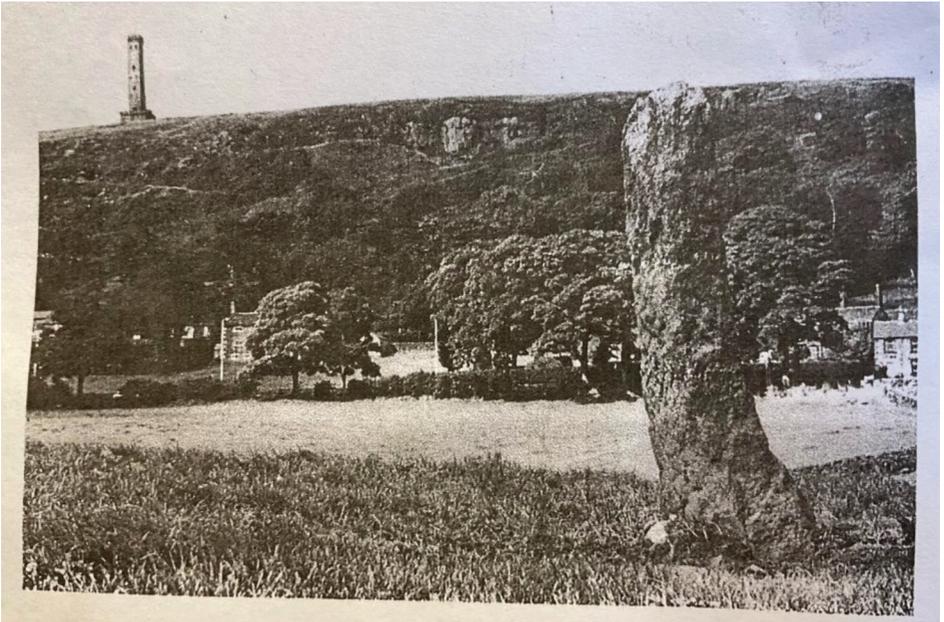


Robert was sentenced to die by hanging on Holcombe Knoll and according to the custom of the day, his body was then hung in a gibbet to rotate slowly in the icy winter winds with nothing but a shroud of snow on his head and shoulders as a stark warning to others who might break the merciless Norman Forest Laws (see picture of gibbet on left /right). The law was only repealed

hundreds of years later by Henry VIII who declared, "No animal's life is worth more than a man's."

Robert's body was eventually taken down by the villagers and buried nearby. And for many years later they spoke of that harshest of winters and the hanging of poor Robert Attbrigge, whose only crime was trying to feed his children.

As related by John Ireland as leader of the "Walk Round Holcombe Village" on 8th September 2024



This upright stone is generally accepted as being the lower half of the Holcombe gibbet. It can be seen on the right in the centre of the second field from the road on entering Holcombe from Holcombe Brook.

HISTORY OF A BLACKSMITH BUSINESS 1938 TO 2000

On Thursday 22nd June 2000, at the Made in Ramsbottom 2000 Exhibition at Ramsbottom Civic Hall (part of a week-long Ramsbottom Millennium Festival), the following article was on display along with items related to pattern making and casting, processes which were being described to visitors by Alan Clayton.



Photo by Dorothy Moss - 2000 Photographic Competition

In 1938, G W Clayton, master farrier and blacksmith, moved with his family from Waterfoot in the Rossendale Valley to Ramsbottom. Establishing a smithy in



Spring Street behind the Major Hotel, he lit the fire in the forge and awaited custom. His first client was a local plumber, Tommy

The smithy on Spring Street became Smithie Garage

Schofield who required some tools refurbishing, and so G W commenced business.

Farmers' horses doing the milk rounds had shoes fitted periodically and there were farm implements to be repaired, the local council's tools to be sharpened and mills' loom breakages. All provided a steady occupation when cars were rare and often chauffeur driven.

When horses began to disappear, the business had to diversify and in 1948 G W asked William Booth & Sons (Joiners) to convert 14, Paradise Street. He consequently continued there the business, ongoing in the year 2000.

Hand skills are still sought and many people prefer a crafted product to a mass-produced article. No horses are shod but engineers' patterns for foundries, antique and modern car repairs and items for the home still call for that skill which has been passed from father to son.

Some months ago a lady, upon the completion of some work, remarked that when she was a girl G W Clayton had fitted new shoes to her pony and that over the years she had valued the services of G W, son, grandson and great grandson.

Ramsbottom is quite a town!

Alan Clayton, Pattern
Maker and Engineer,
Spring 2000

Alan Clayton working at
the forge in Paradise
Street

Photo by Ian Smith



RESEARCH

Pattern Making

In 1980 Alan's customers included Holgate Fishwick & Leather Ltd, who from 1949 to the early 2000s were engineers to the paper-making and textile industries. He also did work for Bowman Brass Founders of Ramsbottom and Avanti Engineering, Clayton, Manchester. Pattern making (of precise replicas of objects to be cast at a foundry from molten metal) was a skill Alan acquired while serving as an apprentice pattern maker. We believe the apprenticeship lasted about seven years.

1992/3 receipts for pattern making show some high value business and suggest an increase in this type of work. The evidence shows that his most important customers at that time were Hargreaves Hamilton Gears Ltd of Bolton and Hamlin Pump Engineering Ltd. Others include Kempster Hall Ltd, Rochdale, D & F Gear Transmissions Ltd and Ward Textile Machinery Ltd, which still seems to be trading. He made a pattern for St Joseph's RC Primary School's nameplate and nameplates were also supplied to the Borough of Rossendale Engineering and Planning Dept along with a kerb unit.

Later he made patterns to be used in the manufacture of Ford cars.

Welding and Repairs etc

During the first quarter of 1980 nearly early forty people or businesses had vehicle bodywork or chassis repaired. One receipt for Peter Roberts, who was the landlord of the Grant Arms Hotel, is dated 16th April 1980. It shows repairs and preparation work had been done ready for an MOT and his bill stands out as being by far the highest car repair at £260 with an extra £5 MOT test fee. Another receipt is for a payment from John Kenyon for repairs to a tractor and an oil tank and also for soldering wire in an electric milk float. Edenfield Spinning Co had five small welding jobs done over the period and also a variety of small jobs were carried out for businesses including Ramsbottom Bleaching

& Dyeing Co, Parker Box at Irwell Bridge Mill, Ramsbottom and R Mather Ltd. Local businesses such as Metcalfe Bros Ltd and Ellis Timlin had gates repaired and Hillarys had chisels sharpened.

By contrast, in the eight months from August 1992, there were only eight car repairs (but John Lees had a substantial bill for various repairs to farm machinery and a fork lift truck and Fred Dibnah's Land Rover were repaired). Work for J Cudworth Ltd included some welding and a gear wheel repair. A bell clapper was another one of the repairs.

Examples of Hand-crafted Metalwork

Using processes such as turning, welding and grinding, items made were often made to order for local companies and also private customers. At the beginning of 1980 there were ladder racks for Chattwood Ltd, chains for R Wild of Fletcher Bank Quarries, burglar bars for Ramsbottom Engineering Co Ltd, brackets for Smethurst & Son Ltd, Ratcliffe's Oil Burners Ltd of Tottington and Field Mill, on Kenyon Street, Ramsbottom and trough hangers for Alan Scaife. There were also ladder hooks for Northern Steeplejacks.

During 1992/3 customers included:

- Bury Metro Ground Maintenance Dept and Handyman Services (brackets)
- Valley Joinery Ltd (turning spheres) and Blackwood Joinery (six "acorns" for Cribden House)
- Greenmount developments (gratings)
- Olivet Pentecostal (handrails, which were also being ordered by private customers – and other people had burglar bars and a dog grate)

The 1936 Railton Eight Fairmile II Drophead Coupe

Off the road for many years before being re-registered with the DVLA in 1983, the Railton was still very much a restoration project when acquired by Alan later that decade. He undertook a chassis up renovation which tested his considerable skill set to the full. His work included forming sheet steel into the

new wings and rebuilding the engine, fitting new bearings to the engine's crankshaft. The restoration was completed about 1990 with assistance from various family members. Afterwards the car appeared at numerous rallies and was awarded various rosettes. For the Ramsbottom Millennium Festival it was



Photograph by Ian Smith - 2000 Photographic Competition
Alan Clayton is wearing the striped jumper.

driven through the town in a cavalcade and displayed at the car show on the Grant Arms car park.

References

2 books containing carbon copies of Alan Clayton's hand written receipts:

- 1) from 30.1.1980 to 24.4.1980
- 2) from 13.8.1992 to 5.5.1993

At the beginning of 2008 Alan was approached by the Society to make a pattern from their original Nuttall Park brass plaque, and arrange for a replica to be cast

in iron. (The replica plaque, which is now mounted on a large stone in Nuttall Park, commemorates Lieutenant Colonel Porritt's gift of the park to the people of Ramsbottom.) Sadly, the Paradise Shoeing Forge is now empty and has been the subject of a successful planning application for its redevelopment.

More details about the RHS plaque project and members' visit to Scout Moor Quarry to choose the stone were published in News Magazine number 35, which is available online. The Society's booklet "Nuttall Park and the Porritt Legacy to Ramsbottom", published 2008, is also available via the website.

GALA DAY AT RAMSBOTTOM: HOSPITAL PAGEANT 1908

This year Ramsbottom, like places all around the country, has been enjoying a special "festival year", with Rotary's Ramsbottom Festival 2024 (20th - 21st July) and the Ramsbottom Come Together Arts Festival (22nd September 2024).

Major events like these are a strong tradition in the town.



Photograph from Around Ramsbottom Page 111

The Gala Day parade shown passing the string of coal yards associated with the railway sidings sited along Stubbins Lane. In the foreground is J Morris & Co's cart or lurry carrying a tableau entitled Britannia.

Ramsbottom's Aitken Memorial and Jubilee Cottage Hospital* had opened in 1899 and an endowment fund had been set up to support it and other district nursing funds. The town's cycle club was very active in raising money for the charity by organising regular events. Describing their July 1908 gala as a "partially new" pageant, a press reporter wrote in great detail about the spectacle, the day's programme and the many participants. There were street decorations in Bridge Street and at the hospital itself "the exterior of the institution was very pretty in its tasteful scheme of decoration, thanks to Miss Dight, the Matron, and staff".

The Gala Day was a large-scale Saturday afternoon and evening event starting with a procession which followed the route from the Drill Hall, along Garden Street, up Bridge Street, down Stubbins Lane to Stubbins, back through the Market Place, Bolton Street and Bolton Road to Holcombe Brook. It was headed by open carriages carrying local councillors, the Hospital Management Committee and the event's judges and chief marshal. The theme of the pageant was "Empire" which was represented next by five tableaux on luries entitled: Britannia, Nations and Colonies, Builders of the Empire, Army and Navy and Quaker?? ?? on luries. Stubbins Vale Band followed with the main procession of "characters on foot" and children in fancy dress (e.g. sailor and soldier boys and girls, John Bull, policemen, nurses, Scottish and Welsh lasses and lads, footballers with a referee, cricketers and their umpire, gipsy boys and girls, Maid Marion and Friar Tuck). After them came Summerseat Prize Band, more characters in fancy dress and "an appendage of decorated cycles" leading a cycle parade by Heywood Wheelers and Heywood Primitive Methodists' cycle club in pierrot costumes. Local trade exhibits, decorated horses and luries followed and then the Tottington Concertina Band. At the end of the procession were the fire brigade, the horse ambulance carriage and the Edenfield Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

Ramsbottom Sunday Schools' Tableaux on Cart or Lurry (subject/theme optional)

Ramsbottom Wesleyan (winners) - "An Ideal Marriage"

Ramsbottom Baptist (second) – "Nelson Leaves Home to go to Sea 1771"

St Andrew's Church- "Hail Gladsome Spring"

(As well as featuring pictures of hedgerows and flowers the coming of Spring was depicted in human terms with an invalid shown rejoicing and a woman consulting Bradshaw with a view to travel.)

New Jerusalem – "A Scene from Cinderella"

Dundee Congregational – "Execution of Lady Jane Grey"

St Andrew's Church, Ramsbottom also entered a tableau in the category for representing a proverb and were the winners with "A Friend in Need is a Friend in Deed"

Some of the other competition entrants:

Neatest fancy dress costume and cycle (gent) – winner, Albert Turpin of Newhey "Oriental Prince"

Neatest fancy dress costume and cycle (lady) – winner, Mrs Brown of Manchester "Go-won-go-Mohawk"

Novelty machine and rider – winner, Mr Greenwood of Stacksteads "Fireman"

Best character on horse or foot - Arthur Sage from Hulme "Roman Messenger".

Show of goods on a cart by Ramsbottom Tradesmen – winners, The Cooperative Society

Local industry display on cart - winners - Greenhalgh's Laundry

The procession also had a lurry with *Votes for Women* with “a couple of females seated at leisure, a boy in the background rocking a cradle, the father busy by the side of a wash-tub and another mere man making himself useful by taking the dirt off the floor by means of soap and water”.

To reach parts of the “very large crowd” which lined the main streets along the route, one of the collection boxes was mounted on a long rod, like a fishing rod.

At five o'clock the procession returned to the hospital field on Nuttall Lane where the “chief items of the programme” were carried out. The first item was the singing of Rule Britannia accompanied by Stubbins Vale Band with the Empire themed tableaux on display. Scholars from two Bury Sunday schools, Bank Street and Brunswick sang songs and there was an ambulance demonstration and a tableau parade. The children's sports had a sack race, an obstacle race, a flat race and a hat and coat race for the boys while the girls had a flat race and a needle threading race. After prizes had been presented the event came to an end with the National Anthem.

References

Ramsbottom Observer 10th July 1908

Around Ramsbottom Andrew Todd and the Ramsbottom Heritage Society 1995

* BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The hospital has featured in the following news magazine articles which are available on the Society's website:

Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital No 44 Spring 2013

Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital (part 2) No 45 Autumn 2013

A Brief Memory of Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital Frederick Ashworth Hanson No 17 Autumn 1998

The Hospital Experience, 1937-48 Doris Hibbert No 18 Spring 1999

LOCAL RESEARCH UPDATE AUTUMN 2024

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

Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries.

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

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

OPENING HOURS

Monday	–	Closed
Tuesday-Friday	–	10.00am-1pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm
Every Saturday	–	10.00am-1.00pm

Catalogues of collections and the extensive range of records, (including Ramsbottom's) held at Bury Archives are at www.bury.gov.uk/10620. Local history items can be searched by using the Library Catalogue available on the same webpage.

The Bury Archives blog is at www.buryculture.wordpress.com

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society

Society information is at www.lfhhs.org.uk. Email contact for the local branch is via bury@lfhhs.org.uk.

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

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS AND ACCESS

Tuesday from 10am to 4.30pm
Wednesday from 10am to 4.30pm
Thursday from 12.30pm to 7pm
Friday from 10am to 4.30pm
Saturday from 9.30am to 1pm

Computer access may be booked by calling 0161 253 5352 but booking is not essential. Back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film for use on a microfiche reader.

Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets.

The IT suite boasts a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation.

On Mondays from 11am to 1pm there are Ancestry drop-in sessions at Tottington Library

Ramsbottom Heritage Society - latest publication

Ramsbottom Past and Present. Volume 1 Transport.

44 pages (£3.00)

Comparing photographs from the past to the present on the theme of transport. With sections on: Delivering around Ramsbottom, Delivery Vans, Horses, Buses, Cycling, Fire Engines, Motorbikes, Railways and the Ramsbottom Railless Trolleybus System. With over 70 photographs, 4 maps and 24 QR codes to link to relevant videos.

Available from
Hearts for Homes,
Memories, both on
Bridge Street,
Christmas Market in
the Civic Hall,
1st December
and the website
Our other books are
also on the website.

Ramsbottom Past and Present

Volume 1 - Transport.

Comparing photographs from the past to the present.



1985 Traffic jam on Bridge Street. Note the old sign for The Railway, Mick Dines (Bookmakers) and we still had a bank (NatWest).



2024
Betfred
bookmakers closed
on 6th March 2022
and the bank
closed 2nd October
2017, it is now
Velvet Fashions.



Use a QR Reader to watch
the 1969 Ramsbottom
Carnival on Bridge Street.

