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Ramsbottom Local History Newsletter
(RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY)

FOREWORD: THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, 1987-90

ORIGINS

We owe our beginnings to a public meeting convened by Mrs Dorothy MOSS, held at St Paul's School on 25th February 1987, and attended by about 70 people. It was the prospect of the East Lancashire Railway's re-opening, planned for the summer of that year, which had led to a growing consciousness of the town's identity amongst many townspeople. As well as our society (interested in the town's history and heritage), the RamsbottomChamber of Trade revived that year and, for a time in 1987, a small group calling itself the Ramsbottom Trust toyed with ambitious plans to develop the old Co-op stores building (with theatre) and, when this scheme stalled, the Model Lodging House, on Paradise Street, as a possible heritage Centre

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society has some roots in the town's Local History Society, which had become moribund about 1980. The Rev Roy CARMYLLIE, who unfortunately died last year, was that society's chairman, and so it was fitting that he should have been speaker at our inaugural public meeting in April 1987. Any local history society, unless blessed with a very active membership, risks exhausting the supply of local speakers quite quickly. We were concerned, from the outset, that we should not suffer such a fate, and so we very deliberately sought a wider role than that pursued by the old local history society, and a broader constituency of members. Indeed, very varied interests were expressed at our first meeting in February 1987 - exhibitions, guided walks, museum visits, local fieldwork, civic issues and conservation, cultural issues, local buildings, photography and historical research - as well as simply listening to speakers!

At the earliest meetings, we split up, after the public business, into four groups - historical research; walks, buildings and footpaths; photography as a record; and 'town activities'. Although this structure was initially geared towards the coming of the railway (set for 25th July 1987), we generally envisaged the RHS as being an umbrella, a forum for varied activities, and not simply as a monthly lecture venue.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Personally, I was disappointed by the way in which this early vision of small-group activity faded away so quickly. Perhaps we expected a lot. Most of our members do see us as a monthly source of passive entertainment Activity has been the preserve of 'The Few'. Yet, in three years, the activists have achieved a great deal. Our oral history project has placed on cassette tape memories of older residents, some of whom can no longer be interviewed. Our regular appeals for memorabilia (artefacts and documents) have brought a staggering wealth of material - many photographs; old bills; the minute book of St Andrew's Presbyterian church; a complete stock-take of every Co-op branch in the Ramsbottom area, taken in the early 1950s; a 19th Century wages list from Ramsbottom Mill; photographs of a Ramsbottom War Weapons Week. From the earliest days, we have had an archives officer who has catalogued material as it has come in and ensured its preservation. We guarantee survival of such items for the ultimate benefit of future

historians of Ramsbottom. If you are concerned that material in your possession- family papers, leases, letters, diaries, school reports, business ledgers and bills - may be thrown out at your death, our society offers a safe haven.
Considerable changes have been seen in the town since our inauguration in April 1987 -a revived railway, a brand new station, many changes of use in local shops, the demolition of property on Prince and Square Street, the infilling of new houses between existing houses in various locations, and the complete internal refurbishment of two public houses. Our annual photographic competition has been a mechanism by which these developments have been recorded.

Much of our early activity was given wide coverage in the Bury Times, but we have also generally maintained a high public profile, not least because of the ever-changing displays which the Royal Bank of Scotland allowed us to stage in the former Rainbow Gallery on Bridge Street. A small but dedicated team has also put together some remarkably impressive displays in the library annex on Carr Street (which should, by time of publication, have officially become the Ramsbottom Heritage Centre). To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, many townspeople loaned us memorabilia which were put together with such skill and imagination that Bury Museum requested the whole thing to spend some weeks on display there.

From the outset, we decided that we could not be a fully flown civic trust, and have left it to individual members to pursue conservation or preservation issues which especially concerned them. We have, however, sought to protect or preserve some elements of our district's heritage which might otherwise have been lost - we successfully campaigned, in 1987, for the retention of an old-style GPO telephone kiosk in Market Place. In 1989, we retrieved (with council permission) the Strang Street nameplate from the condemned gable end of the terrace on Square Street; we urged Bury and Bolton metropolitan authorities not to destroy the 200 year-old parish boundary stone during road improvements on the A676 at Hawkshaw/Walves. This stone, the only such boundary stone in the Bury area of which we are aware, is still in its original position, though buried for a time under newly laid drainage stones behind the kerbs. Bolton MBC re-exposed the stone in May 1990.

We have also had contacts with the Rossendale Groundwork Trust, and welcome their proposal to extend their operations into Bury Metropolitan Borough.

THE FUTURE

One of our earliest ambitions was to open a heritage centre in Ramsbottom, so we were especially pleased, after only two years of life, to be offered by the local authority the use of the library annex to stage our displays. We now have the use of this refurbished building as a fully-fledged heritage centre - it seems a remarkable, challenging step forward. Filling the display units, and manning the at weekends throughout the summer will place heavy strains on the relatively small proportion of our membership that has helped in the past. Yet the rewards will be great - we will gain credit as a society; we will attract visits (and revisits) to the town; but, perhaps most important, our centre will be a community meeting place, a place where local people can talk and learn about their to*4*wn's history or just chat

My own hope is that all this heritage publicity will prompt some historical research amongst our members; the Society wants to encourage this, and offers opportunities of putting findings into print, in small booklet form. Only one member, Barbara PALMER, has brought a piece of research to such a conclusion - on local medical care from the 18th to the 20th Centuries.

This newsletter, however, is another possible medium for publishing the fruits of local historical enquiry. We hope that it will appear twice-yearly, so your historical anecdotes and memories, recollections of shops, trades, businesses and important events in the town 's past will be just as welcome as the history of your family, your house or your street.

Contacts with other societies have convinced us that publication of a newsletter is a key to growth - we can publicise ourselves, and appeal to 'out of town' members to whom we can otherwise offer so little.

Finally, I thank those members who have contributed (some with prodigious efforts) over the last three years, and appeal to those who haven't: please get involved!

Andrew TODD (Chairman)

MAY 1990 - SOCIETY UP-DATE FROM THE SECRETARY

We have only just had our third birthday, yet here we are looking forward to the openingof the Heritage Centre, in Carr Street over the bank holiday (on 27th & 28th May). We expect to be open each Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4.00 pm - refreshments will be available - admission by donation.

The local authority with whom we have beennegotiating for many months has just refurbished the building (opposite the Library) andhanded it over to us, to be responsible for the day-to- day running. This is a considerableburden for a voluntary society such as ours to undertake and we should like to ask localpeople to help by giving a couple of hours of their time either at weekends or perhaps during the week, to help sell Society items or to serve refreshments. Actually, this is a super way to meet people and to make new friends, not to mention learning a little moreabout the Ramsbottom area, so if you feel you can help, please phone me on 0706 82 2620.

Our Display Team has been working flat out to mount the exhibition RAMSBOTTOM THROUGH NINE REIGNS - THE PAST 200 YEARS. Do come along to appreciate their efforts and admire the Centre (centrally heated and carpeted). If any of you have aflair for display or perhaps just a feeling for it, please contact our Archivist, Mrs BrendaDECENT on 0706 82 8979. She will be delighted to hear from you, as the displays mustbe a changing, on-going thing.

Among the many interesting things happening in our Town this year is the 21st birthdayof the ‘new' Library in Carr St (opposite the Centre) and there will be a week-long commemoration from Monday 11th June. The staff are to dress in Victorian costume andrefreshments will be available. There will be an exhibition relating to the past 21 years,and on Wednesday 13th a party from the Dickensian Fellowship will arrive by steam train to explore the town, and they will visit the Library and the Heritage Centre, so rollup for a good day out in famous Ramsbottom. If you fancy - wear Victorian style dress - who knows, the TV cameras may be there.

Our programme for the rest of 1990 is as follows:

June 20th	Mr F CRONIN - The Locomotive and Rolling Stock of the ELR - illustrated
July 18th	Mr P WARING - A Guided Walk Around Summerseat
Aug 15th	Members' Evening
Sept 19th	Mr S CHADWICK - An Evening' s Entertainment on Dialect
Oct 17th	Mr N ECCLES - Nuttall and Ramsbottom - illustrated
Nov 21st	4th A G M & Finals of the Photographic Competition Motions for the A G M must be submitted to the Secretary by Oct 31st
Dec 12th	Christmas Meeting - The Golden Valley - presented by Bury CineSociety

It surely has something to please most of you. We are also trying to arrange a guided walk in August along the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal, starting from Radcliffe. Very importantly I must mention that subscriptions are due from 1st May, no change from last year £4.50 (£2.00 retired/unwaged/student); please see our Treasurer, Mr Derek ROWLEY, at the next Society meeting, or post your cheque to me at 1 Carr BankCottage, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancs BLO 9DQ.

Dorothy MOSS

THE IRWELL VALLEY FORUM

This grand-sounding group is the result of the launch of the Irwell Valley Adventure - a joint initiative involving Bury & Rossendale Councils and the private sector, interested in the regeneration and steady development of the Upper Irwell Valley as a tourist centre, and attractive environment to which new investment and people could be attracted.

A challenge to change this former cradle of the Industrial Revolution into an attractive and desirable location was thrown down and the gauntlet picked up by approximately 100 representatives at a breakfast launch in February 1989, also attended by our MPs for Bury North and Rossendale, and local dignitaries.

May Day Bank Holiday 1989 saw the first successful publicity event, blessed by superb weather conditions, the one possible blight on any plans for outdoor activities. Irwell the Cat was introduced.

Recently Dorothy MOSS and A were shown around Bury Technical College by Jane ALLANSON, co-ordinator for Travel and Tourism studies there - no, we had not been aware of such a department either! We were introduced to some of the second-year students who had been involved with this image-promotion, i.e. going round in the cat costume to various local events. A lot of people are not impressed with this moggy as our image and, I believe, plans are afoot to change this. (It is possible that these students could help at the Heritage Centre.)

In February 1990 the Irwell Valley Forum was formed. 180 people from the Bury, Ramsbottom and Rossendale areas - business people, community group representatives (both professional and voluntary) received an update on how the local authorities are striving to improve the Valley's facilities and environment Graham SHAW, Tourism Marketing Director for Southampton City, whose own council has spearheaded one such successful partnership, gave us some useful guidelines.

We then split into groups for a short time, which proved very interesting as, being members of such diverse organisations as the Ramblers Association, Bury Canal Group, Wild Bird Sanctuary, our paths only cross if talks are given to or by each other.

The next Forum meeting was scheduled for Wednesday February 28th at the Waterside Inn, Summerseat, at which I represented RHS. This was attended by 60 people (Southampton's first follow-up meeting had produced only 8 we were told). We each introduced ourselves and named our group/society/business, and gave brief details of how we felt we could contribute to this new venture.

We again split into groups - business and industry, retail, tourism, voluntary and educational, from which three representatives were to be chosen to sit on the Executive Committee - RHS is represented. The groups will meet at their discretion - ours will initially meet on a monthly basis. I will keep you informed of developments.

Judith APPLEBY (Vice-chairman)

April 1990 - NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVE

There have been some exciting acquisitions lately. I'm sorry there isn't space to mention them all, but our thanks to all donors, whether their items have been selected for this Newsletter or not.

1. John JACKSON. We have been given a copy of Hunting songs and other memorabilia compiled by John JACKSON, Huntsman, Holcombe Harriers, 1867-1899, published in Bury by FLETCHER & SPEIGHT, 1 Fleet Street, 1902; with many illustrations. There is a signature on the flyleaf J W OLDFIELD, 77 Peel Brow, Ramsbottom. He was John JACKSON's grandson through his mother who was a JACKSON married to an OLDFIELD.

Also the donor of this book gave us a photograph I haven't seen before of John JACKSON and his wife outside their cottage in Holcombe Village, probably after his retirement from the Hunt.

But most exciting is that the same donor has John JACKSON's silver hunting horn, given to him in 1893 by Derby, and next time she visits Ramsbottom she will bring it with her as she wants our Society to have it as it will be a wonderful addition to the archive: I believe she is happy that we are to have our own Heritage Centre - she feels it will be safe there.

2. DOCUMENTS ABOUT A KAY FAMILY. All the following came from the same donor, but not at the same time.

First, an original baptismal card certifying that Eva, daughter of Tom and Eva KAY, was baptised in Dundee Independent Chapel (believed to be the breakaway Presbyterian Church

on Dundee Lane) on 17th April 1908 by Wm Jackson GELDEARD, minister.

Then we were given the certificates of birth of her mother and father! Father Tom was born on 21st October 1880, son of John and Alice KAY of 2 Rose Hill, Ramsbottom. Mother Eva SUTCLIFFE was born on February 3rd 1883. Both were registered in the sub-district of Holcombe by Registrar James SPENCER.

With these items was a newscutting (paper not known but circa 1942) with heading Cricketer Prisoner of War reporting that Fusilier Tom Douglas KAY of 1 Stanley Street was in North Africa and safe. He was 'one of Ramsbottom's promising batsmen. in civil life employed at Messrs TURNBULL & STOCKDALE, Rosebank Print Works".

From correspondence with the donor, I have discovered that this Tom Douglas KAY was the son of Tom and Eva KAY and brother of Eva (born 1908). Tom Douglas KAY was born in 1919. It is unusual to get such a rounded-off family history.

BRIEFLY BUT OF GREAT VALUE

1.25 Record Cards giving details of Women members of the Weavers and Winders Union (Ramsbottom branch), the dates of birth of these women being 1875-1905.

2. A tiny photograph of the Square Mill when owned by HEPBURNs, showing its own railway siding.

John LEYLAND has taken over the recording of the competition photographs for the Archive Many thanks John. All offers of help gratefully received.

Brenda DECENT

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD IN NUTTALL WRITTEN BY HILDAFRENCH AND READ OUT AT OUR FIRST AGM

My favourite memory of Ramsbottom is of the delightful village of Nuttall, where I was born (1919). As you came down Nuttall Lane past the Cottage Hospital you would see a world of its own. Nestling in woods, meadows and fields. At the bottom of the lane on the left-hand side were four cottages, further down four more, then on the opposite side was the farm and farm houses, also a pond which in winter we used to skate on - just frozen enough and big enough.

Past the farm and round the corner was Starling Street-where I and my sisters were born-some people called it Shepsters Row. Then you could go on over the Brocks Brews to Summerseat In the field in front of Starling Street was a high wall overlooking the railway line. There we could climb to watch the steam train on its way to Bury from Ramsbottom - through Nuttall tunnels and on to Summerseat.

Carrying on down the Lane you came to the village shop owned by Mr & Mrs HEALY, selling bread, sweets, greengrocery-in fact, everything necessary; also bottled beer consumed on the premises by the men on their way home from work at the nearby Chemical Company. I will always remember the white chalk faces of these men through working in all the chemical powder. Across from the shop was another row of cottages about six then down a narrow

path to more houses called The Old Bridge. In the centre of these houses was a waterpump. It was very sacred to the people living there – woe betide anyone found near the sacred shrine. Carrying on you went across an old wooden bridge over the Irwell through beautiful woodland scenery, where in summer you could pickluscious blackberries; in fact it was all fields and meadows for young legs to run wild in. This led to Gollinrod.

The farm was neglected when I was young, but worked again during the last war; itwas then the Village went into a decline.

Further down the Lane and across from the shop was a cotton mill - it was workinguntil about 1932; still wooded scenery and flowing by was the river.

The Chemical Works, and over another tin bridge there was lots of stone steps - Jacobs Ladder (on the right-hand side of the road) leading you on to Bury New Road. To me, nothing can compare with my childhood days in Nuttall; the mobile greengrocer throwing all his fish bits to the village cats - they came from all over when he rang the bell. The walks to Grants Tower during summer holidays and to Buckhurst armed with our lemonade and jam butties. Wimberrying up Holcombe Hill till our hands were as blue as the wimberries themselves.

Can anyone else remember these days in Nuttall - I hope so.

Hilda FRENCH (Nov 1987)

MEMORIES OF BOYHOOD c 1912 – 1920

Playing with my brother Arthur and friends in the fields and streams in the wood out Alderbottom (better known as holy bottom). Playing amongst the stones of the ruins of the Mill burnt down in the Chatterton Riots (later to be cleared and swings erected for the children of Chatterton). Playing and roaming up Buckden, then onto the moors to the tower, and onto Pilgrim's Cross (reputed to be the resting place of the Pilgrims going to Whalley Abbey). Happy memories of walking or running up Chatterton Old Lane to the school at the top (then Stubbins School, now used for church services).

Playing football with a tennis ball whilst returning home from school and breaking our clog toes on the rough sets of the road; which warranted a scolding from my mother, and which also meant a journey to the clogger in Stubbins, who then cut another sole to fit the feet (how clever he was with his tools to shape the soles from a piece of rough wood).

Memories of walking in the procession at Whitsuntide, when each child was given a coin or orange from some of the big houses called at, for which we all had to join in the singing of a hymn.

Memories of bath nights with my brother together in the inn bath in the kitchen, then a good rub down by my father.

Memories of trips to Belle Vue and Southport and Blackpool by train, taken by my father. Later memories of trips in the charabancs with folded back covers over the rows of foldback seats, covers to be pulled over if raining.

These memories will last forever of my sisters and brothers, most of them still alive and in good health. But most of all, fond memories of my mother and father, who showed us their love, and clothed and fed us. Their memory will always live on. [A copy of these reminiscences is in our archive collection.]

G CROSTHWAITE

THE HISTORICAL SEEDS OF THE LOCAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Ramsbottom Horticultural & Allotment Society is celebrating its 75th Anniversary during 1990. Founded in 1915 it grew out of the East Ward Allotment Association with its first show in 1917 at the Pavilion on Peel Brow. Then there were 183 exhibits from 40 members, but the record total was 940 staged at Peel Brow School.

Since its start there have been only three Presidents - William FENWICK, Ben Johnson SMITH and now Norman GREENWELL. Features of today's society are: the Trading Hut on Peel Brow Allotments which sells a variety of goods, and gives away advice; an annual quiz against Tottington and Grey Mare (of Great Harwood), which fittingly Ramsbottom won last month by one point; the National Rose Champion 1989 (under 1000 bushes) - Tony BRACEGIRDLE; and an exhibitor, Wilf TAYLOR, still winning in his mid-eighties. Seek out their stall at various local venues this year and sample their shows at the Civic Hall on April 21st, August 25th & 26th and November 10th, with up to 132 colourful classes.

Like Ramsbottom, Tottington Horticultural Society is affiliated to various national societies for dahlias, roses, chrysanthemums, vegetables and even daffodils, and relies on local sponsors to fertilise its finances. However, it dates back to only 1935, and held its early meetings in a gaslit Bowling Club, Humorous anecdotes abound such as the tactless judge who selected a bought-in whist pie in preference to the proud ladies' home-made fare. Their programme features talks, dances and plant stalls, but the highlights are their shows - in 1990 at Laurel St School in early April, and on 15th-16th September, with 146 classes, including flowers, vegetables, pot plants, eggs, wine, handicraft, cookery, children's and flower arranging.

The local society with the oldest roots is Edenfield and District Horticultural Society, which surfaced in the Pack Horse Hotel (now the *Topham's Arms*) in 1914. Its archives show an income of £l7 14s 10d, a donation in 1916 to Edenfield War Fund of £l 1s 0d, and a debit of 12s 6d for the hire of the Co-op Hall. The Vice Presidents in 1938 included the MP Mr R W PORRITT, W TURNBULL, the Rev E T S OTTLEY and Dr STRUTHERS. The 1958 advertisements recorded a Central Garage, a plumber, a decorator and Horncliffe Nurseries - all now gone! The first female joined the committee in 1946, and the youngest committee member in 1965 was aged 11. Attractions for the 150 members are: free automatic life membership after 25 years (now there are 45 of them); free entry to shows; 30% off a combined seed order; stalls on May Bank Holiday Monday at Ramsbottom Street Market plus Edenfield Fete on June 2nd; and a special historical one for 7th, 8th & 9th September 1990, an exhibit at Edenfield Parish Church's Flower Festival to celebrate its 450 years. A similar past

historical one has been coffee evenings at 15th Century Lumb Hall. Two of our members, Councillor and Mrs P DUNNE, add a note of civic splendour by becoming Mayor and Mayoress for 1990-91. The floral climaxes will be the shows at Stubbins United Reformed Church Schoolroom on Saturdays August 18th and September 22nd. Why not make the effort to come and enjoy all or some of these vibrant shows?

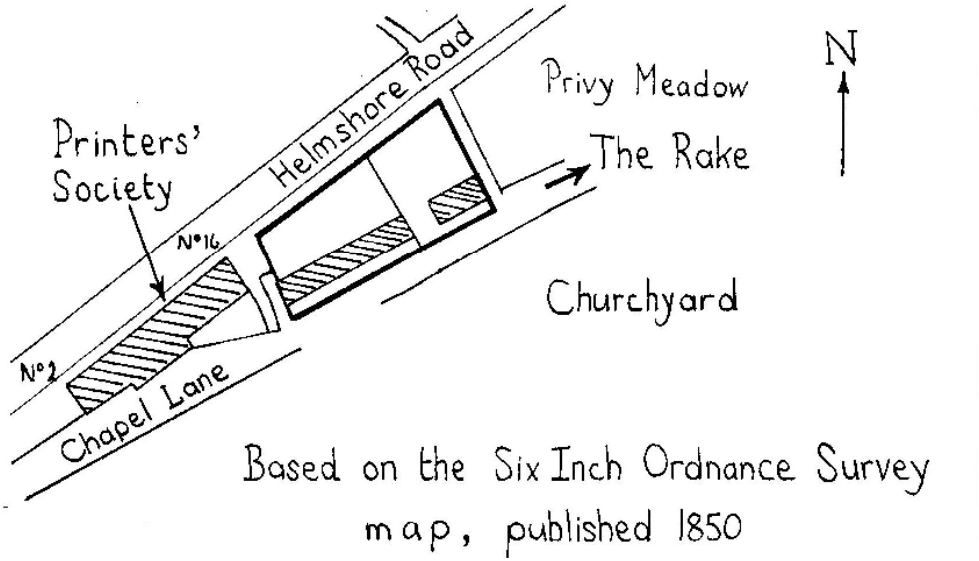
Clyde L TWEEDALE, member of all of these societies

THE PRINTERS' SOCIETY, HOLCOMBE

On 9 April 1823, at the Halmot Court of the Manor of Tottington, held at Holcombe, Robert KAY of Holcombe Brook leased a small plot of land in Holcombe Village from John ROSTRON of Barwood Lee, and his wife Mary. KAY (referred to as 'Gent' in the court book) was presumably the corn dealer of that name at Holcombe Brook (in ROGERSON's trades directory of 1818), but in the 1823 transaction was acting in the capacity of for the members of the Friendly Society of Printers. ms little known body was presumably a terminating building society. These were common in Lancashire in the early years of the 19th Century, and responsible for building many single terraces of workers' housing - Club Row (Tottington) and the Female Union Society, Holcombe Brook are local examples. The society, through Robert KAY, paid five shillings to John andMary ROSTRON for the plot, together with an annual rent of £2 4s 41/2d. The following summary description of the plot, taken originally from the Tottington court book, indicates that the society had started building just before 1823:

All that plot of land situated within Holcombe taken from a certain meadow called Privy Meadow parcel of Higher House Estate containing in length of the North and South sides thereof 34 yards or thereabouts in breadth on the East 21 yards and 8 inches on the West 10 yards and 4 inches containing in the whole 5321/2 yards. Bounded on the North side by the Turnpike Road leading from Bury to Blackburn on the East by part of the Privy Meadow and on the South by the Road called the Chapel Lane leading from Holcome to Ramsbottom and on the West by dwelling houses the property of the said John Rostron and those stone built messuages lately erected by the members of a certain Society in Holcome called the Friendly Society of Printers holden at the sign of the house of Ann Buckley known by the sign of the Shoulder of Mutton in Holcome and enjoy in common with John Rostron the well or stream of water known by the name of the Bowling Green Well situate in Holcome. To the use and behoof of Robert Kay in trust for the members for the time being of the said Society and be considered as part of the funds and effects of the Society.

Taking advantage of the record good weather in early May, I paced out the housing on Chapel Lane/Helmshore Road in Holcombe village, and came to the conclusion that the plot outlined in heavier black on the accompanying sketch map is the 532 ½ square yards leased by the society in 1823.



The houses facing onto Chapel Lane were presumably built on this land either in that year, or soon after. It is unclear from the 1823 court record how much of the terrace facing onto Helmshore Road (i.e. the houses belonging to John and the 'messuages' (houses and ground) of the Printers' Society) had been built by 1823, The terrace of eight houses carries the numbers 2 to 16 and it is significant that between 6 and 8 there is a very pronounced building break - so, I assume that three belonged to ROSTRON, and five to the printers. The Tottington Lower End poor rate books of the early 19th Century are available, on microfilm, at Bury Central Library. This entry for 1827 (which I happened to copy down in another connection) implies that the five (i.e. the easterly group) belonged to the society:

Printers Society Holcome

	Occupier	Rateable Value		Rate
Cottage	William NUTTALL	1-2-6		11-3
do	William BLOMFIELD	do	do	do
do	John SCHOFIELD	do	do	do
do	Mrs INGHAM	do	do	do
do	James PARKS	do	do	do

Terminating building societies, or club houses, are usually associated with handloom weavers in our area (e.g. the colony of several terraces, known still as Club Houses, atHorwich). This

example at Holcombe suggests that other trades might have pooled savings to build houses. Number 16 of the terrace currently sports the fanciful name Caxton End but I suspect that it was not that kind of printing in which the original owner was engaged! More likely, these owner occupiers were calico printers (or even engravers to calico printers) at a nearby works. I would be interested in any other suggestions, or information, about this obscure little self- help society. I am grateful to Jan BARNES of Boardmans, Hawkshaw Lane, for a copy of the solicitor's transcription of the 1823 court book entry which prompted this article.

Andrew TODD

ONE DAY?

Are you one of the many people who have an interesting document or object connected with Ramsbottom and its past? It may have been tucked away in a safe place for ages or you may only recently have discovered it You would like to more about it and 'one day' you intend to follow it up. Alternatively, you may have memories of events, life and times in the past, or even recent things which could be of interest to people in the future. You may have heard the appeals at Heritage Society meetings for people to record their recollections either in writing or on tape and donate them to the archives. You have probably said to yourself "Yes, I will do it - one day"!

If you are one of these people the Society would be most grateful if you would please declare that today is one day: and make a start now.

The idea behind our new, expanded Newsletter is to provide a vehicle for the publication of items about Ramsbottom and its past. For the purposes of the Newsletter, items need not be very long, nor need they be typed. In fact, if you feel that writing is not your scene, you could even record them on tape. So the task may not be as daunting as you think - indeed many people find it both enjoyable and rewarding. So, please, don't put it off any longer - make a start - today if possible!

If your searches lead you on beyond your original aim, as often happens, please do carry on - you may find yourself with the makings of a booklet which could eventually be published.

On the other hand, if you become bogged down and don't know where to go next, please do not give up. An appeal at the monthly meetings often brings forth the elusive piece of information or, at least, suggestions as to where it may be found. Also, Andrew TODD, local historian and Chairman of our Society, can often give advice. If all else fails you could always 'advertise' in the Newsletter! The essential thing is to record the information you have discovered. Many people have already recorded items for the archive, either in writing or on tape; extracts from some of them appear in this Newsletter. The Society is aware that it takes time and effort to do these things, and is always pleased to receive them. A pleasure which we're will be shared by future generations.

Items for the Newsletter can be handed to myself, or the Secretary, Dorothy MOSS, at any of

the monthly meetings, or handed in at J & B PALMER's Pharmacy in Market Place, Ramsbottom. It is hoped that the Newsletter will be published twice yearly but this, of course, will depend on the response it receives- from both readers and writers!

Barbara PARK

THE LT KERBSTONE MYSTERY

Directly opposite our front door on Albert St is a kerbstone on which has been centrally inscribed the letters LT. Paviour's graffiti from 1887, when the terrace was built, and the street (presumably) cobbled and kerbed? If it was, then the was prolific, for these letters appear on many other individual kerbstones in Ramsbottom. Can anyone suggest what LT could stand for?

Andrew TODD

PUBLICATIONS BY RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Three of our members have published works on aspects of the history of Ramsbottom. We hope that in a later Newsletter it will be possible to publish a detailed review of each. In the meantime, below is a list of their titles. All are on sale at the Heritage Centre.

Trade Directory Reprints 1818-1888: compiled by Andrew TODD: covers Ramsbottom, Edenfield, Holcombe, Tottington, Walmersley and Shuttleworth, and includes contemporary six-inch Ordnance Survey Maps. In addition to the Directories themselves, the introduction also contains useful information on the whereabouts of sources for people engaged in local or family history research.

Drink and Drinking in Ramsbottom 1890-91 by 'Andrew TODD is the first in a series on Ramsbottom during the period 1890-1891 based on items in the Ramsbottom Observer.

Crime in Ramsbottom 1890-91 , also by Andrew TODD, is the second in the series.

Stories in Stone by Robert HOWARTH. Stories about some of the buildings and history of Ramsbottom.

Origins of the Health Service in Bury and Ramsbottom (part one) by Barbara PALMER. A description of charitable medical provision in the 18th and 19th Centuries and the and changes it brought about

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Shops in Ramsbottom - does anyone have billheads, advertisements, photographs, memories, anecdotes about shops in Ramsbottom? No specific time period. Please contact Irene TODD at 78 Albert St, Ramsbottom, Bury BLO 9EL (tel: 824511, after 6.00pm).

Ramsbottom deeds - do you have access to the deeds of your house? Deeds are some of the most informative sources of local history, but may be difficult to interpret. If you are willing to allow access to yours, please contact Andrew TODD at 78, Albert St, Ramsbottom, Bury BLO 9EL (tel: 824511, after 6.00pm), who will be pleased to explain their contents to you.

Cover picture: Hey House - drawing by Zena MIDDLETON

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RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE



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WE AT THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND IN RAMSBOTTOM HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY FOR SOME TIME NOW, PRINCIPALLY IN ALLOWING THE USE OF ONE OF OUR BRIDGE STREET WINDOWS FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES.

HAPPILY, OUR NEED FOR EXTRA SPACE COINCIDED WITH THE SOCIETY'S ACQUISITION OF PREMISES IN CARR STREET WHICH HAVE BECOME THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE CENTRE.

WE WISH THE SOCIETY CONTINUED SUCCESS AND ARE HAPPY TO CONTINUE OUR SUPPORT BY FUNDING THE FIRST SPONSORED EDITION OF THE SOCIETY'S NEWS MAGAZINE.

BEST WISHES FROM EVERYONE AT:-



THE ROYAL BANK OF
SCOTLAND PLC
27 BRIDGE STREET, RAMSBOTTOM

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM
Telephone: Ramsbottom 821603

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Editor: Barbara Park

Welcome to the second issue of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine. The Magazine will be produced twice yearly in June and December and our aim is to provide a combination of news about the Society and its activities, and articles about Ramsbottom and its heritage, past and present.

We also hope to provide a link between people who are doing research into local history and those who may be able to help them in some way - perhaps with local or specialist knowledge, photographs or documents.

Readers will not be surprised that this particular issue is dominated (if not completely taken over!) by news of the Heritage Centre, which opened its doors to the public over the Spring Bank Holiday and had its official opening by the Mayor of Bury on the 17th June. The Centre is the culmination of much hard work on the part of many people and a

demonstration by Bury Council of their confidence in the Society's ability to staff it, raise sufficient funds to cover its running costs, to mount displays which will attract and interest the people of Ramsbottom and the many people who now visit the town, and also to provide a sale home for the many documents, photographs and artefacts which have been entrusted to our care. Our first summer season has been a great success. The display - "Ramsbottom - the last 200 years" has been highly praised by many visitors and we all hope that the Centre will go from strength to strength, learning as we go, and that next yearwill be even better. Those readers who are already members of the Society will be well aware of the appeals for help of all kinds. If you are not a member, but would like to help,the appeals are reiterated throughout this magazine. As Editor I would like you to help byresearching and writing articles for the Magazine or, better still, to carry on until you havesufficient material fa* a booklet. It is also essential that the many changes taking place in the town now are recorded either for publication or to be placed in the archive. These can be recorded on tape or in writing or by photography (if you choose the latter, don't forget the Photo Competition!). There is also the new joint project on the Carr area which may beof interest to those who either feel that they do not have the time to tackle a project on theirown, or just feel happier working as part of a team.

By doing these things we can help to preserve our history and heritage for the benefit of future generations - whether it be our descendants wishing to know more about life in the time of their forebears or researchers wishing to study various aspects of Ramsbottom's past. It is often difficult to find the time and energy to undertake these tasks, but the satisfaction gained makes the effort well worthwhile - whether it be a week-end session at the Centre, a piece of research completed, an event recorded, an idea for fund raising or helping out with a display. It should also be pointed out that these activities can be most enjoyable - new friends are made, skills and knowledge are exchanged along the way. So, please do give some thought to the idea of becoming involved and, if you decide to join in, either come along to one of the monthly meetings or pop in to see us at the Centre - you will be very welcome.

At this point Î would like to thank all those people who have contributed articles - without their help there would be no magazine. Also Zena Middleton and John Taylor for the drawings, and Irene and Andrew Todd whose help and expertise are invaluable to a first time Editor who is "learning on the job".

Finally a special word of thanks to our very first sponsor, the Royal Bank of Scotland, who have paid for the priming of this issue and to Mr S W Heaton, Manager of the Ramsbottom Branch, for his help in arranging the sponsorship. Their continuing support is much appreciated by the Society.

1 do hope you enjoy reading this Magazine. I realise it is impossible to "please all of the people all of the time" but hope that most people will find something to interest or amuse them. Of course, if you find that your own particular interest has not been included, then please sharpen your pencil or plug in your computer and send in your contribution to the June issue straightaway! Contributions are not just welcome-they are essential! Ideas for improving the magazine are also welcome - so please put on your thinking caps!

Barbara Park EDITOR

HERITAGE CENTRE UPDATE

The official opening ceremony of Ramsbottom Heritage Centre in June 1990 was a remarkable event in the short life of Ramsbottom Heritage Society, inaugurated only three years previously.

- In the first place, credit must go to the Committee for their perseverance and imagination, for how could they know whether members would give up their precious week-ends to keep the Centre open, and could they really find the talent to collect and display enough interesting materials to please the public? And how could they raise the WIND?

- Secondly, credit should go to our Councillors, especially Brian Rigby, who pleaded our case in Committee and with Councillors at Bury, so that they took the courageous decision to allow our use of the redundant Library building in Carr Street Generous help has come from Bury Council in refurbishing, decorating and fitting out the building for us, and also in defraying the running costs. In addition the "start-up" grant was invaluable. Our thanks to them must be recorded here.

- Thirdly the work, undertaken by "the few" who cleaned up after the workmen so that we could open on time, was heroic, as was that of the Display Team.

Looking back after four months - how goes it with us? Using the grant we have equipped the office with workbench, filing cabinet, drawers, typewriter, telephone message recorder, and correct storage bays and boxes for our archives. We have bought curtains, kitchen and cleaning equipment, and are now proceeding to copy photographs and documents for our future displays. Opening each week-end and Bank Holiday, we have played our part in several events connected with the East Lancashire Railway, such as the visit of the DICKENSIAN FELLOWSHIP and THE TEDDY BEARS PICNIC. Members have come forward and spent happy sessions at the Centre covering one or two hour periods. So how can I volunteer, you will be asking. There is a ROTA SHEET available at the Centre covering several weeks, and we invite you, urge you (even twist your arm!) to come along and put your name in one of the blank spaces. The Centre is warm and comfortable and you will meet many friendly people. Tasks include serving on the stall, serving tea and coffee, welcoming visitors and inviting them to sign the visitors' book, the enrolment of new members, accepting donations of items for the Archive. Best of all, you will receive a non-stop stream of information about Ramsbottom and its past - shorthand would be a definite PLUS. If you were born and bred here in Ramsbottom you will thoroughly enjoy reminiscing about bygone days, sharing your memories and local knowledge with visitors and helpers alike. If you are new to the area, there is no pleasanter way of learning about the town and its history. Fund raising needs to be organised to cover the running costs, such as insurance, electricity, gas, telephone, water, cleaning and expenses incidental to the displays themselves. We cannot charge for entry, so we are heavily dependent upon membership fees and donations to the Centre. The sales counter needs developing, perhaps by members making items which can be sold on those days when there is a market in Bridge Street. This year we raised £100 selling plants and flowers donated by Dorothy Moss, Barbara Palmer, Norene French and others.

We appeal to people of all ages and talents

people with ideas (the first prerequisite)
people with an artistic bent to make up displays hunter/
gatherers to locate and collect items promised people
to promote the Centre - press, publicity, etc woodworkers and modellers
people with craft skills to produce saleable goods, preferably items which are exclusive to Ramsbottom, rather than things which are available everywhere else

people with FUND RAISING IDEAS and TIME

people to produce footpath, trail guides, or even lead walks, make maps, etc

We believe that we are running a tight ship with a valuable cargo in full sail and on course. Why not join the crew? Welcome aboard.

Barbara Palmer

LIKE TO **HELP THE CENTRE IN A "FRIENDLY" WAY?**
In exchange for a subscription of £5.00 per year, you can become a "patron" or "friend" of the Centre. You will receive the Magazine twice yearly and have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping in a very practical way to keep the Centre going.

If you are interested in supporting the Centre in this way your financial and moral support will be most welcome. Please contact Jack Palmer at the Heritage Centre (Ramsbottom 821603).

HERITAGE CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday 26th May 1990 - the great day dawns fair - can hardly believe we are to be so lucky. The display team have had only two clear days since the workmen left to set up the display "RAMSBOTTOM THROUGH NINE REIGNS - THE PAST 200 YEARS", in fact the last two panels are put in place at 11.30 a.m. and the Centre is due to open at noon. Our first visitors are our local Councillors who have done so much to encourage the setting up of the Heritage Centre. They sign our beautiful Visitors Book, hand bound in royal blue leather and blocked in gold with exclusive end papers - generously donated by Mr Cyril Formby - to whom go our grateful thanks. A trickle of visitors follows them, local newspaper photographers, residents of Ramsbottom, representatives from Bury Council (with whom the Society has co-operated in opening the Centre). Then the trickle becomes a flood and over the three-day Bank Holiday we welcome over 500 people.

On Wednesday 13th June members of the Dickensian Fellowship came to Ramsbottom and naturally visited the Heritage Centre.

On Thursday 14th June the Mayor of Bury, Councillor Monty Adler, accompanied by the Mayoress, performed the Official Opening ceremony by unveiling a plaque. The Mayor and Mayoress of Rossendale, our Ramsbottom Councillors and representatives from many

local authority departments also attended the ceremony, together with the Society Committee and all those members who helped get the Centre opened - in fact around 70 guests crowded in. Norene and Hilda French and Hilda Barrett, to whom we are eternally grateful, provided much appreciated refreshments.

The local press covered the event and flashbulbs; video recorders and cine cameras added to the air of excitement (not to mention the heat of the room!). It is hoped that some of the Film will be shown at one of our meetings, and of course a tape recording of the event has already gone into the archive. On a sad note one of our special guests, Mr Jim Welding, aged 94, who lived in the last cottage in Nuttall, is alas no longer with us. He was well known to many people and is sadly missed

Three days later, 17th June, the Mayor of Tulle, our French twin town, paid a visit. He was accompanied by a party of French people and all enjoyed a cup of English tea. Lillian Cullen, who, dressed in 18th Century costume, sat spinning as part of the *Early days in Ramsbottom* tableau, speaks fluent French and delighted the Mayor by conversing with him in his native language.

In July, members of the Worsley Rotary Club came to the Centre seeking clues in their motor rally. It was a pleasure to greet them and also many other visitors from all parts of the country, and indeed the world.

Over the late summer Bank Holiday we welcomed well over 300 visitors. The weekend coincided with the East Lancashire Railway's Teddy Bears' Picnic in Nuttall Park, so we held our own mini-picnic with more than 60 bears on display. Each child bringing their teddy received a smallgift, and was invited to guess the number of Teddy Bears at our picnic. The winners of the two inflatable teddies were Karl Howarth of Bury and Cheryl Owen of Ramsbottom.

At the end of October the Centre closed until 24th November, to give our helpers a break, and allow the Display Team to prepare a new exhibition with a Christmas theme. The past six months have been a most exciting time for the Society. New signposts have been erected in the town. We have co- operated in a new guide to Ramsbottom, which we hope will give pleasure to many visitors during 1991. A stone horse trough has been donated by Major and Mrs Mucklow (he was the Huntsman to the Holcombe Hunt for many years). This is now planted with flowers and bulbs and makes a most attractive display outside the Centre. The Society has also been given a desk box made from printing blocks used at W Gram's Square Mill, donated by Mr F Scott. Best of all, we have met many people, made new friends and learnt more of the history of our town.

Our grateful thanks to our wonderful team of helpers - without them the Centre could not have been such a great success.

Dorothy Moss (Secretary)

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Each October the Heritage Society holds a photographic competition which is open to anybody who has taken photographs around Ramsbottom during the year. Three prizes are normally awarded, as well as six Highly Commended Certificates. The photographs should show the flavour of Ramsbottom for the year in question, be it views of the town and surrounding area, special events, new architecture or demolition of existing buildings,

Technical perfection is not necessary, in fact snapshots have been previous winners.

The purpose of the competition is to enable a record to be kept of the events in Ramsbottom during the previous 12 months. For this reason a condition of entry is that the photographs are donated to the archive. Over a period of time the archive should grow into a sizeable collection and should record all the major changes taking place in the town.

The competition has been running for four years and the archive already has 400 pictures. They have all been numbered and archived into approximately 20 categories, such as Holcombe Hill, Railway, Bridge Street, Churches, Special Events, People, etc. Most pictures belong to two or more categories. The purpose of this categorisation is that when a display is required of a particular subject, a list of all likely photographs is immediately available, and nobody needs to search through the complete archive each time.

The largest category at the moment is the Railway section, as the first competition in 1987 coincided with the opening of the East Lancashire Railway on 25th July, and the railway has continued to provide a lot of material each year. There was, for example, the accident at the level crossing in 1988, the opening of the station in 1989 and the new footbridge and platform in 1990. The Special Events section is the second largest, and this often features events connected with the railway, such as the Circus, the Teddy Bears' picnic and the Santa Special. The Carnival and Country Fair appear in the Special Events category as well as in the Nuttall Park category.

There is also a special category for Architecture and many of the shop fronts on Bridge Street appear in the archives. This is important, as shops seem to disappear overnight. For example 1988 has a picture of the Job Centre which wasn't under threat at the time, but which is now closed. 1988 also has the building of Kwik Save and the redevelopment of Square Street and surrounding area. Square Street also appears in 1989 and 1990 as the buildings were demolished and a temporary car park built.

The Landscape section has general views of Ramsbottom which are of great interest. A photograph taken in 1987 of Holcombe Hill from Nangreaves, for example, is different from a similar view in 1989, due to the growth of the Nuttall Lane estate in the middle of the picture. Indeed, it would be interesting if somebody could take the same view of Ramsbottom for each year's competition, and then the differences could be compared and possibly a display constructed in 10 or 20 years' time. This is the purpose of the competition, to preserve Ramsbottom in pictures and provide a record year by year. If the competition didn't exist, then in 50 years' time the Society wouldnot have immediate access to the events of 1990, and would be as dependent on public appeals as it has been for memories of 1940. A Heritage society should not be always looking back into the past, but should also be recording present events for our children and grandchildren to enjoy looking at infuture years, and for us to share our memories with them and say "was petrol only £2.30 a gallon in 1990?" except that they will be saying "50p a litre!".

John Leyland

1990 WINNERS

This year's competition was judged by Elizabeth Sykes, proprietor of Little Holcombe Books, and the prizewinners were:

FIRST (The Dickensian Trophy) - John Leyland
SECOND - Norene French
THIRD - Tom Barrett

HIGHLY COMMENDED CERTIFICATES were awarded to:

Dorothy Moss (2), Tom Barrett, Norene French, Patricia Greer and John Leyland

Congratulations to the prize winners and thank you to all who submitted photographs. Now is the time to start taking pictures for next year's competition and to continue throughout 1991.

ARCHIVES

The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defines ARCHIVE as either a place in which historic documents are kept or, the historical documents so preserved themselves. The ARCHIVIST is defined as a person having charge of the archive, being its keeper.

So where do these definitions find the Ramsbottom Heritage Society? I will try to tell all! We do now have a place where the catalogued archives can be kept and which can be called the ARCHIVE. The Heritage Centre has an office, part of which is the ARCHIVE. Before the Centre was opened the archives spent nearly two years in a filing cabinet in Jack and Barbara Palmer's back kitchen (and most of the rest of the kitchen too!) and the Archivist spent thoughtful, puzzled but not unhappy hours there. The filing cabinet containing the archives was moved to the ARCHIVE at the Heritage Centre. At this point heartfelt thanks to Bob Howarth without whose filing cabinet key solving genius the archives would have remained lost for all time.

However, the filing cabinet itself will not be used for storage in the new ARCHIVE. With the advice of Kevin Mulley, Archivist in Bury, and Jim Garretts of Bury Museum, we have learned that keeping items in plastic bags, old envelopes, clingfilm, or not covered at all, in flimsy files is archival suicide. Each item is to be refiled in archivally sound containers and stored in archive boxes in a new cupboard purchased for the Heritage Centre Archive. With more than 1,000 archives this is not going to happen overnight, but if we are to preserve them in a reasonable state, it is the only way to proceed. With the help of volunteers - Marion Beech, Hilda Beswick, Kathleen Denny, Madeleine Patty, Margaret Quayle - the contents of bulging, crumpled files are now looking a lot healthier in the new boxes, and should be a lot easier to find. To be as useful as possible the archives must be easy to locate. Still a long way to go, but encouraging to have made such a good start in such good company.

Up to the opening of the Centre, I have worked from home using our Amstrad 8512 PCW. The items in process of being catalogued, or definitely nowhere near being catalogued, are in my house still. Many have been processed since May but the wardrobe still bulges!

So this Archivist admitted to the Committee and the Society that it was all a bit out of hand, and asked for help in all areas of the work. As you have read above, many volunteered. Apart from filing the material, keeping the archive involves other routines which the Archivist performed, and which are now being streamlined as an imperative.

Release Letters whereby a donor has to sign that their gift is an absolute one for RHS use, and which were sent out by the Archivist, have been replaced with Release Forms which, whenever possible, are filled in and signed at the time the donation is received. The forms are available at the Centre and at meetings, where it is hoped that most of the donations will be handed in. If you would like a few copies of these forms do ask. Barbara Park has volunteered to send any Release Letters needed if there is the odd snag in the new system.

Barbara also helps with computer work, as she has the same machine as the Archivist

Cataloguing. Each item handed to the Archivist has to be catalogued ie described, dated, allocated a position by subject in the Archive, the donor's name listed, and be given a number. This is the vital process - nothing else will happen if this isn't done. It is then recorded by subject in the Record of Archives. The Donors and Loaners are then listed in name order. These three jobs have been streamlined and made far less time-consuming anti boring by using the word processor. Three copies of item records are printed out and tipped into the Card Index, Record of Archive (Joan Murphy is glad to do this) and the third sent to volunteer Kathleen Frost, who has used her computer skills to compile a magnificent Donors and Loaners File, which can be simply amendedat any time. Linda Owen will do any typing needed. For instance, handwritten memories are alwaystyped out, and eventually die whole record will need reprocessing. Barbara Palmer is experienced in obtaining good copies of photographs and does most of this work, as well as all her other work for the RHS.

What is crystal clear is that we must make use of word processors/computers. Many societies don't keep an ARCHIVE at all. Many are snowed under and are coming to the same conclusions about the use of the computer as the RHS Archivist. The RHS, if not snowed under, is just waving its hand above the snow. My word processor has to stay in our home as my husband needs it for his business. I am determined to get hold of a satisfactory second-hand one and the committee, who have all been very supportive, will consider the purchase as soon as funds can be found. (If anyone can help in the search, the committee would appreciate it very much). The ARCHIVE office has been well equipped with a fine desk, drawers, cupboard, so 1 can take uncatalogued items to the Centre and bring them back to my house a few at a lime to work on, until the Centre has a computer. So maybe I'll be allowed to live at home a bit longer!

I hope this hasn't been too boring. We all want the ARCHIVE to be a success but I had to explain what is involved in achieving this. It cannot be done by one person, so all effort is being made to make it an efficient and usable collection, with the help of volunteers and technology. Otherwise, there is little hope of success, only chaos. Any positive ideas from any reader will be welcomed. Thanks to members, friends, not named here, for their encouragement with ideas, knowledge and humour.

Whilst eventually we hope that our archives can be available for research, I think it must be some time before this becomes possible. Sometimes now I feel I don't give a big enough hello to new accessions as my heart is actually sinking! With help from members I hope to be jollier. So I will not sign off as Archivist because I would like to be part of an Archival Group. Remember thereis always room for you. I'll be gaffer!

Brenda Decent (Archivist)

RAMSBOTTOM - WHAT'S IN A NAME? *(New theory unearthed?)*

Since coming to live in Ramsbottom 18 years ago, I have heard various ideas about the origin of our town's name: ideas that range from the fanciful to the downright profane!

One idea that seems to have found favour in recent years is that Ramsbottom was so named because it was die "Valley of Ramsons, or Wild Garlic". As a botanist, I have always been

sceptical about this. Ramsons is certainly a rare plant in Ramsbottom today. In my 18 years in the area, I have only seen three plants that have not obviously been planted by man, and they were all in the Holcombe Brook area, rather than Ramsbottom itself. I have been told that Ramsons used to be prolific in the grounds of the former Aitken Sanatorium, but I have not seen it there myself and know nothing of its origin or possible introduction at this site.

Similarly, a reasonably thorough search of the old botanical literature that exists for this area has revealed nothing to suggest that the status of Ramsons was ever very different I have certainly not found any evidence that Ramsons was ever sufficiently abundant here to merit naming the place after it.

I was interested then to find the following paragraph in a book that recently came my way in the course of business. The book is called Round about Bradford written by William Cudworth, published in 1876 and, I think, reprinted several times since. On page nine, under the heading "Local Nomenclature", we find:

Legrams (a district near Bradford) is a corruption of "ley" or low-lying, and "ram", Norse for strong: and, as applied to land, indicating a stiff clay soil. It is the same as Ramsbottom. The family name of "Ingram", when we think of it in connection with Temple Newsam (an erstwhile stately home near Leeds), has a more aristocratic sound than "Ramsbottom", but it means precisely the same thing. Etymology is a radical science in more senses than one!"

As anyone who has tried to garden in Ramsbottom will surely agree, this is a far more likely, if more prosaic; origin of the name. There is ample evidence of Norse settlers in the area, and the nature of the soil - which would greatly influence their daily lives, livelihood and food - would be a sufficiently important factor to merit giving a name to the area; much more so than the possible abundance or otherwise of an economically not very important plant.

So without making any claim of originality, I would like to suggest that this explanation - valley of stiff clay - is both more down to earth (! !) and more likely than die other ideas I have heard.

Trust a Yorkshireman to dent the more fanciful notions of his Lancashire neighbours!

John Sykes

[Has John finally dug up the truth about the origins of our town's name? Or do you adhere to one of the older theories? Or do you have an even more earth-shattering explanation? Comments are eagerly awaited.]

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A DEDICATED GARDENER

April

For a second year the winter was unusually mild with little snow and no sustained frost. Dire warnings were issued of dreadful attacks of beasties in the garden - slugs - aphids - and worse.

But in fact the first delight was the explosion in the ladybird population, well ahead of the aphids in our garden. One may think that this boded well in the "green" fight against the pests, but not so. Soon blackfly encrusted our Viburnum and giant juicy grey aphids smothered the lupins. No matter how many ladybirds were encouraged to attend the banquet, the food was never to their

liking. They preferred instead to amble about in the warm soil and bask on the stones in the sunshine. Later, the greenfly appeared on the rose trees in the yard, at least the colour did not clash, but on approach they leaped about in a veritable cloud. Yes, we had rose hopper as well and soon the leaves dropped.

May

May was a hot dry month, and later record temperatures were reached, 90F in the shade and over 100F in our yard. Meals were taken out of doors under the rose tree not yet denuded. Drought soon threatened after the long hot summer of '89 and the dry winter, but dozens of frogs enjoyed the sun on the pond and the slugs were well controlled for months. A blissful time passed watching the birds nesting. Wrens built in the garden wall, tits in their boxes, thrushes in the ivy and the songs of the robin, dunnock, blackbird and finches… . but what noise was that?

The rooks from Kay Brow rookery (an ancient settlement even if a shifting one, and a noisy gang at the best of times) had transferred themselves to the oak and beech at the footof the garden and were in dire distress. For days they cried out, at their wits end seemed tobest describe their behaviour. For many of their trees by the lodge had been felled - the trees where they had built nests and were breeding as was their custom. A sad time.

July

Happier days were spent watching the Greater Spotted Woodpecker feed in the dead elm tree, a real treasure house. Perhaps this was the youngster "spotted" two years ago, the first in our garden, and now a regular visitor. Other newcomers were a brown capped Blackcap and a return visit by several Spotted Flycatchers. These delightful birds are small, brown and nondescript in appearance and will sit on their chosen perch, perhaps a telephone line or a tall garden stoop or a branch in our favourite dead elm, from where they will make a looping flight to catch insects on the wing, returning then to the same perch. Only they can do this.

September

Butterflies have increased in number in the garden and each year seems to bring something new. Orange Tips and Tortoiseshells and Red Admirals add colour to the Michaelmas Daisies and the ivy, but this year we were delighted to find a Comma butterfly feeding alongside their commoner relatives. This joins the fritillary and the blue as "one off" visitors, but we will be watching closely next year.

Maybe the changes have come about as a result of the mild winters, more a bonus than the predicted disaster, or maybe of the hot summers. Even the oak and beech are overladen with nuts and the ground beneath is a crunchy surface. Today, for the first time in our garden I have seen a grey squirrel. Or perhaps all this is happening following the disturbance of the habitats between Nuttall and Summerseat?

If you find that this is not gardening as you know it, it is however the true reason that I sign myself. A Dedicated Gardener.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

One of the Society's most important aims is to encourage research into Ramsbottom and its past. A group of members has recently begun researching the Carr, Tanners, Springwood area, looking at housing, mills and the land. Census returns, directories, maps, photographs, newspapers, and other documents will be used as well as people's personal recollections.

It is hoped eventually our findings will be published either as a booklet or as an article in the Magazine.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this project, or have any information which may help, please contact us at the Heritage Centre. We would also like to hear from people who are already involved in their own research, or who have ideas for further group projects.

Local historian and artist John Taylor is well known for his fascinating book on the date stones of Rossendale "Stories in Stone" and many members will remember the excellent talk and slide show which he gave to the Heritage Society on the same topic. John is now researching a book on the datestones of Ramsbottom and asks us to assist him in his task....

A MONUMENTAL TASK (Discovering the Datestones of Ramsbottom)

When a building is started, or refurbished, the builder or owner will often incorporate a dated stone. This datestone, sometimes with initials or names, sometimes elaborately decorative, although obvious at the time, becomes a tangible historical feature as the years roll by. An oldish datestone on a cottage, together with an analysis of its architectural style and other knowledge of the building, may be the key to its age and history. Seemingly a contradiction, datestones are sometimes made of brick, slate, woo d, metal, glass or plastic as well as the more usual stone, but they are all termed datestones. They are found on every type of building from mansion house to hen-cote. They come in various shapes and sizes and are not always as expected over the entrance or on the main frontage. An unusual type of datestone quite common in Ramsbottom is found on or just under the stone trough or guttering. There are many different types of datestone from foundation stones of churches, iron girders in old mills, lamp posts with maker's names and commemorative plaques to drainpipe heads and peals of inscribed bells. All these are included as long as they have a date. The older pre-1750 datestones are usually carved in relief, the letters and numbers being solid and projecting with the background carved away. The more modem type of datestones are usually incut or incised like an ordinary gravestone. Some datestones incorporate unusual decorations such as flowers or objects, some of which may have symbolic meanings.

To sort out the full name or names behind any initials on a datestone involves a lot of book and newspaper reading and research into census returns, directories and electoral registers, wills and parish registers. Much work on this is still possible. It can be a never-ending task. In 1972, in preparation for a local history slide show, urged by Rev RoyCarmyllie, a chronological check list was issued. Since then more eyes have been lookingand recently various members of the Heritage Society have been very helpful. Look in atthe Heritage Centre where a photocopy of much of the 50-page book is on display.

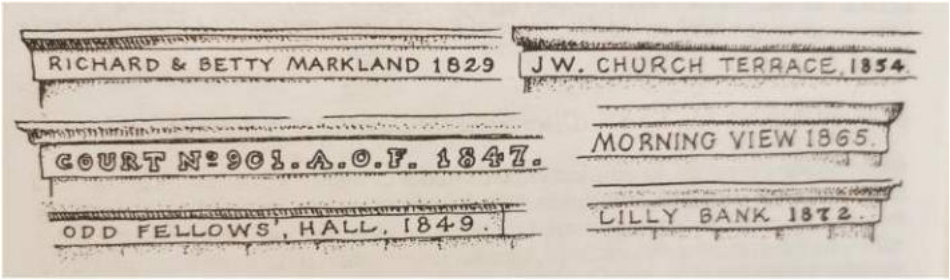
* Is your datestone in? ♦ Can you add any information.

I will never say I have recorded all the Ramsbottom datestones. There are new ones being carved right now and there will always be a few lurking in cellars, hidden in gardens or just unnoticed. So please keep me posted of any discoveries which you make. You may even get your name in the acknowledgements if you find a datestone which I have not yet recorded!

* * * COMPETITION * * *

In order to get our eyes focussed and our brains thinking ‘‘datestones” Andrew Todd suggests the following competition.

Do you know the location of the following six datestones?



Entries to the Editor, Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, to arrive not later than 1st April 1991. The first correct entry out of the hat will be the winner and will receive a small prize (yet another mystery!)

Solution and prizewinners will be announced in the June issue of RHS News Magazine.

RAMSBOTTOM RECOLLECTIONS: CHILDHOOD IN STUBBINS LANE IN THE EARLY 1920s

Across from the house was a low wall behind which was a goit. This fed the Victoria Mill, where we used to play amongst the skips in the mill yard. George Smith the greengrocer from Stubbins, used to go round with a horse and cart; these he stabled here. Across from the mill was the Working Men’s Club and next to the Club was the White Lion (The Ramsbottom Prize Band used to play there on Christmas morning).

Along from the pub, standing well back from the road was the pebble beach; so called because the pavement was all cobbled. Then came the twelve row and the six row (guess how many houses these had!)

On the other side of the road from these rows was a coal yard, then Mr. Marsden had a smithy. Next came Hillary's builders. They had a mortar wheel. It used to fascinate us watching the mortar being made. Then came the tram shed and next to that the spare ground (now the Town's Yard) which we called the Lodge. On this was a tank and a cannon from the First World War. We used to play on them on our way home from St Paul's School. (My father told me strolling players used to give shows there).

In Stubbins, old Charlie, the clogger, had a shop next to the Co-op. That was where we took our clogs for new irons; it was great kicking sparks after they had been shod.

Sunday would see my sister and myself going to the Mission in Stubbins Street and in the evening, after an early tea, Mother and Father would take us fora walk. It was always round Alder Bottom and, when we got to the nine arches, Charlie Reeves had a wooden hut which he used as a shop. Dad always bought us some sweets. I always wanted Rowntree's Clear Gums, 6d (2 1/2p) a quarter - they used to last me all week.

We would then go through the Snig Hole, or sometimes Ravenshore, but Dad always stopped to have a word with an old gentleman by the name of Mr Sparrow: he had a lovely garden. From there we went on to the moor to pick cotton, then back home down Buckden, arriving back tired but happy.

With loving parents, my sister and myself truly had a happy childhood on Stubbins Lane.

Mrs Mary Rothwell

RAMSBOTTOM'S IRON RAILINGS

To many people it must be a mystery what happened to the iron railings of the town. Along Bolton Road West in particular the evidence of their existence is very clear in the form of bum marks made by a cutting torch on the small walls and door posts of the houses.

In the early days of the Second World War the Ministry of Supply decided to remove iron railings from all over the country to help the War effort Ramsbottom had a number of streets with lovely ironwork but it had to go. Some still remain and the reason for their fortunate survival is that railings could be kept if the householder could show it would be dangerous to remove them. We should remember that at this time a Blackout was in existence and people, particularly children, could be at risk.

Among the ones still remaining are those above the shops on Bolton Road West at Holcombe Brook; the railings at present being painted and preserved facing St Joseph's Church in Bolton Street; down the side of the plumbers shop on Bolton Street and at the front and side of the Baptist Chapel. Some also remain in Lodge Street, Tanners Terrace and Douglas Street and in front of the houses on Ramsbottom Lane. A few others still survive. I hope that we can keep and preserve them.

Fred Entwistle

THE SHUTTLEWORTH ROAD DISPUTE, 1836-9

The principal roads in our area were, for the greater part of a century, maintained by turnpike trusts. These comprised local industrialists, landowners, farmers and members of the professional classes who wanted to see standards of road maintenance improved. The trusts were created by individual Acts of Parliament, with powers to raise loans, and to service these by charging tolls.

It is well known that the system aroused much hostility. Tolls were payable immediately die trust came into being, even though improvements to the road might take years to materialise. Also, local responsibility for maintenance did not disappear when a road was turnpiked. Since 1555, the inhabitants of each township were required by law to undertake 'statute labour', thereby keeping the township's roads in repair. Inhabitants took it in turns each year to serve, unpaid, as the 'surveyor of highways' - the township officer who supervised his neighbours' surly efforts to fill potholes and perhaps lay a few stones. Statute labour was abolished in 1835 (it had largely disappeared anyway), and a highway rate was payable instead, so that regular road labourers could be employed by the township.

Turnpike trusts were able to demand an appropriate proportion of a township's statutory obligation - thus a farmer might find himself paying tolls to drive his produce to its market, and also having to contribute to the maintenance of the same stretch of road through his annual rates payment. It must have been a commonly expressed sentiment that people were paying twice for the same road.

I have never found any references to attacks in our area on tollhouses or their associated gates. It is clear, however, from a wad of solicitors' correspondence that I was loaned this summer, that feelings against one local turnpike ran very high at the beginning of Victoria's reign.

Mr Geoffrey Wild PH1LIP50N, who now lives in Hoghton, is descended from the WILDs of Shuttle worth and Higher Barn, Holcombe, and these documents are in his possession because Richard WILD of Shuttleworth Mill was Shuttleworth surveyor of highways for 1837-8. (Although part of the township of Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth, the Hamlet/ Division of Shuttleworth was independent for highway purposes.)

The Rochdale and Edenfield Trust's road entered Shuttleworth at Dearden Clough, passed through Turn Village, and left the township at Cheesden Bridge, two miles in all. Much of this was a new line of road, supplanting the older route from Shuttleworth to Rochdale along such trackways as Black Lane. During the 40 odd years since 1795 (when its Act had been passed) the trust and the Hamlet of Shuttleworth appear to have co-existed without disagreement, although evidence to the contrary may appear in future. Turnpike trusts, however, invariably became financially insolvent and one way out of difficulty 'would have been to exploit township responsibility for repair as much as possible. Almost certainly, the Highways Act of 1835 created some legal grey area which one side or other saw as potentially a means of escaping some financial obligation.

The correspondence begins with a letter dated 11th March 1837 from Thomas HOLDEN, of the Bolton solicitors WOODHOUSE and HOLDEN, addressed somewhat generally to 'The Inhabitants of Shuttleworth' (one wonders how it was ever delivered). The hamlet had been indicted at the Quarter Sessions, held at New Bailey Courthouse, Salford, for 'not repairing the

Rochdale and Edenfield Turnpike Road'. HOLDEN had retained a London barrister, Lawrence PEEL, who had demonstrated to the court that the turnpike trust's indictment was defective. HOLDEN, however, urged the inhabitants not to think that they had won:

> **I can now only give you the same advice and opinion (which I have all along expressed to gentlemen who have consulted me on the subject) that you should without delay proceed to the repair of the road in question, because I do not entertain a shadow of doubt that by the Common Law you are liable to do those repairs...**

Ultimately, concluded the solicitor, Shuttleworth would face a fine as well as being compelled to make the repairs; and

> **the longer the road remains unrepaired, the more, it is probable, will be the cost of reinstating it**

There was a possibility, however, under the new 1835 Act, that the trust could be forced to contribute to the maintenance expenses. Determined to fight on, the inhabitants in May 1837 issued a summons against James GASKELL, surveyor to the Rochdale and Edenfield Trust, to compel him to repair the disputed road. The magistrates found in their favour, and the Shuttleworth surveyor commissioned one Robert KAY of 'Nuttallane' to produce an estimate of the likely expense of the repairs. For this service, he charged £l-00s-0d, and had to wait nine months for his bill to be settled. The delay could have been because KAY's was just one of several bills to be met - Thomas HOLDEN had submitted one in March 1837 for £22-1 ls-2d, and more were to follow.

At the September Quarter Sessions, the turnpike trust got their original indictment upheld, and it becomes clear that there was considerable discontent amongst some inhabitants about the whole issue. 19 of them summoned a meeting to be held 'at the House of Lawrance DUCKWORTH innkeeper' at 6.00pm on Wednesday 27th September. (Another notice in the collection indicates that this was then known as *The Duckworth Arms.)* The purpose of the meeting included

> **putting a stop to the Wastefull Expending the Hamlets Money in Law [sic] and for haveing it shown by the Surveyor Richard WILD how much Money the [sic] have spent in Law already and Whether it was not determined by the Law Last quarter Sessions thatthe Hamlet must mend the Road the same as if there had been no Law..**

The notice carried the following names:

EH LEACH
John HOWARTH More Side
John RAMSBOTTOM Limit
Robert HOWARTH Smithy Hill
James HILL Dunggon
James HOLT Bottom Lane
George RAMSBOTTOM Brick House
John HILL Wham
John ASHWORTH Kay Barn
Henry-RAMSBOTTOM Lime Shore
Richard GRIME Closes
Jeffrey GRIME - -
George LORT Turns th lane [?]
George RAMSBOTTOM Engine
Richd RAMSBOTTOM Moss
James HOLT Bottom o Lane
Mr[s?] P HALL Nackey [?Knockers]
George PICKUP Top oth Lee
George HORROCK Brookbottom

Judging from those of the above farm names which are readily identifiable on the First Edition six-inch Ordnance Survey map (surveyed 1844-8) this list represents a perambulation around properties in the upper part of Shuttleworth! Clearly, these were the farms whose owners would benefit most from the repair of the disputed road, since it passed close to their holdings. Conversely, the rest of the hamlet's ratepayers stood to benefit rather less from the repairs, hence their determination to seek any possible legal pretext for evading the expense.

Although we do not know what transpired at The Duckworth Arms that evening, we can be certain that it must have been stormy. Richard WILD may well have faced tough questioning. For almost certainly, WOODHOUSE & HOLDEN's bill of £37 12s 9d for April-September had arrived, addressed to him at Shuttleworth Mill.

One factor in the dispute seems to have been that Wolstenholme, the next highway division along the turnpike/was also involved in litigation with the trust. The 'don't repair' party were apparently waiting for that case to be settled so that a precedent were established. In a letter of 11th December 1837, Thomas HOLDEN was again strongly advising WILD to instigate repair work which had clearly still not been started:

> **I have this morning seen the copy of a Bill which has been Introduced by Government (similar to the one brought forward last session, but dropped by the King's death) & which meets the present case, leaving it to the Justices to Investigate the trustees accounts & to apportion the repairs either upon the Trustees or Inhabts. of townships, as the state of funds permits.**

Nevertheless, the Shuttleworth ratepayers remained divided on the issue, convinced that they dared not expend rates until they were unanimous - clearly, the surveyor might find himself personally exposed to legal proceedings for illegal expenditure from the 'don't repair' group!

At Easter 1838, Richard WILD's year of office came to an end; consequently the correspondence from HOLDEN was henceforth directed to the new surveyor. This was a member of the 'repair' party, Henry RAMSBOTTOM, whose name had appeared on the notice summoning the *Duckworth Arms* meeting.

The only clue we gain about the outcome of the dispute is contained in the last document in the WILD collection. It is a notice issued by Thomas FERRAND, the turnpike trust's solicitor, informing the inhabitants of Shuttleworth that application would be made to Quarter Sessions at Salford on 25th February 1839 for payment of the fine of £350. This had been imposed by the court on 8th January 1838, and had evidently still not been paid.

If the fine was eventually paid, the total cost to the inhabitants of Shuttleworth of their disagreement with the trust must have approached £500. It must have caused acrimony within the small community for years. One wonders how many similar cases of parochial dispute about road repair could be found in the records of Quarter Sessions or turnpike trusts. Parochialism, however, may be too grand a word - for the dispute was not between parishes, not between townships, but really between the two parts of a division of a township! I doubt whether the dictionary has an administrative word for it.

I am grateful to Mr Geoffrey Wild PHILIPSON for the loan of these documents, and for permission to take the photocopies which have been deposited in our archives.

Andrew Todd

PROGRAMME 1991

16th	January	Messrs Joseph and Kevin Grimes *A Pennine Highway* illustrated
20th	February	Mr Frank Fell *Top Hat and Tales*
20th	March	Mr Douglas Barber *The Pendle Heritage Centre Story* illustrated
17th	April	5th A G M
		Mr John B Taylor *Stories in Stone - Ramsbottom Datestones* illustrated
15th	May	Mr David Oyston: *Groundwork in the Ashworth and Naden Valleys* illustrated
19th	June	Mr R K Baines *A Decade of Archaeology in Prestwich* illustrated
17th	July	Mr Noel Booth *A Guided Walk around Holcombe*
21st	August	Visit to Croal Irwell Moses Gate Country Park
19th	September	Mr N Turner *The Chatterton Riot* illustrated
16th	October	Mr Kevin Mulley *Ramsbottom from the Borough Archives*
20th	November	Mr Brian E Holden *Restoration of the Rochdale Canal*
18th	December	*A Christmas Celebration*

Meetings of the Society are held in the Civic Hall, Ramsbottom on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.45 pm. New members and visitors are welcome at all meetings.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

I hope that by the time this appears in print most members will have paid their annual subscription.

Your financial support is more important than ever before. The opening of the Heritage Centre earlier this year means that we now have additional financial responsibilities. So please, if you have not yet renewed your membership, do remember that your support means a lot to the Society.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW MEMBERS

If you are not yet a member of the Society, just a reminder that our subscription year commences in April. But in order to encourage you to join us NOW, we are offering half price membership to cover the period up to April 1991 for £2.25 (£1.00 concessionary). Subscriptions may be left at the Heritage Centre, Carr Street, or handed in at any of our meetings.

Judith Appleby Vice-Chairman

Contributions, comments and correspondence to contributions may be sent to the Editor at the Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom. Telephone Ramsbottom (0706) 821603.

Cover picture: **Holcombe Old Church - drawing by Zena MIDDLETON**

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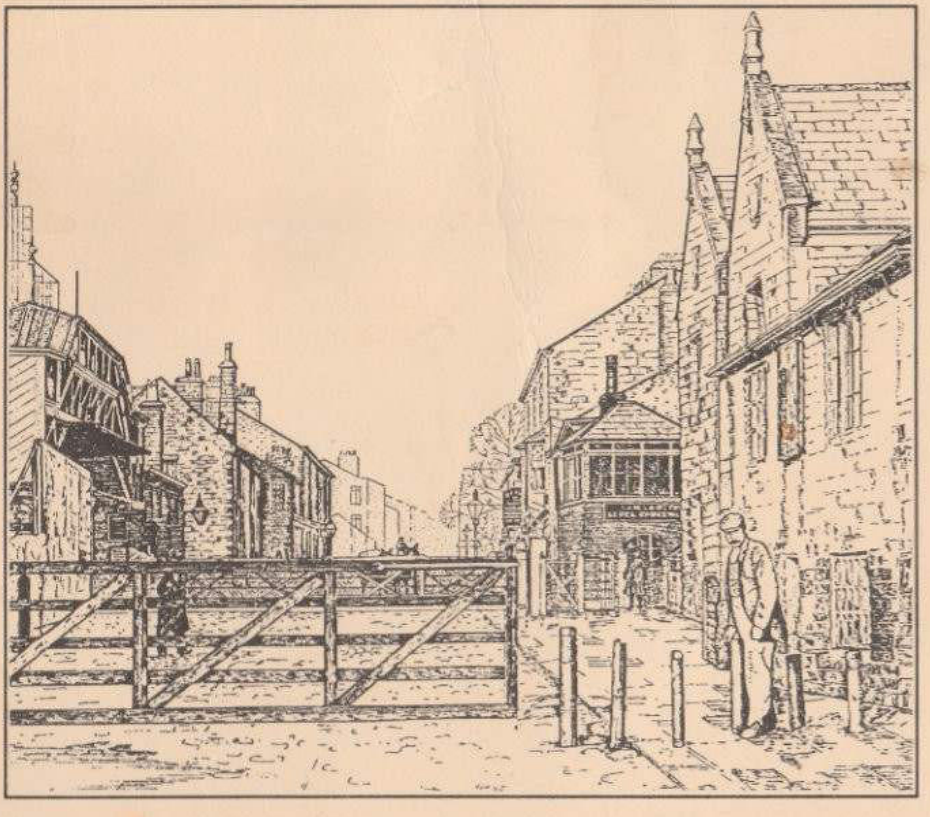
RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE



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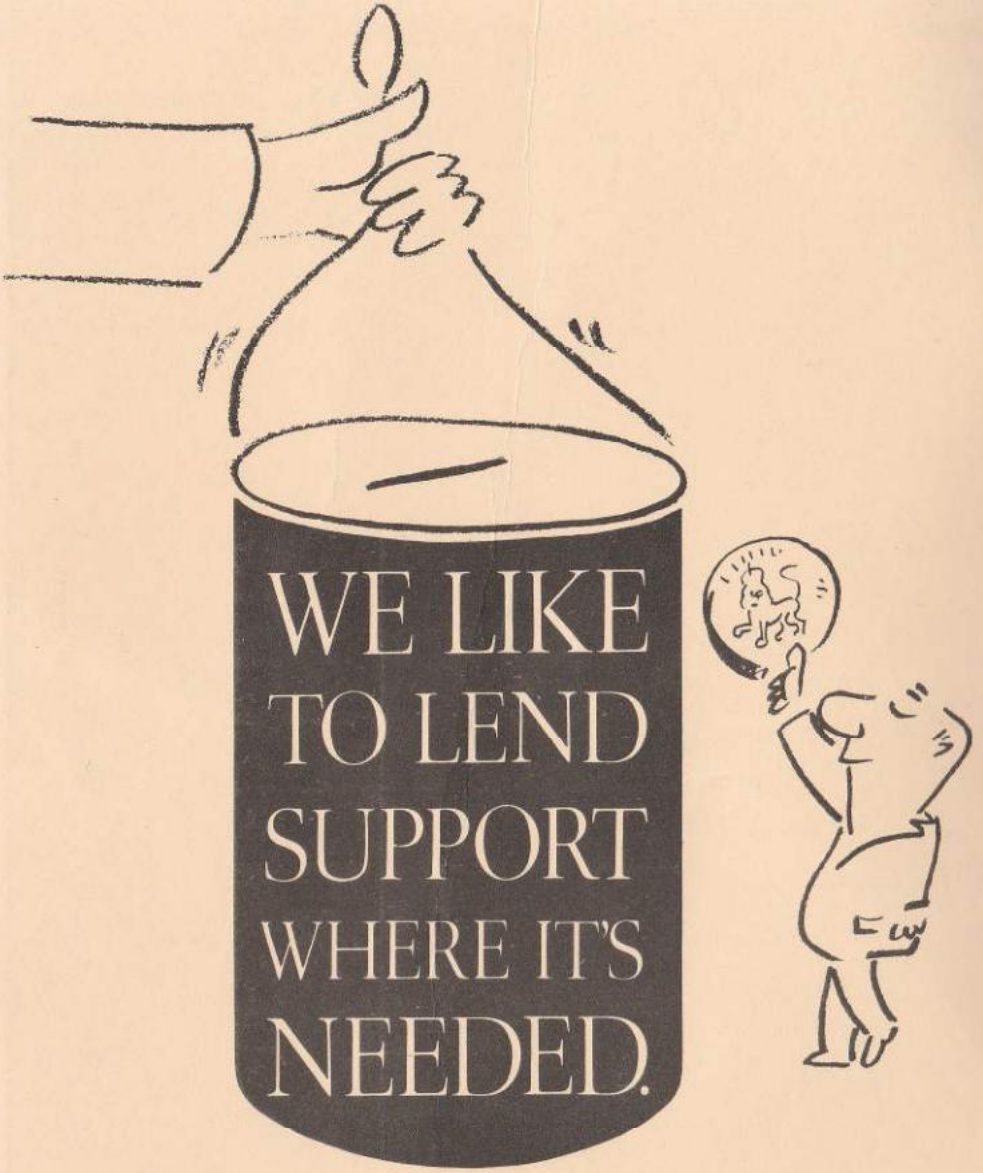

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Editor: Barbara PARK
Illustrations: Zena MIDDLETON and John TAYLOR

WELCOME TO OUR THIRD NEWS MAGAZINE

It is now a year since we first decided to mark the opening of the Heritage Centre with what was intended to be a small newsletter for Society members, but which has in fact turned out to be a fully-fledged News Magazine.
The Heritage Centre now one year old continues to attract many visitors. It was announced at the May meeting that over 8000 people had visited the Centre since it opened.

The display *Transport in Ramsbottom* is proving to be very popular and part of the previous display, Granny's Kitchen, has been retained by popular demand. The whole exhibition is a credit to the small but dedicated Display team and also to all the people who have loaned or donated items for the displays.

Reaction to the Magazine has been most encouraging. Issue No 1 has completely sold out and at time of writing there are very few copies remaining of issue 2, even though more were printed. There has been some interesting feedback to articles in previous issues, a particularly pleasing development as, in addition to providing news of the Society and articles of local interest, I like to think of the Magazine acting as a kind of "information exchange" for people who are searching for information and those who are able to help.

It is encouraging when people read an article and are inspired to go out and discover more information for themselves - even more so when they write it up as an article for the Magazine! This also applies to the exhibitions at the Centre. As you will see a number of items in this Magazine have a transport theme - surely not unconnected with the current exhibition Transport in Ramsbottom.
On Saturday 27th April the steam train went through to Rawtenstall for the first time since the line closed. Crowds of people thronged the station in the brilliant sunshine, bands played, civic dignitaries spoke and eventually the signals gave the all clear, the crossing gates opened and the train chugged through.

On the 21st April a historic event of a different kind took place - Census Day. Census Returns are a valuable source of information to local history researchers and family historians. I wonder what our descendants will make of the information about life in 1991 when it is opened to public inspection in 100 years' time? We shall not be here to find out! We can however look forward to the publication of the 1891 Census quite soon which will surely be closely scrutinised for clues aboutlife a century ago.
The Society continues with its programme of monthly meetings, visits and walks (see inside back cover for details), and in April we celebrated our FOURTH BIRTHDAY. Meetings continue to attract good attendances and on one or two occasions recently we have even had to bring in more chairs to accommodate capacity audiences!

The archive is still receiving numerous interesting donations and loans - so many in fact that we may even have to computerise them! For more on this subject read Brenda DECENT's article on page 9.
The National Westminster Bank have generously sponsored this issue of the Magazine and on behalf of the Society I wish to thank them for their support which is much appreciated.

Thanks also to everyone who has helped to produce the Magazine not least all those who have contributed articles and drawings. I hope that their efforts will inspire some of you to follow their example and send in material for the next issue.
Items for future issues of the Magazine may be left, preferably as early as possible, at the Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, handed in at the monthly meetings, or sent direct to the Editor, Barbara PARK,
I look forward to receiving your ideas, articles, news, reviews and reactions to items in the Magazine, I hope there are lots of them! I also hope that you enjoy reading this issue

RAMSBOTTOM MODEL RAILWAY CLUB - HISTORY IN MINIATURE

Ramsbottom Model Railway Club began in August 1978 with an idea from colleagues at work with a mutual interest in model railways. A notice was displayed in the Library and in early September nine enthusiasts met at the house of one of the proposers. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to form the Ramsbottom Model Railway Club with a view to building a model layout of Ramsbottom and a Committee was duly elected.

At this stage we had a Club with a Committee and a purpose but no premises. Over the next few weeks a number of options were discussed and investigated but proved fruitless. Then it was discovered that a room was available at Stubbins Church, but unfortunately it was in the roof of the Church. However, after taking some measurements it was decided to accept and planning began.

The original idea of a model of Ramsbottom from Nuttall Tunnel to Stubbins was discovered to be rather an ambitious project. In fact to model this distance in the scale of 1 inch to 1 foot would require a length of some 40 feet (our room was roughly 18 feet at the most). However, by using a little "modellers licence", we were able to condense the layout and by making the model triangular we were able to fit in the major details. This enabled us to form storage sidings at the rear, giving us continuous running. Fortunately, one of our members had a certain amount of experience in building model railways and was able to advise us as we proceeded to construct our layout.

Space in our loft was limited and access was difficult, so it was with relief that we discovered an alternative venue at Patmos Church Hall. A meeting was arranged with the Trustees and an agreement was reached on tenancy. Some work was necessary to make the building habitable and acceptable for our needs and finally, in December 1978, we moved premises and this has been the home of the model railway for the last 12 years.

The size of the building enabled us to enlarge our original plan and work began once again on the construction of the layout.

We appealed through the local press for photos and memories of the Railway and its adjoining buildings and area, but it was found that very little was available. Because little had changed in the area around Stubbins which we were to model, a start was made there from photos taken by members.

Ramsbottom station and surrounding area proved more difficult, but with the help of some old photographs in the Ramsbottom booklets published by Tower Press, the recollections of some of our members and a cine film of the demolition of the station, gradually things began to take shape.

It was not until 1980 that the first phase of the model was operational and since that date alterations and modifications have been continually taking place.

The layout was designed in sections with the long term view of exhibiting at other venues and in our earlier years we staged fund raising Open Days at St. Paul's school. We also went along to St. Andrew's Spring Fair in 1984 and on one memorable occasion we were invited to Bleakholt Spring Fair where we shared a stable with a braying donkey - what a hilarious experience that was!

After long consultations with the Patmos Trustees over the next few years we were finally given the opportunity to purchase the building. In 1983 work ceased on the layout for some months whilst more repair and maintenance was done on the premises.

During the period of our existence we have had numerous members, sometimes as many as 30 adults and juniors together on one evening. Present membership stands at nine adults and one junior member. Three of the adults are founder members.

Although we try to encourage juniors, many of them soon realise that joining the model railway club is not just a night out playing with trains. There are many skills attached to railway modelling which some youngsters find boring and sometimes complicated. The skills which can be taught include design and planning for baseboard construction which also includes joinery and basic carpentry; electrics and simple electronics; modelling skills for making buildings and rolling stock; and artistic ability for painting and finishing the models.

Trains can be kept running by two people but need a minimum of five people to operate at Exhibition times. Trains are run to a programme which is a series of moves (43 in all) involving all locomotives on the layout at some time. This ensures something moving at all times on the tracks and typifies some of the standard moves which would normally have taken place. The whole operation takes 90 minutes from start to finish by which time each train is back to where it started and the whole process begins again.

At the time of compiling this account we are negotiating with the Bury Metro Tourist Board with a view to becoming part of the Ramsbottom tourist industry. Should this become a reality then the Railway Club will probably be open on Sundays, Market days and other occasions when we have sufficient members available.

In addition to being a local society whose story is of interest in its own right, the Model Railway also preserves, in miniature form, an important part of Ramsbottom's heritage.

Harry DENNIS, Vice Chairman, RMRC

PHOTOGRAPHERS IN FOCUS



The first exhibition at the Heritage Centre this year included the work of three outstanding local photographers: J Eric BIRCHALL ARPS of Crawshawbooth, Roy FISHWICK of Ramsbottom and Dr G Neil GILMORE of Tottington.

Eric BIRCHALL was hooked on photography in his teens and since his retirement from the engineering trade works professionally as a photographer. He photographs in black and white and for this exhibition displayed studies of places and people taken in Lancashire. He obviously has a good sense of humour. His work has been on show in many parts of the UK and internationally.

Neil GILMORE has also had his work accepted by international exhibitions. He uses colour and concentrates on natural history. He has travelled widely with his camera. For the Centre's exhibition he showed, for example, many close-up photographs of butterflies

and birds and some spectacular shots taken in the Arches National Park, in the USA. Roy FISHWICK has lived in Ramsbottom for nearly 50 years. He is one of our members and is a professional photographer. many of us will have seen his work in the local press over the years. We have quite a collection in our archives. For this exhibition his photographs were of local winter scenes causing viewers to take a new look at the familiar

Altogether the variety of style and subject of the photographs made a most enjoyable exhibition with which to start 1991. Many thanks to Eric, Neil and Roy.

Brenda DECENT

HERITAGE CENTRE

The Centre, despite its success, or perhaps because of it, is still in need of more helpers. We had a good response to our last appeal but due to illness, removals, and other commitments, we seem to have lost quite a few of our regular helpers at least temporarily. As a 'result we are once again in need of extra help, especially with the busy summer season here.

An hour or so each week or fortnight would be a great help to the present willing band. No experience is necessary - most of us have never done anything like this before so we all live and learn together. If you were born and bred in Ramsbottom you will find yourself in great demand as a source of information and also, occasionally, as a (tactful!) Referee between people whose memories of a place or event do not coincide! If you are a young person or are new to the area you are just as welcome. Working at the Centre is really most enjoyable - whether "playing shop" at the counter, serving refreshments to thirsty visitors (and even more thirsty helpers!) or receiving the visitors as they arrive and ensuring that they sign our visitors book.

As a Heritage Centre helper myself I always enjoy my time at the Centre but two occasions I will never forget were our very first school visit when the Centre was filled to bursting with children - the four helpers simply disappeared beneath the tide! The other occasion was an early morning visit by a delegation from China. They were involved in tourism and railways so were visiting the Heritage Centre and the ELR. They presented us with badges and engine drivers neckerchiefs which we immediately put on display - and which are now in the archives. They also left us an advertisement for a guest house in their home town in case anyone is able to return their visit!

We have had many visitors from overseas including France, Canada, USA., Australia, Fiji - not to mention far flung corners of the U.K.

The Display Team are also in dire need of help. Most people seem to think that it is just a matter of being "artistic" and arranging displays so if their talents do not lie in that direction they do not volunteer. But there are many ways in which almost everyone can help. Documents, photographs, artefacts, all have to be located, collected, listed, and researched before they can be displayed and dismantled and returned afterwards. This all takes a lot of time especially when there are only a few people to do it and a few extra hands for a few hours would make all the difference. People with display experience and/or other artistic talents would, of course, be particularly welcome.

If YOU would like to join in and help, please contact Dorothy MOSS or Barbara PALMER at the Heritage Centre during opening hours or leave a message on the answering machine (0706 821603).

RAMSBOTTOM'S IRON RAILINGS

In the Winter issue of the magazine Fred ENTWISTLE wrote about the fate of Ramsbottom's iron railings. Mr G Ashworth, who now lives in Grange over Sands, has sent us the following item from the records of the Methodist Church, Market Place (now known as Christ Church) which explains what happened to some of them.

"We came across a note in the accounts in 1949 that we received the sum of £9 from the Ministry of Works as compensation for the compulsory removal of part of the iron railings let into the stone work in front of the Church.

"The job was never finished - old iron became unwanted. In later years we had to complete the removal of the rest of the rails and also take down the stone wall, so that we could complete the "flagging" of the forecourt of the Church."

THE ROOKS OF RAMSBOTTOM

No, not another long-settled human family, but a much more ancient part of our heritage - a population of birds. Those much maligned bald-faced, longer-billed relatives of the carrion



crow, that have the fascinating habit of nesting in the same large traditional colonies year after year. This makes them relatively easy to study as well as, unfortunately, easy to destroy.

Over much of Britain, the rook has been declining in numbers for at least the last 30 years. A number of possible reasons for this have been suggested; ranging from poisoning by agricultural chemicals to loss of feeding grounds for building, felling of nesting trees and loss of nesting trees because of Dutch Elm Disease in some areas. Probably a different combination of factors is responsible in different areas. As part of a long-term study of rooks in East Lancashire, most of our local rookeries have been censused each year since 1962; while, since 1977, members of the Rossendale Ornithologists' Club have counted the nests in all the rookeries within the former Ramsbottom Urban District. In view of the item in "Extracts from the Diary of a Dedicated Gardener" in issue No 2 of this magazine, I thought members might be interested in a summary of the results of this work. These are shown, briefly, in Table 1:

Table 1: The Number of Nests in Ramsbottom Rookeries

Location	1977	1990	Higher figures from earlier years
Holcombe Brook	8	0	39 (1967)
Holcombe Church	76	44	
Summerseat	87	47	
Kay Brow	6	18	68 (1949), 63 (1964)
Stubbins	56	3	74 (1963)
Edenfield (Crow Woods)	22	0	47 (1962)
Shuttleworth Churchyard	53	50	104 (1973)
Edenfield (Bridge Mill)	1	0	
TOTAL	309	162	

Table 1 shows that over the 14 years of the survey, our breeding population of rooks has declined from 309 nesting pairs to 162; a 47.5% decrease. The third column in the Table suggests that the decrease has been going on longer than this and is, in fact, much greater. Consideration of individual rookeries can suggest reasons for the decline in some places. At Holcombe Brook, most of the remaining nests were in a single elm tree which succumbed to disease and was subsequently felled. At Summerseat, there was considerable shooting of rooks associated with changes in ownership of the property holding the rookery. The Stubbins rookery was decimated when several of the nesting trees were felled to make way for building work. This was particularly insensitive in that the trees were felled during the breeding season whilst young birds were still in the nests. There was a similar occurrence at Kay Brow in 1990 and we must wait and see the outcome of that particular action.

Another major influence must be the loss of feeding grounds sufficiently close to the rookeries. Rooks, in this area, feed largely on soil invertebrates (leatherjackets are a favourite food) which they find in the better pasture land. We have only to consider the number of fields lost recently in the Nuttall Lane - Broadhey area and, a few years earlier, around Holcombe Brook and Greenmount - all to house building, to understand why the rooks of Ramsbottom are finding it harder to make a living.

Although rooks remain faithful to the same nesting sites for many generations, they do move about as well. Larger rookeries seem to break up periodically and a number of smaller ones appear for a few years. Some sites drift into disuse and others increase in size. An idea of such changes can be gleaned from the data in Table 2.

Table 2: Former Ramsbottom rookeries not used at present

Location	Number of nests (year)	
Garnett Street	2	(1966)
Grant Arms	10	(1970, 3 (1971), 6 (1972), 1 (1974)
Heys Street	110	(1949), 2(1962)
Edenfield (Hawthorn Ave.)	14	(1973)
Ewood Bridge	6	(1971)
Near Peel Brow	4	(1968), 2 (1970)
Stubbins roundabout	3	(1973)

Most of these sites are only known to have been used by a few pairs for a few years. The earlier (1949) figure for Heys Street (now Heatherside Road) is interesting, however; particularly when taken in conjunction with the 1949 figure for Kay Brow (Table 1). These two sites alone then held 178 pairs, which strongly suggests that there were many more rooks in Ramsbottom 40 years ago than there are now.

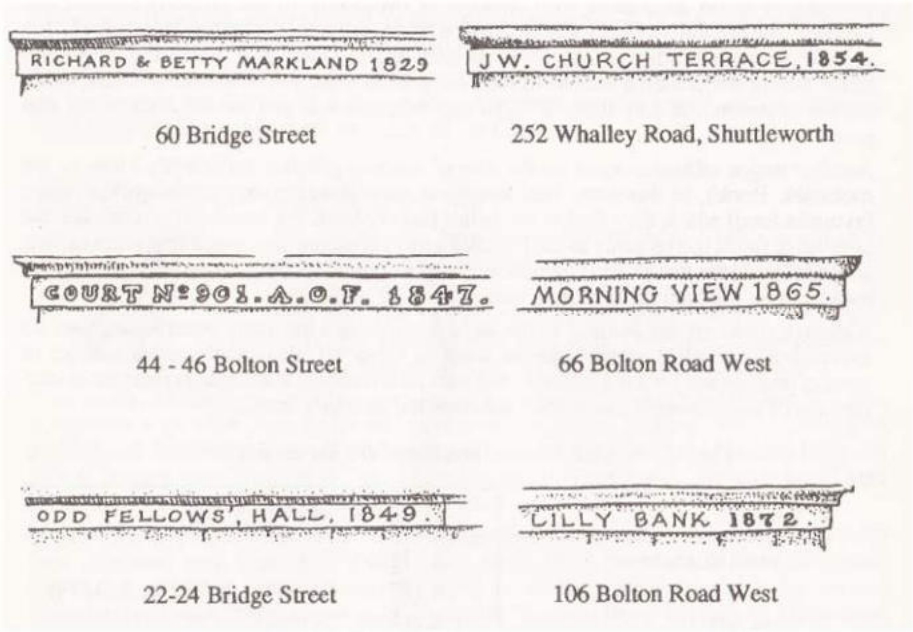
No doubt some people think we still have too many and that they are noisy, dirty things best got rid of. To me, however, and a good many other people, the sight and sound of an active rookery on a sunny day in Spring, before the leaves are on the trees, is one of the bestand most-promising bits of the year. A real sign that Spring is in the air and summer is coming. Long may they remain!

John SYKES

DATESTONE COMPETITION

In the last Magazine readers were asked to take part in a competition to identify the locations of six datestones which will appear in John TAYLOR's forthcoming book *Stories in Stone - Datestones in Ramsbottom.*

The correct answers are:



The winners were Kath and Harry DENNIS who correctly identified all six.

Stories in Stone - Datestones in Ramsbottom will be on sale this summer.

THE 5TH ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Now is the time of year to be taking photographs for this year's competition which closes on the 30th November 1991. The purpose of the competition is to record a year of everyday life in Ramsbottom, and to retain the photographs in the archive. Photographs may be displayed in exhibitions at the Heritage Centre.

This year, there will be four categories, with a prize for the winner of each category. The overall winner of the competition will be awarded the Dickensian Trophy. Two highly commended certificates can be awarded in each category.

The categories are:
EVENTS - could include street markets, events in Nuttall park, VIP visits, Christmas, special railway weekends etc.
TOWN and COUNTRY - landscape, general street views, railway scenes, traffic,churches, shops etc.
INTERIORS - interiors of large or small buildings, especially ones which are changingtheir function.
OPEN - any picture which doesn't fit into any of the above three categories.

Entry forms are now available from the Heritage Centre and at the monthly meetings.

John LEYLAND

THE RAMSBOTTOM OIL RIG and other items from the Archive

One of the problems with the archive is how to let members see some of the more interesting contributions. I like to bring some of them along to the monthly meetings but it is obviously not possible to do this with every item - some are too large, others too fragile and in any case there are just too many.

Exhibitions at the Heritage Centre provide an opportunity to display some of the items and the present Transport in Ramsbottom exhibition includes a number of these. I will attempt to describe them, with their backgrounds where we know them, so that you can look out for them. There is a large photograph of the Hare and Hounds pub at Holcombe Brook in 1890 with what we think is a funeral cortege outside. The macadam road is in the process of being resurfaced with stone setts. A tiny drawing of a horse drawn ambulance is displayed because the ambulance was built by WILSON and STOCKALL of Bury in 1912. Inside, though not visible in the picture, it was equipped with two stretcher beds and a seat for the attendant. The original ambulance is at Shibden Hall, Halifax.

Some photographs have to be hunted down. For example, someone brought in a crumpled article from the Bury Times of 1987 with a picture of a horse drawn coach driven by Albert DUNLEVY who was a well known coachman. The passengers were local gentry being taken to the races at Harwood in the late 1920's. The location was outside Higher House, Holcombe village, the home of the Ainsworth family. The article was written by Lynda DUNLEVY and with her help I found the owner of the original photograph in Turton. It was taken by her husband as a lad. I was allowed to copy it and it looks very well. The original photograph is now safely back with the owner but the copy will be kept in the archive. The Society does welcome opportunities such as this. We can now make very good copies of documents and photographs so please don't forget this when people show you interesting items which they are willing to share in this way. Many of the archives on display are loans which we couldn't manage without, and we are very grateful for them. The largest item in the Transport in Ramsbottom exhibition is the Edwardian bicycle which is on loan from Bury Transport Museum. The smallest item on display is one of our most amusing recent acquisitions, a tiny photograph of the Ramsbottom oil drilling rig! This was somewhere overlooking Fletcher Bank Quarry, past Shipperbottom Farm, and the photograph was taken by the donor in 1953. Obviously, Ramsbottom was no Dallas as no other rigs have appeared!

A different type of archive which is also displayed in the exhibition is the written (or taped) recollections of Ramsbottom in bygone days - for example the item on pigeons and horses and the one on Cliff RICHARD's visit to the town in the sixties (fuller versions of both of these are printed elsewhere in this magazine).

There are many other pieces from the archive in the Exhibition including a transfer of the RUDC crest used on the side of their buses and a time and fare table for the Holcombe Brook to Bury and Manchester train service - valid in 1934.

In the last issue of the News Magazine I described in detail the process of recording all the Archive acquisitions and some of the problems involved in this task. The process continues unabated and with help from Geoffrey JOHNSON-BRETT the cataloguing is nearly up to date. The Filing Team will soon be at full stretch once again.

The offer of an Amstrad computer, which our Secretary had negotiated, was unfortunately withdrawn due to present economic circumstances. However, we are still hopeful of being able to buy one as soon as funds are available.

In the meantime a group of four members who are 'into' computers have already had a rewarding meeting and concluded that the answer must be a database! If you are not sure what this is, as I wasn't a year or two ago, it is The Answer and will save hours of work!

Thank you to all who help with the Archive.

Brenda DECENT, Archive co-ordinator

THE SWINGING 60's - CLIFF RICHARD VISITS RAMSBOTTOM - every picture tells a story!

Visitors to the Transport exhibition at the Heritage Centre may have been surprised to see pictures of the famous pop star Cliff Richard alongside his exotic JENSEN sports car in Butler Street, Ramsbottom. Alan COOKSON has explained the story behind the pictures.

During the 1960's and 70's there existed in Ramsbottom a Christian organisation for boys and girls called the Crusaders. The organisation is no longer active in Ramsbottom but still exists elsewhere. In addition to Bible study the group had football teams, club nights, camps, gym clubs etc. The leaders of the group belonged to several local churches and included Mr H WILLIS, Mr I HUTCHINSON and Mr A COOKSON. Much of the group's activity centred on Ramsbottom Methodist Church (now Christ Church).

During 1967 Mr. COOKSON, through his work with the Crusaders, came into contact with Mr W LATHAM who at that time (and to this day) assisted Cliff RICHARD in his work with the organisation. As a result the star was invited to visit the Ramsbottom group. The invitation was accepted but two years were to elapse before the visit actually took place on the 26 September 1969.

In order to avoid large crowds of people from outside the area coming along, plans for the visit were made amid great secrecy. When the great day arrived the star, accompanied by Mr Latham, drove to a lay-by on Walmersley Road where he was met by Mr Cookson and taken to the home of Mr and Mrs P Cook, his hosts for the weekend. The bright yellow Jensen car created quite a stir in the town and it was considered safer to hide the car for the duration of the visit in Mr Cookson's garage in Butler Street. Hence the photographs on show at the Heritage Centre.

JOURNEYS DOWN MEMORY LANE

Prior to 1878 there were, I believe, no motor cars but there were a few steam coaches and lorries on the roads. The law specified that three persons must be employed to drive a road locomotive. One man, carrying a red flag, must precede the vehicle and the maximum speed must not exceed four miles an hour. In the early 1890's a few motor vehicles crawled through London preceded by red flag bearers, causing considerable amusement, as you can imagine!

In 1896 an Act was passed which liberated motorists from most of their restrictions. By 1903 there were a few more cars on the roads and a speed limit of 20 miles per hour came into force and remained in force until 1930 when it was raised to 30 mph. Before the Act of 1930 motor lorries, which all had solid tyres, were limited to 12 mph, and 5 mph if a trailer lorry was attached.

In Ramsbottom at the turn of the century, and for some years later, transport of goods had to be by horse drawn lorries to and from the railways goods yards and between local factories and warehouses in Manchester. The journey from Ramsbottom to Manchester was a long, hard day's work for drivers and horses.

Several firms in the RUDC provided these services. One of them, J & J WHITTAKER of Edenfield I believe it was, used to load their lorries with finished cotton from the local mills, and very early next morning the drivers would set off for Manchester. After delivering the cloth the drivers reloaded their lorries with raw cotton to be delivered to local factories the following day but first they had to face the long journey home. By the time they had passed through Bury and reached Pigs Lee Brow, which is on Walmersley Road, near Bury General Hospital, and was much steeper in those days than it is now, the horses had had enough and were too tired to climb the hill.

There were then no telephones, so to surmount this difficulty the drivers, before leaving Manchester, released homing pigeons which they had taken with them. When the birds arrived back home at Edenfield the owners were able to calculate the time the lorries would reach Pigs Lee Brow and another driver set out with a fresh team of horses to meet them and replace the tired horses which had done such a hard day's work.

As a child, around 1914, I remember steam wagons chugging through Edenfield on their way to and from Manchester. RIDING & GILLOW of Stacksteads and Fred STRINGFELLOW of Shuttleworth are two of the names I recall, but there were probably others. As all loading and unloading had to be done manually a driver and loader usually worked on each lorry. The lorries had no windscreen wipers, no heat, no windows on the cab sides and no headlights - only oil lamps. There were no white lines or cat's eyes on the roads which were mainly paved and no lights, except the gas lamps in the towns, so driving in the dark wasn't exactly a pleasure, especially in the black fogs we used to have.

Early in this century a few of the wealthier people had horses, or a pony and trap. There were occasional outings in wagonettes (horse drawn four wheeled vehicles). Unfortunately if it rained there was no cover, and often, if they were going up hill, it was too much for the horse and the passengers had to get out and walk. Occasionally the men had to help by pushing the wagonette up the hill.

There was no public transport, apart from the trains, so if we wanted to go anywhere away from the railways we had to walk. We were fortunate in Ramsbottom because in addition to the Ramsbottom Station we also had stations at Stubbins and Holcombe Brook.

With the advent of the trackless trolley trams life became easier, although they only ran every half hour between Edenfield Church and Holcombe Brook. They were not very comfortable as the entrance was at the back and the back platform was open to the elements. There was no heat at all, and the solid tyres on the paved roadways didn't make for comfortable riding. Some one even composed a ditty:

From Holcombe Brook to Edenfield you often take a ride
Upon the beautiful tram-car with your best boy by your side The car
with its gentle motion soon sends you off your seat
Your teeth drop out, your hair comes down and your stockings are over your feet.

I must say that was a slight exaggeration and we were very glad to have them. The tram conductors were most helpful and also accepted and delivered parcels anywhere along the route for a small fee - I think it was threepence (3d). They were not allowed to deliver letters but if you tied a piece of string round it they accepted it as a parcel!

After the 1914 - 18 war came the charabancs! As there were no customers except at weekends and holidays, they were used as motor lorries during the week. On Friday night the flat part of the lorry which was purpose made to carry the goods, was lifted off the chassis and replaced by the charabanc body which was three steps up, the seats in rows and open ended. There was no cover but if it rained there was a hood at the back, like the one on an old fashioned pram, which they unfolded over us. We thought they were marvellous and it was a rare treat to travel on one. Now we have the so-called executive coaches with reclining seats, heating and air conditioning, TV, toilets and wash basins - what luxury!

Today with inter-city trains, jet aircraft, buses available every few minutes and the majority of people owning their own cars, things are very different. Perhaps the danger for future generations is that they will forget how to use the oldest of all forms of transport - their feet.

Edith ROBINSON

BOUNDARIES & BACKWATERS

A close look at the boundary map of the old Ramsbottom UDC will show you that Ramsbottom extended westwards across the rifle ranges at Holcombe Brook to meet the Edgworth boundary along Hawkshaw Brook. The boundary cuts back at Higher House Farm (about half way along Hawkshaw Lane) leaving those farms at the top of the lane in no-man's land.

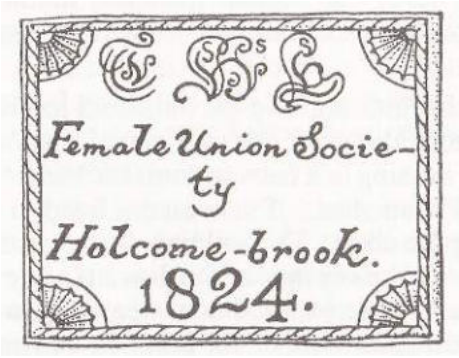
But please don't overlook us, for long before the industrial revolution and the growth of Ramsbottom which was, in 1780 little more than a place of farms and fields and orchards, rooks and trees and an ancient tannery and an old corn mill,' farming and weaving went hand in hand on the Pennine hillsides, providing cloth for export all over the world and a living for hundreds of families. These outlying settlements provided the first skilled workers for the mills and the accommodation for the quarrymen who worked the quarries along the edge of the moor providing stone for the building of the mills, the workers cottages and the hardcore for the new roads. Later these same farms continued to supply food, meat and milk to the ever growing population along the Irwell Valley.

This rich rural legacy can still be seen today in the ancient packhorse routes dotted around the hillsides, the weavers cottages and the hill farms still to be found in the quiet backwaters and far flung outbacks of Ramsbottom.

Jan BARNES

THE FEMALE FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Barbara PARK



This plaque, on a row of cottages on Bolton Road West, has stimulated much interest and not a few theories about its origins and significance.

From the little information which I have been able to glean so far I believe that the cottages (also known as Club Row) were built in 1824 under the auspices of the Female Friendly Society which was based on the Bull's Head, Greenmount.

The date on the plaque is confirmed by the appearance of the cottages in the Rate Assessment records at this date, and there are a number of references to a Female Friendly Society at the sign of the Bull's Head at Tittleshaw. (Greenmount.)

This Friendly Society may have been what is known as a terminating Building Society. There are several versions of this type of society. One version was formed by a group of people who each contributed an amount of money on a regular basis, usually weekly, until enough was amassed to build a house. Lots would be drawn and the first house was occupied by the winner. Payments would continue until there was enough money for a second house which would again be balloted for and so on until all the members had a house when the society would be terminated, hence the name terminating building society. Another variation involved the whole row being completed as a single project. Sometimes members contributed labour or materials as well as cash. Terminating building societies were the forerunners of today's 'Permanent' Building Societies. Terminating building societies were sometimes set up as Friendly Societies in order to safeguard their assets under the protection of the laws governing the running of Friendly Societies.

Some of the questions I would like to find answers to are - why if the houses were built by a FEMALE Friendly Society are all the original occupiers listed in the Rate Assessment records MALE? Could it be that females were not allowed to buy property in this way? Was the Female Friendly Society set up specifically to build the houses? Or was this just a 'sideline' of the more usual sick benefit type of benevolent society? Did the Society close down after the houses were completed as it would if it were a terminating building society? And why is the name Female Union Society on the plaque instead of Female Friendly Society? Apparently some of the Friendly Societies were actually covers for political societies - but could this really be the case in this instance given that they built a row of houses? And who were the members of this Society? Were they perhaps a group of local artisans? If so what was their trade?

It is my intention to try and find out more about this subject if at all possible. If anyone has any information or ideas as to how I might go about this I would be most interested to hear from you.

JOHN SPENCER's HAZELHURST ENGRAVING WORKS

Any regular traveller along Bolton Road West will be familiar with the distinctive stonebuilt, listed engraving works at Hazelhurst. Its lower two storeys, with prominent bay windows and front doorways, could easily be taken for a terrace of late 19th Century housing (were it not for the now filled in carriage entrance). The third storey, however, with its line of continuous windows, separated by twenty-odd square sectioned mullions, indicates an obvious industrial origin, an interpretation confirmed by the great square chimney standing to its rear.

The early history of this impressive mixture of the domestic and the industrial has been something of a mystery. One local authority historical survey, taking especial note of its line of continuous windows, inferred that it was a missing link between domestic handloom weaving and its eventual inhalation into powerloom sheds. The weavers lived in the cottages, and wove on handlooms in the factory space above. The building, however, does not figure on the 1st edition of the six inch Ordnance Survey map of the district (surveyed in 1844-7), pointing to a date of construction absurdly late for handloom weaving, a trade in chronic decline as early as the 1820s. The recent appearance, on the north eastern gable end of the building, of a sign proclaiming `John Spencer (Hazelhurst) Ltd - Engraving Technology for over 150 years', has now pointed to rather a different origin.

My interest in the building has developed through research that a group of RHS members recently initiated in the Local History evening class at Woodhey. We started out by seeking to date the sequence of terraces which straggle along the north western side of Bolton Road West between Hazelhurst and Holcombe Brook. (Many of these were built on land leased from the Little Holcombe Estate. This was owned by the GRIME family and its descendants from the early 1800s to the 1960s).

One of the earliest of these richly different terraces (274-280 Bolton Road West) is now part occupied by the Halo Hair Studio and Village Barbers Shop. According to the Tottington Lower End rate books (on microfilm at Bury Library) this terrace owned by one Thomas SPENCER, was built in three stages between 1823 and 1829. This is confirmed by the building breaks (ie unbonded masonry) between the three modem units of the terrace.

The Ordnance Survey of 1844 - 7 captions this terrace `Wetlands', almost certainly an error, since the Wetlands (or Wheatlands) field of the Little Holcombe estate lay some way towards the north east. The township tithe award of 1842 shows the three houses of the terrace occupied by three members of the SPENCER family - Joseph, Betty and Jonathan. The latter man was a druggist, aged 65, born in Bury according to the 1851 census returns, and identifiable with the Jonathan SPENCER, surgeon of `Houlkham Brook', who figures in ROGERSON's 1818 Lancashire General Directory.

Adjacent to this terrace is, of course, the engraving works referred to at the beginning of this article. The John SPENCER whose name now features on the sign was enumerated in the 1851 census immediately before Jonathan SPENCER (one uninhabited house separated them), so it seems likely that he was in, or very close to, the building which now carries his name. This man, aged 28, an engraver, born at Ringley, had a wife Alice, and children Sydney and Amelia. 10 years on, in the 1861 census returns, he was recorded as `Master Engraver employing 16 men and 5 boys'. In addition, he had two further children - Fanny and Charles.

It seemed to us too much of a coincidence that the SPENCERs of the short terrace (274280) and those of the engraving works should be next door neighbours, but unrelated.

The census returns also threw up another mystery - why the concentration of engravers in the Hazelhurst area? In 1841, for example, the following heads of households were engravers - William CUNLIFFE, Richard HAWORTH, Hargreaves HAWORTH and Giles ASHWORTH.

The current proprietor of John Spencer (Hazelhurst) Ltd. is John Spencer FORSHAW. He had visited the Heritage Centre at Carr Street in the earliest days of its existence, and had expressed an interest in his firm's history. So, when the Woodhey class became interested in the terraces along Bolton Road West, and the engraving works, it was possible to organise a visit.

John is a direct descendant of the John SPENCER who founded the firm in the 1840s. The latter's son, Charles, was actually Charles Cunliffe SPENCER - and this discovery led us to suspect a family relationship with the Wiliam CUNLIFFE, engraver, whom we had discovered in the 1841 census for Hazelhurst. John SPENCER's daughter, Amelia, married John FORSHAW, son of John FORSHAW, landlord of the Hare and Hounds, Holcombe Brook.

The earliest method of printing a design on cotton cloth (calico) was by means of a wooden block, on which was carved the pattern. During the 19th Century, block printing was replaced by roller printing. The engraver would prepare metal rollers, by order, with the required patterns `mill engraved' onto the circumference. The design was originated on a hand cut dye, a steel rod of about 3/4" circumference. The pattern on the dye was, in turn, transferred (or clammed) onto a `mill', and this engraved the design onto the final roller. This process was ideal for fine patterns, but was inevitably restricted to small, repeating designs.

The works at Hazelhurst was certainly mill engraving by 1880, judging by the cloth samples in the earliest surviving order book. Remarkably, machinery manufactured by George MOULTON of Salford in this period survives in the old part of the works.

Mill engraving continued at Hazelhurst until 1988. Then, the technology of the late 20th Century was introduced. Computers and lasers can, in 30 minutes, put on to a rotary (a polymer coated screen) what the old process took three to four weeks to engrave onto a copper roller.

Those of us fortunate enough to be shown around the two portions of the building - one effectively an industrial archaeological museum of the last century, the other a modem workshop containing probably the most advanced engraving facilities in the world - were enthused to research deeper into this family and firm.

John FORSHAW, the current proprietor, has already generously allowed access to much useful documentary material, and has offered to provide further information on the technology of engraving. We are keen to establish the circumstances in which the three engraving families represented here (CUNLIFFE, FORSHAW and SPENCER) launched and developed the enterprise. We would like, in general, to find why Ramsbottom has developed as an important textile engraving centre. We hope to learn more about the building and how it was used. We would like to find out about the workforce and their skills.

Already, a start has been made. Fred ENTWISTLE has looked at census returns: Barbara PALMER and Ethel CARROLL have begun to comb parish registers; and Barbara PARK has extracted references to engravers and engraving from 19th Century trade directories. We suspect that it could be a big project, perhaps one which, ultimately, could be written up as a Ramsbottom Heritage Society publication.

We would welcome help! Anybody who can offer information, or who would like to do some research with us, can contact me direct.

Andrew TODD

THE COURTHOUSE, HOLCOMBE

In the attractive and informative leaflet, Historic Trails - Holcombe published by Bury MBC in 1981 the statement is made that the Holcombe Primary (C of E) School "stands on the site of the former courthouse which was built by the Duke of Albemarle in 1864". This statement has been repeated in several subsequent publications in recent years. It seems unlikely to be true.

The 1845 Six Inch Ordnance Survey map shows no building on the site of the school. Nor does the Tithe Map of 1841. However the Tithe Map identifies the courthouse in another place. This is on Chapel Lane, in the region of where the Lych-gate now stands, between the old parsonage (referred to elsewhere in the leaflet) a little to the SW, and the old church (pictured on the Winter 1990 Magazine cover), a little to the NE. This was of course before the present church was built.

The statement may arise from a misunderstanding of paragraphs in DOWSETTs Notes on Holcombe.

Stuart JACKSON

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The Society is always happy to welcome new members. Subscriptions run from April and cost £4.50 (£2.50 concessionary) per annum.

Our varied Programme of meetings is listed above and all Members receive a FREE copy of each News Magazine.

Application forms may be obtained and subscriptions left at the Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom. Telephone Ramsbottom (0706) 821603.

Why not JOIN NOW?

FRIENDS OF THE HERITAGE CENTRE

For people who are unable to attend meetings and take part in other Society activities but who would like to support the Heritage Centre there is an alternative.

In exchange for a donation of £5 per year you can become a "friend" or "patron" of the Heritage Centre. You will receive a copy of each News Magazine (usually twice yearly) and have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping in a very practical way to keep the Centre going.

If you would like to help the Centre in this way please contact the Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom. Your support will be very much appreciated.

J PALMER, Membership Secretary

PROGRAMME

19th June	Mr R K BAINES *A Decade of Archaeology in Prestwich* - illustrated
17th July	Mr Noel BOOTH *A Guided Walk around Holcombe*
21st August	Visit to Croal Irwell Moses Gate Country Park
19th September	Mr N TURNER *The Chatterton Riot* - illustrated
16th October	Mr Kevin MULLEY *Ramsbottom from the Borough Archives*
20th November	Mr Brian E HOLDEN *Restoration of the Rochdale Canal*
18th December	*A Christmas Celebration*

Meetings of the Society are held in the Civic Hall, Ramsbottom on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.45 pm. New members and visitors are welcome at all meetings.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

November 1991 Meeting

The Committee wish to give notice that the first few minutes of the November 1991 meeting will be convened as an Extra-ordinary General Meeting in order to discuss the motion that the word "audited" be deleted from clause 7a of the Society's constitution. The Committee has been advised that Certified accounts should be adequate for our requirements.

THE HERITAGE CENTRE
WILL BE OPEN

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS
from 12 noon - 4.00 pm

Up to and including Sunday 22 December 1991

The Centre will also be open on some WEEKDAYS

For DETAILS of days/times please see NOTICES or enquire at the Centre

Telephone: 0706 821603

Contributions, comments and correspondence to contributer may be sent to the Editor at the Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom.

Cover picture: Part of an original drawing of *Peel Bridge Toll Bar and Railway Crossing*, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, c1900 by Zena MIDDLETON

(Complete print on sale at Ramsbottom Heritage Centre)

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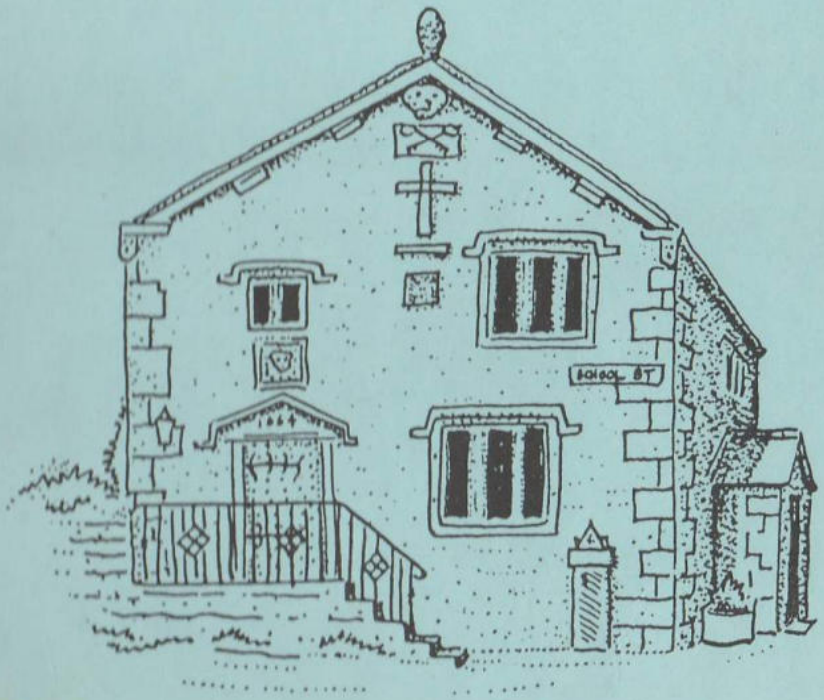
RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE



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We at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Ramsbottom are happy to continue our support for the Ramsbottom Heritage Society by sponsoring this edition of their News Magazine.

With Best Wishes for continued success in 1992 from everyone at:-



The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

27 Bridge Street,

Ramsbottom

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WELCOME to the fourth issue of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine.

Our contributors have once again provided articles on a wide range of subjects. Topics this time vary from the Bury Archives, childhood games and pastimes, computerisation of our archives, the Ramsbottom trolley buses, even a tongue in cheek speculation about the famous Ramson flowers! We also have news from Ramsbottom, Australia!

The cover picture of School House, Dundee Lane is reproduced by kind permission of John B Taylor. It is from his book *Stories in Stone - Datestones in Ramsbottom.*

The Heritage Centre continues to attract many visitors. If you have not seen the present display there is not much time left. In the New Year the Centre will be closed for a while to allow the Display Team to mount a new exhibition. (For dates and details please see notices or contact the Centre.) If you would like to help the Display Team please contact them at the Centre. You will be very welcome!

Once again, we thank the Royal Bank of Scotland who, for the second time, have sponsored our Magazine. Their continued support is much appreciated by the Society.

Many thanks also to all who have contributed to this issue and especially to Irene Todd for her continuing efforts to turn me into an Editor!

To those who are still thinking about writing or drawing something for the Magazine please do it soon. The next issue is only a few months away and, as yet consists of blank pages! Contributions can be handed in at the Heritage Centre orat the monthly meetings.

Barbara Park Editor

RAMSBOTTOM AUSTRALIA?

A very interesting letter recently arrived at the Heritage Centre. The writer, Mrs Joy Bussem (nee Whittaker) lives in Australia but was born in Tottington and lived in Carlton Place, Ramsbottom until she was seven years old when she moved to Bury before emigrating to Australia with her parents over thirty years ago. In her letter Mrs Bussem describes how, after she recently moved to the area of Victoria where she now lives, she discovered places bearing the names Tottington, Ramsbottom and Holcombe. Further investigation revealed that the 164,000 acres which make up the Ramsbottom and Tottington estates in Australia were once owned by a Lawrence Rostron jnr who was born in Manchester in the 1800s and whose father Lawrence Rostron Snr owned a cotton mill and traded between Rio de Janeiro and England. Mrs Bussem also adds that her mother's home in Geelong is named Hazelhurst. An amazing coincidence but not the end of the story by any means. In a later letter Mrs Bussem, who is researching into her family's history, asks if we are able to help with any information about some of her forbears and lists several well-known local names such as Whittaker, Carr, Barnes, Spencer and Forshaw. She also gives brief details ofthose she has already traced including her grandmother May, the daughter of one Charles Cunliffe Spencer 'master engraver, calico printer.' Readers of the Summer 1991Magazine may remember the article by Andrew Todd about the Spencer's Engraving Works project which he and a group of members are working on. Mrs Bussem's Charles Cunliffe Spencer born in 1854 is the son of the John Spencer who founded the firm in the 1840s.

The coincidences may not end there! In this magazine, in her article about the archives, Brenda Decent refers to Lawrence and James Rostron, joint owners of the Gutter estate and Clyde Tweedale mentions Richard Rostron of Acre House, Edenfield. Could any of these be related to the Rostrons of Australia? Too much of a long shot, perhaps, but we can be sure that someone, somewhere, will be checking them all out. Anyone who has any information which might help Mrs Bussem may contact her via Mrs. Dorothy Moss at the Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom. Telephone Ramsbottom (0706) 821603.

Barbara Park

RAMSBOTTOM FROM THE BOROUGH ARCHIVES

The borough archive service was established in 1986 to bring together the large quantity of both official and private archives held by the authority and make them more accessible to the public. The current holdings of more than 25 tons of material are at premises in Edwin Street in Bury, which is located behind the Derby Hall, with access from Crompton Street. The archives are open to the public 10 -1 and 2 - 5 on Tuesdays, and at the same times on other weekdays by prior appointment. The material held consists of anything kept as a record by local organisations or individuals in the course of their daily activities, everything from photographs to maps, tax returns to love letters.

The largest group of archives relating specifically to Ramsbottom is, as one would expect, the records of the former Ramsbottom Urban District Council, and its predecessor, the Local Board of Health. The Board was established in 1864, initially under the chairmanship of William Grant, with the task of implementing the provisions of the Public Health Acts in what

was then referred to as `the village'. Until it became an Urban District Council in 1894, it had no permanent offices, and many of its earlier records have not survived, but there is a complete set of manuscript minutes, mostly concerned with efforts to improve the sanitary state of the area.

A typical hazard was ` the existence of nuisances caused by the, deposit of urine in tubs or mugs close was then referred to as `the village'. Until it became an Urban District Council in 1894, it had no permanent offices, and many of its earlier records have not survived, but there is a complete set of manuscript minutes, mostly concerned with efforts to improve the sanitary state of the area.

Atypical hazard was ` the existence of nuisances caused by the, deposit of urine in tubs or mugs close to the back doors of houses', made worse at night by the almost total lack of street lighting. The Board began to tackle these problems, putting up a grand total of 25 new gas lamps in 1864, hiring a nightsoil man to clear the cesspools and privies, and ordering the removal of the worst hazards like the urinals attached to the front of the numerous pubs, which frequently overflowed into the streets. Ironically, however, their major sewering scheme was thought to have caused a typhoid fever epidemic as it involved clearing many obsolete old drains of impacted sewage! This was just one of seven major epidemics to hit the town in the period between 1864 and 1873, and the total of 116 deaths (62 under five years old) listed in the Medical Officer's report for 1874, in a population of about 4,500, gives an idea of the grim facts of life and death in the late nineteenth century.

On a lighter note, the minutes also refer to the leisure activities of the inhabitants (especially those of which the Board did not approve) like the swing boats on the market place in front of the Grants' Arms at fair times, the wooden theatre in Stubbins Lane (said to be crowded with young people) and the baked potato carts standing on the town streets.

The Board also passed building byelaws to improve the layout and construction of the many new buildings going up, banning items like cellar dwellings and non-watertight cesspools. The byelaws entitled them to require deposit of plans before construction commenced, . , and the earliest surviving ones date from 1877, although they form a continuous series only from 1902. These are nearly 1,700 in all for the period up to 1948, and given that many relate to alterations of older buildings, or to buildings no longer in existence, they constitute a very useful source for the architectural history of the area. Even where plans do not survive, their deposit was recorded in the minutes, giving a good idea of who was building what, and when. Unfortunately there are no surviving rate books, which would have given useful lists of properties, owners and occupiers, although there are valuation lists (in similar format) for 1910, 1920, 1929 and 1934.

Another source of information on houses no longer standing is the series of slum clearance files, which often contain plans, photographs and detailed descriptions of properties pulled down from the 1930s onwards. These are part of the series of over 500 files of the town clerk, which date from the 1880s onwards. Because of the clerk's position as chief officer, these files cover the whole range of the council's activities; there are, for instance, extensive series on individual highways and bridges, and individual files relating to Peel Tower, the opening of Nuttall Park, and the Holcombe rifle range. Other council officers have not left such a large volume of records, although there is a series of diaries of the surveyor, Thomas Bell from 1899 to 1928, which mentions, among less dramatic incidents, the bombing of Holcombe by a Zeppelin in 1916, and also various plans of council building projects. Anyone wishing to see these, and the various private deposited records, is welcome to pay us a visit on any Tuesday, or to ring me on 061-797-6697 to make an appointment. We have also from time to time arranged evening visits by local groups. Details of latest accessions and other developments are given inour newsletter, the next issue of which is due out in January, and is available at local libraries.

Kevin Mulley, Borough Archivist, Bury M B C

OUR FIRST HONORARY MEMBER

Monday, 22nd July 1991 was a memorable day at the Heritage Centre when Mrs Maggie Oates was enrolled as the Society's first Honorary Member. Three generations of her family were present to hear Society Chairman, Andrew Todd extend a warm welcome to Mrs Oates and thank her for her many local community commitments and congratulate her on the distinction of being the one and only lady Chairman of the R U D C. To mark the occasion, Mrs Oates was presented with a handwritten scroll, penned by David Moss on hand made paper brought back from Bury Metro's twin town of Angouleme. In reply Mrs Oates said that she was very honoured to receive the invitation to be the Society's first Honorary Member, as were her family who had originally settled in Ramsbottom over 140years ago. Remembering the old Library building, she realised how much work had been done to transform it into the Heritage Centre and considered it was a credit to the Society and a worthy additionto the town. Refreshments were served and a tour of the Exhibition concluded a happy, memorable and unique occasion.

Dorothy Moss

RAMSBOTTOM - VALLEY OF THE RAMSON FLOWERS *(a chemical reaction?)*

Ramsons, Wild Garlic, Stinking Onion Flower, Allium ursinum, call it what you will, this plant is common in moist woods. In past centuries there was an abundance of moist woods in the valley and more Wild Garlic than we have growing nowadays, although on the "Church Fields" there is some still. The plant flowers from April to June and produces a "clove" or bulb as do all members of the Liliacae. I have often wondered what use this plant was put to by the valley inhabitants in years gone by and I would very much like to know if any reader of this article can help. My own presumptions are set out here. It is possible to obtain garlic oil and this is of some medicinal value if the manufacturers of garlic pills and garlic oil capsules are to be believed. I must say I have no reason to doubt their claim. Certainly garlic is used throughout the world in many culinary masterpieces.

What of the wild garlic and its implications for Ramsbottom?

It may be possible for an oil to be obtained by standard pharmaceutical methods from Ramson bulbs by a process of maceration, ie mashing up, and subsequent distillation of the pulp. This process may have been known to the valley inhabitants. So what could they use the oil for? Certainly cooking and medicine cannot be ruled out. Was it used to bring out the subtle flavour of black puddings and was Charles Dickens served this delicacy by the Grant brothers? Can we assume a local garlic bread was produced in the valley? Did the illustrious Drs Kay prescribe it for their patients? Their diaries do not tell us and we do not have any of their prescriptions, but maybe the diaries of Jamieson Morton, that celebrated Chemist and Druggist of 19th century Ramsbottom, will shed some light on this puzzle.

Some evidence of the medical use of wild garlic can be deduced from the local nursery rhyme:

Meg an' Bill climbt 'Olcom 'Ill wi' a bucket for some wather
Bill cracked 'is 'ed, bi gum it bled, an' t' bucket went a clatter.
T'yung man back 'ome he ran, an' bit' leet o' a stinkin taper,
'is main 'ad a job t' plaister 'is nob wi' alliker an' breawn paper.

Older readers will know alliker is Lancashire dialect for vinegar, ie ale liquor, which could have beenspiked with wild garlic. We do have lots of springs on Holcombe Hill and we know - Ramsbottom produces brown paper. A stinking taper would have been used to keep away the boggarts. There could have been many other things for which the oil was used. There are no tales of boggarts or goblins around Ramsbottom and, when added to the tallow from which candles were made or added to the lamp oil, the burning of a small quantity of Wild Garlic oil would certainly have kept them away. We have heard it said that garlic could ward off evil spirits or vampires. And with what did John Kay lubricate the Flying Shuttle? He had to leave in a hurry because of local complaints about his invention. He could have used up the entire output of Nuttall Village leaving no oil to keep the goblins at bay.

Why did the loom breakers of Rossendale by-pass the Grants' Ramsbottom Mills on their way to Summerseat? Perhaps they thought that the Grant Brothers used this same lubricant and that made them wary of being caught in the days after the riots with the lingering odour to identify them. Could it be that the infamous riflemen of Chatterton Field greased their cartridges with garlic oil, much the same as the sepoys of the Indian Mutiny were asked to grease their cartridges with some peculiar lubricant?

Wild garlic could be an aphrodisiac. Perhaps someone could look into the records of births in Ramsbottom around the turn of the century to gain evidence of this possible use?

Meanwhile I am hoping soon to extract a small quantity of this peculiar oil and perhaps by April 1st 1992 we could go into production and have another product to sell in the Heritage Centre.

Jack Palmer

USING THE PRESENT TO PRESERVE THE PAST

Ever since its formation, the Society has gathered and maintained an archive of material about the local area. We have tried to keep the actual objects in a systematic way, using separate labelled boxes for various Districts, Churches, the Co-op etc. However, as the number of items grew to nearly 2000, the problems increased out of proportion, and no matter how many boxes we started, we kept getting new materials which couldn't reasonably fit into any category. Recording the donors became a necessary, but increasing, chore.

Details of each object were kept on a file card. Such cards are excellent for *keeping* information - you can write as much as you wish about any item (even on the back if you run out of space), anyone can be pressed into producing them, and they cost very little. But as the pile grows into hundreds, the main disadvantage becomes clear: *retrieving* information is very difficult. It is a real pain to have to thumb through the stack every time you want to find out what we have on, say, Grant's Tower. In fact, because it is *difficult* you try to avoid doing it, and eventually the whole point of having an archive becomes lost. It seemed that a computer might help, however alien to our heritage such an object might be! Computers are good at boring jobs: they are quite happy searching through all their records looking for "Ramsbottom", and if you ask them repeatedly how often that word occurs, they will give you the same answer every time. Unfortunately, although they do this kind of thing much faster than people can, they also lack imagination, so if sometimes the word is typed just slightly wrong then they can completely miss the reference, and will never tell you about the air raid on Ramsbottom, something which our eyes would detect instantly.

Nevertheless the Committee decided to take the plunge and buy an Amstrad PCW. The choice was easy - it was the cheapest. I was co-opted to the "Working Party" which was set up; a strange term for something which turned out to be all work and no party! However, we persevered, and after some experimentation, and much frustration, eventually achieved a computer system which seemed to do the job we wanted. Although a little slow by professional standards, it could still sort through a thousand cards in much less time than it takes to boil the kettle, a time standard which became of great importance to us. Now all we had to do was to enter information on to about 1500 cards, and we should have a Database! So we did it. "Database" is the buzz word name, designed to confuse the uninitiated, which graces a card index stored on a computer. It is still just a stack of individual records. When designing our own, we were careful to make the screen entries *look* much like conventional file cards, so that people coming to use it are not frightened off. Just like real cards, the individual entries can be rearranged into different orders, if that happens to suit our purpose, and a new blank card can be produced very quickly (by typing N - for New - in fact). To ease the classification of material, we divided the whole diversity of living into a list of 30 simple subjects, giving examples which serve to define and illustrate the scope of each. This was because we decided that `Subject' should be one of the 'fields' in the Database by which the cards can be sorted, allowing the Amstrad to collect together related information for our use. For example, supposing that we wanted to mount an exhibition on "The Churches of Ramsbottom", we should first want to know what material was already available. By using the computer to sort the archive by Subject, all the cards related to "Religion" would be brought together. This would make it easy to look through them, marking any which seemed likely to be useful for the display. Perhaps the most valuable feature of the system, though, is that we can choose a word or words - say "Redisher Woods" - and ask the computer to scan the Archive for the words of our choice, mark matching Cards for us to inspect at leisure, and tell us how many matches it has found. It can also do "fuzzy" searches, where near-matches, such as "Redisher Wood" (no s) or "Redisher's Wood" will be captured. Scanning a thousand cards will take only a minute or two, afterwhich, by repeatedly pressing a single key, we can call up each of the marked cards in turn. If it looksinteresting, we can print that card for further study. Alternatively we can print the whole list of markedcards, including as much detail from them as we choose. All of this has involved us in many hours ofwork, but we hope that it has been worth the effort, and that it will make the Archive so much moreuseful. Anybody who can type a word with one finger should now be able to use the Amstrad to makean Archive search. It is our dream that one day we shall have the computer on display in the Centre, so that a visitor can be told in reply to a query: "Yes, we have two pictures of your Street, one taken in1910, showing a coalman delivering, and the other taken during the 1937 Coronation celebrations.Would you like to see them?" First, we must re-file the collection to make it easier rapidly to find items;but that isn't quite as big a job as making the original computer cards. If the demand is there, and if wehave the will to meet it, then that dream is a practical possibility.

Geoffrey Johnson-Brett

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVE

Many thanks to all donors, whether their gifts are mentioned here or not.

1. Plan and index of the graveyard of Emmanuel Church, Holcombe.

This was made by a community task force of the Manpower Services Commission in 1983. It is an excellent piece of work with a map of the graveyard divided into lettered sections. Each section draws to scale the graves with inscriptions and the coded graves. There is an index

which shows how to find a specific grave. I have taken a fascinating tour of the graveyard with the plan. If you are interested, please make your request known at the Centre. (403)

2. Apiece of core from approximately 4,000ft down at Fletcher Bank Quarry brought up whendrilling for oil in 1953! (455).

Hope seems to spring eternal in Ramsbottom that mineral resources will be discovered. When my house in Carr Bank was leasehold the Lord of the Manor of Tottington even had the mineral rights of our tiny plot. With the core, from the same donor, came a pencil stamped in `gold' Porrittand Spencer. (456). We were also given the Nuttall Park Plaque which commemorates the magnificent gift of Nuttall Park and Hall to the town by the Porritt family in 1928.

3. A New and Actual Survey of the Township of Tottington Lower End in the Parish of *Bury* ***and the County of Lancaster taken in the year 1794 by Robert Smith, John Kay and John (altered by hand to James) Brandwood wherein is shewn the yearly value of every farm, building, cottage and field together with the owners and occupiers names to which is added an Appendix spewing at one view the total value of every estate.*** Printed in the year 1795. Price 2s. 6d. Sewed. This is the most valuable accession from an historical viewpoint. It divides the township into numbered estates. For example Gutter estate is divided between two owners Lawrence and James Rostron. There are six cottages valued between £1.10s and 10s. Widow Hamer's cottage with a garden is valued at 15s. The richest estate is Higher Ramsbottom, the part belonging to R Peel and Co including Caldo Mill and the Wash, valued at £21215s. (106)

4. This accession couldn't be more different from the others. It is a postcard. On the front is *Greetings from Ramsbottom,* with an illustration, a bunch of roses and a verse; `I haven't time to write a lot, but still this card will do. To bring the love I've always got my dearest friend for you'. This beauty was found in a museum in Skye and brought to the Centre by a visitor there. Unfortunately the stamp and the datemark have been torn off. It was sent to Mrs G Baldwin at St Annes. The writer mentions 'Trusting your dear boy is alright'. It looks pre-World War II. Will we ever know? I trust the CIA of the Heritage Society who help so much with identification and dates may come up with the answer! Will we ever know who signed himself `Love and wishes true from your dear Chappy' ? (451).

Although I am no longer officially Archivist to the Society I cannot help but be unofficially interested. Thanks very much to all who help with the archive and so share the responsibility.

Brenda M Decent

The numbers in ( ) with each item are the numbers in the new computer database, described by Geoffrey Johnson Brew elsewhere in this magazine.

CAN YOU REMEMBER? A New Competition

At the October meeting of the Society, Chairman Andrew Todd announced a competition to find the most interesting reminiscences about Ramsbottom. There will be prizes for the winner and runner-up. All the entries will become the property of the Society and will be placed in the archives.

The memories need not necessarily be about long ago, although, of course, these are always welcome, but present-day events should also be recorded. After all when people read them in a 100 (or even 10) years' time 1992 will seem like ancient history.

In addition to the winners, a selection from the other entries will be included in a book of Ramsbottom Reminiscences which the Society is hoping to publish in 1992. In any event you will have taken part in a project that will literally 'go down in history'.

Length is not of major importance; in fact some quite short items could be very useful for the book. It is not necessary for entries to be typed (although reasonably legible handwriting would be appreciated!). Entries should be sent to Andrew Todd at the Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, or handed in at the monthly meetings. The closing date is the February 1992 meeting. Any further information may be obtained from Andrew.

DIARY OF A DEDICATED GARDENER

This year the garden has had traumas and dramas.
The pundits predicted a plague of crane flies (daddy long legs) which would result in their larvae, the leatherjackets, eating the roots of plants. But what I found on lifting pots and boxes wasa moving carpet of wood lice, with millipedes spring-coiled feigning death. This was the result ofheavy snow in the winter followed by a cold wet spring. It was after the snowfall that a walk through Nuttall brought us to Peel Bridge where we had the fine sight of a kingfisher flying fromunder the arch and perching on a bush by the Waterside Mill. From the bridge we watched it diveand catch a fish by the weir before proceeding on its journey upstream. On returning home the pristine snow of the garden had captured the footprints of a heron as it investigated the pond. Thegiant footprints ambled round the paths before vanishing by the gooseberry bushes. It returned several times after that - giving me quite a fright as it took off from outside our living room window. After this, the weather was wet and cold until July, with plants as much as four weeks behind schedule - if they survived at all. But a small forest of oak trees grew from the bonanza oflast Autumn - no doubt to the satisfaction of the grey squirrels whose habitat is much extended in Ramsbottom.
We watched the rooks, too, at Kay Brow Lodge, fording that they had indeed moved on, many deserting the trees within sight of our garden. The result, if you remember, of felling several trees - their rookery - during their nesting time last year. However they have not gone far so may yet return. The warm weather was back with us by August and things hotted up in the garden. In quick succession we ate strawberries, raspberries, black and white currants and gooseberries followed by the glut of beans, peas, cabbage, carrots, beetroot, etc. We became very regular in ourhabits and soused with Vitamin C! But something dreadful has happened to the plum tree - not onlydid it lose its flowers, it lost all its leaves as well. The apples failed and only one pear tree in the shelterof the high wall holds a promise of fruit. The cold wet weather at blossom time prevented pollinationwhen all sensible insects took shelter or carried on hibernating, or just died. We await results from thecorn, maybe this wonderful early September sun will allow it to surprise us all.
The late summer sun brought the unusual sighting of a large Peacock Butterfly on the phlox, but the amazing numbers and varieties of last year have not yet appeared. Along with other places we report that the spotted flycatchers have not arrived.
Another event occurred that will remain forever in our memory bank. In the July dusk we sighted two baby owls in our dead elm tree. Great bundles of squeaking fluff, almost unable to flutterfrom branch to branch. How did they come there at all was our question. Each evening they were therecalling for their food and sometimes the parent Tawny owl arrived with a small bird or animal. It wasweeks before we actually saw the arrival of the young. Then, later, we had sightings of all three onthe telegraph pole outside our window, or again, the two babies on the greenhouse roof. Now it is September, they have extended their territory and they come less frequently.

We have also enjoyed regular visits from the hedgehogs. At one time there was a large one (daddy?) in our back yard, a medium sized one(mummy?) with two small offspring in our front garden. But the slugs will win over these odds, I think.

A wonderful year you will agree. Anon. September 1991

GAMES AND PASTIMES OF A RAMMY CHILDHOOD

When I was a child in the 1920s I lived in Carr Street where my mother kept a shop. There were quite a few children around about my age and after school and in the holidays we all used to play out. We had very little in the way of actual toys, and what we did have seemed to be played with in seasons. First it was tops and whips, the tops either carrot or turnip shaped. Whoever was lucky enough to own a packet of chalks shared them around and patterns were drawn on the tops, which, when they were spun looked beautiful to us. The whips were a piece of coloured stick with a leather thong, which broke after awhile and was replaced with a piece of thick string, or failing that several lengths of thin string plaited. Chalk was also used to mark out a hopscotch patch on the pavement and a piece of flat stone was used as a scotch.

After this came skipping, individually or together. If you had a birthday and were lucky you got a new pair of skips. Why the description "a pair of skips" heaven knows, as what they actually consisted of was a length of rope with a wooden handle at each, end, the handles were painted or carved, or sometimes quite plain, depending on how much they cost. If you didn't have a birthday you prayed for your Mam's clothes line to wear out, and then you got the good bits to use as skips. Pieces of old clothes line joined together were also used for communal skipping, and the variations on this were endless. Six or seven of us would play together, with a girl at each end turning the rope, first we would run through the rope, then do one jump, then two and so on in a sort of relay. Then someone would shout "let's do pepper, everybody in" and the cry would go up "salt, mustard, vinegar, pepper" and the rope would be turned as fast as the end girls could go. This usually ended in chaos as someone got a foot caught in the rope, and one or two of us got a clout in the face with one of its many knots. We nearly all had a ball of some kind, the best bouncers usually being the solid rubber ones which were our favourites. I never remember girls playing group games with a ball. I don't know why, we left that to the boys, but you could play on your own for ages with a ball. I used to start to bounce the ball with my right hand, then swap to the left, then put my right leg over it, then my left, then do a spin round, but that was where I usually came unstuck, and the whole thing started all over again. All this could be done by bouncing the ball against a wall, usually whilst chanting some rhyme or other.

Sometimes one of us might have a balloon to play with if the rag and bone man had been round whilst we were on holiday. *More* usually your Main swapped her rags for a donkey stone with which every proper Lancashire housewife outlined her doorstep after its weekly scrub.

When May arrived we usually had a Maypole. This consisted of a broom with the bristle end covered with crepe paper, paper flowers, and any bits of greenery we could find. Old ribbons, tape, or even string with bits of coloured paper tied round it, were used for the streamers. A little stool, an old lace curtain draped around the chosen queen, and we were ready, not forgetting an old tin for the collection. We used to sing something that started off with "Round and round the maypole merrily we go ....." (what the rest was I can't remember!) and dance round for a bit until we had collected a few pennies. We then moved on a few yards and started all over again, until we had more or less covered our patch.

When summer arrived, and it really did arrive in those days, weeks of scorching weather were only punctuated by July thunderstorms when suddenly the wind got up and the heavens opened and it absolutely poured down for about an hour. Then just as suddenly the skies cleared and the sun was back and the rooftops and roads literally steamed until everything was dry again.

After I was seven my play area extended quite a bit. In summer my playmates and I used to go round Ox Hey for picnics with jam butties and a bottle of kali water. Coming back we filled our bottles with spring water from Judy's Spout and took it home for our Mams. It was considered much better than tap water, or "corporation pop" as Dad used to call it. Judy's Spout was actually the main water supply for several old cottages round Springwood, just as the old well in Dundee Lane supplied several cottages there. We also used to play further along the back of Carr Street, past the Council workshops, and on the little square outside the mortuary. Quite often there would be a body in there. We knew because somebody had always seen it being put in, and this added a macabre thrill to our games of monsters and ghosts.

In winter we still played out unless it was raining very hard, the bitter cold didn't bother us at all.

A favourite pastime was to go down Bridge Street and on to the bridge over the railway line at the side of the level crossing. The trains of course were steam, and in those days very frequent. We used to stand on the bridge and wait for a train to go underneath, especially the ones going north. As they pulled out of the station, they chuffed out great bursts of steam which completely enveloped the bridge, and us if we didn't dash out of the way quickly enough, and that was the game.

If the weather was very bad, I stayed in painting or reading or doing bobbin work, which was an empty cotton reel with four small nails in it. Wool was wound round the nails and passed over each previous winding, resulting in a long roll eventually emerging from the base of the cotton reel. I used to do yards of this, and sometimes join it up to make little mats.

When it snowed, we spent hours making snowmen and snowballing or sledging. We used to play out until we couldn't feel our hands and feet, and then go home to thaw out, leaving a wet mess all over the house, and wet woolly gloves and socks to be half dried and then put on to go out and start all over again.

We always seemed to have snow in winter, sometimes to a depth of several feet. It was quite common to open the door and find deep snow and have to dig paths through it to wherever you wanted to go, including the W C! Modern conveniences were few and far between in those days and television and hi-tech computer games not even thought of!

Margaret Ferguson

[The above is an extract from a manuscript about her childhood in Ramsbottom which Mrs Ferguson hopes will eventually be published as a book.]

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Since moving to Edenfield thirteen years ago I have become increasingly interested in Local History and aware of the changes taking place as some older buildings have disappeared. I decided to record details of some of them.

ACRE HOUSE: I chose this as our house was built on its site in 1978. It was probably built in the early 1800s and occupied by Richard Rostron ('Pinch Dicky') who owned Bridge Mills. In 1871 its owner was Mrs Margaret Rostron, but by 1880 it was Jane Wilson's ladies' boarding school. On the 18910 S Map it was named as ACRES HOUSE. By 1930 it had changed its usage to become Dr Struther's home, followed by the Drs Ford (before they moved

to Market Street). A Mr and Mrs Bone inhabited it later, before it was turned into flats, prior to its demolition in 1976. The entrance was originally opposite the bus bay, but a new road was made onto the present site of eight houses off The Drive. Only the wall of the original coach house remains, but there was earlier a rear lane to Exchange Street through tennis courts and shrubbery.

STUBBINS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH: I chose this as the church our children attended and as the venue of Edenfield Horticultural Society's Shows. Its datestone was 1865, butit opened as a Congregational Church for 750 people in 1867. The spire was 120' high and its style perpendicular with carved capitals and stained glass donated by James Porritt. From 1871- 80 the minister was the Rev Thomas Cain. Problems with its wood caused its demolition in 1983 and the adjacent Sunday school and lodge are for sale in 1991.

CHAPEL HOUSE FARM: I chose this as it was on the lane to the Parish Church and vicarage (now a nursing home), and we were married there. There were cottages attached and it was built before 1800, housing a James Whittaker around 1850, whilst a Robert Holt was prosecuted in 1880 for allowing horses to stray on to the road. Later George Holt and his son farmedit, but it was demolished and redeveloped as Church Court in 1984.

ROCHDALE ROAD CORNER: My only link here was that I originated from Rochdale! Its origins are hard to trace as it was never owner occupied, but in the hands of solicitors in Colne and London. However, it is remembered as Fred Dewhurst's Plumber's shop from about 1916 - 36. It was altered into a house in 1989 leaving a stone feature on the corner.

DEARDEN CLOUGH MILL: My wife's father, Percy Isherwood, managed this for many years until c1976. The original 1767 mill was water-powered. In 1826 the looms were attacked as aprelude to the intervention of the military at the Chatterton Riots. In 1833 the cotton works wasowned by Thomas Booth, but occupied by James Stott and Thomas Smith. By 1861 James Emmettwas the owner, and later Clegg and Brierley operated it, followed by Joseph and James Porritt AMr Bealey also owned it before George Clegg's name was linked to it until its demolitionin 1990, which revealed the hollow remains of the swimming pool across the stream andthe steep waterfall.

I should like to thank my sources in Edenfield Local History Society, plus John Simpson's *book Edenfield 1500-1770* and Andrew Todd's *Trade Directory Reprints 1818-1888.* Please contact me with any further details via Ramsbottom Heritage Centre.

Clyde L Tweedale

CHILDREN AT THE HERITAGE CENTRE

Tuesday 14th May 1991 was to prove a very unusual day at the Heritage Centre. A visit from a party of schoolchildren was expected and as many helpers as could be mustered were on hand for the event. It was decided that the children would be admitted in small groups so that everyone could have a good look round and the helpers would be able to explain things to the children. A wise decision when it turned out that the whole party numbered around 200!

But what a surprise when the first group arrived with their teachers! The children had travelled on the train and were all dressed up in "Railway Children" costumes, which we were later told they had made themselves. Each child had a paper with questions about the pictures, maps, drawings, models, etc on display which they had to answer. They were also allowed time to browse around the sales counter. We could certainly have done with some extra pairs of hands as the children queued up to buy pens, postcards and other mementoes of their visit to the Centre and their ride on the train.

The children were eager to learn about the things on display and behaved themselves marvellously. After a most amazing two and a half hours the last of the children left to rejoin the train.
There was yet another surprise a few days later. Letters were received and each child had drawn a picture of their happy day. Some of the drawings were displayed in the Centre later.
Many happy hours are spent at the Centre by the helpers. We have met people from many parts of the world, also people who are looking for help in tracing the history of their houses or families. Others seek information about Ramsbottom, past and present.
With more helpers we could do a lot more to assist them. So think it over all those who read this magazine - young ones as well as older ones. A little time goes a long way and you never know who you might meet - maybe a long-lost relation.

Hilda Barrett

NEWS TRAVELS

From the *Kent County News*, 9th December 1876: "DR CRAWSHAW
Our readers will, we are sure, regret to hear that this gentleman will in a few weeks leave Margate. Few medical practitioners have succeeded in so short a time in becoming so deservedly popular and highly esteemed as he was. To the poor especially he has ever been a warm and sincere friend."

From the *Bury Times*, 13th January 1877:
"A DOCTOR COMES TO RAMSBOTTOM FROM MARGATE
Mrs Smith begs to state that Dr Crawshaw has succeeded to the practice of the late Dr Smith, Barwood Mount, Ramsbottom."

Dr Benjamin Crawshaw practised in Ramsbottom for many years and was followed at Barwood Mount by his son, Dr. Charles.
His other son, Dr George Crawshaw, was a well-known GP in Greenmount. Dr Charles' son, another Dr Ben, emigrated to Australia after the Second World War and was later joined there by his father, who had retired, and in turn been succeeded by Dr Harry Kelsey.

RAMSBOTTOM TROLLEY BUSES

Parliament granted Ramsbottom Urban District Council permission to start a tram service as early as 1903, but the cost of providing the overhead cable and the road works, the tramsheds and the electricity supply, as well as widening Peel Bridge, meant that the work was deferred year by year.

The following persistent correspondence occurred between one objector and Whitehall.

> Gent'm', I wrote to you eight days ago and got no answer to my query re this UDC's reason for extension of trams time.
> I have a right to know it as no doubt you have informed the other side my reason for objecting, for which they advertised your meeting. Thus I think it is neither business polite or gentlemanly.
> Yours respectfully, R.Wallwork. Bolton Road West

July 15th 1908

Dear Sir, We beg to acknowledge receipt of your annual protest against the extension of time for the proposed tramways.

No doubt you have communicated with the Board of Trade. Yours faithfully,

Baker & Co., Parliamentary Agents. Westminster

From Mr. Wallwork:

B.O.T. sent me word that they have granted an extension of time to the above UDC on the ground that they see no sufficient reason not to do.
I would like to know what is considered sufficient reason, more than it is NOT needed and WONT pay.
Beside what I said, in 1895 Bury opposed it on that ground and l may say that since then, rerouting it from Edenfield to Holcombe Brook is, in a way of speaking, from nowhere to nowhere and worse.
P.S. It is all very fine for a local paper to boom it, a few private folk to engineer it and after failure to get the UDC to take it up, these long heads to have been paid for their failures out of the rates, and lawyers to line their pockets too from the same source.

July 18th 1911

Dear Sir, Ramsbottom Tramways. We enclose another communication we have received from Mr. Wallwork.

Can you not provide adequate accommodation for this harmless imbecile in the County asylum? Yours faithfully, Baker and Co.

A further riposte from the agents in Whitehall to Bury Council.

Dear Sirs, You will remember that Mr. Wallwork objected to the extension of time for the tramways. He has since been sending in letters of complaint which we are forwarding to you as they may amuse if not interest you.
Although he complains of incivility on our part in not answering his letters he does not think it necessary to put postage stamps on his.

Yours faithfully, etc.

Since the Act was to expire in 1913, the council was prevailed upon to use trolley buses instead, so that less extensive roadworks would be needed. So it was that Ramsbottom became the only town relying exclusively on trolley buses.
A pamphlet was published by the council outlining their proposals and a poll of electors was taken, the result being 999 votes for the trolley buses, 407 against.
But Mr Wallwork's objections proved well founded, when over the years the service never made a profit. A 1Rd in the £ rate became 10d in the £ by 1920.
Rail-less Electric Traction Co of Leeds supplied two buses in August 1913 and the service began with all speed. The first bus arrived on Sunday, 9th August 1913. It was tried out on Monday, passed its official inspection on Thursday, 13th August and hook on board its first paying passengers that same evening.

The following people were employed in 1913:

James Wild, Inspector in Charge £2.2.Od
J.R. Law, Experienced Driver, £1.12s.6d
John Walsh, Learner Driver, £1.7s.6d
James Hitch, Learner Driver, £1.7s.6d

Ashton Seddon, Learner Driver, £1.7s.6d
Harold Monks, Learner Conductor 18s.0d
John Keefe, Learner Conductor 18s.0d
Frank Ribchester, Learner Conductor 18s 0d
Sydney Parsons, Overhauler £1.7s.6d
Herbert Williamson, Labourer £1.0s.0d
John Beswick, Clerk £1.5s.0d

The total wages bill was £14.3s.6d per week.

The outbreak of war the following year caused many problems, well- illustrated in the letter from James Wild in 1916:

To Chairman and Members of the Traction Committee

Gentlemen, in laying an appeal before you for an increase in my wages, kindly permit me to give some of my reasons for so doing.

I have now been in your employ for a period of three years during which time I have endeavoured to fulfil my duties to the best of my abilities. The work has generally been carried out under adverse circumstances as you are aware. You will remember that I undertook certain work which should have been carried out by your consultant Mr. Hamilton and I believe this work has been carried out to your satisfaction. During the last two years the difficulty experienced by everyone in obtaining supplies has increased my work considerably and it has entailed long hours of labour in order to keep any service whatever. The work as you are aware is much more difficult owing to existing road conditions and far in excess of what was expected at the outset. The call of the army has caused additional work for me in the shape of having to attend either early morning or late at night until new men could be left in charge of the depot. Some twelve months ago our linesman left us and since that time I have undertaken these duties and have carried out most of the work between midnight on Saturday and Sunday noon in order to reduce expenses and keep the line in good order.

There is every possibility that future calls will be made upon me in the near future as both depot and traffic men will be called to the colours. I may say that this is my first application for an increase, although you were good enough to grant me an increase of 10/- per week after six months service.

The present high cost of living has compelled me to make this application mainly as with the present wages I am in worse circumstances than when first employed by you.

For your guidance as to what is paid by other towns I can assure you that I am paid less than an ordinary Traffic Superintendent, who does not have any repair work of any description to do or supervise. At Haslingden the Manager is paid £3.10s. per week and has not any cars to look after, as these are supplied by Accrington and Rawtenstall Corporation. At Rawtenstall the Tramway Manager recently had an increase in salary and in addition I am given to understand that each officer receives a war bonus of 10/- per week.

I shall be glad if you will kindly give this application your careful consideration and I ask that a substantial increase be granted, such as you may consider sufficient to meet the claims of the position. Thanking you in anticipation, I remain, Yours faithfully, James Wild, Manager.

Mr. Wild got his rise - to £3 per week in April 1917.

The following extract from the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 6th April, 1917 is the evidence that six buses were in service by that time. The first two arrived in August 1913 and the second two shortly afterwards. Numbers 5 and 6 began operating 1915.

> Interest in Ramsbottom Trackless trams can be gathered from the fact that the passengers average 10,000 per week.
> Nos. 5 and 6 cars have been in "hospital" for the last twelve months, waiting for castings, which cannot be got out owing to the war and labour conditions.
> It is a pity that these two cars are the newest and most up to date of a fleet of six which the council possess. Everybody says they are "beautiful to ride in". "It is like being in a motor car" remarked one young lady the other day.
>
> No.2 was last out four months ago, and is still docked for parts, which also cannot be obtained.
> Nos. 3 and 4 are doing the work of the fleet, and it is reckoned that if only two others could be released and put into regular use, the rate against the cost of the system would go down with a bump in a reasonable time.
> No. 3 is a fine service car. It has run 21,000 miles since August 12th last. This is real testimony to the thoroughness with which it was overhauled at the Ramsbottom depot under the direction of the tramways manager (Mr. J. Wild) As any of the other cars overhauled elsewhere have not done more than 10,000 miles, it is obvious that in future all overhauling should be done at Stubbins Lane.
>
> As for No. I car, it has just been overhauled at Leeds and should be in service again before long?

When it is remembered that the roads were made from stone setts and the tyres were solid rubber it is no surprise that the shaking these vehicles endured made sure that they spent most of theirlives being repaired and rebuilt. They were simply not up to the job.
Repairs had already been needed in 1913 but by May 1914 the four cars supplied needed to have new bodies, springs and wheels at a cost of £60 per car.
In spite of this, two new cars were ordered which were delivered in 1915 after several visits to hurry things along.

A meeting of the RUDC Traction Committee in March 1916

> "resolved that having heard a report on car service generally and the position with regard to no.2 car now undergoing repairs at Leeds, a present payment of £175 be made to RET Construction Co. in order to secure the delivery of this car, on the understanding however that£125 is in respect of the car and £50 in respect of retention moneys on cars 5 and 6. The delivery of the side member to be made forthwith. That repairs on no.3 car now at Leeds and the delivery of materials for execution of necessary work on cars 1,4,5 and 6 be proceeded with as quickly as possible.
>
> Also resolved to send Mr. Wild to Leeds to arrange delivery of car no.2".

So the service staggered on through the post war years until 1922 when Mr Sydney Parsons became general manager. They decided to buy a new tram (no7) and have nos 1,2,3,4 and 6 cars reconditioned. However the Traction Committee was persuaded at the same time to place an order for the first petrol driven bus. Several more petrol buses were purchased over the next year and by 1928, as the trolleys became decrepit, it was decided to phase them out completely. In that same year the Ministry of Transport planned to allow an increase to 16 mph in the speed limit, providing the vehicles had pneumatic tyres and improvements were made to the electrical system. Ramsbottom council said they would stay with solid tyres as they were planning to stop using these vehicles.

Twice yearly thereafter the Ministry wrote asking if all trolleys had ceased to which Ramsbottom replied "No -they could not fix a definite date". Eventually one remaining trolley ran for 40 minutes a day at rush periods. Finally, on 1st April 1931 the Council wrote to say that this last trolley bus had been withdrawn. A fitting date to end the era.

Sources : RUDC Minutes of Traction Committee, Correspondence and Documents.

Ramsbottom Observer Reports (at Bury Archive)

Barbara Palmer

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The 5th year of the Society's photographic competition has produced a record number of entries, with 124 photos being submitted. Many thanks go to the 16 entrants who have donated their pictures taken in 1991, thus enabling an archive to be kept of modern - day Ramsbottom.

This year, the competition reverted to its original format by having four categories.

The most popular category was EVENTS which attracted 52 entries. One of the major events of the year was the extension of the East Lancashire Railway to Rawtenstall. Other events included the Whit Walk, the Market and The Bank Holiday Weekends.

The TOWN AND COUNTRY category had 29 entries depicting landscape scenes, and pictures of buildings being demolished, one example being the old bus depot on Stubbins Lane makingway for a petrol station.

The OPEN category also had 29 entries which included many from Mr Tom Barrett of a school visit to the Heritage Centre.

A special category this year was INTERIORS as the society does not have enough pictures of the inside of buildings. This category attracted 14 entries, which included the churches of St Paul'sand Christchurch, both of which were renovated during the year. This year's competition was judged by one of our members, Mr W M Bennion, who had the very difficult job of choosing anoverall winner of the Dickensian Trophy, and the four category winners. Highly Commended Certificates were also awarded.

Overall winner: Robin Sharples Ramsbottom Station

Events:

Winner	Mr J G S Summers
Highly commended	John Leyland, Tom Barrett

Town and Country:

Winner	Robin Sharples
Highly commended	Alan Hibbert, Mrs Dorothy Moss

Interiors:

Winner	Mrs Patricia Greer
Highly commended	Alan Hibbert, Mrs Dorothy Moss

Open:

Winner	Jack Palmer
Highly commended	John Leyland

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NEWS MAGAZINE

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Front Cover Drawing of the Old Peel Brow School (1901 - 79). Reproduced by kind permission of Mr G M Duce, B Ed Headmaster, Peel Brow Primary School.

WELCOME to our fifth News Magazine. In future the Magazine will be produced in spring and autumn, instead of winter and summer as previously. The main reason is to avoid producing one in the run up to Christmas which is always a busy time for everyone concerned.

Demand for the Magazine continues to grow. The earlier issues have now been completely sold out and people still keep asking for them. One reason for this seems to be that people who have not seen the Magazine before buy one and then want the back numbers. Most encouraging for all concerned!

As usual this issue contains a mixture of news of the Society's activities, the latest information about the Heritage Centre and articles from people who are researching various aspects of Ramsbottom's past. New this time is our review section which I hope will become a regular feature.

The Magazine is always in need of articles, drawings, recollections of days gone by and interesting pieces of information. We are steadily building up a team of regular contributors, and more people do seem to be sending in the occasional item. We do appreciate their efforts, but obviously more are needed if the Magazine is to continue and develop as we all hope it will. I think the lack of personal recollections this time is due to the fact that Andrew Todd's competition (see page 16 for details), with its opportunity to win a prize, has proved a greater attraction than the Magazine. I hope this is only temporary!

I know there are a number of people busily at work on various projects and hope that eventually the fruits of their labours will be published so that we may all share in their discoveries. If you are one of these perhaps you might like to write up "the story so far" as an article for the Magazine, as several people have done in this issue. It is always interesting to hear how other people are progressing. Also, as well as providing an interesting contribution to the Magazine, it is always possible that someone reading the article may be able to help with additional information, perhaps just the missing piece you need to complete the jigsaw. In this case "what happens next" could be a further article and the "conclusion" could possibly be a Heritage publication, so please do consider this suggestion.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank the National Westminster Bank who have again sponsored our Magazine. Their continuing support is much appreciated by the Society.

The Society continues to thrive, meetings are as popular as ever, and the Heritage Centre flourishes. Perhaps this is the time to remind people of the annual photographic competition. Although the closing date is still some months away photographs should be taken throughout the year. More details from John Leyland at the Heritage Centre.

Barbara Park, Editor

SOCIETY NEWS

MONTHLY MEETINGS continue to be well attended. The calibre of speakers remains high and the subjects wide ranging. Over the past year we have learned more about the Borough Archives as they relate to Ramsbottom, the history of the Chatterton Riots, the Holcombe Brook Line and many other interesting topics.

As you will see on page 16 the programme for 1992/93 looks as varied and interesting as ever.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The subscriptions year commenced on 1st April 1992, £4.50p adults / £2 concessionary (retired, unwaged, student). Members receive the News Magazine: free twice yearly thereby saving £1 on their fee. So don't delay, join today!

THE HERITAGE CENTRE: Since the closing of the highly successful Transport exhibition the display team has worked very hard to get the new exhibition ready for the Easter opening. 'LOCAL SCHOOLS - Past History and Present Projects' is sure to bring back memories of the 'happiest days of our lives'. Photographs, documents and artefacts generously loaned by local schools, and members and friends of the Heritage Society have been used to mount an interesting and nostalgic display, including an old schoolroom tableau which is certain to attract many visitors, both young and old, to the Centre this summer.

We are very pleased to welcome school parties on Tuesday afternoons, but these must be booked in advance by telephoning the Secretary on 0706 822620.

The Centre in Carr Street (opposite the library) is open each Saturday and Sunday and Bank Holidays from 12 noon to 4.00pm and Tuesdays from 2.00 - 4.00pm. There is no charge for admission but donations are very welcome! Refreshments are available, there is a sales counter and there are facilities for the disabled. Parking nearby.

WHY NOT JOIN US? Would you like to come and help at the Centre for an hour or two, or even for a whole afternoon? No pay but good company and the chance to learn more about the history of Ramsbottom from our many visitors, even better if you are able to enlighten others about the 'old days'. You may wish to welcome people at the reception desk, make tea or coffee in the kitchen or help to sell local history books and other items at the counter. With a Committee member on hand to keep an eye on things it really is a very pleasant way of spending time.

Perhaps you would prefer to be in the office helping to catalogue the items for the Archives? Are you able to use a word processor? Do you like filing? All these skills are needed to keep the Centre running smoothly. If you would like to help in any way at all we'd love to have you as part of the team. You need only commit yourself to an hour or two whenever you can spare the time, although some of our helpers enjoy it so much that we see them most weekends! Please contact me at the Heritage Centre during opening hours, or leave a message on the answering machine (0706 821603).Do please think about joining our team. You will be very welcome! Dorothy Moss

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

Those of us who attended the February meeting enjoyed an interesting talk by Mr T Ashworth on the History of the Holcombe Brook Railway Line. The following article, by Mr W M Bennion provides an interesting sidelight on the same subject.

In 1977 we watched the progress of the M66 Motorway to Ramsbottom and it is interesting to note that, just a hundred years before, there were plans for the improvement of communications between Bury, Tottington and Holcombe Brook.

In the *Bury Times* for 20th January 1877 there appeared an advertisement announcing the public issue of 5,000 £10 shares in the Bury and Tottington District Railway Company. The necessary Act of Parliament was passed later in that year, but, because of engineering difficulties, the line was not operational until late 1882. The same issue of the newspaper contains a description of the proposed railway, as follows:

"The line is intended to be connected with the East Lancashire station Bolton Street, and, passing on the northerly side of Chamber Hall near the engineering works of Mr James Park, will cross the River Irwell by a viaduct and, leaving the Bury and Heap Company's mill to the left, will pass under Brandlesholme Road and into the valley near Messrs Olive Brothers paper mill, to which, as well as to Messrs Olive and Sons wagon building works, there will be sidings. At Woolfold the first passenger station will be reached, and, as the road from Bury to Tottington is fast becoming one continuous line of houses and abutting streets are being laid out, the passenger traffic is likely to be pretty extensive. Leaving Woolfold, the line for some distance traverses the course of Kirklees Brook on the right of the valley until, passing out of the Messrs Olives land, it approaches the village of Tottington over land in the possession of Mr William Hoyle. The exact position of the passenger and goods stations at Tottington has not yet been fixed, but probably Sandy Lane will best meet the requirements of the majority of those likely to use them. The line forward to Holcombe Brook will cross by a viaduct the filter beds connected with Tottington Mill - a siding to which will be formed on its junction with Millhouse Meadow - and almost from that point will be a

continuous cutting, the depth of which, when passing under Green Mount Road will be about 16½ feet. Thence the gradients will be rather steep: first 1 in 40 and at the terminus 1 in 50. The station at Holcombe Brook will be near the end of Longsight, and, doubtless in the summer season it will be lively with visitors in quest of mountain air, while the stone quarries of Holcombe will almost certainly yield more of their treasures for the conveyance of which the intended line will be most accessible and convenient. Another and important feature in the proposed undertaking will be the forming of a junction near the Irwell, by means of which direct communication will be had with Summerseat and all stations beyond without the necessity of running into Bury either going or returning".

W M Bennion

AUSTRALIAN UPDATE

The correspondence with Mrs Joy Bussem of Australia continues. I have written to her passing on information from readers of the last magazine and she now writes that she has discovered yet more links with this area, a Holcombe Hill and a Holcombe Manor. She is now busily at work trying to discover their history from the Shire Landrights Book.

Mrs Bussem has also sent me this press cutting about the death of the grandson of the Lawrence Rostron who began the connection

SEPTEMBER 1991

Tottington pioneer's grandson dies

An unusually close link with the earliest days of the St. Arnaud district was severed last week with the death of Mr Lawrence Milroe Rostron in Melbourne.

Mr Rostron was the last surviving grandson who came from Tottington in England and took up Tottington Station in 1844. The suprising fact that Lawrence Rostron, who was born in 1800 should have a grandson surviving almost two centuries later is accounted for by his second marriage, when he was over 70, by which he had two children.

Lawrence Milmoe Rostron practiced as a soliciter in Melbourne and will be remembered by a number of people whom he has helped with research into theirfamilies connections with the early days at Tottington.

He was unmarried and had no surviving relatives.

The vastness of Australia and the enormous distances that have to be travelled, even in the course of everyday life, are illustrated when she writes "I must catch the mail man or I will have to drive 30km to the nearest Post Office".

Dorothy Moss

THE STORY OF *THE FUSILIER* (Formerly *The Cemetery*)

When I first joined the Ramsbottom Heritage Society some years ago everyone was encouraged to investigate some part, no matter how small and specialised, of Ramsbottom's past. I had been interested in the history of The Fusilier *pub* on Bolton Road West since I moved in, and knew that it had formerly been known as The Cemetery. I had always intended to investigate its history but, like many others I suspect, had not actually got around to doing anything about it. I decided that the time had come to make a start.

But where to start? My first point of contact was the Area Manager of Whitbread's brewery. I explained what my intentions were - to compile a history of the pub. He made enquiries and I was put in contact with the brewery archives. I made arrangements and eventually visited a building in the town centre of Blackburn where all the deeds which Whitbread's had were put at my disposal.

The deeds dated back to 4th October, 1854. The early documents were works of art, set out on large sheets of parchment, detailed in copper-plate writing and sealed with red sealing wax into which had been impressed the official seal. By comparison, today's documents appear to be plain, characterless and unimaginative, although it has to be admitted they are far easier to decipher!

A photocopier was placed at my disposal, and the next stage proved to be a real challenge. Because the early deeds were approximately two and a half times the size of the photocopier's capacity, I had to photocopy each document at least three times in order to get every detail included. Of course, at a later date, this meant cutting, piecing and glueing together each deed like a giant jigsaw puzzle. To date, in order to get started on the early history of the pub, I have put together two of the deeds, for the years 1854 and 1877.

I was then able to start on the task of deciphering and transcribing the wording. Another lengthy, but fascinating project. They did not use punctuation marks, which made life a bit difficult. However, here and there were some underlined letters which did help a little. The outdated phrases were sometimes quite bewildering, for example, "... the said Richard Townsend, Thomas Earnshaw, Betsey Earnshaw and Aaron Thorpe and Jane his wife and of each and every of them of in unto and at of the said hereby surrendered premises." I did this over a period of time, as the fancy took me and time allowed.

As names appeared, I began to wonder who these people were. Thomas Earnshaw, Betsey Earnshaw, Aaron Thorpe and his wife Jane. So, to find out more I contacted Bury Reference Library and made arrangements to view the 1841 census returns for Tottington Lower End and there I found Aaron Thorpe who was a shopkeeper in Holcombe. He had a wife called Jane, they were both aged 41 and had both been born in Lancashire. They had five children - James 18, who was an apprentice mechanic, Ann 15, Robert 13, Leah 9 and John 3, However, the 1851 census showed only Aaron and his wife, then both aged 51, on their own except for a servant, Betsey Howarth, aged 26. What, I wonder, happened to John who would now be 13, and Leah who would now be 19? Maybe the others had fled the nest and married. Yet another mystery to investigate!

In the deeds for 1854 is a reference to the fact that Jane had been "examined by the steward and deputy steward of the Court and had confessed that she was not constrained thereto by her said husband" and reference was made to the marriage settlement. So, it would seem that there is every possibility that Jane's maiden name could have been Earnshaw and that the family mentioned had inherited this estate from their father and were now dividing it up between them.

Quite some time passed before this project again saw the light of day. In September 1991 we left the pub, for reasons which will be included in another part of The Fusilier story. However, I managed to re-assemble all the items I had accumulated (bear in mind we had just moved house) deeds, notebooks, plans, photographs etc.

My first port of call was again to Bury Reference Library as, in order to get a wider

perspective of the period (1854 that is), I wanted to find out what was going on internationally. The Crimean War had started; Florence Nightingale had begun her crusade for better conditions in hospitals at the front; the ill-fated Charge of the Light Brigade had taken place and was immortalized in the same year by Tennyson. I am also researching contemporary local events. The *Bury Times,* however, did not appear on the streets until 1855.

At the other end of the time scale, I have started to record some of the events occurring during our tenancy of *The Fusilier.*

I will continue to decipher, ferret, cut and glue, write, visit libraries until, hopefully, the story of *The Fusilier* is eventually complete.

If anyone has any information or recollections to add to the story, I would be very pleased to hear from them. I can be contacted through the Heritage Centre.

Judith Appleby

THE STOCKDALE SAGA

Local history really comes to life when one talks to inhabitants who have seen the many changes which have affected their locality. Such a person is Mrs Marjorie Alferoff of Edenfield, grand-daughter of William Stockdale, who was the founder of Turnbull and Stockdale Ltd. Early this century she was born in Moorfield, the vicarage of St John's in Shuttleworth, but soon moved to Stubbins Villa (also known as Greystones) which was demolished to make way for the large roundabout over the end of the M66 at Edenfield. In the late 1920's she lived at Rosebank House, (demolished in the late 1980's) opposite the now demolished mill of the same name. After a short spell at Little Holcombe House in the 1930s and a long period at Underbarrow, near Kendal, she lived again at Rosebank from 1956-85. To this day she cherishes an 1844 Manchester Guardian newspaper which was found in the attic of Rosebank after damage was caused by the landmine explosion in Stubbins in 1941. With pride she recalls her father, Herbert Porritt Cain, who married Florence Stockdale. He was a director of Turnbull and Stockdale's and also acted as a support driver for the record ascent in 1924 of Ben Nevis, Scafell and Snowdon in 22 hours 55 minutes. The Lytham lifeboat from 1951-78 also had a strong local connection, being named Sarah Townsend Porritt after being donated by a member of the family and Mrs Alferoff supported the RNLI She remembers touring the various mills selling Remembrance Day poppies each year, noting the miming talk of the Chatterton Mill weavers and admiring the quality fabrics produced by the firm of which her brothers Billy and Tommy were also directors. Some local houses and mills survive, linked by the various families. Mrs Alferoff's other grandfather was the Rev. Thomas Cain who was Pastor at Stubbins Congregational Church for 42 years, until 1906 (not the mere 10 years I indicated in the last edition of this Magazine!)

How did Turnbull and Stockdale Ltd emerge as a local giant? Happily they published a Jubilee Brochure in 1931 tracing and celebrating 50 years, from the union of William Turnbull and William Stockdale, both from Bury in the early 1880's. They ran a print works at Stacksteads until 1906, but used "Rosebank" as a trade name after establishing the Stubbins Mill in 1896. The Croft End Bleach works by the Irwell bridge were added in 1900, and the weaving shed on Chatterton Lane in 1908. Their recipe for success was printing cloth for the Manchester trade and creating their own designs on their own cloth. Edenwood Mill was the other mill in the group although they

acquired the agency of the Gainsborough Silk Weaving Co. in 1920, allowing them to sell special lines in brocades, damasks as well as calicos, linens and cretonnes. World War 1 took its toll as 29 died out of 219 employees serving their country. By 1931 there were about 750 employees, of whom 128 were awarded £25 for their 25 years with Turnbull and Stockdale. They enjoyed a local sports club, including a 9-hole golf course, between theDuckworth Arms and Edenwood Mill, a football team and cricket teams for both men andwomen. Such was the firm in its heyday and hopefully I shall be able to piece together the decades since 1931 to the present day when only the Edenwood Mill and Croft Mill remain under the control of Edward Turnbull & Sons Ltd.

Clyde L Tweedale

THE SPENCERS OF HAZLEHURST

In issue three of this magazine Andrew Todd wrote an article about the group of RHS members who attended an evening class at Woodhey and decided to investigate the history of Spencer's Engraving Works. Ramsbottom was an important centre of the engraving industry in the 19th century. The growth of the calico printing industry depended on new developments in this field. We decided to try and find out who these engravers were and whence they came.

From the 1851 census we discovered that John Spencer, engraver, was living at Hazlehurst next door but one to Jonathan Spencer. John was born at Ringley in 1823. Who was he and why did he come to Ramsbottom?

We had already found that one of the several rows of cottages between Holcombe Brook and Hazlehurst was known as "Spencer's", the three cottages having been built by a Thomas Spencer between 1823 and 1829. From the deeds of the works it was possible to show that these cottages were those adjacent to the engraving shop (albeit that by 1851 there were four houses in the row).

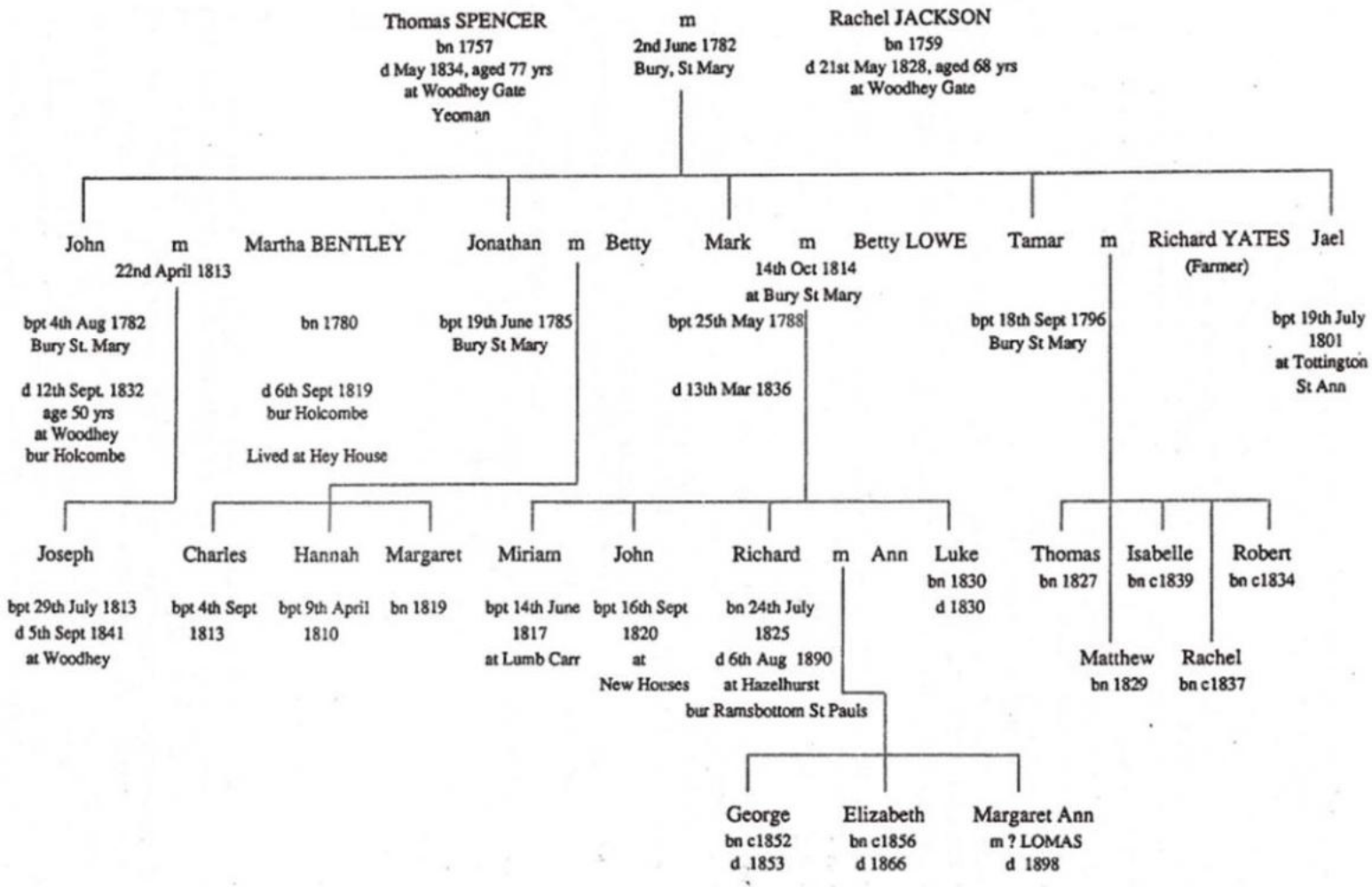
Over the years the cottages have been occupied by Mark, Betty, Richard, Enoch, John and Jonathan Spencer and their families. John lived under the engraving works in 1855 alongside Susan Spencer and Richard Yates, who was married to Tamar Spencer.

It seemed safe to assume that the John Spencer whose name the firm bears to this day was a member of that family. Thomas Spencer, who built the cottages which took his name, was buried at Holcombe in 1834, as was Rachel his wife c1828. They were both at Woodhey Gate at the time of their deaths and their marriage was confirmed at Bury St Mary's in 1782. Mark and Jonathan were their sons. In his will Thomas was described as "a Yeoman of Woodhey Gate" and from this same source we found that he also had two daughters and another son, John. Had we found our engraver?

No. When the will was written in 1833, son John was already dead (Holcombe 1832, aged 50). He left one child, Joseph Spencer. Joseph inherited 280 Bolton Road West, Mark got 278 and Jonathan 276, with Joseph and Jonathan paying 10/- per annum to Mark. After Mark's death in 1836, this rent devolved to his sons Richard and John.

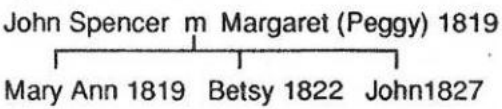
The daughters of Thomas each received one cottage at Wood hey Gate and half of the third cottage which he owned there. The elder daughter, Tamar, was married to Richard Yates, a farmer, and later they lived at Little Holcombe before moving to the engraving works, where one of their sons was an apprentice engraver. Whilst the

SPENCERS OF WOODHEY



families were mostly connected with farming and weaving, as was commonplace in this district at that time, they could also have had connections with Tottington Lower End Workhouse at Woodhey, since John Spencer's name occurs signing the accounts in the 1820's and J Spencer's medical expenses were authorised in the overseer's account book of the 1820s A Jonathan Spencer is listed as a Surgeon in Rogerson's 1818 Directory and as a Druggist at Spencer's cottages in the 1851 Census. Jonathan, Elizabeth his wife and Margaret his daughter lived in Ramsbottom in 1841 near Princes Street and Silver Street. Here he was described as a weaver, but there is no reason to believe that it was not the same family.

To confuse things even more there was yet another John Spencer at Holcombe Brook, a partner with James Ashworth, master printer, at Altar Works



There were also: John and Ann at Gibbon Green (on Helmshore Road)
John and Kezia at Bolton Street, Ramsbottom
John and Alice at Top o'th' Royle
James and Rachel at Broxbottoms
Robert and Sarah at Broxbotttons
Robert and Lettice at Barrwood
George and Jenny at Ramsbottom

…… and maybe more

Mark and Betty Spencer also had a son named John but he died in 1840 and is buried at Holcombe.

In later years Amelia Forshaw, daughter of John Spencer, our engraver, became the sole owner of the engraving works and in 1901 her husband, John Forshaw, had "become fined and siezed" of 280 Bolton Road West, which Joseph Spencer had inherited in 1834. Then in 1906 Amelia herself bought 278 Bolton Road West, previously in the occupation of Richard Spencer, together with the two rents aforementioned. So +t was not until 1906 that Spencer's cottages became part of the engraving works estate. Perhaps John Spencer was not who he seemed to be? John Spencer was born at Ringley in 1823 but we can find no record. He also married Alice, but again we can find no record.

Undeterred, we are now off on yet another tack!

Barbara Palmer

REVIEWS

In future we are hoping to include brief reviews of books and pamphlets on local historical subjects. Many of the publications will not be new but will be included for the benefit of those who are either new to the area, new to local history, or simply have not come across them before. Also by drawing attention to what has already been done we hope that others will be motivated to search out their neglected files and finally complete their own projects!

If you would like to suggest a title for inclusion in future issues, or offer to write a review, please contact the Editor at the Heritage Centre or leave a message on the answering machine (0706 821603).

Below Trevor Park reviews three very different publications which illustrate different aspects of local history.

Origins of the Health Service in Bury and Ramsbottom Part 1 : **Barbara Palmer for Ramsbottom Heritage Society 1989. £1.25**

Barbara Palmer's contribution, subtitled *Faith, Hope and Medicine in the 18th and 19th Centuries* groups together five separate aspects of local medical history.

The earliest records consulted were those contained in the Diary of Dr Robert Kay of Baldingstone written between 1740 and 1750 and the latest those dealing with the foundation of the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital in 1900.

Certain themes stand out. One such is the question of finance for hospital treatment. Money came from the donations and subscriptions of the wealthy who in return were given the right to recommend free treatment to those whom they nominated from amongst the poor. Whether the primary purpose was the healing of the sick or the use of a method of social control in order to keep the poor in line was not always very clear.

There was no such ambiguity about the requirement that those restored to health should attend the monthly meeting of the Board in order to return thanks "for what has been done for them". Such a "manifesting of gratitude, the fitting demonstration of which cannot be withheld without injury to the character" was regarded as essential. Whether the character in danger of injury was that of the patient giving thanks or those of the Board members receiving them could no doubt be a subject for debate!

Another theme of interest relates to what can be called the medical closed shop. Doctors were often less than enthusiastic about charitable medical developments such as the Bury Dispensary. They had no objections as long as treatment was restricted to those who could not afford to pay but any extension to those a little better off was always fiercely resisted by doctors who saw their fees under threat. "The improper bestowal of alms" appeared to the medical men of the time as almost as great a scourge as the cholera or typhus which were so prevalent.

Barbara Palmer, who is herself a pharmacist, has written a clear and concise account of local medical developments covering a period of more than a century and a half. It is illustrated by many interesting quotations and statistics. We now look forward to the publication of part two of her work.

Basic Record Keeping for Family Historians: **Andrew Todd: pub by Allen & Todd, Ramsbottom, Dec 1991. £2.99**

Family history lends itself to a "do it yourself" (DIY) approach much more readily than many other branches of the subject but DIY in any walk of life does not always come

easily as many will know to their cost.
You need to have the right tools and know how to use them and be methodical in carrying out the task in hand. Once the work is completed you need to be able to stand back and assess it in order to ensure that you have not missed out some vital component. Otherwise the entire edifice which you have so painstakingly assembled is liable to collapse around your ears.
Andrew Todd has written an excellent DIY guide for family historians and in particular for the large number whose enthusiasm is not matched by their expertise. Whether the source to be examined be census returns, parish registers, inscriptions on gravestones or probate records certain ways of working will be much more productive. Particular methods of recording information will be much more valuable and the process of assessment can be considerably facilitated by means of a systematic approach. Andrew Todd provides us with signposts and guidelines in all these respects and many more. His use of record sheets will be of particular value to those to whom systems and methods may not come naturally. His inclusion of hints such as the best way of repairing torn documents or filing information for future use will be of assistance to all.
Andrew Todd tells us that there are some signs that family history is acquiring a little more credibility in the eyes of the historical establishment. If that is so it is in no small measure due to the quality of publications such as this.

STORIES IN STONE: Datestones in Ramsbottom: **John B Taylor** 1991. £2.95
John Taylor has produced a carefully researched and illustrated survey of Ramsbottom datestones from 1414 to the present day. The entries contain both skillful reproductions of the stones and valuable supplementary information of general interest.
For example the entry for the Peel Tower not only contains the full text of the 1852 datestone but a brief biography of Sir Robert Peel, notes on the subsequent history of the Tower, details of walks in the vicinity and even information on what can be seen from the top on a clear day!
The 1834 entry concerning St Andrew's Parish Church contains drawings of the Grant coat of arms, an explanation of the insignia, notes on the subsequent history of the church, a reproduction of the Grant family tree and a separate entry on the church clock!
Even the brief entry on Gladstone Terrace dated 1885 tells us that Gladstone was Prime Minister four times and gives the dates of each of his administrations.
The book is arranged in chronological order and this has advantages in enabling us to identify the oldest developments and trace what happened subsequently. Those who wish to use the book as a source for an historical ramble will need to rearrange the entries on the basis of streets and districts if they are to avoid rushing hither and thither from one end of Ramsbottom to the other.
In spite of this *Stories in Stone* really is a mine of fascinating information to be dipped into again and again. It is equally adaptable to a winter's evening by the fireside, or as preparation for a walk on a fine summer's day.
The above, along with many other local history publications, are available in Ramsbottom from the Heritage Centre, Carr Street; Little Holcombe Books, Bridge Street and Allen and Todd, Square Street.

PETER NUTTALL KAY

Mrs B J Tither of 29 Winchester Road, Radcliffe, M26 OLY is seeking information about one of her ancestors PETER NUTTALL KAY, whom she thinks was born around 1850, possibly in Nuttall Lane, Ramsbottom. He founded a plumber's shop in Radcliffe in 1877. She has contacted the local churches, without success, and would be grateful if anyone able to offer any help in her search would please write to her directly at the above address.

DECIMALISATION IN 1916

On a recent visit to the Borough Archives I was using the Minutes of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council to try and verify a piece of information from another source when I caught sight of the following item:

> **12th October** 1916 Moved by Mr Harrison, seconded by Mr Pinkerton and resolved - That in the opinion of this Council it is of supreme National Importance that prompt steps be taken to secure the maximum of trade with Foreign Countries when the War is over. To this end the Council consider it not only desirable, but absolutely essential to adopt the Decimal system of Coinage, Weights and Measures throughout the British Isles and thus enable our Manufacturers and Merchants to compete more easily and successfully with rival nations having that system already in use, and the Council requests the local Chamber of Commerce to take the matter into their serious consideration and do all in their power to help forward this important and necessary reform."

I do not know whether this was part of a national campaign or a purely local initiative, if the latter it seems that what Ramsbottom thinks today the rest of the country thinks over half a century later. I would be interested to hear from anyone who knows anything more about this.

Barbara Park

A RAMSBOTTOM BUTCHER AND THE GREAT WAR: THE BILLS AND RECEIPTS OF E H GREENWOOD, 1913-1: PART 1

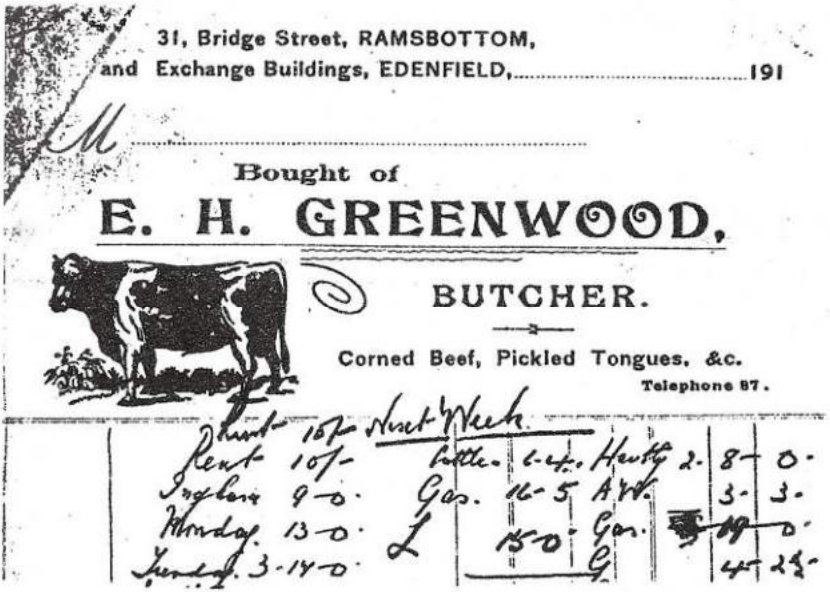
The Ramsbottom Heritage Society was very grateful to receive, in 1990, from Mr Eric WALMSLEY, the well-known Bridge St butcher, the donation of a large box, full of dusty receipts. I volunteered to sort and file them, and in the process have learned a good deal about Ramsbottom at the time of the Great War.

31, Bridge St, Mr WALMSLEY's shop, was once owned by one John GREENWOOD, and it was his father, Edward Hill GREENWOOD, whose receipts, in plastic pockets, now occupy two ring binder files in the Society's archives. Any transaction which involved money generated some bill or receipt, and for the period of roughly 1913 to 1918, it would appear that GREENWOOD threw out *nothing.* It is this jackdaw instinct of his which has created this cornucopia of early 20th Century ephemera.

The material records personal expenditure - tailors bills etc, as well as his dealings as a butcher.

Ramsbottom property owners at this time had to bear three rate demands a year - the General District Rate from the Urban District Council, the Poor Rate from the Bury Union Board of Guardians, and a Burial Rate for the township (for the upkeep of the

cemetery). The extent of GREENWOOD's property is shown on these assessments, all of which can be found in this collection - his residence, *Springbank* (192, Bolton St); shop premises at 31, 33, and 35, Bridge St; 166,168 and 170, Bolton Rd West (houses at the corner of Regent St, Hazelhurst); a slaughter house on Zama St, which is in the same area; and a plot of land (rated at £31 10s) by Edgar St, on the other side of Bolton Rd West. This was clearly used to accommodate stock purchased for slaughter, though in 1913 it supplied over five tons of meadow hay to the UDC.


31, Bridge Street, RAMSBOTTOM,
and Exchange Buildings, EDENFIELD,..... 191

Bought of

E. H. GREENWOOD,

BUTCHER.

Corned Beef, Pickled Tongues, &c.

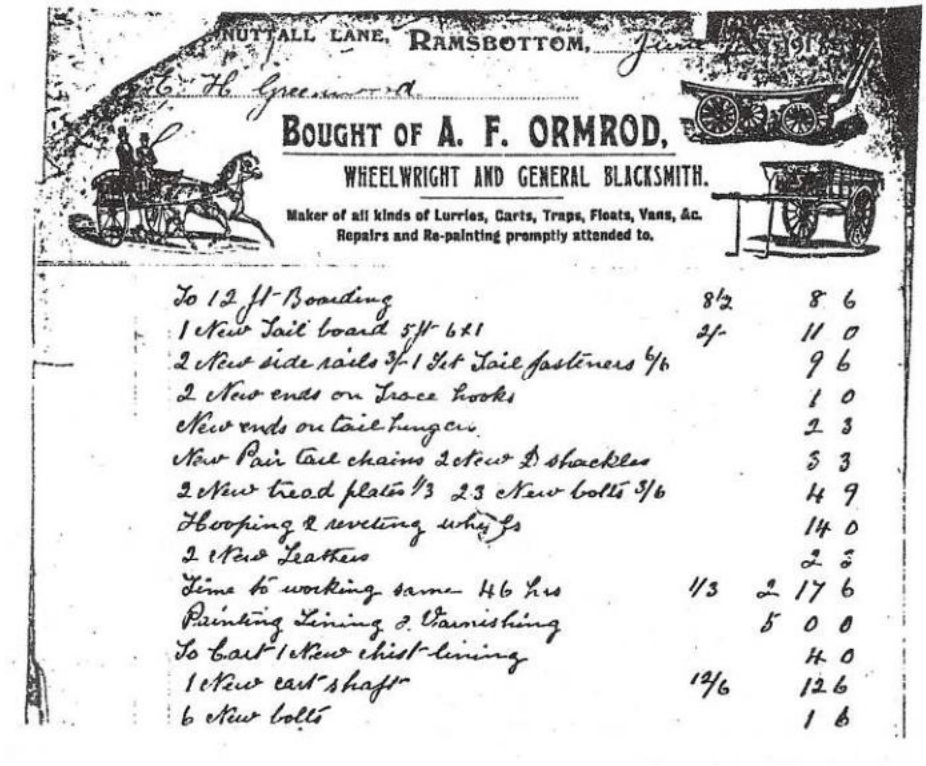
Telephone 87.

Not surprisingly, many cattle dealers figure amongst the bills - those of A W BRIERLEY of Fleet St, Bury and W CHADWICK, 'Live Stock and Dead Meat Salesman of the Cattle Market, Rawtenstall, suggest that meat traders were slippery customers, for they carry injunctions to the effect 'odd coppers to be paid in Full'. GREENWOOD paid for his cattle purchases through various banks, including *The Lancashire & Yorkshire* - Ramsbottom's branch was on Bridge St, whilst head office was at Mosley St, Manchester. Another financial service, debt collection at 20% commission, was provided by SG PARTINGTON, 16, Market St, Bury. The small sums involved, each less than 10s, point to townspeople unable to pay their meat bills.

GREENWOOD seems, in August 1914, to have ranged far afield to buy heavily into lambs - the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway billed him for the carriage to Ramsbottom of 54 from Gisburn, and for 53 one week later, from Clitheroe. (32 of this latter consignment had cost him £47 17s at Clitheroe Auction Mart.) There is no other evidence of buying from central Lancashire, nor of such bulk purchasing, and one can only assume that this foray was occasioned by the prospect of meat shortages - the War had started earlier that month. In 1917, he was buying up to six cows regularly at Rossendale Farmers' Auction Mart, Bent Gate, Haslingden, paying over £20 or £30 for `Roan Fat', `Blue Cow Fat' etc.

Until the 1970s, water was supplied by local authorities - GREENWOOD paid

quarterly rent for supplies to his various premises to The Bury & District Joint Water Board, whose offices were at Parsonage Lane, Bury. Some attempt, beyond the current reliance on rateable value, was made to relate charges to usage - 1s 3d extra was payable for each bath or water closet, an indication, perhaps, of both the relative scarcity of these facilities, and of the appreciable additional consumption that they would incur. For the same reason, the items 'Horse and Cows' increased the bills by several shillings. Animals awaiting slaughter were clearly kept on GREENWOOD's premises - according to a 1917 Haslingden Borough Meat (Sales) Order, signed by him, he undertook to kill two cows bought from Thomas BARLOW of Deardengate within 14 days



NUTTALL LANE, RAMSBOTTOM, June 1918

E. H. Greenwood

BOUGHT OF A. F. ORMROD,

WHEELWRIGHT AND GENERAL BLACKSMITH.

Maker of all kinds of Lurries, Carts, Traps, Floats, Vans, &c.
Repairs and Re-painting promptly attended to.

To 12 ft Boarding	8½		8 6
1 New Tail board 5 ft 6×1	2/-		11 0
2 New side rails 3/- 1 Set Tail fasteners 6/6			9 6
2 New ends on Trace hooks			1 0
New ends on tail hinges			2 3
New Pair tail chains 2 New D shackles			3 3
2 New tread plates 1/3 2 3 New bolts 3/6			4 9
Hooping & reveting whiffs			14 0
2 New Leathers			2 3
Time to working same 46 hrs	1/3	2	17 6
Painting Lining & Varnishing		5	0 0
To Cart 1 New chist lining			4 0
1 New cart shaft	12/6		12 6
6 New bolts			1 6

To feed stock (no doubt awaiting slaughter) he paid anything up to £6 or £7 a month to R HUTCHINSON & Bros, Hay, Straw and Corn Merchants, of Annie St, Rawtenstall, a firm with a Ramsbottom depot. Cattle were fattened on feeding nuts and oil cake cobs delivered from Liverpool to Holcombe Brook station by the halt ton.

Other raw materials for GREENWOOD's products came from various parts of the locality - bread, pastry and white pepper from The Pork Butchers' Supply Co in Manchester; fat, bones, marrows and 'roughs' from PARKER WALKER Ltd on Crostons Rd, Bury; and salt from James KAY & Sons' Britannia Soap and Chemical Works, Kenyon St, Ramsbottom.

The technology of early 20th Century butchering is revealed by bills from The Hobart

Electric Manufacturing Co, from whom GREENWOOD rented a chopper and bought an Electric Mincing Machine 'with feed pan and bone grinder'.

Ramsbottom Technical School, on Stubbins Lane, was supplied with various weights of boiling beef, the time (8-30am) being specified for delivery - no doubt for Miss FENWICK's cookery classes, for the senior girl pupils of Peel Brow School. Summerseat Special School, run by Manchester Education Committee, clearly fed its inmates well, judging from the legs of mutton, steak and beef which GREENWOOD delivered, although the bones and sheep's heads on the orders hint at more modest culinary items. It is a mystery how the school was able to care for the succession of cows which, in return, it sold to GREENWOOD - perhaps animal husbandry was part of the curriculum, the grounds offering pasturing.

The quantities of ice required by GREENWOOD were prodigious - as much as half a ton, at 1 s per cwt, was bought off the Corporation of Bury Ice Stores in July 1917, although this could reflect a hot summer, or settlement of an account. The Blackburn Crystal Ice Co, at Brook St, Bolton, was another regular supplier.

Even a small-town butcher understood the need to advertise - 2s 6d was twice paid to the Edenfield Horticultural Society (a magazine entry?); and an advertisement on BLAKEBOROUGH Ltd's *Empire Cinema* curtain on Railway St cost 5s quarterly.

GREENWOOD was probably one of the few car owners in Ramsbottom, paying small bills for maintenance in 1915 to JS CORDINGLEY's garage at Haslingden, and CARR's Ltd of Knowsley St, Bury. Vehicle Licence Duty was four guineas. In September 1916, GREENWOOD paid five guineas to J E LOYNDS, Automobile Engineer, of Duckworth St, Darwen, for a 'course of tuition in motor engineering & driving'. Evidently, motoring was as yet sufficiently in its infancy for there to be no division of labour in these fields.

'Trunk, Telegram and Junction' monthly bills from the Post Office indicate that GREENWOOD (on Ramsbottom 87) was an infrequent user of the telephone - in some months, he made literally one or two local calls (junction fee 1d each) paying 1d and 2d bills at the post office.

Income Tax in the fiscal year 1914-5 was levied in five bands, ranging from 9d to 1 s 3d in the pound. GREENWOOD's profit from his business was assessed at £197; of this, he was taxed on £77, at the 9d rate - just £3 17s.

Other items amongst the bills include £216 6s 6d turnover of business in 1913 with the Lancashire Butchers' Hide & Skin Co in Manchester; 7s 6d dog licences; and - a reflection of the impact of the Great War on the domestic economy -quarterly bills from The Lancashire Electric Power Co (head offices Deansgate, Manchester) which increased in January 1917 by 10% for lighting and 20% for heating, on account of 'the continued advance in the price of Coal &c'. These electricity bills reveal that GREENWOOD also owned a shop in Market St, Edenfield.

So far, I have barely touched on the dozens of local businesses whose billheads are in the GREENWOOD collection. A minute sample is illustrated here. I hope to place a file of copies in the Heritage Centre - this may prompt recollections amongst the older visitors and I would welcome any of these to be written in the file. These should help to flesh out the description of the remainder of Mr GREENWOOD's collection which, I hope, will appear in the next issue.

Andrew TODD

RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES COMPETITION

The competition, launched last October, has attracted about 10 entries. As well as thanking these contributors, can I invite further recollections ? These need not be of any great length or polish - it is the historical interest of the content which matters. Entries so far have covered Ramsbottom from the earliest years of the century to the 1970s. Many are autobiographical, but it is the incidental detail - shops, businesses, buildings, old trades, transport, habits and customs-which holds the greatest interest. We hope to publish extracts in time for Christmas of this year. Entries may be left at the Heritage Centre, Carr St, or handed in at the monthly meeting.

Andrew TODD

1992

June 17	Mr John *Simpson - A History of Edenfield*- Illustrated
July 15	Mr Derek Rowley - Guided Walk in Ashworth Valley
Aug 19	Mr Trevor Park - *Dr P McDouall - A Ramsbottom Chartist*
Sept 16	Mrs Jan Barnes - *A Fight with Bureaucracy*
Oct 21	Mr T Hurst - *Clogs to Clogs in Three Generations* – Illustrated
Nov 18	Mr Tom Fish - *The Changing Face of Bury*- Illustrated
Dec 9	*Christmas Cheer* + Photo Competition

1993

Jan 20	Mr Barry Worthington - *Up-date on the E.L.R.*
Feb 17	Mr Ken Craven - *A Walk Around Tottington* - Illustrated
Mar 17	Mrs Mavis Homewood - *Filming in Ramsbottom - Its Ups & Downs* - Illustrated

All indoor meetings are held in the Civic Hall, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.45pm. Visitors and new members always welcome. Refreshments available.

LOCAL SCHOOLS - Past History and Present Projects

The Heritage Centre
will be open
SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS and BANK HOLIDAYS
From 12 noon to 4.00pm
TUESDAYS 2.00pm to 4.00pm
School parties welcome by prior arrangement

Please telephone the Secretary, Mrs D Moss on 0706 822620

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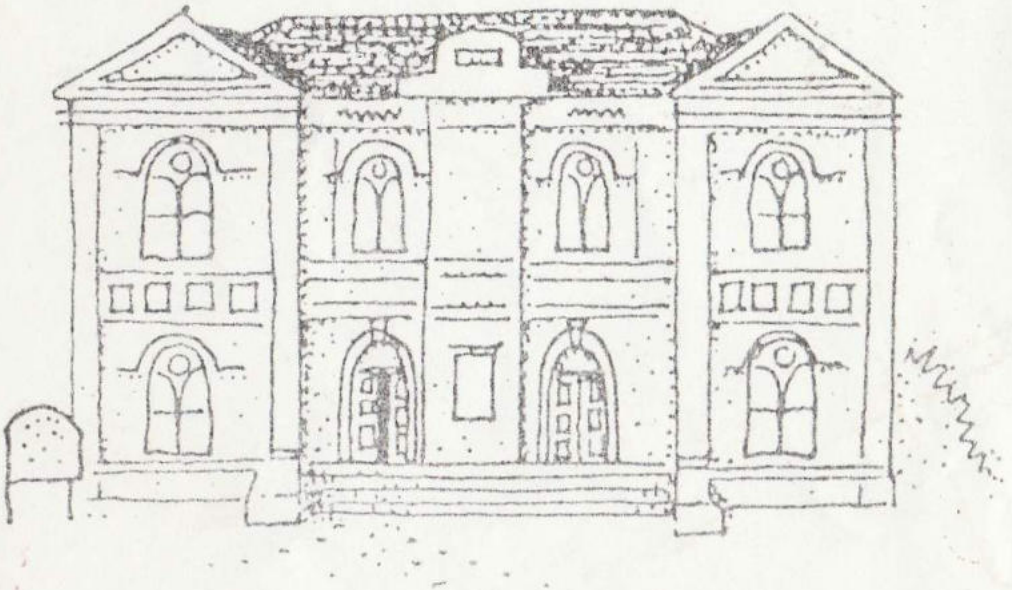

NEWS MAGAZINE

NATWEST
IS DELIGHTED TO TAKE A SUPPORTING ROLE ON THIS OCCASION

For many years now NatWest has supported a wide range of charities, community events, sports and the Arts. We're proud to be involved, and we aim to stay that way.



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THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM 821603

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FRONT COVER-Christ Church, Market Place, Ramsbottom by John B TAYLOR (from *Stories in* Stone)

Welcome to our sixth News Magazine.

Once again our contributors have produced articles on a variety of topics, although a number of them share the common theme of recreation. There are items on Ramsbottom Cricket Club, childhood recollections of visits to the swimming baths, and even one about the Rev Dowsett and his views on dancing. The item on the link between Stubbins and Barcelona has surely been inspired by the 1992 Olympic Games.

The Magazine is beginning to establish itself as a forum for people who are interested in Ramsbottom and aspects of its history. Many comments and suggestions for future articles have been received from readers and these are most welcome. There are even some who, having seen an article in the Magazine, are inspired to write something themselves, and this is even more welcome. In fact more contributions have been received for this issue than ever before, indeed it has been necessary to hold some of them over for the next issue which is very reassuring to an editor who has had to resort to all kinds of 'bribery and corruption' (not to mention nagging and bullying!) in order to fill the pages of some past issues. I look forward to the continuation of this happy state of affairs and take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all who have contributed to the Magazine - past, present and future.

Sales of the Magazine are also going well. Back numbers of all issues are now available, the ones which were sold out having been reprinted. These are on sale at the Heritage Centre, along with other publications of local interest, diaries, tea-towels etc.
Once again, we express our thanks to the National Westminster Bank who have sponsored this issueof the Magazine. The Society much appreciates their continuing support.

Barbara Park, Editor

SOCIETY NEWS

CHARITABLE STATUS: The most important piece of Society news is that we have now been awarded charitable status. This is in recognition of the Society's aims of recording the history of Ramsbottom and preserving it for the benefit of future generations.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Our regular meetings in the Civic Hall continue to be well supported and the programme as varied and interesting as ever. Recent subjects have included the History of Edenfield, a guided walk through the Ashworth Valley, Dr McDouall the Ramsbottom Chartist, a Fight with Bureaucracy, and Clogs to Clogs in three Generations. The Programme for the next few months is listed on page 16. Visitors and new members are welcome at all our meetings.

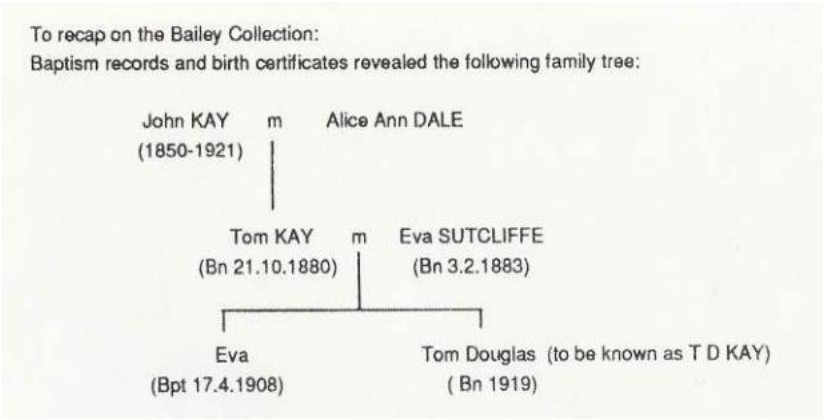
ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION: The last date for handing in entries is the monthly meeting on 18 November. Prizes will be presented at the Christmas meeting on the 9 December, when the photographs will be displayed. They will then be on view in the Heritage Centre.

THE HERITAGE CENTRE: The 'LOCAL SCHOOLS - Past History and Present Projects' exhibition continues to attract appreciative visitors, among them many who appear in some of the photographs on display. Indeed quite a number have made return visits accompanied by incredulous children and grandchildren! In fact one of the surprising things about this particular exhibition has been the genuine interest shown by many young visitors in the way schools were many years ago. The Society is greatly indebted to the Bury Art Gallery & Museum Service, local schools and members and friends of the Society who have so kindly loaned many of the items on view. if you have not yet visited the exhibition there is still time to do so before the end of the year. Even if you have already been a second visit might be a good idea as it could be combined with some Christmas shopping ! The sales counter has many items suitable for gifts or souvenirs with a Ramsbottom connotation, including diaries, pens, books etc. As in previous years, the Centre will be decorated in festive style over the Christmas period. Do please come along - as well as solving some of your 'present' problems you will be helping to ensure the Centre's future ! On 20th December the centre will close until Easter 1993 when it will reopen with a new display.

Dorothy Moss

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW? New light on an old photograph.

In our first News Magazine of June 19901 described, as Archivist, items connected with a Kay family of Ramsbottom. They were given to the Society by Mrs Margaret Bailey, of Yew Tree Grove, Balladen, Rawtenstall and were the possessions of her late husband. For clarity, they will be known in this article as The Bailey Collection. In 1990 I wrote of this collection 'It is unusual to get such a rounded-off family history'. This could possibly go on record as the most thoughtless remark from an archivist. Archivists should always be aware of the possibility of records never being closed; as was proved to me this year when the Society was given much more information 'out of the blue' about this Kay family. My ignorance will be revealed in the following story, which I hope will be of interest and enjoyment.



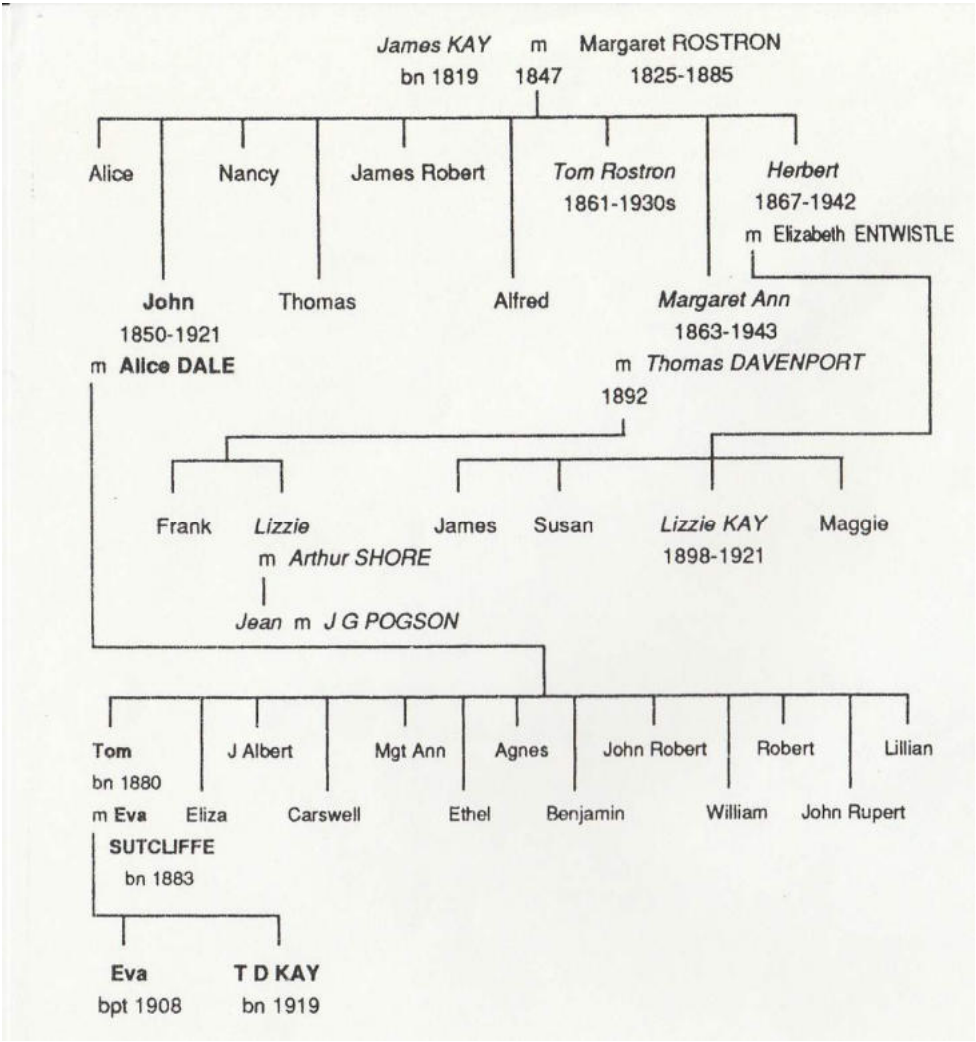
John Kay is described as a warehouseman. He and Alice lived at 2, Rose Hill (confirmed in Barrett's 1883 Trade Directory). Mrs Bailey remembered that Eva Kay, born 1908, died in her youth and T D Kay never married and died in Yorkshire, c late 1970s. Bailey Collection newscuttings revealed that T D Kay, when Fusilier Kay, was reported POW in North Africa to his mother Eva of 1 Stanley Street in 1942. He was a noted Ramsbottom cricketer. There is also a 1939 cutting with a picture of the Ramsbottom cricket team after winning the Worsley Cup for the first time. TD Kay is on the back row. He is remembered in local cricket folklore for always putting his cap on first before the rest of his cricketer's kit. He worked at Rosebank Printworks where he met and made the friend to whom he gave his family records.

The Bailey Collection also contains two photographs:

1. Of a shop with sign T Kay Electrician. Lighting. Power. Bells. Repairs', situated at 22 Bolton Street c 1920's; more about the shop window contents later. This T Kay was Tom, born 1800.

2 A 7" x 11 " wedding photograph. From Margaret Bailey: The wedding photograph is again the Kay family and the location I suspect is behind the present British Legion, under (?) the row of houses behind the Ramsbottom Library.' That is all I knew or could ever know about this photo in 1990 and it was so recorded.

On a sunny Saturday in April 1992 Mr and Mrs Pogson visited the Centre. Jean Pogson (nee Shore) was born in Ramsbottom and is researching her Ramsbottom family's history She herself left Ramsbottom in 1952 but has always kept in touch. She came to give the Society memorial silks of three of her ancestors, one of whom was Lizzie Kay, who died 14th September 1921 aged 22 years and was interred in the Ramsbottom Cemetery. This name reminded me of the Kays in the Bailey Collection which I showed to Jean with dramatic results. Her father was Arthur Shore who with Frank Keown took over Tom Kay's electrician's shop in the 1930's, renaming it Electrical and Mechanical Services Co. Her father married Lizzie Davenport, daughter of Margaret-Ann Kay, who was sister of John Kay, Tom's father, so Jean's mother was cousin to Tom Kay. Lizzie Kay of the memorial silk, daughter of Herbert Kay, John and Margaret-Ann's brother, was another cousin of Tom's. It is advisable now, before your eyes start to cross, to review the following extract from the family tree given by Jean Pogson:



Names set in bold » the BAILEY collection
Names set in *italics* are referred to in the text

Jean identified the Kay wedding photograph as being that of Tom Kay and Eva Sutcliffe which took place at Dundee Independent Sabbath School on 30 March 1907. (Their daughter Eva was baptised at Dundee Independent Church in 1908). Tom was in the Royal Navy and the groom's jacket could be a uniform. She sent us a photograph of John and Alice Kay with nine of their thirteen children. So Tom Kay had twelve brothers and sisters and was not the 'only one' he appeared to be from the Bailey Collection. Also Jean identified at least six of Tom's brothers and sisters in the wedding photograph.

The Pogson Collection is a fascinating family history which I cannot detail here. Jean is particularly interested in the origin of Kay's Soap Works. She was told that James Kay, born 1819, and three of his children Tom Rostron Kay, Margaret Ann Kay and Herbert Kay were the ones who 'got it on its feet' but despite her research cannot be sure and would be very interested if anything came to light to help with this. Finally, back to the photograph of T Kay's electrician's shop window. By using a very strong magnifying glass, Hoover, Mazda Electric Lamps, Radiola Wireless Sets, White lamps 'for light without glare', Flash lights can be seen. But the most mind boggling is an advert, facing inside the shop for 'Daniel Thwaites & Co. Celebrated Blackburn Beers'! How could beers be sold in an electrician's shop? It couldn't happen. Could T Kay have been advertising his ability to make illuminated advertising signs? Thwaites at Blackburn, September 1992, think this a strong possibility. So I hope readers understand that conversation, chat and the spoken word are valued as sources of information about Ramsbottom as well as the printed word, photographs and artefacts. They can be recorded and one day could or will be backed by secondary sources. As stated above no file can ever be regarded as the whole story. Any further additions or corrections to this article will be welcomed by me at the Heritage Centre.

Brenda M Decent

ARCHIVE UPDATE

All archive holdings of the Society have now been entered on computer databases and refiled. In the Centre are printouts of these databases. Please look at these for your own interest and to answer questions from visitors. Many thanks to all the members who have contributed to this achievement.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Heritage Society regrets that queries from people wishing to trace their family history cannot be researched by the Society. We accept gladly family trees donated to us and will share these when possible. A helpful contact is Christopher Platt, Secretary, Lancashire Family History Society, 151, Spendmore Lane, Coppull, Lancashire PR7 5BY. This Society cannot undertake research either but will show those interested how to go about their research, list publications which would help, and put them into contact with fellow researchers.

BARCELONA AND STUBBINS

In April 1861 the census recorded that at *Stubbins House*, Tottington Higher End, there was living David Greenhalgh, aged 52, his wife Mary aged 47, their sons Joseph, David W, John, Charles, Robert, aged 25, 19, 16, 12 and 9 respectively and their daughter Mary aged 6, together with Sarah Fairbrother aged 35, a house servant and Elizabeth Smith aged 31 a servant.

David Greenhalgh, the head of this family, was described as a calico printer, born in Manchester, employing 274 men and boys, his wife Mary was said also to have been born in Manchester.

The four oldest children (boys) are listed as having been born in Spain, the youngest son Robert and the only daughter, Mary, being born in Bury. The two servants are described as being born in St Helens. So much for the information to be gained from the census record. We can now record information gathered from other sources to justify the Barcelona part of the heading of this note. In the *Manchester Courier* of 16 April 1836 can be read "On the 12th Mr David

Greenhalgh of Barcelona, Spain, to Miss Mary Ogden, only daughter of Mr Joseph Ogden of this town". A similar notice was printed in the *Manchester Mercury* where David was described as a calico printer of Barcelona, living in Prestwich, the marriage being celebrated at Prestwich Parish Church. The only other pieces of information that come to the surface regarding David Greenhalgh's marriage are from the Prestwich marriage register where it is recorded that the marriage was by licence, the bridegroom is described as a superintendent, the witnesses were James Cunliffe and (maybe) Jno Greenhalgh; and from the marriage allegation dated 12 April 1836, that David, a gentleman, was a bachelor, twenty one years and upwards and had been living in the parish of Prestwich for the space of fifteen days then immediately preceding. It should be noted now that this series of investigations was set in hand in an attempt to establish the date of birth and parentage of David Greenhalgh, two of whose sons were, as recounted later, to marry two of the sisters of my mother's mother, Judging by the age given in the 1861 Census return with which this account started, David Greenhalgh was born 1808/9 but very strenuous efforts, too lengthy to record here, have not sufficed to reveal either the date of birth or the parentage of this man. It is known without question that David Greenhalgh was a calico printer working in Barcelona before his marriage in Prestwich in 1836 and between the dates of 1837 to 1848 when his first four sons were born. It can be calculated that by 1850/1, when his fifth child, Robert was born, that David was back in England - in Stubbins probably - and certainly by 1854 was a printer in partnership with William Rumney in Stubbins. Some years ago i was told by a great granddaughter of David Greenhalgh, who had been told by her father, whom unfortunately I never met, that the calico printing firm of Greenhalgh and Rumney in Stubbins was not a happy concern and that the culminating situation of Rumney buying inferior goods to their own elsewhere and shipping them abroad as their own led to the partnership being dissolved. Be that as it may, in an 1861 Directory Greenhalgh was listed as a calico printer with works at Blackford Bridge. As will be seen shortly, David was living in Blackford New Road in February 1871. To add to this Blackford Bridge mention, in 1848 there is a Directory entry of "Peter Cowsil, calico printers, Blackford Bridge" and to the Stubbins story "1870, William Rumney with a warehouse at 58, George Street, Manchester". This account started with information from the 1861 census recordedin the Tottington Higher End District for the Greenhalgh family at *Stubbins House* and one slightunmentioned fact from that account was that David's eldest son, Joseph, was described as "Manager of a Print Works", presumably for his father's partnership with William Rumney.

To conclude the life of David Greenhalgh it needs only to record that he died on 15 February 1871. According to Letters of Administration with the Will attached it is of some surprise that he is therein described as a Bleacher. Also on his Death Certificate his occupation is given as "Bleaching (Master)" and his address as Blackford New Road, Pilkington and yet this is the same David Greenhalgh we have been dealing with all along. When his wife Mary died on 11 July 1877 her death certificate described her as "Widow of David Greenhalgh, a calico printer". At the time of her death she was living in Yarborough Street, Pendleton.

It is sufficient now to record that David Greenhalgh and his wife Mary were buried in separate graves in Unsworth Methodist Churchyard; none of their children were buried there as far as I know.

So ends the Stubbins-Barcelona story as far as it is known to me though there are many gaps I would like to fill. There is another, undoubtedly connected, Greenhalgh/Barcelona story for

although Greenhalgh is a common enough name, and there were many calico printers, the 1992 interest in Barcelona gives me the impetus to write further. In the British Consular register of births and deaths in Barcelona, opened in 1853, is the record of the birth on 1 January 1854 of Junius Hilton Greenhalgh to John Greenhalgh and Elizabeth nee Hilton at Sans, Barcelona. This I am told is the only entry in the register of anyone of the name Greenhalgh. In St Catherine's House in London can be found the marriage certificate relating to a John Greenhalgh and an Elizabeth Hilton, married on 7 April 1853 at St James' Church, Oldham. The bridegroom was 26, a cotton manufacturer and the bride aged 24; both were residing in Lees Road, Glodwick. No mention of calico printing nor of Barcelona but one of the witnesses was called Domingo Ramis, undoubtedly I think a Spaniard. Had John Greenhalgh come back from Spain to marry Elizabeth bringing with him a Spanish friend or colleague to act as one of his witnesses? The other significant witness being John's father William, a Manager. And so we leave the Greenhalgh-Barcelona story hanging in the air, To continue the Greenhalgh story very briefly, for it is after all why I know what I have written above, is to record that, two of David Greenhalgh's sons (both born in Barcelona) married two of my mother's mother's sisters. My maternal grandmother, Alice Walker nee Whowell was the twelfth child (sixth girl) of Charles Whowell and his wife, Sarah nee Butterworth. Alice was born 4 July 1858 at Higher Brooks Bottom, Two Brooks, Hawkshaw when her father Charles Whowell was running Two Brooks Bleach works.

Her eldest sister, Esther Martha, born 10 August 1840 in Bradshaw, married on 2 April 1869, Joseph Greenhalgh, a woollen printer, of Hunslet, Leeds, son of a printer, David Greenhalgh. This man was the eldest child, born in Barcelona, of the David Greenhalgh we first described as living in Stubbins House at the time of the 1861 census.
Charles Whowell's third child Elizabeth, born 13 August 1843, in Bradshaw had on 2 June 1868 married David William Greenhalgh the year before her sister had married his brother. He had been living in Stubbins House in 1861, as seen above. On the marriage certificate David William Greenhalgh is described as a calico printer of Bury, his father David having the profession of Bleacher. Both the above marriages were at the Parish Church of Holcombe. Much more could be written about these personalities but I have fulfilled my intention to link Stubbins with Barcelona 1992. Many thanks must be extended to Marjorie Pollard of Altrincham and Mary Clayton of Sidmouth without whose help the bones of this story to which I have added flesh could not have been disinterred as well as to Rita Hirst, Reference Librarian, Bury, who always does so much to help.

J W Barber-Lomax

RAMSBOTTOM CRICKET CLUB - ONE HUNDRED NOT OUT

- an historic year at Acre Bottom

Ramsbottom were founder members of the Lancashire League in 1092, which evolved from the North East Lancashire Cricket League formed in 1890. The League comprised 13 dubs, later 14 with the inclusion of Rishton. Ramsbottom Cricket Club has had its ups and downs during the last 100 years, mostly downs if you took at the League championship table. Until this season Ramsbottom have been League champions only three times since their foundation, in 1921, 1925 and 1974 and runners up seven times in 1911, 1915, 1920, 1935, 1960, 1973 and 1978.

Looking at the list of professionals at Ramsbottom since the Second World War it features many names of international repute including Australians Peter Philpot, Ian Chappell, Keith Stackpole, and Ray Bright who was the professional in 1974 when Ramsbottom last won the League Championship. South Africans Eddy Fuller, Clive Rice, Neil Radford and Brian McMillan who holds the batting record for Ramsbottom. There have been only two West Indian professionals, Seymour Nurse in 1961,1962 and 1964 and Keith Arthurton the present professional and one of our best, whose batting and bowling played such a major part in enabling Ramsbottom to win its fourth League Championship in 1992, its Centenary year. Fred Entwistle

GRANT / KAY BOUNDARY STONES AT SUMMERSEAT

Just to the north of The Spinnings' at Summerseat, a wiggly 200 yards of numbered stones mark a disputed ownership line on the lip of the precipice.

Fifteen boundary stones were put down in 1858 (see old map) between William Grant's land to the north and John Robinson Kay's land to the south. Nine of the fifteen stones have been identified among the trees. Some may not have been noticed. Some may have been moved or trundled and buried.
Why so many stones in a short distance ?
Was Kay stealing or quarrying Grant land for extensions to Brooksbottom Mill ?
Was the mason innumerate ?
What is the story behind the stones ?

Do you know anything ? If so please contact John B Taylor (the *Stories in Stone* man) via the Heritage Centre or telephone 0706 874119.

CHILDHOOD IN SUMMERSEAT: AQUATIC MEMORIES

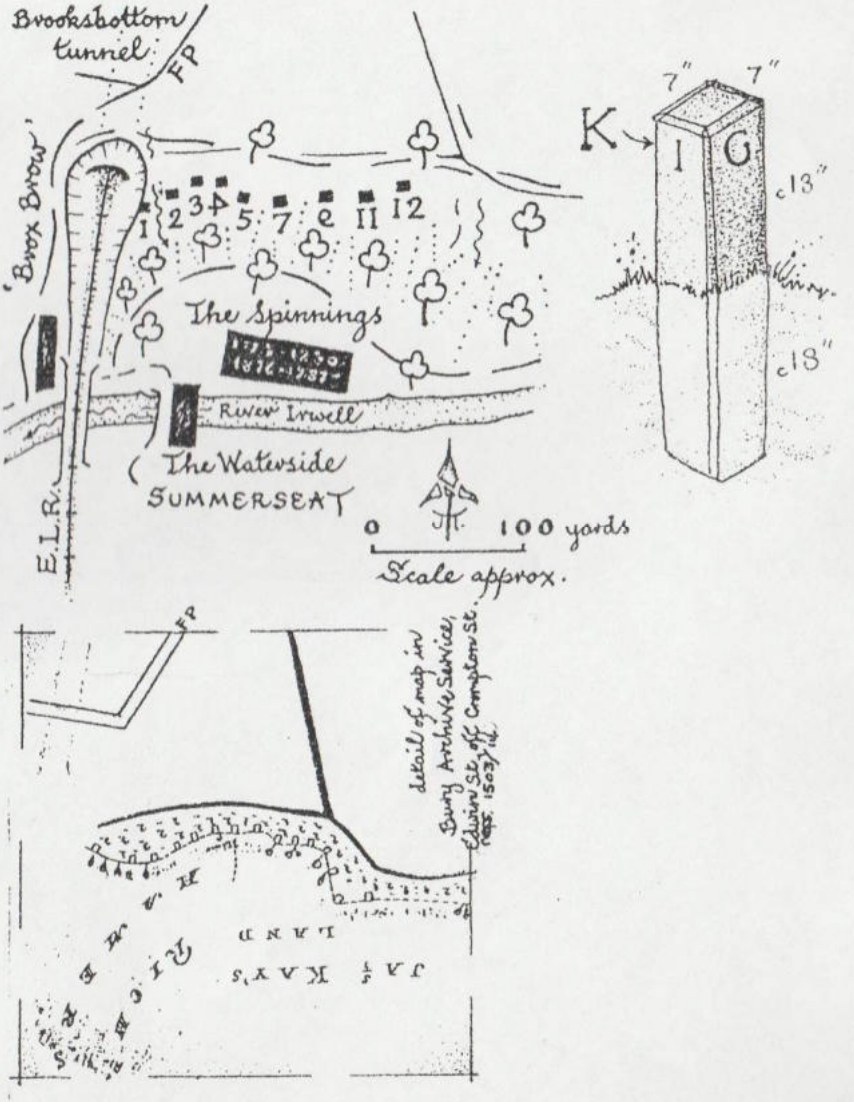
Coming from a long-lived family and therefore needing to keep all my creaking bits and pieces in good order, I go swimming as often as I can. This morning I was given a towel with red stripes along each end - and immediately I could hear my mother say, 'Don't you dare use it - stand on it and use our towel to dry yourself. This was always a mystery to me as the Baths' towels had thick rather stiff pile and were warm, smelling slightly of singeing. I liked them but in the swimming bath, and possibly everywhere else, my mother had to be obeyed. Mum was a keen swimmer. Our family snaps featured many large expanses of water with a black dot in the distance - my mother swimming in Olive's lodge or other mill lodges at Nangreaves or Birtle And, of course, my brother Walter and I were introduced to these aquatic delights very early on.

Mum used to meet us at Summerseat station on her way home from the mill once a week. Part of the excitement was the train journey and reading the advertisements on large enamelled sheets attached to the station railings. Why do I remember so clearly:-

Take Iron Jelloids now and then
The tonic for women, the tonic for men?

Then on to Bury and into the big mixed bath in Bank Street. You could hear the shouting and screaming as you walked along between the slipper bath cubicles to the big doors with the polished brass handles. The individual changing cubicles had slatted duck-boards on the floor to allow the water to drain away and short curtains to draw across the top of the half door for privacy. Change quickly and out into the noise and dampness and down onto the wide sandstone steps and into the shallow end. Now came the great decision-sit on the steps, slowly moving down into the water, or hold the rail and bob up and down vigorously. My mother didn't encourage

Grant/Kay Boundary Stone at Summerseat



lingering but I was a disappointment in this as in everything to do with swimming. She didn't take kindly when, after all her weekly abortive efforts in the self-same venue, I swam a breadth in the first swimming lesson I had at Bury Grammar School 11 still think of her as I swim now, sitting up in Heaven on a cloud still trying to fathom why she had so little success. Waller made up for it, taking to swimming like a fish. When I began to turn blue, we got dried and dressed (why was it so difficult to get dry enough to be able to put on my black woolly school stockings and liberty bodice without them sticking?). Then down the flights of steps into the deep cutting and onto the station platform. A bar of Fry's chocolate from the slot machine made up for everything. I liked better swimming in the smaller and shallower women's bath and, once only, was initiated into the delights of a session in the Turkish bath, ft was a bit off putting to see so many ladies clad only in towels. After a time in the heat, a pummelling massage was finished off with a breath stopping bucketful of cold water. Then a quiet rest in a deckchair with a cup of tea and a plain biscuit. Definitely different, even foreign! As we did not live in a house with a bathroom until I was twenty, I used to use the slipper baths on my way home from school. The attendant turned a small wheel outside the cubicle, a measured amount of steaming hot water poured into the bath and I had to add enough cold water to make it right for me. And, yes, I did use the lovely warm scratchy bath towel! Towards the end of my education at the Grammar School we had collected enough money to have a swimming bath in the school grounds. As World War II was in progress, Sixth Formers were deputed to take care of the children in the Kindergarten and Preparatory Department, seeing them safely onto the bus or train to go home and looking after them during air raid warnings. I did think rt was a bit odd that, accompanied by wailing sirens, the assorted small angels, shepherds and kings that I escorted from the hall just before Christmas were safely tucked away under the newly built swimming pool.

Jean Price

THE REVEREND HENRY DOWSETT AND THE TERPSICHOREAN ART

Today, the Rev Henry Dowsett, vicar of Holcombe from 1875 to 1905, is chiefly remembered for his two books, *Notes on Holcombe* and *Holcombe Long Ago* published at the turn of the century. These collections of short historical articles are liberally laced with poetic quotations and flights of fancy and perhaps tell us as much about the author's character as they do about the history of Holcombe. A few years before his books were published, Dowsett was involved in an amusing incident which throws even more light on the character of this Victorian clergyman. In the 1890s, there was a hut on Holcombe Hill known as 'Uncle Tom's Cabin', which, in the words of the *Ramsbottom Observer* was 'principally used by lovers of the terpsichorean art.' On Whit Friday 1892, a dancing class was being taught there, while at the same time the field day following Holcombe Church Sunday School's Whitsuntide procession took place in an adjoining field. Refreshments were provided and games were played, but dancing was strictly forbidden, 'this form of recreation by no means finding favour in the eyes of the Vicar.' Many of the older scholars felt that this was unfair and when evening came they made their way to Uncle Tom's Cabin 'All thoughts of the Sunday School and the Rev H Dowsett's declarations against the evils of dancing were forgotten for the nonce, and the truants were just beginning to enjoy themselves when they were awe-stricken by the appearance on the scene of the Vicar himself.' Mr Dowsett burst into the Cabin, told the musician to stop, denounced the dancers for their sinful folly and ordered his scholars to leave immediately, 'all the time wildly flourishing his umbrella.' Some of the scholars

prepared to leave, but others stood their ground and even had the temerity to ask whether the Vicar had paid to enter the hut. Naturally Mr Dowsett hadn't and was asked by Mr Booth, the proprietor, either to leave or to pay up. Mr Dowsett refused on both accounts, so Mr Sooth threatened to carry him out. The 'Observer[1] reported that 'The parson dared him to lay hands on him, but Mr Booth apparently does not stand in awe of the Church, as finding persuasion was useless, he caught hold of the intruder and bodily carried him outside. 'Threats of a summons for assault were made, but in fact Dowsett appears to have taken no action, perhaps realising that he was as much in the wrong as those who had 'enjoyed themselves to the giddy strains of a concertina.'

John Simpson

REVIEWS

Jean Price, ***MANUFACTORY, METHODISM AND THE MAKING OF A VILLAGE, SUMMERSEAT 1700-1988*** (publ Neil Richardson 1989) £2.00

Jean Price tells us that Summerseat, originally known as Somerset existed as a place name as early as 1610 but the development of the village did not really begin until the arrival of the Peel family towards the end of the 18th century. By 1795 Peel had three mills operating in the village and by 1803 there were five. The transformation of the scattered and sleepy hamlets into the 19th century industrial mill village was already under way. Jean Price carefully charts the steps along this path. The growth of the factory population by means of the importation of pauper children from London and Birmingham to provide the much-needed labour force in the new mills and the roles of the Hamers, the Kays and later the Hoyle family as successors to the Peels as industrial entrepreneurs ar9 meticulously described. The author lays considerable emphasis on the connections between these families and the growth of Methodism in the village. Thanks to the Hamers and the Kays in particular Wesleyan Methodism became the predominant creed of the area and as Jean Price writes "the only village organisations not directly Methodist inspired were the Mechanics Institute and the Co-operative Societies and the officials of these were very often Methodists". As late as the end of the 19th century neither the Anglicans nor the Roman Catholics had established a base in Summerseat. The present century has produced a new transformation no less fundamental than that described here. Hoyle's Brooksbottom Mill which as late as 1947 was employing nearly 700 workers had by 1978 become derelict only to rise again in the form of a luxury flat development in more recent years. The link with Methodism was broken after the first world war when family ownership gave way to the modem limited company. As for leisure activities, even the Summerseat Players have now moved to Ramsbottom,

If Jean Price should be thinking of writing a sequel it would be a very different story.

John Simpson, ***EDEN FIELD : LIFE IN A LANCASHIRE VILLAGE 1500 -1770***

(PUBL Edenfield Local History Society, 1990) £2.95

John Simpson, whose talk to the Society last June aroused much interest is the author of this carefully researched and lavishly illustrated account of the development of Edenfield in the period before the industrial revolution.

Beginning with early references to “Aytounfeld" in 14th century records, through the building of the first Edenfield Chapel over two hundred years later, on to the opening of the first pub, the Pack Horse, in the early 1600s and concluding with the construction of Edenfield’s first water powered mill around 1767, here indeed is a fascinating story. John Simpson has adopted a thematic approach to his subject which enables his readers easily to find their way around. The history of local landowning families in one chapter is balanced by the account of how the working people earn their living in another. Details of poverty and poor relief in the village can be contrasted with the amusing chapter on the villagers’ leisure activities three or four hundred years ago. One of the most interesting chapters is that which deals with the history of the church for here we find the local versions of the great theological disputes of past years. Thus John Warbuton, Curate at both Holcombe and Edenfield in the latter part of the 17th century, who served each chapel by turns, complains bitterly that when he is preaching at one chapel, those who disagreed with his views "have several times broken into the other chapel and put up some non-conformist or other to preach". One of his predecessors Robert Hill was accused by his enemies in 1647 of being so drunk "that he fell down in ye street and could not rise up without the help of others". John Simpson is to be congratulated not only for his narrative but also for the excellent index and impressive bibliography which accompanies it. Now that he has led the way on behalf of Edenfield, perhaps we could have a volunteer to take up the challenge in the name of Ramsbottom? Trevor Park

HOLCOMBE SCHOOL LOG BOOK

One of the many interesting items on view in the "Local Schools - Past History and Present Projects" exhibition at the Heritage Centre is a Log Book from Holcombe School. Covering the period from 1865, when the school first opened, until 1905, it gives a fascinating insight into the day to day running of the school and the lives of the pupils and teachers of those days. The Log Book provides information about the numbers of pupils, teachers, pupil teachers and paid monitors, the financing of the school, reports of the inspectors, and details of the subjects taught, ft also tells us quite a lot about life in and around Holcombe village in those days. The first entry in the Log, dated 9 January 1865 reads simply “School opened, Present AM 26 PM 26”, and is written in beautiful copperplate by Mr. Henry Hunt, the first Master of the school. As may be expected attendance figures seem to have been much affected by the weather and sickness. In the winter heavy snowfalls, frost and fog resulted in very low attendances as many of the children were unable to make the journey from outlying farms, or up the Rake, and often the children were sent home early so that they might get home in the light. Heavy rain and violent storms are also described and, on some occasions, resulted in the children being kept back until the weather eased. In 1891 the entry for 24 November records that "snow fell for the first time this winter”. On the 25 November "Another heavy fall of snow today. The gas has had to be lighted all day. On account of the snow storm, the school closed at 3.35 to allow the long-distance children to reach home before dark”. December 7 "Very wet day”, on December 15 "Closed early today on account of the darkness and fog”, whilst the 17 December was a "fine frosty morning”. When the school re-opened after the Christmas holidays on the 11 January 1892 the entry reads “Many scholars away thro’ sickness. Heavy fall of snow”. On the 2 of February there was "another heavy fall of snow, preventing many from attending school” and on the 10 and 11 March "no school on account of

the great fall of snow". The entry for 12 April "very cold today, after a spell of fine weather" indicates some relief from the adverse weather conditions, even if only temporary. In the summer months descriptions of "extra play and “lessons outside in the playground” when the heat of the classroom became unbearable sound idyllic and are interspersed with reports of tow attendances because the children and their families were busy with hay making or the harvest. On 23 June "School broke up for the summer holidays". On 11 July however the entry reads “Re-opened school with a small attendance owing to farmers being busy with the hay,” also "The school has been thoroughly cleaned, whitewashed and painted and the closets repaired". At times sickness had dramatic effects on the attendance numbers and on occasions the school was actually closed for a period during outbreaks of illnesses such as measles - surely a sensible precaution when the only preventative measure mentioned in the Log was “sprinkling the floor with disinfectant". Outbreaks of croup and colds are also mentioned, as are diphtheria and mumps. There is a sad description of the death of a five year-old pupil from brain fever, and in February 1883 a six year-old girl is recorded as having been "accidentally burned by fire during school play time". On the 6 March 1892 "Scarlet fever made its appearance among the scholars." Nor do the staff escape, they seem to have quite frequent periods of absence on sick leave which is not surprising when they were cooped up in the same room and often made the same journeys to and from the school, in the same weather conditions, as the children they taught. Details of teaching methods and subjects taught are also recorded. As befits a Church school religious knowledge was an important subject, frequently taught by the Rector. Examinations in this subject were held regularly and details of the results were posted up both inside and outside the school. Arithmetic, reading, writing and grammar, geography and history lessons are described. Slates were used by the pupils, although there are also references to "work on paper". There is much emphasis on learning by rote and pupils were frequently tested by the Master. Object lessons are also referred to with fists of the various objects to be studied by each class. Music was an important part of the curriculum, perhaps a reflection of the interests of the Master? Whatever the reason an enormous number of songs were taught, ail carefully listed in the Log. Special songs were learned for occasions such as Church Bazaars and other social functions at which the children were expected to perform. Visitors to the school were also entertained by songs from the children. On one occasion the inspector commented "singing unusually harmonious and pleasing". One teacher even taught the children to sing times tables! Inspectors visited the school twice yearly and summaries of their reports are recorded together with any actions being taken as a result. Those entries often began "Holiday given by Inspector" which the children probably thought to be only fair after all their extra work preparing for the visit! Typical of the favourable reports is the one for June 1868 "Summary of Inspector's Report. This school continues in a highly satisfactory state and reflects great credit upon the Master who has worked in it alone. Discipline is excellent and the behaviour of the children is pleasing. Elementary knowledge is sound and good. The paper work is particularly neat and correct and a good proportion presented above the third standard. The examination in Religious Knowledge and Geography is creditable".

Almost the last entry in the book, dated 25 May 1905 reads "The Rector (H Dowsett) visited the school to bid farewell to the teachers". On the next page is the final entry "31 May 1905 This closes the present Log Book".

Lack of space prevents a lengthier took at this fascinating book. Much more could have been included - about the financing of the school, the training of the staff, the school building. I hope however that this brief glimpse of school life long ago will remind us all of the importance of preserving documents such as the Holcombe School Log Book. The information to be gleaned from them often goes far beyond their original, often mundane, purposes. We are indebted to Holcombe School for their care in preserving it and their generosity in lending it to the Society for the "Local Schools - Past History and Present Projects" display.

Barbara Park

RAMSBOTTOM OBSERVER MICROFILMING PROJECT

Our town's only newspaper ran for 75 years, from 1890 until its digestion into the *Rossendale Free Press* in 1965. Back copies are not readily available to researchers, and because of this, the committee has launched a long-term project of getting the complete run on microfilm. The first six years have been copied onto microfilm masters, through the good offices of Mr Kevin Mulley, Bury's archivist, and the Greater Manchester Record Office. The latter have charged us for the microfilming at cost (£20 per year). Microfilm copies can now be printed off from this master set as our funds allow, and as each year is done, we will place it in Bury Central Library for the use of our members and of the general public.

We have set up a microfilming fund to help finance the project, and donations will be most welcome. Already, the Bury branch of the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society has given £20, for which we are most grateful. We must also extend thanks to the *Rossendale Free Press* for allowing us to have their copies microfilmed.

Andrew Todd

RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES COMPETITION

This competition closed earlier this year, having attracted around a dozen entries. The committee found it difficult to select three clear winners, the calibre of the field being so high.

Using the criterion 'How well does the entry add to our awareness of Ramsbottom (including our outlying districts) as it was in the past?' we offer these three as the prizewinners:

1st prize (£20) Mr James SPENCER, R*amsbottom Life in the 1910s*
2nd prize (£10) Mr Norman KAY, *In at the Deep End*
3rd prize (a year's RHS subscription) Mr Norman NUTTALL, *Holidays in Shuttleworth*

Members will have the opportunity to savour the fine quality of the complete entry soon - we intend to publish all the submissions in one booklet, to be entitled *Ramsbottom Reminiscences.* if they inspire you, why not let us have **your** reminiscences? They can go in this magazine ... or even in a follow-up volume.

Andrew Todd

A RAMSBOTTOM BUTCHER AND THE GREAT WAR: THE BILLS AND RECEIPTS OF EH GREENWOOD, 1913 -18: PART 2

Following my piece on the paperwork of the Bridge Street butcher Edward Hill GREENWOOD in the Summer News Magazine, I placed a file of photocopies of the bills in the Heritage Centre. I hoped to prompt a stream of reminiscences about Ramsbottom businesses but to date this has yet to spring. I have, however, been lucky enough to be contacted by Mr Jack PRESTON of Holcombe Brook, grandson of Mr GREENWOOD. His own memories of Ramsbottom date from the 1930s, but he has pieced together recollections of two senior cousins (also grandchildren) and of his parents' (now deceased) to flesh out my Summer article in a most interesting manner.

[Andrew Todd]

None of us, the remaining family of Mr GREENWOOD, is old enough to remember the early years of the Great War of 1914-18. However we do have some vivid childhood recollections together with information which has been passed down the family, from which we are able to add a few points of interest to those already made by Andrew Todd.

In setting the scene, it is worth pointing out that generally people did not travel far afield for day today needs. Railways had been in existence for many years but the private motor car was only in its infancy. The horse and trap were a frequent sight. Gas was the main means of illumination. The telephone service was still something of a luxury in most homes although was perhaps in more general use in business. In consequence it was quite usual for townships to have a wide range of tradesmen. They would expect reciprocal business arrangements; for example the grocer buying meat from the butcher would expect the butcher to buy his groceries. Ramsbottom was apparently no different for the records show Mr GREENWOOD's transactions with a multitude of other businesses in the town; butchers, ironmongers, tailors and outfitters, grocers, plumbers, blacksmiths, joiners, shoe factors, coal merchants, printers, wheelwrights, saddle and harness makers, slaters, sausage and pie manufacturers, ham and bacon curers, agricultural engineers, manufacturing chemists, auctioneers and valuers, stock, share and insurance brokers. No doubt there were a few more as it was unlikely Mr GREENWOOD was able to buy from everyone.

The premises in Bridge Street were used not only as a shop but also as living accommodation. Access was available to the rear of the three shops 31 to 35 by means of an entry at the side of no 35. however, even then there were neighbourly difficulties and the entry gate would be found locked, particularly when deliveries needed to be made. Mr GREENWOOD had a large wooden cabinet in the back yard which was used to hang the sides of beef and sheep. This was kept cool by using large blocks of ice. We can imagine the mess made in the shop and the living room if the entry door was locked when a delivery of ice was made. How hygiene regulations have changed in 75 years!

We cannot be certain of Mr GREENWOOD'S cattle market activities until the early 1920s when we know he frequently attended markets in Salford, Haslingden, Clitheroe, Gisburn and Skipton and others from time to time. H is likely he would have used these markets throughout his business life. The Auctioneer's bank would open a branch in a small office on cattle market day for the purpose of receiving payment from buyers. It is interesting to note that the dockets are pre-printed with the name of the bank and its manager. These dockets were made out in pencil, no doubt it was 'copying ink' which turned purple when wet or if attempts were made to rub it out.

Also can be seen on many of these dockers in the bottom left corner another cash figure known as 'luck', accepted market practice, and indeed private deals as well, *were* sealed with a handshake and ' sixpence for luck'. This item of 'luck' was not always recorded and made the job of the bank in reconciling its books very difficult indeed. From memory we think that in connectionwith the telephone service a Junction Fee was charged if you were connected to anotherlocal exchange, say Bury or Tottington. A Trunk Fee was charged for a call connected toa more distant exchange. To infer that Mr GREENWOOD was an infrequent user of thetelephone is misleading. Monthly bills for Trunk, Telegram and Junction Fees" were as low as 1d or 2d but also ranged up to 5/4d. It is also worth noting that the annual accountdated September 1914 was for £6 of which £4 was for service until the end of August 1915 and £2 entitling Mr GREENWOOD to 500 calls. One thing is for certain, the telephone was taken out about 1917.

At that time Mr GREENWOOD had three sons serving in the Army, having been unsuccessful in an appeal to have his third son's recruitment annulled. In consequence, he had to withdraw his fourth son from school to assist in the business. His daughter was expected to help with deliveries of meat after school and his daughter-in-law was also involved both during the day and in theevenings. After these deliveries had been made, Mr GREENWOOD found that he was receiving telephone calls from some of the 'big houses' asking for further items. Class distinction was a feature then and a tradesman would fulfil his customer's wishes to the letter. Accordingly, a second visit would be made which Mr GREENWOOD came to seeas an abuse of his services during what was a difficult time for alt businesses and for thisreason the telephone was removed. It was heavy enough work for a girl of 10 to carry thewicker baskets full of meat orders around the town, up to Holcombe, and out to Stubbinsand Edenfield, It didn't matter if it had gone dark, or was snowing, the deliveries were made and any school work was done afterwards.

The family was also required to help when cattle and sheep were delivered by rail to Ramsbottom station. From there they hadto be taken on the hoof along Kay Brow, Bolton Street and Bolton Road West to Hazlehurst. (Such herding was barred from Bridge Street, on account of its shops.) On winter evenings, an oil lamp would be carried displaying a white light at the front and ared one to the rear. One does not have to be particularly tong in the tooth to remember that the present car park on Railway Street, which runs by the side of the platform was the site of a siding and cattle pens. The animals were taken to the land by Edgar Street. This was a large field, stretching from Hazlehurst down towards the Cottage Hospital onNuttall Lane. Part of it is now the recreation ground above Broad Hey. We hope these few family reminiscences will add a little realistic atmosphere and bring to life those dusty pieces of paper.

Jack Preston

Programme

Nov 18 Mr Tom Fish - *The Changing Face of Bury* - illustrated

Dec 9 Christmas Cheer & Photo Competition - with readings from the three winning entries in the Ramsbottom Reminiscences competition

1993

Jan 20 Mr Barry Worthington - *Up-date on the E LR*

Feb 17 Mr Ken Craven - *A Walk around Tottington* - illustrated

Mar 17 Mrs Mavis Homewood - *Filming in Ramsbottom - Its Ups and Downs* - illustrated

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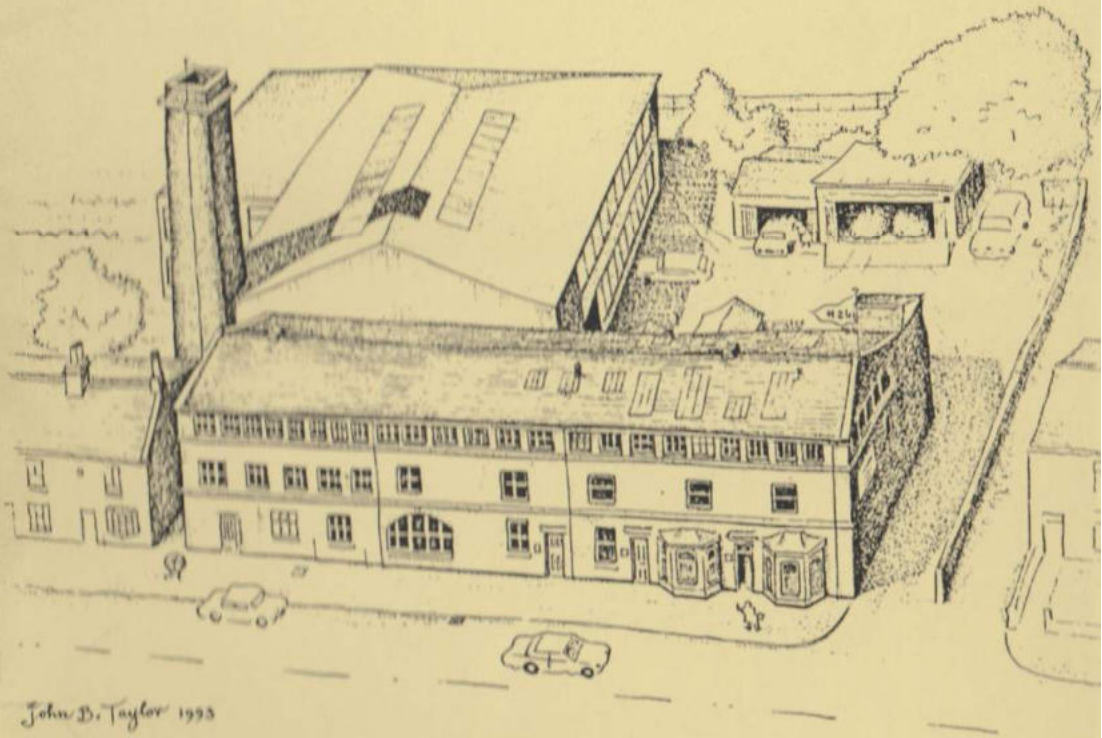

NEWS MAGAZINE

We at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Ramsbottom are happy to continue our support for the Ramsbottom Heritage Society by sponsoring this edition of their News Magazine.

With Best Wishes for continued success in 1993 from everyone at:-



The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

27 Bridge Street,

Ramsbottom

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM

Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM 82 1603

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FRONT COVER - Hazelhurst Engraving Works, Bolton Road West by John B Taylor

WELCOME to our seventh Ramsbottom Heritage News Magazine

Despite the recession and general financial uncertainty the Society continues with its various projects and its programme of monthly meetings. The Centre has a new exhibition on the theme *Ramsbottom Past and Present* and continues to attract both local people and visitors to the town, including a number from overseas. Parties of schoolchildren have also enjoyed visits.

1993 is Industrial Heritage Year and since Ramsbottom's existence as a town is based on its industrial heritage several items which reflect this have been included in this issue. Our cover is a drawing, by local historian John Taylor, of Spencer's Engraving Works at Hazelhurst and on page14 architectural historian John Smith gives us detailed information about this very interesting building, which is also the subject of an ongoing project by a group of members. Clyde Tweedale's *Turnbull Tale* and Hilda Barrett's recollections of her first day as a mill girl provide some indication of the effects of industry on people's lives, and of some of the changes to the appearance of the town. Similar items about the changes brought about by the recent development of the tourism and house building industries would be very interesting to read in the future - but that is another story.

The Royal Bank of Scotland has sponsored this issue of the Magazine and the Society is most grateful to them for supporting us once again. Thanks also to everyone who has contributed in any way to this issue. Without your efforts there would be no Magazine!

I took forward to receiving ideas, articles, reminiscences, illustrations etc for future editions. The next issue is planned for October/November 1993 and contributions for this should be sent to the Editor at the Heritage Centre by the end of August. Barbara Park, Editor

SOCIETY NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY

Despite the financial problems caused by increased running costs, the Society continues to offer its usual varied and interesting programme of meetings. The 1993/ 94 programme is now finalised and Members will find it on their membership cards as usual. For the benefit of non-members who are most welcome to attend, details will be found inside the back cover of this magazine.

The Heritage Centre is now open for the summer. The new display illustrates various aspects of the history of Ramsbottom and surrounding areas. Work and play, religion, family history are featured as are various districts. Granny's kitchen and bedroom give us some idea of how people lived in bygone days, evoking much nostalgia among our older visitors and some amazement among the younger ones.

An interesting feature of this new exhibition is that it consists mainly of items from the Society's own collection, thus showing how much this has grown since the Society was formed in 1987. To the people who have so kindly loaned additional items to complete the displays, to Roy Fishwick for his excellent photographic display, to Turton Tower and Edenfield Local History Society for their special contributions, we say a sincere thank you.

At this point I would like to express the Society's appreciation of all those people who regularly, or even occasionally, help to keep the Centre open and also to appeal to anyone who is willing to help in the future to please contact the Secretary on 0706 82 2620. Ideally, we should have three people on duty either welcoming visitors, selling publications or serving refreshments. Whichever you prefer, you will be warmly welcomed and have an enjoyable time - whether for an hour or two or a whole afternoon.

It is estimated that last year around 4,500 people visited the *Schools* exhibition, many of whom wrote some very kind comments in our Visitors Book We hope that in 1993 we will surpass that number. To ensure that they are all made properly welcome we need all the help that we can get!

The Centre will be open on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 1.00 pm to 4.30 pm and on Tuesdays from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Group visits can be arranged by telephoning the Secretary on 0706 82 2620 and can take place outside normal opening hours, including evenings.

Dorothy Moss

THE TURNBULL TALE



Following *The Stockdale Saga* in the Summer 1992 (No 5) issue of this magazine, I must now add the Turnbull side. My researches led me first to Miss Joyce Turnbull, who amazingly lives next door to Mrs Alferoff of the Stockdale side, in Edenfield. She is the 17th grandchild of the co-founder William

Turnbull (only four others survive). Space forbids a full family tree, but on page 4 is one confined to my other main contacts with strong local links today, namely Edward Turnbull and Philip Dunne (Councillor for Eden Ward and Mayor of Rossendale 1990- SI). I propose to deal with their personal memories, the changes in Turnbull and Stockdale Ltd since 1931, their local houses, churches and societies, some effects of wars, and the situation today.

Miss Joyce TURNBULL lived in *Crossmoor* (between Stubbins School and Church), but worked for a private solicitor in Manchester. Her sister Dorothy, Councillor Dunne's mother, worked as a designer for Rosebank Mill and at Chatterton Mill, served in the ATS and later lived on Parson's Row, near the large roundabout on Bolton Road North. Joyce recalls that founder William Turnbull lived at *Feams Hall,* Stacksteads, and died in 1915 at *Fernclough*, just above Rosebank Mill, Stubbins. His widow, Mary, moved to *Newlandson* Market Street, Edenfield. With justified pride in the traditional block printed fabrics created by T & S Ltd, she also recollects that many were used in the Cunard liners, that Queen Mary (wife of George V) liked the delphinium pattern especially, and that Prince Philip appropriately had the Queen s Navee design in his study, whilstthe cottage in Windsor Great Park given to Princess Elizabeth by the Welsh people also used some.

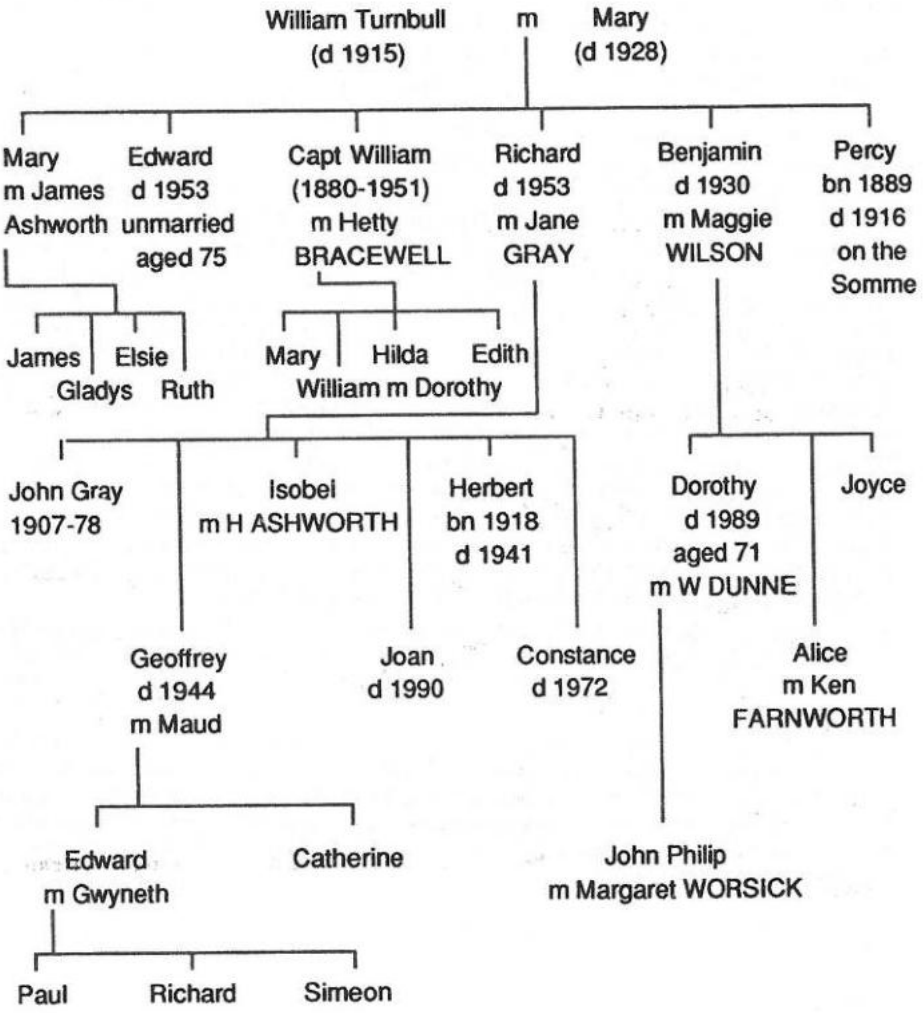
Councillor Philip Dunne recalls that the founder William Turnbull was the practical process developer, whereas William Stockdale was his financial and commercial partner. The firm did have a subsidiary company until c1950 called the Woodhey Dyeing Co, *(not* connected with the present Hawkshaw one) situated below Woodhey school and managed by Tommy Cain, grandson of William Stockdale. This mill has long gone, and other changes in 1992 have been the erasing of the Rosebank Mill site and an addition to Chatterton Mill. The latter was a weaving mill(the only mill totally built by T & S) managed by Joyce's father Benjamin in its T & S days, butkept a separate identity, "running its own Christmas Dance". In Stubbins since 1931, T & S used the Cuba Mill, gutted by fire in 1974, and alongside it the Union Mill. Only part of these buildings remain and are used as garages today.

Rosebank had the T & S head offices added to the original mill, but there were Sales Offices in London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Belfast and Manchester where Tom Barrett worked for four of his 29 years with T & S. Edward Turnbuli notes that his father, Geoffrey Turnbull, wrote a *History of Calico Printing in Great Britain* for his MA at Manchester University in 1936. It was edited by Geoffrey's brother John G Turnbull in 1951, and dedicated to the memory of Geoffrey and Herbert.

In the previous article on the Stockdales, the growth of T & S was evident as the number of mills multiplied. What caused its decline after the Jubilee Brochure of 1931? Obviously the conditions of world trade altered, with India and Japan developing rapidly before 1939.

1992's recession is perhaps small compared with the depression of the late 1920s. ! am not qualified to judge the reasons. Did we export machinery and "know-how" to developing countries? Did the World Wars deprive us of key men to lead and follow in industry? Perhaps I can illustrate the national picture of the decline of our cotton industry by extracting some figures of UK exports quoted in Geoffrey Turnbull's *History of Calico Printing:*

		Yards of plain piece goods	Yards of printed & dyed piece goods
Rosebank began	1896	1,300 million	c1,800 million
World War I	1916	c1,800 "	c1,800 "
	1936	almost 600 "	c950 "
Post World War II (the last figures quoted)	1949	c230 "	c550 "



Obviously T & S were affected by this dramatic decline, and not surprisingly were taken over by someone bigger, ie Sanderson's in 1964. Rosebank continued to produce goods, however, and they in turn were taken over by the Reed Group in 1967, when printing ceased. Under Edward Turnbull, the Edenwood Mill alone survived this trauma and the Croftend Mill by the River Irwell Bridge at Stubbins joined it in the 1980s - their red van may be seen there to this day. A mill at Stormer Hill, Tottington, completes this group, in all now employing about 70 on shifts. Handblock printing and screen printing are still the methods used at Edenwood, and screen printing at Croftend, with almost a third of production going abroad directly, plus a similar figure indirectly. Hopefully this group will long continue to provide work locally and carry these prestigious Turnbull goods throughout the world. Edward Turnbull's eldest son, Paul, is aiming to continue this tradition. Wars may have contributed to the downfall of T & S, and certainly the Turnbull family lost valued members, mainly from the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Founder William's son Percy was killed on the Somme in 1916. His grandson Herbert survived Dunkirk in 1940 but was killed on manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain in 1941 and awaits a War Gravestone in Edenfield. Geoffrey was killed by a sniper and buried near Caen, Normandy, in August 1944, both of them sons of Richard Turnbull, who lived until 1953, having served as Chairman of Ramsbottom UDC. Many of the family are buried in Edenfield Churchyard, but there are memorial windows to founder William and son Percy in St Paul's Church, Ramsbottom. In happier vein there are other interesting connections. In 1943, Ernest Topper of Stubbins was billeted in Cuba Mill with the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, met and married a local girl and never returned to the South. Ernie was a batman to the Officers living in *Greenmount,* (a former Porritt family house below *The Cliff,* now demolished) and he arrived the day that an officer named Dirk Bogarde left (to join a film unit!).

Other social effects of the firm abound. A cluster of distinctive houses adorns the area. *Crossmoor* was built in 1914, by Joyce's father Benjamin Turnbull, born at *Greens House,* Stacksteads. The family lived there until 1973, although he died in 1930. *Highbury,* near the top of Chatterton Old Lane, was erected in 1912 by Richard Turnbull. A similar house, *Croft Hey,* off Bolton Road North (now a residential home) was built by founder William. Geoffrey Turnbull designed *Lane End House* in Edenwood Lane in 1935 and his son Edward lived there until 1977. *Moorgarth* on Whalley Road was built about 1932 and looks down on Edenwood. St Philip's Church School at Chatterton is oddly the only building to bear a Turnbull datestone, laid by Captain William Turnbull in 1933, after he had been Treasurer of the Building Fund. On a smaller scale the Dutch barn style houses on Woodlands Road were built for employees, and the semi-detached *Inglewood* and *Edenholme* on Water Lane for the Hutton family, who were related to founder William Turnbull's wife, Mary.

Local life was influenced in other ways by the T & S Directors. Founder William was a member of Ramsbottom Conservative Club, St Paul's Church, Bury's Palatine Club and a committee member for the Aitken and Ramsbottom Hospitals. John Gray Turnbull played hockey for Lancashire and was a JP from 1951 -74. Every August, Edenfield & District Horticultural Society (founded in 1914) presents the Stockdale Cup (for most points in Flower Classes) and has done so since 1922, when William Stockdale JP CC, donated it. Similarly, the Turnbull Cup (for most points in Vegetable Classes) has been presented every August since 1924 ,when it was given by Captain W Turnbull. Instruments were also given to local bands.

St Philip's Church has an oak reredos in memory of Benjamin Turnbull, erected in 1935 by his widow, and other oak panels and the choir stalls.

The original Community Centre building in Edenfield was a wartime hut moved from Cuba Mill, through the help of Richard Turnbull, and Philip Dunne is the Trustees' president now.

This complex social fabric must have been the pattern of life in many other textile areas, but here there is much to admire in the manner and style of T & S's rise and fall. Really it needs a book to record it all, together with their links with the Porritts, but that's another story. It has been an intriguing challenge to try and make a coherent account of it, but I am most grateful to my informed guides, Mr Edward and Miss Joyce Turnbull, and Councillor Dunne for their help.

CL Tweedale

MEMBERSHIP 1993/4

Membership subscriptions for the year 1993/4 were due on the 1 April 1993. The good news is that there will be no increase and rates remain the same as last year £4.50 (£2 concessionary). All members receive a free copy of each News Magazine so membership really does represent excellent value for money! Unfortunately, the bad news is that owing to increased costs, the entrance donation to the monthly meetings will in future be increased to 50p. Whilst this is very much regretted it also represents very good value for an interesting talk, a cup of tea and a chance to meet people with a shared interest in Ramsbottom and its heritage.

Subscriptions may be paid at the monthly meetings, at the Heritage Centre when it is open or by post to the Membership Secretary, The Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom. Cheques should be made payable to The Ramsbottom Heritage Society.
Barbara Park, Membership Secretary

STARTING WORK

On the Thursday before Good Friday 1938 I left school which I had attended from the age ofthree to 14. Weeks before, with my Dad, I had made the short journey to the Chatterton Weaving Company's mill to see if any workers were needed. Great news - one girl was ready to move on to be a trainee. I was told to be at the works at 7 45am on the Tuesday after Easter. As I had never been inside a mill before, I was wondering what it would be like. I was all agog -1 would be a wage earner at last. The night before the 'big day', as for the rest of my working life, I laid out my clothes ready for the morning. As a mill girl, which is what I was going to be, these consisted of a jumper and skirt, printed overall, black woollen stockings, and of course my clogs - well polished and newly shod (i.e. irons, front and heels). On the day itself my mother awoke me and my brother. He was older than me and so already working. After breakfast, which we all had every day before being allowed out of the house, I finally set off fully equipped with tea, sugar, a pot, spoon, milk in a small bottle and some sandwiches for the morning break.

On my way I was to meet some women who already worked at the mill. I had never been out so early before and was surprised to see so many people about. In 1938 most people walked to work, although some came by bus or bike. There were very few cars in those days.

As we walked along Chatterton Lane we were joined by others at the Mill who encouraged me by saying "Don't worry love the first week is always the worst - but never be late". When we arrived we went through the door in single file. Standing just inside was the foreman, Mr Howarth, who was there to make sure everyone "clocked on". Each worker had a number and the big, round, iron clock had an arm that swung round to punch each number, a bell rang and the exact time was recorded on a continuous sheet of paper. We clocked on when we arrived in a morning, off at 12.15pm for dinner, on again at 1.15pm and off again at 5.30pm when we finished for the day. Being new I was taken by a woman weaver to the place where I was to work. There I met two girls I already knew because we had been at Stubbins Council School together.

The whistle was blown by Mr Howarth and the weavers went to their looms. The electric motors were then switched on - what a NOISE as the looms started up. This was my first minute of work. For the first hour I just watched the girl I was going to take over from. Then we had fifteen minutes break for tea. Then it was my turn. The work was in the first stage of weaving, the warps sized and put into beam, a long comb held the threads which were picked out in twos and put on to a double reed hook. The man called a drawer-in had got the healds four staves, narrow 36" ready and proceeded to draw in (1-3,2-4, plain cloth) left to right. This was a slow process. I was very nervous and glad when 12.15pm came and I could go home for dinner. At one o'clock I set off to join all the others walking back to work. The bell at Rosebank rang as we approached the mill so we knew we had five minutes as the bell was always rung to warn the workers to be in ready to start work. In the afternoon I seemed to work a little faster, hopefully making progress, and at three o'clock we had another break.

By 5.30pm my back was aching, my fingers were sore and I was half asleep. When I finally reached home the big question around the tea table was "How did your first day go?" my reply was "I think I'll get used to it". After tea I was let off the washing up, but "just for today". "Don't think you will get out of it because you are now a worker" warned my Mum as I rushed off to see my pal who was waiting to hear all about my first day at work. She was younger than me and still at school.

By 9.30pm I was off to bed my last thought before sleep: "is this the start of my life to come?"

Hilda Barrett

TEAM PHOTOGRAPH

I must have been about nine years old that memorable year in the early 1930s when giants walked the corridors of St Joseph's School. Though known to us for years their special qualities only became evident during the Ramsbottom schools football cup competition that Spring.

When Miss Mahoney told her class that St Joseph's had entered a team for the competition, and asked us to support them when they played at Peel Brow recreation ground, our hopes were not high. The school was not noted for sporting ability, and Peel Brow and some other schools were renowned for always entering strong teams. Holcombe could also call on the mighty Markham boy, already around six feet tall, broad inproportion, and still growing. With him in midfield who could hope to get through to score?Shame on us for such lack of faith! Our team emerged from the first game not only victorious but also as a strong and talented force. Hitherto unremarkable boys had increasedin stature and confidence: we knew then they could win the cup for us. The next game brought further success and the whole school was caught up in the excitement.

After morning prayers in the hall the headmistress, Miss Isaac, urged us to cheer on the team in the semi-final. When she said we should be proud of them for bringing such credit to the school I recognised the situation straight away. From my reading of school stories in 2d magazines, which I could occasionally buy secondhand for ½d, I knew the importance of "the honour of the school". There could be no greater achievement than helping the school to win a trophy. It was then I realised that members of St Joseph's team were the equal of those sporting heroes I read about in the *Magnet* and the *Gem.* The 'Comrades Field' behindthe school had not been built on in those days and, watching training sessions there with such admiration, we wondered how any team could withstand the expertise of our champions. When calling for Bill Brennan on the way to school I used to hope we would behonoured by his older brother, Wilfred, the team's goalkeeper, walking along with us.

After another victory in the semi-final nothing could have kept us from the final match. Both sides were well supported and greeted with shouts of encouragement as they strode out onto the field. Most of the players would be leaving school to start work at the end of the Summer term, and to boys of my age they were an awesome sight as they lined up looking so strong and determined.

Almost every kick of the hard-fought battle of the giants was loudly cheered as they thundered up and down the field. Chris Kennedy added to his legendary exploits: brought down in a midfield tackle he climbed up through the legs of his towering opponent, retrieved the ball, and carried on down the field. Harry Hoyle, Ellis Timlin and John Earnshaw were an intrepid and energetic trio, and the rest of the team played with great skill and commitment throughout. Finally our heroes prevailed. The game was over and the match was won. All Ramsbottom could hear the shouts and cheers when the cup was presented and when each member of the victorious team received his medal.

A keen sportsman in his younger days, Father McGuiness seemed as excited as the rest of us when he arrived at the school the following morning. He had come specially to congratulate the team and the trainers on their sterling efforts, which he said had brought honour to the school and enhanced its sporting reputation. Later he was photographed with the team and their trophies.

Truly an outstanding occasion in the school's history and one of my strongest memories of schooldays. In the years since then I have never met any of that formidable team without thinking of their cup victory.

Visiting the Heritage Centre recently I examined St Joseph's School's display in the Local Schools Exhibition. It was some time before I noticed somewhere in the middle the photograph of a football team with their cup and an array of medals. Looking more closely I quickly identified Father McGuiness and Mr Barratt, one of the trainers. But this group of happy yet ordinary twelve and thirteen year old boys could surely not be the awesome team that had won victory for the school all those years ago. Who says the camera doesn't lie? What trick of photography had sought to diminish those champions of my schooldays and make them seem so unexceptional?
I shall try to forget the photograph and continue to remember those superstars as they really were.

Norman Kay

THE MYSTERIOUS DOCTOR McDOUALL

In 1835 a young Scottish doctor called Peter Murray McDouall arrived in Ramsbottom and set up his surgery. He was born in Newton Stewart, Galloway in 1814 and educated at the Edinburgh University School of Medicine. His stay in Ramsbottom, although quite brief, appears to have had a quite traumatic effect on his life.
His experiences in looking after the sick amongst the factory workers and their families led him to undertake the first social survey of the area. The information he gathered on the living conditions in and around Ramsbottom he delivered as a paper to a meeting of the British Association at Newcastle in 1838.

In his own words " I did not take the complaints of the people as my guide nor did I trust to their assertions, I wanted truth and I examined it for myself."
He found "In 137 houses out of 309 only 137 bedrooms were provided for as many families. There were 24 families of five persons each in one bedroom, another 24 families with seven in a room, four with ten, two with 12 and one with 14."
It was around this time that McDouall must have met up with Dr Matthew Fletcher, a Bury surgeon and a Chartist. He was converted to the Chartist cause, although unlike Fletcher who favoured the constitutional approach, McDouall supported the physical force brand of Chartism.

In 1839 he was supporting a programme of General Strike followed by armed insurrection and in August of that year he was arrested for sedition and imprisoned for a year. Whilst in Chester prison he met the daughter of one of the warders, courted her and, on his release, married her. By 1840 he had become a nationally known leader of the Chartist movement. He toured the country as a Chartist lecturer and as a result spent less and less time in Ramsbottom, although he still appears to have maintained a residence here. Around this time he was also publishing and editing his *Chartist Journal* which advocated his own revolutionary views.
In 1842 McDouall gave evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee investigating the truck system by which factory masters paid out wages in goods from their own shops rather than in money. Although illegal since 1831, McDouall found that in Ramsbottom the system was still widespread eleven years later. Under it the workpeople "found themselves denied all choice in the necessities of life." Prices in the truck shops were invariably more expensive than in other shops whereas quality was uniformly lower.

'There is a difference of 3d upon every 20 pounds of flour; the difference is between the mill shops and those where there is a free system of trade ... Tea is 1d to 1 ½d an ounce dearer in the truck shops than amongst the general dealers, butter is 3d a pound higher and cheese 1d and 2d a pound" The problem was that whilst the 1831 Act had declared truck illegal it had not established any system of independent inspection or enforcement. Workers who attempted to sue their employers were immediately dismissed, stated McDouall. "There is such a communication between the masters that I have known a messenger sent to the various mills with the name of the man discharged". Even if the worker persisted with his case in the face of this kind of intimidation "a great majority of the magistrates are factory masters and it is quite useless to bring a case before them".

McDouall went on to describe an interesting variation of the truck system which applied in Ramsbottom. Not only did the Grants own their own shop, they also owned their own pub. The wages of Grants' workers were paid there by the pub landlord in exchange for tickets provided by the employer and there was a compulsory deduction of three pence (3d) from the wages to pay for the exchange. For the landlord there were, of course, advantages. The presence on his premises of large numbers of thirsty workmen with money newly paid out to them must have boosted his sales to no small degree. McDouall describes how some of the workmen remained in the pub "until they had exhausted their credit and their money. .....I have seen little boys come down drunk". Since the pub remained open until midnight and beyond on the days when wages were paid, one can well believe it.

In September 1842the Manchester constabulary issued a warrant for McDouall's arrest and he now disappears from the Ramsbottom scene. To avoid arrest he went into hiding and spent some time in exile in France. By 1844 he had returned to Scotland and was heavily involved in ScottishChartist politics in 1847-8 there was a revival of popular support for Chartism, and McDouall returned to England and resumed his speaking tours. By this time he was based in the Ashton under Lyne area and it was here that he was once again arrested and charged with sedition, illegal assembly and riot. He was tried at Liverpool Assizes and again imprisoned, this time for two years.

On his release from prison he found Chartism once more in decline. He was by this time destitute and having a wife and four small children to support he attempted to revive his medical career in Ashton. His efforts were unsuccessful, being fiercely opposed by his political enemies in the town who denounced him as a notorious criminal. He and his family were only saved from starvation by Chartist public subscription.

Like many other defeated Chartists McDouall, still only 40 years old, resolved to emigrate to Australia in search of a new life. It was not to be. The boat in which he and his family were sailing was wrecked in a violent storm off the Australian coast and he was drowned. His widow and children who were rescued returned to England destitute and were forced to live in a workhouse at Everton. Eventually, they were assisted by Nottingham Chartists who helped Mrs McDouall set up a successful stationery business in the city.

Details of McDouall's life in Ramsbottom remain scarce. For example, although we are told he lived in Bolton Street, most probably at No 18, we do not know why he came to Ramsbottom in the first place. If anyone has any further information I would be

delighted to hear it. I am sure there is much more to be discovered about this strange and extraordinary man. Trevor Park

RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES, 36 pages, A5 size, (published by Ramsbottom Heritage Society, December 1992) £2.50 Did you get your copy for Christmas or just after? There aren't many left.

"Ramsbottom Reminiscences" is the condensed cream of a competition set up by the Society to revive the memories of people who lived and worked and holidayed around Ramsbottom in the early years of the twentieth century. Fourteen persons have thoughts in print and they range back almost 90 years and collectivelyover 500 years.

I had heard a little of the three prize winners as a taster at the pre-Christmas meeting in the Civic Hall but the booklet gives a fuller flavour which can be read at leisure and analysed and read and savoured again.

It is a fine collection which helps us understand what Ramsbottom and its surrounding area was like in the past. It is full of people, places, schools, shops, churches and war. A soldier's return after years in a POW camp had a lump in my throat.

If you know Ramsbottom of yesteryear or think you know Ramsbottom today, you will enjoy *Ramsbottom Reminiscences.* If you have any stories to tell, get that pen to paper and send it to the Society. I amalready looking forward to *Ramsbottom Reminiscences Number Two.*

John B Taylor

[John is clearly too modest to take credit for the drawing on the cover of *Ramsbottom Reminiscences.* Inspired by a photograph taken by David Moss and drawn by John Taylor it is an evocative scene of old-fashioned cottage chimney pots (with some modem day appendages!) with the moors and the familiar tower in the background.]

RAMSBOTTOM - WHAT'S IN A NAME? EXPLORED AGAIN

After reading John Sykes' article on the origin of the town's name, in the Winter 1990 issue of this journal, I invited the comments of a friend, a distinguished archaeologist. My friend jotted down a few points light heartedly in a letter. Sadly he died before we j had the chance to discuss them. On re-reading his letter recently i felt that members of the Society would be interested in his off-the-cuff thoughts. The following paragraphs are based on what he wrote, with minor adaptation and some simplification.

The first known example of the name, spelt *Romesbothum,* is in a court roll of 1324. The principal writers on Lancashire place names, Eilert Ekwall and David Mills, and the general editor of numerous volumes of the English Place-Names Society, AH Smith, agree that the second element in the name is from the Old English *botm* meaning valley. The problem is the first element. Ekwall writing in 1922 thought that it was a form of *ramm*, 'a ram'. Later however he thought a form of *hramsa,* 'wild garlic' (ramsons), was more likely, but commented on the difficulty of distinguishing not only between *ramm* and *hramsa* but also between either and *hraefn,* 'a raven'.

Smith in 1956 made the same point. Mills in 1976 thought that the etymology could equally be either *ramm* or *hramsa.* So, on the basis of the earliest spelling and the best philological opinion, the meaning of the name could be: the valley where garlic grows' or the valley where the rams graze', or less likely, the valley where theravens fly'; or even the valley belonging to someone called Ram, Raven or, less probably, Garlic.

John Sykes very reasonably turned to topography. If the local soil doesn't produce wild garlic except sparsely, then garlic is probably out as an explanation of the name. John's view is that *Ramsbottom* means 'valley of stiff clay'. John is by admission a Yorkshireman and came to this view after reading *Round about Bradford* (published in 1876)by William Cudworth, doubtless a Yorkshireman also. According to Cudworth, *Ramsbottom* has a similar meaning to the name *Leagrams,* near Bradford, which he derives from *ley* meaning 'low-lying' and *ram* Norse for 'strong'. From personal experience of digging his garden and his allotment John has confidence that this theory is well-grounded.

There are several reasons for doubting the theory. First, *Leagrams* is explained by the leading authority on Yorkshire place-names, the aforementioned AH Smith, as from the Old Scandinavian *leio-grima,* meaning 'a track-marker'. Ekwall has the same meaning for the Lancashire *Leagram.* Cudworth it may be noted takes no account of the 'g' in *Leagrams.* Secondly, in the earliest recordof 1324, and even as late as 1560, the first element of the name, *Romes,* is a noun in the genitive case (ie of garlic of a ram or of a raven) not an adjective.

My friend then went on to make an interesting suggestion. The meaning of the first element (garlic or ram or raven) would probably not be in doubt if the second element were regarded not as Old English *botm* but as from the Old Danish *both* (Middle English *bothe* (North Country dialect *booth)* meaning 'a herdsman's hut'. The dative plural of *both* would be *bothum* thus *Romesbothum* would fit, Ramsbottom would then mean 'at the ram herd's huts'. The fact that Ramsbottom lies in a bottom would readily lead to the modern form, Ramsbottom, rather than Ramsbooths. "It looks very much," wrote my friend "as if - as so often with place-names - you takes your choice. Is there any legend in your parts of a giant garlic eating ram who founded the town, first frightening away the ravens with his breath, and then building a series of shepherds' huts in the valley bottom, which was unsuitable for agriculture because of its rank cloggy soil ?"

My friend was of East Anglian stock. He had the good fortune to live and work in York for much of his life. However, his earlier good fortune was that he had a Lancastrian upbringing. This last fact, together with his professional eminence, make his views worthy of respect. His authority on the subject of these notes is confirmed finally by his name, which was - Herman *Ramm.*

The works on which views expressed above are based are as follows:

E EKWALL *The Place Names of Lancashire* (Chetham Society, 1922; reprinted by EP Publishing Co, 1972)

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names (OUP, 4th Edition, 1960)

AH SMITH *English Place-Name Elements: Part 1 (CUP, 1956)*
The Place-Names of West Yorkshire: Part 3 (CUP, 1961)D
David MILLS *The Place-Names of Lancashire (Batsford, 1976)*

POSTSCRIPT

1. I have recently been informed of two fairly recent books on place-names. They are: A D Mills, A *Dictionary of Place-names* (OUP 1991; to be issued in paperback later in 1993) and Adrian Room, A *Dictionary of Place-Names in the British Isles* (Bloomsbury, 1988; and subsequently in paperback). I understand that both books follow the authorities referred to in the text above in offering either 'ram' or 'wild garlic' as a possible derivation, with a preference for 'ram'. Mr Room adds that the *ram* could arise not from the animal itself but from a rock formation resembling a ram or a ram's head. Any identification of this feature from local topographers?
2. I have now seen a copy of *Round about Bradford,* courtesy of the library service. It appears that the chapter on place-names was written not by the author, Mr Cudworth, but by 'a gentleman well versed in word-lore'. The author expressed confidence that this could be a valuable addition to the volume, though possibly exception may be taken to some of his conclusions'. Mr Cudworth showed a proper Yorkshire caution, . . . well justified.

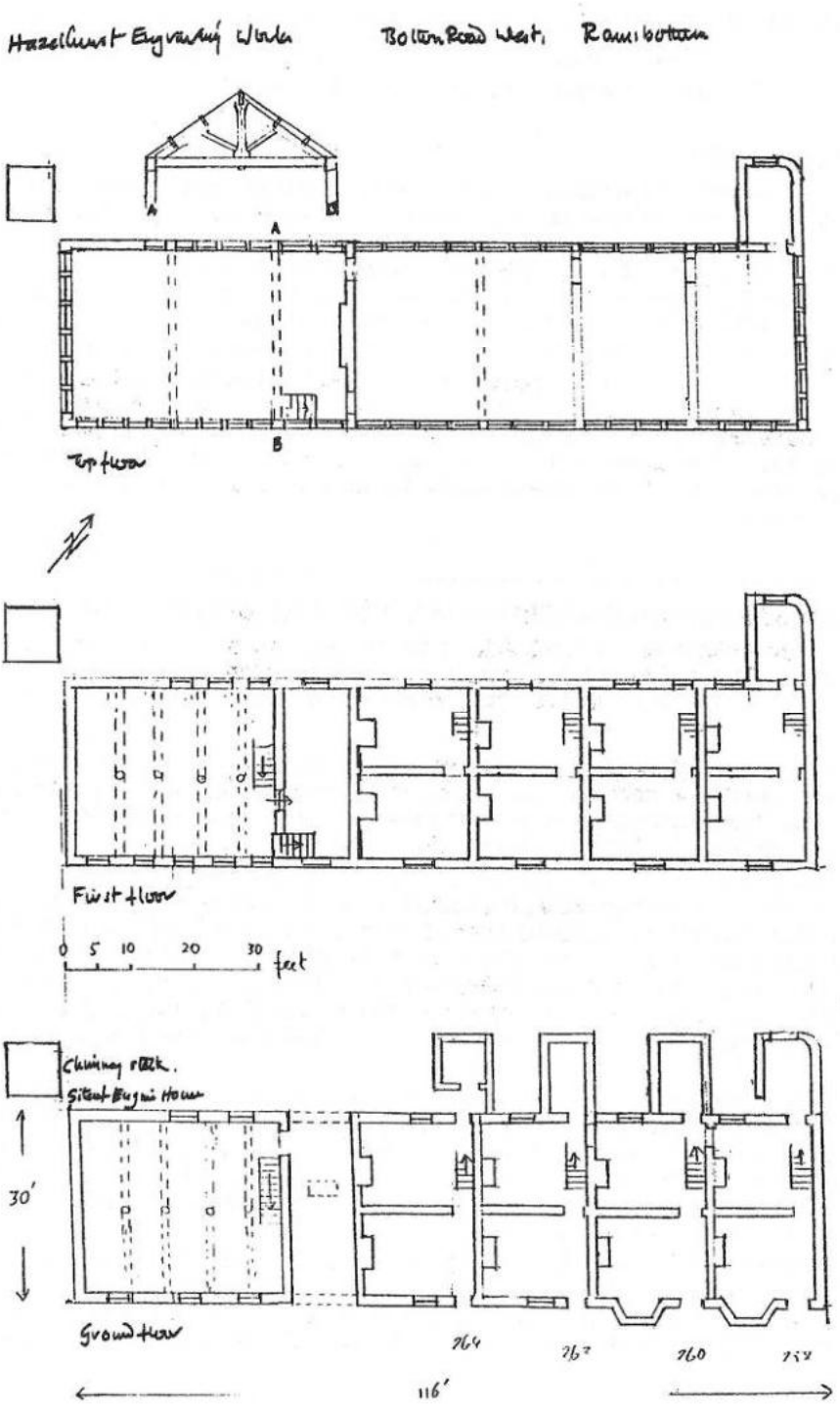
Stuart Jackson

HAZELHURST ENGRAVING WORKS, 258-264 BOLTON ROAD WEST

Readers may recall Andrew Todd's article, John Spencer's Hazelhurst Engraving Works, in our Summer 1991 issue (no 3). Architectural historian W J Smith has surveyed this unusual building, and has kindly recorded his findings for us.

This is a large stone building of three storeys, 6½ bays measuring in total 116 feet in length and 30 feet in depth. The front (taken to be south for the purpose of this account) and east gable are of water shot coursing in regular 9½ inch courses, while the rear and west gable are in random coursing. It was built c1848 as an engraving works, a highly specialised building for its period incorporating four two-storey houses (rather than cottages); an internal loading bay and workshops on the ground and first floors of the 2½ bays at the western end, and a series of workshops along the whole of the top floor. This top floor has a run of continuous windows all round the building - including the gable ends, except for a small section in the north west corner where the original boiler and engine house may have been located. The surviving tall stone chimney stack for this remains, but is detached from the main building.

The four houses each originally had a small projecting wing at the rear which would have served as a scullery. The wing of no 258 rises to the full height of the building and has rear windows on the first and top floors, suggesting that this was the main house. Staircases in the rear room lead to the first floors.All the rooms have - or had - fireplaces, the chimney stacks once having four chimney pots each.The stacks were taken down after 1974. The front of this row of houses is now distinguished by two bay windows, at nos 258 and 260, added to the latter c1900, and to the former a little later.At this time, the doorway to 258 was blocked up.


Hazelhurst Engineering Works
Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom
A
A
B
Top floor
First floor
0 5 10 20 30 feet
Chimney stack.
Site of Engine House
30'
Ground floor
264
267
260
116'

Thus nos 258/60 became a double fronted house and were then used perhaps as the works offices. There was apparently never any access from the houses to the top floor.

Between no 264 and the end two bay workshops is the loading bay which runs from front to rear and in which is a trap door to the floor above. The front arch has long been partially filled in and is now an arched window, but the rear arch remains open. It now leads into the later extensions to the rear. This loading bay accounts for the half-bay. The two western bays accommodated workshops on ground and first floors access to the latter being by a wooden staircase alongside the party wall of the loading bay. A row of four hollow cast iron pillars support the main floor joists to the floors above including the top floor. The ground floor workshop has three windows on the front and two to the rear; the floor above has five windows to the front and three to the rear and the half-bay over the loading bay has one window at front and rear. The ground floor workshop still retains some power shafting and pulleys and the remains of shaft bearing boxes and quadrant gear boxes. This would have been driven by the steam engine to provide power for the specialist lathes and milling machinery used in making printing rollers.

All this relatively heavy work was done on the solid ground floor. In the deeds to the property, a covenant of 13th September 1855 contains the earliest description of industrial equipment in the building: '... the Steam Engines Steam Boiler Shafts Wheels and going Gears Gas Pipes Gasometers and] Retorts.' The gas was used for lighting; indeed, the domestic part of the building retained gaslights as late as 1953. The top floor is distinguished by the range of windows that runs continuously all-round the building except for the small area where the engine house may have been. The windows are not all the same in width, those in the two west bays being the smallest with four windows per bay and two over the loading bay. Thereafter, the bays are wider, conforming to the width of the houses, three having four windows and one having three (see plan).

The problem of chimney flues passing through the top floor has not yet been solved owing to difficulty of access. The present window frames are relatively new, replacing what were 24 pane windows probably of cast iron. They did not open. These are shown on a faded photograph, taken of the rear of the building c1890. Two trusses are visible in the two west bays. They are king post tie beam trusses with twin angle struts running up to the principal rafters. These in turn support two sets of purlins per pitch and a ridge purlin.

Making copper rollers for printing cotton/calico calls for absolute precision at all stages of production and tolerance must be absolute from the very outset. It is probable that several forms of making printing rollers were carried out here - straight forward engraving or acid etching direct onto copper rollers by hand in addition to the milling method (see O Ashmore, *The Industrial Archaeology of Lancashire* (1969) p 66). The well-lit upper floor would have accommodated the skilled engravers and die makers and possibly the designers, ail within the various divisions of the floor.

The ground and first floors at the west end would have accommodated the heavier processes needing steam driven power to turn the lathes arid milling machines. There would have also been an acid bath for etching. On the first floor was provision for an annealing oven to harden the completed mills. In later years, the rollers were made more durable by

chromium plating the surface. This was doneby an outside contractor.

The process of making printing rollers would start at the top of the building and end at the ground floor, a very logical arrangement! The finished rollers would then be dispatched from the loading bay.

It is worth recording that according to Charles Tomlinson (ed) *Cyclopedia of Useful Arts. .....etc* Volt (1854) p28G, a 36" roller cost between £5 and £7 to make including the cost of the copper cylinder: by today's equivalent value that would be £600-£800, a sum which would support the specialist quality of printing rollers.

It is doubtful whether a similar engraving works survives in the North-West in such a complete state as this one at Hazelhurst. We must be grateful to the company for having maintained the building and contents.

W John Smith

RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES: A SECOND VOLUME?

Those of us who were involved in the competition last year have been pleased to see how much enjoyment it generated - both for the authors of the entries, and for their readers. Having spoken to, or corresponded with, several of the contributors, I personally know how proud they were to share their memories, and I've met at least one reader who found these quite moving.

I think it would be a fine achievement if we could make *Ramsbottom Reminiscences* an ongoing project. It would mean that in the next century our town would have one of the best records of ordinary life in the early to mid-1900s. Perhaps we could seek as wide a variety of contributions as possible - from all manner of occupational backgrounds including millworkers, publicans, railwaymen, doctors, nurses, teachers, policemen, vicars, night-soilmen - and, of course, their families.

We cannot promise prizes, nor are we sure when a new volume might appear, but there is an excellent chance that any reminiscences sent in will be in print eventually - perhaps in our magazine. They can be typed, handwritten or even written up for you by a neighbour. There is no need for you to be a society member - just a holder of memories from the old Ramsbottom UDC area.

Entries can be sent to me at 9-11 Square Street, or simply handed in there - it is the Printers & Stationers shop, Allen & Todd.

Alternatively, if you would like simply to talk about your recollections, and let these be taped, please contact Judith Appleby through the Heritage Centre. You can write, or leave her a phone message.

Andrew Todd

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THE HERITAGE CENTRE

CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM

Telephone: Ramsbottom (0706) 82 1603

Open

Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays

1.00 pm - 4.30 pm

and Tuesdays

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Special arrangements can be made for group visits

Please contact the Secretary - tel: 0706 82 2620

1993/94 PROGRAMME

1993		
Jun	16	Mr Terry Ashworth - The Industries of the Kirklees Valley - Illustrated
Jul	21	Mr Terry Ashworth - Guided Walk in the Kirklees Valley
Aug	18	Mr Richard Burns - The Wrigley Collection - Illustrated
Sep	15	Mr Tom Fish - A Century of Transport in Bury - Illustrated
Oct	20	Mr Peter Watson - Lancashire Lore and Legends - Illustrated
Nov	17	Mr M Robinson-Dowland - Turton Towers and the English tradition
Dec	8	Mrs E Graham - A Lifetime in Edenfield and Photographic Competition
1994		
Jan	19	Mr Andrew Todd - Packways and Turnpikes
Feb	16	Mr Tom Wightman - The Growth and Demise of Ocean Chemicals
Mar	16	Mr Ron Varey - Wildlife and N W Water Ltd - Illustrated

All indoor meetings are held in the Civic Hall, Ramsbottom at 7.45 pm

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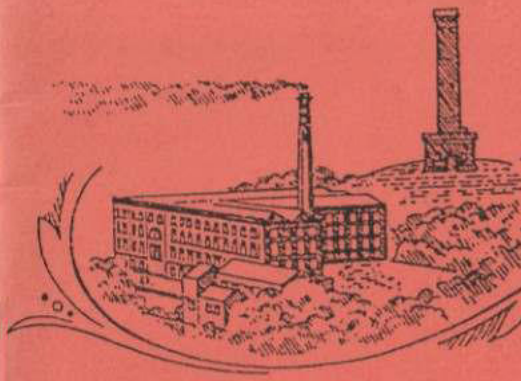

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NEWS MAGAZINE

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FRONT COVER - Park Congregational Church drawn by John B Taylor

Welcome to the eighth Ramsbottom Heritage Society Mews Magazine.

Since the Summer 1993 issue was published events have occurred which could have far reaching effects on the Society and particularly on the future of the Heritage Centre.
In September local newspapers published an application for, and later the approval of, planning permission for the redevelopment of premises on Prince Street as a shopping and leisure complex, complete with mill shops, craft centres, restaurants and HERITAGE CENTRE.

This announcement caused much concern and many questions were asked. Was this to be an additional heritage centre? If so how would it be run? Was ours to be closed down? What would happen to the archives? Would we be expected to move into the new building? If so how would it work? What about our status as a registered charity?

At the October meeting our Chairman, Andrew Todd, announced that prior to the application being submitted, the owners of the building had contacted him by telephone and suggested that accommodation in the new complex could be made available to the Heritage Society. They promised to contact him later with more details and at the time of going to press he is still awaiting further information from them. Members will be kept informed of the latest developments at the monthly meetings.

In the meantime life goes on as usual for the Society. The monthly meetings continue to provide interesting speakers and appreciative audiences and the Centre attracts many visitors. A number of members continue to pursue various research projects, often consulting the Society's ever-growing archives and quite frequently adding to them.

The Centre is becoming known as a source of information about Ramsbottom and its history. Thanks to a combination of our helpers' fund of local knowledge and amazing memories, and Brenda Decent's organisation of the archives, we are quite often able to find the answers - or at least (as the TV advertisement says) we know someone who can!

items this time include a family history with a macabre twist, more information about the owners of Spencer's Engraving Works, an article on the fate of the Barwood Lea stables, two different views of the 1935 Jubilee celebrations, some reminiscences and, of course, all the latest news from the Society including the results of the 1993 Photographic Competition.

Our book review is of Bill Turner's *Riot* which includes the story of the 'Chatterton Fight'. The excellent talk and slide show which Bill Turner gave some time ago whetted many appetites for his eagerly awaited book.

Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way to this issue and once again may I appeal for contributions for future issues.

Barbara Park, Editor

SOCIETY AND HERITAGE CENTRE NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY

The new exhibition at the Heritage Centre, *Ramsbottom - its Trades, Traditions and Treasures* has attracted many visitors from distant parts of the world as well as many past and present residents of Ramsbottom. All seem to find something of particular interest and many are able to provide us with additional information, often from their own personal recollections.

A very pleasing development has been the increase in the number of family groups with children visiting the Centre. We also get individual young people and small groups, often from local schools and colleges, who are working on local history projects. A good sign surely for the future - after all, the children and young people of today are our future heritage. Among the larger groups to visit us during the summer have been parties of schoolchildren and university students, visitors from other Societies, and people on walks with the Blue Badge Guides.

In the autumn some of the displays were changed and now include a collection of paintings and photographs by the well-known local artist, David Swithenbank and a display which illustrates the changes to our landscape caused by the rise and decline of local industries. The Stubbins Lane area forms the basis of another new display. In lighter vein there is also a display containing the suit worn by Mr H Greenhalgh at his wedding in 1921 and which he was also able to wear on his 100th birthday. The display also contains a copy of the *Times* newspaper for the date of his birth and letters from the Queen on the occasions of his 90th and 100th birthdays.

The Society is delighted with the response to our latest publication *Ramsbottom Reminiscences.* The first printing was a complete sell out and the second one seems well set to follow suit. The book makes an ideal gift for anyone with an interest in Ramsbottom and has been especially popular as a gift for friends and relatives who no longer live here. At £2.50 it is excellent value.
Two innovations this year have been Society stalls at Local History Fairs in Accrington and Manchester and the outing for members and their friends which our Vice Chairman, Mavis Homewood organised. The stalls generated much goodwill and provided us with many new contacts for speakers and ideas for future activities and the first outing, to Port Sunlight, was a great success, (report on Page 5)

Dorothy Moss

RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES: VOL 2

As well as reprinting our first volume of reminiscences, we have begun collecting for a second. Any contribution, on any period of the town's history, and of whatever length, is gratefully accepted. Please bear in mind that it is always the most basic day to day routines and trivia which are virtually never recorded - but of greatest interest to later generations! Contributions can be left at the Centre.

Andrew Todd

RAMSBOTTOM OBSERVER MICROFILMING PROJECT

We have ordered microfilmed copies of the first two years (1892-3) of the run of *Ramsbottom* Observers in store with the *Rossendale Free Press* at Rawtenstall, and these are now available for public use at Bury Library. 1894-6 will be available shortly. The cost per year is around £40. Financial help, however small, will be welcome.

Future progress with the project relies on it. We are especially grateful to Bury's Archivist, Kevin Mulley, for all his help.

Andrew Todd

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP - RENEWING THROUGH A DEED OF COVENANT

A sign of a healthy, active society is a healthy, active membership which renews its subscriptions every year without reminder. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society achieved the status of being a registered charity in 1992 and this now enables us to offer members who are tax payers the opportunity to renew through a Deed of Covenant in conjunction with a standing order authority.

WHAT IS A DEED OF COVENANT? A Deed of Covenant is a legal document by which a person promises to pay a fixed sum of money every year. For tax purposes, a covenant to a charity should be capable of lastingfor a period of more than three years; this is why most charitable covenants are written forfour years.

WHY USE A DEED OF COVENANT? A Deed of Covenant is a useful way to give money to charity because:

Covenants give charities, such as this Society, a regular source of income.

Covenanted donations to charities qualify for tax relief.

HOW DOES A COVENANT WORK? Covenanted payments to a charity are treated in a special way for tax purposes. Covenanters who are TAX PAYERS can get tax relief for the payments they make, so they can effectively give more to the charity for the same cost to themselves.

Covenanters get relief by reducing the amount they pay to the charity by the equivalent of basic rate tax. The reduced amount is known as the net payment. The result is that basic rate tax payers do not, in practice, have to pay the full cost of the payments which the charity will ultimately receive. As the charity is exempt from tax the tax which it has suffered can be recovered from the inland Revenue, so while covenanters have to pay only the NET amount due, the charity can recover the full amount. This is why a covenanted gift is worth more than one which does not qualify for tax relief.

STANDING ORDERS In line with our covenanting proposals we will also offer ALL members (Including those who are not taxpayers) the facility to pay their annual subscriptions by Bank Standing Order for the sake of convenience.

THE WAY FORWARD The Society proposes to offer these facilities to its members as of 1st April but remember - covenanting is suitable only for TAX PAYERS. This will be available to both new members joining and existing members repining.
The relevant forms are included with this issue.

Derek Rowley, Treasurer

VISIT TO PORT SUNLIGHT

In the past Society members have made the occasional group visit to a museum or other place of interest on an informal, car sharing basis, there never seeming to be enough people to fill a bus.

In 1993, however, all that was to change. It was decided that a proper coach trip should be organised for members and their friends. Th8 destination was to be Port Sunlight, the village built by soap manufacturer William Hesketh Lever (of Bolton) for his employees. The day Tuesday, 13th July.

After a pleasant coach journey we were taken on a guided tour of the village; an excellent meal; free time to look around, visit the Art Gallery, and of course the Heritage Centre. The weather was less than perfect but everyone enjoyed the day - for many of them their first visit to Port Sunlight.

That was the first coach trip for Ramsbottom Heritage Society members, but all being well it won't be the last. Where will the next trip take us? Ah, you'll just have to wait and see, but I promise there will be another one next year and who knows - there might even be two.

Mavis Homewood

LITTLEBOROUGH HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OPEN DAY

Littleborough Historical and Archaeological Society held an Open Day on Saturday 9 October, and those members of our Society who were able to attend thoroughly enjoyed what turned out to be an interesting, varied, and well organised programme. We were welcomed with refreshments and a chat from the Chairman, followed by two illustrated talks by Keith Parry on *Trans-Pennine Transport,* and Steve Poole on *South Pennine Archaeology.* The slides showing some of the artefacts which had been found were amazing, and were proof that there must be a lot of hidden history in the area. After coffee Peter Cryer presented an illustrated talk on the *Development of Littleborough Industry.* This included details of the Rochdale Canal as well as the industries which were (and many still are) in Littleborough.

After lunch we all set off on one of the four outings which had been arranged. I chose the mini bus tour of Littleborough and Roach Valley. We travelled in a beautifully restored single decker Yelloway Coach, and with Peter Cryer as our guide were made aware of many historical and interesting places.

It was a fascinating tour on a lovely sunny day, and at the end of it we reached Blackstone Edge, and had what may be the old Roman Road pointed out to us.

When we returned to Littleborough Community School coffee and minerals were awaiting us, and all those present had enjoyed the day.

Mavis Homewood

1993 ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The seventh year of the Society's photographic competition attracted 73 entries from 12 entrants. The Society now has well over 500 photographs of modern day Ramsbottom, enabling a comprehensive archive to be kept of ever changing Ramsbottom.

This was the third successive year that the competition has had four categories.

The first category was EVENTS which attracted 23 entries. One of the major events of the year was the visit of the Flying Scotsman which drew vast crowds of people to Ramsbottom at the beginning of the year. Other events based around the railway were the annual Teddy Bears Picnic on August Bank Holiday Monday, and Thomas the Tank engine who appeared twice during the year.

The TOWN AND COUNTRY category had 30 entries depicting landscape scenes, and pictures of buildings in disrepair as well as new buildings including the new houses on Carr Street.

The OPEN category had 11 entries and included a school visit to the Heritage Centre, a subject which features in the competition every year and represents an important part of the work of the Society.

The INTERIORS category had eight entries, three of displays in the Heritage Centre, and the remainder taken inside Unaform Mil! at Stubbins. Many more photographs are required of the insides of buildings, as their function changes quickly, for example the Heritage Centre may have moved location before next year's competition.

This year's competition was judged by Mr Ken Adshead, photographer and artist, who had the very difficult task of choosing an overall winner of the Dickensian Trophy, and the four category winners. Highly Commended Certificates were also awarded.

Ail the entries were displayed in the Heritage Centre during November and December They were also displayed at the Christmas meeting in the Civic Hall when the winners were announced and prizes and certificates were presented.

John Leyland

Results overleaf.

Overall Winner (Dickensian Trophy);		Colin Wilson
Town & Country;		
	First	Colin Wilson
	Highly Commended	Dorothy Moss
		Clyde Tweedale
Interiors		
	First	Ian Summers
	Highly Commended	Ian Summers
Events		
	First	Colin Wilson
	Highly Commended	Dorothy Moss
	Highly Commended	John Leyland
Open		
	First	Barbara Park

BARWOOD MILL (KAY BROW MILL), KAY BROW, RAMSBOTTOM

In August 1993, one of our members, Geoff Hill of *Barwood House*, on behalf of the Society submitted a request for the listing of this property to the Department of National Heritage. Once listed a building is protected by law and any demolitions, alterations or extensions which would materially affect its character will need Listed Building Consent.

Geoff's submission, which includes photographs and maps, is freely quoted in this article. We have a copy of it in the archive which can be seen at any time.

What is so special about this mill? It was not built as a mill but as a coach-house for *Barwood House* by the youngest Grant brother Charles in the 1820s. This is recorded on the tithe map of 1842 and is the building now known as the mill. Charles Grant bought *Barwood House* in 1819 from Henry Kay, whose family are regarded with the Peels as founders of industrial Ramsbottom.

Barwood House itself is a listed stone Georgian property built around 1781 and now regarded as one of the most important historic properties in Ramsbottom. The coachhouse (mill) is an attractive and substantial stone structure with close physical and historic connections with *Barwood House*. Many of its original features are retained and particular attention is drawn to the existence of the coat of arms of the Grant family, over the front door of the coach house, which is aligned with what were probably stable doors. This does not face Kay Brow but faces south towards *Barwood House* and the main entrance to the coach-house and into *Barwood House* was from the main gate which is now on Grants Lane.

A few years ago an article in the *Bury Times* announced that this property had been bought by Dyson & Associates of Huddersfield with an approved and attractive scheme for its conversion into a residential seven apartment building, which planned to preserve some of its original character. Their interest in the origins of the mill came in a letter to our Society asking us for information on the history of the building.

With valuable help from many members, the building's history was researched. After the gentry moved from *Barwood House* the coachhouse is remembered as stables hired out by carriage companies e.g. Whitakers in Rawtenstall and other traders who needed horses before motor vehicles became affordable. In the late 1940s the building was taken over by Isherwoods, a saw mill and joinery business and Isherwood bought *Barwood House*. When Isherwood sold out, two knitting factories took over. The building was abandoned in 1984.

The property was only called a mill after Isherwood and the knitting companies took over. Because of the collapse in the housing market the Dyson Company have disposed of their interest and the property has started to deteriorate. If Geoff Hill's submission for listing is accorded, the opportunities would then exist to obtain grant aid and make the prospect of the original development proceeding much better. Bury Development Services support the request for listing. The Conservation Officer of Bury in a letter to me 20.10.93 wrote: "The continuing deterioration of the building is a cause for concern and I am anxious that the approved residential conversion scheme be implemented as soon as possible". The latest news we have is that the Department of National Heritage is taking advice from English Heritage.

There is hope that 'Kay Brow Mill' will be saved, it is in the Ramsbottom Conservation area and together with Barwood House and a line of terraced cottages knownas Rose Hill it forms an attractive grouping around a small nature reserve. It is an integral part of the Grant family's architectural legacy to the town. Failure to list could well result in its eventual demolition and infill by modern housing which would be very sad.
I hope readers will visit the property, read the submission and help by any means possible to support it. It is a positive way to preserve our heritage by making it useful and valuable today.

Prepared by Brenda Decent from the work of Geoff Hill, other Ramsbottom Heritage Society members and the Society Archive.

THE TAYLORS OF SHUTTLEWORTH

Attempting research into a particular branch of Taylors in Shuttleworth can be both interesting and frustrating, especially when they become involved with the Ramsbottoms.

My Gt Gt Gt Grandfather Joshua, a woollen weaver, was born in Edenfield in 1770 and married Mary Holden of Musbury in 1797 at Bury parish church by licence. His parents were John Taylor and Betty (?) and here at the moment I have come to a halt.

Joshua had several children and I have been particularly interested in three sons, John born 1798, James born 1800 (my Gt Gt Grandfather) and Jonathan born 1803. The three were baptised at Union Street Chapel, Rochdale. The family lived at various places in Shuttleworth, Antons, Scout and finally Fecit in the 1830s.

James married Margaret Isherwood, a daughter of Bennett, a calico printer of Nuttall, formerly of Quarlton (Edgeworth). James took up farming, first at Doffer Fold near Elton Reservoir and then in Princess Street, Bury, where he was a farmer and cowkeeper. This would be near the Square on the precinct. He was also a Currier and Leather Deafer in Union Square.

John the eldest brother was a Woollen Manufacturer and remained in Shuttleworth all his life until his death by cholera in 1849. He was married twice. First to Mary Ramsbottom the daughter of George and Alice of Brick House and then to Elizabeth Nightingale, a daughter of the Rev Nightingale of Park Chapel. Elizabeth died at the age of 27 and is reputed to have been buried under the hearth stone of No 72 Whalley Road, before being re-interred at Park after the death of her father. John Taylor left two daughters - Alice by his first marriage and Nancy Nightingale by the second. John's brother James took over the responsibility of guardian. This was done by a Tuition Bond in the sum of £400 which would have been forfeited if he did not carry out his duties as guardian.

John did not leave a will in 1849 but an inventory was made of his goods. The most valuable item in his house was ‘An Old Set of Mahogany Drawers' valued at £2.2s 0d, followed by a Mahogany Comer Cupboard 15s. Other items were: A large Rocking Chair and Cushion 3s 9d, A Small Rocking Chair 2s 6d, A Small Wooden Child's Chair 1s 3d, Four Pictures 1s 3d, A Small Looking Glass 1s 0d and a Clock without a case 5s 0d. His Wearing Apparel was worth £2 0s 0d. The total value of Furniture, Cutlery, Clothes etc. was £8 14s 3d.

A separate inventory was done for the Chamber where his work was carried out. Some items were: 11 1/2 Pairs of Blankets at 8s per Pair (£412s 0d), 19 Pairs of Small Blankets at 7s per pair, (£613s 0d), 17 Coarse Blankets at 7s per blanket {£519s 0d), a Bobbin Wheel 1 s 0d, Old Woollen Looms 7s 6d and an Old Jenny 5s 0d. The total of Stock in Trade was £42 10s 6d. In addition, Book Debts came to £108 2s 7d.

Jonathan, the remaining brother, was the Mr Taylor mentioned in JHH Haworth’s *Shuttleworth in the Forties* as a farmer and wool merchant or stapler living at Fecit. He married Ann Ramsbottom another daughter of George. In 1841 a soldier and his family were billeted at his farm. Jonathan seems to have been very successful and by 1861 was owning property and land at Bagslate, Spotland. He died in 1868 quite a rich man. His wife Ann died at the age of 90 in 1900. A sister Betty married Nathan Ramsbottom and went to live at Cheesden Pasture. Joshua, the father, (born 1770) died at Fecit in 1840. He was classified as “A Pauper”. From being a successful Woollen Weaver, able to afford to be married by licence and to provide his sons with some sort of education, the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the advent of industrialisation had no doubt brought about his reduced circumstances.

I must thank John Simpson and Andrew Todd for the help and information which they have given me.

if anyone has, or requires, any **information** on any person mentioned I shall be most interested.

J. Henaughan

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 6 MAY 1935

On 6 May 1935 celebrations were held throughout the country to mark the Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. This area was no exception. Below Jean Price outlines the detailed planning *of* the Summerseat celebrations by local organisations and their officials, whilst Fred Entwistle describes a glorious "day to remember in Ramsbottom

SUMMERSEAT CELEBRATIONS - AN OFFICIAL REPORT

Representatives of Rowlands Wesleyan Chapel, Railway Street Primitive Methodist Chapel, The Church of England Mission {St Wilfred's), ex-servicemen's organisations and the Salvation Army met to discuss the Jubilee celebrations to be held on 6 May 1935. it was agreed that denominational services and a united procession would be held and that a midday meal would be provided. 411 meals and 294 refreshment bags were to be ordered and depots for their distribution were to be set up at Railway Street Sunday School, Rowlands Sunday School and the upper room of the Liberal Club. The recreation ground was to be used for sports and games.
The following timetable was agreed:

3.00 pm -	Procession arrives at field
3.15 to 3.30 pm -	Tea for the children
Following tea	the race finals

The band was to play selections and for dancing during the afternoon and evening.

The Punch and Judy was to be split between the two schools If there was rain on the day.

An old folks treat for over 70's would be arranged on Saturday 11 May in Railway Street School and their piano and pianist would be hired.

Children from Summerseat House (school for delicate children) would be asked to participate in the celebration.

Ex servicemen would lead the procession, then the band, the children and lastly the older people.

A box of fruit and 6d worth of chocolate would be given to those too ill to attend. After the celebrations this was reported by William Redgrave:

Rowlands (Mr Wright)	173 + 2 meals sent for sick children
Staff	14
Railway Street (Mr Walker)	100
Staff	14
	301 total meals 303

5 o'clock to 6 o'clock: 294 refreshment bags distributed and coffee served
Railway Street Depot: 26 bandsmen entertained to tea

The ceremony began at 12.45pm on the spare ground, a square being formed by the band drawn up opposite the children with the ex-servicemen on the band's right and the older people on the left. Then 725 people joined in the procession round the village and back to the recreation ground for sports. The band played for dancing and at 8.30 pm the National Anthem signalled the end of the celebrations.37 people attended the Old Folks Treat on Saturday 11 May. Mrs Holgate, aged 88 received a cake stand from Mrs Hamer and Councillor Hamer presented a walking stick to Mr Oldham at the Post Office.

This co-operative village effort led to the formation of the Summerseat Village Activities Committee. The first General Committee Meeting was held on 25 September 1935 and the list of activities below was drawn up:

11 October -7-11 Dance at the Liberal Club

Children's Bulb Growing Competition

Whist Drives at the Mechanics' Institute
Concert Parties
Pierrot Troupe Regular Discussion Class

References - Bury Archives (ISV)

Jean Price

CELEBRATIONS IN RAMSBOTTOM - AS REMEMBERED BY A PARTICIPANT

In 1935 we lived in the off-licence shop at the top of the steps on Albert Street. I was eleven years old at the time and attended Holcombe School. Before returning to Ramsbottom my parents ran a fish and chip shop in Radcliffe. We came from Ramsbottom originally and I was born in Victoria Street.

The story begins at school where we all received a pottery commemoration mug as a keepsake, paid for by Ramsbottom Council, i still have mine in perfect condition. More important to me at the time was the fact that we had a holiday from school to celebrate the Jubilee.

Like most of the other streets in the town ours was decorated with red, white and blue burning and flags and pictures of the King and Queen. In the rooming my father and the rest of the neighbours organised games and races in the street for small prizes such as bars of chocolate. We all had a great time although I cannot remember winning a prize myself. In the afternoon came what we had all been waiting for. All the town's children assembled with their schools to march to Nuttall Park. Although it was early May we had a very hot day - so hot that the tar melted and stuck to our shoes as we marched up Bury New Road. When we arrived at the park we lined up to listen to a few speeches from some of the Councillors and then we had displays by the Scouts and gymnastics and other sports. A band was playing and it was great fun. We all had tea and every child was given a stick of rock.

It was a wonderful day, one I shall always remember. It ended with a huge bonfire on Holcombe Hill and fireworks. When I finally went to bed exhausted it was with memories never to be forgotten.

Fred Entwistle

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS

When the Heritage Centre opened in 1990 we expected that, in addition to our own Ramsbottom residents, we would also receive visitors from other areas who were attracted by the newly re-opened East Lancashire Railway. What we had not expected was the number of people from overseas who would visit us.

Recently I browsed through our Visitors Books and found signatures of visitors from no less than 19 different countries-Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Gold Coast, Japan, Jordan, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Malawi, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, USA and West Africa.

We have had visits from schoolchildren on exchange visits, official and unofficial visitors from our twin towns and people who are touring around this country on holiday.

Two recent visitors were a couple from New Zealand who left Ramsbottom in 1949 and noticed many changes in the town. Incidentally, they run a bed and breakfast establishment back home in New Zealand and have left us a business card. So if you are thinking of spending your next wakes week somewhere a bit different……

Wherever our visitors come from, and whatever their reasons for being here they can be sure of a warm welcome. If they are former Ramsbottom residents they will quite possibly meet someone they know!

Tom Barrett

HAZELHURST ENGRAVING WORKS - c1920s

I was very interested in the latest article about Spencer's Engraving Works, 258-264, Bolton Road West, which appeared in the Summer 1993 News Magazine. I was born at 250, Bolton Road West in 1928, my mother was also born there in 1897. Her mother was widowed in 1905, leaving Grandma with my mother and three stepsons. My mother, then Annie Smith, was a girlhood friend of Miss Maude and Miss Amelia Forshaw, and in fact, her wedding photographs were taken in the garden behind the works in 1924.

My mother became a dressmaker and Miss 'Millie' was a very good and regular customer. She and her brother, Mr John Forshaw, actually lived at 258. I remember what a lovely home it was with two sitting rooms with bay windows at the front and the dining room with its dresser and willow patterned plates along one wall. There were many sporting prints on the walls and a good piano in one of the front rooms.

Mr John was often in his pigeon loft, wearing a bowler hat and there was a black Labrador, Julie. In the Second World War when the air raids began she would begin to howl before we heard the sirens. I think we had electricity connected at 250 about 1933 but gas lighting still continued at 258 andI remember the elegant shades in the house, especially on the wall lights.

Although I no longer live in Ramsbottom we are not too far away and my husband and I have visited the Heritage Centre several times. Like many other people I wish i had taken more notice' and could remember more details of times past. I never dreamed that what was just everyday life in those days would one day become 'history'.

Barbara E Ford

MORE NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Researching local history is a bit like doing a jig saw puzzle - you never know where the next piece will come from or where it will fit in!

For example regular readers will be aware that for some time now Society Secretary, Dorothy Moss has been in correspondence with Mrs Joy Bussem, formerly of Ramsbottom, now resident in Australia. Mrs Bussem originally wrote to ask for help in compiling her family tree but later described how she had discovered neighbouring estates named Ramsbottom, Tottington and Holcombe.

The Society has now been contacted by Mr Bryan Small, the present owner of the Ramsbottom and Tottington stations, now combined and known as Tottington. Mr Small writes: "It is now almost 150 years since Lawrence Rostron set up the two vast sheep stations quite a feat considering the isolated position with no roads, no communications and no neighbours. He was of course assisted by a large staff, including Joel Pennington a Lancashire sheep man and his brother Dan, and later by his cousin Samuel S Rothwell who was his book keeper - all of whom came from Ramsbottom".

To mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the station Mr Small is writing a book and asked if the Society could help with information about Lawrence Rostron and his family. Our chairman, Andrew Todd contacted local historian John Simpson who was able to link Lawrence with the mill-owning Rostrons of Holcombe, Edenfield and Ramsbottom. If anyone else has any information I am sure Mr Small would be interested to hear from them (as indeed would the Society). He can be contacted at Tottington, St Arnaud, Victoria 3478, Australia.

Mr Small has become a member of the Society - surely our most distant member? He has promised to send us a copy of his book for the archive when it is published in 1994 and we look forward with interest to its arrival.

Barbara Park

BOOK REVIEW

William Turner, ***Riot - the story of the East Lancashire Loom Breakers 1826***
(Lancashire County Books, 1992) £9.50

The saga of the Chatterton Riot has become part of Ramsbottom folklore. Different versions have circulated and contradictory rumours about what happened have abounded but our knowledge of the facts has been sparse and fragmentary.

Now at last Chatterton has found its historian. William Turner has written a carefully researched, lavishly illustrated and eminently readable account of the events on that fateful day in April 1826 when the military fired on rioting workers and six people, four rioters and two bystanders fell dead. The Chatterton light' as it was known did not arise out of thin air. Its causes were rooted deeply in the social and economic conditions of the time. The desperation of the hand loom weavers forced into destitution by the rise of the cotton factories with their hated power looms, the regressive policies of a government determined to put down with ferocity all expressions of popular discontent, the prevalence of machine smashing as a method of political protest at a time when workers did not have votes ail played their parts. It is to Bill Turner's credit that he places the Chatterton events in their context in this way before going on to give his carefully detailed account of what happened on the day. Of equal importance is the way in which he deals with the aftermath of the riot. The authorities sought to cover up what had happened. The press and public were excluded from the inquest into the deaths of the Chatterton victims, no attempts were made to identify the soldiers responsible and the regiment concerned left Lancashire secretly within a week for a posting on the South Coast.

At the trial in August 1826 of some of those who had taken part in the riots the events at Chatterton were not even mentioned. 69 men and women were accused of actions taken either before they arrived at Chatterton or after they had left. 41, including six women, were sentenced to death and five were given immediate sentences of imprisonment.

The death sentences in most cases wore later commuted.to terms of imprisonment ranging from three to eighteen months. Ten prisoners, including two women had their death sentences commuted to transportation to the colonies.

Not the least of Bill Turner's achievements has been to trace in detail the subsequent life histories of some of these people from their trials and tribulations on board the notorious prison ships to their arrival in Botany Bay, Australia and from their time in the New South Wales convict settlements to their conditional pardons years later which allowed them to settle in Australia as free men and women. Although thousands of miles away from what happened at Chatterton the Australian connection is an absorbing story in its own right.

We must all be indebted to Bill Turner for this definitive account of the Chatterton fight. This book is a bargain at its price. Buy it, read it, and enjoy it. If you want to know what really happened on that April day nearly 170 years ago you will find no better source.

Trevor Park

[The book is on sale at the Heritage Centre as well as at most book shops].

STARTING WORK AT SHEPHERD'S - AUGUST 1937

I was fourteen years old and left St Paul's Day School on a Friday. The following Monday morning, at 7.30 am, my working life began at a firm called Shepherd's. The mill was situated along the railway bottom and they wove both towels and 'shoddy' for sheets.

I felt very strange and nervous that first day. I was to work in the towel warehouse where the weavers brought the towels straight from their looms to be weighed. One of the girls hooked the towels to be cut into pairs, whilst others worked on machines. One machine whipped the raw edges of the towels so that they did not fray, whilst others hemmed them. Then they came to me to be folded in pairs - not just folded but folded correctly. After this they were passed on to a workman who parcelled them up with brown paper and siring according to the orders ready for dispatch.

About ten o'clock we had a ten-minute break, then carried on until dinnertime at 12 noon when we had an hours break. At one o'clock it was back to work again folding towels until 3.00 pm, ten minutes for a brew and then back to work again until 5.30 pm when we finished for the day. I was lucky enough to live not far away and was glad to get home for my tea. My first day at work had seemed a very long day.

My weekly wage for working Monday to Friday from 7.30 am till 12 noon and 1 pm to 5.30 pm and Saturday mornings from 7.30 am to 12 noon was ten shillings (10/-) per week.

After I had worked there for four weeks I was offered a job at Porritt & Spencer's which I took - but that's another story.

Edith Duckworth (née Walley)

I REMEMBER - RIGHT BACK TO 1900

When first built the Victoria and Albert Street area was known as Torytown. My paternal granny lived in the bottom house - her husband managed the paper mill until he died, aged 45, leaving her a widow with seven sons. My three brothers and myself were born there - although my second brother died after only two weeks.

Father had a collapsed lung and was advised to get out into the country, so we moved to a farmhouse in Redisher Woods - Lower Ridge near Simon's Lodge - a lovely place to be, but when yet another baby was due, we moved to Tanners to be nearer shops and other amenities. It was the top cottage, very dark and damp and had blackjacks in the kitchen so we didn't stay tong. I was three whilst living there and can recall going to Holcombe School and being in a concert there. Then the new school was built at Hazelhurst and our caravan finally came to rest in Butler Street!

We always attended St Paul's Church - although I could never understand why we had to pass St Andrew's, Primitive Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic and Baptist churches to do our bit of worship at St Paul's, when Holcombe Brook Methodist would have been handier and easier on our little legs. I had a prize for regular attendance at both day and Sunday schools when I was three! Not that the latter did much good. I had an enquiring mind and still have a very open mind about religion (and politics). Allthe troubles in this very troubled world seem to me to evolve from them!

I remember the tuppenny tea party at St Paul's School on New Year's Day - the best and noisiest party ever. Every religion was welcome it they could scrape up 2d - and didn't they all come! Lot Walsh's shop opposite the Church sold penny whistles and penny canes which were used to accompany the band (would it be Hanson's or Pycroft's?). Lots of food, probably leftovers from the grown up's party the previous night but I never heard of anyone getting salmonella! Father Christmas came and organised drill and exercises and threw handfuls of biscuits amongst the kids - "Perry Werrying" this was called and we all staggered home with apples and oranges and sweets at the end of a perfect day!

And what about the Rose Queen festivals in aid of the Cottage Hospital with gaily decorated horses, lorries, cycles etc. Other towns sent entries and I have an old friend who will soon be 98 who attended Bank Street Methodists in Bury - she was a member of the team of dancers who always seemed to carry off first prize - it was quite an event.

Holden's Towel Mill was originally a small building behind the *Hare and Hounds* and I recall the "new one" being built - now that has gone. It would certainly have been a "Sleepy Hollow" in the days when we children were working half time at eleven years of age, starting at six in the morning - not the good old days.

Nowadays I am deaf, my eyes are dim, my legs refuse to do as they are told, but I thank goodness my memory is still working - right back to 1900!

Edna Ashworth

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NEWS MAGAZINE

Mike Potts, Manager, and all the staff at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Ramsbottom are happy to continue their support for the Ramsbottom Heritage Society by sponsoring this edition of their News Magazine.

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FRONT COVER - Cottages at Boardmans, Hawkshaw Lane drawn by Tamsin Crowden

Welcome to our ninth News Magazine.

First, a hearty thank-you to Barbara PARK for editing this magazine since issue 2 in late 1990. She very kindly took the reins after my first issue, and has done a sterling job ever since. Under her, the identity of our News Magazine has become established - an accent on Ramsbottom's past, as remembered by its older residents and exiles, but also as pieced together by the small but growing number of our members who have looked at the wealth of records which survive in particular at Bury Archives in Edwin Street. It has proved a popular mix, so much so that our normal run length of 300 has often gone into reprint to satisfy the demand of visitors at the Centre.

One small change - readers may well live many miles from the town, and may well want to follow up articles by contacting the author, possibly in years to come. For this reason, I propose in future issues to publish contributors' addresses, unless they state a wish to the contrary.

Do please continue to give in material - either by post or by hand to the Heritage Centre.

Small items are most welcome. And do remember that recollections do not have lobe about the distant past - so much has happened even in the last 20 years to make relatively recent memories of interest. Also, as this issue should make clear, we do not concern ourselves exclusively with the town of Ramsbottom, but rather the old pre-1974 Urban District, which comprised Edenfield, Shuttleworth, Summerseat, Holcombe and as far west as Hawkshaw Lane.

Incidentally, we have just passed, in April, the centenary of the dissolution of the old Ramsbottom Local Board, and its replacement by the Ramsbottom Urban District Council, which survived from April 1894 to April 1974.

As well as being an historical record, the News Magazine logs the Society's present activities. In January 1995, we hope to begin work on a new Heritage Centre exhibition to commemorate Ramsbottom in 1945, the Year of Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan. If anyone has photographs, newspapers, documents or artefacts that they are willing to loan us for this display, please contact Brenda DECENT via the Centre. The items will be required in the New Year, but do let Brenda know now of their existence.

Andrew Todd

RAMSBOTTOM IN FOCUS

Over a period of four years, in sunny spring, hot summer, cool autumn, and bitter cold winter, our intrepid film crew carried on shooting footage to put together what we hope is an interesting insight into Ramsbottom, the town itself, and the hidden beauty of its surrounding area - places steeped in history and mystery, and a mixture of events. There are 26 sequences in the film which starts with the official opening of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society’s Visitors Centre in 1990, by the then Mayor of Bury, Monty ADLER.

Making a film, whatever the subject, is not just a matter of “point and shoot” and that’s it. Peter and I spent many days editing the film - Peter taking over the camerawork when our original cameraman opted out. Some shots were shortened; some sequences swapped places with others, and little shots of unexpected happenings were slotted in.

When the final edit was complete, the film was shown to the other members of Peel Cine Group for their opinion, for we are dedicated film-making Group, who firmly believe that nothing can replace the enjoyment of handling film to edit it - saving pieces which we have cut out for the possible use in future films, and building up our own soundtrack.

The completed film was sent away for striping, and the work on building up the soundtrack began. The right music had to be chosen to match the mood of each sequence, and the sound balanced so that it didn’t drown out the commentaries, some of which were recorded by Judith APPLEBY, Tom BARRATT and John SIMPSON.

It was an exacting, at limes stressful, but in the end an enjoyable production. We learnt a lot about Ramsbottom and were impressed by the beautiful and breathtaking scenery we discovered when seeking out various places linked with history. We feel that we have produced a film that shows that Ramsbottom is not just a Name on a Map!

Mavis Homewood

»

WARTIME MEMORIES OF SUMMERSEAT

As my time spent living in Summerseat was during most of the Second World War period, then obviously events connected with the War must crop up here and there, Ï lived in that village from late 1940 until early April 1944 when I was then directed by the Ministry of Labour to work as a 'Bevin Boy' at a pit in Derbyshire. I bend my head with shame when I tell you that I doubt very much whether I visited Ramsbottom more than perhaps a dozen times in those days as Bury with its many cinemas, theatre and *Palais de Danse* (whatever happened to Jack CANNON and Band?) was - to a person of my age - a much greater attraction. Reading Fred ENTWISTLE's story in *Ramsbottom Reminiscences* I notice he mentions the 'land mine' that fell near to Stubbins Bridge. I believe this occurred early in 1941, possibly in the Spring of that year. I recall that after learning of this incident it encouraged my young nephew and I to set out walking from Summerseat to Stubbins - out of sheer curiosity to gaze at the scene. At that time I was 15 and my nephew nine. I noticed the damage done to the mill near the bridge, the roof of which looked as though it had been lifted up by the blast from the explosion and dropped back almost into position again.

Last year, for the second time, I made this trek to Stubbins, only this time walking from Ramsbottom and when I reached that bridge I instantly recognised the scene, the mill etc again, and this was just 52 years later! On an occasional pleasant Sunday afternoon, my sister, nephew and 1 would take a casual stroll to Grants Tower which in 1940-41 was still standing, but only just! It was not open to the public because it was in such a decrepit condition with much of the stone work having collapsed. This littered the ground around the base of this once proud tower. I was rather disappointed that I could never ascend the steps but of course to have tried to gain entry would have been foolhardy and extremely dangerous. Oddly, never once in those days did 1 attempt to tackle the climb to Holcombe Hill and its Tower. To my youthful mind, looking at it from Railway Street, it always appeared as a much greater height than it actually was. 1 was of the opinion that only an expert would scale that! Nowadays, when I come up to Lancashire on my yearly visits I often climb to .the Tower. Something I wouldn't do at 15 I do quite cheerfully now at 68! If my memory serves me right I do believe those war-time winters inevitably brought with them considerable falls of snow and when this happened my nephew John and I would climb the wooded slopes beyond the railway station in Summerseat leading up the church (now gone) and Rowlands School, knee-deep in snow and enjoying every minute of it - as youngsters would do (especially refugees from London where snow was rarely seen).

Our first Christmas in our home in Railway Street was a most austere one. Any attempt at celebration was down to a minimum, a very sad and tragic period as a few days previously Manchester had received its most devastating blitz, the flames from the many large fires turning the sky red. Also, during the attacks on Liverpool the reddish sky could be observed from Summerseat.

I wonder, does any member recall the fish and chip shop not far from Brooks bottom Mill? It was run very efficiently by a Mrs Annie COOK. I adored her potato pies but not the mushy peas. Annie used to have a notice behind her which read 'KEEPSMILING - YOUR TURN NEXT", a silly thing to remember.

I do believe Annie had a son or nephew named Ernie COOK who worked in the Co-op store in Railway Street. If alive he would be a little bit older than me. Like myself, he served in the local Home Guard, a rotund type of lad with a wonderful sense of humour and it was always fun being in his company. Our HG Commander was Lt Andrew MOONEY - a well-known character in those parts - even better known in the post-war period - who, so I learned, passed away a few years ago. He always struck me as a cool, calm, deliberate type of fellow and one who would be completely in control of any tricky situation. I sometimes have a quiet chuckle to myself when I think back to those HG days, the tales I told my sister regarding our 'parades', mock battles, manoeuvres, etc.

The mill canteen was our local HQ where we would meet on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings and on one occasion, during a lecture on the MILLS Hand Grenade, feeling rather bored and tired, I dropped off to sleep only to be awakened by thelecturer, our sergeant, asking in a loud voice, 'What was I saying WHITFORD?' which, of course, left me bewildered and embarrassed. As I had just turned 15 when I joined the HG I doubt very much whether many of my old comrades would still be surviving as they would be of some advanced years now. Sometime during the latter part of 1944, the HG was stood downand by way of celebration we were given what was then called 'A Potato Pie Do' which was held in some hall somewhere either in Ramsbottom or Tottington.

This reminds me of the Muffin Man carrying his basket going from door to door selling muffins and crumpets, always on a Saturday but after a while he suddenly disappeared never to be heard of again, and also another very welcomed vendor was the chap with the van who would sell large bottles of lemonade, orange and dandelion and burdock. These cost I believe 5d in old money with a penny refunded on a returnable bottle. This man was also sadly missed when he too after a few months completely vanished. Ï suppose it is possible that they were called up into the armed forces. The. row of houses where we lived in Railway Street backed up onto the Irwell and during heavy rain storms the river would rise alarmingly and seemingly to within a few yards below the window ledge and at other times when the river was low, we would peer down onto the rocks below and watch the antics of the water voles as they scurried to and fro. Those quaintold houses where I spent a large part of my youth, have long gone, due I suppose to another case of official vandalism. Nevertheless the nicer memories will never be forgotten. Happy Days!

Jack Whitford

A RAMSBOTTOM BEGINNING: THE LIFE OF CHARLES EDWARD WALKER, CALICO PRINTER

In the early 1860s, a young boy rode each day on his pony from Turton Bottoms to Ramsbottom where he attended a school. Which school this was doesn't really matter and it is not known, sufficient is it there was such a school in that little town effective enough to satisfy his parents that this was a worthwhile exercise.

For how long this lad rode his pony daily is not recorded and is in no one's memory. Of Course: there must have been facilities for the stabling of the animal until the end of the session and one wonders if any other pupil attended the school in the same way.

After this means of education came to an end the. growing boy went off in the other direction and became a pupil at the Grammar School in Clitheroe where he obviously had to attend as a boarder. It is not at present known when he started at Clitheroe and for how long he was there; this might be discovered from the school records of the period, how is it now known whether he was a weekly boarder and there is no one in the family alive now to enlighten us. This youth was Charles Edward WALKER the youngest child of Robert and Jane WALKER who had produced nine children, one of whom, Jane, the second, had only lived for seven months. Thislone infant death was remarkable for the period in its uniqueness; the baby had been born in 1834. All but one of her nine siblings lived into the 20th Century, the exception being Alice, the third child, who being born in 1836 lived until 1897.

To go a little further back, Robert WALKER, Charles Edward's father, born in 1795, had fathered 14 children in all for he had originally married Jane's elder sister Mary. Charles Edward was therefore the 14th child of hisfather having as his eldest brother (the first born) a mathematical prodigy christened John whohad been born in 1819 living until he was 16 years old and dying in 1835.

Charles Edward had been born on 18th January 1853 in Belmont where his father was the manager of the Calico printing concern of DEWHURST and WALKER. As one might expect in those days of fluidityof business his father had 'been about'. Starting as a lad of five years old Robert was working in Walton-le-Dale in which village his two wives were born. Although he had been born in Bethnal Green, London, his family had been calico printers for five generations in the Dartfordarea of Kent until they migrated to Lancashire with the surge of the Industrial Revolution.

The later progression as far as can be ascertained at this distance was Belmont, Bradshaw, Belfast, Bradshaw again and finally Quarlton Vale where the by now extensive family, had taken overthe print works from the MILLINGTONs in 1857 - remaining there until the sale to the CalicoPrinters Association in 1902. Robert, the father, had died on 31st March 1872. In this progression of work, the earliest recollection of Charles Edward was carrying the cat in a hatbox from Belmont to Turton Bottoms, for what better way for a family group of getting from one place to another in 1857 was there by walking - and to help things along it was downhill. A giant step forward fora little boy - when Charles Edward built a house at the end of his life in Rhos on Sea in 1925, he called it Belmont.

We left Charles Edward some paragraphs back, being educated at Clitheroe Grammar School. He must have been well educated at Ramsbottom and Clitheroe and had character and morals instilled both at school and in between school within his family, for his elder daughter Sarah, my mother, always said that he fulfilled the description of gentleman - indeed too much of a gentleman - to survive successfully the rough and tumble of business life.

Although his family had been calico printers for so many generations, Charles Edward, when old enough to start in business, took over an old-established cotton concern in Edgworth from the THOMASSON family and worked it together with his older brother. Robert John

Tomlinson WALKER. Their mother's maiden name was TOMLINSON from a family long established in Walton-le-Dale. Her grandfather had been Parish Clerk for 60 years and one of her uncles for a further 30.

The most important and happy event in his life was Charles Edward's marriage on 25th January 1882 to Alice the 12th child (of 13) of Charles WHOWELL, bleacher, of Two Brooks, Hawkshaw. This happy event, sealing the already nourishing friendship of the WALKER and WHOWELL families, led to the birth of 11 children, ten living to maturity in Edgworth and Chapeltown. Scattered throughout this country, living in the Antipodes, the New World and the Far East, the still living grandchildren and great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren of Charles Edward WALKER and his wife Alice leave behind a fine pattern of life which they themselves had lived in the proximity of Ramsbottom, a town well-known to the writer who knew it in that part of his working life in the fourth and fifth decades of this century.

As a postscript, the writer was taught to say by his grandfather WALKER in the 1920s *Three Grey Geese Flew Through Clitheroe Castle*. When he repeated this jingle to the late Lord Clitheroe of Downham in the 1970s the latter said it was the first time he had heard it.

JWB Barber-Lomax

It is possible that the school to which young Charles Edward WALKER rode daily in the 1860s was the Athenaeum School, on Crow Lane, forerunner of St Paul's church school. James and Rebecca HOLDEN ran it at the time. James, who had only one arm, kept a newsagents, stationery and printing shop at 16, Bridge Street from about 1851 and for about 40 years. The shop, now 'Card Talk', was a newsagents until two years ago.
There are other examples in the early 19th Century of calico printers who moved from the Walton-le-Dale area to our part of Lancashire.
Charles WHOWELL started Two Brooks bleach works about 1851. He was probably one of the better employers, providing an evening and Sunday school for his younger workers, some of whom were under 13. Like many bleach masters, however, he had little idea of how long his manager worked these children - 6.00am to 10.00pm was common for a 'set' (ie a shift) at Two Brooks. Some of the younger ones fell asleep whilst standing at their work, according to one. Mary GREENHALGH. Readers can judge conditions at Two Brooks themselves by reading pages 47-8 of the evidence given to the 1854-5 Royal Commission for Inquiring into the Expediency of Extending the Acts to Factories to Bleaching Works, a copy of which is in the Bolton Local Studies Library. [Editor]

LIFE AT ASHTON LODGE

On 18th March 1993 a momentous occasion occurred - I moved house!

I was born in 1933 at 2, Church Street, Ramsbottom, a little house back-to-back with 1, St Paul'sPlace (anyone remember that? - it disappeared about 30 years ago). My brother was also born there in 1936. About 1937 we moved to 12, Church Street, a larger house with the same communal yard as before. Then in March 1940 we moved round the comer to 27, Garden Street.

Two years ago I decided to start thinking about my old age during twinges from my arthritis and also realising I would soon be eligible to join the elite band of bus pass users. When 1 saw the plans for the new building on Stubbins Lane 1 decided to apply to North British Housing Association and, to my amazement, I was offered a flat. After a lot. of sorting out (after 53 years in one house things do tend to accumulate) die great day arrived and I moved in. My flat consists of a bedroom, bathroom, fitted kitchen and a lounge from which Ï can see Bolton Road North at *Rosebank*, Stubbins, Whalley Road, hills beyond Turn Village and Walmersely Road as far as Gollinrod. A few yards away lies the railway line and it is interesting to note the number of passengers travelling each weekend. Ï try to ignore the Sterling Paper Mill Effluent Plant between the railway and the river, as I follow the view across the fields to the by-pass and the hills over which hang gliders sometimes hover.

Our complex has a laundry room and outside drying area. There are small lounges, one on each level, where small groups occasionally meet. The Red Room on the top floor is used once a month for Communion services, taken by the clergy of St Paul's Church, when everyone is welcome. Library books are also left there every few weeks for people to choose as they wish. On the ground floor a large lounge is used each day by the tenants to chat with neighbours and each Thursday a coffee morning is organised with tenants taking turns making coffee, washing up etc. We had a successful Spring Fair in May for which everyone worked extremely hard. We also had a special Coffee Morning in October to which friends and relatives were invited and which raised £283 for Macmillan Nurses.

Our Warden, Denise, and Assistant, Val, have organised various social events and outings which are especially welcomed by the house bound residents. We now have a Tenants Committee who also work hard organising social evenings. With our Wardens, who call on us each morning, and the intercom-controlled entrance, we all feel secure in our new environment. With all the lounges and events we can be as social or anti-social as we wish. I personally enjoy the friendship of the complex with everyone prepared to help each other whenever needed. In fact good old fashioned neighbourly concern.

So far I have seen spring, summer and autumn colours in the distance and am looking forward to the next season. More flats are to be built between this complex and the railway line but until that happens I shall continue to enjoy my view.

As a regular hclper at the Heritage Centre I sometimes look at the Granny's Kitchen display with its reminders of how life was in the so called 'good old days' and reflect that moving here was the best decision of my life, providing as it does the security of the old neighbourly way of life and all the amenities of the 1990s. Joan Barcroft

Ashton Lodge was built by the North British Housing Association in 1992, and our society chose its name. We were concerned that it should not be saddled with the garish name Pickwick Place, bruited at the time, and the Association accepted our suggestion. Our name had a double meaning - as well as simply a lodge in the sense of a house, we sought to commemorate the actual mill lodge, which powered the ASHTON family's Ramsbottom Mill. The lodge occupied the land on which are now sited the municipal recycling centre

{formerly known as the "tip') and the baths. This man-made lake will be remembered by many of the residents of its rather drier namesake. Incidentally, does anybody know anything of the history of the Lodge? It was, I believe, a favourite play area after it was filled in - but does anyone have any dates?

We also christened the new stretch of road on which Ashton Lodge stands, for Bury Council accepted our suggestion that the name should commemorate the name of the old field through which it runs, and which we know existed at least as long ago as the Tithe Survey of1842. So we have Great Eaves Road - but it is a well-kept secret, for despite it having existed since 1992, it has yet to receive a name plate/ [Editor]

THE STRANGE CASE OF HAWKSHAW'S DISAPPEARING BOUNDARY STONE

Like many Ramsbottom people, I must have passed that small rectangle of weathered stone hundreds of times without noting its existence. Then in June 1989, whilst pushbiking rather than shooting past in a car or bus, I spotted the inscription in a clear late 18th/early 19th Century font:

Bury Parish/ Bolton Parish

This parish boundary stone (map reference SD 750150) stood on the A676 a quarter of a mile west of Hawkshaw, where the road bends gently to the right alongside the small lake (actually a glacial overflow from the last Ice Age) before climbing to the cross roads at the *Bull Inn,* Higher Waives. Recently it has disappeared, in mysterious circumstances.

It undoubtedly marked a boundary of great but uncertain age. The ancient parishes of Bury and Bolton covered huge areas (Bury, for example, stretched from Heywood to Cowpe and Helmshore). They were two of the 56 recorded for Lancashire in a papal tax of 1291, and may well by then have been two or three centuries old. Parish boundaries were marked because their courses were of more than antiquarian interest. They determined where you paid certain church taxes like the tithe (tenth) of your produce, and also dictated at one time your legal settlement (i.e. where you could live and claim poor relief). Consequently a preliterate society, in which there were no maps, had to resort to annual perambulations, traditionally in Rogation Week (immediately before Ascension Day) to check that boundary markers (merestones) were still in place, and to reinforce, in the communal memory, the limits of the parish.

The stone that, until last year, marked this thousand year-old line was almost certainly erected shortly after the passage in 1797 of the Edenfield and Little Bolton Turnpike Act, which authorised a group of local heavy weights to take over the line of lanes and trackways which purported to connect those two places and to upgrade them. An entirely new stretch of road was to be built through what is now Hawkshaw. The trust's first minute book (1797-1817) has survived, and a photocopy is now in Bolton Local Studies at the Central Library. (It would be gratifying if the later volumes were also to turn up). From this, we know that contracts to build a line of new road, from Bradshaw Fold to Booth Pits (ie the T junction at the top of the modem Holcombe Road) were signed in September 1797.

The parish boundary also marked the boundary between two townships - Bradshaw in Bolton parish and Tottington Lower End in Bury. Strictly speaking it was this demarcation that was important, for the inhabitants of each township owed annual statute labour of six days on their stretch of turnpike. Though the labour would have been probably commuted to a highway rate by 1797, no township was going to pay to repair an inch more of road than it had to.

Having survived nearly two centuries undisturbed, there seemed no reason to be concerned that this merestone was threatened. I did write to Bury's Director of Engineering, BA MARSH, following my first sighting in June 1989, He assured me that his authority had

... .no plans to remove the boundary stone in the foreseeable future.

Cynics might recall how politicians have doubled VAT, increased NI contributions and extended VAT to domestic fuel within months or even weeks of having uttered this now famous cover phrase. But I think that subsequent events had no conspiratorial sleight of hand behind them. Ï also wrote to the Department of the Environment, and was told how I could go about applying for the stone to be listed - a very simple process.

Within six months, the stone had vanished. Mr Marsh, however, was able to reassure me that Bolton MBC had recently laid drainage stones behind the kerb, and in the process buried the unfortunate stone. Now it is in the nature of things that boundary stones have the ill luck to have the mistakes visited upon them of not just one local authority, like the rest of us, but of two. In May 1990, however, the stone resurfaced, though still partly buried in rubble. This bend claimed a fatality in a road accident around 1989, and it may well have been in connection with safety improvements that it has been worked upon since. One of these sessions may have been the cause of the stone's second, and apparently final disappearance in 1993 - one week it was there, the next it was gone. A letter to the authority has elicited the response from Engineering that the only stone of which they were aware was further east - there is a more modem highway division stone about two hundred yards nearer Hawkshaw, on the north side of the road. Of the missing stone, however, they know nothing.

The Chief Executive shares my concern about this disappearance, and members will probably recollect newspaper coverage in early June resulting from a press release the Council's Press Officer has been asked to prepare in an attempt to solicit public cooperation in trying to find it. He has undertaken to reinstate the stone if it is ever found. He asks that our members be vigilant in looking out for it, and it is for this reason that I am writing this piece.

The Chief Executive suggests that it may have been stolen to ornament someone's garden. It is also possible that it lies some way below the surface at or near its original location, as happened in 1990. A third possibility is that it has been inadvertently destroyed in the process of road or drainage works, by one council or the other,

Fm afraid that Bury MBC cannot claim a very strong record in conserving the minutiae of roadside artefacts. Some of us may remember discussion in 1991 about the possible reuse of redundant STRANG lamp columns in and around the Ramsbottom conservation area. These were 19th Century products of Joseph STRANG's brass and iron works, Prince's Foundry, on

Prince Street, Ramsbottom, of which there are a handful of examples. Unfortunately, two survivors, in store, were targets of theft/vandalism at the Highways Depot at Fernhill in 1991. Similarly, there was, on Annie Street, Ramsbottom, a dated lamp post bearing the inscription *1899 F&D MILLS MAKERS, HEYWOOD.* This is mentioned in John TAYLOR's *Stories in Stone: Datestones in Ramsbottom* (1991), page 39. It was replaced by the authority in 1991, and put in store; but it too has been lost.

It is very easy to apply for buildings and fixed artefacts like boundary stones and lamp posts to be listed - simply send photograph (or photocopies of them) from all visible sides, with map reference, to *Department of National Heritage*, Room C9/19, Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB. Listing, however, would not save anything from council negligence (as *may* be the case with the stone). I believe that it is time that the authority made an inventory of items such as these, and publicised it to all relevant departments.

There are very few other stones from the turnpike era in Bury parish. I know of the two fingerposts - by the *Dusty Miller*, at the foot of Tottington Road, Elton, at the junction with Crostons Road; and at the Cockey Moor Road/Starling Road east of Ainsworth. If you know of any more in our ancient parish - milestones, direction stones, boundary markers - do please let me know, care of the Heritage Centre, Carr Street

Does a two hundred-year-old boundary stone really warrant all the fuss? In comparison with nurseries and old people's homes it seems to be an insignificant authority concern. Yet as far as 1 know it was the only surviving marker on the 50 or so miles of Bury Parish'sboundary. And its loss will be one fewer reminder of our past, one less prompt to make children - and adults - ask that all important initial question which gets them interested in our local history.

Andrew Todd

HAWKSHAW: THE MOVING VILLAGE

As well as providing Hawkshaw with a parish boundary stone to leave its inhabitants in no doubt as to when they were straying into Bolton parish, the Little Bolton and Edenfield turnpike had a rather more dramatic impact on the village. Effectively, it gyrated the settlement through 90 degrees! Jan BARNES, who lives in the original Hawkshaw, tells us the story.

You may know, or think you know, where Hawkshaw is. If asked you might direct someone along the A676 from Ramsbottom towards Bolton and tell them to look for Hawkshaw Post Office on the right. But you would be wrong, for that is Hawkshaw *Lane End* Post Office. To find Hawkshaw you must turn right here and follow the ancient highway, Hawkshaw Lane, north for about a mile. Hawkshaw Farm, now called Hawkshaw Hall, is on your left but carry on to the next farm on the road - now called Boardmans. This was one Hawkshaw Meadows and the centre of a thriving community of some 13 cottages (die census of 1841 lists 48 people living here) a farmhouse, barn, shippen, stables and a Public House called the *Peel's Arms,* where there was accommodation for 12 persons and their horses.

Many of these people worked in the hand loom weaving industry working for a fustian master who kept them supplied with warp and weft, the weaver being paid according to their production and the finished cloth stored in the warehouses at Withins and Loe Bank until it could be sent to the markets of Bolton and Manchester. Others are listed as quarrymen or farm labourers.

Hawkshaw Lane is mentioned in the Clitheroe Court Rolls in 1533 when the 'highway between le hyles and Howkeshagh is obstructed by John HOLTE' and again when 'John BROKE, turned back the watercourse out of its proper course in the lane called le Hawekcshey Layne'.

Take a closer look at the lane and you will see in places that it is up to 15 ft wide. In parts the original cobbled surface could still be seen prior to the surfacing work completed in September 1992. The original walls, once delineating the width of the right of way, but long hidden under grassy banks, were exposed during this work.

The sense of community for those who lived in the tenements serviced by Hawkshaw Lane was very strong for in 1830 the *Society of the Modern Order of United Artizans* was formed. The Society met at the *Peel's Arms* and the preamble to the booklet containing the 'rules and orders' of the society reads as follows:

> Considering that this life is liable to serious accidents, by which many families are reduced from flourishing to necessitous circumstances, that it is praiseworthy to alleviate, as much as possible, such visitations of Providence, by relieving those who by any unavoidable accident, or sickness, stand in need, and by decently burying the dead; and it is not possible for one individual in our station of life, to perform all these brotherly actions, we have mutually and solemnly agreed to institute a society, that by our prudent rules and stated meetings, we may soften the cares and promote the advantage and happiness of each other.

The construction of the turnpike road (A676) around 1800 led to the growth in population at the 'lane end' and along the line of the new road. Stone, cloth, meat, milk and other farm produce, however, continued to be sent down the lane from the original Hawkshaw to supply the needs of the rapidly expanding settlements along the Irwell Valley.

Nowadays, however, Boardmans is considered a pleasant walk from the village instead of lane end' being a pleasant walk from Boardmans. **Jan BARNES**

The author of this article, Jan BARNES, took a civil action, under the Highways Act of 1835, against Bury Metropolitan Borough Council at Bolton Crown Court in 1991. She succeeded in proving that Hawkshaw Lane had been 'a vehicular highway in 1835, and 'maintained by the inhabitants at large' – i.e. by the township of Tottington Lower End. A crucial reference in a contemporary document indicated that a carter had been in the habit of using the lane prior to 1835. As a result, the authority was required to surface the lane. Jan promises to relate the story to us in a future article.

It is interesting how ribbon development along the turnpike road has effectively meant that Hawkshaw now extends west to east rather than its original north -south axis of Hawkshaw Lane and Two Brooks Lane. There are other 'Lanes' in our area-Nuttall, Walshaw- which gave their names to communities. Can anybody shed light on this phenomenon? [Editor]

DOWN ON THE FARM: MEMORIES OF FARMING IN HAWKSHAW IN THE 1930s

Farming is, and always has been an occupation at the mercy of the weather. To the city and town dweller, fanning appears to be a happy-go-lucky way of life, beautiful sunny weather, blue skies, all the country sounds, home-produced wholesome food, and not a worry in the world. However, to those who make and have made a living from farming, things are a bit different. There was a time when all the farms in Hawkshaw and up Hawkshaw Lane were farmed for a living for the farmer and his family, most of them being dairy farms. The cows were milked by hand, die milk sieved and put through a cooler. There were no refrigerators, so, during the hot weather the milk chums had to be placed in a water trough to keep the milk cool and fresh for the next day. Some farmers delivered milk in the morning and evening to ensure the freshness. It was delivered by horse and cart in large cans or 'kits', no bottles. Jugs were left on the doorstep, usually with a saucer or lace doyley over. The farmer dipped in the cans with a pint measure and gave an extra dip for good measure. Some customers would ask for half a pint and then an extra half pint and they then got two extra dips. If the milk was spilled on the newly cleaned and stoned doorstep when pouring then you were in trouble. I was once in trouble when I had to pour the milk in a jug on the table. The jug wasn't large enough and I must not have been watching what I was doing and the milk overflowed over the chenille tablecloth!

My Grandma, father and the family farmed at Boardmans, Hawkshaw Lane and had a milk round in the village, we also sold milk to a dairyman in Heaton Park. The milk was taken by train from Holcombe Brook Station at 8.30 am. No matter what the weather the milk had to go or people in Prestwich and district were without milk. I do not remember my father failing to be at Holcombe Brook in time but he had some 'near misses'. The guard could hear the horses hooves coming along the road and he would hold up the train until the milk cart arrived. I can remember my mother polishing the brass name plates on the churns with the addresses on for delivery and return. This she did every day.

Haymaking was a job for all the family. There were no balers or tractors, just hay carts, rakes and pitchforks. The horses really had to earn their keep. There were no weather forecasts so the old barometer on the wall was tapped many times before it was decided that the time had come to start the haymaking. Father would get up at about 4.00 am on a lovely morning and the mowing machine blades having previously been sharpened, a 'setting' was mown, just enough to deal with by the resources which were then available. Then the swathes after being left for a while to dry, were turned by hand. What a heavy back-breaking job! The swathe turner was sometimes used. Then the shaker was used or the hay was shaken out by hand. If the weather was kind, the hay was eventually put into windrows and forked onto the haycart and taken to the bam. If the weather was not kind this had to be repeated and in the evening the hay was put into 'cocks'.

A mug of home-brewed beer was made for the haymakers, I can still remember the yeast on the top of the mug. Irishmen came over every year to be hired for haymaking so the farmers hoped the weather would be good or wages were being paid for no work. I remember Hawkshaw Lane often being blocked level from hedge to hedge with snow when the blizzards started and many were the times when we had to dig the road out. The milk had to be delivered so the

horse and cart was taken through the fields because the snow had been blown off the field into the lane and wasn't too deep. The horses had to have studs put in their shoes so that they would not slip on the main road. But the milk always got there, there was no giving up when that was the main source of income for the family.

And what about the lighting, the heating and the cooking? There was no gas or electricity. Cooking was done in the side oven of the fireplace, or on a paraffin stove. Lighting was a paraffin lamp and candles. We at Boardmans had a paraffin lamp hanging from the ceiling but when we children had gone to bed a lamp was put in the middle of the table, not as safe, but a better light with which to read or sew. Any homework had also to be done on the table as there was only one heated room in the house.

The ironing was done by a box iron in which was placed a red-hot heater from the fire. I can still hear the 'clip-clop' of the heater in the iron as the ironing was carried out on the big square table. The wash was, of course, done in a big tub with a "posser' and a 'dolly' and a large wooden mangle. Water was heated in a brick coal boiler which smoked if the wind was in the wrong direction. The furniture was not luxurious - flag floors, a stoned hearth with a homemade rag rug in frontof the fire. Anyone who has ever made rag rugs will recall the sore fingers we had with cuttingup the cloth to make them and pushing the rug needle through the sacking. And weren't they heavy to shake?

The bedrooms were covered with linoleum with perhaps a few mats, as in most houses at that time, wasn't it cold on the feet on winter mornings? The bath was a tin one which had to be filled with water from the side boiler and then emptied so it was quite a chore to have a bath, but quite a delight when the bath was in front of the fire.

Space does not permit any more memories. We now live in more modem days with modem conveniences which we all take for granted but are they happier days? I will leave you the readers to answer that for yourselves. Edith Coates

The author was horn at Boardmans, daughter of Joseph KNOWLES, the last man to farm there. The family left there in 1939, moving down to the village on the main road. Edith unfortunately died last year, and this article is reproduced by kind permission of her husband, John COATES. [Editor]

THE BROX BULLETIN: BROOKSBOTTOM MILL'S WORKS MAGAZINE, 1944

In August 1944 the first issue of *The Brox Bulletin* was published, an idea suggested at the first Works Council meeting in October 1943. The Council had been formed following a suggestion made by Miss VAUSE, the newly appointed Welfare Officer. The *Bulletin* detailed the activities of mill employees - bowling, football, cricket fixtures, ENSA concerts and dances at the Derby Hall. Employees in the Forces were not forgotten. There was a collection in every department each Thursday afternoon, after wages had been paid, the total sum collected each week being doubled by the firm. Money was sent off regularly or banked in the Mill Savings Group for the employees serving abroad.

Does anyone remember that, in order to purchase an alarm clock, the Welfare Department had to provide a note certifying that they were 'scheduled persons within the meaning of the Essential Work Order?' Or that it was possible for the mill canteen to provide a full Christmas dinner for 2/6d? As we are thinking this year of the D-Day landings, J thought that the following two extracts from Forces Comer in the Bulletin would be of interest:

D-DAY

So the most speculated day turned out to be June 6th, 1944. I think the reaction of most of us at home was thankfulness. Thankfulness that the suspense was over, that we were at last up and doing at the Jerries on the much talked of Second Front. The first reaction was quickly followed by the thoughts of those nearest and dearest to us who were serving with HM Forces - we knew they were in England a few days ago, but where were they now? - Southern England or the beaches of Normandy? Well, we couldn't do anything about that; we knew France had to be invaded one day if we were going to have Hitler where we wanted him. Their safety was beyond our care, and silently we commended them into God's keeping. We had the assurance, we told ourselves, of knowing that, after these strenuous past four years, they were far superior in skill, training and arms than were the gallant B.E.F. who embarked from the shores of England in 1939. These thoughts passed slowly through our minds, and then gradually we became conscious of the world around us, the person working next to us, seeing them do the things we had seen them do day in and day out for the past few years. The woman over there had a son in the R.A.F., or was it the Paratroops he was in - you remembered her saying one day that he had been practicising dropping by parachute. Bill, working at the "top end," has a daughter in the A.T.S. and Tom has a girl in the N.F.S.. Looking round, everybody seemed to have someone who might at this moment be fighting for his life on the Normandy beaches. Then suddenly, as clear as daylight, came the realisation that all of us were dependent on one another - we were dependent on the boys in the Forces, they were dependent on us - dependent on us to keep the supply lines going. We thought of their equipment - planes, parachutes, landing craft, guns, rifles, ammunition, bombs, tents, camouflage sheets, surgical equipment, bandages, haversacks, etc. That's enough to be going on with - enough time has been wasted just thinking. Get that loom running, get that frame doffed, get that cloth away on the lorry - the supply line will NOT slacken from BROX.

From *The Brox Bulletin,* Issue 1, August 1944

EXTRACTS FROM FORCES LETTERS

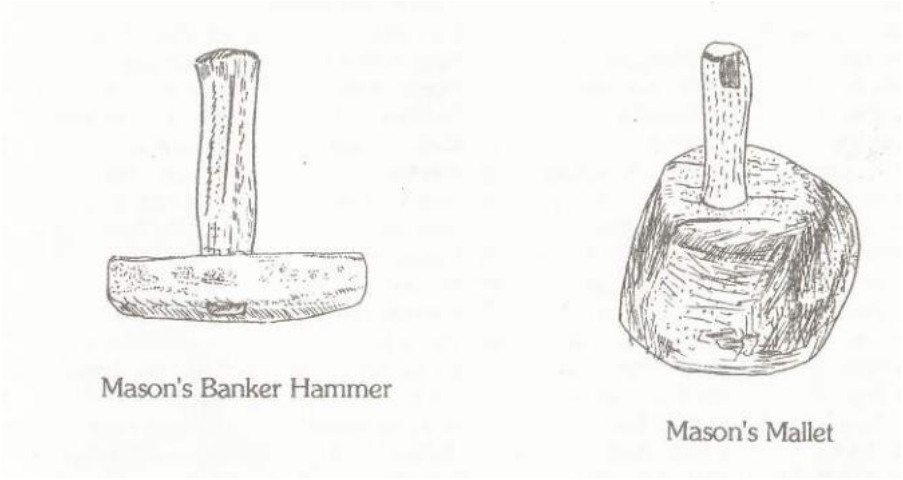
From L/Cpl. R SEDMAN, R.A.S.C., British Liberation Army: "... I was very pleased to receive and read 'Brox Bulletin'. I am very pleased to report that the doth of all descriptions woven at Joshua HOYLE's is not only serving in England but in France and other countries. I saw last night a towel being used by one of our fellows with a stamp that I myself have used many times - a Joshua HOYLE & Sons Ltd stamp.

From *The Brox Bulletin,* Issue 2, September 1944

Thanks to Jean Price, the expatriate specialist on Summerseat who lives in Botley, Oxford, for these timely extracts. Can anyone shed any light on for how long *The Brox Bulletin* was produced, and whether complete sets exist? *[Editor/*

ABRAHAM WARBURTON'S MASON'S MALLET

The mason's mallet currently on loan and on show in the Heritage Centre, was used in conjunction with mallet headed (mushroom shaped) chisels to do the fine finishing to smooth faced stonework. This mallet belonged to Mr Abraham WARBURTON founder partner of the firm WARBURTON and HAWORTH Ltd, Builders and Contractors of Square Street, Ramsbottom, and is the property of Mr William SNOWDEN.



Mason's Banker Hammer

Mason's Mallet

A mason's banker was a temporary 'table' of stone with a flat stone top. On this table the mason worked the newly quarried rough stone into cubical shape. The banker hammer belonged to Mr Fred HAWORTH, the other founder partner and is loaned by Mr Gordon WHITE formerly of Callender Street, but now of Guildford. Amongst other buildings, they were responsible for rebuilding *The Old Dun Horse,* Bolton Street. Gordon White

(See: John B TAYLOR, Stories in Stone, Datestones in Ramsbottom, (1991) page 47.)

If anyone has further information on this firm, or on any aspect of the building trade in Ramsbottom .please drop me a few lines! Please note that whilst we can arrange to display briefly items of local interest, we have no facilities for long term storage in the Centre. Artefacts such as these really belong in Bury Museum. [Editor)

RAMSBOTTOM'S HOTELS AND BEERHOUSES, 1887

Copies of the following list have been circulating in Ramsbottom over the years. It was drawn up by one James MARKLAND in 1887 apparently as part of that year's *Directory of the Ramsbottom Local Board.* MARKLAND lived at *Samlesbury*, the impressive house which still occupies the corner of Buchanan Street and Bolton Street, and which carries the datestone 1884. He was in the early '80s the greave (ie steward) of the Manor of Tottington, and probably a member of the Local Board, hence his involvement in the compilation of its directory. It would be most interesting if readers could send in recollections of these watering holes, especially of those (the majority) which are no longer licensed. Such memories might concern their landlords, their regulars, their internal layout, and sporting and leisure activities - other than straight drinking - which went on there. A compilation article could possibly be the outcome.

The letters (C, E, N, W) refer to the old Local Board wards - Central, East, North and West.

HOTELS		
Coach & Horses Inn		N
Clarence Hotel	21 Bolton Street	C
Duckworth Arms	416 Whalley Road	E
Eagle & Child Inn	3 Whalley Road	E
Grant's Arms Inn	11 Market Place	C
Hamers Arms Inn	22 Higher Summerseat	W
Hare & Hounds Inn	400 Bolton Road	W
Horse & Jockey Inn	85 Market Street	N
Old Dun Horse Inn	210 Bolton Street	C
Pack Horse Inn	162 Market Street	N
Pack Horse Inn	139 Whalley Road	E
Peel Arms Inn	Boardmans Nr Hawkshaw Lane	W
Railway Hotel	2 Railway Street	C
Railway Hotel	294 Bolton Road	N
Rose & Crown	96 Carr Street	W
Rostron Arms Inn	1 Market Place	N
Shoulder of Mutton Inn	15 Holcombe [sic]	W
Waterloo Hotel	326 Bolton [sic]	W

BEER HOUSES		
Adelphi Inn	59 Blackburn Road	N
Bird in Hand	12 Gincroft Lane	N
Cemetery Hotel	176 Bolton Road	W
Church Inn	19 Bridge Street	C
Cobbler's Last Shift	117 Stubbins Lane	C
Commercial Hotel	2 Bolton Street	C

BEER HOUSES (contd)		
Dusty Miller	305 Whalley Road	E
Flying Dutchman	24 Bolton Street	C
Foresters Arms	44 Bolton Street	C
Globe Inn	28 Higher Summerseat	W
Good Samaritan	19 Peel Brow	E
Grey Mare Inn	25 Bolton Street	C
Horse Shoe Inn	12 Blackburn Road	N
Major Hotel	160 Bolton Street	C
Masons Arms	13 Bolton Road	W
Mill Inn	206 Bye Road	E
New Market Inn	3 Market Place	C
Printers Arms	129 Stubbins Lane	C
Old Halter Inn	11 Holcombe Brook	W
Old Ground Inn	19 Square Street	C
Quarry Man's Arms	114 Burnley Road	N
Red Hall	509 Manchester Road	E
Rising Sun	2 Tanners Street	W
Royal Oak	37 Bridge Street	C
Station Hotel	11 Bridge Street	C
Shoulder of Mutton	78 Bridge Street	C
Swan Inn	20 Bridge Street	C
Tower Inn	Pike off Manchester Road	E
Volunteer Inn	6 Market Place	C
Weavers Arms	36 Higher Summerseat	W
Weavers Arms	10 Nuttall Lane	W
White Lion	127 Stubbins Lane	C
Wellington Inn	10 Railway Street	C
Wilds Arms	206 Whalley Road	E

Andrew Todd

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE

CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM
Telephone: Ramsbottom (0706) 82 1603

Open

Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays

1.00 pm - 4.30 pm

and Tuesdays

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Special arrangements can be made for group visits
Please contact the Secretary - tel: 0706 82 2620

1994/95 PROGRAMME

Jul 20	Mr I Hart - *A Walk around Jumbles Country Park* Meet 7.00pm prompt at Jumbles car park
Aug 17	Mr J Davies - *Coal Mining in Rossendale* - illustrated
Sep 21	Mr I Williamson - *The People's Business - 150 Years of Co-operation*
Oct 19	Mr F Watson - *The East Lancashire Railway 1846-1859* - illustrated
Nov 16	Mrs I Zalasiewicz - *Wild Birds in my Care* - illustrated
Dec 14	Mr J Palmer - *Yuletide Reminiscences, and Photographic Competition*
1995	
Jan 18	Mrs E M Craig - *The Knowles Family of Tottington Mill* - illustrated
Feb 15	Mr S Wrightson - *Tales of the Riverbank* - illustrated
Mar 15	Mr A Rogers - *100 Years of Soap Making*

All indoor meetings are held in the Civic Hall, Ramsbottom at 7.45 pm

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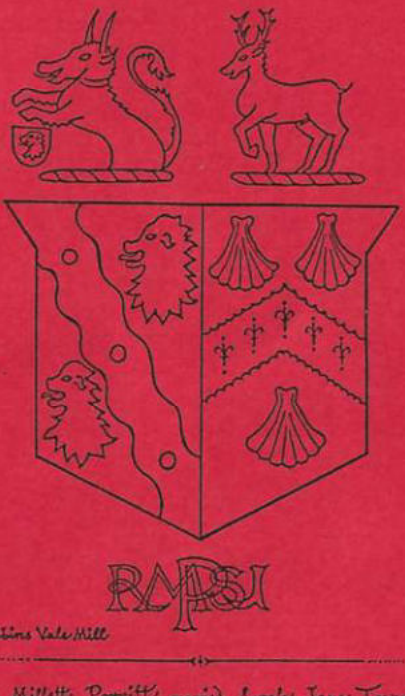

NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Reopening in March 1995

New exhibition: 50 Years of Peace in Ramsbottom

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and Tuesdays

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FRONT COVER - The 'assumed coat of arms' of Richard Millett PORRITT, and wife Sarah Jane TOWNSEND, featured in a window at Stubbins Vale Mill. Drawing and commentary by John TAYLOR, with heraldic advice from John CRAWSHAW.

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

This is the first of a twice-yearly feature of local heritage news - research projects, new uses for buildings, family history queries - do please write in with similar items for the summer issue. Decorated for the Festive Season - our centre on Carr Street, opposite the library, will be open, and in Yuletide mode, from 1-00 to 4-30pm (Saturdays and Sundays) and from 2-00 to 4-00pm on Tuesdays. There will be hand spinning demonstrations each Sunday up to Christmas, as well as opportunities to buy Ramsbottom Christmas cards and postcards, local interest stocking fillers and steam railway souvenirs. Please note that to give our volunteers a break, our last opening in 1994 will be on Sunday 18th December. We then remain closed for about two months, during which our new exhibition, *50 Years of Peace in Ramsbottom*, will be constructed by our dedicated display team. Watch local press for our reopening date. *Peel Mill*, Prince Street - members will have seen press coverage of the opening of the old *METCALFE/Ableaim* building as *Peel Mill* on Friday 25th November. That first weekend, and particularly the Sunday, saw more visitors in the town than any previous murky autumnal day I can recall. We were concerned at the recurrent use of the phrase 'heritage centre' in press references to this refurbishment, and have had a valuable meeting

with one of the directors. He has agreed not to use the controversial 'heritage' word in future, understanding our qualms. We hope to have a further meeting, at which we can determine how we can each, as organisations, benefit from our respective presences in the town. If visitors do come to the town in greater numbers as a result of *Peel Mill*, we must find ways of persuading some of them to visit us as well.

National Trust Centenary Ramble, Sunday 15th January 1995 - to commemorate 100 years of the National Trust, Rossendale Groundwork will be leading a five-mile circular walk around local Trust property - *The Cliffe,* the Stubbins Estate, and Holcombe Moor. An information sheet will be available. Meet at *The Corner Pin,* Stubbins, at l-30pm.

***Ramsbottom Reminiscences* II** - our first volume of memories was published exactly two years ago, and we now have the core of a second. Items include memories of St Paul's school in the 1910s, the town's building trade in the '30s, life on Carr Street in the ᶠ20s and '30s, some Hazelhurst shops, the 1935 Silver Jubilee, an eclipse, the snow of February 1940, the town's 1930 local radio station, Bye Road, Shuttleworth in the '30s, and 'Luck Duck and Vanish'. It is still not too late to pen something for inclusion with this varied menu, and it does not *need* to describe the Ramsbottom of many decades ago (though such contributions are of course precious and welcome). There have been enough changes since World War II to make even the middle aged great funds of information on a town and district very different to today - think of the disappearance of most industry in the last half century, the great changes in our shopping habits in the last 30 years, the rundown of an extensive railway facility (Ramsbottom was the distribution point for freight coming into the Manchester area from north Lancashire and once employed scores of railwaymen), the switch from horse drawn to petrol powered traffic (only completed in the last few decades), the building of the first new valley road in over 150 years - the Edenfield bypass (1969) and M66 (1980), changes in local government in 1974, the demolition of numerous terraced cottages especially in the town centre (and of more prominent buildings - Peel Brow secondary school), and of course the passing on of so many Ramsbottom people whose occupational and family histories, lifestyles, personalities and foibles could so easily be preserved for all time.

***History of Edenfield*, Volume II** - John SIMPSON has been gathering material fora second bookon Edenfield's history, to continue the story where *Edenfield - Life in a Lancashire Village, cl500-c1770* left off. Covering the subsequent two centuries to 1970, it will look at Stubbins, Stubbins Vale, Chatterton, Strongstry, Lumb, Irwell Vale, Ewood Bridge and Turn, as well as Edenfield itself.

John would like to hear of any photographs or ephemera (newscuttings, concert programmes and the like) which might make suitable illustrations or fill gaps in his knowledge. He is also interested in talking to people with memories of village life, not only special events but also what you might remember of everyday events like going to school, being involved in church activities or playing in local teams. Anyone willing to help can contact John at The Cottage, Tor View Farm, Helmshore, Rossendale BB4 4AB.

Ramsbottom Oral History - we are very concerned to record local memories, and desperately need people with a little spare time to speak to Ramsbottom residents about their recollections of

the town, with a cassette recorder on! Anyone interested can leave their name and address at the centre, or contact the secretary, Dorothy MOSS, or the chairman Andrew TODD

Glass Negatives from Central Studio - last year we were given over a thousand such negatives from Harry LONSDALE'S collection. The hoard had been well trawled before we saw it, and the best have certainly gone - but the studio portraits of hundreds of local people are there. We have no means of storing *any* artifacts, let alone anything so fragile! Resisting suggestions that the best deposit for this lot was the local 'recycling centre' - viz the tip - Ï have found, through Bury's archivist Kevin MULLEY, *The Documentary Photographic Archive*, care of Greater Manchester Record Office, 56, Marshall Street, New Cross, Manchester M4 5FU where they are now on permanent loan, though we can obtain any print from our collection, at cost. I hope that in the New Year, a group of volunteers can go to the GMRO to identify the subjects of the LONSDALE portraits. Coincidentally, John SIMPSON has just told me of the first reference in the *Ramsbottom Observer* (8th April 1921, page 5, column 5) to Harry LONSDALE'S studio:

THE CENTRAL PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO

CENTRAL CHAMBERS

(Over the Maypole), RAMSBOTTOM

Mr. Harry Lonsdale has taken the top floor at the above address and equipped same with all modern appliances for first class photography...

The Central Photographic Studio was in an upper storey above the Ramsbottom Library, prior to the latter's removal to what is now our heritage centre. The library premises are now occupied by *Denise Lighting.* Harry's photographs continue into the '40s and '50s, by which time no doubt he was starting to use celluloid. It would be helpful if readers could come forward with more details about this studio and its operations.

The TURNBULL Family - Mrs Edna EADY of 13, Constance Crescent, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7QH (tel: 081 462 3696) is seeking genealogical detail on great grandfather Edward TURNBULL, son of William TURNBULL who was, she believes, grandfather of the William TURNBULL who started the firm TURNBULL and STOCKDALE in the 1880s. Her mother, Alice TURNBULL, moved south in die late '20s, and recounted that the family had Perth origins. Can anyone help?

AAT

DELIVERING FOR ANDERTON'S GROCERS FROM THE 1920s TO THE 1950s

Does anyone remember ANDERTON 'S Stores, 72 Bridge Street (now the Dental Surgery at the comer of Square Street, opposite the Post Office) - 'The House of Quality' for bacon, hams, butter and cheese? My Grandfather, Richard BARCROFT, was delivery man for several years (with horse and cart) and my father, Ernest BARCROFT, took over from him in the 1920s (by then they had motorised transport) and worked there for 36 years. My brother, Kenneth BARCROFT, often accompanied him during school holidays, and I did sometimes.

The stables (later the garage) were on Smithy Street, now the premises of O'GORMAN, Painters and Decorators. Deliveries were made daily and covered a wide area - Walmersley, Nangreaves, Holcombe, Helm shore, Stubbins, Edenfield, Turn, Greenmount, Hawkshaw, Affetside, Bromley Cross, Edgworth, Summerseat and, of course, Ramsbottom, each day a certain area. Small 'comer' shops filled their shelves with ANDERTON's goods, and PORRITT's canteens at Stubbins and Helmshore used their provisions. I remember, at Stubbins, Dad getting a trolley used for transporting cloth around the works, helping him to load the provisions and going up to the canteen in a rather creaky lift which I was sure would break down.
Many times in Winter Dad had to dig himself out of snowdrifts on the higher roads as he tried to deliver orders to remote farms. One day when I was with him, he parked the lorry where Millers Kitchen now stands and walked up to Affetside with two orders as the road was too treacherous for transport 1 also remember an extremely wet day when he changed his clothes completely three times, finally having to wear his 'best' overcoat as the others dried off on the maiden and ceiling rack round and above the living room fire. All this for a very small wage. No bonus for defeating the elements!

One year during the War, just before Christmas, goods had not come through from Manchester warehouses owing to disruption because of the bombings, so Dad went for them. A day or so later Ken and I were having an argument about something (can't remember what) when Dad said, 'That will do, there are a lot of children with no home and certainly no presents, some no mums or dads, this Christmas, because of the bombs'. That stopped our petty squabble! I can remember the expression on his face and realised as I got older he must have been deeply shocked by the scenes and obviously he and mum worried about the possibility it could happen to us.

Going back to the 'quality' provisions, as you walked into ANDERTON's shop, the right-hand side was the bacon slicer and all the sides of bacon, huge pats of butter, margarine and lard (delivered in tubs) from which the required amount was cut. The left-hand side was the main serving counter with shelves of tinned and packet goods behind. Of the two proprietors of the business, Edward WHITTAKER, who lived in Helmshore, worked in the shop as manager. Herbert SHELDON, of Tottington, worked in the office.

At the side of the building outside was a large door on the upper floor, with a hoist which lifted the heavy goods to the storage rooms. The front upper room was used for weighing flour, tea, rice, sage, dried fruits, sugar into various quantities and the tops folded down in a particular way to avoid spillage. My brother and I sometimes 'helped' up there.

Many people still say they remember Dad delivering orders to their homes, how cheerful he always seemed, always clean and neat and how highly polished were his boots.

Joan Barcroft, *Ashton Lodge*, Ramsbottom

In 1990, Mrs A WALKER of Marsh, Huddersfield, visited one of our members, her aunt, Hilda FRENCH, who showed her our magazine. This prompted a number of memories, for

Mrs WALKER, daughter of Lois BAXTER, nee BLUNDELL (a weaver at Joshua HOYLE's mill at Brooksbottom), lived at Old Green, Greenmount. She wrote to the Society, reflecting on her earliest memories in the '40s of visiting her grandmother, Marion BLUNDELL, who lived in Starling Street, in the now vanished village of Nuttall. When Î reached the age of 15,' she writes, 7 worked Saturdays for 10s at ANDERTON's Stores on Bridge Street. I remember a rotund Jolly fellow called Dick LOMAS who worked there. '

Does anyone else have recollections of Ramsbottom's shops, its owners and its shopworkers? [Editor]

THE RAMSBOTTOM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY STOCKTAKE, 1954

1994 is the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first Co-operative store in Toad Lane, Rochdale. There had been other ventures in other parts of the country but this was the beginning of the Co-op as we know it today. At our September meeting Mr I WILLIAMSON gave an interesting illustrated talk on its development from a small shop opening two evenings a week with the aim of providing cheap unadulterated food for working families to a world wide organisation. He also informed us that the first Co-op in Ramsbottom opened its doors in 1858. Moving the vote of thanks to the speaker, our Chairman, Andrew TODD, pointed out that the Society's archives contain a number of items relating to the Co-op, some of which he had found blowing around on a skip when the Bolton Street premises closed down in 1987 and he expressed regret that when businesses and other organisations cease to exist it is often the case that their records are lost or destroyed when their preservations could often provide information of interest to future generations.

Among the rescued documents from the Co-op was a complete audited list of the grocery stocks held in the warehouse and the ten shops still trading in Ramsbottom on 6th March 1954. These were the Rostron Road, Nuttall Lane, Hazlehurst, Holcombe, Holcombe Brook, Bank Lane, Peel Bridge, Bridge Street, Stubbins, and Central branches. Stock in the warehouse was valued at £5,100 5s 0d and included l,3241bs of butter, 960 lbs of margarine, 168 lbs of lard and 560 lbs of domestic cooking fat. There were also 2,931 lbs of tea, including Indian Prince, no99, Oriental tips, Eastern Rose, Eastern tips, Hornimans, No 23, No 11 and 12 lbs of China tea. The 83,400 cigarettes included brands such as Woodbines, Senior Service, Players, Churchman, Dunhill as well as CWS ownbrands - Navy Cut Juniors, Raydex and Jaycee.

Healthy eating does not seem to have been as high on the agenda in the 1950s as it is today, although the presence of 1 3/4 dozen Energen rolls and 4 1/2 dozen Kellogg's *All Bran* may indicate that some at least were beginning to consider such things! For others perhaps Yeast Vite, Bile Beans and Phyllosan (fortifies die over forties!) sufficed.

Although the National Health Service had been in existence for several years by this time many people obviously still relied on tried and trusted patent remedies - Fennings Fever Mixture, Kraschen Salts, Magnesia Tablets, Harwoods All Fours, Woodwards Gripe Water, Parrish's Chemical Food to name but a few.

In the 1950s housework was much harder than it is today as illustrated by large stocks of starch (Colmans, Robin, CS, etc), Dolly Blue and Dolly Cream, Cardinal Red, Mansion, Johnson's Wax and CWS Floor polishes, Zebo, Shinio, Brasso and Waddicor's Iron Lustre, Brush heads, flypapers, firewood and firelighters are also listed as are candles and tapers (but so are electric light bulbs!). The 155 dozen tins of salmon and large quantities of tinned fruit recorded remind me of countless Sunday teas and unexpected visitors. In those days people did not have freezers so a stock of tins in the larder for 'emergencies' and a regular baking day were essential. Hen food and chicken grit were stocked at Holcombe and Hazlehurst, and at Hazlehurst they also sold pigeon mixture. It is only 40 years since these stock sheets were completed, all hand written in ink and checked in red pencil. Today we have no Co-op shops at all in Ramsbottom.

The changes in domestic conditions and shopping habits over this relatively short period of time are tremendous and yet there must be many people around today who did their shopping at these shops, maybe actually purchased some of the very goods listed on the sheets, or worked in the shops and sold them, possibly even the people who so carefully counted and listed them. If you are one of those people the Society would like to hear from you - perhaps we could produce an article for the next Magazine or an item for the next issue of *Ramsbottom Reminiscences,* or even a whole booklet about people's recollections of shopping in the days before supermarkets and frozen food existed. Perhaps you have even earlier recollections of shopping - during World War II or even before the War? Please share your recollections with us so that they can be preserved for future generations. You can let us have them either in writing (no need to type them unless that is your preference), or on audio tape, and they can be handed in at the Heritage Centre. We would also be interested to see any photographs or documents which could be added to the archives.

Browsing through these accounts was like a trip back in time. What at first appeared to be just a dull list of goods and figures turned out be a mine of interesting information about the way people lived and shopped 40 years ago. I wonder what people will think or our supermarkets and hypermarkets, or the goods we purchased, in another 40 years? 1 also wonder how they will be doing their shopping - by computer link maybe?

By the way can anybody tell me - what was Splendo? It must have been very popular - it was listed by almost every branch.

Barbara Park, Bolton Road West, Holcombe Brook

STORIES IN STONE UPDATE

Members will be aware of John TAYLOR's catalogue of the datestones of Ramsbottom and district (actually the old UDC, less Stubbins and Edenfield) *Stories in Stone: Date stones in Ramsbottom*, published in 1991. It is in the nature of such a pursuit that fresh examples are notified, and usually days after an edition has gone to press. John has, on the following three pages, supplied sketches of those which have come to light in the last three years.

Stories in Stone Update

for use with "Stories in Stone. Datestones in Ramsbottom" £2.95

by John B. Taylor

* 1761 **Old house, 3, Carr Fold.**

Site near Library From Ramsbottom Observer 28.2.1936

1793 W M W **Plant House, Cross Lane, Holcombe. +1813, 1816**



Door lintel at rear.

William Woodcock b. 3.6.1759 d. 14.1.1827 married 15.5.1787 Mary Elton b. 27.3.1769 d. 26.2.1849

See Woodcock family tree 1793

* 1806 **Old row of houses, 130-140, Whalley Road, Shuttleworth.**

See Ramsbottom Observer 28.2.1936 page 5

1813 W W M **Plant House, Cross Lane, Holcombe. +1793, 1816**



Door lintel up steps at rear.

William and Mary Woodcock

See 1793

1816 J E **Plant House, Cross Lane, Holcombe. +1793, 1813**



Wall and outbuilding N. side.

John Elton of Loe, Tottington b. 1765 d. 1847

His sister Mary married William Woodcock. See 1793

1823 STANDLEY RAKE Brandwood **Three Acres Farm, top of Hawkshaw Lane. +1934**



Loose in garden

From Stand / Standley / Stanley Rake

300 metres N.W.

The Brandwood family

See 1720, 1803, 1807, 1856

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



Former manse of Park Cong. Church

1859 Office, near chimney, Trinity Paper Mills. +1875



1857 J.B. Ingham & Son.
S.B. Ingham & Bros.

1875 R P M From engine house, Trinity Paper Mills. + 1859



keystone

To be displayed 1995
1872 Ramsbottom Paper Mill Co. Ltd.
Ramsbottom Paper Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
1964 Holcombe Paper Mill Co. Ltd.
1968 Trinity Paper Mills Ltd.

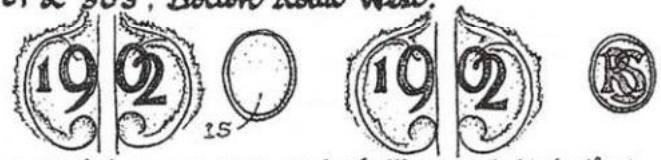
1897 Summerseat Print Works.



1994 Binex Works — printing and finishing

Datestone high on brick building

1902 -- R S Stained glass front doors, LYNDHURST and WESTWOOD, 301 & 303, Bolton Road West.

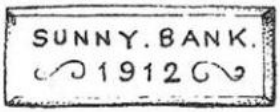


Semi-detached houses built for Richard Shore and his brother

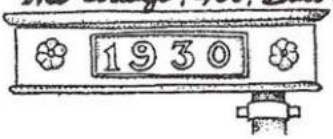
1911 J H I 10, Ada St., off Bolton Road West.



1912 SUNNY BANK 14-16, Ada St., off Bolton Road West.

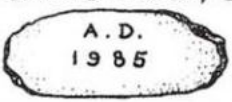


1930 The Cottage, 400, Bass Lane, Summerseat. + 1913, 1930



Drainpipe head

1985 Strome Villa, 325, Manchester Road.



Slate plaque on brick bungalow near "Red Hall."

1989 T McP & CP 90, Summerseat Lane, Holcombe Brook.



On extension

Thomas McCallum Paterson, apiarist or beekeeper
and Clare Paterson

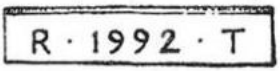
1991 FREEMAN Holly House, 60, Summerseat Lane, Holcombe Brook.



By door is — HOLLY HOUSE

The Freeman family
David J. and Karen
children Richard and Robert

1992 R T Wall, Boardman's Farm, Hawkshaw Lane, Hawkshaw.



+1783, 1815, 1989, 1990, 1994
Wall rebuilt by Robert Taylor

1992 ASHTON LODGE Ashton Lodge, Stubbins Lane.



— North British Housing Association logo

The Ashton family were early industrialists in Ramsbottom.

An undated boundary marker is near the level crossing —



1994 K B J Gypsy's cottage, Boardman's Farm. Hawkshaw Lane.

K J
B
1994

+1783, 1815, 1989, 1990, 1992
Ken and Jan Barnes
Wooden beam inside

There will always be a few datestones lurking in cellars, hidden in gardens or just unnoticed.

John B. Taylor 0706-874119

To prove the point, days after John handed me his artwork, Mike PYWELL of *Peel Mill,* informed me that refurbishment at their former METCALFE premises on Prince Street had just uncovered, on the lintel of a doorway, the motif, in relief:

JOSEPH STRANG ENGINEER RAMSBOTTOM 1882

This enterprise has never, to my knowledge, earned the sort of attention from local historians accorded to other Ramsbottom factories and their owners, perhaps because textile dynasties have, in our area, had a greater allure. Joseph STRANG the elder is documented, and portrayed, in HUME ELLIOT'S *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (Selkirk, 1893) on pages 371-3. One of that extensive colony of Scots who came to Ramsbottom in the wake of the GRANTS, he was recruited through that family's North British network to manage their farming operations. He became an elder of the St Andrew's congregation which was ejected in 1869 when William GRANT decided that the Church of England was preferable as tenant of the family church to the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Joseph senior died in 1877 - it appears to have been his son and namesake who established Prince Foundry - BARRETT's directory of 1883 records him there as a mill wright and ironfounder, his residence being at 116, Albert Street. The business seems to have started around 1880, at the Palatine ironworks, wherever that was, judging from directory evidence.

There is a fine gravestone in St Andrew's churchyard, which commemorates the STRANGs' Scottish origin. In addition to that, and the newly discovered datestone on Prince Street, Joseph STRANG's name features on the dwindling stock of iron lamp standards cast by him at Prince Foundry, and adorning the remoter nooks of the town.

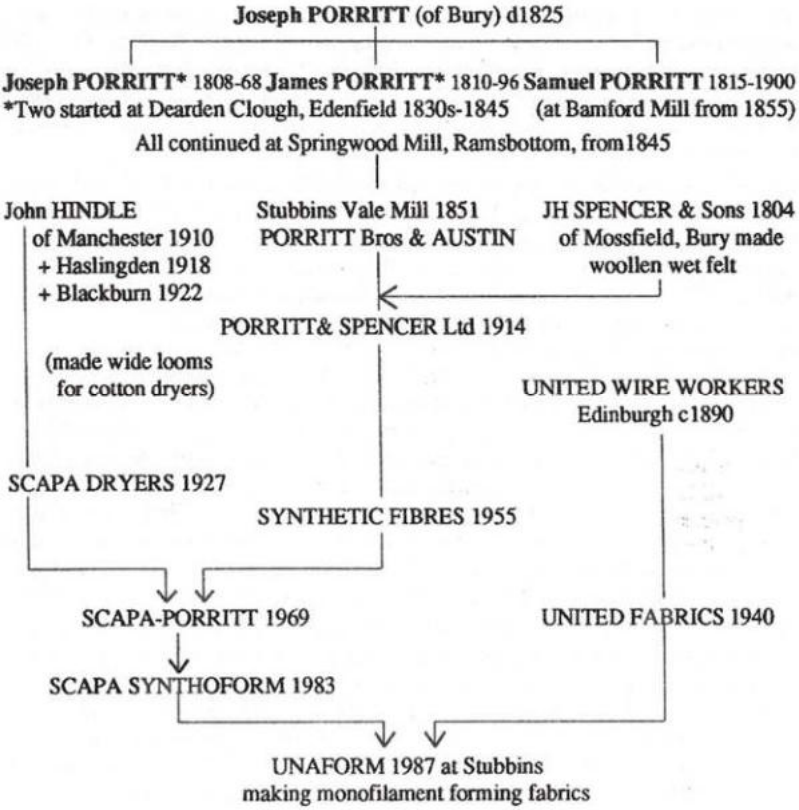
Additional detail on this family and its ironworks would be gratefully received!

Andrew Todd, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom

PROFIT FROM PORRITTS

Having outlined the history of the TURNBULL and STOCKDALE mills in earlier editions of this magazine, I became curious about the role of the PORRITT family in the local industrial revolution. Overleaf is a simplified diagram of changes since the 1830s, and a few cameos of those who left their imprint on the locality, including their houses, churches and other buildings. Only a gatehouse remains on the left of Stubbins Street where Stubbins Vale Mill stood five storeys high with a mighty chimney. It was quarried from stone on its site, and contained a steam engine to drive its line shafts for carding mules and looms. These produced wide woollen cloths for filter fabrics, printing blankets and conveyor cloths and smaller felts for handmade paper and dryer felts. These were stretched on tenter frames in the field above or inside the tenter house when it rained. The final modernisation took place in 1961, before the demolition in 1978. Earlier the gas plant for internal lighting had also piped gas to illuminate Strongstry village. The present Unaform mill is on the right of Stubbins Street.

Space forbids the extensive family tree here, but a few pen portraits may serve to illustrate the impact of the PORRITT family locally. Joseph lived at *Greenmount* (a house between



the present mill and Strongstry) and later *at Irwell Mount* (on Bury New Road) until his death in 1868. He established Sunnybank Mill at Helmshore, and his family were linked with the AITKEN dynasty of Irwell Vale. He worshipped at Park Congregational Church, where his grave lies. Brother James lived at *Stubbins Vale House*, the remnants of which remain above the station car park. With Samuel he opened the congregational church and Sunday school in 1866, followed by the church in 1867 (at a cost of £8,144 11s 4d). It became known as 'the Porritt Church', partly because James PORRITT had paid off the debt of £2,600 by 1868, and one of his 15 children, Mary Hannah, married the first minister, the Rev Thomas CAIN, who retired in 1906 after 42 years there. The graveyard alongside the church since 1868 has held the remains of many of the PORRITT family, although the church was demolished in 1983 and the adjacent school in die early 1990s. New houses, known as *Holcombe View,* have been erected in 1994 on the site. The older stone cottage left there was the caretaker's home built in 1871. James died in 18% after an earlier fall in Stubbins railway subway had caused paralysis. His son, Richard Millett PORRITT

(1840-1906) lived at *Greenmount,* and his widow Sarah Townsend PORRITT had a lifeboat named after her. This was endowed by their daughter, Miss Kate PORRITT (d!943) and was on station at Lytham from 1951-78. It is pictured in the RNLI museum by the windmill. William John PORRITT (1828-96) is reputed to have built many houses in St Anne's and in 1885 closed his mills for the day, hired a train and band and took his employees to St Anne's when the pier was opened. Before I lose myself in the massive roots of the PORRITT family tree, I shall end with the huge local branches remaining. Lt Col Austin T PORRITT (1875-1956) of *The Cliffe*, Stubbins, and later *Yewbarrow Lodge*, Grange over Sands, was the son of Richard, and donated (and opened) Chatterton Memorial Playing Fields to the people of Ramsbottom in 1923. This was the site of the mill where the Chatterton Riot took place in 1826, when six people were shot by the Ramsbottom militia, after the reading of the Riot Act. Also in 1928 the same Colonel donated the 15 acres of Nuttall Park to the townsfolk. A recent speaker at Ramsbottom Heritage Society, Frank HALL, recalls singing at the opening as a young boy! The National Trust in 1948 gained the Stubbins Estate (the valley leading up to Holcombe Moor, itself acquired in 1994 by the Trust) in memory of his son Captain Richard PORRITT, MP for Heywood and Radcliffe, (including Ramsbottom) who was killed at Seel in in 1940, serving with 5th Battalion, the Lancashire Fusiliers, during the defence of Dunkirk. [See Ramsbottom Reminiscences, *vol 1, 1992, p32.]* The Colonel served as Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire in 1932 and his wife laid the 1926 datestone on St Philips Church, Chatterton. After mills had been built in America and elsewhere in the 1960s, it was Philip PORRITT who led the merger with the Scapa Group in 1969.

In conclusion, the Scapa Group PLC now has sales of c£350 million (80% outside the UK), employing c6,500 people in 15 countries, including cl55 in Stubbins now. Unaform here installed a 12.5 metre wide forming machine in December1992at a cost of c£l million, and are likely to extend the mill soon to improve the flow of production. Meanwhile the old square Tenter House, or Blanket House, stands above it like a sentinel, as it has done for about 150 years. The name PORRITT may not be as obvious locally now, but the profits (and prophets) of their past have left solid evidence for the present and the future seems assured.

Sources

Mrs Joyce BARNES, Notes on Stubbins United Reformed Church (1985)
John B TAYLOR, Stories in Stone: Datestones in Ramsbottom (1991)
Barbara PALMER'S *PORRITT family tree* (in Ramsbottom Heritage Centre) *East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce Magazine (March 1994)*

Clyde Tweedale, Acre Close, Edenfield

A NOSTALGIC WALK 'UP THE LANE': MEMORIES OF HAWKSHAW LANE IN THE THIRTIES

If you can remember the Summer of 1989, after all the rough weather of last winter, you may recall that we did have quite a number of hot days during that summer. It was on one of those days that my husband, John and I decided to take our two granddaughters on a picnic.

We packed our lunch and set off 'up the lane' by the side of Hawkshaw Post Office. As we walked memories of my childhood came flooding back to me. Read on and join me on that memory walk up the lane. At the beginning of the lane there used to be an extra cottage on the right. This was demolished to make a wider opening for the present estate. I remembered this end cottage which was once occupied by the WOOLLEY family and before that the WRIGHT family. When I travelled up and downthe lane as a child, there were no houses where the estate is now, just hen pens on the right after the bowling green, and fields on the left. As we passed the first opening on the left, I remembered Oliver Well from which we carried all our drinking water when we lived at Bramley Fold Farm. I have often wondered what happened to that well when thenew houses were built. The surface of the lane is not in very good condition now [ie 1989] as heavy traffic has taken the place of horses and carts. The lane was always in quite a good state when I travelled up and down to school, with the exception of the partabove Higher House Farm. We always called this 'The Narrow Length' and very often alorry carrying cattle food would get stuck there. We thought it quite exciting as childrento have to go into the field to pass by.

We gathered wimberries, as we walked up the lane and our grandchildren thought this was good fun. I remembered the times when, walking home from school feeling hungry, we would gather wimberries and blackberries in season and eat them as we walked along. What a lot of grubs we must have consumed, but what did we care!

It was sad to see that not many of the farms are now farmed for a living. The land is not now in good condition and a lot of fences are down. Quite a lot of the farmhouses had big families living in them in the past and we children all walked down to school and Sunday School together. We all played together in the countryside round about too, making camp fires and bonfires with Guy Fawkes on November 5th. I remember the POTTERs, the HOLTs, the FITTONs, the CHADWICKs and the HOGGARTHs to name just a few families.

As we neared Boardmans Farm, where I was born and also my family, 1 noticed on the right a piece of land fenced off without any hedge. This was thesite of a home of 'Old Ellen'. I remembered the house being there when I was a child. It was eventually demolished and the site fenced off. This old lady died before I was born, or perhaps when I was a baby. But my mother and family used to recount many tales ofOld Ellen. Whenever anyone knocked at Old Ellen's door or peeped in through the windows, which were more or less boarded up, she would say 'have you brought me anything?' You were not welcome unless you had a present for her, preferably food. If you had, then you could go in. She was always very dirty, and dressed in old clothes withan old sack around her. She had hens in the room with her, and they perched on her bedposts. The bed was covered with old rags and mice ran around the room.

I believe shehad made a sparse living from selling her eggs, but what other income she had I don't know. People used to give her coppers which she must have stored away, as on her deathmoney was found in a belt around her waist. The boys from the village used to say she was a witch and they would tease her. No doubt she appeared to them a very frighteningperson. Eventually she became blind and had an accident burning

herself badly. She had to go into hospital where she died. I am told that my grandmother went with her in the ambulance. [There *is a photograph of 'Old Ellen on page 4 of Kenneth BEETSON's and Roger SHILTON's* Let's Look at Ramsbottom *(1977). (Editor)J*

Leaving the site of the home of Old Ellen I noticed the well on the right still running with lovely, clear, spring water. This brought back memories of the many times, after walking up the lane on hot summer days, we would kneel down and have a good drink at the well. It was always lovely and clear and ice-cold. No thought about fluoride at that time! On Sunday dinner times, when all the family sat down to dinner, we would bring a bucket of water from the well - it always tasted much better than the water from the tap over the sink. So on to Boardmans Farm, now the home of Ken and Jan BARNES and altered quite considerably since our family lived there. On being invited into the house, I closed my eyes for a moment to remember what it used to be like when I was a child. I can still see the room where I was born and the window from which my sister Irene fell whilst watching the lambs in the meadow. Miraculously she was not injured badly. I also recalled the time when I jumped from a window at the back of the house after being sent upstairs as a punishment! We walked up the yard and had a peep into the building which we children long ago used to use as a little house and which we named 'Cosy Cot'. Our grandchildren thought it would be lovely if they had a little house like that to play in. I also remembered the toilet at the top of the yard with its double wooden seats. I was afraid to go in there alone in the dark.

Leaving Boardmans Farm we turned left towards Clough Bottom walking past the stable and the barn and I remembered haymaking time when we used to have to go on the "MOO" (top of the hay in the bam) and shake the hay out. Hot dusty work! We walked on down the rocky road to what was once Clough Bottom Farm and there we decided to stop for our picnic. How lovely and peaceful it was as we sat on the stone ruins of the old farmhouse, hearing only the sound of the birds and the rippling of the brook. I remembered how we used to dam up the stream and make it into a bathing pool. We spent many a happy sunny afternoon down there. How sad it is to think that children of today could not be safely left to play on their own in such a quiet place now. After our picnic we travelled on towards the plantation, but we found progress quite difficult as die well-worn paths I knew as a child no longer existed. We had to climb over one or two fences to reach the path at the side of the stream which leads to Coalpit Lane.Resting under the shady trees for a while we enjoyed the scenery, then we continued on eventually arriving at the "Big Stone" which somehow did not seem quite as big as when I was a child.

THE BIG STONE by John Fawcett SKELTON
(from *Hawkshaw Lane and other poems*)

Tell me, O thou mighty boulder
How it is thou liest here
Startling every keen beholder
Passing by this brooklet clear

Human hands could never lift theeFairie fingers were too light
Magic skill, perchance, might shift thee
From some cloud-capt mountain height

As more closely I survey thee My
amazement greater is

Thousand
tons would fail to weigh thee Granite rock of mysteries.

Onwards from the Big Stone, we passed by the place where John James used to live. He was employed by Mr Fred WHOWELL to lode after his pigs, and his home was a wooden cabin. His real name was John James ENTWISTLE, but everyone knew him as John James or 'John James, Jack o'Belts o'PistoI'. He was a kindly old man who lived in the cabin as long as I knew him. How he ate, cooked, slept and kept warm I do not know, but he always appeared contented. He was in later life taken to Bolton General Hospital, where he died, but his cabin remained there for quite a time afterwards. We continued on down Coalpit Lane, now a little overgrown, to the main road at the *Red Lion.* Tired and hot we were, but how we had enjoyed our afternoon. I hope to walk again up Memory Lane when I have the opportunity.

Edith Coates (1990)

Readers may recall from the last issue that Edith was born at Boardmans. Unfortunately, she died in 1993, leaving a number of items, like this one, with Jan BARNES. Edith's husband, John, has kindly given us permission to publish them, [Editor]

THE HOME GUARD IN RAMSBOTTOM, 1941-4

I joined the home guard in 1941, Ramsbottom formed D company, part of a Lancashire Fusilier battalion based at the Drill Hall in Bury. It had companies in all the surrounding towns: Radcliffe, Tottington and Ramsbottom. The majority of members were First World War veterans, people in reserved occupations and young lads awaiting call up to the forces. I was 17 at the time and I went into the mobile platoon, considered mad by die rest of the company, the reason for this was our officer Captain HEYES of Holcombe was very enthusiastic, he liked to keep us training longer than the usual time on a Sunday morning, we often trained the whole day. We had a weekly parade night, and one guard a week to do usually at the drill hall. Our kit consisted of army battledress, leather belt and gaiters, gas mask, gas cape, and haversack. We were armed with a rifle and bayonet used by the American army in the First World War. These guns were .300 calibre as opposed to British Lee Enfields being .303 calibre so special ammunition had to be manufactured for us. We also had a Browning light machine gun issued one per platoon. When the War started all sorts of new weapons were invented, things that could be produced cheaply. The most successful was the sten-gun carried by most NCOs and officers. One of the weapons that found its way to the Home Guard was the Northover Projector - a length of pipe fitted on a tripod that fired a bottle containing phosphorus which burst into flames on contact. We used to practise with it in the quarry at Shuttleworth. The main problem with the gun was it was supposed to be an anti-tank weapon, but it was so slow to reload, you would have been lucky to get a second shot.

We also had hand-grenades which we practised with on the moors. Three sand-bag circles, those waiting to throw their grenade in the first, the second one you moved into to fuse your grenade, the third one you moved into to throw it. In the throwing bay you had an officeror an NCO with you whose job it was to get rid of the grenade should you drop it after you had taken the pin out It rarely happened, but it was a safety precaution.

For rifle practice we went to Holcombe rifle range, I think I fired more rounds with the Home Guard than ever I did during my later army service. We had inter-company exercises with other parts of the battalion. On one in particular we were attacking the *Bulls Head* pub at Greenmount which was defended by Tottington company. Some of the locals weren't very pleased with thunderflashes and blank ammunition going off during morning service at Greenmount Church. We used to go over to Entwistle rifle range for battle exercises with live ammunition. Most of the time during the war we had troops stationedin Ramsbottom, mostly at the Cuba Mill in Stubbins.

The Queen's Regiment were probably here the longest and they often sent down to the Drill Hall experts in all sorts of army training to give us lectures and demonstrations of various kinds. They had builtan assault course in Eden Wood and they invited some of the younger ones to come andhave a go at it. We were told to expect live ammunition being fired just over our head while we were going round. It started off crossing the stream on a rope bridge - anyone falling off had to go back again - going through pipes with smoke bombs going off, overhigh walls helping one another all the time then we ended up wading through a pond nearly shoulder deep all the time in full kit with rifle and bayonet. We were young and reasonably fit but it was hard work. We all got through without injury, we were lucky. It amused some of the troops watching us struggle - they had to do it before breakfast.

Although we were figures of fun to most people, you have to remember that in many parts of the country the Home Guard did a good job guarding docks and helping to man antiaircraft guns, especially those guarding factories and other important bases. The area that was the responsibility of D Company was covering most of the moorlands in the area as well as the town and the surrounding villages. Holcombe Tower, Grants Tower and *Owd Betts* pub were outposts of the Company.

Sometime during 1943 I think it was, we attended a large exercise held in Lyme Park, Disley, with Home Guards from all over Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire taking part. It was one of the largest number of Home Guard seen in the North of England, at one time - several thousand of us.

As the War went on it became more unlikely that we would be invaded and after the landings in France after D-Day, the Home Guard was stood down, a short time later it was disbanded. All members of the Home Guard received a certificate from the King thanking us for all the time we had given to the service. I still have mine somewhere.

Fred Entwistle, Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom

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NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE

CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM
Telephone: Ramsbottom (01706) 821603

Present exhibition:
50 Years of Peace in Ramsbottom

Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays

1.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Special arrangements can be made for group visits.
Please contact the Secretary - tel: 01706 822620

1995 PROGRAMME

July	19	Mr T Ashworth - *The Forgotten Valley* - 7.00 pm Venue to be arranged
Aug	16	Mr W Bennion - *From Old to New*
Sept	20	Mr T Foster - *The Life of a Lancashire Non-Conformist Minister 250 Years Ago*
Oct	18	Miss M Curry - *Cotton Wool Country* - Illustrated
Nov	15	Mr J B Taylor - *From Back-to-Backs to Mansion Houses*
Dec	13	Mr I Summers - *The Edenfield Village Trail* - Illustrated

All indoor meetings are held in the Community Education Centre, 2-4 Bolton Street, Ramsbottom from 7.45 pm

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (0706) 82 1603

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FRONT COVER - The turnpike direction stone by *The Dusty Miller*, at the junction of Tottington Road and Crostons Road, Elton, drawn by John TAYLOR. This 'finger post', carrying, unusually, a date of erection, achieved Grade II listed status in 1994.

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Photographic Competition - 1994 was the eighth year that the photographic competition had been held, and over seven hundred prints are now kept in the Society's collection. The building of this ongoing record of modem Ramsbottom is the main purpose of holding the competition. Last year, there were 61 photographs from 10 entrants in the four available categories. The overall winner of the Dickensian Trophy was Dorothy MOSS who also won the *Town and Country* and the *Event* categories. Andrew TODD won the *Interiors* category and Jenny JOHNS the *Open* category. Highly commended were entries from P BOOTH, Frank WOODS, Fred ENTWISTLE, Joseph CROMPTON and Tom BARRATT. The competition was judged by Jack PALMER who presented his reasons for his choices - he drew attention to Francis FRITH who, recognising the accelerating pace of change of his century, took nearly 250,000 photographs of British cities, towns and

villages in the years following 1860. Jack had not been looking for perfectly composed photographs, but rather for photographs which, as FRITH might have said, aimed to record that which will eventually change. Thus the winner of the *Town and Country* category (and the overall prize winner) portrays CLARK's drapers on Bolton Street, a business run for over 20 years by Mrs LOMAX, 'Inchey' to her acquaintances, a type of shop which has long disappeared from most towns and cities. The shop has been on the market for over a year, and its format is unlikely to survive the present year.

As a result of comments received from Jack and also from previous judges, it has been decided in 1995's competition to abandon the existing four categories of entry, and return to the original format of all entries being judged equally in a single category. The closing date will now be in January 1996, allowing photographs taken up to the end of 1995 to be included. The prizes will be presented at the March 1996 meeting. Entries will be accepted throughout the year. An entry form, which includes a full copy of the rules, is included with this issue of the magazine. Thanks to John LEYLAND for organising the competition, and for his work in planning these future alterations.

Ramsbottom in Old Photographs - it is the work of earlier generations of photographers which has begun to concern a small but enthusiastic group of members. Approached by Chalford, publisher of 'The Old Photographs Series' of town and village historical views, the Society has been asked to select about240black and white prints, previously unpublished, from which a Ramsbottom volume could be assembled. We need to caption them, determine layout, and Chalford's will do the rest. The Society stands to make money from each book that it sells, and with a strong likelihood that we will sell many of the proposed run length of 2,000 this is not an opportunity that our straitened finances can resist. Less mercenary, it is a grand chance for us to show more widely the fruits of our Society's well known collecting policy, adopted from the very earliest months of its creation in 1987. Of course, the scale of sifting six large boxes of prints, despite each item having been captioned by the Centre team, is daunting - most will not be appropriate for inclusion, either because they are technically unpublishable, or because the subject matter is of insufficient interest. To deepen the pool of talent, and to enhance therefore the quality of the finished product, we are appealing to members (and non-members) to donate old prints. Some description of die subject matter is vital. Anyone who wishes only to loan prints for possible inclusion can do so. Please present loans or donations of prints at the Heritage Centre on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Manning and Womanning the Centre - members will be aware from recent press reports that the small group of regulars that volunteer to keep the Centre open some 80 days a year is finding the burden too great. If we do have to give up the Centre, we will cease to have a focus for our activities - no more displays, no more contact with townspeople and visitors dropping in for a chat, no more collecting of photographs (where could we keep them?), just the monthly meetings. Without the appeal of richer activities and interests, I think that many of the activists would fall

away, and our Society would go the way of the town's local history society which folded about 1980. We have made appeals, in consequence, for extra helpers - about four have kindly come forward. We must do our best to make them welcome. Please, if you do have a little spare time on a weekend afternoon, come along, and put your name on the rota for an hour or two. Unless we can increase our team of helpers, the Centre will not be reopening after Christmas.

The Diary of Jamieson MORTON - longstanding members may recall the Rev Roy CARMYLLIE, vicar at St Andrew's until 1988, and our Society inaugural speaker in April 1987. At the time of his death in August 1989, the Rev CARMYLLIE had just begun a book on the GRANT family, having spent much of his spare time during his 18 years of ministry in our town collecting material on this pre-eminent family of early 19th Century industrialists. In the process, he amassed and copied a good deal of local source material. One such gem, now in the possession of his widow, is a typed transcript of some 119 pages of a volume of diary entries, made by the Ramsbottom chemist and druggist Jamieson MORTON, and covering the period March 1863 to January 1865. The original diary is now in the possession of one of our members, Mrs Pat MANNING of Altrincham, granddaughter of the diarist. It is as a result of help from Pat and from Mrs CARMYLLIE that the Society now has in its collection a photocopy of this typescript.

The Future for Market Place - members will have seen very recent press coverage of the alleged availability of £50,000 in 'European Money' for some revamping of Market Place, for some years now a target for youth ball games and worse. Town centres of course are made for congregation, and it was the purpose of a recent meeting in June at the *Grant Arms* of the town's great and good to debate how best to make use of this prime site. Viewed from three of its four approaches, Market Place occupies a commanding position. If we could envisage the spot stripped of all buildings and tarmacadamed roadways, as it must have been in the 18th Century, we can see how it stands on a natural eminence, and why Ramsbottom's one Great House, Top o' th' Brow (later Grant Lodge, and after 1828 the *Grant Arms Hotel)* came to be built there, probably shortly after 1783. Market Place, of course, was the site of the town's market until well into this century. In consequence, it was a large, setted, open space, ideal for any kind of mass event. Probably the largest took place on 13th October 1838, when about 5,000 attended a Chartist meeting. Temperance recruitment drives were staged there in the late 19th Century. Tetley Brewery, however, donated what has become the garden area, together with the famous 'Castle', to Ramsbottom UDC about 1951, and mass meetings have ceased. The car parking area immediately to the fore of the hotel remains *Grant Arms* property. The return of the railway in July 1987 brought the prospect of a revival of Market Place's historic role as a focus for popular activity. In the early years of the town's

tourist role, local traders and Bury MBC jointly funded a number of entertainment events. In the cash struck '90s, neither can continue to be so munificent. The growth of 'out-of-town' shopping since 1987 (malls, ring road hypermarkets, and in 1995 the Internet) has threatened Ramsbottom's renaissance as a shopping centre. So many bright business ideas, on Bridge Street and Bolton Street, have simply not survived, and there is now the worrying sight of a string of shops unable to find buyers or tenants. To get by in the future, town centres must make their shopping experiences 'pleasurable and entertaining', or they will go under. Hence the interest in Marketplace - could it be a new well-lit forum for entertainments, performances and events, traffic noise permitting? Not, certainly, on the 1838 Chartist rally scale - too many people spilling out onto the A676! And a return to the pre-War open space is unlikely - simply a grand floodlit football ground for the local lads! What emerged from the meeting organised by Bury MBC on 9th June was a broad agreement that we must make the most of this central feature, and so reduce its current role as part-car park (most able-bodied motorists will be able to walk from the planned car park to the rear of the *Grant Arms).* Flower beds are too vulnerable in a decade when gardeners and policemen are needed elsewhere, so 'up poles' and 'planters' will raise the flora from ground level, and, incidentally, into better view. Cast iron lamp standards would be in keeping with the ambience of the buildings. Terracing may offer performance facilities, and simultaneously nobble the footballers! Closed Circuit TV, about to be introduced to Bury town centre, offers an Orwellian, but apparently effective antidote to vandalism. All this will go through the normal planning procedures, so you can have your say. But remember, as one council officer at the meeting put it, this is the last time money will be available for Market Place for 50 years. Most of us won't be around in 2045 - let's hope that a tasteful, attractive, popular, widely used and motor-free Market Place is.

The STEAD Family of Ramsbottom -1 would be especially interested in hearing from anyone with information on this famous textile manufacturing family. In the last century, three STEAD brothers - Lawrence, Henry and William - ran six mills in the town, and members lived at a variety of plum addresses - *Bank House*, *Hope House*, *Riversdale*, *Irwell Mount, Carr Bank*, *Albert House* and *Holcombe Bank*. I am interested in any aspect of the STEAD family history, or recollections of their houses and mills. I can be contacted via the Heritage Centre, or on 824511.

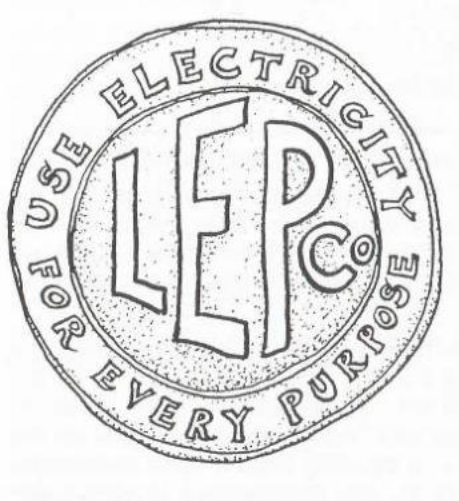
AAT

RAMSBOTTOM LIGHTS UP: OUR TOWN'S ELECTRICAL CENTENARY

Amidst no acclaim, Ramsbottom passed a complete century with electricity earlier this year. John Simpson tells the story. [Editor]

If you had been alive a century ago and had chanced to pass the Ramsbottom Paper Mill Company in late January 1895, you would have seen one of the most important 19th Century inventions making its first appearance in the town. On 24th January

1895 230 electric lights, which had taken four months to install in the mill, were switched on. They ranged from 16 candle power to 50 candle power (on the outside of the building) with two arc lights in the colour mixing department which, according to the *Ramsbottom Observer* 'gave an illumination almost equal to daylight'.[1] This occasion was not the first on which the townspeople had had the opportunity to see the new invention. As early as 1864, the electric light had been demonstrated in Rawtenstall and no doubt some Ramsbottom people were among the crowd of more than 8,000 spectators who had gathered to watch floodlit rugby and football matches in Haslingden in 1878.[2] Nearer home, the honour of having the first electrically lit mill in the district had gone to Edenfield. In February 1894, Alexander BARLOW invited members of the Ramsbottom Local Board to inspect the electric lights which had been recently installed in Bridge Mills on Rochdale Road. The reporter who accompanied them found the light 'a splendid improvement on gas', while Mr H L SLAD1N, chairman of the Local Board, 'thought he might say he had never seen anything in his life like it before.'[3] In 1896, with the example of the electric lights at Edenfield and the Ramsbottom Paper Mill Company before them, the newly-formed Ramsbottom Urban District Council decided to apply for powers to 'generate, store, supply and distribute electricity for public and private purposes'.[4] Although powers were granted in 1897, no practical progress was made until July 1899 when a committee was appointed to engage an engineer and search for a suitable site for the electricity works. The *Ramsbottom Observer* commented somewhat acidly: 'Now that the Council have put their hand to the plough it is to be hoped they will not look back, and that we shall have an electric lighting scheme in operation without any unnecessary delay - it will be some years at the soonest - so that Ramsbottom shall not be behind neighbouring towns in electric lighting as it now is in certain other matters that can be mentioned.'[5]



Logo on the box at Edenfield (JBT)

As things turned out the Council soon found they could hand on the responsibility for the electricity supply to another body. In December 1900 a letter was received from the Lancashire Electric Power Company stating that they were preparing plans to distribute electricity throughout the area and offering to include the district from Holcombe Brook to Edenfield.[6] Terms were eventually agreed with the company and the work of laying high tension mains began in the autumn of 1905. In the next few years, power was supplied to TURNBULL and STOCKDALE's at Rose Bank and the Chatterton Weaving Co, both of which had their own transformer, but it was not until August 1910 that a general electricity supply for

the town was begun. The opening of the 'transforming chamber' in Paradise Street on 20th August 1910 was heralded as 'a new era in the social and industrial annals of Ramsbottom'.[7]

Low tension mains from the transformer were at first carried along both sides of Bolton Street as far as Cross Street, down both sides of Bridge Street to the railway station, and up Carr Street to the works of the Shuttleworth Weaving Co which were to be driven by electricity as well as having electric lights. The first premises to be actually lit from the new supply were the shops of John Ormerod HAWORTH, ironmonger, at 15, Bolton Street[8] (who was appointed the power company's district agent) and James SCHOFIELD, watchmaker and jeweller at 52, Bridge Street.[9] The *Ramsbottom Observer* noted that 'those premises were, during the evening, the rendezvous of a large number of people who exhibited no small interest in the advent of the new illuminant.' The paper went on to say 'we are pleased to learn that a number of other business firms in the town have placed orders for the electrification of their premises. ' Clearly electric light had come to stay, but gas put up a determined fight: many of the Council's street lights continued to be gas-lit until the 1950s.

John Simpson, Tor View Farm, Helmshore

References

1. *Ramsbottom Observer*, 26th January 1895
2 Chris Aspin, *Surprising Rossendale* (Helmshore Local History Society, Helmshore, 1986) p 1
3. *Ramsbottom Observer*, 3rd February 1894
4. *Ramsbottom Observer*, 27th November 1896
5. *Ramsbottom Observer, 14th July 1899*
6. *Ramsbottom Observer*, 14th December 1900
7. *Ramsbottom Observer*, 26th August 1910
8. Now Midas Business Services/*Clique* Dress Agency
9. Now Elisabeth Sykes' Children's Books

VE DAY IN SUMMERSEAT AND OTHER WARTIME MEMORIES

As we approached the 50th Anniversary of VE Day my thoughts returned to the 'celebrations' in Summerseat on that momentous day. A few days prior to this, and as it was obvious that the end was near, I decided to take 'French Leave' from my employment at the colliery in Derbyshire so as to be with my family for this historic occasion. On arrival at the village railway station, and turning into Railway Street I saw in the distance that one of the houses was flying a flag, a rather large one, from its top window and upon drawing nearer I realised that, as I had rightly guessed, it was our house, and it struck me as a little odd because it was not the Union Jack but the Tricolor, the national flag of France! This naturally caused some amusement especially when my mother told me that it was the only flag they could lay their hands

on at a moment's notice, but of course with the Free French I cannot recall noticing any other types of flags fluttering from the other houses in the street, but at least ours added a little colour to the neighbourhood. Actually I found VE day rather a dull one, it was more like an average typical Sunday than a very special day for celebrating and rejoicing - how I envied those vast crowds in the heart of London. The evening before this found me at the Odeon Cinema in Bury watching a film, suddenly interrupted by the appearance on the stage of the manager who informed the audience that it had just been announced that the following day, 8th May, would be regarded as the official VE day and was to be a public holiday. A short time after VE Day came VJ Day which marked the ending of the war with Japan and within a few weeks my family returned to London thus bringing to an end five years of life in a Lancashire village. An experience which remains with us, often in conversation, all these years later. Thinking back to our early days in the village I remember how kind and friendly our neighbours near and far were.

One thing we lacked and urgently desired was the luxury of a bath and things were becoming rather frustratingly difficult when suddenly out of the blue a bath appeared - one of those old-style zinc variety. This had been generously donated by some kind lady living on the far side of the village and if that lady still lives and chances to read these lines I would like to say a big thank you to her. The locals were indeed most helpful, especially our immediate neighbour in the next house, a large jolly woman by the name of Doris DEWHURST who often popped in for a natter. Doris would occasionally provide accommodation for our relatives during the holiday periods when they came up to visit us and to enjoy a short respite from the air raids. It must be remembered that we had very little with us on our initial arrival in Summerseat, but thanks to the consideration shown towards us it certainly helped a great deal. Another person, completely unknown to us, kindly presented us with a portable, wind-up gramophone, with a few records included, whilst yet another gave us a cat which we desired as a pet. This attractive tabby stayed with us for a few months until it suddenly went missing - not to be seen again. For our main entertainment in those pre-TV times, like millions of others we relied on the radio, one of those hired relay radios with a choice of just two stations, either the 'Home' or 'General Forces' service.

Itma and *Happidrome* were two top programmes to be listened to in our household whilst on Sunday evenings during the regular religious 'Sunday Half-Hour' programme we all kept perfectly silent so that mother would not miss a single word of the broadcast. She was the most religious of us all and suffering badly with arthritis and confined to a chair all day, she was therefore unable to personally attend any church service so the radio was to her second best. During the War a visit to the barber shop usually meant a journey by train or bus to the nearest town but I was fortunate in knowing only a few doors away from us in Railway Street, Summerseat, a gentleman who would most obligingly perform

such a service at sixpence a time - in old money of course. His name was Harry but alas I cannot recall his surname. He was a sergeant in the village Home Guard platoon and a particularly nice sort of fellow. Whenever my hair required cutting I would trot along to his house, rap politely on his front door which would be opened by Harry and then I would request a haircut, if convenient, although Harry would invariably guess exactly your reason for calling and in response give a pleasant smile, nod his head and invite you in. The first part of the operation was the spreading of sheets of newspaper over the floor, which was to prevent hair from falling on to the carpet, then a chair would be placed for me, a towel round my neck, and the cutting of hair would commence.

Now Harry - as you have probably already guessed - was not a professional hairdresser - this was simply a sideline which I suppose added a few bob to his income, but he was quite capable of doing a pretty professional job of work and surprisingly, where Harry differed from the experts was the fact that he only possessed one hand, having lost the other in some accident, and yet with this disadvantage he was competent in giving one a satisfying haircut. He would somehow wedge a comb into the stump of his lost hand, which was covered with a woollen type of glove and do the cutting with his good hand holding the scissors and using the comb when required and I cannot remember any occasion when that comb was jerked or fell loose from his grasp.

Harry wasn't the talkative type of hairdresser and would remain mostly silent whilst snipping away, he would usually have his radio switched on for the latest news from the war fronts and apart from this the only other sound was that of his scissors and clippers. His hair cutting instruments were those of the non-electric variety. Sadly, I believe in 1943, this amiable and well-liked man suffered a severe heart attack which proved fatal and he died tragically young, I doubt whether he was much older than 50. At the funeral he was given a grand farewell by us, his Home Guard comrades, dressed as we were in full uniform. The service was held at the Summerseat Methodist Church and I can still remember the hymn we sang at that service, *Abide with Me.*

Harry was well respected by the community and his demise was indeed a great loss to us all. After this my future haircuts were performed by a mill worker in Wood Road who also dabbled in the art of hairdressing but unfortunately he could not be compared to Harry's expertise and after a couple of visits I decided to make the journey to Bury for this chore.

Jack Whitford, Wembley, Middlesex

EDWIN F PARKINSON: LYTHAM'S PACKAGE TOUR OPERATOR

Several Society members attended the Lancashire Local History Federation s AGM last October. It was hosted by the Lytham Heritage Group, and its archivist, Mrs Janet Kitchen, passed on this little gem of research about her

grandfather, Edwin F PARKINSON. It is likely that there are descendants of this family still in the town, and we would like to hear from them if there are. [Editor]

The Development of Britain's rail network in the 19th Century meant that travel for both business and pleasure became increasingly possible for more people. The coming of motor transport in the 20th however enabled people to travel to an even greater variety of destinations. Edwin F PARKINSON of Ramsbottom moved to Lytham in 1915 and set up in business as a newsagent and tobacconist at 44, Clifton Street. His shop also sold sweets, biscuits, medicines and many other items. After the First World War he embarked on a new venture - the organisation of tours in which the client paid a lump sum for both rail travel and hotel accommodation. Mr PARKINSON usually accompanied these early package tours himself. With the invention of the motor char-a-banc, which could lake its passengers right up to the hotel where they were staying, the type of tour in which the clients stayed in two or more different locations during their holiday became possible. Mr PARKINSON received his char-a-banc licence from Lytham Urban District Council Licensing Committee on 26th May 1921.

The Highlands of Scotland were a popular destination for Mr PARKINSON'S char-a-banc tours, although in 1925 he took a party of Lythamers to the Empire Exhibition at Wembley.

Janet Kitchen, Warton Street, Lytham

THE PORRITTS OF MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

In our last issue, Clyde TWEEDALE sketched an outline of the history of the PORRITT family, and its involvement in the textile industry. So many well-known families of our district threw out cadet branches into British colonies in the last century, and this article shows how the Australian descendants of just a single emigrant PORRITT have proliferated in only 109 years of residence. It is interesting to see how family names associated with the 'main line' of the PORRITTs have also been perpetuated on the other side of the world. [Editor]

James PORRITT, the second son of Joseph and Naomi, was born in 1810. He married Mary Hannah AUSTIN in 1833. James along with his brothers Joseph Junior and Samuel built Stubbins Vale Mills in 1851, James being the architect. He then built his home, *Stubbins Vale House*, as well as two other substantial residences - *Greenmount Lodge* and *The Cliffe.* In the 1860s James, his wife Mary Hannah, brother Samuel and his wife Elizabeth along with several others founded the Stubbins Congregational church and school which James built and founded, on their completion he handed the deeds over to the then Trustees and waived any outstanding debt. He also built the residence occupied by the minister the Rev Thomas CAIN, his son in law. James taught at the Sunday School until he was 70 years of age. He was also a Magistrate.

James was a great benefactor to the people, often finding employment for them and assisting in many ways, not only with his money but also his time and physical effort. His health began to fail around 1884 after sustaining injuries due to a bad fall at Stubbins railway station after which he withdrew from public life. He died on 21st April 1896. His wife Mary Hannah had died on 24th November 1877.

James Edward PORRITT was born in 1855 the 14th child of James and Mary Hannah PORRITT of *Stubbins Vale House.* He grew up to be a Professor of Music, playing both Organ and Piano. In 1878 he married Amelia KELLY whose father Thomas was a calico printer. However, I don't think this union was looked on at all favourably by the rest of the family as James Edward only notified his father of the marriage as a postscript to a letter, which read:

'I am now married to Amelia KELLY with whom I am happy and most comfortable.'

James Edward went on to start a brewery with a partner. This venture did not succeed and they went bankrupt in 1883. James Edward together with his wife Amelia and their three children, James Austin (seven), Edith Adeline (three), and Arnold Clement (seven months) boarded the Orient Steamship line's *Chimborazo* at Tilbury on 22nd July 1886, arriving in Melbourne, Australia, on 4th September. They took up residence at 60, Brighton Street, Richmond for about one year, after which they moved to *Byron Villa* in St Kilda, just to the south of Melbourne. He, James Edward, was a remittance man. The family sent him £25 per quarter and Amelia took in gentleman boarders of good breeding and served an excellent table to supplement the family income. James Edward obtained a part time clerical position with J DALE and Co's *Atlas Works,* a position he held for a period of three years. He also gave music lessons on organ and piano. From the time he arrived in Melbourne, James Edward succumbed to respiratory illness and fevers. He was not a robust man and became very seriously ill in 1889 and was hospitalised several times during that year, the last being in November. He died on 17th November 1889 aged 34, thus leaving Amelia almost destitute with three young children. She was also ill with an abdominal condition requiring urgent surgical intervention. She wrote a beseeching letter to her father-in-law James Senior requesting the remittances be continued, a request granted on certain conditions. Of James Edward and Amelia's three children, James Austin never married - he died in March 1940 aged 59 years. Edith Adeline married William BYSOUTH - they had one daughter Alma. Edith died in the 1970s. Alma married very late in life having looked after her mother for years. Alma had no children and died in 1979. Arnold Clement married Ethel Winifred DARKER-SMITH they had four children - Phyllis Olwyn, Arnold Clifford (known as Clifford), Neil Austin and Avis Winifred.

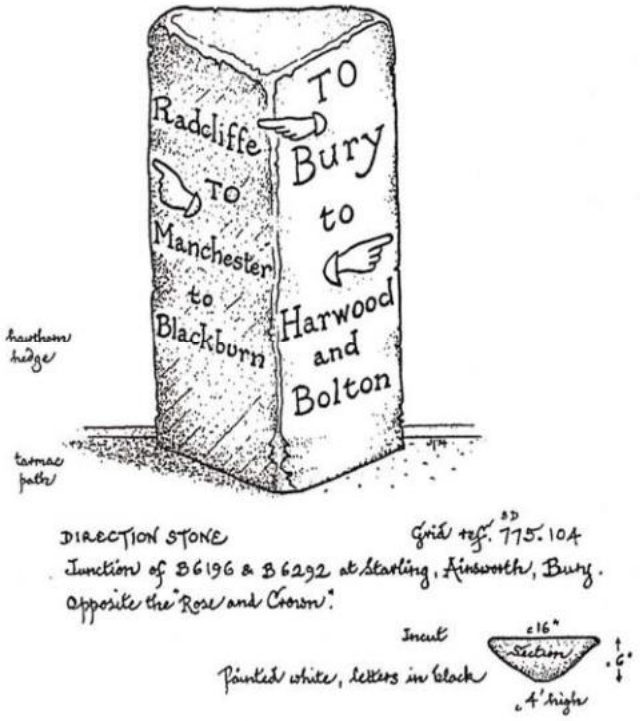
Arnold and his son Clifford PORROT were very active in the formation of the Fitzroy City Brass Band. Arnold played the comet and Clifford the trombone. The band was well known throughout Victoria, having entered and won many competitions. Music has always been intertwined throughout all the Australian branch of the PORRITT

family, producing many singers and musicians. From James Edward and Amelia PORRITT there are 85 descendants of which 77 are still living in 1994.

Lynne Porritt Newton, Statesman Crescent, Mill Park, Victoria, Australia

TURNPIKE FINGER POSTS AT BRADSHAW, AINSWORTH AND ELTON

Readers may recall my attempts to chivvy Bury MBC into investigating the disappearance, sometime in 1993, of the two-century old boundary stone which used to mark the A676's transition from a Bury to a Bolton highway at Hawkshaw/Higher Waives. The Chief Executive instigated the issue of a press release appealing for information as to the whereabouts of the missing stone, presuming that it was now ornamentally keeping the company of assorted gnomes in some miscreant's garden. I'm afraid that this sounds like a smoke screen. There were no traces of any substantial hole after the disappearance - the boundary stone must have been securely set into the ground to a depth of feet rather than inches for it to have stood there so long. An opportunist thief would never have left the surface so smoothly rendered.



I believe that more fruitful lines of enquiry might be (1) to determine exactly who had cause amongst the council's staff, or its contractors, to be engaged in engineering work in the stone's vicinity at the time of its disappearance (summer 1993); (2) to make identical enquiries of Bolton MBC; and (3) to dig in the immediate area to determine whether the stone has once again been buried either whole or in bits. Perhaps in a future issue of this news magazine someone will be able to report Bury's response to these suggestions.

It looks like we have lost this piece of heritage for all time. And this thought prompted me to tour the area with a camera to record other 'roadside furniture'. There are just three such items of the turnpike era, all finger posts:

1. 1. at the junction of Cockey Moor Road with Starling Road, at the easternedge of Ainsworth (illustrated on the previous page).
2. at the junction of Tottington Road with Crostons Road, and outside *TheDusty Miller,* Elton (see front cover).
3. at Bradshaw Chapel, protruding from the comer building at stage coach driver height, with other directions incised into the walls.

The latter two, unusually, are dated (1834 and 1838). The lettering of the Starling stone closely resembles that on the vanished Hawkshaw boundary stone, suggesting a date nearer 1800.

I sent photocopies of my prints in July, together with what history I knew of the posts, to The Department of National Heritage, Third Floor, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH. In the middle of November they informed me that they had taken advice from English Heritage, and were willing to list (at Grade II) the Starling and Elton finger posts, on the grounds that each is 'an early C19 directional sign of vernacular quality which predates the manufactured street furniture of the mid-C19' The Bradshaw Chapel example, however, was part of a building which was not of listable quality, though at 15 feet or more above street level the post should be safe from even the most determined 'developer'.

So two at least of our local turnpike stones are statutorily protected against alteration or demolition. This *should* keep the council workmen in order, and the garden gnome brigade would need a JCB at the very least, or semtex, to dislodge these monoliths!

Andrew Todd, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom

ROGER WORTHINGTON (1659-1709)

On most pleasant evenings and at weekends I can look out of my kitchen window and see the brightly coloured anoraks of walkers at Roger WORTHINGTON'S grave at the top of Hawkshaw Lane. I wonder if they are aware of the interest he has created over the years or why he is buried alone in such a beautiful place?

Roger WORTHINGTON was born in 1659, just before the restoration of Charles II. These were troubled times and for many reasons, mainly political, there was much religious persecution despite Charles' promise that 'there should be liberty to tender consciences and no man should be disquieted because of differences in matters of religion so long as he did not disturb the peace of the Kingdom'! In 1662 the Act of Uniformity was passed. Amongst its provisions was a requirement that 'all ministers who had undergone ordination according to the Presbyterian form should submit to reordination' - thus publicly acknowledging the irregularity of that form of ordination. Those who did not submit to this were deprived of their living. About200 clergymen refused to conform, amongst them the Rev Richard GOODWIN and the Rev Robert PARK of Bolton and the Rev Henry PENDLEBURY of Holcombe.

The Rev PENDLEBURY, although evicted, continued to hold services in private houses throughout the area and it is quite likely that WORTHINGTON was influenced by his teachings. It was generally believed that WORTHINGTON was the son of a Roman Catholic family who broke with them for religious reasons and wandered the hills preaching. A very romantic storywhich doesn't seem to be true for in his will, proved at Chester in 1709, he is referred to as 'yeoman'. He was married and had two children, John and Mary. Hewas living at Holcombe Hey at the top of Hawkshaw Lane (not to be confused withHolcombe Hey House on the side of Holcombe Hill) and his inventory listspossessions to the value of £150 13s l0d (quite a large sum). This inventory was signed by Richard ROTHWELL, John KAY and Simon BARLOW. ROTHWELL and KAY both appear in the list of freeholders who were members of the Dundee Chapel congregation dated 16th December 1717. Simon BARLOW seems to have been from the BARLOW family who were at Simon's farm on Reddisher Lane (washe the original Simon?). One of his descendants was James BARLOW, founder of the Edgeworth Children's Homes, born at Simon's in 1821. There is nothing in WORTHINGTON'S will about himself or any indication of his religious conviction. Nothing is mentioned either about the grave or of the 'yearly pound' (see extract from JF SKELTON's poem, overleaf). There is mention of a bargain already made of the estate on 'Howcome Heigh' but no details of the nature of that bargain. He appointed his wife and one Nathaniel BLINCKHORN, hosier of Broughton as his executors and he left money to his sisters' children and to his brother Thomas. The estate at Holcombe Hey he left to his wife, Martha.

Roger WORTHINGTON'S original stone was, it is said, broken in the 19th Century by a harnessed horse falling upon it. Grass grew between the fractures and the inscription is difficult to read:

Here lies the bo
dy of Roger Wort
hington who depa
rted this life the 9th
day of July 1709

about the 50th year
of his age
They that serve Christ
in faith and love
shall ever reign
with him above

This solitary stone still created great interest for in the 1870s John Fawcett SKELTON wrote the following verse:

Next to Holcombe Hey a good farm appears,
A fine substantial house in former years,
When Brandwood, with his hunters and his hounds,
Ran till the sunset o'er his own good grounds;
A fine old fellow (as traditions say)
As true and open as the shining day,
And round whose cheerful, blazing Christmas logs,
Feasted his friends, his farmers and his dogs,
A field away, below the Broadstone Delf,
In an unbounded cemetery to himself,
Lies Roger Worthington, an old divine,
Whose gravestone bears the date of 'seventeen-nine'
A baptist preacher he, who bought the ground,
And left to somebody a yearly pound,
To keep his lonely tombestone nice and neat;
But that somebody has proved a cheat,
For now moss-grown fragments sad to see,
Old Roger's tablet lies upon the lea,
Yet antiquarians, Hold his memory dear,
Find out and tell why he was buried here.

Mr BARLOW of Edgworth and the Rev WT KERSHAW of the Baptist Church, Ramsbottom tried in 1909 to erect a more enduring gravestone in place of the broken one, but Mr BARLOW died before this could be done. It was 1934 beforea committee was formed to renovate the grave. The local clergy were the drivingforce although many local people were on the list of subscribers. A total of £9 14s 6d was raised and copies of the above poem were printed on cards and sold to help.

HILARY Bros Ltd, of Stubbins Lane, Ramsbottom, provided the new stone at a cost of £918s6dless their own subscription of half a guinea Mr Carl LUCAS of Graining Farm carted the stone from a local quarry gratis, and Mr James ENTWISTLE of Three Acre Farm built the surrounding wall for £2 0s 0d, whilst two seats were provided for 9s 0d.

The rededication ceremony took place on 13th July 1935 when over 200 people

attended a service conducted by the Chairman of the restoration committee, Rev ET ARMSTRONG of St Mary's, Hawkshaw. The Rev W T KERSHAW, who must have been an old man, was there to see the fruition of his plans.

Recently the grave and its gardens has been maintained by the South East Area Countryside Ranger, Ian HART and a picnic bench has been provided by the East Lancashire Long Distance Walkers Association. In fact, the grave is a focal point of an eight mile ramble from the Jumbles reservoir, and a certificate is available, the proceeds from which are used to maintain the garden.

Roger WORTHINGTON'S memory is still with us almost 300 years after his death and I hope that his grave will continue to be a popular stopping point for the many visitors who are asked, at the entrance of the surrounding enclosure, to:

'HONOUR THIS SACRED SPOT'

Jan Barnes, Boardmans, Hawkshaw Lane

AN ACROSTIC ADVERTISEMENT: YATES BROTHERS,IRONMONGERS

At the beginning of 1903, YATES Brothers, the ironmongers who used to have a shop at 52A Bolton Street, Ramsbottom held a competition for their customers to compose an advertisement in the form of an acrostic. The winning entry was submitted by 16 years old Jane HARGREAVES of Loe Farm, Holcombe Brook whose poem ran:

YATES BROS' goods are the best in town,
A nd those who buy them will never frown;
T o prove, just call and have a peep,
E verything is good and cheap.
S omething sure to please you'll see.
B uy it, try it, and satisfied you'll be;
R emember, 'tis a fact that's true,
O h don't forget to call and view.
T hey have ranges, fender kerbs and brasses,
H eating and cooking stoves, lamps and glasses;
E namel dishes, and frying pans,
R oasters, kettles and lading cans.
S aws and hammers, screws and nails,
I ron grates, pincers, and pails;
R akes, forks, garden shears, and spades,
O il bottles, fencing wire, and scythe blades.
N etting and felting, and galvanised sheeting,

M akers of which will want some beating;
O ven shelves, loaf, cake, and tart tins,
N uts and bolts, and flour bins.
G ood wringing machines, and window syringes,
E very description of locks and hinges;
R iddles, paving hammers and picks,
S hovels, fireguards, and candlesticks.
R azors, penknives and cutlery in cases,
A ugers, smoothing irons and coal vases;
S tepladders, clog irons, and shoe soles.
B rushes, and braces and bits, and tacks,
O il reading lamps and letter racks;
T ool chests, boxes, hooks and tiles,
T rowels, spring scales and files.
O bserve the address, 'tis Bolton Street,
M ay I tell you, wherever you buy, you'll never beat

YATES BROS.

Photographs of YATES' window display taken at about the same time that this poem was composed show that Jane's list of the goods they stocked is no exaggeration.

John SIMPSON, Tor View Farm, Helmshore

RALPH ROONEY

Perhaps some of you will remember Ralph ROONEY who wrote *The Story of my Life* in 1947. ROONEY was well known in the hiking circles of the time. He walked from Lands End to John O'Groats as well as leading walks and rambles locally. His great interest in the countryside and his fellow man comes across in his book which he wrote when he was 85 years old. He begins with his memories of school and life in the mill and he goes on to describe his walks and his life in Hawkshaw Lane. People even now call to tell me how they used to walk up Hawkshaw Lane to his cottage at Boardmans when they were children, sometimes being allowed to ring a set of handbells which were kept on an upstairs window ledge. A lady, now dead, who used to 'do' for him said that his front room was full of 'damn clocks' which she had to clean and wind.

I would love to hear any memories you may have of Ralph ROONEY but if you don't remember him, his book, available from Ramsbottom Library, is a delight to read.

Jan Barnes, Hawkshaw Lane, Hawkshaw

Printed by ALLEN & TODD, 9 -11 Square St, Ramsbottom, BL0 9BE Tel: 01706 827988

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 82 1603

The objects of the Society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public, by creating an awareness 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 artifacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

1996 PROGRAMME

Jan 17	**Mr Andrew Todd - *Basic Sources for Family History* (illustrated)**
Feb 21	**Mrs Brenda Decent - *An Evening with the Archives* (illustrated)**
March 20	**Mr James J Francis - *The History of Affetside* (illustrated)**

All indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Community Education Centre, 2-4, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom, 7-30 for 7-45pm.

THE HERITAGE CENTRE CLOSES ON CHRISTMAS EVE, AND *SHOULD* REOPEN AT EASTER, 1996. PLEASE WATCH LOCAL PRESS FOR DETAILS.

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FRONT COVER - The Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, drawn by John Taylor

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Around Ramsbottom - our book was published by Chalford Publishing of Chalford, Stroud, Gloucestershire on 20th November and has already sold very well in the town. Its public launch took place on Saturday 2nd December at the Heritage Centre. Bury's Mayoress, Peta SINGER, attended, along with Ramsbottom's councillors (the Mrs BECKETT, GUNTHER and LONG WORTH) and ex-councillor LITTLE. It was a happy occasion - and we had, by midday, sold around 50 books in total!

A project of this kind had to be a communal effort, as Barbara PARK makes clear elsewhere in this issue. We should be grateful to the many members (and non-members) who chipped in. Delving into our great horde of prints over summer, however, in the company of Barbara PARK and Brenda DECENT, brought home tome the debt that we owe to the donors of all those photographs; to the team of people who, since 1987, have patiently chivvied accurate descriptions out of depositors; and to those who have catalogued and stored away the collection.

As well as giving the Society a boost in reputation and finances, the publicity should attract new members and new donations of photographs (and do remember that we are happy to laser-copy and then return prints). Also, the book must surely generate anecdotes and associated memories, and do please forward them to me, c/o the Heritage Centre, for inclusion either in any future reprint, or in this magazine. There will be mistakes - some the result of careless editing by me, some the result of publisher error (like the omission of the photograph on page 2) but many will be the inevitable result of memories playing tricks - and much of this book consists of undocumented information, preserved only in local folk memory. The best story I've heard so far came from a lady who saw the 1930s St Andrew's school photograph (page 75) and exclaimed: That's the youngest photo I've ever seen of my Dad!

And that boy next to him is actually buried in the adjacent grave! I must buy a copy for my Mum.'

How to buy Around Ramsbottom - there are several shops in the town selling the book. If you buy via them, the Society gains only an 8.875% royalty on eachbook - 82p. If you buy direct from us at the Centre, we make a special author's discount of 50%, and receive a royalty of 3.5% - £4.77 in all.
If you live out of town, or out of the country, please order direct from us, by post. For each copy required, send a cheque payable to Ramsbottom HeritageSociety for £10.30 (including postage and packing) to: Brian HODGKINSON, 1, Marlborough Close, Ramsbottom BL0 9YU.
Copyright - despite rumours to the effect that your chairman is about todisappear to Bermuda with the book's proceeds, I can confirm that he has no intention of laundering £8.99s into an offshore account! Chalford automatically give authors copyright over their Archive Photographs series. In most cases, theauthor is either a society like ours, or a member of the society who edits/writes the final draft. Originally, I suggested that the book should go out under the name of the Heritage Society only, but my co-authors insisted that my nameshould appear - hence in accordance with their standard policy the publishers have given me a share in the copyright. This has no bearing upon who derivesthe profit from sales, or upon who has publishing rights, since the contract that we entered into with Chalford in May was exclusively between themselves andthe Heritage Society - so the Society alone gains all profits and royalties. I havesuggested that my claim to copyright should be taken out of any future reprint. The Heritage Centre, Carr Street - thanks to John TAYLOR of Stacksteads forour cover drawing. I suspect that his representation will be around rather longerthan its subject matter - at the time of writing, we had an interesting culture ofmoss on the northern roof, and dampness in a corner of the interior. In 1951 ourpre-fab was described as 'a new temporary library', and I am told that its lifeexpectancy was then put at 10 years! I seriously doubt whether it will see many years beginning with a 2, though someone might confound me by getting it listed! The local authority has to address this issue soon - they did invest in a refurbishment five years ago, but ever since they have had a visitors' centre inthe tourist honeypot of the borough on the cheap.
Membership Renewals (due 1st April 1996), Standing Orders and Deeds of Covenant - enclosed with this issue are:
1) Renewal forms - please complete and send/take with your subscription to the Heritage Centre or a monthly meeting, unless you already pay by standing order. This can be done from now onwards for 1996-7. Membership/programmecards will be issued in due course. If in the meantime you require a receipt for your payment please enclose an SAE.
2) Standing Order Authority forms - clearly it is better for a society run entirelyin people's spare time if members do pay by standing order. If you are willing todo so, please complete the enclosed order and pass it directly to your bank. You will also

need to let us have your renewal form, so that we know you are opting to pay this way.
3) Covenant Forms - if you pay UK tax, please consider covenanting. This allows us as a charity to recoup money from the Inland Revenue. You need only sign the enclosed form in front of any witness, inserting your subscription fee figure (£3 or £6) in the appropriate space. New and existing members can covenant, although there is no need to complete a fresh form annually - just every four years.

Photographic Competition - please note that the closing date for 1995 entries is now January 1996. Please see the enclosed entry form.

Material for Publication: an Appeal - please consider putting pen to paper, no matter how short your reminiscence or item, for this magazine or for the second volume of Ramsbottom Reminiscences (due out in 1996). Don't worry about presentation, spelling or grammar!

Heritage Society Meetings - attendances have declined this year, and as well as reviewing our meeting venue, we must reconsider what we use meeting nights for. I know a number of members hark back to our earliest months, when more activity (as opposed to passive listening to a speaker) seemed to take place. Do please let any of the committee know of your feelings on this issue - it will be discussed at public meetings in the New Year.

Society deaths - we will remember 1995 as a year in which we lost some friends - Vernon SANDIFORD in February; Trevor PARK in April; Mavis HOMEWOOD in June;and Fred ENTWISTLE in September. Many of us, I'm sure, will be thinking of their bereaved friends and loved ones over the Christmas period. AAT

PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT: BUILDING IN RAMSBOTTOM BETWEEN THE WARS

Ramsbottom was not on a main route for the traveller whether travelling east/west or north/south. The Ribble bus service could transport you the 12 miles to Manchester inone hour, slightly less time to travel to Bolton. Since most Rammy folks worked at one or other of the 20 odd factories in the town these bus services for most of us were for the special occasion. A great many people walked to work, a few cycled and in the mid-'30s some fortunate ones even has motorbikes, Norton's, AJSs, yes British made bikes. The nearest traffic was the A56 Manchester to Burnley route passing through Walmersley, Shuttleworth, Edenfield. Between the Wars few families moved in or out of the town and the population remained fairly static around 15,000. 'The Building Fraternity' was perhaps the most insular group within the community. I intend to confine my jottings to the general builders, I leave it to others to write about carpenters and joiners, painters and decorators, and plumbers.

If we take 1930 as a central date something like this was happening: 'Young' Tom ROGERS had just joined the family firm of PLATT and ROGERS. I think that ‘Tom’ Senior was the sole proprietor and that the PLATT person was not involved with the

day to day running of the business. They were a small organisation, building mainly in the Dundee Lane region and living at the bottom end of Major Street. I recall seeing Old Tom walking home quietly from work and always dressed in moleskin trousers. Then there were the brothers FOSTER, Tom and Henry. They had started their business partnership just before the first World War. Their business premises were near the bottom of Peel Brow. In 1930 they were building houses at the junction of Bury New Road and Nuttall Hall Road. I recall reading the site sales board which gave the following information:

Houses Prices - £495, repayments 13s 4d per week (ie 67p)
Interest rate – 1 ¾% Deposit - £10

Perhaps better to put this into perspective, houses on the Edenfield Council Estate in 1920-22 had cost as much as £1,300 each. From this high point the prices began to fall and despite many types of government subsidy continued to do so until the early 1930s when they 'troughed' around 1932 which the sum of £495 represents. Later, around 1935, FOSTER Brothers built the *Royal Cinema* in Square Street. I think Tom BENNETT, who was one of the tallest men in the district, did most of the brickwork. Sometime later I worked with him: we were an ill matched pair! When I was at a comfortable height of work Tom was complaining about being on his knees. When he felt the height of the wall was comfortable I couldn't see what we were doing. (A small present to the reader who guesses my height correctly.)

Two other brothers carrying on an active business were George and Lester HILLARY. Apart from house building they seemed to be almost permanently engaged building new, renovating, and repair work at the works of PORRITTs and SPENCERs at Stubbins. They were also monumental masons and I think their base for this latter activity was in Cemetery Lane. A number of sons followed the two principals into the business and unusually, one daughter. Building was very much a man's world. Two other relatives, John and Walter CASTLE, operated separate businesses. John was busy building in the Longsight Road area and I think did not stray from this 'patch'. Walter built in the Edenfield area and closed his business in the early part of the 1939-45 War.

It was around 1930 that Abraham WARBURTON and Fred HAWORTH started the business of WARBURTON and HAWORTH, Builders and Contractors. Both men were over 40 years of age then and each had considerable experience of building, craftsmen with the ability to carry out a very wide range of work. This was deemed to be right and proper in that era. The words apprentice, journeyman, tradesman, master had more meaning than now. Despite the difficult times the firm grew quite fast. Soon Fred's son Richard joined, completing a shortened apprenticeship as a bricklayer before joining the management. Around 1935 Richard's elder brother Thomas Randolph, formerly an engineer, joined the firm. He was a later chairman of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council. About 1936 Abraham WARBURTON's only son, Thomas, joined. The firm tackled a wide variety of work, including factory building and private housing.

In 1934, I had left St Andrew's School and begun as an apprentice bricklayer with WARBURTON and HAWORTH. At the time they were engaged in rebuilding the *Old Dun Horse Hotel* at the junction of Dundee Lane with Bolton Street, a most interesting project because to satisfy the licensing laws pub trade had to continue uninterrupted. The whole business had to be contracted into that half of the building fronting onto Bolton Street. The rear half of the building was then demolishedand rebuilt. The final phase was to transfer trade into the new rear half, and then to demolish and rebuild the front half.

I realise now that a good deal of thought was given to the training of apprentices. Firms were judged to some extent by the competence of the apprentices that they 'turned out'. So, whilst the training was not carried out to a formal programme, firms triedto ensure that on completion of the seven-year apprenticeship, the young tradesman would have a breadth of knowledge. Apart from Mr Richard HAWORTH who had followed an apprenticeship before progressing into management I was the first apprentice from outside the family to join the firm. Others soon to follow were William SNOWDON, Albert FREEMAN, and John BROOKS. Looking back on the experience Ibelieve that we were well trained. Our employers and almost all of the craftsmen took aninterest in showing us the best way of approaching the work. There was a good sense ofpride in achievement.

The 1930s was very much a period of fast transition from stone to brick building. Someof the older men were stone masons with very limited skill at brick work. Others weresaid to be 'mixed hands'. Apprentices in the '30s were trained in brickwork. The work was much more physical than now - cranes and hoists were very rarely seen. Concretewas all site mixed, often completely by hand - concrete mixers were one of the few mechanically operated pieces of equipment. We seldom used electric tools. It was the era of the trowel, hod, pick, shovel, hammer and chisel and wheelbarrow. The prevailing philosophy was that everything should be built to last, so that as well as thebuildings even scaffold trestles, scaffold boards and ladders were made durable - all werestrong and heavy, and they had to be manhandled. No job for the weak or fainthearted. As a result, it was not unusual for men of 40-50 years of age to leave the industry, tradesmen looking for factory maintenance jobs.

Nowadays, there are many special aids to get work done in adverse weather - additives for mortars and concretes, blower heaters to dry work, special sheeting to protect new construction, better site hutments for men (often with canteen facilities) andlast but by no means least protective clothing and footwear.

The work was not only physical but labour intensive. I recall working on a large extension at the Bus Depot on Ramsbottom Lane [presumably Stubbins Lane - Editor]. Here, somewhere in the region of 15 to 20 navvies were employed in digging thefoundations. Today, a mechanical excavator could do the work of 20 men. There were nopackaged bricks - if you had a load of 7,000 Accrington bricks they were handed in twos, usually thrown by a man on a truck to one on the ground who would carefully stack them. They played havoc with the skin on the forgers and palms. On one warehouse at the then CROMPTON's Paper Mill [now Fort Sterling - Editor]. Some 200,000 bricks were unloaded by this method.

Another adverse practice was the tendency for firms to reduce activity at the approach to Christmas, opening up newjobs around March - it wasn't sensible or economically viable to have buildings unroofed in the depth of winter. Men were usually glad to work overtime in the summer months to compensate.

There seemed to be little paper work on sites then. Not all sites had a telephone andfor a long time the firm had only one lorry. I remember one occasion when the limited transport caused a problem. We were building some houses at Baldingstone, there was an urgent need for along ladder and the lorry was not available. Bill SNOWDONand I were sent from the site to the firm's yard in Square Street to get a ladder. We walked to Square Street then started the return journey with the ladder by the sameroute, through Nuttall Park to the lower part of Nuttall Village thence to Gollinrod. Unless Jacob's ladder has been altered it is a dreadful mistake to think that it is easyto take a 22 stave ladder up there. We struggled with the wretched ladder, backwardand forward, inclined at a steep angle then horizontal. We finally sat exhausted in the field at the top. Bill said: 'Jacob's going to be quite confused by this lot'.

The work was not confined to Ramsbottom. We worked as far afield as Bradford and Lancaster. Lancaster was deemed a long way then and we only came home once a fortnight. Nevertheless, because we didn't have motor cars or go frequently on holidays we spent almost all our time in the town, we knew each other better and had amuch greater sense of belonging to the town. Also we were involved in fewer activities and spent a greater proportion of our time at work and I think perhaps tookgreater pride in doing it.

Gordon White, 131, Grange Rd, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QQ

AROUND RAMSBOTTOM: THE INSIDE STORY

When it was announced that the Society had been approached by a firm of publishersto produce a book of photographs of Ramsbottom everyone thought it a brilliant idea - helpers at the Heritage Centre are frequently asked for such a book by visitors, especially former residents who now live far away. It would also raise money for the Society and, best of all perhaps, it would provide an opportunity for people to see some of the hundreds of photographs which have been donated to the archive over the years. It was quickly agreed that the project should go, ahead and Brenda DECENT, Andrew TODD and myself set about the task enthusiastically. At thispoint we were informed that the publishers would require the whole thing - photographs, text, and the order in which they were to appear - to be completed in a matter of weeks! After some negotiation by Andrew this was extended slightly but speed was of the essence if we were to meet the deadline and have the book on saleby Christmas.

The long hot summer of 1995 with its record-breaking temperatures was perhaps notthe ideal time to embark on our first attempt at such a project. The heat outside wasmatched (at least) by the sweat of brows inside the Heritage Centre as the entire photographic archive was carefully scrutinised. Many hours were spent discussing each individual photograph - was the quality good enough to reproduce? Did we have, or could we obtain, enough information about the subject? Was it an interesting photograph with some

historic or general interest? And so on and on, through about 800 items until eventually we had selected the 200 or so needed for the book.But this was just the beginning!
We now had the task of supplying a caption for each one, deciding how to arrange them in the book, choosing a cover picture, writing a foreword and material to link upthe various sections. It was decided that the best arrangement would be to divide thebook up into geographical areas with a separate section for photographs of people.Andrew, an experienced author of local and family history books (and probably theonly one who realised the size of the task we faced!) agreed to edit the book, write the introduction and make a detailed plan of where each photograph and its captionshould appear. He also transferred all our information onto his computer so that it could be submitted to the publishers on disc, thus gaining a little more time.

Every item in the archive is catalogued by Brenda (hitherto the only person who could claim to have seen every single item we possess!) and listed on the Society's computer. So the first thing was to print out all the information we had on each photograph. In many cases this was sufficient for our needs but often we had little orno information to start with - understandable I suppose when photographs were only taken on special occasions and extended families tended to live in the same area forgenerations. Everyone knew this was Aunt Mabel outside her front door or Uncle Billoutside the mill where he worked. A treasured photograph of a Rose Queen procession doesn't have the date on the back or the name of the Rose Queen because she is a sister or cousin and everyone knows what year she was chosen. Surely a lesson here for present day photographers?

The help of Society members, friends, neighbours and relations was crucial at this stage and I should think half the population of Ramsbottom must have had their memories jogged and their brains picked during those few weeks. People were visited, telephone, even waylaid in the street. Senior citizens who have lived in Ramsbottom all their lives were especially in demand and when they did not know the answers to our questions they usually knew someone who did. Fortunately, the people of Ramsbottom are famous for their good humour and kindness and took it allin good part. Indeed stories still keep coming back to us of the discussions, arguments, and reminiscences that have taken place as a result of our enquiries - perhaps some of them will get written up for the Magazine or another *RamsbottomReminiscences?*

The information we acquired came to us in many different and sometimes surprising ways. For example, the couple standing outside the School House on Dundee Lane (page 79), dressed in turn of the century clothes, were thought to be the parents of Melvin CRAWSHAW, the chemist - but this was contradicted by my next-door neighbour, Mrs Edith ROBINSON, who had worked for Mr CRAWSHAW many years ago. However, Mrs ROBINSON telephoned one of her friends from the Age Concern Day Centre, Miss Eveline WALKER, to see if she could help us. On being shown the photograph, Miss Walker immediately identified the couple as grandparents Joseph and Sarah WALKER who had indeed lived in the School House. Armed withthis information we were then able to find out more about Joseph and Sarah.

Joseph is listed in the 1888 Directory as a dyer at *85,* Dundee Lane (the School House) and, more interestingly, Andrew also discovered *a Bury Times* article of 1893 which records that 'the lady of the house', almost certainly Sarah, told the writer of the article the reputed history of the house - that it was built in *1664* in Holcombe churchyard as the Tottington manor courthouse and parish school. When the Church Schools on Helm shore Road were built in *1864 Ellis* HOWARTH bought the structure for £11 and carted it down to its present site. The stone carvings came from Manchester Cathedral and/or Clitheroe. The house was originally known as Well House because of the well at its front which was used by local residents until the mid-1920s. In addition to helping us with the photographs Miss WALKER has now given the Society a 1960s painting of the School House for our archives.

An amazing stroke of luck gave us the story behind the photograph of a man standing beside a horse and cart. We knew that the man was George Edward WARNER, a slater, and assumed that the model roof on the cart was an example of his work. What was not clear was the purpose of the display - advertising perhaps? or a carnival entry? Eventually, Brenda contacted the donor of the photograph, Mr Neil BUTTERWORTH, Mr WARNER's grandson. Shortly afterwards Mr BUTTERWORTH arrived at the Centre with a card which read:

> 'Ramsbottom Rose Queen Festival, Cycle Parade, Trade and Tradesmen's Demonstration, Saturday July 16th 1910. First Prize, Class 6, Best Display of Local Industries (on cart or lurry)'.

He then indicated a small white square under the horse's neck, barely visible in the small photograph. Not only did we discover the reason for the display we now had in our hands the actual card which had been presented to Mr WARNER in 1910 which Mr BUTTERWORTH has now donated to our collection. The archive contains a number of photographs of Cycle Parades and for quite sometime we were mystified by the fact that not one of them featured a cycle. We now know that these parades were organised by the Cycle Club as charity fund raising efforts.

Another query concerned the Ramsbottom Gas Works. We were told that after production ceased the offices were opened up once each quarter for local people to go and pay their gas bills. The person who was asked about this was George KAY who had worked for the Gas Board for many years - the man who collected the payments!

George and his wife Margaret were two of the people who checked through the proofs of the book and on seeing the picture of the Amazon Lancers dance troupe (page 29), Margaret produced a photograph of her mother wearing an identical outfit. They had puzzled over the strange costume for years not knowing what it was until they saw the photo in the book. Eventually our time ran out and the photographs were sent off to the publishers amid sighs of relief all round. 'Demob happy' was Andrew's description as the three of us sat amongst the VE and VJ displays at the Centre and celebrated with a cup of tea and a piece of Brenda's birthday cake.

The respite did not last long - the arrival of the proofs within a very short time sparked off another round of checking and many people were asked to read through the book, mostly at very short notice as it had to go back to the publishers within a few days. Brenda was away on holiday happily unaware of what was happening and I was due to go away within a couple of days. This was when Tom BARRATT stepped into the breech and took over the task of showing the proofs to as many people as possible in the very short time available. As an example I believe Bill BENNION received the proof on Wednesday afternoon and returned it to Tom the same evening at the monthly meeting. This was the same day that Andrew collected the draft index from my letterbox at 6 o'clock in the morning on his way to London, and that I had delivered the proofs to Tom on my way to the Lake District! We hope *that Around Ramsbottom will* be favourably received and sell many copies. If so, all the effort will have been worthwhile and it will be a great tribute to all those people in Ramsbottom and beyond who helped to produce it whether by donating photographs, supplying information or just encouragement when we thought it would never get finished in time.

Barbara Park

THE ST ANDREW'S REFURBISHMENT - AND NEW LIGHT ON SOME OLDMYSTERIES

St Andrew's Church closed on 24th Feb 1993 for a major refurbishment planned with the architectural practice BYROM CLARK ROBERTS of Bury and Manchester. The cost of £108,000 was mostly met by church members. The congregation used the school for worship until the church reopened on 15th May 1994. There have been substantial internal changes, but all preceded by a lot of thought and discussion -'a church is not like a lounge which you can change if you don't like it,' Rev Ian ROGERSON said as he showed me around in summer. The pews have gone (many bought by parishioners) and have been replaced by 160 chairs;the choir stalls have been relocated in the gallery, next to existing pews inscribed Nuttall Hall' (for the servants?); the floor has been levelled, the old heating system hasbeen replaced by modem central heating; there is a disabled toilet, a creche, an upper room and a sound system; the building has been carpeted throughout; and the pulpithas been removed and is now 'somewhere in Italy', Dave the Ramsbottom Market antiques dealer having found a buyer!

In the process, attention has been drawn to a number of original features of the church.John BUCHANAN's clock is well known and much described, its four faces now once again showing the time of day. I can vouch, however, living within earshot of its sonorous and considered chimes, that it runs a few minutes fast - the specialist Leeds firm William POTTS, who maintain elderly clockwork throughout the country, provides remedial servicing. Their engineer rates the clock very highly, pointing out that it is several times larger than systems in much more substantial churches - 'like keeping an elephant for a family pet', he quipped! To assist adjustment, the 29'6" pendulum oscillates in front of a scale from 7 to 0 to 7, this being visible behind a glass pane in the vestry. At rest, the pendulum should align with the 0, but actually stops midway between 0 and 1-

the tower leans into the main building on account of the historical subsidence which affects many properties in this area, ascribed by local tradition to movement in the Pendleton Fault in 1924. As well as thetower faces, BUCHANAN placed a brass clock in the parapet of the gallery, and this was originally operated by rods from the main mechanism. The face, much blackened over the years, was cleaned during the restoration and the inscription J. *Buchanan 1834* (with thistles) is once again visible to prove its originality.

Charred timbers, found over the old south porch during the refurbishment, are evidence of an event calendared laconically in postman Richard BARLOW's diary: 'Oct 20 1918 Sunday - Fire at St Andrews Church, Ramsbottom. Estimated damages £2,480'. Thought to be the result of a fused electrical wire, the fire damaged much of thewest end, including the organ chamber and the gallery. A replacement organ was bought from St Andrew's abandoned Presbyterian namesake at the top of Kay Brow. This became redundant in 1981 when a Makin electronic organ was installed. The pipes and associated works of the former organ have now been removed from the gallery to create seating space. A fresh, glazed doorway, approached by a new gently sloping path, has been inserted atthe west end, in the base of the tower. As result, the weight for BUCHANAN's clock has had to be moved over 12". A stone quatrefoil, visible on all photographs of the church, had to be removed to make way for this door, and this has been buried in the graveyard. It was a relief to Rev ROGERSON that the carving came away in its original one piece. A record of its subterranean location has been kept, in case future restorations require it.

The vestry is above the new doorway on the first floor; its adjacent frosted lancet window has a small rectangle of clear glass at its foot. This was inserted in Rev Roy CARMYLLIE's day so the minister to spot approaching wedding and funeral parties.

At the east end, the stained glass window made in 1966 at Buckfastleigh Abbey is now fully visible, the central section of the reredos having been dropped. Formerly, thesaint's name was obscured. Visitors to St Andrew's, 'the Grants' Church', are impressed by the memorials to the GRANT family, several members being interred and/or commemorated here. Wall memorials were erected for some who were buried elsewhere - for example William andGrace, parents of the 'Cheeryble Brothers', and Charles of *Barwood House,* younger brother to the 'Cheerybles', all three of whom died before the church was opened in 1834. The 'Cheerybles' themselves, William and Daniel, and other brother John (of Nuttall Hall) are 'in the vault' under the church, according to Rev David LEWTAS's jubilee booklet of 1925, though their precise locations have for some timebeen unknown. Anyone wanting to know the site of the 1842 burial of William, the church's founder, for example, was directed to the space ‘between the choir stalls'. In fact, the two wall memorials at the east end, to William (died 1842) and his brother John(died 1855), were originally located there as headstones - for directly under each hasbeen found an incised 8' by 4' stone slab, clearly either gravestones or vault entrances. The stones lay beneath raised flooring which supported the choir stalls, and were only discovered as a result of the refurbishment.

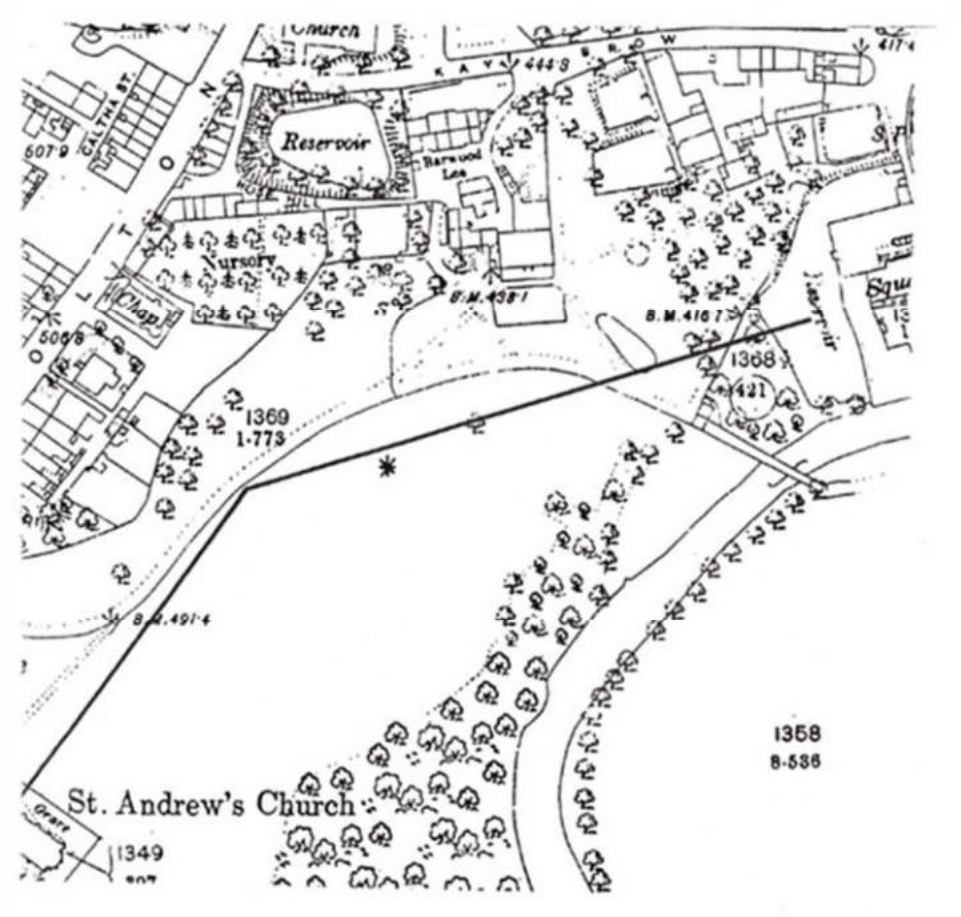
William, the church's founder, evidently went to some considerable trouble to ensure that future generations were not to be deprived of an exact knowledge of his appearance. During the recent work, it was discovered that his memorial bust carries a small inscription *London 1839.* Clearly, the sculpture was done from life, three years in advance of his death, and presumably by the best that money could buy.

The original ceiling, with its plaster moulding pattern of St Andrew's crosses, has been retained. There are small quatrefoil openings at each crux, these being part of the ventilation system - each has a grill which can be opened and shut. John BUCHANAN's scheme of obtaining hot air from the nearby Square Works, of which he was engineer, is well known local lore - but finding any documentary evidence of how it was engineered has proved difficult. The only written reference I have found is in the commemorative booklet published in 1925 to mark the 50th anniversary of its consecration as an Anglican church. The hot air; wrote Rev David LEWTAS, 'was conveyed by means of a brick tunnel, a tunnel through which a man could walk upright.'

The exact line of this tunnel, however, remains something of a mystery. Periodically, it is sighted - Gordon WHITE, now living in Guildford, remembers as a 13/14 year old in 1934 'roller coaster' racing with bogeys down from the church and across Church Field to the bridge by The Square. He saw brickwork, recently caved in, some 4" below field level, and blackness inside. 'It was about 100 yards or so up the path from the bridge over the Irwell to the Lodge House and about ten yards into the scrub land that the head of the ducting fell in,' he writes. 'It might have been as few as ten bricks. The section of the ducting was flat bottom, vertical sides, semicircular head. Memory is obviously a treacherous companion but I think it was no more than 3' 0" wide and 5' 0" high.' [The spot is marked, according to Gordon's memory, by an asterisk on the map opposite - Editor.] Ken BEETSON records that the tunnel was exposed by workmen in 1958, whilst Norman ECCLES of Thelma Street, who died in 1991, recalls it being exposed in 1978, when the brickwork seemed still in good condition. Octogenarian members of St Andrew's congregation recall a large entrance to the duct in Square Works, probably to facilitate maintenance.

It seems likely that the tunnel entered the church in the cellar which lies under the tower, and from which two underfloor ducts ran throughout the building. Set in the floor above these ducts were six-leaved foil-shaped grills which allowed the admission of the heat into the church to be regulated. A flue, discovered during the recent work, probably original, is set into the north side of the tower and may have acted as a by- pass to dispose of the hot air in warm weather. Alternatively, the flue may have been used as part of the coke-fired central heating system installed in the 1920s - it is certainly blackened internally, though if built earlier this could have been a result of the 1918 fire. Oddly, there is no evidence of the tunnel entering the cellar, though this may be because it was blocked off when the 1920s system was put in. Altogether, the removal of this system in 1993-4 involved the disposal of 31/2 tons of radiators and piping, and a six-ton cast-iron flue which ran from the boiler in the cellar up the south side of the tower, and was capped with an earthenware cowl.

Rev Ian ROGERSON suggests that the circular depression in the churchyard opposite the north door may represent an access point to the tunnel. Certainly, theview from this spot down towards the site of Square Works indicates why there is some doubt as to its precise location. The land falls away quickly, and then more gradually, so that a direct line would have involved the tunnel having a very steep gradient, followed by a very gentle one. This lower section may have been susceptible to flooding. Gordon WHITE, who recalls seeing the tunnel exposed in 1934, suggests that the line was approximately as shown by the solid line superimposed on the 1893 25" Ordnance Survey map reproduced below. This, he points out, would have permitted a consistent gradient. There were, he suggests, bricks and broken bricks in its vicinity in his day.



If anyone has more information on the mysterious St Andrew's tunnel, we would be delighted to hear from them - a heating duct may not quite have the historical romance of those mythical secret passages (used by recusant priests) that some more ancient churches claim, but at least we know it is there - somewhere. I am grateful to Gordon WHITE, Rev Ian ROGERSON and Steve BOOTH (whoinstalled the new heating system) for their help in researching this article.

Andrew Todd, 183, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BLO 9JD

MELVIN CRAWSHAW: `THE CHEMIST ON THE CORNER'

When I left school in 1923 it was very difficult to find employment. At that time the premises at 9, Bolton Street were occupied by Mrs Melvin CRAWSHAW who ran a business selling fancy goods, cut glass and toys etc, including scooters, dolls' prams and elegant babies' prams. The latter, even the not-so elegant, were very important in familylife, as, apart from doctors and a few wealthy people in the town, no one owned cars. Whenever mother wanted to go out she had to take the baby in the pram; also when goingto the shops she had to carry her shopping bags on the pram handles or on the tray underneath. There was no lending library in Ramsbottom, so Mrs CRAWSHAW ran her own at a charge of 2d per book per week. When she offered me temporary employment from September to Christmas. I was pleased to accept it and enjoyed thework.

As Christmas approached, her husband, Mr Melvin CRAWSHAW, `The Chemist on the Corner' (nos 1-3, Bolton Street) as he was known and advertised, asked me if I would like permanent employment as assistant in his shop. He said he would also teach me the art of dispensing medicines. This offer also I was pleased to accept, though I had no idea of how much there was to learn and the job was certainly much harder and different from today. In addition to dispensing I was also taught to make pills and ointments and other things. There were many more medicines and comparatively very few pills and tablets, just the reverse today. Almost all the shops in the town wereopen from 8.30am to 8.00pm except early closing on Wednesday at 1.00pm. On Saturdays we stayed open until 9.00pm. Shops had to stay open late because so many people worked in the factories from 6.00am to 5.30pm Mondays to Fridays and until 12 noon on Saturdays - so they had to do their shopping in the evenings.

I worked a very long day with a one-hour break for lunch and half an hour for tea. I livedat Edenfield and as the buses only ran every half hour I couldn't go home for lunch or tea, so every day in my lunch hour I walked up The Rake to have lunch with my sisters wholived in Holcombe village. I wish I were able to do the walk today! I had one week's holiday a year plus Good Friday, Whit Friday, Trinity Monday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. On Christmas Eve we stayed open as long as there was anyone in the street, sometimes until 10 or 11pm!

At that time there was National Insurance for male manual workers only. Men and women workers were mostly very poorly paid - average wages for a labourer were under £2 per week and for cotton and towel weavers (mainly women) £1 10s or even less. Consequently, many people couldn't afford to consult the doctor for minorailments and had all kinds of remedies of their own.

To quote just a few: for constipation - syrup of senna, senna pods and leaves, epsom and glauber salts, liquorice powder, cascara tablets (there must have been many sufferers from this complaint judging by the quantities sold); for coughs - raspberry vinegar and olive oil, `all fours', `three in one' (made up by the chemist), flagroot for rheumatic pains and nitbone for sprains; ABC liniment, spike oil and aspirin tablets for rheumatic pains; golden eye ointment and many other drugs and herbs. People bought camphor squares, lit one corner, allowed it to bum for a few seconds, blew out the flame and inhaled the vapour to relieve a stuffy nose. They also put a few drops of eucalyptus oil on a handkerchief and inhaled the vapour for nasal catarrh.

When the customers' own remedies failed they consulted the chemist and he advised and prescribed treatment. Usually they asked for 'a bottle' for their complaint. There were many ‘bottles’ and each had to be dispensed individually, as required, for colds in the head, influenza, coughs (children and adults), diarrhoea, constipation, ‘nerves’, neuralgia, sore throat, stomach ache, pick-me-up and tonic, pick-me-up after alcohol, fever cure, headache, backache, rheumatism, blood, asthma (I still have copies of the prescriptions though many of the ingredients are no longer obtainable).

There were lotions, medicines and ointments for pimples, ointments for piles and ringworms; inhalant and drops for catarrh and drops for wax in the ears. We also sold all kinds of surgical dressings including cotton wool, gauze, white lint, boracic (pink) lint bandages (1", 2", 3"), crepe, elastic and elastic adhesive.

Most of the old home remedies have been replaced by patent medicines. Amongst the earlier patent medicines advertised which I remember were Fenning's Fever Cure - medicine and powder, Dr William's Pink Pills for Pale People, Veno's Lightning Cough cure, Beecham's Pills worth a guinea a box, De Witt's Pills, Kruschen Salts (which consisted mainly of Glauber and Epsom salts), Owbridge's Lung Tonic, Sloan's Liniment and Carter's Little Lever Pills. Years later the introduction of the National Health Service changed all this as people could not consult the doctor whenever necessary and receive free treatment but there has always been and still is a demand for patent medicines.

We also made up prescriptions for treating dogs and the many horses in the area. In addition to those belonging to the farmers and the Holcombe Hunt, many horses were used for drawing lorries to transport goods. People even brought in old or sick dogs to be put down with a dose of prussic acid - a quick death but the worst thing I ever had to do was to administer the dose whilst Mr CRAWSHAW held the dog. I only ever did it once.

Apart from the medical side of the business, Mr CRAWSHAW had many sidelines - to quote a few: baking powder and pepper (both of which made us sneeze when we were weighing them out!), bicarbonate of soda, honey, dried cloves, ginger and rhubarb (root and powder), starch, borax, etc. All were either weighed and sold by the ounce or multiples. We also sold butter, treacle and herbal toffees manufactured by Mr CRAWSHAW's cousin, Mr Jack CRAWSHAW at his works in Ramsbottom.

We also sold malt and hops for home brewing of beer and had a licence to sell wines but only between l lam and 3pm and after 5pm. I can only remember the most popular one which was Sandeman's Port Wine - one star and three star. Dog biscuits and a motorvan which his cousin Mr Billy CRAWSHAW drove and delivered weekly orders to Helmshore, Holcombe, Summerseat and any outlying places making requests. The advent of the privately owned car and electricity in the home changed all this.

I had much to learn and remember: all the Latin names of the drugs used in dispensing and the corresponding English names, of the drugs and herbs, etc sold over the counter, also the prices. The patent medicine prices were easier to remember as most of them were 1 s 3d or, as an inducement to buy the larger size, three times the amount for 3s 0d. In those days before supermarkets, each customer was served individually and each article carefully wrapped. I can't think of any business which had such a variety of goods for sale, taking into account the very many drugs, herbs, etc. Yes! the hours were long and it was hard to work but 1 enjoyed it as we were always busy dispensing, selling goods, making up the orders, window dressing etc.

There were two other chemists in the town. Mr CATLOW had his shop in Bolton Street, later taken over by Mr Stanley CLARKE and later by Jack and Barbara PALMER who moved the business to Market Place. The other one was Mr BRACEWELL whose shop was on Bridge Street. On his retirement it was taken over by Timothy Whites & Taylors who later closed the shop. Mr CRAWSHAW's business was taken over by his eldest son, Roger, who, on the opening of the Health Centre, moved across the street to no 6, a much smaller shop.

In the 1980s nos 1-3, Bolton Street became *Present Corner,* and extended into no 5. I believe Roger retired, but the business at no 6 still trades under the name of Melvin CRAWSHAW. It is interesting to note that not only was Mr Melvin CRAWSHAW a pharmacist and a good business man, but also a qualified optician and an astronomer. He occasionally gave lectures on astronomy - a very busy man.

After all these years it seems strange in 1995 to see nos 1-3, Bolton Street empty, as they now are. It was a chemist's shop for many years [since Jamieson MORTON instigated the business there, probably in 1853 - Editor] before becoming *Present Corner,* but it is only one of many changes which have taken place in the town over the years.

Edith Robinson, Bolton Road West, Holcombe Brook

GAS LIGHTING AT IRWELL BRIDGE MILL, KENYON STREET

The weaving sheds at Lawrence STEAD and Brother Ltd's Irwell Bridge Mill, Kenyon Street were still gas-lit in November 1952, when I started working thereafter four years at Pemberton's Mill, also in Kenyon Street. There was electric lighting in all other departments of the STEADs' mill. When the gas was due to be turned on, an electric light bulb (above the door leading to the warehouse) was switched on. Each weaver at the end of the 'alley' went out to their tacklers' bench where matches and tapers were stored to set off the chain. They passed the taper along their alley as each weaver lit their gas mantles.

Electric lighting was installed about 1953/54. A few years later electricity replaced steam to power the looms, then about 100 years old.

STEADs had sold the mill around 1951 to T ROBINSON and Co Ltd of Chesterfield. The mill closed at the end of December 1972. I think one loom is at Helmshore Museum, one in Bolton, one in Bury.

Joan Barcroft, *Ashton Lodge*, Great Eaves Lane, Ramsbottom

A SUMMERSEAT AVIATION MYSTERY

During my early teenage years whilst working at the Joshua Hoyle Mill in wartime Summerseat I was, from time to time, transferred from one department to anotherand for some months worked alongside my old chum and workmate from Bury Len BARLOW in the cotton chamber where apart from feeding the cotton into the teeth of these every hungry machines our other responsibility was operating the joist and hauling up the bales of raw cotton from the backs of the lorries down below where they were manhandled into convenient areas ready - once the covering sacking was removed - to be torn off in strips and fed into the noisy monsters! One fine and sunny day as we were unhooking the hook and chain from a bale there came upon us a sudden roar and to our amazement an RAF aircraft, seemingly at eyelevel with ourselves, flashed by at a most dangerously low height! For the moment we were both spellbound as this plane circled the mill where after performing a couple of laps sharply shot off over the nearby wooded gorge, almost clipping the tree tops. Recovering from our initial surprisewe both pondered on the question `Why?'

There were not many witnesses to this strange phenomenon and most workers would have been unaware of this plane as the loud noise from the machinery would have drowned the noise from the plane's engine - or engines as I cannotquite recall whether it had been a single or twin-engined aircraft. Later a rumour was circulating as to the identity of the culprit of the buzzing of the mill and words reached my ears that it was - or could have been, an ex-employee 'showing off to his mate and pointing out where he once had worked before becoming an airman.I would appreciate it if any member could enlighten me a little more on this happening.

PS My old workmate Len BARLOW mentioned above would now be the same age as myself - 69. My attempts at trying to trace his whereabouts after so many years have proved fruitless. I would be most grateful for any information regarding him.

Jack Whitford, Wembley, Middlesex

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FRONT COVER - Dundee Lane, Ramsbottom, drawn by Andrew Todd

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Ramsbottom Reminiscences II - our second collection of local memories will be published in the summer. Half as big again *as Ramsbottom Reminiscences I,* the price will be £3.95. Copies should be on sale in the Heritage Centre in mid-late July. Out of town purchasers should order from our membership secretary (see details on the enclosed leaflet). *Ramsbottom Reminiscences I*, incidentally, has sold around 600 copies since it was published in December 1992, and we are about to go into a third print run.

Going for immortality? - for a town of our size, we are acquiring quite an extensive collection of published reminiscences: in the 13 issues of this newsletter, and in the two volumes of *Ramsbottom Reminiscences,* the memories of nearly 40 people will have gone into print. The Society is always delighted to receive such items, whatever their length. The topics tend to be educational, occupational, and a few personal family histories, though a good number describe daily life in houses which have been demolished over the last half century. Advice is available to help with drafting.

Do please think hard about putting pen to paper - an article published in our newsletter or in *Ramsbottom Reminiscences* will delight not only you, but also relatives who may never have lived in the town. And - without wishing to sound morbid - publication means that several hundred copies of your work will exist, whereas a sole manuscript ortypescript, found by an executor after your decease, may

be put on one side and soon lost. Wouldn't we all like to have been given a copy of our granddad's or grandma's reminiscences? AAT

Thank you to Unaform - we appreciate very much the co-operation and help we receivefrom this company. They welcome us to use their laser photocopier which is (a great blessing) and help with displays, visits and information. The Quality Assurance Managerhas recently informed us that the top two storeys of the three-storey part of Unaform building will be demolished, as unsafe, in the next two years. The Reception area will beat the front of the building facing south, built with stone taken from the demolished part. Unaform wish to preserve the stained glass 'heraldic' window and mount it in the Reception area and have asked us to suggest someone who could research its history, which we did.

Brenda Decent

MEMORIES OF DUNDEE LANE AND SUMMERSEAT IN THE '20s AND '30s

Cliff GASKELL, an ex-engine driver, born in 1922 at 24, Dundee Lane, now lives in Elgin, Scotland. 'A driver from Cormar Carpets comes to deliver in Elgin every Tuesday,' he writes, 'and I get news from him about the Irwell Valley.' A copy of AroundRamsbottom stimulated memories. I wish I had a penny for every time I had a drink of water from the stone water fountain in the market place,' he adds. The following articleis a compendium of the several letters Cliff has written to me over the last few months. Related to the Ramsbottom WESTWELLs, he recalls childhood in Ramsbottom and Summer seat before World War II. [Editor].

I remember Dundee Lane was a happy area. Billy SNOWDON was my pal - we enjoyedTag Wood walks through the wood and Holcombe churchyard to Holcombe Hill collecting raspberries for Grannie to make jam with. The terrace house we lived in was solid stone with flag roof not slate - large cellar, small kitchen, the sink unit of course inthose days was the flag stone type with one cold tap, but we had a geyser hot water cistern. A huge coal fired wash boiler in the comer of the kitchen served several purposes, and dumpling boiling too. There was a double back yard - we had a small garden rabbit,and the tumbler system toilet - quite hygienic they were, and changed to the present day flush system about 1930. The house was dry - the large cellar which housed the coal. I believe they look exactly the same outside today as they were in 1920. Ours had a storm porch built onto it. I was a latch key boy, coming home to light the coal fire and look after brothers and sisters until my parents got home from work. My Uncle Billy lived next door and his wife's sister next to him.

I enjoyed Peel Brow School - good pals,captain of class and school football team for a time, good discipline from the teachers. Itook six of the best on the backside for dumb insolence one day. The good teachers were Miss GOFFEY, Miss HARRISON and Dinky BOOTH, Music - a bit of a Les DAWSON who could play as good on a piano out of key as in it - only five feet tall but hands as hard as nails when they landed.

I am still trying to find anyone who like me can remember the World War I tank which was on a concrete parapet outside the Council works yard near the tram shed, Stubbins [Lane]. Maybe it was taken away for scrap in World War IL

I believe at one time it was the World War I memorial. When we went to the tech from school for woodwork we always took a climb on it. Arthur BARLOW, Cliff OTTER WELL, Dick LANG (one of the LANG brothers from Summerseat, a good centre half). Another good football player was Cliff PETCH, who had a few brothers. Happy days - the only time we had problems was when preparing our bonfires. We had real big ones and each area raided each other's, to steal the wood. We slept in ours to avoid the wood being stolen.

My grandfather, Sam WESTWELL, was one of the firemen on the photograph of Ramsbottom's horse drawn fire engine, in Ken BEETSON's *Ramsbottom* (vol 2, 1978). His son Tommy WESTWELL was also at one time in the Ramsbottom Brigade. He had a plumber's shop in Silver Street and sold sink units, baths, windows and chrome taps, solder, blow lamps - all requirements for plumbing. He later moved to a shop on Bolton Road near Dundee Lane. (My sister Dorothy, who now lives in Tottington, was in Malta in 1994, and met a hotel owner who was one of Uncle Tom's best friends!) Granny WESTWELL also had a little grocers shop on the comer of Silver Street, and sold everything - sweets, ice cream, flour - a general store, good position too as the cotton mill was opposite, so pies and sandwiches were sold to the workers. Just before the War I believe she got permission to have a trolley service in the mill, selling milk, tea, coffee and all kind of eats. Another of my uncles, Sam WESTWELL, lived there too, with Aunt Janie. He worked at Stubbins Paper Mill, whilst Uncle Harry WESTWELL was at Ramsbottom Paper Mill, and Uncle Bill was on the railway.

We moved to Summerseat in 1932, where we lived in Hall Street, near Benny KAY's farm and butcher's shop. Summerseat in those days was great. Like Jack WHITFORD,I remember having my hair cut by Harry FOSTER [see News Magazine No ll, Summer 1995, pp7-8 - Editor]. Harry had only one hand -1 believe he lost the other in a mill accident. My father and I were members of the Summerseat Silver Band when Bert ROTHWELL was bandmaster. I attended the Wesleyan Church Day School, and also pumped the organ at the Methodist Church. I was a paper boy for Andrew MOONEY who had a lock-up shop on Railway Street. I believe he became a councillor at Ramsbottom along with a relative of mine, Mr John LORD, who married my Aunt Lizzie WESTWELL.

I also remember a disaster at the Brooksbottom railway bridge, around 1935. There had been a huge storm and the Irwell flooded everywhere. It swept away the railway bridge and the timber bridge to the Print and Dye Works. On it at the time had been a steam Sentinel lorry delivering chemicals from the Nuttall Lane factory [ie Ocean Chemicals - Editor]. The timber structure had been weakened by the high river and I he lorry's rear end had collapsed through it. I can say that the Irwell must have been rushing down at about 20 mph - it was very fast Joshua HOYLE's mill sheds were under water. Naturally us boys were enjoying it! It took a week to get the steam Sentinel lorry out, and workers had a difficult job getting across to the Print Works. But the sensation was the railway bridge - it was replaced by a steel and stone structure.

It was at this Print Works that I started my first job, on a lap machine, at 14 years of age. As the cloth came off the calender I had to see it lapped - that is kind of stacking in set foot lengths ready for the stretcher machine for correct width - a simple job really but you all started at the bottom in those days.

Whilst in Summerseat I had good pals in the LANG brothers, Dick, Harry and Frank. Father Joe was an insurance agent, a comedian after a few beers which was often. Dick FERGUSON and sister Jenny whose dad was the postman and had a travelling library - horsedrawn. He was a good sport. In those days the postman wore a hat we called 'back to front' - it was the same either end. We enjoyed ourselves in summer days swimming in the Olive's Lodge, the mill pond. In winter we tobogganed down the Hole in the Hillpart of Benny KAY's grazing farmland. We'd go with candles in a jam jar which we'd place either side of our toboggan run, and play until wet through or called home. We seemed to have more sun and snow in those days. We also helped Benny the farmer/ butcher hay making in his meadows - homemade lemonade, com beef sandwiches and six pence a day - we were rich! I enjoyed myself cleaning the horses' tackle in the saddle room. He had two baby chestnuts, one mare, one brown stallion, real lovely and tame. Jack his son was a bit of a brute to them but young Benny - a friend - was OK.

About 1936, I was taking the evening papers on my round, and had just left Wood Road Farm, cutting across what we termed 'over the tops', a hill between Wood Road and Upper Summerseat cottages. Looking down towards my home in Hall Street was a meadow and Conservative Club - the meadow seemed to be weaving in and out. Just at that time, the daughter of HARRISON's Farm came riding up to me on her horse shouting that her Dad says I had to get on the horse and go back to the farmhouse. There, he told me that the meadow I thought was weaving in the breeze was full of rats on the move and that they devour all they crawl over. I was in open space on top of the hill the rats ran over. I have no idea how fast rats move but maybe farmer HARRISON saved my life. The following day on my morning paper round I do remember the fields which were full of cabbages and vegetables were bare - only the roots left. Does anyone else remember the rats moving in Summerseat?

One of the best friends to us boys of Summerseat in that era was the Village Bobby, Bobby BIRCH. Many a belt on the backside I've had off him! One day, my mother fell into labour with my sister. Nurse LAMB was the midwife - she lived about a mile away, up the hill near the Wesleyan Church. My mother told me to go for the nurse - so off I went But down the street my mates were playing football on the spare ground behind SANDIFORD's saw mills.

So I went to play and the next thing I knew was Bobby BIRCH shouting for me to go to him. He had his cycle with him. He asked me what message I had to give the nurse, so I told him. He then asked me why I hadn't delivered the message, so I told him I wanted to play football. Well, he called all my mates over to him, put them in a ring around him and me, bent me over his knee and with his stick gave me a belting I never forgot. I could not sit down for a week. Then he told my mateswhenever a mum or dad send us on a message that message comes before anything else. We never

forgot, we dared not complain - he was the judge and executioner too. But we needed only one practical lesson forever remembered - it should take place today!

Our part of Lancashire suffered more grief with the various regiments - not many men came back from World War I to a heroes' county. The youth of today do not realise that villages likeSummerseat were left with old men and widows.

In 1938 we moved to Bury. My father had been promoted to Engineer at WORSLEY's Cotton Mill which had a 4-00am start. War clouds were in the air and Civil Defence had fire watchingtraining for personnel at factories. I joined the Army mainly to get a musical career and to gaina Kneller Hall School of Music place but the War stopped that. I was a Band boy in the Lancashire Fusiliers, then transferred to the Royal Artillery, and finally to a Scottish Regiment,the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, 2nd Battalion, which served in the 4th Indian Division in Africa, Italy, Greece, Austria.

I was discharged in 1948 and joined British Railways as a cleaner at Bury, and fireman and driver at Rochdale. I then transferred to Willesden, just outside Euston. Whilst at Bury there were express services to Bacup, Accrington and to Yorkshire marshalling yards with goods. There was of course a big marshalling area at Ramsbottom, stretching from the station to Stubbins, and the largest on the line. Several industrial producers like the paper mill had their own sidings. We manned the Ramsbottom coal yard pilot engine often. Recently, we had a visitto Rammy and my brother Harry and I had a photograph taken outside our old house. The ladywho is there now let us have a look around to see the different mod cons today. She was the same lady who took the house the day we moved out in 1932! [A copy of this photograph is in the Society's collection- Editor.]

It is really wonderful to read all of the historic items on the Rammy area. Many newcomers will not remember the places. Bands in the parks, Sunday cricket games, the motor cycle and side car grass trail races on the side of Holcombe Hill, the TA recruiting parades, the Drill Hall dances, great Saturday evenings, the Lancer Balls, the red tunics of the bands and the girls. We had practically one a week at the Drill Hall in Bury and about one a month at the Rammy Drill Hall - really lovely dances and friendly fun.

Cliff Gaskell, 46, Morriston Rd, Bishopmill, Elgin, Scotland IV30 2EA

MELVIN CRAWSHAW: 'THE CHEMIST ON THE CORNER' : ADDENDUM

A portion of this article was omitted from the last edition of our news magazine owing to a computing error. The complete section is reproduced here. I must apologise to the author, MrsEdith ROBINSON - [Editor].

Apart from the medical side of the business, Mr CRAWSHAW had many sidelines to quote afew: baking powder and pepper (both of which made us sneeze when we were weighing them out!), bicarbonate of soda, honey, dried cloves, ginger and rhubarb

(root and powder), starch, borax, etc. All were either weighed and sold by the ounce or multiples. We also sold butter, treacle and herbal toffees manufactured by Mr CRAWSHAW's cousin, Mr Jack CRAWSHAW at his works in Ramsbottom. We also sold malt and hops for home brewing of beer and had a licence to sell wines but only between 11am and 3pm and after 5pm. I can only remember the most popular one, Sandeman's Port Wine - one star and three star. Dog biscuits and poultry foods were stocked in bulk and had to be weighed out. We also made French polish.

Mrs CRAWSHAW was the daughter of Mr James KAY who owned the Jas KAY and Son *Britannia* soap works in Kenyon Street, Ramsbottom, so their soaps were sold in the shop - mainly lib bars of carbolic for cleaning; 1lb bars of White Windsor for personal use and 3lb bars of soap for washing clothes and general cleaning. The factory is still in production, one of the few old ones left [*up to 1951, the business had remained in the KAY family for three generations from its foundation in 1884 - Editor*] but has now I believe a much wider range of soaps including a variety of toilet soaps, some made from vegetable oils.

To revert to the chemist's shop, in addition to everything I have mentioned we sold all the usual toiletries, perfumes, etc. A few of the names I remember were Yardley's (noted for their Lavender products), 4711 Eau de Cologne, Houbigante, Quelque Fleurs, Potter & Moore, Californian Poppy, du Barry, Coty and Pond's Cold Cream and Vanishing Cream. I can't remember there being many toiletries for men apart from Brylcreem, shaving brushes, shaving soaps and creams, tooth paste and brushes and Gillette Safety Razors. We sold box cameras and films and the chemicals required for developing and printing.

With a few exceptions most homes had no electricity and many of those which had gas had it only to light the living room. There was a demand for candles to light the other rooms and for tapers to light the gas, so these were sold as well - the candles in 31b bundles and the tapers in 4oz bundles.

Public transport was very limited at this time and people found it difficult to reach the shops. As he had such a wide variety of goods for sale, Mr CRAWSHAW bought a motor van which his cousin Mr Billy CRAWSHAW drove and delivered weekly orders to Helmshore, Holcombe, Summerseat and any outlying places making requests. The advent of the privately owned car and electricity in the home changed all this.

Edith Robinson, Bolton Road West, Holcombe Brook

DALE STREET STUBBINS: THE CELEBRATIONS MYSTERY

The photographs of the 1937 Dale Street Coronation street party on page 108 of Around Ramsbottom have attracted more interest to date than any other in the whole book. First, the publisher selected one of them for the book's cover. Secondly, shortly after publication, a visitor to the Centre claimed that they knew the whereabouts of the concertina - but insisted on being mysterious and secretive about where it is now! More recently, John SIMPSON has sent a photocopy of the article in the Ramsbottom

Observer about the street's Silver Jubilee celebrations (edition of Friday 17th May 1935), the photograph (captioned Central Studio, Ramsbottom) from which is reproduced here. John poses the question as to whether our photographs might be of this 1935 party rather than that of1937.1 doubt this- note the paper hats in 1935, nowhere to be seen in our 1937 view.

John has also unearthed very detailed Ramsbottom Observer reports of the 1937 Coronation festivities in the Ramsbottom area, in the editions of 14th and 21st May. The following week, the newspaper commented on the fact that Dale Street had again charged visitors to its street party for the same good cause (there was, of course, no NHS at the time). It is pretty clear that Dale Street had set a street party trend in the '30s - was it repeated in 1945,1953,1977or 1995? [Editor].

Ramsbottom Observer, Friday 17th May 1935:-

Stubbins Has a Celebration of Its Own.
DALE STREET RESIDENTS ENTERTAIN YOUNGSTERS



'The inhabitants of Dale-street, Stubbins had a little jubilee festivity of their own one night last week. Herewith is a picture of the event.

'Friends and neighbours were invited to view the decorations and the proceeds of a collection were used to defray the expenses of providing a treat for all the children of the locality. They were regaled with a tea, ice cream, oranges chocolates, etc., and the the meal and other edibles, as the picture indicates, were served to the children in the

street at tables which had been kindly loaned by Mr. J.H. COLLINGE, of Stubbins, who also loaned a number of forms to provide the seating accommodation.

'After the meal the children were entertained for the remainder of the evening with gramophone selections, and community singing and dancing were also enjoyed. Mr. J. RADCLIFFE and Mesdames WEBSTER and SPROATS made themselves responsible for much of the entertainment, which greatly amused the youngsters. Among those who were tothe forefront in the serving of the tea and the cutting-up were Messrs. FRENCH and WOOD.

Nearly seventy children were provided with a tea, and a balance of one guinea from the fund collected for the treat has been given to the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital. ' *Ramsbottom Observer*, Friday 28th May 1937:-

'A happy little gesture on the part of residents of Dale Street, Stubbins, has resulted in the new children's ward and extensions fund of the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital benefiting by £2 3s 6d. The Coronations decorations in that street - as was the case two years ago at the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the late George V - have again been viewed and admired by many non-residents of that locality, and someone hit on the idea of taking up a little collection from visitors, on behalf of the Cottage Hospital, with the result stated. The amount, I understand, was handed over to the hospital treasurer a week ago by Mr. W.S. CAIN on behalf of the Dale Street people.'

THE SUMMERSEAT AVIATION MYSTERY SOLVED

Relating to Jack WHITFORD's story of the buzzing by an aeroplane of Joshua HOYLE's mill in Summerseat during World War II - according to my brothers and sisters the aircraft was a Hurricane fighter and the pilot a Summerseat boy Harry LAW, son of an insurance agent who lived in Hall Street. He had got his wings and was stationed we believe in the Blackburn area at the aircraft factory, or Squire's Gate Blackpool. He was we believe buzzing his pals like the PETCH brothers who lived near the mill. It is said that he flew so low as to go under the high-tension electric wires over the sewage farm.

The local bobby got his squadron number and reported it. Harry was carpeted. Talking of Summerseat and aviation - during World War I a German Zeppelin was flying towards Rammy. He was following the railway during the night but lost it at Brooksbottom Tunnel, turned towards Holcombe, dropped a bomb at Holcombe Brook and was shot down around the Manchester area.

Cliff Gaskell, 46, Morriston Rd, Bishopmill, Elgin, Scotland IV30 2EA

I wonder whether this latter story refers to the raid of 25th September 1916 chronicled in Kenneth BEETSON's Ramsbottom (vol2,1978)? - [Editor].

RAMSBOTTOM TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

As an apprentice for British Telecom, or the GPO as it was called in the late 1960s, 1 was lucky enough to have a major hand in the construction of what was then the new automatic telephone exchange (ATE) in Factory Street at the bottom of Crow Lane. I say lucky, as being Ramsbottom torn and bred, my headquarters were initially based at Rochdale and upuntil that time had involved quite strenuous travelling conditions.

My day began by catching the 5-30am bus from the top of Peel Brow into Bury, another from Bury to Rochdale centre, and a third from there to Spotland Bridge. My starting time was 8am but I invariably arrived at least 10 minutes late, much to the annoyance of my supervisor. Eventually, after several patient months of this he took me to one side and asked me earnestly whether I could make just that little bit extra effort and get out of bed a few minutes earlier in a morning. When I explained to him that I already got up around 4-30am and caught the first bus of the day as it was, plus the fact that I never got home until turned 8pm every evening, his jaw almost dropped through the floor! The very next day my headquarters were changed to Bolton.

This involved my having to walk a good mile across the valley to the bus stop in all weathers, morning and night, but the single 10-mile bus journey to within a few hundred yards of my place of work was relative luxury. Shortly afterwards, for the period of six months, I was allocated to the construction of the new exchange in Ramsbottom, within walking distance of my home - luxury indeed! Ironically, lying outside a radius of three miles from my headquarters, this also entitled me to claim a dinner allowance of Is 6d a day. A princely sum, as my total wage in those days came to only £6 5s 6d. This pleased my father no end, as up until then it had actually cost him more than my wage in bus fares and dinner money every week simply to send me out to work. To me, the drop-in hours alone from around 80 to around 40 per week was more than ample compensation. At one point, when the local cleaner retired, I was even allowed, after much bowing and scraping, to take her place for a couple of months, as a part time job at weekends. For the first time in my working life I was actually in pocket!

The job itself was relatively easy, and the early days brought some quite interesting memories. It was rather exciting, for instance when a large vehicle drove past the front gale of the exchange. Unknown to us at the time, a stream ran underneath the road at that point At First a low rumble would be heard which gradually increased in volume until, within a few seconds, what we assumed to be a mini-tidal wave would strike our foundations, rocking the entire building. At one time a bottle was shaken from a table, littering the floor with broken glass. As more and more heavy metalwork was moved into the premises, however, this effect gradually subsided. It did have it's bad side for others, though. In those days a pet shop lay just across the road from our front gate. After a period of heavy rain we turned up one day to find the place all boarded up. Apparently the underground waters had risen so high that all the animals in the shop basement had drowned.

In contrast, one particularly funny incident occurred within our own premises. Underground cables entering the exchange first met up in a cable chamber buried under the yard. This was always liable to flooding in bad weather. Our own knowledge of it arose when we fitted a pump to empty it and the water level had barely gone down by the end of the day. We found out later that we had actually emptied the lodge from 100 yards further up Factory Street, behind the site of the old telephone exchange building. [The old exchange, now occupied by JW FULLER (Imports) Ltd Holmefield Depot, stands between the Linda GILMARTIN Nursery on Factory Street, and the Council's Recycling Centre. A new house and garden are now on the site of the lodge. About 30 feet long, this may have been a remnant of the Ramsbottom Mill 's water power arrangements - Editor.] We now knew the extent of the problem, but a visiting underground gang did not. We had managed to drop the level in the manhole enough to uncover the top cables and the gang foreman, surprisingly eager to lead his men into the fray, had donned his rubber waders and proceeded to leap into the hole. Being a main cable chamber, however, this wasn't the usual three to four feet deep, as he and his gang found out when all that was left of him was his cloth cap floating on the surface amid a torrent of bubbles. This one went down eight feet. You could still hear the laughter a week later.

Being a brand new exchange, at first there was only myself and a supervisor in the place. It was our job to oversee the contractors bringing in and erecting the equipment each day. Once this was fitted I was given the more unpleasant task of making sure that all of it worked correctly. No computers and electronics in those days. These were Strowger exchanges or 'clockwork' as we ourselves called them - awash with shelves of clanking relays and noisy rotary selectors to keep us awake all day. I say unpleasant task as I well remember that I was the one elected to do all the work, while my 'technical officer' stood idly by sucking his teeth and driving me up the wall with the noise. Eventually, as the work load built up, more staff were brought in to help, but it remained below this particular individual's dignity to help us out with any manual work. I recollect one day in particular when myself and a relative newcomer, a crusty ex-sailor, were reasonably happily plodding our way through wiring a distribution frame requiring tens of thousands of soldered connections, when the presence of this 'tooth-sucker' finally took its toll. Throwing down his tools, the ex-sailor, being an ex-sailor and no doubt in command of curses and oaths unknown to mortal man, let rip. For what seemed an eternity, he loosed off swear word after swear word and not once did he repeat himself. The air turned blue and even the paint was in danger of peeling from the walls. As a young lad I was really impressed! The supervisor on the other hand turned a deathly pale. It was shortly after that he took to using up his sick leave on a regular basis.

My turn eventually came when I was allowed in on Saturday overtime to test equipment racks installed earlier in the week by the contractors. A simple test checking electrical continuity between thousands of gold-plated contacts on one rack with the corresponding ones on its neighbours. Being new equipment though, there were many teething problems caused by bits of packing paper jammed between contacts, varnish splashes on the contacts breaking the circuits and general gremlins in

the works. I spent an exasperating day on one such rack, finding and clearing over 50 of these faults. My technical officer wasn't too pleased on Monday as he'd expected me to complete at leastthree racks during the day. It was later that afternoon when the place finally erupted. I was working on another piece of equipment when this selfsame supervisor came up to me and said, 'Do you know that rack you spent all day on Saturday? Well I've just done it again myself and it only took me an hour. If you can't do better than that then you're not coming in on overtime again.' The fact that all the faults had already been cleared by myself did not impress him, but the lesson I had learned from my mentor, the ex-sailor did, as I explained to him what precisely he could do with the rack, his test equipment, and for good measure, his hot soldering iron. Within the hour an Assistant Executive Engineer had driven out from Bolton to see me and the very next day I was moved back there, where I was to remain for the next 25 years. My main regret at the time was that the new building opened shortly afterwards with the usual blaze of pomp and ceremony and I wasn't around to see it. Being a technical officermyself for the last 15 years I lost count of the number of transfer applications I submittedto get back there, all without success.

I still get that sickly feeling in my stomach when I think of those days in winter when I awoke at 4-30am on a cold winter's day, to sec six inches of snow on the windowsill and a blizzard blowing. So it was not without a touch of nostalgia in 1995 that I strolled pastthis 'new' building which is now in the process of having its innards tom out. Piles of old 'clockwork' selectors lie rotting nearby like the bones of some old dinosaur.
No doubt some faceless piece of electronics the size of a suitcase will replace the lot of them. As well, such is progress!

Joe Crompton

THE HOLCOMBE HEY SOCIETY OF UNITED ARTISANS, ESTABLISHED1830

One day in the Autumn of 1994, Mr Harold HUTCHINSON of Springside Road, Walmersely, came into the Centre with a beautifully polished wooden chest - 28 inches wide, 18 deep and 16 high with a brass plaque on the front announcing its owners:-

The Holcombe Hey Society of United Artisans, est. June 12th 1830

The chest, of which the Society now has a photograph in its collection, has three locks with separate keys, and trays inside for papers. It had been handed down to the owner viahis grandfather Edward HUTCHINSON who lived at Quarry Bank - a large house in Holcombe village Which he had built for himself. It was found there in a neglected stateat the turn of the 20th Century or thereabouts. The HUTCHINSONs were a well-known family in Holcombe Hey. Harold discovered in the 1795 *Survey of the Township of Tottington* that one Thomas HUTCHINSON occupied a cottage at Holcombe Head, and James a cottage at Boardmans; William farmed land in Hawkshaw valued at £14, Robert farmed Higher Ash (£15 10s), whilst another Thomas farmed Old Hoyles (£15).

We do not know how this group were related. As the discarded box was found at Edward HUTCHINSON'S house, it seems likely that Harold's ancestors were in the 1830 group which started this Society, but to date we have no proof of this.

Harold also had a copy of the revised *Rules and Orders of the Holcombe Hey Society* of 1871. These tell us that it began with 20 members and met at *Peel's Arms Inn*, Boardmans, Hawkshaw. It was Jan BARNES of today's *Peel's Arms,* Boardmans, now converted into very well designed and welcoming cottages who gave this to Harold, in response to an appeal for information about the chest through local newspapers. We decided to try to find out more about it all, especially because Harold has done so muchresearch himself.

Holcombe Hey lies in the valley between Edgeworth and Holcombe Hill. There were many opportunities for workers there - quarrying at Quarlton, some coal mining, mills atRedisher and smaller trades.

The 1871 Revised Rules include the Preamble to the original Rules of 1830, now lost: itis a heart-warming read:

> **Considering this life is liable to serious accidents, by which many families are reduced from flourishing to necessitous circumstances, that it is praiseworthy to alleviate, as much as possible, such visitations of Providence, by relieving those who by any unavoidable accident, or sickness, stand in need, and by decently burying the dead: and it is not possible for an individual in our station of life, to perform these brotherly actions, we have mutually agreed to institute a society, that by our prudent rules and stated meetings, we may soften the cares and promote the advantage and happiness of each other. We have also mutually agreed that every member shall be governed by the Rules contained in this book.**

This 1830 declaration of the Holcombe Hey Society's aims makes it clear that it was a friendly, sick or box club. In *The Making of the English Working Class,* EP THOMPSONdescribes the systematic penetration of these benefit societies in the late 18th Century. Their aims are reflected in the above Preamble of the Holcombe Hey Society's rules. The 1871 or Revised Rules, a copy of which we have in the Society's collection, required an increase in subscriptions ... 'an absolute necessity in consequence chiefly of the high price of staple articles of food. and also because the wages paid for many kinds of work are now considerably higher'.

There were 19 Rules: the main ones concerned the safe keeping of funds, the orderly conduct of meetings and the determination of disputed cases, but there were many othersaimed at a democratic and efficient organisation.

After advice from a member historian I wrote to the Lancashire Record Office at Preston and to Kevin MULLEY, Bury Archives; to the Public Record Office at Kew and to the Charity Commission - no record of the society has been found.

I perused the *Reports of Friendly Societies* in the Parliamentary Papers at Manchester Reference Library. Although Lancashire did have the largest number of societies in 1877, 1,749 societies in all, there was no mention of Holcombe Hey. Most recorded societies were in industrial areas; working men were able to afford the fees, were more in need of support because of sickness caused by their bad working conditions, and knew each other. Most of these conditions did not apply so pertinently to agricultural workers.

So no national or county official record has been made of the Holcombe Hey Society of United Artisans. It is a fact that many small societies did not register and made no returns: this seems to have been the fate of the Holcombe Hey Society.

As the battered box was found around 1900, it seems likely that the society had collapsed like many others at this time. Members were getting older and the small societies could not afford the burden of sick benefit in old age to their old members. As the Diary of Richard BARLOW, Ramsbottom postman, records, old age pensions were first issued at Ramsbottom post office in January 1909. The societies wanted to maintain their independence from the government and fought hard to keep going.

Let us celebrate that in 1830 our local people, in need, protected themselves and families from their social deprivation and set up clubs; this indicated a self-discipline of a truly impressive order.

Brenda M Decent

JAMES DEWHURST: AN OBITUARY

Although he joined Ramsbottom Heritage Society only recently, James had very long-rooted local links, and will be sadly missed. He died on 2nd Jan 1996, aged 71, having lived in the former Edenfield Liberal Club and Edenfield Cottage on Market Street before finally moving to Helmshore. He is survived by his wife Margaret and sons Tom and Michael and their families. The funeral service on 9th January was conducted by Rev D CLOWES at his church, Edenfield Methodist. His late sister, Eleanor GRAHAM, held her Mayoral Service there also. Educated at Edenfield C of E Primary, Bury Grammar and Rydal School in the Lakes, he served during the War in the Naval Patrol Service. His career was firmly textile based with Alexander BARLOW's, Bridge Mills in Edenfield, and later with OWEN & HOLGATE, Manchester. He was for 25 years (to 1994) Chairman of Edenfield & District Community Association, and this gave birth to Edenfield Local History Society in 1983 - he was founder Chairman and only President. All who heard him will remember his resonant voice, tempered by his hearty vein of humour when he shared his "tacklers" tales.

He lived life to the full with conviction in all he did, and his passing leaves a gap impossible to fill.

Clyde Tweedale

MARY JANE ('CISSIE') LOMAX, MILLINER OF BRIDGE STREET

Readers may remember the Edwardian postcard correspondence between Susan BOOTH of 37, Bolton Street and Cissie STEPHENSON of 161, Stubbins Lane, featured in our Around Ramsbottom (pages 53 and 61). Barry ROTHWELL wrote to me in March, pointing out that Cissie STEPHENSON was his great aunt, and that her surname sported a 'ph' rather than the V that her friend had written. He provided a brief family history. [Editor]

Thomas STEPHENSON and his wife Maria TURNER lived at the *Rising Sun* beerhouse at the top of Carr Street. Mary Jane "Cissie" was one of their six children. She married Charlie LOMAX - a joiner I believe - and had a milliner's shop in Bridge Street (near, and on the same side as, the *Railway Hotel).* They lived at 24, Crow Lane. In later life she came to live with my parents until her advancing years made necessary a move to Croich Hey, Hawkshaw. It was there she died, aged 92, early in 1976, I think. The family was:

Thomas STEPHENSON (born 10th Oct 1853) married 1st Jan 1873 at Brunswick Chapel, Bury, Maria TURNER (born 22nd June 1851).

Their children were:

1. William (Bill) (25th April 1873 - ?) Emigrated to USA
2. Richard (Dick) (21st June 1874 - 14th Aug 1902). (My grandfather told me that Dick died from heart trouble contracted during service in the Boer War.)
3. Tom (16th Oct 1880 - 1960s)
4. Mary Jane (Cissie) (17th Dec 1883 - 1976)
5. May (23rd May 1888 - 12th May 1889)
6. Joseph (26th Jan 1890 - 28th Oct 1890)

Barry Rothwell

According to KELLY s 1924 Lancashire Directory, Mary LOMAX (Mrs) was a milliner at 12, Bridge Street. This is now Bloomsbury florists. Does anyone remember Cissie or her shop? [Editor].

WARTIME REMINISCENCES 1939-45

Excerpts from this article were published by the Lancashire Federation of Women's Institute's' Wartime Memories: Members of our Federation Remember 1939-1945 (1995). [Editor].

I was nine years old when war was declared -1 very well remember Sunday 3rd September 1939 because it was the only time I ever saw my Father cry. 'All that killing - again! ' or words to that effect. I spent the first two years of the War at St Paul's CofE School in Ramsbottom. The town organised 'War Weapons Weeks' culminating in a ceremony on the Market Place, where council officials and on-leave service

personnel perched on a make-shift stage. My cousin Archie ATKINSON, a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, was once there - and oh -1 felt so proud of him. There was an indicator-of-sorts, showing how much had been raised, it cost 15s (75p) for a Savings Certificate - a lot of money in those days. We lived in a terraced house in Crow Lane, Ramsbottom, its tiny garden surrounded by railings - these were taken away for the War Effort I had visions of them being made into aeroplanes or tanks!

St Paul's had some evacuee children from Manchester - their teacher came too - Miss MURRAY - and she taught us in a classroom on the stage -1 remember she had very short hair.

I graduated to Haslingden Grammar School (a four-mile journey by train and bus) where we had to wear school uniform. The worst items were horrible tan-coloured shorts for PE, and itchy navy woollen bathing suits. We were used to hand-me-downs. My cousin had a lovely navy-blue pilot cloth coat - handed down first to my sister and then to me. Clothing of course was rationed and clothing coupons were very precious. Can you imagine how upset I was when I went to school in a warm, hand-me-down royal blue jumper which the Headmistress forbade me to wear because it wasn't navy blue? I can still remember how ashamed I felt.

School meals, served in a wooden hut across the yard, must have been OK because we went for seconds! We always seemed to have cheese pie (mashed potatoes with stringy cheese, browned under the grill - delicious) after our swimming lesson. A tuck shop across the road (out of bounds really) sold lemonade. One day I was drinkingsome whilst queuing up for dinner - along came same Headmistress and she made me pour it down the drain - all my spending money gone in an instant. But I learnt my lesson - I didn't buy any again! Cookery classes meant taking precious rationed ingredients.

On our way home we used to buy a ½d carrot at a shop near the station, scraping it with another coin (we never had any sweet coupons with us). At the station and on the train we used to swap homework - especially in the mornings.

The school organised knitting sessions for the forces -1 did some sea-boot stockings andI can still feel the harshness of the wool and the smell of oil. Very occasionally we couldn't get to school because the train was stuck in the snow. But in spite of food rationing, clothing and sweet coupons, our schooldays were fun, even if we had to remember to take our gas masks.

A cousin of mine died in a railway accident during the War. With her we had watched the bombing of Manchester from Holcombe Hill - the sky was lit up from the many fires. She lived in London and was visiting friends, when the engine driver, exhausted after working long hours, fell asleep and the train crashed. Her Father first read about the accident in the evening paper.

Another friend married a GI and he gave us sweets, and cigarettes for Dad. Very occasionally we received a food parcel from relatives in Canada.

During these years my mother was left a legacy of £100 - she bought Dad a new suit, and my sister and me a new coat (I can't remember her buying herself anything). My coat came from Lewis's in Manchester, a camel hair coat with padded shoulders and a tie belt. I felt like Princess Margaret (same age). Off I went to show it to our next-door neighbour, and was in such a hurry, I burst my nose on the vestibule door - blood all down the front of my day-old coat!

In Ramsbottom we had a sweet shop called TOPPINGS, and if you took 1lb of sugar you could buy boiled sweets without coupons. We ate lots and lots of bread and jam. To eke out rations Mother used to make jam -plum, blackberry, rhubarb and sometimes carrot. We ate whale meat, but only once it had a beef-like texture but tasted fishy. A tin of fruit was a great luxury. We found a recipe for Mintoes, using soya flour and mint essence -1 ate so many I made myself sick and it was years before I could face Mintoes again! We used reconstituted eggs, scrambled and in cooking - Spam, corned beef and tripe. What a treat it was going to the cinema - taking us to the magical world of exciting stories, romance, music and dancing. Fourpence ha'penny (4 1/2d) was the price of a child's ticket. Of course we had to go in the black-out. Gosh, the streets were dark

On Saturdays we listened to *In Town Tonight* at 8pm, and *Saturday Night Theatre* at 9- 30pm. *ITMA (It's That Man Again*) with Tommy HANDLEY and Mrs Mopp's *Can I doyou now sir?* was our weekday listening.

I joined the Guides, and we had a New Year's Day Concert at our church when everyone did a bit of something - well not quite everyone. Saturday nights there were dances in our school hall, but I was too young to go, so I watched them through my parents' bedroom window. Holidays at Home were a feature when the local council organised events in the local park. Other holidays were spent visiting relations and friends. I can remember sleeping under a metal table air raid shelter when visiting friends in Urmston - you soon learnt not to jump up quickly - or, my word, you got a headache! Two things particularly haunt me from those turbulent times - one, the horror of the Concentration Camps, which we saw on newsreels at the cinema, and the advent of the V2 rockets - fortunately we didn't get many, but I do recall that when the engines stopped I shook in terror. Towards the end of the War, one of our teachers took us Youth Hostelling - we had such fun on those weekends, and we still have an annual re-union, after more than 50 years. The King and Queen toured Britain. She wore her traditional pastel shades whilst he was in uniform - looking very sunburnt to a schoolgirl's eyes. And so came VE Day and then VJ Day, and at last we were a nation at peace again, but as my father had said in 1939 - at what cost?

Doris A Hibbert

Please remember that the June meeting was our last in the Community Education Centre, and that from now on we are back in our old meeting venue of the Civic Hall.

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY BL0 9AE
Membership Enquiries please ring (01706) 828705.
Other enquiries (01706) 82 1603

The objects of the Society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public, by creating an awareness 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 artifacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

1996 PROGRAMME

July 17	Mr I Summers - *A Walk around Edenfield* (Meeting point to be arranged)
Aug 21	*A Visit to Turton Tower* (Meeting point to be arranged)
Sept 18	Mr K Craven - *The Victorian Painter and the Poet's Wife* (illustrated)
Oct 16	Miss M Curry - *Water Mills and Water Wheels* - alook at water power in Britain from Roman times to the Industrial Revolution (illustrated)
Nov 20	Mr T Sprason - *The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers over Three Centuries of History* (illustrated, with slides, film, badges, medals and ribbons)
Dec 11	Mr D Moss - *Quiz Night and Christmas Celebration*

All indoor meetings are once again held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall,
Market Place, Ramsbottom, 7-30 for 7-45pm.

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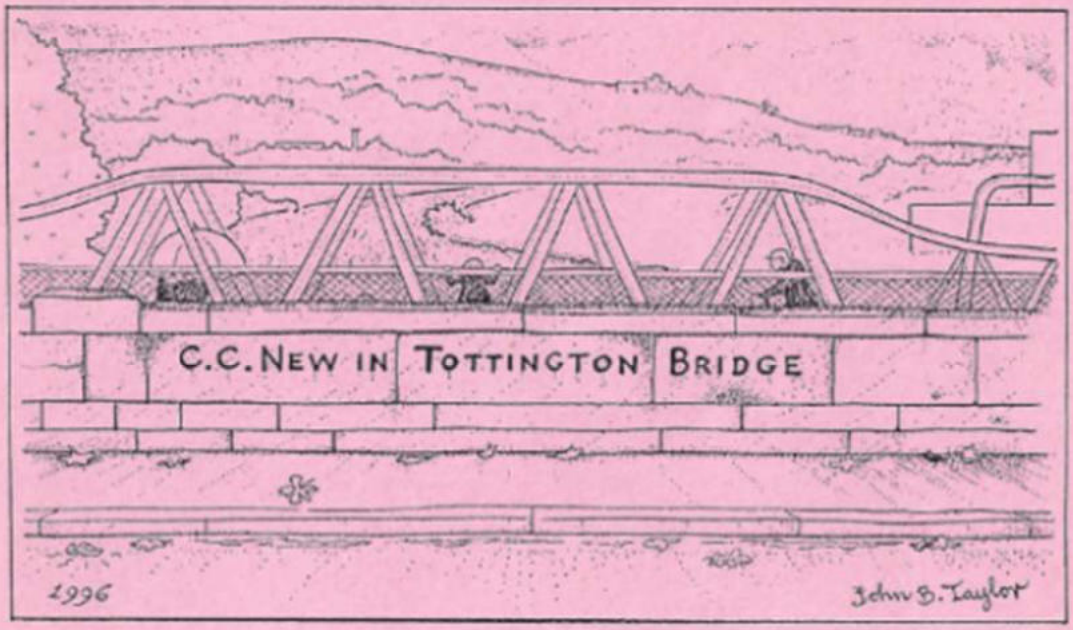

NEWS MAGAZINE

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1997 PROGRAMME

Apr 16	TENTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - Andrew Todd, Brenda Decent and Barbara Park, *Around Ramsbottom* (illustrated)
May 21	John Ireland, *Tales of Holcombe*
June 18	Winifred Rohmann, *The History of Freetown, Bury*
July 16	Terry Phelan, Guided Walk around Haslingden Grane
Aug 20	Tony Sprason, Visit to Bury Regimental Museum
Sept 17	Derek Mills, *The History of Hallith' Wood Museum*
Oct 15	Harry O'Neill, *Rawtenstall Past and Present* (illustrated)
Nov 19	Nick Grimshaw, *Conservation in Bury and Districts* (illustrated)
Dec 10	Miss D Fawell, *Christmas Memories*

All indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall Market Place, Ramsbottom, 7.30 for 7.45pm

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14.	Oral History Taping Project	Barbara Park
15.	Some Recollections of Lower Bridge Street	Edna Collier
16.	Composition at St Paul's, 60 Years Ago	Edna Mary Holden

FRONT COVER - New in Tottington Bridge, Bolton Road North, Stubbins, drawnby John Taylor

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

George DAVENPORT - we were sorry to hear of his death, on Boxing Day. George was of Whalley Road, Shuttleworth, aged 90. Very knowledgeable, and an inhabitant of the Ramsbottom district for most of his life, George moved to Shuttleworth in 1938. His help is acknowledged by Ian GOLDTHORPE, who wrote *Further Rossendale Rambles* in 1991. A very active man, his extensive interests were widely reported in the *Bury Times* and *Rossendale Free Press* in the New Year. He had, until his death, been chairman of the Bank Lane Friendly Burial Society, an intriguing local survival of a type of self-help mutual society once very common in industrial areas. It is based at the Mechanics Institute, Spring Street, Shuttleworth where claims for Death Benefit can be made by members on the first Monday of each month, between 7pm and 8pm. It would be fascinating if someone could give us further details of the origins and activities of this intriguing society.

Cliff GASKELL of Elgin, Scotland, formerly of Dundee Lane and Summerseat, died in September 1996 aged 75. Members will remember his recollections which appeared in the last issue.

Eric ROSTRON of Bury New Road has also died recently, aged 78. A former laboratory worker and chemist at TURNBULL & STOCKDALE, he spent all his life (with the exception of war service with the RAF) in the town. Though not a Society member, he was a source of answers to many of our archives team's queries, particularly about locations and subject matter of photographs of the textile industry. He also worked extensively on his own ROSTRON family tree. A keen walker and bird watcher, he was a gifted artist, especially as a sketcher of birds.

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of these departed local people.

Oral History Taping Group - so far, two people have responded to my suggestion that wemust resurrect this important recording activity. Both non-members, they read Dorothy MOSS's account of our Christmas meeting in the local newspapers, proof that our press releases do gain us publicity. I would very much like some members to be involved in the group, whose inaugural meeting I hope to arrange soon. We particularly need someone with local contacts to collect names and addresses of Ramsbottom and district people willing to be taped. Anybody interested in any of these tasks - taping, name collecting or actually being taped - please drop me a line at the Centre, or telephone me on 01706 824511. For more on the importance of this project, see Barbara PARK'S article on page 14.

Heritage Society News Magazine - but for the efforts of three unsuspecting contributors, impressed into authorship in the last few weeks, this issue would never have existed. Virtually no new items have been offered for publication since early 1996. Can I appeal to members to help - most of us have some reminiscences of the town, or small items of family or personal history. Publishing in the Spring has given us a little leeway to make up content - it also removes typing, proofing and printing from the manic pre-Christmas period when everyone is so busy. The corollary - an Autumn edition - also makes sense, since it can be produced over Summer, when there is a little more leisure time for most of us. Perhaps this will be the best arrangement.

Do please contribute - the next solution will be dropping down to an annual issue, whilst the final one can only be suspension of publication.

Pinners Close - The North British Housing Association's low-cost housing project, which prompted so much controversy in the town (including a poster campaign against a ward councillor) is virtually complete. Late in 1996 its nameboards appeared. The Local Authority had approached our Society, in view of our providing names for *Ashton Lodge* and Great Eaves Road some years ago. The Reverend HUME ELLIOT provided the historical association of this northern end of the town in his book *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (1&93) on page 112, and on his plan of the Old Ground, he refers to Chapel Field, which lay behind what is now the *Grant Arms,* and to Callender Yard (now the site of the Health Centre). 'A long building', wrote HUME ELLIOT, 'still existing as cottages between the yard and Carr Street, was occupied by those engaged as pinners - ie, in putting pins in blocks and rollers. Thence the old name of the spot at the entrance from Carr Street to Callender Yard [viz now the opening into Central Street] - "Pin Roller Nook"'. This long building was described by Margaret FERGUSON in her piece in *Ramsbottom Reminiscences II* - her mother's shop was at the Central Street end. Evidently, 'Pin Roller Nook' though historical, was deemed a little too twee, whilst Chapel Field a touch too saintly - so we have Pinners Close!

Christ Church - the communion service on Sunday 26th January was the last time the Baptist/Methodist congregation will worship in this building, and the last hymn, appropriately, was *Guide me oh thou great Jehovah.* Soon, the building will be converted into luxury apartments, and fresh activity at the old Baptist chapel at the corner of Cross Street suggests that this too will soon undergo a similar conversion. In contrast to Patmos and New Jerusalem, both will at least survive. AAT

Roy FISHWICK's valued donation to the Society - Roy has given over 70 of his brilliant photographs to the Heritage Society. He lived in Ramsbottom after his marriage to Joan in1944. They are now happily settled at *Porritt House.* After World War II he chose photography as his career. Much of his work was done from home.

He joined Bury and Bolton Photography and Camera Societies and was well known in his field and entered, successfully, many of his photographs in competitions. He became an Associate of the Royal Society of Photographers cl960.

We are planning an extensive display of Roy's work for the 1997 Centre Display, which opens on Easter Saturday 1997. You must see the photographs to appreciate the 'eye', sensitivity and mastery of his photography. We value him also as our Tuesday colleague, working with Joan to sort out the archive. (No small job!). His quiet humour and teasing helped to keep us going.

Brenda Decent

ARCHIVE ACCESSIONS, 1996 We have been given some fascinating photographs (filed in PHOTOARCH) and other items, not photographs (filed in MAINARCH) on the computer. All described here will be on display when the Centre opens on Easter Saturday - the donations,not the donors!

PHOTOARCH - we have two photographs of Edwardian Bolton Road West, one taken from Holcombe Methodist Chapel looking north and one from Hazelhurst looking north. How quiet the road seems, before the advent of motor vehicles; just the occasional horse- drawn vehicle, the clip clop of horses' hooves and workers' clogs, possibly taken on a Sunday as the ladies snapped seem to be in their best outfits. Also, same period, Bolton Street looking north from the Baptist Church.

At last we have a photograph of the Cycle Club so often mentioned, so little seen, also Edwardian.

Rose Queen or Ramsbottom Hospital Festival photographs of the 1905 and 1908 processions, hitherto unseen, have been given. The 1908 Rose Queen is seated on a 'throne'with a canopy above her on a horse drawn cart passing St Andrew's (Dundee) PresbyterianChurch on Bolton Street.

A postcard, very popular, with two pictures shows on the left 'Card Room No 1 LancashireCotton Mill' and on the right a gorgeously dressed smiling lady, a mill girl on a Sunday. Thecaption is OH WHAT A DIFFERENCE! 'Domed forged yo-or ow'd pals; see you on Monday, eh?'

There are a lot more 1995 photograph accessions better seen with their descriptions than without them. See the *Midland Hotel* Manchester in early 20.h Century with a row of houseswhere the Central Library, built in 1934, now stands. We have copies of two coloured Victorian postcards 'Greetings from Ramsbottom' which we would like to duplicate to sell one day. MAINARCH - of special interest is a postcard written 2nd September 1939 by Mrs MORRISof 2, Major Street to the father of three evacuees. She assures Mr B HILL, 2, Leonard Street,Manchester: 'Your little boys, Alan, Benny, and Brian are at my house.'

Mr Tom JACKSON, well known and popular performer in RADOS (Ramsbottom AmateurDramatic and Operatic Society) gave us a valued collection of programmes' and show reviews. We do not have a complete collection yet but hope to do more detective work in 1997 and will be grateful for further donations

Another postcard reads: 'Bonzo brings some lovely views from Ramsbottom.' Attached to the card is a set of 12 tiny photographs of Ramsbottom in multi-folded strip format, cl920s.

We do receive occasional donations of artefacts, though we have no room for any but the smallest. Recently, we have gained a wooden potato masher at least 100 years old and a reelof wire made by SIMMS Wireworks, Regent Street, now GEC.

Thank you very much to donors of all accessions and to members, especially Barbara PARK, Tom and Hilda BARRETT, and many others who helped to identify them. All offersof help welcome. Happy New Year

Brenda Decent, Carr Bank Drive, Ramsbottom

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, 29.h JUNE 1927

Most eyes are on the millennium (either 1st Jan 2000 or 2001, depending on your viewpoint) as the next big calendar event, whereas in fact we are about to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the last total solar eclipse visible from Ramsbottom. Barbara PARK has pieced together the story, with technical help from Joe CROMPTON, an eye witness account from Mrs Florrie BENNETT, and a contemporary report published in the Bury Times [Editor].

As dawn broke on Wednesday 29th June 1927 crowds of people gathered on Holcombe Hill their faces turned expectantly towards the sky. The reason for their early morning vigil was a total eclipse of the sun which was expected to be visible from this vantage point. Although partial eclipses occur fairly frequently, they are only visible from a narrow strip of the earth's surface which is different every time which makes seeing a totaleclipse a rare event.

The *Bury Times* of 2nd July 1927 included extensive coverage of the eclipse. 'Bury is situated ... in the direct route from East and South for both Southport and the, other townson the western side of Lancashire which were suitable places from which to see the eclipse and those lying to the North - Clitheroe, Stonyhurst, Giggleswick, Settle, etc. As a consequence there was little rest the night before for those inhabitants who live on the main roads. Motor traffic was busy . . . both before and after midnight and did not cease until the period of contact drew nigh. Then, and only then, was there quiet on the King's highway.*

The report also stated '. . . Holcombe Hill offered a good view of the sun shortly after the commencement of contact. This was maintained, but not without occasional interruption, until about a quarter of an hour from the first moment of totality when, greatly to the disappointment of the spectators, the clouds closed over the sun's

position and obscured both the sun and the shadow which had come over it. The rush of shadow at the moment of greatest obscuration, and the hush which it set up, were very impressive, and when this was over the crowd began to disperse. The general feeling was that in spite of disappointment due to the withholding of the full spectacle, the sight had been worth the early rising and the stiff climb.'

One of the spectators on Holcombe Hill that morning was Mrs Florrie BENNETT who vividly remembers making the ascent with her mother and aunt. Florrie recalls the scene: 'There were crowds of people there, all waiting for the eclipse . . . some of us were a bit nervous ... we really did not know what to expect . . . they said if those two had collided it would have been the end of the world. As the moon covered the sun completely there was astrange atmosphere . . . everything went very quiet and the air was cold ... it went pitch black

. . . then it gradually came light again and we began to make our way down the hill. It wouldbe about half past six by then.' Florrie went home to breakfast but many people went straightoff to work, some of them travelling by the electric train from Holcombe Brook station to Bury and beyond.

Florrie's apprehension about the eclipse was not unique. Historically many cultures have regarded eclipses as ill-omens and have associated them with natural catastrophes such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and famines.

The *Bury Times* also printed a statement from the Astronomer Royal, Sir Frank DYSON, which was issued within two hours of the eclipse. Sir Frank and his team were based at Giggleswick which had enjoyed the best view of the eclipse. He was sorry to hear of the lack of success at Southport and other places and had received information that nothing had beenseen by the Greenwich observers in the North Sea. They were awaiting news from Sweden, where Belgian, Russian, Dutch and German expeditions were stationed. The most striking thing about the spectacle as observed from Giggleswick had been its 'extreme brightness'. The red flames were very noticeable. His party's observations had gone very satisfactorily and the film from the big camera had beendeveloped and come out very well. The other photographs, so far as they knew, were all right but until they had been got home and developed, and their measurements made, they would not find out what the negatives had to show them.

The Astronomer Royal said that other expeditions would have been trying, like themselves, to get as good a photograph as possible of the eclipse and to do spectroscopic work. He alsosaid that though the films taken at Giggleswick might not have much scientific value they had educational interest and he was pleased to see many boys and girls actually watching the eclipse. The *Bury Times* reported that parties of local school children had travelled by train and charabanc as far afield as Southport, Grindleton and Barton to observe the eclipse.

When a partial eclipse of the sun occurred recently it appeared on our television screens as it happened and even featured on the Internet, neither of which existed in 1927. As I write this (on my word processor!) the radio is announcing the departure of yet another space probe - this time to Mars - where it is due to arrive next July.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society has not missed out on the new technology. Our archives andmembership details are now all on computer and one of our members,

Joe CROMPTON, has devised a computer programme which predicts both lunar and solar eclipses for any site in the world which, when checked against recorded eclipses in the past, has proved accurate to within a few minutes. Joe informs me that the next total solar eclipse visible from this country will occur on 11th April 1999 but those wishing to see it 'live' will have to travel to the far south of Cornwall. The observation and reporting of this eclipse will surely be a far cry from Sir Frank DYSON'S big camera at Giggleswick.

Barbara Park, Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom

A MEMORABLE SUMMERSEAT CHRISTMAS - 1944

The most memorable Christmas for me remains that of 1944. Each year as Christmas Day approaches my thoughts invariably return to that particular special war time one - my final in Summerseat - and one I feel sure will never be surpassed.

By luck, coupled with coincidence, the family was almost complete for that short period. Travelling up from war tom London came my eldest brother Dick with his wife, accompanied by another brother to be with us over the holiday. Two more brothers serving in the army managed to get leave thus, for the first time since 1939, we were together with the exception of brother Albert, also a serving soldier unfortunately unable to get leave.

The defeat of Germany to our minds loomed on the horizon, so we were determined to have a great time now that we had this grand opportunity of again being united - if only for a few short days. Sadly our planned re-union celebration was interrupted about six o'clock on the morning of Christmas Eve by the wailing of air raid sirens bringing with it the unexpected arrival of a flying bomb which, we learned later, demolished a row of houses in Chapel Street, Tottington, causing a number of casualties.

Came the morning of Christmas Day and whilst my sister with our mother remained behind to prepare and cook the Christmas dinner the rest of us donned our top coats and made our way up the slope to Higher Summerseat and entered the *Hamers Arms* where we appeared to create some considerable amusement to the village regulars. Dick had brought his accordion along with him and having made friends with the locals, was soon belting out some popular old tunes to the delight of all and soon we were dancing and singing and generally enjoying ourselves, although our dancing was somewhat restricted due to the shortage of space in the pub's tiny room. After an hour or so it was time for our return home, so with much slapping on backs and handshaking all round we said our farewells to the landlord and his merry customers who having recovered from their initial surprise were rather reluctant to let us depart and tried to persuade us to stay a while longer. But with our dinner awaiting us we bid them a merry Christmas and with some regret left the *Hamers Arms* with its hospitality and made our way back down the steps of the slope to Railway Street with Dick struggling with his bulky accordion and becoming a little unsteady on his feet having consumed a few jars. None of us were really habitual drinkers and having left the warm interior of the pub and coming into sudden contact with the cold fresh air it was obvious that the drink was having its effect, especially on Dick who had overdone his alcohol intake and upon reaching the house it was clear that, for the time being, dinner would have to wait.

The call went up for strong black coffee anda chair was placed outside the house for Dick and there he sat munching on a crust of dry bread which someone had recommended. However, he later recovered sufficiently enoughto have at least a spot of dinner.

As evening fell, our party soon began to get lively with Dick, his accordion once again strapped to his chest, setting the pace for some good old style singing. The front room waseven more crowded now as we had invited our nextdoor neighbours Mr and Mrs DEWHURST to come and join in the fun. Doris DEWHURST, a jolly humorous woman with a heart of gold, had been exceptionally kind and considerate by volunteering to accommodate some of our guests in her home thus saving some of the revellers a possible cramped and uncomfortable night as we ourselves lacked sufficient accommodation for somany in our tiny house.

Our party continued well into the late night. Parties such as ours did not seem very commonplace in Railway Street because during the celebration there came a knock on the front door and outside stood two fellows. Complete strangers to us, who had the cheek to ask if they could come in to the party! We were somewhat surprised by this and our first reaction was - perhaps - this self invitation attempt was some kind of an ancient Lancashire custom! Somehow we managed a little tact and some gentle persuasion, to send these wouldbe gatecrashers on their way.

It was indeed a great party and I thought at the time what a contrast compared to our first dismal Christmas in Summerseat four years previous when there were just the four of us then with very little in the way of food and drink because of war time shortages and restrictions.

But I'm sure our mother must have been very pleased and proud to have had her five sons and daughters with her once again on the Christmas Day 1944, 52 years ago.

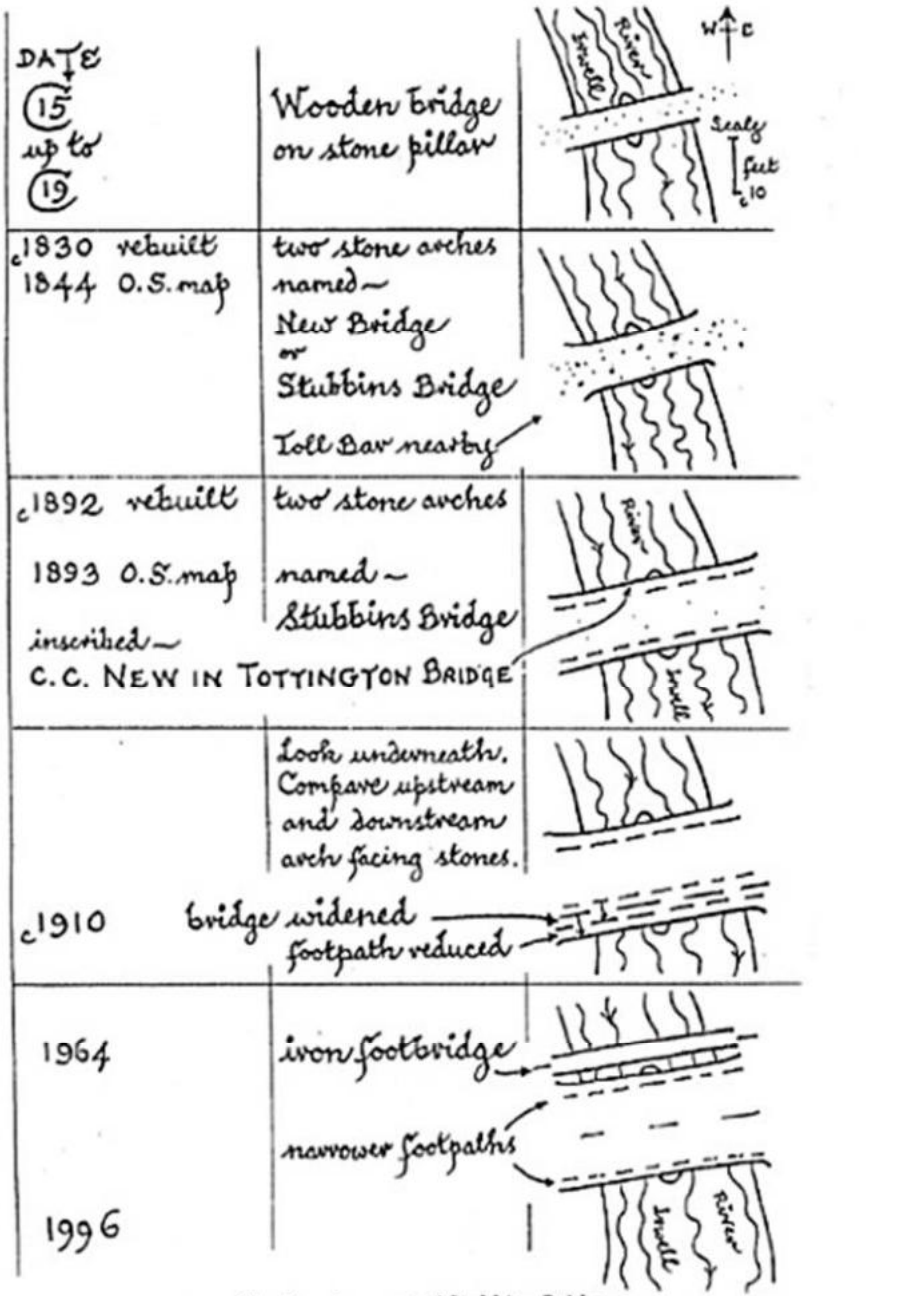
Jack Whitford, Rydal Gdns, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8SA

NEW IN TOTTINGTON BRIDGE, STUBBINS

George SCHOFIELD of Nuttall Lane wrote to John TAYLOR of Stacksteads last November with a query about the name inscribed in the bridge over the River Irwell at Stubbins, by Rose Bank. George wondered whether John's researches into such local inscriptions had uncovered why a bridge some three miles from Tottington village should carry the name 'C C NEW IN TOTTINGTON BRIDGE'. Many road bridges were widenedand strengthened by county councils in the 1920s and 1930s, on account of the appearance(particularly after World War I) of motor lorry traffic. The reference in the bridge's name is to the township, Tottington Higher End, which encompassed Stubbins, Edenfield and much of the moorland to the east of the Irwell. John suggests that the name 'L C C NEW BRIDGE OR STUBBINS BRIDGE IN TOTTINGTON HIGHER END' might not have fitted on the parapet - hence the abbreviation.

John has used map evidence to illustrate the bridge's development (see overleaf). Can anyone add to its history?

Andrew Todd



The Development of Stubbins Bridge

John B. Taylor

THE ORIGINS OF LANCASHIRE'S WHIT WALKS

Few of us realised that our archivist, Brenda DECENT, has been a columnist for an eminent national broadsheet. Whilst acquiring a postgraduate library qualification she researched the above topic in the Central Reference Library in Manchester, and the following piece, reproduced verbatim, was published in the Manchester Guardian of 8th June 1957 [Editor].

WHIT WALK AS A HOLIDAY FROM THE 'MANUFACTORY'

Thriving Sunday School anniversary by Brenda M WALKER

Whitsuntide means to many towns and villages of South-East Lancashire and its borders that the season of the "walks" is at hand.

I am Lancashire born and bred and have grown up with these elaborate street processions, a familiar annual event. I remember that as a child "walking day" was one of the days, akin to Christmas Day, a birthday, the first day of the annual holiday - great events by which the passing of the year was measured. I imagined that everyone shared the Whitsuntide festivity, so my disillusionment was severe when I moved to a county nearby and found incomprehension the main reaction to my description of the "walks", tinged with a tendency to regard the whole idea as rather quaint. Since then I have realised how limited the occurrence of these processions is, and how generally unheeded they are.

The "walks" sprang from the Sunday School movement, which was not limited to any part of the country but which caught on particularly in the Manchester area. After the first enthusiasm for the schools in the 1780s had died down in many places, the Manchester ones went from strength to strength because there could be found, probably in greater numbers than anywhere else in the country, working- class children of the kind which had first given Robert RAIKES his idea.

These children, who worked under wretched conditions during the week in the "manufactories", were almost all completely uneducated, and on Sunday, the one day when they were allowed to run wild and free from all restraint, it is not surprising that they were lawless. To remedy this lawlessness, "to teach the children their duty to God and man" and not least to preserve their property, the clergy and leading citizens of Manchester and Salford started Sunday schools in 1784, which, with so much raw material to work on, were a great success.

By 1800 there were about 2,500 scholars in Manchester and Salford and the movement was spreading all the time. Up to that year the schools had been managed by a joint committee of Church and Dissent, but in May the alliance broke up and two committees were formed. On the evening of February 24, 1801, in the Star Inn, Manchester, the gentlemen of the Church of England committee came to a decision the results of which would stagger them today. To celebrate the first and subsequent anniversaries of their committee as an independent body they resolved "that all the

children of the Sunday schools be called together to go to hear Divine service at St Ann's Church on Tuesday in Whitsun week yearly".

Later the details were altered and final arrangements are contained in a Sunday School Anniversary Committee Circular of May 15, 1801, in which . . .

"The public are respectfully informed that it is the intention of the Committee of the Sunday schools in Manchester and Salford belonging to the Established Church to celebrate their first Anniversary on Monday the 25th instant, on which day the Children from all the schools will be assembled in the morning at nine o'clock in St Ann's Square and parade thence through the Market Place to attend divine service at the Collegiate Church."

This parading through Market Place was the first of the Manchester "walks''. They began quite prosaically as an anniversary celebration, but there is shrewdness in the Rev C W BARDSLEY's description of the first walk in his "Memorials of St Ann's Church". He calls it "a very politic movement". There was quite keen competition with the Dissenters and a procession of 1,800 children formed a spectacle which attracted much public attention.

If the anniversary had been celebrated, as it may well have been, by a special religious service, then not much notice would have been taken of it. But the procession captured the imagination from the first and was remembered and talked about, and during the nineteenth century came to be imitated by schools in neighbouring towns and villages which had no possible connection with the Manchester anniversary celebration, but which chose to have a procession of scholars at Whitsuntide as a demonstration of faith and solidarity, because it was such an effective method and so popular with the people. It gave the schools tremendous publicity.

The fact that the "Walks" are held in such a small part of the country is, I believe, because they developed as a result of the direct influence of the Manchester walk in areas where the social conditions of the children were similar. In Manchester, when the committee was dissolved in 1839 and the schools were controlled by the individual churches, the walks went on, most people having forgotten the reason for their beginning.

The circular of May 15, 1801, also contains the following paragraph: "It will be esteemed a particular favour if such gentlemen as employ any of the above children in factories or in any other business will dispense with their attendance at the morning of the anniversary." This half holiday, which was generally given, was extended as the years went on. In 1813 the first Whit Week excursion of the Sunday school children took place and cheap trips to the sea and the country became as accepted a part of Whit Week in Manchester as the processions. A contributor to "FRASER's Magazine"

in the 1850s, a rather droll Southerner, describes a Whit Week visit to Manchester. By this time it had become the workers' annual holiday week. "The spindles are mostly standing in Manchester, and the heads are spinning instead". He writes of the morning of the procession:

"Here am I, a layman - one who never before in my life saw a Sunday school containing more than fifty children - here am I in some square or other, surrounded by clergy in canonicals, churchwardens with their staves of office, vergers in their gowns, and teachers and scholars innumerable. This is the gathering point for all the schools: fresh divisions all trooping up: banners are flying; bands are playing; bells are ringing. March is the word: we fall into our ranks, and away we move six abreast. Now the crowd thickens; enormous lorries are waiting on each side of the street till the procession has passed, while their burly drivers are looking on with sullen resignation."

To-day the ".walks" are not regarded so much as the harmless junketings of the working class and the children do not have to return to the grimness of factory life. The processions arc more splendid, in many ways, too, more artificial, as the children with the ribbons and flowers are arranged as a tableaux. The main features of the "walks" remain as they were a hundred years ago, however, and the drivers still have to wait.

The Church of England procession was the first in Manchester; the Non-conformist schools came to have the processions at an early date, but never with such united organisation. The Roman Catholic schools first "walked" in 1834, five years after the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act, but it was not until 1844 that it was decided to hold an annual procession which is now held on Whit Friday and unrivalled in magnificence. To-day schools in the city suburbs hold their own "walks" as there is a limit to the number of children which can be accommodated in the main city processions, which now take more than three hours to pass. The "walks" arc held by the various schools on different days in Whit Week in the towns and villages near Manchester. They have spread to the Cheshire border, to towns like Hyde, to the West Riding border, north to Bury, and west to Wigan and St Helens. In Widnes they have, surprisingly never become an established event, and in some towns. Warrington for example. Sunday School processions are held later in the year, sometimes in the wakesweeks.

Brenda would like to bring the history of the Walks in the Ramsbottom Urban District Council area up to date for the next Newsletter. Some have declined since the 1950s, some still go on. Information from readers will be greatly appreciated. If you have any photographs of a 'last Whit Walk', we would be grateful for a loan of them for copying / Editor J.

HOLCOMBE HUNT

Members may recall references about six years ago to John JACKSON's silver hunting horn. JACKSON was huntsman to the Holcombe Hounds from 1867 to 1899 and his son, Samuel, from then until 1926. (See Kenneth BEETSON and Roger SHILTON. *Let's Look at Ramsbottom* (1987). Father and son are buried in Holcombe churchyard. The history of the Hunt is fascinating but beware, it is a minefield of mis-information, tradition, folk tales and plain romance.

The Holcombe has the distinction of being one of the oldest, if not the oldest pack of harriers in Britain. The earliest records date back to 1617 when on 12th August King James I, arrived in Lancashire to see what sport the County could offer. He was the guest of Sir Richard de HOGHTON, of Hoghton Towers, near Preston where he was entertained in a lavish and extravagant manner. All gentry from miles around were invited to attend the celebrations and each arrived with his best horses, his retinue of servants and the pick of his hounds to provide sport for the King.

Amongst these knights was Sir Thomas BARTON of Quarlton and it is said that the Holcombe Hounds from the manor pack so pleased the King that they were sought out for special notice and their owner graciously given the Royal Warrant to hunt over twelve townships, including the Royal Manor of Tottington and the privilege of wearing the scarlet and gold livery of the King, Hunt staff and members still wearing the scarlet coat today. In more recent times the gold lace has given place to buff cloth on the collar and waistcoat for the members' evening dress. It is the usual tradition for harrier packs to wear green and the Holcombe wear their scarlet with great pride, an honour dating back for over 300 years.

Past masters of the Holcombe include John and Lawrence BRANDWOOD of Holcombe Hey (which is at the top of Hawkshaw Lane) and Robert Holt BROWNE of *Hey House*, Holcombe. This similarity of names has led to some confusion as to the siting of the early kennels although the first record of hounds being kennelled in Holcombe Village is in 1772. John JACKSON was born in 1835 near Ashton-under-Lyne, his father Peter also being a great huntsman - all work was dropped to follow hounds. In those days the huntsman always went off on foot running with the hounds and JACKSON, when interviewed by Mr George ASHWORTH of Birtenshaw, Master at the time, boasted that he 'could run any mon I 'Lancashire!' It was during the mastership of Mr Walter MUCKLOW that John JACKSON was presented with the silver horn to commemorate his having been huntsman for 25 years. The presentation was made at the *Nab Cate,* Harwood, by Lord STANLEY. JACKSON retired in 1899 with a pension of one pound per week. Hounds were kenneled at Holcombe until 1925 when the present kennels at Kirklees, Brandlesholme, were purchased.

The Holcombe Hunt country of the present day covers an area south of the Ribble and north of a line running through Rochdale, Bury, Bolton and Ormskirk. To the east the boundary is Whitworth and to the west almost to Southport. It is a large country of great contrasts, varying from the moorland of the east to the flat, arable lands of

Tarleton and Much Hoole, an area of plough and deep ditches. A Holcombe horse has to be clever and very adaptable. This area is the amalgamation of a number of hunts including the Rochdale Harriers, the Bury Hunt, the Bolton Hunt and the Aspull Harriers. Whatever your thoughts about hunting, and it is easy to condemn, it was a way of life for many people in the area and it is part of our heritage and a tangible link with the past.

Jan Barnes, Hawkshaw Lane, Hawkshaw

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF EDENFIELD

I was born in Edenfield in 1923 at *Bank House.* My parents were Tom and Lena HILLIS whilst my elder sister Jennie still lives in Holcombe Brook. *Bank House* stands at the top of Bury Road just after Bolton Road begins its descent to Stubbins and Ramsbottom. I remember that the row of terraced houses which stood between *Bank House* and George ALTEY's Mill was called for some reason, Nimble Nook. I have never discovered why. Perhaps othermembers can throw some light on this?

The reason I have no recollection of *Bank House* is that shortly after I was born we movedto *Greystones*, a large stone house at the end of Eden Bank on Bolton Road. I believe my father rented this house from Herbert CAINE whose own house was exactly opposite TURNBULL and STOCKDALE's famous Roscbank fabric factory alongside the river Irwell.

My childhood at *Greystones* was a very happy one. I recall those days as being very much influenced by the activities at the Primitive Methodist Chapel on Rochdale Road. Both myfather and my Uncle Alec were local preachers and much in demand on the local circuit. My father was the superintendent at the Sunday School, whilst my Auntie Alice who lived withmy Grandma HILLIS at Eden Bank was in charge of the Primary.

So much I remember about those early days in Edenfield. I made friends with the milkman, the butcher Edgar TAYLOR who used to delight me by giving me a little run in his van. Hisshop was in Stubbins. Going up the road towards Edenfield there are two housing estates on the left and I have very vivid memories of the old bone shaker trolley buses which rumbledup and down. You reached the Bury Road and continued up to the Market Place, passing *Acre House* on the left where the doctor lived and had his surgery. In my day it was Dr STRUTHERS. You finally reached the Market Place dominated by the *Rostrons Arms* (a prohibited area to nonconformists). I think there was a bowling green behind the public house. Next was a very posh sweet shop, HELSBEYs and then, much later, Melvin CRAWSHAW opened a pharmacy which was run by a gentleman called BARNES who hada speech impediment and could only whisper! Next to him was the butcher's shop which belonged to Willie ELTON. His

shop was on the corner of the street that led to the recreation ground and to my Uncle Alec's house. *Chatterton Hey.* Carrying on up Market Street was Jim HOWARTH's shop where it was always a pleasure to watch this stately artisan attired in a long white apron and displaying his very waxed moustache, sharpening his knives prior to slicing the cold meats in a manner which I have never seen equalled since. Behind Jim HOWARTH's shop was Jim HOWARTH's bottom, so called because it was about two feet lower than the shop and where, if you had a penny or two spare you could get a delicious glass of sarsaparilla, a real mecca for youngsters like us.

Further up the road the next shop was the greengrocer and I cannot remember who ran thisbut it might have been ONSLOWs.

Then came the bakery, WHITTAKERs, followed by MAGNALLs, the fish and chip shop, a favourite haunt There were two fish and chip shopsin Edenfield, the other one being HARTLEYS just opposite Edenfield church. Next to MAGNALLs was the newsagent where I eventually was allowed to buy the *Weekly Adventure* which came out on Monday and cost 2d. Beyond the newsagents was a haberdashers run by the sisters CHATTWOOD. The village constable lived almost across the road from them and lower down, coming back to the Market Place, there was a tiny little sweet shop. Gincroft Lane was next which housed the Working Men's Club. Back in the Market Place was HAYES, the grocers (Mr MEEKS?) and a little lower down FISHERs who made such excellent pics. Just before you reached the Wesleyan Chapel was the cobblers, run by an excellent shoe repairer called LORD, who was also deaf and dumb. In the middle of the Market Place was Fred DEWHURST, the plumber, an imposing building, and behind him going down Rochdale Road was a remarkable string of cottages called Bacup Row.

John Garnett Hillis

ORAL HISTORY TAPING PROJECT

The Heritage Society is currently trying to revive the oral history group which recorded on tape people reminiscing about days gone by in Ramsbottom. Some years ago a group of members made a number of recordings which have provided a mine of information about various aspects of life in the town. Memories of childhood and schooldays, life at home and at work even in recent years indicate how much life has changed, whilst our more senior citizens who can go back even further paint a picture of a very different town - both in the way of life of the people of Ramsbottom and changes in the landscape and the town itself.

At the Christmas meeting of the Society one of the tapes was played. In another ten years the memories recorded will be of a time half a century ago.Additional references were made to the parents and grandparents of the interviewee and other more elderly,

even deceased people, and events that they had experienced.

In the past decade alone Ramsbottom has changed almost beyond recognition - old mills gone, houses modernised inside and cleaned up on the outside revealing stonework which has been hidden under the grime and soot of the industries which have now disappeared or, like many of our churches and chapels, converted to other uses. The railway which played such an important part in the industrial development of the last century is now revived as a tourist attraction. Many people who have lived and worked here all their lives still Find it hard to comprehend that their town is now a 'tourist attraction' and many of the shops where they bought their everyday necessities now replaced by craft shops and cafes.

As a member of the original taping group (but unfortunately with insufficient time to carry on due to other Society duties) I can say that every time I have taped anyone I learned something new about life in Ramsbottom. Many of the people have later said that the experience jogged their memories and spurred them on to search out old photographs and documents and donate them to the archives as an additional reminder. Some have even been inspired to contribute to our *Ramsbottom Reminiscences* or this Magazine. But this is a bonus for posterity!

If you would like to help to put Ramsbottom on the record either by taping or remembering or would like more information please contact Andrew TODD on 01706 824511.

Barbara Park

SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF LOWER BRIDGE STREET

With reference to the article in News Magazine no 13, Mary Jane 'Cissie' LOMAX, Milliner of Bridge Street - in 1931 my father, Arthur CHADWICK, took over the business at 16, Bridge Street from the HOLDEN family. It was a News Agent & Stationer but later he sold Sports and Fancy Goods as well. At no 18 was a Chemist, no 14 was a Baker and Confectioner owned by Miss Polly BARLOW, and I well remember the Milliner's at no 12 owned by Mrs LOMAX. In the small side window there was always a selection of black hats suitable for funerals, but in the large window a varied selection, some designed and made by Mrs LOMAX herself, was displayed, straw hats in summer and felt or fur in winter. A curtain was drawn behind the hats in the large window, which made the shop rather dark I remember. When one pressed the latch and pushed open the door there was a jangling sound and then Mrs LOMAX would appear. There was a daughter, Connie, and as a child I would

sometimes go to play with her. We enjoyed dressing dolls from a wardrobe of clothes she had made from remnants of material.

In those days the Post Office was next to Martins Bank across the road, and a public house the *Railway Hotel* was on the corner. At the back of our shop, not very far away, were Union Street and King Street, a row of back-to-back terraced houses, which were occupied until a new estate was built on Peel Brow Playing Fields in the later 1930s. Our shop premises had interesting features such as the attic in the eaves where I sometimes did my sewing, and the two cellars. One cellar was for storing coal delivered through a man-hole in the pavement outside, and the other was referred to as the Ink Cellar as it contained shelves of large earthenware jars and smaller bottles of ink. The larger jars would be used for supplying schools in the district. At the beginning of the War the Ink Cellar was cleared and became the Air Raid Shelter with bunks installed by my father. The living room has now become part of the extended shop area but the frontage is much the same, although perhaps the stone step of the doorway is a little more worn.

Edna Collier, 61, Caughall Rd, Upton Heath, Chester CH2 1LP

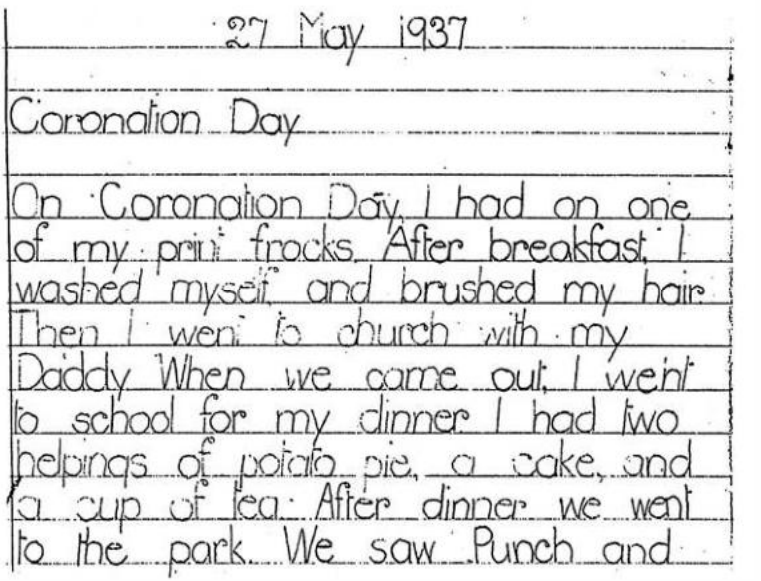
No 16 Bridge Street has an interesting history. It was a traditional newsagents as recently as 1991, run finally by the DAWBERs. and (until 1989) by AE and MV HOLMES. Now 'Card Talk', it has had continuity of usage since at least cl851, when the highly respected and one-armed James HOLDEN, schoolmaster at St Paul's, began a newsagent's and stationery business. His son, Thomas, later of Callender Street, wrote of his boyhood at no 16 in the Ramsbottom Observer in 1924, and commented - even then - that their shop had been 'about the only one in the town which for so long has been conducted by the same firm and on the same premises.' [Editor].

COMPOSITION AT ST PAUL's, 60 YEARS AGO

Edna Mary HOLDEN, who died in 1983, was a sister of member Doris HIBBERT and was born in 1928. These are extracts from her St Paul's Day School Exercise Book. These essays were written when she was eight or nine years old in beautiful handwriting. She is pictured as a baby in 1928 posing on her father's motorcycle in Crow Lane, on page 36 of our book Around Ramsbottom [Editor].

15th January 1937 MY CHRISTMAS STOCKING - I was so excited when Christmas Eve came. I hung up my stocking and went to bed. I slept until a quarter to seven. Then I switched on the light and found that Santa Clause had been. Then I called to mother and asked her if I could look at them. She said that I could. There were a lot of presents, two books, two pet stories, a manicure set, a pair of gloves, a fountain pen, a milk chum filled with chocolate drops, and many other things. My mother got eight boxes of chocolate, and my dad got cigarettes.

May 27th 1937 CORONATION DAY - On Coronation Day I had on one of my print frocks. After breakfast I washed myself and brushed my hair. Then I went to church with my Daddy. When we came out, I went to school for my dinner. I had two helpings of potato pie, a cake, and a cup of tea. After dinnerwe went to the park. We saw Punch and Judy, and had ice-cream and dandelion and burdock. Then we had our tea. We had a bottle of milk each, and a parcel which had in it acake and a meat pie.



27 May 1937

Coronation Day

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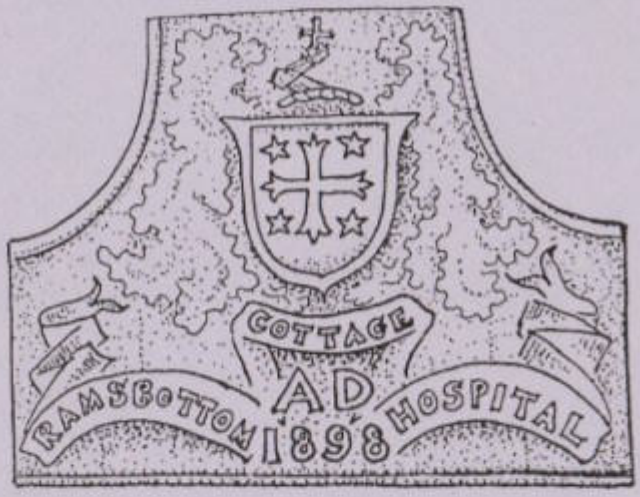

NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE

CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY BLO 9AE

Membership Enquiries please ring (01706) 828705

Other enquiries (01706) 821603

The objects of the Society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public, by creating an awareness 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 artifacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

1997-8 PROGRAMME

Oct 15th	Mr Harry O'Neill *Rawtenstall Past and Present* - Mr O'Neill is the Photographic Librarian of the Bacup Natural History Society (Illustrated.)
Nov. 19th	Mr Nick Grimshaw - *Conservation in Bury and Districts* (Illustrated.)
Dec 10th	Miss Dorothy Fawell - *Christmas Memories*

1998

Jan 21st	Miss Margaret Curry - *Lady Anne Clifford* - The life and times of Lady Anne and her forty year fight to secure her rightful inheritance in Westmorland and Craven Yorkshire (Illustrated.)
Feb 18th	Miss Jo Durning - *The Lighter Side of Funerals* (A humorous look at the Burial Service) PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION
Mar 18th	Mr Richard Catlow - *From Irwell Springs to the Sea* - A fully illustrated journey along the River Irwell.
April 15th	**Eleventh Birthday Meeting** Mr Brian Unsworth - *Aspects of Nature* - A fully illustrated slide show of Nature and its beauty.
May 20th	**Annual General Meeting** Mr George Clarke - *The History of Brass Bands.* Mr Clarke tells this story and hopes to be able to illustrate with SOUND!

All indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, 7.30 for 7.45pm

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14.	A Walk on the Wildside: Flora around Nuttall	Joe Crompton
16.	Sledging in Ramsbottom between the Wars	Andrew Todd

FRONT COVER - The Aitken family's arms on the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital, Nuttall Lane, the erection of which commenced in May 1898. Drawn by John Taylor

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

The Society’s Collection - known colloquially as ‘The Archive’, and representing a decade of accumulation, this now runs to thousands of items, including photographs, documents, books and a very limited number of artefacts. It is probably not well known that the entire collection has been catalogued and placed on a computer data-base. Unfortunately, we are physically running out of storage space at the Centre, our ancient Amstrad (rooted firmly in the protozoic period of computer evolution) is doomed, and perhaps most seriously our small ‘Archive Team' can no longer manage the growing collection. Regrettably, the Committee has had to propose to members that we transfer the entire collection to Bury Archives, Edwin Street, where Kevin MULLEY has agreed to discuss how it could be made more readily available for research. Currently, access has been strictly limited on account of our voluntary status - we simply do not have the wherewithal to staff a publicly accessible repository.

Ramsbottom Heritage Centre - supposedly open from 1-00 to 4-30pm on weekend afternoons up to Christmas, visitors will have noticed recently that this simply has not always been happening. We are, quite simply, running out of helpers - only four keyholders are now able to open and close, whilst the number of regular helpers has dwindled. Volunteers are desperately needed - no special knowledge or skills are required, and a keyholder will always be present. You can talk to visitors, sell the odd booklet or help to make cups of tea. You won’t get paid, but you will meet people who share your interest in the town's past, and you may make some new friends. Our helpers are a friendly lot, and there is no quicker way of learning about the town and its inhabitants, past and present. Do please consider this - otherwise we may well be down a slippery slope which leads to closure. Monthly meetings serve a valuable purpose in keeping a society together, but the loss of the Centre, I believe, would deprive us of a crucial focus - remember what happened to the old Local History Society. If you can help, please call in one weekend to sign up for an hour or two. Alternatively,call Betty HOWARTH on 01706 822251 to indicate your interest.

Visits to the Centre - proof that our Centre is appreciated comes in the shape of the visits we get from groups either from the locality or from further afield - 28 children and staff from St Joseph's in May, 30 from St Paul's in July (my five year-old daughter Hannah was most impressed!). John TAYLOR brought a group of walkers in June; Chatterton Historical Society came in August to hear myself and Dorothy describe the Society's activities; whilst 24 from St Paul's Ladies Group came in September to hear us play two of our Oral History tapes and learn about the Recording project.

Out of Town Members visiting Ramsbottom - it has been very pleasant recently meeting members who have made the journey back to their old roots in part to make the acquaintance of local members at the Centre. Unfortunately, if this coincides with a day when no can cover at the Centre, such visitors risk finding it closed and being unable to make any contact. If you are coming up to Ramsbottom hoping to meet us, please ring someone first - that way we can be certain to have someone to meet you if the Centre does happen not to be open.

Daytime Society Meetings - our monthly Wednesday evening attendances have dropped recently. One solution may be to hold additional afternoon meetings at the Centre, with the standard format of speaker, refreshments and chats, possibly starting later this year. Watch the *Bury Times* for future news.

Oral History Project - our small but dedicated group is now working its way through the list of people who have in the past offered their names as interviewees. We have boosted the number of taped interview sessions in our collection to 17. a very wide range of reminiscences from World War I to virtually the present day being represented. As well as the master, a copy is made and a further copy is automatically given to the interviewee in recognition of their help. We will very soon exhaust our present list - please consider volunteering to be interviewed. It is an interesting and enjoyable experience to chat through the old times with an interested conversationalist, and you will be making a valuable, indeed a unique contribution to our town's historical record. If you are interested, please contact me.

Andrew Todd

SOCIETY SKETCHES - LILLIAN CULLEN

We thought it an interesting idea to introduce members through these pages to some of the Society's active personnel, without whose contributions RHS would face extinction. Lillian CULLEN has been giving spinning demonstrations at the Centre since 1988. when she joined our society, attracted she says by an interesting programme of monthly talks. Born in Manchester, she was drawn to teaching at an early age, but war intervened and in 1942 she joined the Army, serving in an 'ack-ack' unit in Kent, in the path of Doodlebug rockets.

After demob, she taught in Blackley where she rose to the headship of Crab Lane Infant and Junior School. A move to Greenmount Primary School brought her to live in Ramsbottom. On retirement in 1988, she took up hand spinning at the Rochdale Spinning Club. Unfortunately, this group faces closure this year owing to a declining interest in the craft.

Maintaining an interest in education, she demonstrates spinning at local schools,as well as at the Centre on Bank Holidays and at December weekends. Now living in Harwood, Lillian retains her links with the Society, her pleasant, smiling and affable manner making her popular with members and visitors (especially the young!)

Dorothy Moss

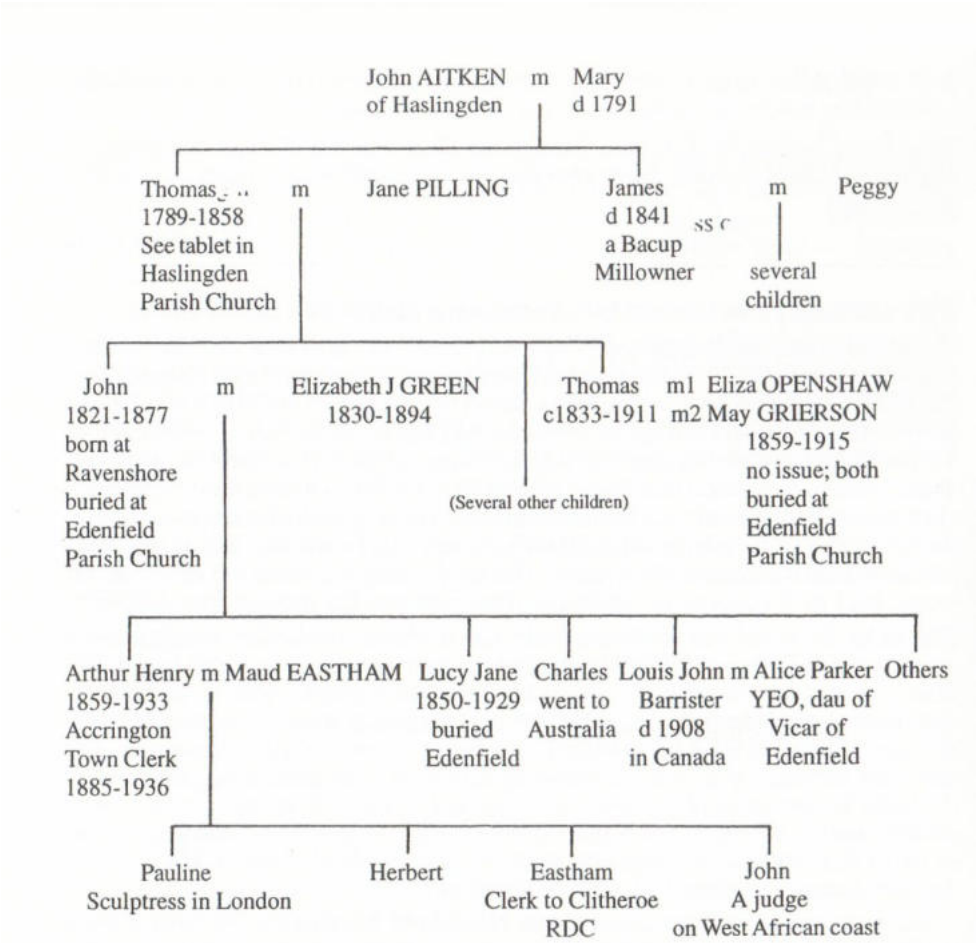
THE AITKEN FAMILY: MILLOWNERS AND PHILANTHROPISTS

To celebrate their tenth anniversary in 1993, Edenfield Local History chose as their logo the sundial above situated on the south wall of Edenfield Parish Church (near the door). To follow earlier articles on the STOCKDALES. the TURNBULLs and the PORRITTs, it seemed apt to cover the AITKENs for the tenth anniversary of Ramsbottom Heritage Society. The AITKENs passed like a cloud over the area from Haslingden to Holcombe (via Bacup and Irwell Vale). So who were they? Where did they live and work? What effects did they have locally and what traces are left in 1997? With vast help from John SIMPSON, John TAYLOR and Bill TURNER, I shall try to piece together their story. The brief family tree takes us back over 200 years, but I shall concentrate on the *two* Thomases and the younger John A1TKEN.

The older Thomas lived at *Chatterton House* (still inhabited), almost opposite the factory of AITKEN and LORD where the famous riot took place on 26th April 1826. The mob had destroyed hundreds of the hated new power looms in Helmshore, Rawtenstall and Edenfield, and AITKEN unsuccessfully tried to reason with them. Magistrate William GRANT read the Riot Act and six 'rioters' were killed by the troops. The mill later became a ruin and was demolished in 1896. The estate was bought by the PORRITTs who cleared the site and lodge and donated it as the recreation area which exists to this day. Thomas opened a new mill at Irwell Vale and went to live at *Great Hey* (across the bridge over the A56 from Edenfield Church). His wife was the daughter of the Baptist Minister at Goodshaw.

Their elder son, John, continued in the business at Irwell Vale but retired about 1874. He was a Captain in the 57th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers (Ramsbottom), living, and dying, at *Elton Banks House*. On Burnley Road, Edenfield, opposite the petrol station, this house is still inhabited. John served as a churchwarden in 1846 and owned Elton Banks Farm, a few fields higher, and now occupied as a home by Edenfield Local History Society's Treasurer! As the family tree shows, John's descendants did not work at the mills, but preferred civic roles or emigration, as far afield as Australia. Ironically, many of the 1826 rioters had been deported there. Thus the only AITKEN who remained linked to the mills into the 20th Century was the younger Thomas.

Later, the Irwell Vale Mill was extended into the long brick building still in use as the soap works,though part of the original above it has gone. The firm had specialised as makers of cotton sailcloth and felt for paper-making. Thomas enjoyed the fruits of the textile boom, living at Holcombe Hall. Moving to Flintshire, he died at *Bodelwyddan Castle* in 1911, but was buried in Edenfield Churchyard. Still visible on Blackburn Road (just beyond the petrol station) is the 1940 datestone TA & S Ltd on the former Spring Bank Mill which wound cones for Irwell Vale Mill. Earlier it had been a brewery. It is now BROWN and FORTH Ltd Chemicals.



The AITKEN Family of Haslingden, Edenfield and Holcombe

Though the AITKENs could not resist the national decline in the textile industry, they were unaffected by the world wars of this century, unlike the nearby TURNBULL and PORRITT families. Their workers' names survive on the memorial plaque outside the present soap works' reception (MLO Plc), as do those of the PORRITTs' workforce on the memorial on Stubbins Vale Road. This was resituated in 1997. Beyond Lumb Old Hall was the site of AITKEN's Lumb Vale Mill. Until about 1920 this was to be JB & WR SHARP'S dye works but later turned to spinning, winding and weaving. During the 1939-45 war troops were housed there and Arnold RILEY of Bury recalls how the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry helped to clear the deep snowdrifts in 1940. Elsie TIMMINS of Peel Brow, who also worked there, recalls asbestos cloth being made for covering aircraft when it was owned by the DEWHURST family. Its chimney was demolished in 1975 and the rest piecemeal in the 1980s. The works canteen and social club near the Irwell Vale Methodist Church was later inhabited by Geoffrey

DEWHURST who died in 1996. Betty DARCY of Edenfield remembers how the dye works gates closed promptly and late-comers lost time. Kathleen MATHER was struck by the puttees worn on the soldiers' ankles and told me that the mill produced fabric for tyres in the War. Bowker Street, Irwell Vale, was named after John BOWKER, the mill's builder and owner, and Aitken Street likewise reflects their control of local housing.

Although the surviving mills have changed their owners and products, there are other AITKEN reminders in the area. Lynne LONGWORTH's 1989 *History Notebook* on Edenfield Church records that the AITKEN sundial was repainted in 1838 for 3s 6d. In 1916 altar cloths and frontals were presented by Miss GRAY in memory of the AITKENs, who gave the organ in 1911. The commemorative programme for a Grand Bazaar, held in April 1900 to raise funds for the Aitken Memorial and Jubilee Hospital, relates how Thomas had recovered in October 1896 from a serious illness, and how his wife Mrs May AITKEN had 'conceived the idea of making the Hospital a Memorial as well as a Jubilee Cottage Hospital'. Sited in Nuttall Lane, and known now as the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital, its construction (between 1898 and 1900) and furnishing was in part funded by Mrs AITKEN. The frontage features the family coat of arms (see front cover). It is now a geriatric hospital. From 1910 to 1970 the AITKEN Sanatorium treated consumption and chest problems, and was given with its grounds by the AITKENs to Bury & District Joint Hospital Board. In 1975 it was renamed DARUL - ULOOM and became a seminary for the training of Moslem priests, a new extension being added in 1988. The substantial complex is best viewed from Holcombe Hill. So, the imprint of the AITKENs remains on our area to this day, even though the family has all but gone.

In the 1996 BT Phone Book for Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale, there is just one AITKEN - in Ramsbottom.

Sources

*The AITKEN Memorial and Jubilee Hospital Grand Bazaar (*CommemorativeProgramme) 18th - 21st April 1900

John SIMPSON, especially for the family pedigree

John B TAYLOR, for drawings. See also his Stories in Stone in Rossendale {1988); and Stories in Stone: Datestones in Ramsbottom (1991)

William TURNER, Riot! The Story of the East Lancashire Loom-Breakers in 1826(1992)

Clyde TWEEDALE

IN SEARCH OF CARR FOLD

The 1990s has seen a spate of heritage architecture alongside Carr Street - both Pinners Close (1996) and Grant Mews (1993) attempt, with debatable success, to echo building styles of the last century. Very few of the occupants of these houses will be aware that one of the earliest clusters of Ramsbottom's industrial housing once stood within yards of their front doors. Pedestrians straining up the top end of Carr Street, past its junction with Springwood Street and Callender Street, are the only people who will ever have spotted opposite Grant Mews the ruinous stonework which can easily be taken for a boundary wall. In fact this marks one of the few physical remnants of Carr Fold, a tiny and in part self -contained community which survived until the mid-1930s.

From the corner of No 82, Carr Street, the delightfully named Gutter Lane leads northwards in the direction of the *Old Mill Hotel.* To the left of this modest dirt track towers the huge wall of the *Rose and Crown* bowling green (which would have served well some medieval fortified town). To the right an uninteresting landscape of garages, sheds and overgrown allotments falls downwards towards the rear of the terrace on Springwood Street. It is hard to believe that this represents the site of one of the earliest concentrations of population in the vicinity of the modern Ramsbottom town centre, and that at the time of the granting of the order for demolition in November 1935, a total of 23 people lived in its ten houses.

Carr Fold was in a dilapidated state at this time, according to Dr Hugh LAWRIE, the UDC's Medical Officer of Health. In his report[1] recommending demolition, and now preserved in Bury Archives, he described the fold as 'unpaved and very uneven'. All water had to be carried from a spring, over distances varying up to 177 feet from the houses, none of them having any internal supply. 'One privy midden with four compartments.' continued LAWRIE, 'provides the sanitary accommodation for the nine houses ... up to120 feet from the houses.' The stonework of the cottage walls was weathered, and often cracked and bulging. The flag roofs were 'sagging and uneven', whilst the ground at the rear of No 1, Carr Fold, and the gable of No 3, was up to the level of the bedroom floors.

The walls of the ground floors must have been built into earth, hence the dampness alluded to in the report. Nos 1, 5, 7 and 9, Carr Fold were especially small, each having a single downstairs room (with floor areas of between just 160 and 200 square feet), scullery and a single bedroom. Windows were small, often having no opening portion; ceilings were as low as 6' 6"; floors were flagged; the houses were uniformly dark and ill-ventilated. Some bedrooms appear to have been open to the roof, judging by the description of No 5 as having a ceiling height of eight feet eight inches at the ridge but 4' 7" at the eaves. Only one house in the Fold, No 80, Carr Street, had a back door.

It seems inconceivable that families could possibly live in such absurdly small, cramped conditions. But we know from Fred Ashworth HANSON, who was brought up in one of these modest cottages, that they had to. 'Allowing for four dying between 1922-32,' he writes grimly, 'there was always six, seven or eight at 7, Carr Fold'.[2]

Folds, so distinctive a feature of pre-industrial South-East Lancashire, are believed to have constituted a nucleus of domestic textile manufacture, the farmer-weaver drawing his support spinners around him in a cluster of cottages. Could Carr Fold have originated as an early industrial colony of this type? Indeed, how old were these cottages at Carr Fold when they suffered demolition?

According to Dr LAWRIE in his report, the Fold was 'stone built and of considerable age, a datestone on No 3 bearing the date 1761'. Confusingly, *three* was the consecutive number given in the schedule for demolition, *not* the actual house number, which was No 5, Carr Fold. Next door was No 3, Carr Fold (LEACH's shop), of which a photograph appeared in Ken BEETSON and Roger SHILTON'S *Let's Look at Ramsbottom* (1977). This reveals the solid flagstone roof, large quoins and square mullions consistent with the date 1761. The whole row (Nos 1 to 9) may have been built simultaneously.

What sources are available to determine the dates of construction of houses in the Ramsbottom area? John SIMPSON has identified several entries in the court books of the Manor of Tottington which allude to Carr, but so far it has proved impossible to untangle them. There are no plans in the earlier court books; and references to field names (which may now be lost) and to houses without precise name make identification of properties from single entries very difficult. Several members of the BUCKLEY family had property in the area in the 18th Century, but the identifiable field names are concentrated around the right angle turn of Carr Street into Tanners Street, a locality known as Lowcr Buckley Fold according to the 1842 Tithe Map and Schedule for Tottington Lower End at Lancashire Record Office.[3] More likely the area to be known as Carr Fold belonged to the KERSHAW family, and the 1761 house was probably built by Abraham KERSHAW. On 30th July 1783 Thomas KERSHAW 'of the Carr, yeoman' sold to Robert MEADOWCROFT of Holcombe, yeoman. James MEADOWCROFT and Robert TICKLE shopkeepers a plot of land:

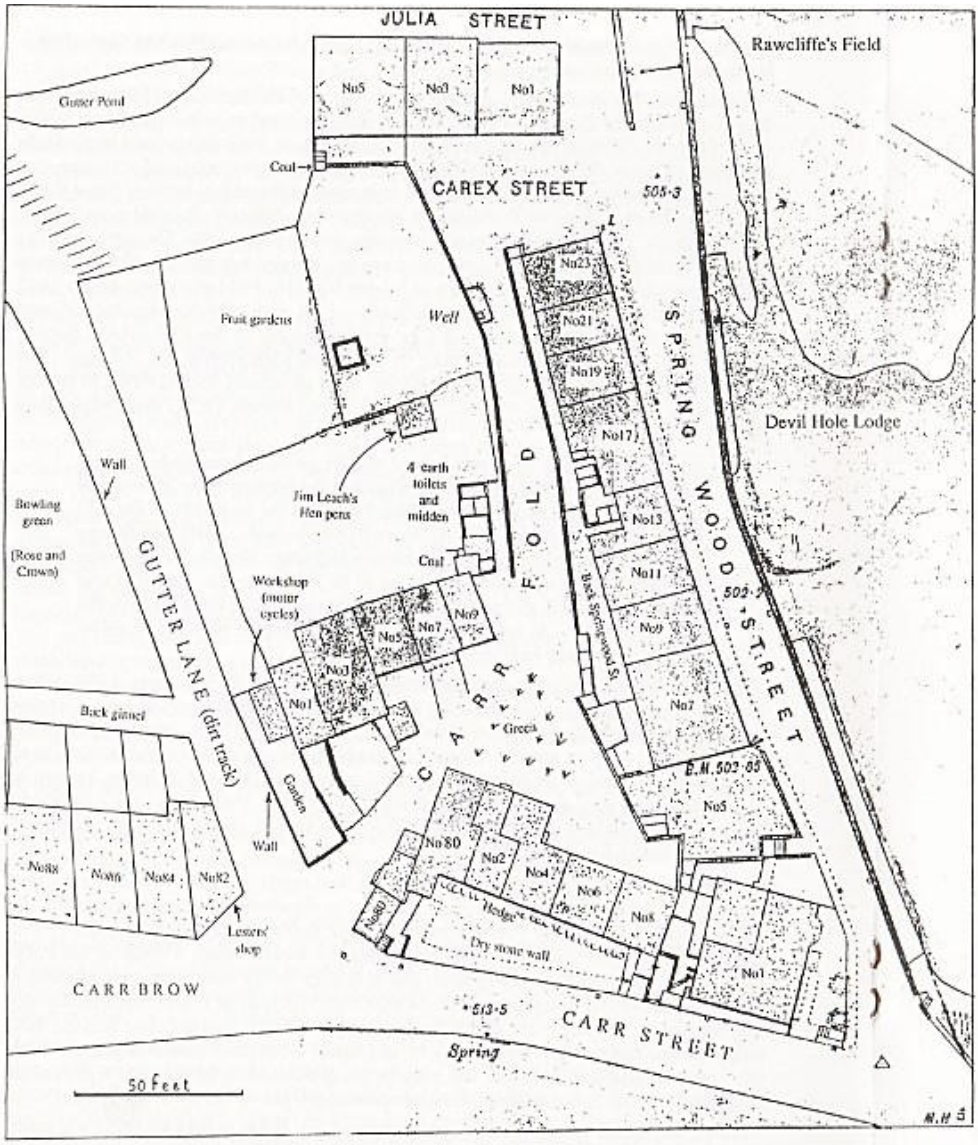
> **ten yards in length from east to west and six yards in breadth from north to south, being part of, and situate at the bottom of the Meadow at Carr and known by the name of the Folds, on the west side of the mill course, for the purpose of building an engine house ... with free liberty ... to go round the same and set ladders and other utensils for repairing the buildings now built or hereafter to be built thereon. And also free usage of the water and watercourse or mill race which runs through the said meadow ... in order to bring it conveniently to turn the wheel or wheels of the said engine house and buildings.[4]**

The three-man local consortium completed their building work, and by 23rd January 1788 (when they sold on to PEEL and YATES) the site had been transformed into a cotton carding mill, with 'dams, wheel race, aqueduct, water wheel, cogg [sic] wheel, (and) shaft'.[5] Here I suspect are the origins of Carr Mill (which stood on the north side of Carr Street, just below its junction with Springwood Street) and its lodge, known as Devil Hole, and now a wild bird sanctuary. Some of the cottages at Carr Fold might have been built alongside the 1761 KERSHAW house about this time, to supply accommodation for millworkcrs.

The Manor of Tottington acted like a modern land registry, its court books recording down to the 1920s the conveyancing of even the smallest dot of property within the boundaries of the manor - ie the townships of Tottington Higher End and Lower End. The legal owner of any property, of course, would retain a copy of the court book entry as proof of right of title, and it is such bulky manuscript copies which form the core of the collection of deeds which should pass to any modern purchaser. Unfortunately, if you do not ask. you may not get. One Bolton solicitor told me that, in such circumstances, it was policy to 'bin them' - for once land is registered with the Land Registry at Lytham, the only original document of legal, as opposed to historical import, is the earliest deed establishing right of title.

Clearly, the deeds relating to any property in Carr Fold, would reveal much more about its age. Presumably, a demolition order would first have necessitated compulsory purchase by Ramsbottom UDC. John SIMPSON informed me that Rossendale MBC. as successor authority to the pro-1974 Haslingden BC. have all the bundles of deeds

for property cleared in the town in the 1930s. The fact that council houses were erected on the site may explain their retention. On his advice, 1 approached Bury MBC, hoping to discover whether they retained deeds for Carr Fold, as successor to Ramsbottom UDC. Bury deposits archives (ie non-operational records pertaining to its activities) at Edwin Street. Operational records, which I take to include deeds of their current properties, are kept in the Muniment Room at the Town Hall.



Carr Fold in the 1930s

A terrier of council property is kept for public inspection on the second floor of *Lester House*, Broad Street. This comprises a set of large-scale maps with current local authority holdings outlined in red. It is surprising just how many nooks and crannies in Ramsbottom the Council owns - but Carr Fold is regrettably not one of them. No doubt the land, being too small for council housing, was sold on for the miscellaneous purposes outlined above many years ago. Maybe is there is no legal record of such a transaction - 'Ramsbottom used to do funny things in those days,' the terrier lady hinted to me darkly, as if referring to some outpost only recently brought into the pale to enjoy the benefits of civilisation. So, unless one or other of those garage, shed or allotment owners appears at the Heritage Centre one Tuesday afternoon with a bundle of deeds, we cannot for the moment be too sure about the true age of Carr Fold.

This article was inspired by Fred HANSON's memories of Carr Fold in its last dozen or so years of existence, and reproduced as our next article below. Fred's recollections of life in No 7, Carr Fold between the years 1922 and 1933 were published in *Ramsbottom Reminiscences, Volume II* (1996) pages 22-5. He also appears in our video (*Ramsbottom's Heritage Industrial Village, New Town and Railway 1783 - 1846*) at the site of his house, describing the Fold.

1. Carr Fold Clearance Order, ARM/T/426
2. *Ramsbottom Reminiscences* Volume 2 (Ramsbottom Heritage Society, 1996) pp22-5
3. DRM 1/98
4. Court Book of the Manor of Tottington (DDHC1 Liber Q, folio 115, Michaelmas 1783)
5. Court Book of the Manor of Tottington (DDHCI Liber S, folio 149, Easter 1788)

Andrew Todd

CARR FOLD IN THE '20s AND '30s

In Ramsbottom Reminiscences, Volume II (1996), Fred HANSON described his memories of living conditions at 7, Carr Fold. Over the last year, he has generously responded to my requests for extra information, by now having written pages of fascinating detail about his life in Ramsbottom in the 1920s and 1930s. Here are some recollections about Carr Fold, its topography and its inhabitants. Fred will be 80 in 1998, and as Carr Fold lost its inhabitants over 60 years ago, he must now be one of the very few people alive and able to recall this very distinctive community. Fred writes in a very vivid and perceptive way, and I hope to use more of his material in future issues. Recalling details of the earlier parts of a century from its back end would challenge anyone, and there may be items of fact which can be amended - but this really is a unique record, and I do hope that it evokes a response in others. We would very much like to hear from any other former resident. - Editor.

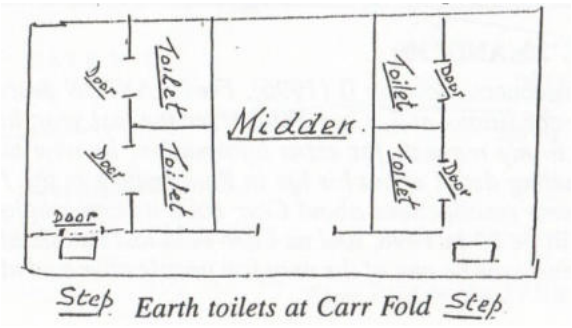
In the 1920s, Carr Fold was aptly named 'T'Fold', as there were five cottages along the back of the Fold, and an oblique row of another five. If any housewife was ill, neighbours did the washing, cleaning and shopping. We children used the entry to the Fold from Carr Street as a cricket pitch. Next to the 'pitch' was a triangle of grass which we called 'The Green', about 20 yards deep and 20 wide.

Two or three times a year, a party was held here - a maypole was brought out and put up, tables, chairs and stools were fetched from each house, and the piano fromKAYs. There was dancing to a wind-up gramophone - everybody danced. There was lemonade and kegs of beer.

Nearby was Devil Hole Lodge. Lodges ('Jenny Green Teeths') up on the moors were deeper than they looked and dangerous, for in hot summers when we were roaming we used to drop in them to cool. In very hot weather I recall going into Springwood Lodge before school. Two were drowned in the Irwell at the back of the Cricket Field in the early '20s - it was deep in one or two places. Three or four were drowned in Devil Hole between about 1925 and 1930, one a suicide. We followed a man who ran up Carr one day, screaming he'd drown himself. Up Springwood Street, up to Springwood Lodge - he climbed the bank, jumped in and jumped out - too cold!

Water drained down from the moors through Taper Woods and into Gutter Pond, at the end of Gutter Lane. Now an ornamental pond by the *Old Mill,* this was about three times as large. From here, thewater ran under Julia Street and Springwood Street into Devil Hole. There was a well at the Carex Street end of the Fold from which about 30 houses got their water - no piped supply to any of them. And by the track up to Dickfield was Judy Spout, a spring which supplied the purest water in the country! [Recently, I believe some enterprising character tried to market it as bottled mineral water - certainly the spout is securely fenced off - Editor.]

Just round the comer from No 9, Carr Fold, and parallel with Back Springwood Street, there was a stone building. The first part was No 7's coalshed. Second an earth toilet. Third a tip for ashes and rubbish and fourth two earth toilets or lavs. (There were never any tipplers around the Carr Fold, Gutter and Springwood Street area.) One, two or three families shared each toilet. There was a bobbin for the toilets and who had it cleaned it for a week and passed it on.



Earth toilets at Carr Fold

Earth toilets were common up to about 1938, one, two or three being together either side of the midden. Each seat was about 3' 6" by 2' 6". Some had doors, and there was a step (a stone about 18" inches by 12" by 12".

I saw Jack HOWARTH pick this up one day, and from over his head drop it on a rat. The rat was depressed, and I was impressed! Rats were killed every day - plenty around the Devil Hole. The midden men came once a month - they stood with long leggings on, and emptied it into the muck cart. I felt sorry for the horse, but it was probably a healthier smell than some of the chemical spraying of fields from helicopters that I see now at Pilling!

INHABITANTS OF THE CARR FOLD AREA

No 1, Carr Fold - Mrs HARDMAN an elderly widow - did not work but had two lads lodging there. Both worked in the cotton mill and each had a motorbike. They seemed to have a happy set up and often played cricket with us on the dirt road.

No 3, Carr Fold - Jim LEACH ('Nail 'em') around 65 years-old in 1925, and his wife Hannah similar, both ran the shop. Aladdin's Cave. Sweets and lucky packets, fruit veg etc to silk stockings, all kinds of tins, cakes, bread, butter etc, cigs and twist etc. Not forgetting the paraffin lamp to light up the two steps on the short path. Incidentally, uncle and aunt to my family. He had hen pens with about 200 hens and a balance of cocks. These were much troubled with foxes in the 1920s and '30s - 20 were killed in one cote, but none eaten. In the school holidays, we used to go up Dickfield or on Holcombe Moor for the day or collect dandelion leaves for Uncle Jim's hens. The eggs were very tasty, today's are not the same! Is it due to the dandelion leaves?

From about 1880 to the 1920s, Jim LEACH was a local foot runner, what we might now call a fell runner. He got a medal in the 1914-18 War for bringing up rations through heavy German gunfire and flak. A massive cart – eight-wheeler - with 12 horses. He had a way with animals my father said - whippet, greyhounds. In the trenches, up to the knees in mud, no food, and Uncle Jim silhouetted against the fires, bullets, cannon fire - he favoured the devil coming from Hell. Raced through the German lines at a hell of a speed, horses foaming at the mouth, charmed life, and across our lines to a tremendous cheer!

Locally, the runners might run a mile, five, ten or 14 – Ramsbottom, Bury, Edenfield, Ewood Bridge, Helmshore, Holcombe Brook for money. They backed themselves, and according to reports Uncle Jim made a living out of this. As well as foot running, Uncle Jim also had a whippet which helped him finance his small shop. He also backed with bookies who used to be at all top crown green bowling matches. One story was how he got a good bowler, Tom YATES, and told him to meet him at the *Rose and Crown* green at 7-30am. He showed him a mark about 27 yards and back, and had him practise for an hour a morning at 7-30 for a fortnight. No one saw him - they don't play greens before 2-00 o'clock. The one proviso was that he played with 3lb woods that Jim provided. Normal woods are 2lb 4oz to 2lb 12oz, so 3lb unheard of. After Jim was satisfied that Tom YATES had the length off, he arranged a match with the Lancashire champion for three pounds, a lot of money when 18s 0d was a wage. 51 up was the game, toss up for the Jack, Tom lost the toss and his opponent was 38 to 0 before Tom got it. He got on the mark, and ran out 51 - 38. [All this gambling would of course then have been illegal! - Editor.]

No 5, Carr Fold - Tom BROOKS and his wife Carrie both worked in the cotton mill, but Carrie was clerical. No family. They left in 1933, and bought a newsagents in Great Harwood. I used to cycle to Great Harwood with, and for Christmas presents for a year or two. Good friends.

No 7, Carr Fold - Tom HANSON and his wife Maud had five children in 1925. Florence8, Fred 7, Tom 5, Peter 3 and Ann (who died at 18 months). Money was scarce. Father out of work, no dole. Means test and food coupons. We attended St Andrew's School, grandfather Fred lived round the corner of Dundee Lane. So we went there for dinner. No school meals. Father eventually got a job as a fitter at the Gasworks in 1928 by then we owed £1 10s 4d at Uncle Jim's shop.

No 9, Carr Fold - Jim MILLS and his wife Jessie had two children. Jim worked shifts at The Square Mill.

No 80, Carr Street - Mr and Mrs BROMLEY.

No 2, Carr Fold - Seth WARBURTON and his wife Millie - no children. Both worked in the cotton mill, both wore clogs. To us they were rich because they had a 10½d tin of salmon and ½lb of tomatoes 2d for their Sunday tea.

No 4, Carr Fold - Jack HOWARTH, road worker, council. Mrs HOWARTH housewife one daughter Sarah (wore shawl and clogs) and worked in cotton mill although she was only 7 or 8 years old. I knew she was beautiful. Her father when drunk chased her round the Fold, swearing. He'd give her a good hiding with his bootlace. Sarah flew into ourhouse for sanctuary frequently and we put the droplatch on the door. Mrs HOWARTH baked and almost every house got a loaf or cake.

No 6, Carr Fold - Tom KAY and his wife Agnes, both cotton workers.

No 8, Carr Fold – MONKS, mechanic, cycles, sewing machines.

No 1, Carex Street - the FOX family (George. Mary, Billy and one other) moved from here to Top Road (ie the Holcombe to Helmshore road) about 1931 - to about 14 miles from top of Hedgehog Valley. ELLIOTs were the next in residence. A rag and bone man with a donkey.

No 3, Carex Street - Mr and Mrs Jim MILLS, Jim, Jessica and Wilfred. Father worked in engineering. Mother did not work. Women did not work in this period if they had families.

No 5, Carex Street - Miss WALSH, spinster. looked after her fruit garden (about 20 by 10 yards) which was between her house and the well. I think she had an income off some shares!

Also on Carex Street at some time were the ELMs, an elderly couple, with one bachelor son who worked at the paper mill.

No 1, Springwood Street - Mrs PLATT, widow.

No 5, Springwood Street - Miss Peggy PLATT, spinster, daughter of Mrs PLATT. Entrance up entry. I believe she still lives there. Related to Jim MILLS who was at Carex Street. You could see all the lodge from her window, and she used to keep an eye on it -1 believe she had some connection with the mill. There was a weir and a sluice gate between it and the lodge. I believe water power was used right up to closing, as well as the steam engine. None of the people in Carr Fold worked in Carr Mill, as far as I know.

No 7, Springwood Street - Mrs HITCHEN, widow and Harry. Father killed in 1914-18 War. Bury Grammar School Scholar. Became an insurance man, moving eventually to Garden Street (died about 1990).

No 9, Springwood Street - Mr and Mrs Jack LOWNDES - worked in cotton, comfortably off. I found her purse in Carr Street one Saturday morning about 1928 with £8 17s 3d in, and her name and address on Springwood Street. Took it straight to the house, Mr Jack came to the door and on seeing me he gave me the Distant Drums look, but after explaining and giving him the purse, he was utterly nonplussed! Probably knowing in what desperate straits we were in, no work, no dole, in debt to Uncle Jim,

barely clothed or shod. Too many of us etc. He gave me a shilling and thanked me profusely. Later he brought a parcel of food and three days after bought me a cricket bat 2s 6d. Would they have missed £8 17s 3d? Where would it have done most good? St Andrew's School - Mr BOARDMAN Headmaster. School motto adopted by the majority of scholars was 'Do What is Right with All Thy Might and Let What Will Come Of It.' I suggest Parliament adopts it and ride white horses!

No 11, Springwood Street - Mr and Mrs MAGNALL and Jean Oliver, adopted. Married at 16 years old.

No 13, Springwood Street - Mr and Mrs Jack LEDGER - two lads.

No 17, Springwood Street - Harry BUTLER.

No 19, Springwood Street - HARRUPs. Parents worked in cotton mill. William and Winifred came to St Andrews School. Both played cricket and football up the Gutter with the other lads and girls. Sex was irrelevant, also dammed the water in the pond there - sail boats homemade! Peggy on Hitchin's Mill top. Winter warmers from cotton wool blower. Swam in Springwood Lodge which fed Hitchins Mill and attempted to climb the *Rose and Crown* Bowling Green wall.

No 21, Springwood Street - Harry KNOWLES and wife, children Will, Fred, Harry May, attended St Andrew's Day School. Father worked nights at Square Mill. Camped at Grants Tower with Fred and Harry. Harry was troubled with St Vitus Dance, 2 o'clock in the morning he awoke, danced in the tent on us and pulled the tent down on top of us!

No 23, Springwood Street - Norman ECCLES (1920s and 1930s), only son. In the mid-1930s, this house became a shop - torches, lamps etc. Parents worked in cotton. St Paul's School as scholar. Fair cricketer, played with Ramsbottom, mate of Syd HIRD, Australian Pro for Ramsbottom 1930s. COTTRIL's meat pies - luscious - Where did they go? Lost him due to War. Camped out up by Tub Lodge with him and Jack BERRY and James Aubrey Greswell PENNY and Fred and Harry KNOWLES, from next house, all one hot summer. Trout for breakfast, tickled from the moat. Eggs from the farm, close to Hedgehog Valley where George PICKUP buried his gold sovereigns - never found!

Bill MARKHAM - lived next to *Rose and Crown* in what is now the car park. Went to Holcombe School 1920s-30s. Boxed at Belle Vue about 1935-8 as 'The Unknown' (masked). Headline sports page. He was about 16 stone when 16 years-old. His mother said he had 12 muffins with ham and six scones for lunch. When 18 or 19, in the '30s, he drove the Council's steam roller. The Rake had a very severe gradient of 1 in 4. The steam roller (with Bill working on the road) ran away. There were possibly still one or two houses immediately opposite the bottom of the Rake. Bill ran to the front of the steam roller and braced himself and gradually held it until his mates scotched it – tremendous performance! It was reported in the *Ramsbottom Observer.* Still talked about by anyone left. Four yards short of the house! Probably more episodes - I don't know!!

Frederick Ashworth Hanson

A WALK ON THE WILDSIDE: FLORA AROUND NUTTALL

This is a short walk of less than a mile around the Nuttall Park and Nuttall village areas of Ramsbottom to examine some of the common and not so common wild flowers which abound there.

Wc begin our walk from the car park in Nuttall Park itself. Leaving by its Nuttall Hall Road entrance we turn right (south) onto a lane which takes us towards Jacob's Ladder. Before we reach there, however, notice a stone-built waterfall on die left feeding a small stream behind a low wall. The bank here is pink in spring with the flowers of **purslane. Crocus** and **daffodils** have been planted nearby. Follow the water flow for a few yards to the south. Again, in the spring, the view over this wall is golden with the glow of **lesser celandine** intermingled with the white nodding head of **windflower** - the wood anemone. As the season progresses these are slowly replaced by a green carpet of **dogs mercury.** Occasionally, the white globular heads of **wild garlic** may be spotted growing along this bank, more so towards Jacob's Ladder where recent plantings are beginning to spread rapidly. This is the wild ramsons - the plant which according to one interpretation gave Ramsbottom its name. Lean over the wall here to see many clumps of **hart's tongue** fern growing from between its stones. Later on this will be joined by the delicate violet veined flowers of **wood sorrel** whose clover like leaves taste refreshingly like the peel of green apples. But don't eat too much - in large quantities this plant is poisonous. The pink stars of **herb robert** also adorn this wall in summer. A drop of sap crushed from its stems and rubbed into the face and wrists makes a very effective midge repellent. Alongside the base of this wall, where it leads right to the steps of Jacob's Ladder, is an inconspicuous, but unusual flower - the **enchanter's nightshade.** From the end of June this is adorned with tiny white flowers - the only ones in Europe to consist of just two petals - possibly one of the reasons this plant was associated with Circe - the ancient goddess of magic.

Continue across the river via the green metal footbridge, and immediately you will see on the right a stile leading into what was once the thriving Ocean Chemical works. Maybe because of these chemicals, still inherent in the soil, this site is well worth an hour's perusal by the interested wild flower seeker. The left side of the stile as you pass onto the now derelict land is a mass of **honeysuckle** and several **hazel** trees grow nearby. The overgrown area to the left contains several broad leaved **helleborine** in high summer and **twayblade** has also been recorded. A few yards further south, next to the fence, is a large and spreading patch of **yellow archangel.**

Once over the stile, we will follow the path round to the right. After only a few yards this bends left to avoid the river, but on the right-hand side of the bend near the roots of a tree you will find several plants of **solomon's seal** with its creamy white drooping flowers conspicuous around May and June. This area also has a scattering of bluebells, ramsons, purslane and the odd primrose.

Follow this path for another 50 yards or so, keeping an eye out for **yellow** rattle on the right and **purple woundwort** on the left. The leaves of the latter are covered in fine hairs and feel velvety to the touch. This made them ideal for binding wounds in the past. Continue along the track until you stand alongside a large metal clad ring resting

on the river bed, probably a remnant from the old chemical works. The bank here leading down to the water's edge was once covered in a variety of rare orchids, unfortunately removed by a Manchester preservation society several years ago. Many **common spotted orchids** still thrive here in mid-summer, mingled with **figwort. red campion, lady's mantle, cuckoo flower, dame's violet, fat hen, bash vetch, tufted vetch, garlic mustard, tormentil,** several **speedwells** and the all-pervading **Himalayan balsam** and **Japanese knotweed.** Retrace your footsteps a few yards but this time take the footpath to the south, heading directly into the centre of the site. Where it broadens out after only a few seconds into quite a wide lane, you will notice small mounds of rubble under the trees on the right. Presumably, due to whatever is under these mounds, this area attracted the very rare yellow **bird's nest.** This unfortunately has declined in recent years and I could not find any in 1996, so it may now be extinct. But who knows what the future may bring?

Carrying on along this track to the south, watch out for **bush and tufted vetch** on the left, closely followed by the pink flowers of **French cranesbill,** disappearing slightly under the ever-expanding undergrowth of brambles. Also along this length you should spot the odd bit of **hog weed** and **ragwort, broad leaved, rosebay** and **great hairy willowherbs.** The ragwortand willowherbs are good reminders of the nearby railway. Their delicate 'parachute' type seeds spread rapidly across the countryside in the wake of the rapidly growing steam railways many years ago. A large patch of **michaelmas daisies** much closer to the line probably arrived in a similar manner.

Near the end of this patch, a few yards before the exit stile, you will see a turning off to the right. A brief excursion up here may be rewarding if you can spare a few minutes. Several yards up on the right grows an **apple tree** - a heavy cropper, but unfortunately the target of children in recent times. If you follow the path right up to the railway line you will see another stile and fence to the left slowly vanishing under more **blackberry bushes.** You will need to search carefully for this, but the edge of the bramble patch on this side of the stile hides another unusual plant - the **adder's tongue.**

Go back past the apple tree to the previous stile now and cross. You will see in front of you the last remaining house of the once bustling Nuttall village. This also served for many years as the foreman's office for the Ocean Chemical works, but very recently has been almost totally rebuilt as a private residence. Ten yards before this house, if you duck under the trees to the left, next to the river, there grows a large patch of **common spotted orchid** - over 60 specimens in a four-foot circle last year.

Continue along the road past the houses but notice two tracks leading off under the trees to the left, wherethe road bends right up the hill. Take the second of these. It can be a bit muddy in bad weather, so be careful. Half way down you will pass a largish patch of **creeping jenny** on the right. This track emerges next to a second green footbridge over the river - our way back to the park - but for now we'll take a brief diversion off to the right towards the railway cutting. The field we enter is a forest of pink spires of **bistort** in summer - 'sweaty feet', as it is known locally. Try smelling one and you will soon realise why. A tarmac path follows the side of the railway

cutting at the far end of the field - lined on both sides with ground elder, cow parsley, bistort and the lovely aniseed smelling (andtasting) sweet cicely. The young seed pods are particularly tasty! You may find the odd sprig of sheep's sorrel too - becoming more common in the next field towards Summerseat.

At this point we will back track to the green bridge and cross over the river. A large pussy willow tree overhangs the far end of this bridge, its catkins bursting with yellow pollen in spring. Turn left now - the path follows the river all the way back to Jacob's Ladder, a scenic part of the route, but devoid of anything new in the way of flowers apart from a patch of ivy covering a wall next to the river. There are several patches of pink purslane and red campion on the way. This path takes you directly under Jacob's Ladder and up onto the lane leading back to the start of our walk. Happy hunting!

Joe CROMPTON

SLEDGING IN RAMSBOTTOM BETWEEN THE WARS

As we go to press, Ramsbottom has enjoyed an Indian Summer of a September, but may well experience a fierce winter. 'Ramsbottom,' Fred HANSON said to me earlier this year when we were discussing its weather in contrast to that of Southport, where he now lives, 'the one place you could guarantee there'd be always snow in winter, and you could go sledging!' I had images of the children today who resort to the bank between Albert Street and Callender Street, or to the slope to the north of St Andrew's church down Church Field. But Fred was speaking of his childhood of 70 years ago. 'There were only a few coal carts on the roads in the 1920s,' he explained, describing how The Rake was used for sledging!

Nor was this precarious pastime a male-only affair. Amy GREENHALGH (née ENTWISTLE) reminisced as part of our taping project in 1988 about a childhood just off Carr Street and later 'up Tanners'. They would sledge right from Holcombe Church ... down on the left-hand side of the Rake over the top of Rostrons Road then you shot across the road down the right-hand side over Callender Street and ended up at the *Newmarket*. But you only did it once because you were too buggered to walk back up again!'

This toboggan run down to the *Newmarket Inn* (3, Market Place, in premises now occupied by the Community Education Service) must have been around half-a-mile long! Some of the lads, however were even more daring. 'If the gates were closed,' Fred HANSON recalls, ' we'd hit them. Otherwise we'd come to a stop just where you turn in for the cricket club!' And remember that Bridge Street was then on a bus route!

It's as well that there is as now so much traffic on The Rake - imagine slithering up that one in four climb (dangerous enough today) and running the risk of being crippled by a flying sledge. I bet the adults cursed those children just as much we moan about skateboards and pavement-cyclists.

Andrew TODD

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RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE

CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY BLO 9AE

The objects of the Society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public, by creating an awareness 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 artifacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

1998 PROGRAMME

April 15th	**Eleventh Birthday Meeting** Mr Brian Unsworth - *Aspects of Nature* - A fully illustrated slide show of Nature and its beauty
May 20th	**Annual General Meeting** Mr George Clarke - *The History of Brass Bands*. Mr Clarke tells this story and hopes to be able to illustrate with SOUND!
June 17th	Mrs Jan Barnes - *The Bridge Family of Hawkshaw*
July 15th	Mrs Jan Barnes conducts a walk around Hawkshaw - *venue to be arranged*
Aug 19th	Mr Mike Creswell - *Smells, Smoke and Smallpox - The Sanitary Condition of Bolton*
Sept 16th	Mr Dave Edwards - *The Countryside Warden Service* - illustrated
Oct 21st	Mr Ron Standring - *Humorous Talk*
Nov 18th	Mr Jesse Riley - *The 20th Foot Regiment of the Lancashire Fusiliers* - illustrated
Dec 9th	To be arranged

1999 PROGRAMME

Jan 20th	Mrs K Mulholland - *A Cry of Innocence* - based on the book about the Pendle Witches
Feb 17th	Miss S Weymont - *Moorland Mills* - illustrated
Mar 17th	Photographic Competition
April 21st	Birthday Meeting - Mr T E Ashworth - *Celebration of the ELR* - film of the first opening
May 19th	AGM

All indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, 7.30 for 7.45pm

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FRONT COVER - Middle Ridge, Redisher, drawn by Marjorie Nuttall

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Over the last few weeks, a large number of Society members have died. Some we knew better than others, but our heartfelt sympathies go out to all who feel their loss.

Hilda BARRETT died on 12th October, of one of the Society’s staunchest supporters. She was a regular weekend helper at the Heritage Centre where her wealth of local knowledge was put to good use by many visitors. On Tuesday afternoons she spent many hours sorting and filing archive material and helping with the displays. Her greatest contribution was probably her talent for identifying and dating photographs, with no information as to when or where they were taken. Even the most obscure photograph was usually explained after Hilda had inspected it with her special magnifying glass and discussed possibilities with husband Tom all the angles from which it could have been taken and the features, often long gone, which would date it. She had a fund of reminiscences going back to her childhood in the 1930s which she was always happy to share, especially with the children who came to the Centre on school visits. Just read her account of such a visit in the Winter/Spring 1992 edition of this magazine.

Hilda started work at the Chatterton Weaving Company in 1938. (Readers may remember the article she wrote for the Summer 1993 edition of this magazine about her first day as a mill girl.) After much persuasion she had started to write down reminiscences about her childhood at Sheephey Farm, and later at Stubbins. Sadly she never managed to complete the article but, with help from her sisters, Marion and Freda, we hope eventually to be able to publish at least some of her recollections. Hilda will be remembered at the Heritage Centre for the valuable work she did there for the help she gave to so many people by passing on her experiences of life work in Ramsbottom over a period from the Thirties and the Second World War the present. She will also be missed for her independent spirit, her good nature her sense of humour which enlivened many a dull afternoon at the Centre.

Hilda's brother, Harry POOLE, a longstanding member, and a well-known attender at meetings, died in hospital on 17* November last, aged 78. He spent most of his working life in farming, and served as secretary of the Edenfield Horticultural Society in earlier days. The POOLE family were brought up in Stubbins where Harold always lived. He was eldest, with three sisters: Hilda, who had died just five weeks before, Marion and Freda. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Roy FISHWICK (1910-97) died on 22nd December at *The Cliffe,* Stubbins, after a long illness. He was born in Cheshire. After his marriage to Joan, a Ramsbottom resident, in the 1940s he moved to Bury New Road, Ramsbottom, where he spent the greater part of his working life and retirement. He had a passion for photography. From 1950 until his retirement he was chief photographer at the *Bury Times* and there set up the photo engraving department, a great step forward for a local newspaper. He always worked freelance from his home, and was an associate of the Royal Photographic Society (ARPS), member of the Bolton Camera Club and Bury Camera Club. Many photographic awards were won by Roy; his articles were published in leading photographic journals.

At Christmas 1997 he donated over 70 of his photographs to the Heritage Society; one of our most valued records. Selections of them are displayed at the Centre. Roy was also an accomplished athlete, representing England and Great Britain in steeplechasing and cross country. Only illness prevented him in the last few years from daily walks and jogging. He advised us on ‘good walks'.

In the mid-1990s the workers in the Archive Group were joined by Roy and Joan every Tuesday afternoon to help sort and file photographs and documents given to us. His quiet humour and teasing certainly helped us to enjoy the job and not lake it all too seriously. We remember him as a friend to co-workers and to our Society.

Brenda Decent

Maggie OATES (formerly POMPHRET) - 1998 opened very sadly for the Society, our only Honorary Member, Mrs Maggie OATES dying in her sleep at Hazlehurst Nursing Home, aged 83.

Maggie was a very strong character, always ready to right an injustice, respected by all who knew her, whether working as a weaver in a local mill, as a porter at Ramsbottom station, or as the first woman councillor on the Ramsbottom Urban District Council, where she was later to become the first and only woman to be given the honour of Leader. She retired in 1974. However, she remained involved with many local organisations, and was a JP and school governor, always ready to serve the community she loved.
It was this impressive record which led the Heritage Society in August 1991 to grant her honorary membership, on which occasion she brought three generations of her family to the Heritage Centre.
Maggie was a ‘one-off, loved and esteemed by all - there will never be another like her in the town. How we miss her, what memories we shall keep in our hearts

Dorothy Moss

Edith ROBINSON (1907-97) who died in October, was born in Padiham, but lived mostof her life in the Edenfield and Holcombe Brook areas. Until almost the end of her life she remained alert and her recollections of life in Ramsbottom over such a lengthy

period were perhaps her most valuable contribution to the work of the Society. She wrote articles for this magazine (like *Journeys down Memory Lane,* in the Summer 1991 edition, about transport in the early years of this century; and *Melvin CRAWSHAW: 'The Chemist on the Comer',* Winter 1995/6-Summer 1996) and was interviewed by Ian SUMMERS about her early years in Edenfield, for our Oral History project. She donated many items to our collection.

Edith's recollections provided a valuable source of information much used by those of us involved with the collection, displays, the magazine or the compilation of *Around Ramsbottom.* In later years she became virtually housebound, unable to go out without assistance, but she still maintained a network of friends and acquaintances, many of similar age to herself, most of whom she kept in contact with either by telephone or through the day care centre at Ramsbottom Cricket Club. When unable to answer one of our questions she would phone around until eventually she found someone who could supply the elusive piece of information. At her funeral service in Holcombe Brook Methodist Church (which she had attended for many years) the Minister aptly described her as 'a character'. Like many of her generations she was fiercely independent yet always ready to offer help to anyone else. She will be greatly missed by the Heritage Society.

Barbara Park

Heritage Centre Reopening - this will take place on Easter Saturday, 11th April 1998. Lillian CULLEN will be displaying her spinning skills on Sunday 12th.

SOCIETY SKETCHES - ANDREW TODD

Eleven years ago, at the Society's inaugural meeting, local historian Andrew TODD accepted the position of Chairman. Born in Droylsden near Manchester, he came to Ramsbottom in 1977. He is married to Irene ALLEN (now running a successful printing and stationery business on Square Street) and they have four children, Isabella, Christopher. Hannah and Eleanor, all currently at St Paul's School.

Andrew taught history in Bolton schools from 1974 and is currently Assistant Principal at North Bolton Sixth Form College, teaching politics.

Author of several books on family and local history, he gives local history talks to clubs and groups and for light relief has trained as a signalman for the East Lancashire Railway, where he can occasionally be seen operating Ramsbottom's level crossing! Although obviously a very busy man, Andrew has capably steered the Society through its early years. He initiated (and recently revived) the Oral History Taping Group which records the memories of our older citizens, and he has encouraged members to research local history and to write short articles for the Society News Magazine which he founded in 1990. In 1995 he organised a writing competition and the entries formed the first volume of *Ramsbottom Reminiscences,* to be followed by a second volume in 1997. In 1995, with the help of Brenda DECENT and Barbara PARK, he edited the Society's first book of photographs, all from the collection held at the Heritage Centre in Carr Street. These three books, our 'best sellers', have found their way round the world and into many people's Christmas stockings.

We are indebted to Andrew for his good sense, his willingness to help those researching the area and his care and concern for the Society and all it stands for.

We have been most fortunate in our first Chairman. He feels now he has so many family and job commitments that it is time he stepped down. Thankfully he has agreed to remain as Editor of this News Magazine, to continue to co-ordinate the Oral History Taping Team, and of course he will always be available to give us his invaluable advice.

The Committee thanks him most sincerely for all he has done for the Society, his will be a hard act to follow.

At the AGM in May we must look for another dedicated worker to continue the Society's aim of recording the past and present history of Ramsbottom for future generations and historians.

The Committee

PEEL BROW IN THE '20S: SOME BOYHOOD RECOLLECTIONS

We moved from Garnett Street to 93. Peel Brow, near the turn off into Box Street, in the 1920s. Our neighbours were a retired couple and a widow. We had bought the house and paid ground rent to a collector who lived in the end house of the row, who passed the rents for the row on to the landlord - GRANT LAWSON, I believe. The top row of Peel Brow had a more open aspect in those days, but it was a long climb up from the town! Our part of Peel Brow was definitely part of Ramsbottom, but Shuttleworth was a separate community. There were local food shops, and some shopping was done on Bridge Street, Bolton Street, and in Bury, with an occasional trip to Bolton or Rawtcnstall. Ned GREENHALGH came round daily with his greengrocery cart. He lived across the road and stabled his horse at the back of the lower end of the fifth row of houses on the north side of Peel Brow. The two fifth rows (north and south side) were demolished to make room for the M66.

I soon found myself in the Infant Class of Peel Brow Council School where I seem to recall doing some craft work and struggling with a pair of scissors. The school was demolished not long after the new road was built but a few memories still remain, such as the hymn and prayer of morning assembly with the Headmaster, Mr CHESHIRE, presiding; and the chanting and oral testing of multiplication tables in Standard 1 (a method of teaching which obviously worked as they have been fixed in my mind ever since, proving very useful). We went to school in clogs and come to think of it must have made a bit of a clatter as we moved about the building, but 1 think discipline and behaviour were good. Each classroom had formal rows of desks rising towards the back of the room, each desk with an ink well which sometimes had blotting paper stuffed into it.

After a brief sojourn in Standard 2,1 was moved on for some reason to 3. The cane wasin use in those days and I had a taste of it in Standard 4 when, for blotting my Exercise Book or similar misdemeanour. I was called to the front of the class to receive a painful thwack on the hand. There was an exciting incident one day the following year when one of the teachers, demonstrating a scientific experiment, set fire to his hair from the Bunsen burner (fire soon extinguished). There was plenty of activity in the playground with the boys playing football and marbles and the girls skipping and other games, whilst top and whip was popular with both boys and girls. In a quiet corner there would be exchanges of cigarette cards, the idea being to get a complete set of whatever series you were collecting.

Just by the school, next to the top end of the sixth row of houses on the north side of Peel Brow, was WILSON the clogger's hut. You went there when clog irons were wearing thin and needed renewing. To await your turn you sat on a bench and watched the clogger working over his last, making and mending. Having paid your few pence and feeling slightly taller it was good fun to go running and scuffing the pavement till the sparks flew. [There is a 1915 photograph of Robert WILSON, clogger, outside his Peel Brow hut on page 11 of Ken BEETSON's *Ramsbottom,* Volume 2 (1978)-Editor.]

Horse drawn vehicles were quite common on the roads and streets, the grocery cart and the milk-float appearing daily. The milk was direct from the farm at the top of Bury New Road and carried in a large churn from which the farmer would ladle it into a measure and deliver it to the jug on the doorstep. The two wheeled float had steps at the rear and when you went for a ride occasionally it was a bit like riding in a chariot. The cart horses seemed to be usually placid and willing workers, but unfortunately on one sad day a heavy horse collapsed and died just at the side of the road, to the dismay of people living in the vicinity. Of course the coal can came round regularly and the Council can for the purposes of emptying the ash pits in the back yards before the advent of metal dust bins. Then there were the street criers.

The Rag 'n' Bone man would appear round the backs periodically with his unmistakable cry of 'Ragbone'. He had a small cart pulled by a rather dejected looking donkey and if you gave him somehe would present you with a nibbing stone, which as used for adding a decorative effectto door steps and window sills. 1 understood that the rags were used in paper makingbut the bones were quite a mystery. There was also the man who came round with a large basket on his head or shoulder crying 'Oatcakes, Milk Cakes, Crumpets', and very nice they were too. On Saturday evening the newspaper seller would be shouting 'lastsports' with the latest sports results.

Mothers of young children normally stayed at home in those days and there was certainly plenty of work without the advantage of electricity and labour-saving devices, so that washing for instance would be done with a posser and tub, and a carpet would be draped over a clothes line and beaten. So washing, ironing, baking, mending, cleaning and shopping filled in most of the week. In the earlier days our house was lit by gas downstairs and upstairs it was candlelight. I remember the excitement when we were wired up for electricity and there was actually a switch over the bed. The street lights were lit by gas too, and the lamplighter would come round daily to each one.

My friends and I had a variety of games which we played around the streets, one such pastime being hoops. You had a large iron hoop two feet or more in diameter, and a guider which was an iron rod with a hook at one end. The idea was to keep the hoop rolling, controlling it with the guider and running along with it (or after it); this needed some skill and could be quite interesting on streets or varying gradients There was a conveniently situated sweet shop on the comer where we could spend ha'pennies and pennies for such delights as strips of liquorice, sherbet fountains, dolly mixtures, aniseed balls, Pontefract cakes etc.

More adventurous play took us to Grants Tower and Nuttall Woods but quite often we went on t'Rec (the Recreation Ground, on the north side of Peel Brow, just beyond the allotment area) to play cricket or football, or to fly kites. The 'top Rec' had the school

on one side and reached up to the houses on Whalley Road; on the otherside of a hedgerow was 't'bottom Rec' (now a housing estate), extending up to what isnow the edge of the M66. T'top Rec had swings, and a bandstand - the M66 must havecut through about half of it, obliterating the part where people would sit on the grass and enjoy the Sunday afternoon concerts sometimes held there. T'bottom Rec was more level and better for cricket and football pitches. It had a gate at the end of Fern Street. In June each year the grass was mown and we enjoyed jumping and rolling in the hay. I don't recall suffering from hay fever but we had the traditional remedies of Fennings Fever Cure, Scott's Emulsion, Syrup of Figs, Virol etc. There being no National Health Service, calling a Doctor or going to see him meant receiving a bill for his services.

My brother and I were brought up to attend regularly the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School (latterly Christ Church) and once a year in May it was the Anniversary or 'Sermons' which involved rehearsals for weeks prior to the big day for the junior choirand full-voiced singing by the congregation to make a memorable occasion. It was customary to have some new clothes 'fer t'Sermons and Whitsun', thereafter for 'Sunday best' and last year's demoted to everyday wear. With Whitsun came the Whit Walks. Most of them were held on Whit Friday morning although the Roman Catholic Church walked on the Sunday. As each of the several churches had its own procession with varied routes, and assemblies on the Market Place, prior organisation and manoeuvringthrough the streets was necessary. The brass bands had to endeavour not to conflict withone another and if it was windy the banner carriers could be in trouble having to exercise their strength to keep on course. Stops were made at a few homes and the hospital where hymns were sung for the benefit of the sick and infirm. In the afternoon it was customary to have sports and games in a field hired for the day, then a picnic tea; whilst the band that had been leading the morning procession relaxed and played a selection of light music.

As regards music at home we had a piano with brass candle holders attached to the front and a wind-up gramophone with a metal horn (plastic not invented). The days of singing around the piano were passing but my mother would often play and sing and we always had a family sing-song at Christmas. Our collection of gramophone records included some of the small sixpenny ones which could be bought at Woolworth's, where incidentally everything was sixpence or less. If the music began to slow down during play a few more turns on the handle were required, and the needle needed changing fairly frequently.

One day my older cousin introduced me to the technological wonder of the Crystal Set. I remember putting the headphones on and hearing a band playing somewhat faintly. It wasn't long before radios, referred to as wireless sets, began to arrive in the shops. But people tended to go out for entertainment. There were long queues outside the cinemas especially on Saturday evenings, there was ballroom dancing at the Liberal Club and also the pubs seemed quite busy. The main streets were alive with people, Saturday afternoon at t'pictures was a treat for the children, and both cinemas would be full of excited youngsters eager to see the latest film and freed from parental control for an hour or two. In the silent film days the sound effects were provided partly by a piano and partly by the children. The *Empire* had a balcony and for those sitting on the front row there was the added diversion of dropping toffee wrappers on the ones sitting below in the stalls.

On Saturday mornings I sometimes visited my auntie and uncle in Spring Street, on the other side of the town, usually doing some shopping for her and thereby earning a penny or two. Behind *The Major,* quite near to where she lived was a smithy and I liked to go and watch the farrier at work with the horses, removing worn shoes, fixing new ones, trimming the hooves and so on. My uncle was with the Ramsbottom Co-op Society and would be working with horse and motor transport.

Of course more motor vehicles were appearing on the scene although very few people had cars. However my uncle was the proud owner of one of the early models; I don't know what make it was but I don't think it went very fast. It was garaged at the top of the street - but it would have been quite safe to leave it on the street, theft, burglary and vandalism being very rare in those days. People often left their doors unlocked.

The Co-op had a charabanc with an open top which took people to the seaside, an adjustable cover being drawn over if there was rain. It was an event if an aeroplane passed over the town. People would hurry to their doors when they heard the engine, gazing skywards, pointing and asking one another if they had seen it.

At the back of Peel Brow was a large area given over to garden allotments and hen pens and quite a few people, including my father, kept some poultry. He would go out to see to them in a morning before setting out to walk to work at TURNBULL and STOCKDALE, Stubbins. So we enjoyed fresh eggs and occasionally there would be a fresh chicken for the table, also once in a while there was the excitement of a batch of newly hatched chicks to nurture. In the early morning my sleep was usually disturbed by a chorus of crowing cocks, and then later by a clatter of clogs as workers wended their ways to the mills, the mill chimneys and many house chimneys puffing out smoke over the town at the beginning of a new day.

Herbert Collier

We were sorry to learn from Edna COLLIER. Herbert's wife, that he had died unexpectedly on 22th November. Herbert had visited the Centre, and made several valuable donations, including photographs of Bolton Street. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends - Editor.

ROBERT THORPE: TURNBULL AND STOCKDALE'S LAST BLOCK CUTTER

This distinction belonged to Robert THORPE of Holcombe Brook, writes his daughter Mrs Jenny WHITTAKER of Bangor Road, Caernarfon, Gwynedd. She sent us the photograph of her father at work, reproduced here, together with a 1958 newspaper article. Unfortunately she does not know the exact date or title, though the *Bury Times* must be favourite.

Family followed the Factory

Block-cutting is a dying craft, says 66 year-old Robert Thorpe and he ought to know, for he has just retired after spending 53 years with a Ramsbottom firm of calico printers.



Mr. Thorpe, who lives in Bolton Road West, Holcombe Brook, believes that there is nothing to beat the hand printed material which he has helped to produce. “Now the fabric designs are getting more and more complicated and the mills print a greater amount of material from one single design." he said.

Mr. Thorpe's work entailed a great deal of skill, and it was only after a seven years’ apprenticeship that he became a block-cutter with Turnbull and Stockdale Ltd. at the Rosebank Mill, Stubbins.

The Thorpe family has a strong association with 'Turnbull and Stockdale, Mr. Thorpe’s

Father worked there more than 20 years.

Brother retired last December after 54 years’ service with the firm. Nephew is still working there with 20 years’ service to his credit.

The total service amounts to around 150 years.

Mr. Thorpe’s first job was as a tier boy at the age of 12. Then, the mill was at Stacksteads. Rut when the firm moved to Stubbins in 1906 the Thorpe family moved, too.

Now Mr. Thorpe will spend his time in the allotment near his home, but he keeps two of his blocks, cut artistically out of wood and raised copper, on show **in the living room.**

They are typical of his work of 20 or more years ago.

Material for curtains and furniture, hand printed with blocks made by Mr. Thorpe, can be found all over the world. As a farewell celebration, his workmates held a cocktail party in the printing room at the mill.

The tierer. mentioned in the article, was usually a young boy or woman who worked with a block printer, providing an even layer of colour from which the block was recharged after each printing application. Mrs WHITTAKER adds some detail about this company family: Robert's father was William THORPE, whilst his brother was John THORPE, latterly warehouse manager, retiring in 1957. Robert's nephew. Jack, was John's son and worked in TURNBULL and STOCKDALE's office in Cuba Mill as Export Clerk. He died in 1961 at the age of 39.

Andrew Todd

HOW THE HANSON FAMILY CAME TO RAMSBOTTOM

Fred Ashworth HANSON described, in our last issue, his memories of life at Carr Fold in the 1920s and 1930s. Here, he explains how his family came to the town in 1919 - Editor.

Fred HANSON, my grandfather, was born 1865. According to family tradition, he was one of the HANSONs of the Halifax area who owned a lot of properly, buses and trams. Due to a family disagreement he left the area and went to live at Rochdale Road. Bacup, working as an odd job man and carter, with a horse and cart. This would be about 1896. He married Esther YATES about 1888. and their son Thomas Ashworth HANSON was born in 1892. Around 1895 they moved to Ramsbottom and settled in 18a, Dundee Lane which in that period was a high-quality area.

Being devout Baptists they joined the church, becoming gradually deacon and deaconess. They had their own pew scat for which they paid 7s 6d per annum, to help cover chapel expenses. The Minister's salary in 1924 was £80 per annum, the upkeep was mostly voluntary and costless, the Church was a Tower of Strength, Faith and Hope, and a way of life, i.e. the Minister's reference was required for jobs, plus attendance at Church - there would be very few in work in the 1990s if this was still so! Esther and Fred attended Chapel and Sunday School, Sundays and Guilds in the week, being very devout. The church guilds were meetings of the deacons, deaconesses, lay preachers, sidesmen, the choir leader, the Sunday School teachers and Minister. Esther's sister Hannah didn't go to Chapel, as far as I knew, of course this was the 1920s when I started attending. And yet Hannah had a family bible! Grandfather Fred was a very tolerant, and easy-going man. He'd doanything for you. or any one in need. Esther was the opposite. Very stern and strict, we children never spoke until spoken to. She would not brook opposition, thus the fall out at Halifax around 1890. It would be interesting to know what the disagreement was about to cause loss of inheritance.

Grandfather had a small warehouse in Dundee Lane, a shed about 30 feet by 15 He was a self-employed rope splicer and dealer in cotton waste, tab ends (i.e. ends of cloth), hemp (string) and sisal (straw string), from which he made a fair living, working alone. I used to help him out from the age of 12 (1930) until his death in 1936. mostly bundling half towels which sold for 6d each on Bury Market. I also sorted string, wrote the odd letter to Redisher Works and to merchants who bought the hemp and sisal. His main income was from mending broken manilla hemp rope pulleys, which were used to drive looms and for horse harnesses. Rope splicing was a craft in itself, and Grandfather was sent for by mills and workshops immediately a rope broke, and was paid 7s 6d an hour in the 1920s. Redisher Works used to send a pony and trap to 18a, Dundee Lane for him, and return him home afterwards!

Thomas Ashworth HANSON, my father, attended Chapel regularly up to the 1914 war. He was in the choir. He went to Holcombe Day School, leaving at 12 years-old. when he was sent to John WOODS' Foundry as an apprentice engineer, costing £100 and taking seven years. He started at 5.30am. his first job was to take two three-gallon cans to the pub, which opened at 6am, get them filled with beer, a shilling a can, and have it in the Works by 6.15am. He went again at 10am and at 2pm, six days a week. Hence he eventually got a taste for ale. His parents were strictly teetotal, life would be difficult. In 1911 he became a fully-fledged engineer, working mostly as an outfitter.

Soon after the outbreak of war, he joined the Lancashire Fusiliers at Bury Barracks. Whilst on leave in London - probably just 48 hours, so too far to come home to Ramsbottom - he met my mother, Alice Maud MORTON. He spent his leaves courting her, and they married at Camberwell in 1916, where I was born in 1918. With the end of the war and 'Land Fit for Heroes' promised in 1914,15,16,17 and 18, forgotten, no jobs, no dole. Only a means test ie if there were four of you and you had five chairs you sold one and your next hope was food cheques. On demob in 1919 there'd be too many looking for work in London, so they came hopefully back to Ramsbottom where my grandparents were established.

Granddad had got us a house to rent at 2s 11d per week. One living room, very small kitchen, no back door, one large bedroom with one window and a large beam running the full length of the room, one foot square. Four double-beds and a cot were packed into this room with three 'jerries' got at 6d each on the market. Outside the window were Uncle Jim's hen pens covering half an acre with about 200 hens and a dozen cocks with crowed at 3.00am in summer and with every conquest, usually 200 crows.

The houses had no water, same being carried from a well 100 yards away. 20 houses were served by this well, and buckets were a must. Mondays it took 20 buckets to fill the tub before going to school, after taking the papers. Toilets were round by the coal shed 30 yards away, three houses to a toilet. Queued sometimes and Brooky took a library book. Earth toilets, flush not invented. Midden cart came once a month with waders and spades. We took to the hills for the day!

Fred A Hanson

This cottage, no 7, Carr Fold, was described in detail in Ramsbottom Reminiscences, Volume 2, pages 22-5. Fred has written extensively of his time in Ramsbottom, and we will publish more of his interesting recollections in the future - Editor.

MEMORIES OF THE OLD POLICE STATION

As a small child, I lived at the Police Station next to the level crossing, now part of The Wharf. We came to Ramsbottom when my father took charge of the local police force in December 1931.

I don't know whether the police station had been purpose built, but it resembled two stone-built Victorian houses. We lived in one half and my father's co-sergeant lived in the other half. The front room of our house was the actual police station office and facing our living room door was 'the cell'.

The cobbled area now part of The Wharf was our back-yard. It was an 'open back' for the two houses and the lavatories were in the back yard. A picture of the front of the property is on sale at the Heritage Centre in Carr Street. Next door to us were the ruins of the old toll bar on the Peel Brow side.

On the railway side there was a small building with large weighing scales inside. The railway was very busy and, although the trains thundered past our living room window, we ourselves never noticed the noise.

I recall being told that on New Years Day 1932 my father and some of the men had to disarm a lunatic who had escaped from Prestwich Asylum and was standing at the top of Bridge Street waving a carving knife. My only recollection of a prisoner in the cells is of a drunk kept in the cells overnight who devoured a complete loaf of bread and jam, provided by my mother, before he was released sober.

Around 1935/6, the Lancashire Constabulary purchased St Paul's Vicarage in Crow Lane (now the site of Peel Chapel) and this became the new Police Station. It had two purpose-built cells at the back of the building.

Leslie R Norris

RIDGWAYS: A CHRONICLE OF OUR OWNERSHIP OF A COTTAGE ON THE RIDGE, 1944

Edgar Alfred NUTTALL had died at Christmas 1935, leaving a widow, Marjorie with two infant daughters, Christine and Barbara. Early in the War, Marjorie moved her small family from their house at 14, Mayfield Road, Holcombe Brook, to Aislaby, 512, Bolton Road West, the home of her husband's parents, Alfred and Mary NUTTALL. Between October 1944 and February 1945, Marjorie kept an account of her family's associations with Middle Ridge, a cottage above Redisher.

'Our father's parents gave us a home during the war partly to escape having evacuees billeted upon them writes Christine, 'but it was a generous and loving arrangement.' One summer evening, around Whitsuntide in 1944, Marjorie and her elder sister Dolly BROOME were out walking along the Ridge, that stretch of high ground between the slopes of Holcombe Hill and the raised area of Simon's. They found an empty cottage, Middle Ridge, long derelict and damp, with broken windows and gaping doorways. And so began an association with this delightful spot which lasted nearly 10 years, during which they resorted to the house for weekends and holidays. Christine and Barbara typed and annotated their mother's delightful record of these years in 1996, and have given us permission to use extracts. The account evokes an era of country life of half a century ago, on the doorstep of an industrial town. There are also echoes of rural life from much earlier periods — life in a stone dwelling without the 20th Century necessities, and timelessly reliant therefore on the candle, the spout and the wood fall.

Marjorie NUTTALL's account has, as yet, not been published, but if anyone wants to register an interest in a copy should publication take place, they need to write to Barbara (address below). The body of the text is as written by Marjorie NUTTALL in 1945; explanatory annotations by her daughters I have bracketed as Notes; my own additions I have put in editorial square brackets - Editor.

The Ridge is farmed by John Heap of Higher Redisher - and hard farming it must be - for it has steep rough roads which become quagmires after rain, and ever)' field is sloping. We called at his farm on our way home and rang the bell at the little window which looks out onto the farmyard. Mrs. Heap, who hails from the Cumberland border, was alone, reading before a bright fire.

(Note: All the ridge farms were painted bright red, it was the 'colour' of the landlord and his way of showing which belonged to him. I had long been attracted to these red barn doors which stood out plainly as you walked to 'Catkin Corner', a favourite walk of our very young days.)

[Mr. Heap] only rented the land and had nothing to do with the letting of the dwelling places. Our best plan would be to meet the manager of the Owner's mill.. . who lives round the bend in the lane. His house, a sturdy stone building, faces South and well suits the bleak moorland country behind.

'Too many repairs needed,' he said, 'and we simply haven't the labour to spare.' 'Oh, we only want it for a picnic place and it wouldn't need to be in good repair for that,' said I, blissfully unmindful of possible leaking roofs, and deliberately forgetting those gaping windows.

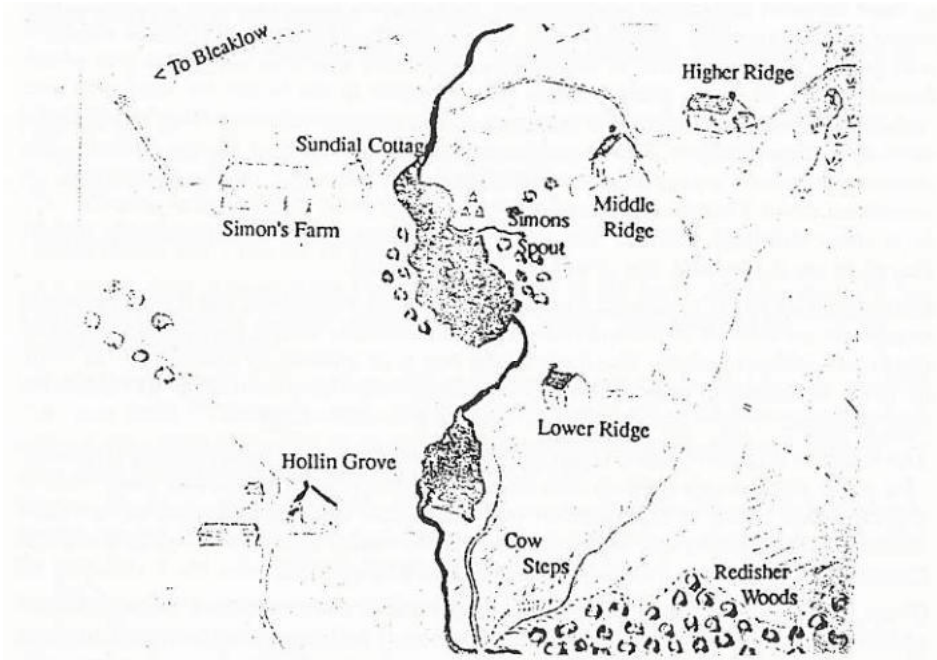
He agreed to talk it over with the Owner....

(Note: The manager was a chap we called 'Old Scopy' (Mr. Schofield). He used to shout and chase us when we trespassed in Redisher Woods, kept private by the dye works which lay in the valley bottom and gathered water in the lodges from the Red Brook. The Owner was the Ainsworth family, mill owners (of the aforementioned dyeworks) and land owners in the Holcombe area.)

[The family took the cottage for an initial six months at four shillings a week, and took their first proper look on Whit Monday, 1944.]

On opening the door we found ourselves in a small flagged porch and met a very stale and musty smell. The inner door was as tricky as the outer one, but a few moments saw us inside, breathing still more mustiness and surveying with concern all the rubbish to be moved.

Cousin J (Note: Jean Nuttall) who was having her day's holiday, elected to start with Bistles [ie Barbara] in the bedrooms. One of the bedrooms is a good square room with



Marjorie Nuttall's map of the Ridge

a sash window looking over the [Rifle] Range towards Edgeworth. In the distance can be seen Turton Heights with the dark head of Winter Hill behind. This room has a good fireplace and the walls, when cleared of their limp trailing paper, proved to be quite a clean blue colour. The boards of the floor were wide and solid and most of them well-fitted together.

The smaller room is more like a glorified landing than a bedroom but is much preferred by the children because of its quaintness. The short staircase leads right into it and it has a steep sloping ceiling and a tiny mullioned window which faces East and rises only about five feet from the lane. This small room has somehow become our ‘guest room’ and as we use the wide window sill as a dressing table, we always warn the guest not to leave any valuable there, as a tall man could easily put his hand in the window and take them! The tall man has now become almost a cottage legend.

We were trying out a few ideas of how to block the broken windows with bits of wood and brattice cloth (Note: Strong tarred cloth) when who should arrive but the Mill Manager and his Joiner, who was off work with a broken arm. They seemed surprised to find the place needing so few repairs, and owing, no doubt, to seeing our weak feminine efforts at joinerying, they at once measured up the windows and agreed to put in new panes.

Whit-Friday ... many people were out on the Ridge having picnics ... we put on the kettle and got out the ‘great cloam’ cups. (Note: The term first heard when we had tea at Entwistle Station when walking to the 'Craggy Valley’ (Earnshaw) and the lady of the house apologised for only having ‘cloam cups’. They were large and clumsy and we used this word for any cups or mugs that were a bit rough.)

The kettle was ‘singing the first verse’, as our friend the Post Mistress in Edgeworth says,when a party of picnickers knocked at the door to ask if we would brew their tea for them! So began our slight trade; we have brewed for many parties since then. (Note: The reason folk asked for tea was that ‘POTS OF TEA' was painted in white on the little red wooden cabin at the end of the barn (the old privy).)

It was about this time that we started to use the water from Simon's Spout in preference to the water from the spout over the Ridge. Mrs. Heap explained that Simon’s water was spring water and therefore pure, but from the other spout came only collected surface water from the Ranges. The difference in colour is very easily seen; the spring water is crystal clear while the other is always faintly brown... at its clearest. In the hot weather when our fruit drinks were popular, it was probably the icy coldness of the spring water that made them so.

Haytime this year came late in July owing to a very wet June. There were several fields on the Ridge under hay and it was delightful to hear the hum of the mowing machines and to have such lots of company on the Ridge, for Mr. Heap had helpers both old and young and they were a jolly crowd. Some of the fields were tricky to cut owing to the awkward slopes and it took a strong and skilful man to negotiate some of the bumps and to keep the blades cutting through the grass in straight swathes.

During the hay-time we used to go into the fields to lend an inexperienced hand with a rake. We would work with Mrs. Heap who skilfully raked down the field and up again

with untiring speed, telling us, as she did so, about her home farm which lies on the borders of England and Scotland, in fact right on the top part of Hadrian's Wall. Occasionally as we raked we uncovered tiny field mice or unlucky little shrews which had met their fate under the blade of the mower.

The men did the loading and carting and when the last load was ready Mr. Heap would call 'Bed-time' and rakes would be hung away in the barn and helpers would make their way home in straggling procession led by Fanny and Nightie (Nightingale) with the hay wagon, one horse pulling and one pulling back, so steep was the gradient.

Then followed quiet suppers in the garden washed down by cool draughts of cordial, the preparations for the morning's early breakfast and finally, in a stillness one could almost feel, locking up and wriggling into flea-bags for a sweet dreamless sleep.

If the haymaking went on till very late we went to bed before they left the Ridge and then we would hear, as we lay awake, preparations for going; the first wagon waiting for the second to turn the awkward bend, we would see George sitting astride the third horse lent from Redisher Farm, and when both wagons were firmly roped, we would hear them rattle past the little back window with harness all a- jingle and the sound of men's voices urging or quietening the horses.

Young Due's [Christine's] birthday falls at the end of July and was this year on a Sunday. She invited her Godmother to stay. (Note: Dora Congdon, friend and former colleague of Marjorie Nuttall at Broughton High School, Manchester.) Poor Godmother missed her train through a late 'bus. So Young Due went to the town (Bury) to meet her. As it was Sunday there was no transport so they had to walk back four miles to the cottage ... Sundays can be quiet on the Ridge; when nature is left to herself, there seems to be no sound at all, and if the weather is not very good there are no passers-by. We feel almost on top of the world, miles away from anybody and the stillness wraps round us like a pleasant protective covering. But there are Sundays when the peace of the Ridge is shattered tremendously by the shriek of bugles and the whizz of bullets and the smack of Sten guns firing. These are the days when the Range is used to the full and simply bristles with cars and the road leading up to it is thick with 'buses, for the Home Guard is out in full strength on its week-end manoeuvres.

The Guide Cottage (Higher Ridge) was occupied, the local scouts were camping below us at Simon's and all the Ridge seemed bustling and busy in the hot sunshine. Party after party of thirsty holidaymakers called at the cottage for tea or fruit drinks. There were two people who used to live at Cinder Hill about twenty-five years ago; there was the party from Manchester containing two old Baptist friends Mr and Mrs Lord; there was the family of twelve who tipped me a shilling and a small boy who had three consecutive fruit drinks. At one time there were over twenty people dotted about wielding our teapots and cups and jugs and we were kept congenially employed in drawing water, stoking the fire to keep two kettles always on the boil.

During the Summer, the ancient lock on the outer door broke and we were lucky enough to find a young joiner in the village who replaced it for us while we were away on holiday. The new lock has the advantage of locking both from the outside and in, so we no longer have to barricade the door at nights with a heavy log!

With the shortening of the days we had to use candle-light more and more and have gradually accumulated eight candlesticks which live at the cottage permanently. Friends have been most kind in lending them to us and one or two arc gifts outright, including the massive one from Janet's mother which came in the cottage's Christmas present! With the light from eight candles we knit and play games quite easily and they have the added blessing of contributing quite a considerable amount of warmth. We are told that Ralph Rooney (Note: Local worthy from Hawkshaw, who among many other exploits walked from Land's End to John O'Groats uses candles in his house for that very reason.) We find the sixteen inch candles very much more useful than the usual 12 inch. They burn for a whole evening & more, without any attention and standing so tall in their sticks they look so much more dignified!

Autumn has proved a delightful time at Middle Ridge. With the cooler days the cottage inside has seemed drier. In Summer time there is a lot of condensation on the cold stone flags and walls inside, but this disappeared in Autumn and so we were able to keep the place more habitable. The early sunsets too have been so colourful and as we face due West, we get all the glory of the last fading light when we sit at tea. with a fire (which in Autumn has to be a fire), blazing in the grate and simply eating up supplies of wood.

Marjorie Nuttall

Post Script, 1996 After that first eventful year, we settled into a pattern of weekends spent there, either just ourselves or with friends; and in the Summer holidays, longer times when the weather was good. Having said that, I have memories of struggling up the 'cowsteps' in driving snow or rain, carrying everything on our backs, including a few pieces of coal sometimes, to eke out the wood. Water and wood ruled our lives at *Middle Ridge*, both had to be fetched daily to keep life going; none of us could bear to pass a dead branch if we saw one lying by the path.

The selling of pots of tea became a regular event on Bank Holidays and helped finance our retreat into the hills; and as children we loved it all. My friends and I roamed the immediate surroundings of the cottage all day long and we knew every tree, stream, bog and even blade of grass!

After about five years, my mother was not so keen to stay there, the need had gone to some extent, as we were now living in our own house, no longer with grandparents, and we children were old enough to stay on our own. Sometimes we made excursions to the pictures in Ramsbottom and thought nothing of the long trek back in the dark after leaving the bus at Holcombe Brook. Other times we sat round the fire watching it die and hoping someone else would venture into the cold dark of the wood room to get some more logs, often having frightened ourselves by telling or reading ghost stories.

Barbara Rigg

Editor's Post Script, 8th March 1998 Never having been able to resist locations with strong associations, I walked up today from Park Road to *Redisher Farm* and the Ridge with my youngest daughter. We encountered *Lower Ridge* in late afternoon - a bramble covered pile of stones, the vernacular flag fencing the best-preserved part of the whole site. As we followed the ridge track northwards, with only a few grazing sheep for company, it was the windbreak of trees, so carefully sketched by Marjorie NUTTALL half a century ago, which impacted first. They are just as reproduced in her booklet, and

on the front cover of this magazine. But *Middle Ridge* is a ruin, just three or four feet of walling in place, the rest of the masonry having fallen in. Doorjambs and window sills are still visible, as is the raised patio of flags on which the family picnicked on those summer evenings in the 1940s and 1950s. 50 yards away, *Higher Ridge* has fared no better, both properties now within MoD fencing, one of the reasons perhaps why they are uninhabited. The main handicap to all three Ridge farms, however, is their lack of vehicle access. So, I mused aloud on *Middle Ridge's* watershot stonework, and its succession of long dead inhabitants, until four year-old Eleanor brought me back to the end of the 20th Century with a start. 'Can we stop talking about this house now?' she said. 'I know it's sad, but let's stop talking about it!'

And so, as the light of a bright Spring day petered away, we left this old ruin to its own ghosts, to its memories of Young Duc and Bistles, and to *their* memories of those magic childhood summers half a lifetime ago.

SUMMERSEAT KAYAKS OF THE '40S: MORE HARMLESS CHILDREN'S GAMES FROM THE GOOD OLD DAYS

I think I am becoming a target for those who wish to relive their childhood.

On Sunday 8th February, I was photographing the newly deroofed 'Castle' in Market Place. A gentleman with cap and grey sideburns was sharing my curiosity, and gave it a once over.

'Looks a bit bleak now, doesn't it?' he said, by way of commenting on what we were both looking at.

'There will be a plaque on the back wall, with the town's history,' I volunteered, in compensation.

'Hmm, that won't last long.' Pause. 'Mr CONNOR who built this - he was a fine chap.'

And my informant became lost in the past as he recounted how Mr CONNOR, a man who was 'just there when anything needed doing', had culverted the channel in the Irwell under the bridge by Brooksbottom Mill. The channel, which took water to the Island dyeworks, ran at the edge of the river, for perhaps ¾ of a mile. The water in it would run very fast in a flood, and inevitably attracted the attentions of the local boys. They would sail down it at great and dangerous speeds. 'Mr CONNOR - he was always Mr CONNOR - covered it with concrete and puddled it. A fine job.' This perhaps in the '30s.

'There was about two or three feet of water in it,' my informant continued, by now quite animated. 'We still used to sail old tin baths down it. There'd be about a foot's headroom - we had to duck right down!' And he imitated some Hiawatha in an Indian war canoe.

As a boy of the 1950s, I am beginning to think that my generation was one of the last to enjoy an unbridled childhood. But the more I hear of some of these escapades, the more I think that *Running Wild* and *Captain Coconut* had to be!

Andrew Todd

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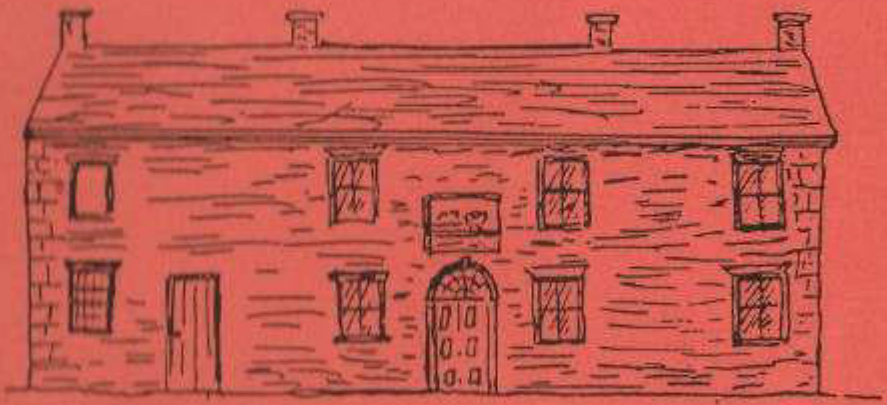

NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE

CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

1998 PROGRAMME

Oct 21st	Mr Ron Standring - *'Owd on a Bit'* - Anecdotes and Poems - a bit of dialect reminiscence
Nov 18th	Mr Jesse Riley - *The Forgotten Heroes - The 20th Foot Regiment of the Lancashire Fusiliers* - illustrated
Dec 9th	*Rocking Horses* - demonstration of how to make and decorate

1999 PROGRAMME

Jan 20th	Mrs K Mulholland - *A Cry of Innocence* - based on the book about the Pendle Witches. A new look at an age old story
Feb 17th	Miss S Weymont - *Moorland Mills* - illustrated
Mar 17th	Photographic Competition + Mr Hervey Magnall
April 21st	Birthday Meeting - Mr T E Ashworth - *Return to Lancashire* and *Big Steam on the East Lancashire Railway* - film show
May 19th	AGM; + Mr David Moss et al - *Ramsbottom Reminiscences* - tapes, slides and photographs

All indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm.

Entry by donation, please.

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FRONT COVER - The *Coach and Horses,* Edenfield, sketched around 1908 by Rawtenstall local historian Patrick Stephens

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Margaret KAY (formerly WESTWELL) died on 29th March, aged 82. She and husband George, though not members, were especially helpful in supplying information for *Around Ramsbottom,* and had only recently been recorded by Alan SEYMOUR as part of our Taping Project.

Jack W BARBER-LOMAX died in April after a long illness. An early convert to family history. Jack was one of the 1973 founders of the Rossendale Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, of which he became president. From this small, local group, meeting in Bury and Rawtenstall, grew the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, now with thousands of members worldwide. Jack's family connections in this immediate area were extensive, ranging from yeoman farmers at Whitewall, Walmersley, to calico printers (the WALKER and WHOWELL families) at Two Brooks Mill, Hawkshaw. In 1904, one of the latter, Frederick WHOWELL, built *Croich Hey,* a family residence which was subsequently (and until very recently) a local authority old people's home. Much of Jack's research has been published, including in this magazine (sec issues 6 and 9). I shall greatly miss the regular and informative correspondence which I received from Eaton Socon, St Neots, where Jack had lived most recently.

The Society's Collection - Bury Archive Service received Accession No 1998010 in September. All our documentary material (bar some large maps) and our photographic collection is now at Edwin Street, Bury BL9 0AS. Access should be possible very soon. Please telephone Archivist Kevin MULLEY on 0161 797 6697 for opening times, and to make an appointment. The Committee is grateful to Brenda and Barbara for masterminding the whole move, and to various helpers who have worked through the boxes to check contents.

TURNBULL and STOCKDALE's last-but-one block cutter? - thanks to Tom BARRETT who points out that Robert THORPE of Holcombe Brook cannot, at

retirement in 1958, have been the last block cutter at Rosebank, Stubbins, whatever the newspaper reporter wrote (see News Magazine no 16). Tom recalls that around 1966 one Thomas TAYLOR still had this job.

Market Place's embellishments - like most locals, I had to see 'the Urn' when it arrived on 5th July, to locate over its hole. Everyone will have their own story about when they first saw it, bedding down in the town's psyche, like what I was doing when 1 first heard of the death of Kennedy/Lennon/Princess Diana. Mine has to be the lady's remark outside St Joseph's as I walked down Bolton Street with two of my children. 'Going to see the Um?' she asked. I nodded. She explained how she'd spoken to a couple of visitors in Market Place. 'What is it?' they'd asked. 'An overturned vase, an urn,' she'd said. They were perplexed. 'Water will run out of it,' she added. 'Oh, like an ornament?' one said. 'We thought it was something to do with the sewers.' Already it is a favourite location for children to play tig, and in August, during one of its non-operational phases, some joker filled it with detergent, with interesting results when the water came back on. We await the first frost with interest, to see how much ice the Urn can create on Market Place. The Heritage Society has supplied the text that is featured on the historical plaque at the back of the truncated 'Castle'. Let us hope that the fine line drawings are not disfigured by youngsters whose mums and dads are in need of Jack Straw's parenting classes.

Anniversary of the Founding of the National Health Service - there was a lot of national and local coverage of this important anniversary on 5th July 1998. Some interesting 'then and now' programmes and articles came up with grim reminders of just how primitive health care was 50 years ago. For many ailments which arc now readily treated, there was simply no cure - patients were sent home from hospital to die, and indeed were probably not admitted in the first place. I have been told by an octogenarian aunt that when my grandfather was dying of heart failure at home in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester in 1950, his son was scouring the city 'looking for oxygen or something for him'. It would be valuable to collect members' personal recollections of Ramsbottom's facilities half a century or so ago, before and after the foundation of the service.

Some obvious themes could be local doctors and their surgeries; toothcare (many working class people had their teeth extracted in their twenties to save future dental fees); early experience of X-ray treatment (in its infancy in the 1940s); treatments for common ailments (e.g. low-salt diets of rice and water for high blood pressure);, opticians and spectacles; surgery; treatment of psychological disorder (bromide mixtures «and barbiturates in the mildest cases, with lobotomy as the most extreme remedy); patients' experiences in hospitals; childbirth (almost invariably at home); and, controversially, back street abortions.

It is in the nature of the best social history that it has no written sources - it is carried round in the memories of those who experienced it. This could be as patients, or their relatives, as well as doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists and administrators. We would dearly like to collect your impressions. 'These could be short or long, and written or spoken. Fred HANSON's short piece on the Cottage Hospital (see page 6) sums up in just a few paragraphs a whole historical experience in the days before the large centralised hospitals took over most patient care. It would be especially

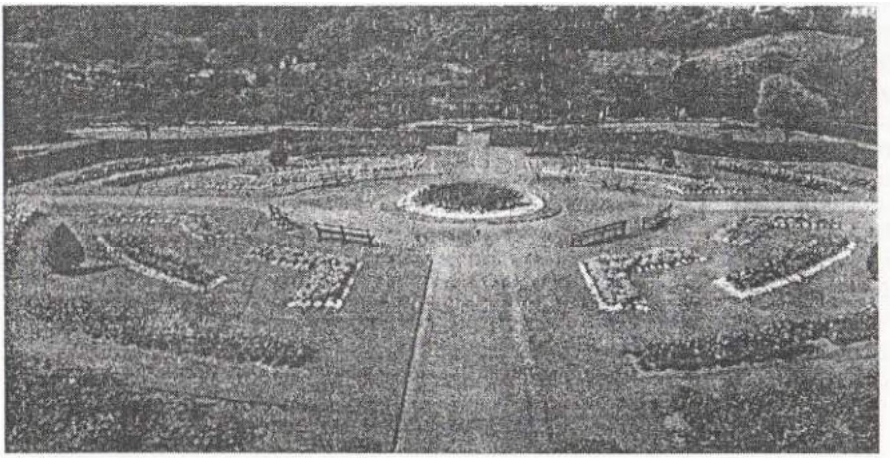
appropriate if we could collect more memories of this institution, since u enjoys its centenary on 13“ November 1999, and an article bringing together such source material would be ideal for the last issue before the Millennium.

If you want to pen something on any aspect of health care in the district (or indeedon *any* aspect of the town's history) please send it to me (183, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom. Bury BL0 9JD, 824511). If you would prefer to tape record your memories, then please commit them to cassette tape. Alternatively, if you are reasonably local, one of the taping team can arrange to come round to look after the technology and let you get on with the reminiscing! We would give you a copy (possibly of great interest to your younger relatives?) and honour any restrictions you would wish to impose on our future use of such recordings. The important thing is to get the record.

Andrew Todd

NUTTALL PARK, 1928-98

The 21" July 1998 marked the 70th anniversary of the opening of Ramsbottom's largest stretch of community-dedicated land. The date fell on a Saturday in 1928, and an RUDC programme for the opening ceremony, printed by SCHOLES and Son of Ramsbottom, survives in the Society’s collection. This programme relates the history of the 15 acres, secured 'for the health, welfare and recreation' of the town’s inhabitants through the generosity of Lt Col Austin Townsend PORRITT. Nuttall Hall had been built for John GRANT in 1817 and it was this and its surrounding grounds which had been bought in 1928 from Sir Peter Grant LAWSON (the heir to the GRANT estate in Ramsbottom. ‘The whole cost of the hall. land, footpaths, fencing, river walls, bowling green, three hard tennis courts, bandstand, seats, plants, shrubs, and everything necessary for the completion of the Park,’ explains the programme, has been munificently borne by Col PORRITT. Thelayout of the park had been designed and executed by DICKSONS Nurseries Ltd of Chester, having been selected from 10 designs submitted by various firms in open tender. The RUDCs Engineer and Surveyor, Mr A PLUNKETT, had supervised the work.



Nuttall Park, c1950, photographed by Roy Fishwick

It must have been quite a day, and the park will have been crowded. A band started the proceedings at 2.45pm with the National Anthem, and speeches from various councillors, notably Chairman J.E. WRIGLEY, and of course from Lt Col PORRITT, were interspersed with the band's various selections. The tennis courts were opened, trees were formally planted, the Colonel opened the Hall, the band played 'Auld Lang Sync', and then continued with its selection until dusk. Refreshments were provided at the Hall, 'at reasonable prices'. A commemorative plaque was placed on the Hall, and this somehow survived demolition in 1952. It now adorns a wall in our HeritageCentre.

There must be many people alive in Ramsbottom today who were in the crowd. Bert COLLIER, who unfortunately died last November, was one of the few there who have put their recollections of the day on paper. One can almost see Bert with his mum and dad, mingling with the crowd, straining to catch sight of the dignitaries, though this particular small boy remembered the sorts of things that lads always do, whether in the 1920s or the 1990s:

> **It was a good day. The weather was pleasant, the hand was playing, therewas ice cream and speeches. There were a lot of people, some standing round the band stand, some walking about, some sitting and talking or listening to the music. The neat flowerbeds were full of colours and the grass newly mown. Now and again a steam train passed by on its way to or from the Station, and on the other side of the river the cricket match. Ramsbottom were playing one of their Saturday League games. Dad thought there wouldn't be as many spectators as usual. There was tea and cakes in the Hall. It was an exciting day and of course the Park was a popular venue for several years, with games facilities, Sunday Band concerts and well-kept gardens, whilst the Hall was faintly mysterious but picturesque and serene as part of the Nuttall history and landscape**.

Of course, municipal parks have been an early target in the tax-cutting '80s and '90s. 'When I last visited the Park a few years ago,' Bert wrote in 1996, 'it was rather sad to see it so neglected, as it used to be kept so beautifully.'

Today, on August Bank Holiday Mondays, Nuttall Park may have Teddy Bears' Picnics, in concert with the East Lancashire Railway, but its layout is still very much as that crowd would have recognised it. As I walked through the park in July of this year, a green and white coat of paint was being applied to the wooden ransoms plant, located in the north west comer by the echoing footway tunnel under the railway. The painter, helping Kerry MORRISON, explained the locations of the other four sculptures, each being chainsawed into shape. The stump of the old bandstand had just had its old concrete surface dug out, and a map of the park, indicating sculpture locations, was about to be set onto it. Contractors were at work putting in drains under the fields, in an attempt to solve the waterlogging which one would always associate with this old water meadow land.

It would, I mused in my reverie, be nice to hear the band playing its 'selection' until dusk once more.

Andrew Todd

RAMSBOTTOM'S FIRST FLOODLIT FOOTBALL MATCH, 1878

This Autumn sees another anniversary for Ramsbottom. John SIMPSON takes up the story – Editor

In the Summer 1995 issue of this News Magazine, I suggested that some Ramsbottom people may have been in the crowds which watched floodlit rugby andfootball matches at Haslingden in 1878.[1] In fact they had a match much nearer hometo watch. There was some robust competition in this pioneering field after the Manchester electrical firm CW Provis staged the world's first floodlit football match at Sheffield on 14th October 1878. In the remaining months of the year. Provis andits rival Parker and Bury, also of Manchester, tried to outdo each other in candle power at a number of Lancashire venues. Unfortunately, the new technology was not always trouble-free - special trains helped to swell the crowd of 8,000 -10,000 which braved wintry weather to attend a promised floodlit match at Chorleyfootball ground. A small steam engine drove a dynamo, but from 'some cause or other,' the *Chorley Standard* reported, the wires would not carry the electricity to the poles.' Thwarted spectators surrounded the electricians and, as the *Standard* putit, 'uttered strong expressions of disappointment'.[2]

The electrical apparatus proved to be a little more successful at Ramsbottom two months later. The *Bury Times* of 14th December 1878 (page 1, column 1) announced:

FOOTBALL MATCH BY THE
ELECTRIC LIGHT
THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING, SEVEN O'CLOCK AT TWO
GATES 3 NUTTALL LANE, RAMSBOTTOM
After the Match DANCING
AND RACES
TWO BRASS BANDS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE

Admission	**6d**	**each**
Enclosure	**1s**	**"**
Carriages	**2s 6d**	**"**

Judging from this report in the *Bury Times* of 21st December 1878 (page 8, column4) everything went well:

> **THE ELECTRIC LIGHT - On Saturday night a football match, organised by members of the Ramsbottom Cricket Club, took place in field at Two Gates, Nuttall Lane, by the aid of the electric light, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather there was a very large attendance of spectators. Two lights were in operation, and considering the dense fog that prevailed, proved most effective in their illumination. The match was between Holcombe and Ramsbottom clubs, and the result was a victory for the former, who obtained four goals, whilst the Ramsbottom team only secured one. The 57th LRV and Stubbins Vale Brass Bands were in attendance, and played for dancing at the conclusion of the match. There were no entries for races, etc., as advertised, consequently no sports took place.**

References

1. Chris Aspin. *Surprising Rossendale* (Helmshore Local History Society, Helmshore, 1986) p1
2. Aspin, pp67-9
3. Two Gates, Nuttall Lane appears to be a name now lost from local usage.It seems to refer to a road junction, and could therefore have been a locality or field name in the vicinity of the junction with Bolton Road West/Bolton Street- I am happy to be corrected. [Editor]

John Simpson.

A BRIEF MEMORY OF RAMSBOTTOM COTTAGE HOSPITAL, 1933

Fred HANSON's recollection of his stay at the Cottage Hospital brings alive the reality of health care before the NHS. Apart from the various treatments hinted at, it sums up that command approach to patients which has only started responding to the consumerist spirit of the age in the last few years - I wonder what would happen if anyone were treated like Mr SMITH in 1998. - Editor.

I started work on the railway in January 1933, but in the February Dr LAWRIE sent me to the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital with an abscess due to malnutrition. They kept me in five weeks. 1 used to wind sterilised bandages perpetually and read or draw. 1 got four meals a day - actually all of our family could have done with the same treatment! Hot poultices with Kaolin - a good cure. Back at work by Easter 1933. Mr SMITH in the bed across had his thumb off. The porter brought it on a covered salver showed it Smithy and he fainted! A Mr STURDEVANT (I think) inthe next bed had a rupture - three months convalescence. A man in the other bed had a broken leg.

Twelve beds in the hospital, six male, six female. For each there was a large bathroom and two toilets. The local doctors LAWRIE, CRAWSHAW and STOTHERS put their patients in, did their own operations, and discharged them accordingly. An outpatients' room at the back was open daily from 8.30am to 11.30am, and from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. There was a matron, Sister GOUGH, two day nurses, a porter and nightnurse (she wrote books on nights). I still remember the sister and nurse watching a couple through our ward window one night about 9.00pm and Mr SMITH opposite bed getting agitated to see what was going on and getting out and going behind the nurse to see what was going on and saying 'They're at it' - whatever that meant. Suddenly the nurse said 'Sister, Mr SMITH'. They marched him to the bathroom and then there was silence for 10 minutes. Sister and nurse came out and left the ward, Mr SMITH came in and said they'd given him a cold bath in his pyjamas. I never found out why!

Same hospital Esther HANSON, my Grandmother, went in after fracturing her hip in 1929. She fell between the platform and the train at Ramsbottom Station. We'vebeen chasing a report of this accident for years, having seen it in the *Bury Times* '50years on' in 1979. She discharged herself, got some chest complaint and went to bed to die.

Fred A HANSON

THE *COACH AND HORSES*, EDENFIELD

This well-known inn, standing at the west side of the old A56 road through Edenfield, at the north end of the village, has after two centuries undergone a major change of identity. In recent months, it has become *The Three Sisters* restaurant, its sign indicating that it is celebrating some little-known association between Edenfield and the BRONTE sisters! John SIMPSON has kindly provided a number of extracts from various sources relating to this well-known inn, and his research forms the basis of the following article. The sketch of the *Coach and Horses* on this issue's front cover is from a copy found by John in Rawtenstall Library, probably, he suggests, originally from TL MAXIM's papers in Rochdale Library. Patrick STEPHENS, a Rawtenstall local historian, drew the originals around 1908. In 1919, according to STEPHENS, there was a datestone on the inn's stable, *JH 1796,* which presumably survived until demolition, around 1962. This must be a reference, John suggests, to John HOUGHTON of Flaxmoss, near Haslingden, and not to James HAWORTH as John TAYLOR suggests in his book, *Stories in Stone: Datestones in Ramsbottom* (1991). According to court books of the Manor of Tottington, held at Lancashire Record Office (under reference DDHC1) John HOUGHTON had bought the pub on 14th November 1795 for £211 1s.

There are several other references to the *Coach and Horses* in the records of the Manor of Tottington between 1792 and 1815. Presumably built to accommodate new coach traffic arising on the new Bury, Haslingden, Blackburn and Whalley turnpike (enacted in 1789) the inn is first referred to in January 1792 when Thomas DUCKWORTH, of Edenfield, innkeeper, mortgaged 'that new erected messuage or dwelling house situate in Edenfield now used as the wine tavern'. Later in the same year Thomas DUCKWORTH sold the property to William HOPKINSON, of Edenfield, innkeeper, when it was described as a 'large, commodious and well accustomed public house with two housesteads thereto adjoining.'

The pub changed hands several times and by 1812 had become a 'capital messuage or dwelling house now used as an inn or public house known by the name or sign of the *Coach and Horses Inn* with the cottage, stable, brewhouse, outbuildings, garden and appurtenances situate in Edenfield'. In 1814 it was sold to Richard HAWORTH of Higher Ashenbottom for £488 10s, although in 1818 one Nancy DUCKWORTH was listed in ROGERSON's trade directory as victualler at the inn. Richard HAWORTII was still the owner in 1838 when the Tottington Higher End tithe schedule was drawn up. There is every likelihood, therefore, that the owner and occupant of the inn were different people, even at this early stage in the history of the licensed trade.

Judging from trade directories, it is noticeable that the two earliest owners of the *Coach and Horses Inn,* Thomas DUCKWORTH and William HOPKINSON, appear to have belonged to families with other innkeeping interests - the DUCKWORTHs were associated with the eponymous *Duckworth Arms* in Shuttleworth, whilst one Edward HOPKINSON (and later Alice) occupied the *Bull's Head* at Green Turning (ie Naylor's Green, Tittleshaw – later Greenmount) in the mid-19th Century. Perhaps further delving would reveal an early 'beerage' in Tottington Manor. Evidently there was not so great a living to be made as a licensed victualler in an Edenfield coaching inn, perhaps especially after the East Lancashire Railway penetrated the Valley in 1846. The 1851 Census entry (which, incidentally, does not name the inn) suggests that innkeeping was a sideline at the *Coach and Horses*:

John KAY	head	married	aged 55	victualler & farmer 19 acres born Bury
Ann "	wife	married	aged 55	Born Shuttleworth
Ann "	daughter	unmarried	aged 28	farmer's dau Born Tottington, Higher End
John "	son	unmarried	aged 17	waggoner "
Thomas "	son		aged 14	"
Dickey "	grandson		aged 2	"

Various references in the *Bury Times* indicate how an inn, probably then the only substantial public building in the locality apart from the church, was used for functions long since transferred elsewhere:

7th July 1855, page 4, column 4 - an inquest was held at the *Coach and Horses* on a man who had committed suicide.

12th Feb 1859, page 2, column 2 - there was notice of a sale of furniture at the inn.

23rd Sept 1865, page 2, column 2 - notice for a cattle sale at the inn.

The following quotation from the *Accrington Times* of 13th February 1875 (page 6, column 5) confirms that bird fanciers have long had connections with public houses:

EDENFIELD

CANARY SINGING - On Saturday a canary singing competition was held at the house of Mr. E. Ashworth, *Coach and Horses Inn.* There were fifteen birds entered for the competition, the prize winners were: 1st, brass pan, J. Tattersall, Rawtenstall; 2nd,copper kettle, George Holden, Ramsbottom; 3rd, metal teapot, extra prize for singing longest time, a handsome purse and gold chain won by James Whalley, *GeorgeInn,* Haslingden.

Local newspapers can also be useful in offering clues as to changes of ownership. The *Bury Times* of 14th Aug 1858 (page 2, column 2) featured a sale notice of a third share in the *Coach and Horses.*

The MERCER family was closely connected with the Edenfield and district beer trade in the latter part of the 19th Century, and well into the 20th. according to trade directories. Thomas MERCER owned the Springbank Brewery, Burnley Road, later the Edenfield Brewery Company. One James MERCER was licensee at the *Horse and Jockey* in 1861, whilst by 1871 this inn was run by Mary MERCER, whilst Martha had the *Coach and Horses.*

An especially interesting account of a hearing of the licensing sessions, the annual procedure by which publicans reapplied for their right to trade, appeared in the *Ramsbottom Observer* of February 2nd 1945:

Coach & Horses, Edenficld

POLICE OBJECT TO RENEWAL OF LICENCE

Objection was taken at Bury County Licensing Sessions yesterday to the renewal of the licence of the *Coach and Horses Hotel,* Market Street,Edenfield. Mr. H.C. Riches (Oldham) appeared for the owners, Baxter's Glen Top Brewery.

Inspector Ball gave details of the business and domestic accommodation, and said the trade was “working class". It was a tied house. Trade figures for 1942,1943 and 1944 showed about 31 barrels of beer per annum, 760 to 720 dozen bottles of beer and stout, and 136 to 107 bottles of wine and spirits. Rent was £20a year, which had been paid by the owners since the outbreak of war.

There were two fully licensed houses within 300 yards. The objection was on the grounds of redundancy. Considering the trade done and the necessity of the trade, witness considered the house was not required.

Sergt. Fallowfield (Ramsbottom) agreed with the statements of the inspector. Mr. T.F. Bayley, Ramsbottom Sanitary Inspector, said nine houses had beendemolished in the vicinity in recent years.

Mr. F. Butterworth, a Bury valuer, said the building was worth about £600. It would cost about £150 to convert into two houses.

Mr. J.A. Entwistle, the 70-years old licensee since 1937, said it was a family house, used chiefly by men and their wives. Some of the younger element who were customers were now in the Forces. He had a catering licence, provided teas and had “put up" people. It provided him with a comfortable living.

Supt. Kay: You say you are not grousing? You pay no rent. How long Is it since you paid any rent?

The licensee: Not since the war.

The Clerk (Mr. J. W. Smith): Why don’t you pay any Rent? Have you got a good brewery?

The licensee: It must be. (Laughter).

Supt Kay: You don’t pay any rent because if you did you could not make a living?“Oh no” replied the licensee, who added, “It is not a big house for beer, but we do well in spirits.”

Supt Kay: You are not doing more than half a barrel a week.

John J. Mills, a Hey wood motor driver, gave evidence as to the house providing meals.

John T. Hamer, East-street, Edenfield, a retired brick-layer, said he had been a customer forty years. It was a clean and comfortable house. He liked the landlord. The Clerk: Do you like what they sell? - Hamer: I should not go every day if I didn't. (Laughter).

Richard Dearden (aged 68), of 70, Market-street, Edenfield, said he had been a customer since 1937. He liked the house and the beer.

Mr. Riches, for the owners, contended that the house was serving a need of the neighbourhood. What was consumed in the house was not evidence of redundancy. It was built in 1796 [sic| and they had to remember that beer and spirits were in short supply today. This was not the time to assess its value whether it was redundant or not. He asked the justices not to disturb the present licensee in the eventide of his life but to give him a chance until the lads come back and see if it was a redundant house then.

The licence was referred to the Compensation Authorities in Salford but was renewed in June 1945.

John SIMPSON has also unearthed a *Ramsbottom Observer* article of 14th August 1964 reporting a visit to the *Coach and Horses* by 'Ken BARLOW' (viz Coronation Street actor, William Patrick ROACHE) who presided over the toppling, for the benefit of the Spastics Society, of a column of pennies worth £27 11s 7d. The licensee and his wife were Mr and Mrs Albert HANSON. Entitled, '£27in pennies for spastics', the report is a lesson in how institutionalised certain television programmes and their stars have become, yet how dated the subsequently politically incorrect can appear!

Any of the records used by John to research this public house can be similarly used to pursue the origins of others in the area, and any resulting articles will be published in future editions. Thanks to John for his generosity in passing this research on to us.

Andrew Todd

GREYSTONES: A HUNDRED YEARS HISTORY OF A STUBBINS HOUSE

Anyone leaving the roundabout at the Edenfield Bye-pass/M66 connection, and heading up Bolton Road North towards Edenfield centre will have noticed the short, soot-blackened terrace on the left. This is Eden Bank, perched at the edge of the slip road, with Water Lane bordering it off at the north end. The double-fronted end terrace, no 90, has a particularly impressive staircase window at the back. In fact, it served as the manse for the Stubbins Congregational Church which, until demolition in 1983, stood on the opposite side of the roundabout and lower down Bolton Road North. One other house stood at the southern end of Eden Bank. Brenda DECENT explains what happened to it, and how closely entwined this small group of houses is with some of the district's most influential families- Editor.

Until about 30 years ago, *Greystones,* often known as *Stubbins Villa*, stood at Eden Bank, the small group of houses at the top of the steep climb out of Stubbins towards Edenfield, on the left-hand side of Bolton Road North. The house was linked with many families, industries and churches that made history in its century of life. It moved into its second century by making way for a motorway. It occupied the south end of Eden Bank, and the slip road and roundabout now cover its site.

Greystones, 92, Bolton Road North, was built in the early 1860s by James PORRITT (1810-96) of *Stubbins Vale House.* As major textile industrialists in the Stubbins, he and brother Samuel of *The Cliffe,* Stubbins Vale Road, felt it their duty to supply the village with a place of worship and schools. At the time, the village had neither.

The Stubbins Congregational Church, funded by the PORRITTs, was opened for worship in 1867. In July 1864, Rev Thomas CAIN (1836-1926) had been invited to be pastor at Stubbins. He conducted services in the schools until the church was built, and took up residence at *Greystones.*

The house was built in Gothic style as was the church. Society member Joyce TURNBULL, who lived at *Cross Moor,* between school and church, recalls that its porous stone gave rain free access! BARRETT'S 1880 directory records that the church was built of 'white freestone', presumably limestone, and notoriously porous. This stone may well have been used for both buildings.

Greystones was never the official manse of Stubbins Congregational Church. The house was probably given to Thomas CAIN on account of his marriage to Mary Hannah PORRITT. one of James PORRITT's 15 children. Certainly in SLATER'S 1888 directory. Thomas CAIN's home is listed as 92, Bolton Road, Eden Bank.

Rev CAIN retired from his position in 1906, after a pastorate of 42 years, continuing to live at *Greystones* until 1910 (he died in 1926, aged 90). Son Herbert Porritt CAIN moved into the house, along with his wife Florence Susanna STOCKDALE and their children - Marjorie (now Mrs ALREROFF). William Thomas and Thomas Herbert Porritt CAIN. On the death in March 1923 of William STOCKDALE. Florence's father, the family took over nearby *Rosebank House.*

Back for a moment to Stubbins Congregational Church. After Rev Thomas CAIN's retirement, the church decided that a manse should be found for the new pastor. In 1910, a bazaar was held to raise funds and with help from Austin PORR1TT of *The Cliffe,* the church bought the house next door to *Greystones*, no 90, Bolton Road North. By the early 1950s, the double-fronted no 90 was considered too big for this purpose. It was sold in 1955, and the manse moved next door to the smaller no 88. Thus Stubbins ministers lived at three adjacent addresses over the space of a century. Also, an as yet unidentified Rev Alijah HEATON lived at no 86 in 1924, according to KELLY's directory!

In 1972, 88, Bolton Road North was in turn sold to the DUNNE Family. Councillor John Philip DUNNE, a one-time Mayor of Rossendale, was the son of Dorothy TURNBULL, granddaughter of William TURNBULL, the co-founder ofTURNBULL and STOCKDALEs. Philip's father still lives there.

For some years after the CAINs left in 1923, *Greystones* was rented to Horace and Edith MOORHOUSE, Edith being the sister of Florence STOCKDALE. (Horace and Edith's son, James Stockdale MOORHOUSE, was subsequently associated with the family firm of TURNBULL and STOCKDALE.)

Then on 19th March 1927 Herbert Porritt CAIN died tragically at Langdale in the Lake District. (His widow, Florence, lived on until 1961.) His executors rented *Greystones* to Mr Tom HILLIS and family, the owners of BARLOWs Mill. Edenfield. Son John and sister Jennie have happy memories of their stay there. At some stage, the house was brought into the 20th Century, a garage and tennis court being built. Its clerical associations continued! St Philips Church had opened in Chatterton in 1927, and *Greystones,* empty in the early 1930s, was bought as the parsonage house for the then vicar, Rev William WYNNE. In 1965 a new vicarage was built at Chatterton, leaving *Greystones* unoccupied. In 1967 the house was compulsorily acquired by the Ministry of Transport in connection with the Rawtenstall to Edenfield Bye-pass and demolished.

I recently went to Eden Bank for the first time. Only *Greystones* has gone. It is a pleasant and peaceful place, now enjoying a little used close between itself and Bolton Road North. But it cannot be so quiet with the M66 so near.

I should mention that Edenfield Primitive Methodists moved to 86, Eden Bank in 1956. No wonder it once became known as 'Parsons Row'.

Brenda Decent

References

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine articles by Clyde Tweedale:
Stockdale Saga, in no5 (Summer 1992) pp6-7;
The Turnbull Tale, in no7 (Summer 1993) pp2-6;
Profit from Porritt, in no 10 (Winter 1994-5) pp 10-12
Jubilee 1881-1931, Turnbull and Stockdale Ltd (1931)

The many names in the Greystones story can be very confusing, but a walk around the rarely visited but beautifully kept churchyard of the demolished CongregationalChurch reintroduces you to most of them. I was surprised at the number of gravestones that are there. The problem is finding someone with a key to the padlock on the gate! Editor.

A ROUGH SUMMARY: 1: AT HOME AND SCHOOL

In our last issue, Fred HANSON described how his grandfather came to Ramsbottom. Here, he relates the difficult times that his family experienced here between the Wars. The family lived in Carr Fold, off Carr Street, as described in his article 'Carr Fold in the '20s and '30s', in our Autumn 1997 magazine - Editor.

Fred Ashworth HANSON - lived from 4th November 1918 to 2008 roughly. Born in Camberwell, London in the parish of Southwark, one week before the signing of the Armistice (11th Nov 1918) heralding the end of the 1914-18 Great War. I had an elder sister, Florence Esther, born 30th June 1917 and died 28lh December 1983.

I started at St Andrew's in 1922, aged four. Milk at 10.30am costing ½, no dinners free or otherwise. We children Florence, me, Tom and Peter) went home forit and there was never enough, odd days nothing; and back about 1929 when my Grandmother died, we went to dinner three or four times a week to my Granddad'sat 18a, Dundee Lane which was 100 yards from St Andrew's School.

Granddad ordered dinner from DUCKWORTH'S opposite their house. (Harry DUCKWORTH, shopkeeper, 19, Dundee Lane- KELLY's 1924 Directory - Editor]. It was a confectioners opposite, on the comer of Charlotte Street. Mrs DUCKWORTH served you, usually with flour up to her elbows. They made potato pies, hot pots, meat pies etc to order (real beef) no sausage meat. Rice, sago, tapioca puddings. Sponge and Christmas puddings. Vanillas, custards, trifles. Cream cakes, currant cakes, Eccles cakes, sponge cakes, Madeira, walnut, Simnel, birthday and wedding cakes. Bread, muffins, teacakes, currant and plain. Monday was an enamel washing - up basin, 14 inches, holding about eight platefuls of potato pic with a crust, price 2s 6d and rice pudding for eight at 1s 0d. Tuesday take the bowls back before 9.00am and order same sizes of hot pot and sad (ie not well raised] cake (no currants) and sago pudding. We alternated these Monday to Thursday and had fish pic on Friday with tapioca pudding - those were the days. These meals must have been a godsend for Granddad when he was a widower.

When Grandma was alive we all called at 4 o'clock for a slice of bread and butter before walking home from school. No! you daren't ask her for another slice, she'd have floored you. Oliver Twist would never ask her for more.

My sister Ann died of Dipheria aged about 18 months, about 1926. She was a bonny, uncomplaining child, and she had only been ill about four or five days. And Doctor LAWRIE had been attending daily. I was seven or eight at the time and as we all brought one another up I was nursing her. I didn't realise or understand for half an hour that she was dead. The doctor came immediately, and said Dipheria was rife atthe time. This was life. We paid the doctor's man Mr HORROCKS, 6d a week if we had it. He was also School Board visitor and played hell if you were off school, and not ill. Various reasons - no clogs, no shoes, sometimes no clothes. Mother ill, look after young ones etc.

About 1928 my mother (Alice Maud) got fed up and went to bed, I think there were seven of us then and very little money. Florence was kept off school to look after her. We owed Uncle Jim LEACH about £1 15s, which was a week's wage, and about 21s 0d coming in. 1919 to 1934 was a period of great depression, frustration and despair. The mind can only stand so much and after Ann's death at 18 months my mother gave up mentally; she'd had enough. We all loved Ann. she was an exceptional baby, beautiful, always smiling, chuckling and prattling. She died in my arms I was ten and devastated. Now I know the words, then I didn't or the unfair distribution of the world's goods. Without Uncle Jim and Aunt Hannah's shop we would have starved, everything went on the bill. It took until 1934 to pay it off, after I had worked over 12 months and still nothing in my pocket.

Mother was in bed for about six weeks, School Board called re Florence off school. She must go! *Two* days later Mother suddenly decided Tuesday night she was going to London to see her brother Arthur and sisters Florrie and Lizzie. She caught the 8.47am train from Ramsbottom to London arriving at Euston at 12.15 noon. She stayed there three weeks and on coming home was a different person. Things started to improve. I got a paper round which paid 5s 0d a week with the stale cakes from the shop every morning which six of us ate for breakfast. Luxury!

Grandfather Fred HANSON had a brother Peter who was the 'Black Sheep' of the family, he used to come up to Ramsbottom on the scrounge. If he caught Fred on hisown he'd finance him for some hair-brained scheme but if Esther was around he'd soon be off with a flea in his ear. Where be finished up I don't know. He used to tag on to Uncle Jim if around and go with him whippet racing.

At the age of 12, I took papers for Mrs HARTLEY, widow, no children, about 55 years-old (*perhaps Mary Eliza of 18, Market Place, as shown in 1932 electoral register - Editor*]. She employed two paper lads (girls were not invented). 'A' Round went down Stubbins Lane as far as the *Pin* pub, and all points this side. I did 'B' - up at 5.30am, paper shop at 6am. Down Bridge Street, Crow Lane, St Paul's Street, Garden Street - that block - police station over level crossing, Kenyon Street, to 100 yards from top of Peel Brow. No houses off left, just a few on the right. Then back over the crossing and watch for Miss CROSS on Bridge Street (clogs and shawl) going fromsomewhere round Dundee Lane I think, to work at Rose Mill, Kenyon Street, for a 7.45am start weaving - *Daily Mail* was her paper - for a Labour voter? She was about 50, old to me then! She called in the shop Saturday and picked up Saturday's and paid 6d for the six days. Then I'd be back to the shop - sweets, tobacco, toffee, choc and cakes. This was my round. Drop paper bag and take home any stale cakes for breakfast for five or six children. I finally got home to Carr Fold about 8.00am, pot of tea and margarine toast, sometimes beef dripping on good days, sort out the young 'uns and off to school about 8.40am.

Newspapers I delivered - *Daily Dispatch* and *Daily Mirror* most popular (30%- each), then *Daily Herald* (20%) Daily Mail (10%) - the rest shared 10% - *News Chronicle, Daily Sketch* (not anything as low as the *Sun, Star)-,* upper crust - *Daily Telegraph, Financial Tunes.* Twice a week *Bury Times.* Saturday the *Bury Guardian, Ramsbottom Observer* on Friday. Also in order of numbers sold - *Bulls Eye, Beano, Rover* etc magazines for boys. *Woman's Weekly, Woman's Own* and odd weekly racing papers. *Outlook etc* If a round hadn't turned up when I got back. I took that, bringing 8.30am, having to push for school, especially Mondays when my mother needed 20 buckets of water from the well - plus the fact I held the school door against all late comers! (Aspirins 3d for a tape of 10.) Each round earned 5s 0d a week, which included small evening rounds of approx two quires each 26 to a quire. *Evening Chronicle* and *Manchester Evening News* only. Most popular on Sunday - *News of the World* - keep it away from the children.

Mrs HARTLEY also had a round for Saturday mornings only to Holcombe Village, majority of the houses, and along Moor Bottom, you started this round after the other, usually 8am to 9am and finished 12 noon. You got a bacon butty at the *Shoulder of Mutton* where you left half a dozen papers and half a dozen mags. This round was worth 1s 6d. Mrs HARTLEY was closed on Sundays.

Christmas was the time for tipping the postman and the paper boy, I dropped Dr LAWRIE a *Daily Telegraph* every morning before 6am - across from Kay Brow [*Rose Villa,* 140, Bolton Street - Editor]. He left Half a Crown for the paper lad. Dr Hugh LAWRIE was our doctor - he collected 6d a week off us for doctor's bills. I think we always owed him. He lived to 98. The kind of doctor you need. About £1 to £1 5s 0d would be picked up in tips which usually went on presents or helped out at home.

St Andrew's C of E Day School - I attended from 1922 when I went into the Infants at four and at five into Class I. School started at 9.00am - prayers until 9.15. We always recited the school motto. 9.00am in the school yard and the bell went, we all lined up and marched via the cloakroom into school I dropped out at the school door and when all the pupils had marched in I closed the big door and held the door knob against latecomers, woe betide me if I let the door go. There were always half a dozen latecomers, including the school bully who used to shout through the door what he'd do to me at playtime. I held it until after morning prayers when the teacher told me to let them in, they passed me muttering further threats. All latecomers were given 100 lines. Come playtime on one occasion the latecomers came for me led by the cocky leader. When I wouldn't dodge the bully boy came charging for me backed up by his gang. I stuck my left fist out and he ran straight onto it. There was blood everywhere. The headmaster came out, sized things up and sent him to the nurse. He never bothered me again.

There were two school bullies- in order of avoidance, Louis BURRIDGE, Nuttall Lane. Father was Wallace a beery type. His parents were always in school after Louis got the stick; Harry KNOWLES - a natural who bullied anyone smaller. Headmaster Mr BOARDMAN was always down on bullies. He had no favourites. Tom was at school a class or two lower than I. We didn't meet often on getting there; I recollect one occasion coming out and Peter waiting for me very upset and saying Tom was in

a big fight in the Church Field. We ran there and there was a crowd of lads in a rough circle; pushing through, there was Tom fighting a bigger lad than him, but I couldn't stop it, being held back. They were both marked about the face with spots of blood around; wrestling and thumping went on for about half an hour. Both were exhausted, eventually when they were both down I ran in and got Tom up and told him to go to Barwood Lea and wait for me. Peter went with him and I helped the other lad up, he'd had enough. Bill DAWES was his name, I told him to keep clear of our family in future. A policeman appeared so we all scattered. I found Tom and Peter, we bathed his face with dirty rags in the spring at the bottom of Barwood Lea and went home, it was 6 o'clock. Mother took one look at Tom's face and we were all sent to bed until Father came in.

Mrs MURPHY, she kept control in Class 1 with a foot rule across the knuckles. 1 was always in front of the class so went into Class 2 after 12 months, although some stayed for two years as this was the basic 'kicking off class. Reading, writing, 'rythmetic up to 12 times table, read a chapter, multiply, add and subtract to pass'. A Miss HUTCHINSON had Classes 1 and 2 - she lived up Dundee Lane. Mother- type. Children took to her - four year-olds were soon at home!

Mrs MOFFAT ('Mouse') took Classes 3 and 4 at one time - was good with the ruler (knuckles) in a writing lesson. She lived up Hazelhurst.

After the Infants at school Classes 3,4,5,6, & 7 followed, arriving in Class 7 at 11 years old. I stopped in this class for two years and then they made an additional class 7x. There were four of us in this class. No class had above 30 scholars. There was nearer 100 than 120 in the whole school, aged from four to 14. Arthur BOARDMAN was the headmaster - known as 'Plank' - stern but very fair, had twin daughters born about 1922-3 who attended our school. He took the top classes, 7 and 7x. Lived at Holcombe Brook. At final assembly the Head named who were leaving and we recited the school motto which he had invented or adopted: 'Do What is Right With All Thy Might and Let What Will Come Of It'. Usually the stick! The girls wept and the boys cheered. Nostalgia!

Second master was James HASLAM, a dedicated teacher, who lived on Callender Street, bottom of Rostron Road. He took Classes 5 and 6 (the next to the top classes) also the boys in 6 and 7 for gardening. There were a dozen plots in the school garden about five yards by three. Two lads to a plot, we grew a row of potatoes (planted March or April), a row of snowball turnips. We never got a real crop of turnips as being white snowball and sweet, when the master's back was turned we used to pocket a couple, wash them in the cloakroom and eat them like apples - delicious. You got the stick if caught, one stroke for each turnip; one lad was caught with six, he used to sit on his hands for a week. We also planted a row each of carrots, lettuce, broad beans and sweet peas - also spring onions, radish, beet. We had half the crop between the two lads and the school had the other half. We couldn't cat flowers! We did an hour's gardening on Monday, 3.00pm to 4.00, 11.00am to noon on Fridays. Mr HASLAM was a good teacher. Lived to 92 years, and played for years at St Paul's. He took 5,6,7 and 7x for group singing on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3.30 to 4.00pm. He'd walk round listening. You got a clout behind the head for being flat. Hard work, but I could play at the harmonica then. His nickname was 'Monkey Jimmy' - scholars could be cruel. But the name fit. He hunched his shoulders and belted the instrument.

Woodwork on Fridays 1.30 to 4.00pm at the Technical School, Stubbins Lane, with Mr CAM - a small technical joiners shop where you were initiated on your first attendance with being up-ended and your short trousers stuffed with wood shavings soaked in oil. It took a week to clear it and you were in dire trouble at home. This was the only time I saw and made a matchbox stand. Sports were girls netball and the boys cricket and football, merely half an hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays, half a day Friday.

St Andrew's School played a school cup final against St Paul's on the field behind the Cottage Hospital. One of our players, John CHADWICK, played in clogs, couldn't afford boots. The ref saw them and stopped the game. One of the opposition, the 12th man, lent him a pair. What a game. 4-4 after extra time. A hard game! No fouls! No animosity - today's games and sportsmanship don't compare!!

Saints' Days - St Andrew, St George, St Patrick and a couple of others - we lined up in the schoolyard and marched to the church about 150 yards away. A beautiful church, stained glass, Edwardian carpets, highly polished pews and panelling. The minister, Right Reverend David LEWTAS, had a short service, about half an hour, and then said: 'Children, as it's a Saints Day you can now have the rest of the day off if Mr BOARDMAN agrees.' He'd obviously had too much of us and always agreed.

We went through school, me, Tom, Peter, William and Maurice. Maurice had measles in October 1932 and the teacher came round and collected the four of us and sent us home. I was due to leave at Christmas, so never got back. We had to keep away from other children but Winnie FOX wouldn't have any. She was my girl's gang leader in our gang. I remember one time my mother said Winnie had called for me and gave me a funny look. I think she was hoping to catch measles to be off school with us.

Fred A HANSON

MOCKING THE TACKLER

The tackler was a key member of the workforce in a weaving mill, being responsible for the proper working of the looms. Not surprisingly, he was blamed by the weavers if looms did fail, and pilloried if valuable production time was lost, since this meant lower wages for the pieceworkers. The following item from the Ramsbottom Observer of 1st April 1921 provides an echo of April Fool Day's humour of which, I suspect, the tackler and his unfortunate successors in similar textile establishments, were regularly the butt! Thanks to John SIMPSON for sending me this gem, and to ex-weavers Bessie and Jenny JOHNS for explaining the subtlety of the wit! - Editor.

BUYING A TACKLER

A woman in Ramsbottom, going shopping recently, met another woman on a similar errand. She told her friend that she was going to a butcher's shop for a 'tackler', but not wishing to show her ignorance by the nature of the purchase, the other woman determined to satisfy her curiosity and obtain one of these new-fangled joints, or whatever they were. Sallying forth to a meat monger's, she asked the man behind the counter for the object of her visit, and was shown a sheep's head. 'Is that a tackler?' she queried. 'It will be when 'ave taken t'brains eawt', replied the butcher.

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RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NEWS MAGAZINE

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RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE

CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

1999/2000 PROGRAMME

16th June	Mr Melvin Magnall - *To America* (Bury - Woodbury Project)
21st July	Mr Terry Ashworth - *Guided Walk around Burrs* (meet at Centre in Carr St at 6.45pm prompt or at Burrs Country Park at 7.00pm)
18th Aug	Mr Kevin Mulley - *Visit to Archives* now housed in Bury Meet in Edwin St at 7.00pm
15th Sept	Mr Ian Toothill - *The Lighter Side of Policing*
20th Oct	Mr Ken Craven - *Tom Dobson, Salford Artist* (Illust)
17th Nov	Miss Margaret Curry - *In the Steps of the Brontes* (Illust)
8th Dec	To be arranged
2000	
19th Jan	Mr Barry Aldous - *Ramsbottom's Bronze Age Cemetery* (Illust)
16th Feb	Mr Dave Edwards - *The Art of Bird Ringing* (Illust)
16th Mar	*Photographic Competition* judged by Clare Altham Also short talk on *Roy Fishwick's Ramsbottom* (Illust)
19th Apr	Mr Alan Seymour - *Pace Egging in Lancashire*
17th May	*Annual General Meeting*

All indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm.

Entry by donation, please.

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15	The Hospital Experience, 1937-48	Doris Hibbert
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FRONT COVER - Bank Lane Chapel, Shuttleworth, converted to private housing in the last century. Sketched by John Taylor

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Demolition of the Prince's Foundry - by January 1999, after attention from several earth movers, the site for the future North West Co-op was as clear and flat as it was in the middle of the last century when it constituted the north-west corner of Great Meadow, and accommodated Richard SCHOFIELD and son's cows from Crow Trees Farm (see William Hume ELLIOT, *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* pages 107 – 109).

It will be interesting to piece together the progress of work on this Prince Street/ King Street/Palatine Street/Irwell Street plot of ground from entries in 1998 and 1999's photographic competition. In mid-November, METCALFE Brothers' hideous corrugated brown plastic shed which for years has scarred the corner of King Street and Prince Street started to come down. Unfortunately, what I and probably a lot of others had not realised was that the North West Co-op plans did not envisage any role for the original STRANG Foundry building next to it. The roof was off by 15th November, and the whole site completely cleared by early December. Fortunately, one or two local minds reacted quickly - Ken BEETSON reminded us of the lintel over an internal doorway (see our *News Magazine*, Winter 1994-5, No 10, Page 10). This dates the building exactly:

JOSEPH STRANG ENGINEER RAMSBOTTOM 1882

Via Nick GRIMSHAW, the Conservation Officer, I contacted the project manager, Ratcliffe-Groves, of Prestwich, who assured me that the lintel would be reused in the new building. Subsequently, they confirmed by phone that it was in store awaiting the new use.

But it is a sad loss of one of Ramsbottom's older industrial buildings. Many of us thought that the foundry was safe, after Peel Brook Development transformed it into Peel Mill, aping the very successful Ponden Mill near Haworth. Unfortunately, management was distinctly unimaginative - you could pass through Ramsbottom Station on the train without knowing the place was there, and the original idea of coaches running there specially, as at Ponden, never happened.

METCALFE Brothers, incorporated on 18th May 1938 (according to their audited accounts) had traded as a wood mill producing baking trays. As plastic replaced wood, METCALFEs moved around 1985 into making pasting tables, delivering to a buyer at Downham Market, Norfolk. The company ceased trading in 1991, making about 50 workers redundant. Despite a brief renaissance as Ableaim, the enterprise sank without trace in 1992.

Our society was delighted at the prospect of the building's proposed 'heritage' use as retail mill, and a lot of money was invested in 1993-4, not least on recobbling Prince Street. We were less pleased at the planning application including use as a heritage centre, and inspired by the late Mavis HOMEWOOD, our vice-chairman, we rebuffed the possible challenge to our position.

The society needs to be vigilant about the diminishing architectural heritage of the area. Other buildings may be threatened, especially if the immediate town centre enjoys the economic benefits associated with similar regeneration. We need to consider how we are to keep a check on future planning applications, to ensure that we can lobby for preservation.

Two Gates, Nuttall Lane - thanks to Tom BARRETT, who has told me that this field, thesite of the town's first floodlit football match, in 1878, was in the vicinity of theRamsbottom Cottage Hospital. See the last *News Magazine*, pages 5-6.

The Committee - new members are welcome. If you would like to discuss what is involved, please ring the Chairman on 822620. The Committee meets every two months, the next dates being 26th May and 28th July 1999.

Andrew Todd

A ROUGH SUMMARY: 2: PLAY AND WORK

Fred HANSON's recollections of his childhood in Ramsbottom in the inter-war years appeared in our last issue. In them, he concentrated particularly on his schooldays at St Andrew's. Here, he describes two traditions which do not seem to have survived the War years - Pace (ie Peace) Egging, and the Holcombe Fair, which has degenerated into a residuum of fast-food stalls at Holcombe Bank, where the main track up the hill meets the foot of Moorbottom Road. Then he explains how he was introduced to the world of work in the shape of the little known Ramsbottom Relay Company - Editor.

Play

Nicknames - I was 'Stonewall' - bat all week for 50 runs; my brother Tom was 'Calamity' - always in trouble; Tom BROOKS was 'Brooky'; Jack HOWARTH was 'Boot Lace'; Jim MILLS - 'Millie'; James Aubrey Greswell PENNY was 'Shorty'; Bill HARRUP, an Everton supporter, was 'Toffee'; Fred KNOWLES used to plonk (ie box) and was 'Crackers'; and Paddy KAY was the junior gang leader - 'El Cid'. In the 'Gutter Gang' was Harry KNOWLES - 'Froggy'; Harry HITCHEN - 'Tadpople'; Jack LEDGER was 'Legs'; Bill MARKHAM - 'Garth; Harold LODGE - 'Distant Drums'; Mary POWELL - 'Delilah'; Winnie Fox - 'Tommy'; and A HEAP was 'Piles'! Margaret WESTWELL always called for my sister Florence on her way to school, and they went on their own. 'Upper crust', she lived up the Gutter, only child her Mother and Father were weavers, both working.

From about nine years old, on Friday before Good Friday we used to go pace-egging. Friday was pay day! We blacked our faces, got or scrounged old clothes, hats, bowlers, straws etc and dressed in same. A mouth organ if we had one, music on one level flat and a semblance of rhythm. We all sang after knocking at the doors. Various songs:

We're coming round a Pace-Egging,
To see what you will give,
And if you give us nothing,
We'll wonder how we'll live.
We've been to the East
We've been to the West,
We've been to the Isle of Man-o etc

Also 'I'm a Collier by trade', 'Hop, hop, hop to the Butcher's shop', 'When it's Springtime in the Rockies' and lots lots more!

Start about 7pm and do the topside of Ramsbottom - the raised houses at the top of Rostron Road, and worked our way to Tanners and the Foot of the Rake, big houses up Holcombe Village on Monday and Tuesday; Wednesday Cunliffes; up Springwood opposite Top Lodge and through the wood, an odd farm like Rawcliffes, drop onto Stubbins Lane and this side of the tram shed working our way to Carr Street. There'd be five or six of our gang. We'd miss out Saturday and Sunday (a lot out). Most places we were made welcome, and given 2^{d} to the odd shilling. Threepenny bits or a tanner.

Big houses back door - the maid gave us cakes and pop, and occasionally boiled sweets. We split the money each night about half-nine, as if one kept it he might need a pair of clogs. We all had our own hideaway. Even though we were all honest. Mine was under a sod in a Bruno tin. We did about 10 nights and finished up with about 5s 0d each, this was to spend at the fair at the foot of Holcombe Hill on Good Friday, all along the path and hillside. Roll-a-penny, roundabouts, ring board, darts, Find the Lady, crystal ball, boxing booth, ice cream, sweets, homemade pies, muffins, cakes, hot potatoes, black peas, bottles etc. Then up to the Tower and to the top for 2^{d}, 1^{d} for children. We all usedto spend up. Saturday, get on the Hill early and if you didn't find 20 pennies you were unlucky. People were going up Carr from 9 o'clock to the Hill. They came from Bury on the electric train to Holcombe Brook. We came this route from Salford in the 1950s and brought a couple of Salfordians who thought the Hill, the Fair and the Tower were wonderful. From the War years the custom of the Holcombe Fair faded away, probably due to the car.

When did they cease? No sign or trace of the Fair by the 1960s.

In the 1920s and 1930s, clog dancers came to Holcombe Hill from Britannia, Bacup, clog dancing for miles, travelling between the towns by horse and cart, and later by an old bus or charabanc. They came through Edenfield and Stubbins and Ramsbottom, and were known as the Bacup to Ramsbottomers. They'd come up Carr Brow about 1 o'clock, up to the *Shoulder of Mutton* for dinner, prior to the Hill.

Flying a kite off the hill, seeing Blackpool Tower from the top of the tower, all simple things but far more attractive than present-day so-called pleasures. Other attractions were camping and catching trout by tickling.

Work

At school were me, my sister Florence, and my brothers Tom, Peter and William. Another brother was Maurice who caught measles on 16th October 1932. Tom, Peter, William and myself were collected by Mr BOARDMAN and sent home! I never went back - I was 13, and had to leave school. This enabled me to get a job before Christmas doing eight weeks at the Radio Relay Station, a cabin at the bottom of The Rake. Inside were two large bench-like tables, each about six by five feet, with a radio receiving and sending set on each, a mass of valves, condensers, resistors, wires, amplifiers etc. Wires ran from these to poles outside and from there via poles down to Bridge Street, covering Ramsbottom, Shuttleworth, Edenfield, Ewood Bridge, Helmshore and Summerseat. We put a speaker in a house and ran two leads in from poles to a two-way switch on your window sill with your speaker, provided for your choice - Home Service and one other, charge one shilling a week. Good money from here, 15s 6d a week and 5s 0d extra for every customer you got. I got a shilling a week pocket money. I started work here in November 1932 and worked for 10 weeks.

Ramsbottom Relay Station was managed by a Mr MONKS, who supervised twice a week. There was him and I and four polemen, and a Mrs KAY who collected round the area. Wireless sets were in their infancy in the 1930s.

It was a short walk from Carr Fold -I kept the cabin clean, supplied wire, poles, nuts, bolts etc to the workmen as required. Kept records of same and when Australian cricket was on, was there before 7am. An interesting job.

At this time, actually from being 10, after school and during school holidays, I went to Granddad's and wrote postcards and letters and cheques for him to carry on his business, also working in his shed and sometimes going to Shude Hill on the train from Ramsbottom to see Jacob RAINES, a Jew who said Fred HANSON was the most honest man he knew.

After Christmas 1932 and the relay station, Squire WEBSTER, a railwayman, came to 7, Carr Fold and said they wanted a lad at Bury South signalbox. Probably a mate of my father - he lived in Back Carr Street and had an allotment which I helped him with and when in season we got the odd lettuce, spuds, tomatoes and onions. So I started there in January 1933. The railway, the LMS - a job for life in that era, 15s 0d a week; six days, 6-2 then same 2 -10, so soon got used to working Saturdays. Stoppages 1d hospital fund and 2d national insurance. Early turn, catch the 5.47am train from Ramsbottom. With 10 or 11 in one bedroom, the alarm at 5.00 woke everyone, pot of tea, cold water cat lick and off.

Working shifts on the railway, one gradually became accustomed to being free all morning or afternoon and evenings and to work 9 to 5 would be a bind. You could do half a day's work before going to work. At the age of 14/15 one could learn anything.

In the Rossendale Valley, at Rochdale, Bury and Middleton, one of the signalman's jobs on the 6am to 2pm Saturday shift was to empty the chemical toilet. You did this by digging a hole about three foot deep, about 50 yards away from the box, at the side of the track. There was not a great deal of enthusiasm for the Saturday early turn. A further advanced toilet was the tippler - about three foot below the seat was a see-saw, which tippled as used! Ilex Hall Carr signal box tippled into the River Irwell, Smedley Viaduct box tippled into the River Irk. I sat on this toilet late one night stroking the cat, sat at the

side of me. After a few moments, it turned its head - I was looking into the eyes of a large rat. I jumped off the seat, fell over my trousers. The rat panicked, ran over my back etc and down the steps into the River Irk. I shot upstairs minus pants!

Fred A HANSON

It seems possible that the Mr MONKS who managed the Ramsbottom Relay Station was the James MONKS of 236, Whalley Road who, according to KELLY's Lancashire Directory of 1924, was Income Tax Collector for Ramsbottom, Walmersley and Tottington. Perhaps somebody could write in to explain what they know of the collection system at that time - if it involved any degree of house to house work, then this could explain how Mr MONKS became involved in collecting subscriptions for the youthful wireless service in Ramsbottom.

Coincidentally, Bury South Signalbox, where Fred began with the London, Midland and Scottish Railway in January 1933, is about to enjoy full scale restoration at the hands of the East Lancashire Railway. The 65-lever frame box will operate semaphore signals and points to control all train movements into and within Bolton Street station.

It is a condition of the grant package that the ELR is receiving in connection with its Heywood Extension that signalling is reintroduced to Bury by December 2000. Currently, Ramsbottom is the only portion of the line to have been signalled. Editor.

THE NIGHTINGALE FAMILY OF TOCKHOLES AND SHUTTLEWORTH

'I thought Grants Tower was a folly!' said a gentleman to me during one of my genealogical fact-finding visits to Ramsbottom and Stubbins. Folly or no, Grants Tower, built in 1828 on a bluff behind and above Park Chapel by William and Daniel GRANT following their journey to England from their Scots home on Speyside, was the home of my great great grandfather Edward NIGHTINGALE, woodman to the GRANT brothers, and the birthplace of his eldest son.[1]

The NIGHTINGALEs, however, did not originate in the Ramsbottom area, but can be traced back to one James NIGHTINGALE of Lower Knowe (or Knowle) Farm, Rivington. James, born in 1737, moved to *Hollinshead Hall*, Tockholes. He died in 1793 and was buried on the 24lh April at Chapel Street Independent Chapel, Blackburn. The NIGHTINGALEs were members not of the Established Church but of the Independent denomination (later called Congregational, and, later still, United Reformed).

With the family established at Tockholes, their numbers grew rapidly. James's eldest two (of six) children were girls. Mattie married into the BRINDLE family of Tockholes, and Betty into the LEIGH family, also of Tockholes. John, the fifth child, married Rachel LEIGH and died at Lyon's Den on Darwen Moor. We shall return to him presently. The youngest child was Benjamin, who, in spite of the family connection with Tockholes Independent Chapel, became the leader of the Methodist Society in Tockholes. His home was Weasel Farm, which is still in existence.

John, of Lyon's Den, had five children, all sons, the youngest of whom was Benjamin, born at Tockholes in 1784. He was ordained an Independent minister at Newton-in-Bowland (near Slaidburn) in 1820. He had charge of the churches at Newton and Wymondhouses (near Pendleton, Clitheroe), and also at White Hall (Grindleton), Wiswell and Martin Top (near Rimington) before arriving as minister at Park Chapel, Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth, on 19th May 1832.

This Rev Benjamin NIGHTINGALE was my great great great grandfather. He did not find life easy at Park. His sermons were frequently interrupted by an element of the congregation who were of a stricter persuasion, and, after three years, Benjamin and most of the congregation decided to close down Park Chapel and to build a new Bank Lane Chapel on Whalley Road, Shuttleworth, a little further north. It is recorded that Benjamin was a 'racy, homely, speaker' and an enthusiastic supporter of the Temperance movement in days when it was not too popular. It was whilst collecting funds for Bank Lane Chapel, and on a journey to London, that he caught English cholera, which had a marked effect upon his health.

He died on 11th April 1847 and was buried in the area at the front of his chapel. Following his death, the congregation removed themselves back to Park Chapel, and the Bank Lane Chapel was purchased by Messrs WILD of Shuttleworth, who converted it into cottages. The cottagers evidently did not appreciate a graveyard in their front gardens, and, after a short time, Benjamin was disinterred at dead of night, according to custom, and reburied inside Park Chapel, in front of the pulpit! This exact burial spot is now lost, owing to the rebuilding of the chapel in 1898.

Rev Benjamin NIGHTINGALE married, firstly, Nancy GREGSON of Tockholes. They had seven children, of whom the third, Edward, lived in Grants Tower. Their sixth child, Elizabeth, was buried at the Bank Lane Chapel, under what became the hearthstone of the cottage numbered 72, Whalley Road! However, she, also, was disinterred and reburied at Park Chapel. Benjamin's first wife predeceased him, and was buried inside Park Chapel.

Benjamin remarried, his second wife being Nancy GRIME[2], by whom he had six children. The eldest, Thomas, was born in 1836 at Bank Lane (ie Shuttleworth), and lived at Strongstry. He was a tackler in a woollen mill. He and wife Elizabeth were buried in Stubbins Congregational Chapel yard, where their grave can still be seen. Of the other children, Lydia Nancy (born in 1840 at Bank Lane) and another Elizabeth (born in 1844 at Bank Lane), were cotton weavers. They never married and lie buried, together with their mother and uncle William GRIME, a few yards away from their brother Thomas.

The aforementioned Rev Benjamin NIGHTINGALE is not to be confused with his brother William's son, also Rev Benjamin NIGHTINGALE, Minister of Congregational Churches at Oldham, Farnworth (near Bolton) and Preston, and author.

Referring again to Edward NIGHTINGALE, one time occupant of Grants Tower, he was born in Blackburn about 1811. He married Elizabeth ODDIE of Clitheroe at Clitheroe Parish Church on 10th September 1836. He lived for a time in Cateaton Street, off Walmersley Road, Bury, but by 1881 he was living at Lower Nuttall. His second wife was Mary.

Edward and Elizabeth had seven children. Benjamin was the eldest, born in Grants Tower on 20th September 1837. He and his wife Margaret (née GRIFFITHS) emigrated to Kansas, USA in 1859. They had seven sons and one daughter. They returned to the Bury area for the first time in 1909, on the 50th anniversary of their emigration, and gathered together all the NIGHTINGALEs at Bury Football Ground at Gigg Lane for a photographic session. The resultant sepia prints are still in existence, with names of the various characters on the reverse of the large prints being helpful for purposes of identification.

The second child of Edward and Elizabeth was Sarah Ellen, known as Ellen. She was born in Ramsbottom, and married William H LUND, a print works manager of Tottington. Their eldest son, Thomas, also emigrated to America.

Nancy NIGHTINGALE, born in 1842 in Ramsbottom, was their third child. She was my great grandmother and married Robert TAYLOR, a clogger, of Bury. Their third child, Edward Nightingale TAYLOR, born in Bury on 10th April 1875, was my grandfather. He was a pawnbroker, and had a shop at 49, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe. Edward's elder brother, Croasdale, did not live with the rest of the young family at 30, Haslam Street, Bury, but with his grandparents at 22, Walmersley Road - a practice not uncommon in those days.

The fifth child of Edward and Elizabeth was John, born in 1844 at Nuttall. He was a clog and shoe maker, and lived at 198, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom, with his wife Priscilla (nee BLUNT).

The sixth of the seven children was Edward NIGHTINGALE. Born in 1848 at Nuttall, he became a foreman millwright and later lived with his wife, Sarah Ellen from Burrs, at Lower Nuttall, a few doors away from his father Edward and stepmother Mary (with whom lived one of his own children, Emma). Edward and Sarah Ellen moved to Chatterton Lane, Stubbins. Later, the family moved to *Chatterton House*.

Most of the 19th Century NIGHTINGALEs were born in Tockholes. Many remained there, being occupied on the land, but others migrated to adjacent townships such as Lower Darwen, Over Darwen, Livesey and Withnell. Several moved to Blackburn, and some to Bolton. Of the NIGHTINGALEs who came to the Ramsbottom area, descendants still live in Bury, Rossendale and Burnley. NIGHTINGALE graves are to be found in Park Chapel yard, Stubbins United Reformed Chapel yard and in Bury and Bacup Cemeteries, but the majority were buried at Tockholes Chapel. Here are to be found many examples, one notable of Thomas NIGHTINGALE, musician, whose self-composed words and musical notation are inscribed on his headstone. Close by, at Bethesda Chapelyard, Tockholes, remain a couple of identifiable graves. The migrants to nearby Darwen were connected with the Belgrave Chapel there.

Five NIGHTINGALEs are commemorated on the Great War Roll of Honour inside Tockholes Chapel. The lych-gate here was erected in memory of those who gave their lives, including one Fred NIGHTINGALE.

It was not uncommon to find the 19th Century NIGHTINGALEs as emigrants to foreign lands, the most popular destination being USA, followed by Australia and New Zealand. Alas, several of the clan met an untimely end, such happenings being recorded as: 'killed by a tram' in USA cl866; drowned in a pit in a field 1805; accidentally shot at Pickering Fold, Tockholes; drowned in Jack KAY's lodge,

Darwen; died from a snake bite in Australia; died in Zulu Wars in South Africa.'

On a happier note, several were ordained, and they ministered at such places as Witton, Elswick and Horwich.

To bring this story to the end of the 20lh Century, it must be recorded that my great great grandfather's house, Grants Tower, latterly unoccupied and in a ruinous state, fell down in September 1944. What is my connection with the NIGHTINGALE? My mother Helen was the daughter of Edward Nightingale TAYLOR, mentioned previously, making me the great great great grandson of Rev Benjamin NIGHTINGALE of Park, Chapel, Walmersley.

Whilst researching this article, I have discovered and met several members of the NIGHTINGALE family previously unknown to me. If you consider that you might be related to the NIGHTINGALE family, I invite you to get in touch via the Ramsbottom Heritage Society.

1. There is a well-known account of the night when Edward NIGHTINGALE andfamily fled their home for the safety of Nuttall, on account of the Tower's feared disintegration in a violent storm. I would be very grateful if someone could remind me where I read it! - Editor.
2. Judging from the reference to William GRIME, Nancy was possibly related to John and Susannah GRIME, they being referred to in the Edenfield parish register as of Red Lees, Broadwood and Stubbins. According to HARDING (pp29-32), who quoted from the Old Park Church Book, dating from c1816, Susannah GRIME had the distinction of being 'one of the five persons who formed the Church at Park' being church member no 1. No 50 was Nancy GRIME, admitted around 1828-32, and presumably the young lady who subsequently became Mrs NIGHTINGALE the Second – Editor.

References

Rev WE HARDING, The History of Park Congregational Church Ramsbottom (Bury, 1931)

*Rev Benjamin NIGHTINGALE, History of the Old Independent Chapel, Tockholes, near Blackburn (John HEYWOOD, Manchester)**

Rev Benjamin NIGHTINGALE, *Lancashire Nonconformity* (John HEYWOOD, Manchester, 1892). This was a history of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches in the county*

* The author of these two works was nephew of Benjamin NIGHTINGALE of Park Chapel, Walmersley

Census Returns, 1881; trade directories; registers of Tockholes Chapel

David E Jackson

CHAPEL HOUSES, SHUTTLEWORTH: THE MYSTERY OF THE LOST GRAVES

Opposite the Shuttleworth landmark of LEACH's Wine Cellars on Whalley Road stands an imposing terrace of four three-storey cottages, set back behind neat, sloping gardens. Unusual in appearance, they are however not out of place in a village with widely varying styles of architecture from the 18th and 19th Centuries.

These houses, nos 70-76, have attracted some attention over the years, not least because Howard DONALD, formerly of pop group *Take That,* was until about 1997 a resident at no 76. Passers-by could count on seeing a clutch of adolescent girls hanging around the adjacent grass patch, or perching on the wooden fence, and often equipped with cameras. Mrs Cheryl MAUDSLEY, a nearby newsagent, told the *Rossendale Free Press* of 9lh August 1996 how the shop was regularly visited by fans from as far afield as Continental Europe and even Australia, looking for intelligence on Mr DONALD'S movements! 'One German lady who had brought her daughter to see Howard's house,' explained Mrs MAUDSLEY, 'came in the shop to write a postcard and ended up stopping for four hours. I couldn't get rid of her.'

Local folklore suggests that these houses might better suit members of sinister '70s heavy rock group *Black Sabbath* rather than teeny bopping *Take That.* 'Any serious offers considered for this "Character Home",' declared the Cornerstone Estate Agent's flyer for no 72 - 'formally [sic] a Chapel dating from 1710 [sic]'. What the bumph omitted to mention was that the 'good sized lawned front garden' was originally the graveyard, and possibly still occupied.

Well, we had a fourth addition on the way, and were needing to move from Albert Street in Tory Town, so on the evening of Monday 19th April 1993 we were shown round. Beamed ceilings, fine arched windows in the neat dormer, panoramic views over Ramsbottom, but no extra space to what we already had. The chap was remarkably frank about what we would now call the house's 'change of use', and indeed disarmingly candid about how the uncomfortably near, if quiet, neighbours could occasionally impinge on the terrace's current denizens. Somebody's wife was under the hearthstone, he explained, and I *think* he said that one of the flagstones was a reversed gravestone. Mercifully, there was no cellar. Bones, he had been told, had occasionally surfaced when people tended the four gardens. These were returned to the ground promptly, to avoid fuss! Estate Agentese, renowned for drafting carefully around difficult domestic features, had reached new heights of euphemism when referring to this property as 'full of character and charm'!

In fact, the terrace was originally the Bank Lane Chapel referred to in the previous article, reflecting the old name for Whalley Road where it passes through Shuttleworth. The 1st edition six-inch Ordnance Survey map, dating from the mid-1840s, shows the building as 'Independent Chapel', and the graveyard is clearly shown, though of course not captioned as such. It was converted to houses sometime after 1847.

By one of those strange coincidences which often crop up when one's interest in a townspans many hundreds of years and many generations of inhabitants, I received a letter the following day from one J HENAUGHAN of Blackburn Road, Edgworth, a descendant of the TAYLORs of Edenfield, Scout and Fecit (near Turn). One of them, Shuttleworth woollen manufacturer John TAYLOR, died of cholera in 1849. He had

married Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev Benjamin NIGHTINGALE, minister of Bank Lane Chapel. She had died at the early age of 27 and been buried under the hearth stone of no 72, Whalley Road. Mr HENAUGHAN's family history subsequently appeared in this magazine.[1]

The fullest account of this bizarre quartet of houses is, as far as I know, contained in the Rev HARDING'S well-known 1931 history of Park Chapel, from whose congregation NIGHTINGALE and his adherents seceded to Bank Lane about 1835. HARDING had been minister since 1925, long enough to pick up oral recollections of the Bank Lane chapel and graveyard. Benjamin NIGHTINGALE (1784-1847) had been appointed minister at the Congregational Park Chapel, Manchester Road, Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth in 1832. Weary of the dilapidated state of the building and of regular heckling by those of the Calvinist persuasion, NIGHTINGALE took the bulk of his congregation a mile up the road to an entirely new chapel, funded by local well-wishers (including three members of the GRANT family and Thomas AITKEN of Chatterton) and sympathetic clergymen and 'respectable friends' from around the country. NIGHTINGALE died in April 1847, and the Bank Lane congregation returned to a reopened Park.[2]

Writing in the 1890s, Rev William Hume ELLIOT suggested that NIGHTINGALE left Park in 1835, so Bank Lane Chapel was probably built in the late 1830s, and certainly not in 1710, as Cornerstone seemed to think! 'He had no successor,' Hume ELLIOT continues,

> **and the building was purchased from the trustees by the Messrs WILD of Shuttleworth, who transformed it into cottages. A graveyard also was formed, and some bodies were interred. They were, however, subsequently removed. The late Mrs LeonardWILD used to tell how Mr Leonard, then her *fiancé,* on his way home from her father's at Nuttall Lane, found on one occasion near midnight an eager and awestruck group engaged in removing one of these bodies to another resting place.[3]**

The last resting places of Benjamin NIGHTINGALE and his family were described by Herbert RAMSBOTTOM, one of Rev HARDING's informants:

> **'It is stated that Mr NIGHTINGALE was buried in the burial ground attached to the Bank Lane Chapel, but some short time after, his body was removed and buried at Park Chapel.'[4]**

According to 'local tradition' still current around 1930,

> **Mr NIGHTINGALE's body was not the only one which was removed from the burial ground at Bank Lane to Park after his death. 'Elizabeth,' daughter of the minister, was buried within Bank Lane Chapel 'under the hearthstone of the second house,' ie, no 72, Whalley Road, and her body too was disinterred and removed to Park. There were two or three more as well. Their bodies were removed at dead of night, and the operations must have presented a gruesome and unnerving spectacle.**[5]

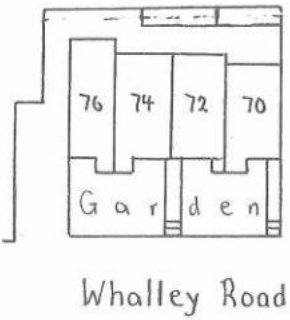
The bodies were presumably removed from inside the house to appease Messrs WILDs' potential tenants. What is currently unclear is how many bodies had actually been placed under those flagstones, and indeed whether the front gardens had been used systematically for burials over the decade or so up to 1847 when the chapel was in use. Perhaps a careful use of burial register evidence (assuming registers survive for Bank Lane and Park) could shed light on this issue.

One other mystery is the extent of Bank Lane Chapel. HARDING, writing in 1931 presumably on the authority of local recollection, claimed that the building had been extended when the change of use occurred, ie sometime after 1847. 'Messrs WILD .... built an additional cottage on the north end,' he wrote. 'The original Chapel is now represented by three cottages. It is roughly 18 yards in length and 12 yards in depth. These cottages still stand, raised above the road and go by the name of "Chapel Houses". Between these and the road is an open space some 23 yards in length and 13 yards deep. This was the burial ground.'[6]

Field evidence does not support this 'extension' account. Looking at the four houses today, one is impressed by the classically symmetrical frontage, so typical of pre-Gothic Revival nonconformist architecture. Presumably, the lie of the land dictated that the chapel frontage parallelled the road, though we do not know the layout of the pews. The four distinctive dormer mini-gables, each topping an identical vertical line of windows, are in perfect balance. (The arched upper windows resemble those on the nearby Swedenborgian chapel, built on Stubbins Lane in 1831.[7]) There is no vertical building break between nos 74 and 76.

The 1893 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (see below) shows two porches. One survives in front of the doorways of nos 74 and 76, whilst contrastingly discoloured stonework at the front of nos 70 and 72 reveals where the other stood. It is unclear whether these were part of the original 1830s design, though that outside no 74 looks original. It was not uncommon for dissenting chapels to have two entrances. Each opening could readily have been converted into two adjacent doorways for the new cottages, producing in the terrace a reflecting rather than the more typical repeating frontal aspect. Ornamental gateposts, now (February 1999) sadly scarred with *Take That* graffiti, must represent the original chapel gateway. Significantly, they stand in front of the precise midpoint of the *current* building.

As if the terrace did not have enough history, John TAYLOR, who sketched it at short notice for the cover illustration, points out that according.to SLATER's 1888 directory, no 70 was then Shuttleworth's police station, Thomas JACKSON being its one constable. Interestingly, there was a no 72 and a no 74, but no 76. Is it possible that 74 was subsequently split to produce the current two?



Taken from the 1893 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (400%)

Given the confetti-like abandon with which this small sect disposed of its dead one and a half centuries ago, it could come as a relief to Howard DONALD and his successors, that his own house, no 76, may never have been part of the Bank Lane Chapel. It could constitute an interesting research project for some member to compare census returns and maps (particularly the 1838 Walmersley-cum- Shuttleworth tithe map and schedule at Lancashire Record Office, DRM1/102) with current field evidence.

I would be most interested to hear from anyone who has further information on this intriguing building. And if, as a result of this article, the Home Office comes and digs up all four gardens, then please, residents of Chapel Houses, accept my apologies!

Post Script

Since writing this article in February, Rita HIRST, former reference librarian at Bury, and no mean authority on local genealogical issues, has informed me of an uncannily similar circumstance in Haslingden. Here, one James BILLSBORROW had come from Darwen and bought land and property in High Street. Around 1775, he had started the town's first Independent Chapel in an upper room in this house. The first proper chapel building was in Lower Deardengate, erected about 1786. By that time, James had become 'disaffected' - ie he had fallen out with the congregation. A newspaper report of 1899 relates how he had used his property in High Street for a personal crypt. Headed 'Gruesome find at Haslingden', the article reported how workmen excavating in Back High Street had broken into a cave-like structure in which they found, lying on iron shelves, the skeletons of four adults and a child. The coffins were broken and crumbling and the bones clearly visible.

The local people had been quite aware that a private graveyard occupied part of the garden. BILLSBORROW had had a gravestone erected, listing himself and members of his family, though this was clearly overgrown by 1899. (He had died in 1823 at the age of 89). Presumably the family were reinterred in some other churchyard or cemetery, as NIGHTINGALE and his family were.

There is of course no legal requirement for corpses to be buried in consecrated ground, and there are many local examples of eccentrics, often of the Old Dissenting persuasions, being interred quite literally in odd nooks of land. Roger WORTHINGTON is our best-known example, and his burial site near Longshaw Head, Hawkshaw Lane, is much visited. Less famous are the solitary graves of Cloughfold minister Richard ASHWORTH (died 1751) in the front garden of *Carr House*, Balladen; of James ORMEROD (1817) in a hen pen at the top of Peel Street, Higher Cloughfold; of James HAWORTH (1772) in the path at 2, Orchard Terrace, Crawshawbooth; and of Thomas HAWORTH (1800) who lies in the garden of his farm at Edge End, above Constablee.

Nearer home, we have at least one other graveyard in a garden - the dozen or so gravestones in the garden of no 100, Dundee Lane belong to the Presbyterian (later Congregational) Chapel which stood there until 1978. It would be interesting to hear of other non-churchyard resting places.

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3. Rev William Hume ELLIOT, *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (Selkirk, 1893) pp224-5
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5. HARDING, p50
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Andrew Todd

MY OPERATION FOR APPENDICITIS, 1919

George ASHWORH (born 1902) was a well-known local figure, working for the Ramsbottom Industrial and Provident Society from April 1916, and eventually becoming its secretary. In this capacity, he wrote in November 1958 for its centenary the well-known historical outline, 'Working Men of Ramsbottom Founders of our Society', copies of which are available in the Ramsbottom and Bury library collections,as well as in our own collection, now at Bury Archives, Edwin Street.

He retired to Grange-over-Sands, where he died earlier this decade. Fortunately, he was one of our earliest reminiscencers, committing his memories of our town to paper in a series of episodes. Here, he recalls his own experiences of healthcare from 80 years ago - Editor.

On the second Saturday of December in 1919 (at the age of 17) I went to a 21st birthday party at a house in Peel Brow, Ramsbottom. After the meal I felt an unusual pain in my stomach. I had never had this sort of pain previously. I retired, without telling anyone of my pain, to the 'closet' as it was generally called at that time. It was in the backyard.

That was where my elder brother John found me and he managed to drag me home to Callender Street. I remained in bed all day on the Sunday, but the pain was getting worse. On the Monday morning Dr Charles CRAWSHAW was called in, and at once diagnosed advanced appendicitis, and also said that I must be taken without delay to Bury General Hospital [on Walmersley Road]. At the time this was quite a serious operation, such operations had only been carried out in a child's first ten years.

At this time it was a horse-ambulance, the horses being kept available in the Fire Station in Central Street. Whilst crossing the railway lines at the bottom of Bridge Street, the horse lost a shoe, so there I had to remain until another horse was available. It was quite cold for there was no heating in the ambulance and it was in December. On arrival at the hospital, preparations were made for an immediate operation. It was getting serious. The operation was carried out by a black gentleman, Dr NIGHTINGALE. (I read in *'the Bury Times* a few years back, that he had died, a very much loved and respected doctor.)

At this point I feel that some comment is needed respecting the general attitude towards coloured people coming into this country for various reasons. It was not until my second operation some 50 years later that coloured doctors and nurses were serving in our hospitals. I think of the period of about 12/13 years later when Leary CONSTANTINE from the West Indies came over to play cricket at Nelson, as their 'pro' in the Lancashire Cricket League. He and his wife were then living in Nelson and were well treated in that town. He was most popular on the cricket field. However, when he moved into other places, where he was not known, he was treated most unkindly. Coloured people were not made at all welcome.

I would also remind you that the time I was in hospital was not long after the end of the 1914-18 War, and many restrictions were still in force. In any case the hospitals could not find the money to serve selected meals and the many 'extras' that we have at this time. Patients were only provided with the basic foods, such as porridge, bread, potatoes, milk, and many things were still in short supply. Relatives had to take in all other foods that might be required and there were very few luxuries.

I cannot remember much about the period immediately after the operation, but every day for many weeks I had to endure painful dressings. The wound had to heal from the bottom of the deep incision, and had to be kept strictly clean to avoid any infection. I was in the hospital for five weeks. After leaving hospital, I had to attend as an outpatient. I had to wear a special body belt for two years in order to give support to my stomach. I was absent from work for three months. Compare this with the same operation today, which only takes a few days and there is almost no scar to mark the spot. On my recent visits to hospitals the staff have always been interested to see my very large scar and the lines of the stitching - a relic of the past.

The patients able to get out and about were expected to do any small jobs that required doing, one of them was making toast each morning for the ward, kindly note that none of the various 'gadgets' of the present time had even been thought about, so it was toast by the fireside. Everything was much different in 1919.

Christmas Day in hospital was a very special day. I enjoyed the experience. For many weeks the staff (and others) had been collecting money in advance so that those who had to be away from their own family circle would be given a wonderful time during the Festive Season. I had not had much to eat since my operation so it was that my Christmas meal was the first for some time so you can guess that I enjoyed it. All the wards had been well decorated, and Father Christmas also came to visit us. In the afternoon my bed was wheeled into another ward. A group from Bury came in to entertain us. One particular item gave me much pleasure, and have never forgotten it. It was many years later that I discovered that it was a song from one of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. It was the song *Tit Willow* from the comic opera *The Mikado.* Many years afterwards I actually made contact with the gentleman who sang it for us, Mr Will WOODHEAD, a very well-known singer. I have often looked back to that experience I had in December 1919 with pleasant memories of my Christmas in hospital and so many kind, caring people. Operations to my hip in more recent years have been so very much different! My second was in Fairfield, Bury, almost 50 years later. Let me compare the tremendous difference prior to the coming

into being of the Health Service more or less as we know it today. Then every local hospital was erected at the expense of the people, or given to the town by some local person (in the case of the one in Ramsbottom, the AITKEN Memorial Cottage Hospital was given to the town in 1900 by Mr and Mrs Thomas AITKEN - the same person who gave the AITKEN Tuberculosis Sanatorium, formerly Holcombe Hall, in 1909).

Quite apart from other fund-raising efforts [for the Cottage Hospital] year by year we had The Rose Queen Festival and Procession. The 'Committee' owned a large number of dresses of all descriptions, the Sunday Schools and Day Schools were asked to nominate a number of their children, these children joined the procession in their various groups, selection was considered agreat honour. About 1910, I was dressed as a Jockey. I have a few photographs taken in1910, one of them shows me so attired. Also at this time there was a group of local men and ladies who had decorated their cycles to make a wonderful display. This was one of the highlights of the year when the local people gave most generously for the upkeep of their own hospital.

I observed, as a young lad, some ingenious ways devised to collect coins from the people looking through the open windows of shops on the second floors up.

Hospitals of various types in Bury and Manchester had devised a system whereby employers and others were invited to make an annual donation, and in return they were given 'recommends' for In or Out patients, which were of different values. I became well versed in this system, on account of being employed at the local co-op society, where these 'recommends' were in great demand by members of the Society. In my opinion this was a very good system, and worked well. In addition, at this time, individuals had to pay fees to their doctor who treated them, and also to pay for the medicine which he prescribed and also supplied to them. I can only remember liquid medicine being supplied, not the sort of pills supplied at this time.

George Ashworth

THE HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE, 1937-48

My first taste of hospital was when I was attending St Paul's School in the 1930s. My sister Edna contacted Scarlet Fever and she was taken by ambulance to Florence Nightingale Hospital, in Bury - I cried and cried - I thought she had gone forever!

Of course in those days no one was allowed to visit her, though we could see her through the corridor window. I was heartbroken. I remember the children in the class sent some fruit when she came home.

The house had to be fumigated and when Edna came home - looking very thin - she toldus that hearing the trains passing the hospital had made her homesick! We lived on Crow Lane and so heard the trains constantly. She also said how much she had enjoyed the chocolate cake that Mother had sent her. Imagine how I felt when soon after she came home / caught Scarlet Fever and it was my turn to into hospital ! How much better it is that parents can stay with younger children.

In 1948, just prior to the formation of the NHS, I was a patient in Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital. My father, who worked for the LMS, was a member of some kind of Saturday Hospital Fund, which paid for the operation.

Matron LEES - a formidable character - was ably assisted by Sister SMITH, and any operation was performed by our local Dr CLOHESSY, a lovely man. When the doctors did their morning rounds, we were always thrilled to see Mr FORD and Dr CRAWSHAW who were both quite handsome!

We always knew when Matron was having her day off - then she would wear fawn stockings instead of black ones.

The ward I was in was quite small, with a pleasant view of the fields beyond. I think my mother brought my tea every day.

Doris A Hibbert

THE CHILDREN OF QUEEN'S PLACE, SUMMERSEAT, cl937

When we were on holiday in 1997, we met a young woman, Dorothy FARROW, who now lives in Australia, who was born and brought up in Summerseat. Her father, James FARROW, was a manager of Brooksbottom Mill, together with Messrs BARLOW and HOLLAND. He and his wife Constance came out to Australia soon after his retirement in 1969, where he died in 1994 at the age of 92. Dorothy sent us copies of eight photographs taken in Summerseat in the 1930s, of which this is one. Taken in about 1937, it shows the FARROW family's 1935 Hillman Minx on Queen's Place, with the following children:

Back row, left to right: Joan FARROW, Alice HOLGATE, Eileen BARLOW, Marion HOLGATE.

Front row, left to right: June BARLOW, Dorothy FARROW, Marjorie FROST.

Eileen Collier



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RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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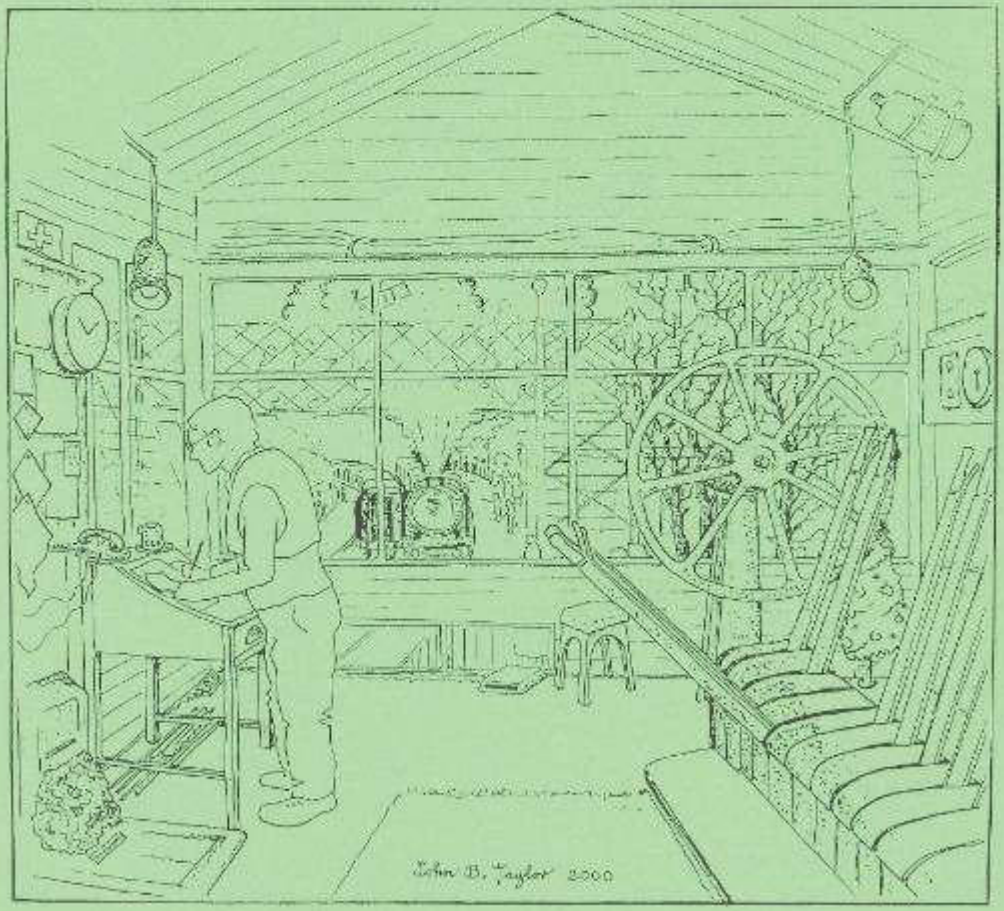

NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE

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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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

2000 PROGRAMME

16th March	*Photographic Competition* judged by Mrs Clare Altham
19thApril	*Pace Egging in Lancashire* - Mr Alan Seymour
17th May	AGM; + Mr Ray Mercer, *The Hey House Renovation*
21st June	Dr Mary C Higham, *Medieval Parks in the North West*



All indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm.

Entry by donation, please.

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FRONT COVER - Ramsbottom Station Signal Box, 2nd January 2000. Drawn by John Taylor of Stacksteads

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Millennium Festival, 17th - 24th June 2000 - integrated with Ramsbottom Sports Week, this spectacular once-in-a-lifetime festival will feature a cherished vehicle show, an outdoor stage with full professional lighting and sound to present a Silver band, a local rock group, children from eight schools performing historical re-enactments and musical items whilst the Youth Theatre and School of Dance will stage excerpts from recent productions. The host will be BBC presenter Martin HENFIELD. There will be an all-day bar and refreshments in the Civic Hall, displays, face painting, a town crier, Bippo our local clown. In the evening, a Young Clubbers event will be staged in the Civic Hall, whilst live jazz will feature in the *Grant Arms*. There will be a special open evening at the Heritage Centre on Wednesday 21st June, with eminent medieval archaeologist Dr Mary HIGHAM as guest speaker.

The Society has been awarded a Lottery Grant of £4,324.00 towards the costs. Eight months of quiet, hard work have already taken place. For those taking part, helping behind the scenes, or visiting our town, the Festival will be an enormously exciting event, likely to become part of the lore of the town - it will raise the Society's profile, get us new members and draw many more visitors into the Heritage Centre. Please pitch in as this needs to be a truly communal effort! A meeting will be arranged soon, at which the full programme will be unveiled. Your comments - and help - will be vital.

Celebrations on Holcombe Hill - it is interesting how often Holcombe Hill figures in our town's celebration of key national events. Good Friday is the obvious one, but there have been two in recent months which have brought this fact home to me. Like hundreds of other local people, our family headed up the Hill on Wednesday 11th August 1999, to observe the 2 minutes 20 seconds of 90% solar eclipse starting at 11-11am, the first since that of 1927 to be visible from here. Lots of children, usually with filters to look through, or pin hole cards to see the sun's reflection. The sky was completely clear, but the only sensation of darkness was an eerie murk, like one of those deliberately underdeveloped portions of a 1960s film clearly taken in strong sunlight (hence the shadows) but supposed to be a night scene. 'I'm cold!' shivered Eleanor. 'Changed my life!' said one woman sarcastically, as we made our way down.

My octogenarian neighbour, Ernest HUTCHINSON, on Bolton Street had probably been up there in 1927, but when on Christmas Day 1999 we spoke about the forthcoming communal bonfire planned for New Year's Eve, his memories were of 'a hell of a procession' up Lumb Carr Road, on the occasion of the coronation of George VI (1937). It had been a lovely evening, and a band accompanied - there were rover scouts (playing bugles and drums), guides and cubs, and most of the local schoolchildren. The mayor and various councillors officiated at these 1930s proceedings, and a bonfire was lit just in front of the Tower, followed by a fireworks display. 'Andy HURST, Teddy TOWERS,' my informant mused, 'we were at that age when we quietly got back in the gloom and had some bottles of beer when we shouldn't have!'

I have a feeling that rather more than a few bottles of beer got drunk the following Friday night, 31st December 1999. My brother and I this time were the only family members to set out on that gloomy, drizzle-soaked last evening of the 1900s to attend the so-called **Millennium Bonfire**. The powerful illuminating lights around Emmanuel Church struggled to make any impression against that all-pervading low cloud. More cars in Holcombe Village than I had ever seen, stretching way down Lumb Carr Road. Chapel Lane snarled up. A refreshments van and a great pile of cardboard boxes by the *Shoulder of Mutton* car park, soggy and disintegrating - had contained hundreds of wax candle-torches. A great throng on Cross Lane, all very good-humoured - most going up, but many struggling against the human tide to come down. Pinpoints of candle light and beams from every size of torch moved up the hillside track, churned into yellowy brown liquid mud by the rain and thousands of feet. Mud-spattered trousers, everyone in anoraks, many under every type of umbrella, and lots of toddlers cocooned in polythene as their parents struggled with buggies. Discarded cans and bottles at every few paces. Snatches of mobile phone conversation. As many people pushing past each other as on the busiest Saturday morning on Bridge Street. An ocean of people standing on the banks near the Tower, faces glinting in the drizzle and its huge lights, though only its great plinth visible, the rest of the stonework lost in cloud. Impossible to get within 30 yards of the massive bonfire stack, which had been visible all day from the town centre. Easily two thousand up there, when it was lit soon after 9:00pm. Orange tongues licking intermittently up out of the smoke, reflecting in the gloom. Red diddy-men hats with 2000 digits in white.

Just two hours of the 1900s left - we slurried back down, against the still oncoming crowds, the fire was lost in the cloud, and the first firework went off, as intense as a quarry being dynamited. The air and ground quivered. Wire fence by the path, flashes, rat tat tats and booms of further explosions, lighting up parts of the hillside - I could believe we were back at the other end of the century, near Ypres.

Society Collection - this is now housed at Bury Archives, but we still welcome donations of documentary/photographic items (not artefacts, please - they belong in the Museum), provided they relate to the pre-1974 Ramsbottom UDC area, viz Ramsbottom, Holcombe, Holcombe Brook, Edenfield, Turn, Shuttleworth and Summerseat. A donor release form must be completed and signed, and countersigned by a Centre keyholder. Barbara Park has kindly offered to run this system, a role performed tirelessly by Brenda Decent until last year. Thanks, Brenda and Barbara.

Subscriptions - an extraordinary general meeting of the Society in November 1999 determined that rates should rise as of the new membership year beginning 1st April 2000. This modest increase means that the following rates now apply:

Individual Membership costs £7.00 (£4.00 OAPs, Students and the Unwaged)

Family/Group Membership costs £11.00 (£6.00 concessionary)

Andrew Todd

A CHILD'S EYE VIEW OF BYE ROAD AND SHUTTLEWORTH IN THE 1930s

I read with interest Bill ROBERTS' piece in *Ramsbottom Reminiscences 2* (1996). I too lived on Bye Road, Shuttleworth, spending the first decade of my life - 1928 to 1938 - at No 19. I was the only child of Charlie and Annie LIPTROTT, though Dad's widowed sister Lucy (LAMB), lived further down at No 38. She had eight children, but Dad was 46 when I was born, she was even older, so there was a big age gap between my cousins and myself and some had already 'flown the nest'.

I well remember the families who lived in our row - LLOYD, JONES, LEACH, McCORMICK, us and DRIVER. The site is now grassed over, as if our demolished houses never existed. They were already condemned when we lived there. In common with most of Bye Road they were completely basic - two up, two down. We had gas lighting downstairs, made do with candles upstairs, our lavatories were outside and of the non-flushing kind. We were plagued with 'black-jacks', enormous and revolting with their shiny, shell-like backs. The houses in our row shared a small back yard with the next-door neighbours, and this led out into a bigger yard (we called it the 'big back') shared with houses fronting onto Whalley Road. Bye Road houses were on varying levels, mostly above the road, but ours were below road level, with a long step running the length of the row. We used to sit on this step, chattering and playing with such toys as we had. We were always there on Christmas morning, after Father Christmas had been, comparing notes and showing off.

The Depression hit us all as the '30s wore on. The mill at the bottom of the road, where many local people had been employed, had by then closed down and was gradually falling into disrepair. When I was little, Dad worked at the Fletcher Bank Quarry. At tea time I used to wait for him at the top of Bye Road and he would carry me home on his shoulders, but in 1935 he was laid off. He then spent his time either with the growing number of men who stood aimlessly at the street corner, or else playing dominoes and crib in the Club down Spring Street.

Some outsiders saw us as a rough and ready lot. Perhaps we were, but privation can bring out the best in people living in a close-knit community like ours. Our mothers were determinedly house-proud, so our stone-flagged floors were constantly scrubbed, our doorsteps donkey-stoned, our windows polished until they gleamed, and the children were well cared for and happy there. Bye Road was a wonderful playground for children, with all its nooks and crannies, alleyways, big backs and little backs. The houses were nearly all terraced, with front doors opening onto the pavement, and it was a joy on a winter's night to play 'knock the door and run away', disappearing into the darkness before

the unfortunate householder had risen from his chair. The landing was ideal for a quick escape because there were steps at either end.

Another winter game was ' Bobbie, Bobbie, show your light'. One child would run off to hide, carrying a concealed jar containing a lit candle. We would all shout out: 'Bobbie, Bobbie, show your light' and he, or she, would wave the jar in the air before concealing it again and making off while we searched. Torches overtook candles eventually - they must have been a great deal safer!

All the children joined hands for the big 'round' games in the street. We sang, as we circled, such ditties as: 'the wind, the wind, the wind blows high; it blows Freda LIPTROTT (or whoever) across the sky.' The round games always took place by the light of Hilda PRESTON's chip shop. Unfortunately, our house was close to the chippy. At 8.00pm prompt my mother would appear at her door shouting for me to go home to bed, and she started the other mothers off. There was always the threat that *Boney* or the Bogey Man would get us if we didn't obey. I know that *Boney* was BONAPARTE, but who on earth was the Bogey Man? Whoever he was he terrified us.

One night when we were out playing we saw the Aurora Borealis and watched, mesmerised, as the glorious colours flickered about the sky.

According to season we played whip and top, hoops, rounders and marbles with real glass alleys - always with our eyes on the prized 'blood alley'. We played 'tig' (known in other parts of the country as 'tag' or 'he'). Skipping seemed to go on through winter and summer to a variety of chants. A topical one in the mid-1930s was 'Who's that walking down the street? Mrs SIMPSON's cheesy feet!.'

We always played in the road because there wasn't much traffic, particularly now that the mill was closed, apart from a few delivery vehicles, BROOKs' ice cream van, which toiled up from Ramsbottom in the summer, and occasionally the red open-topped roadster, driven down from Turn by 'Little Gilbert' which fascinated the boys.

Sometimes, during the summer holidays, I went with Enid LEACH up to SEDGE WICK's farm, where her father worked. There we collected eggs, helped (?) with haymaking and, if we were lucky, were given a lift on the horse-drawn milk float. Usually though, we spent our time in the brook up The Croft. I paddled there for hours with Enid, Doreen JONES, Teddy WHITTLES, Donald BARKER, Albert ROTHWELL and others. We had picnics on the slopes above, roly-polying down when the mood took us. The sun always shone, of course, Blackpool could only have been second best.

We were forbidden by our parents to go too far up The Croft on our own, for fear of John Willy (I think he was a tramp who lived on the moors) and also for fear of the lodges. Older lads used to jump in for a swim on hot summer days, and there had been several fatalities. Unwanted animals were also thrown in to drown. We went up, but the lodges were indeed, and probably still are, frightening - glassy, dark and deep. Another forbidden place was the bank at the top of Richard Street. I only climbed it once and found to my horror that I was looking a long, long way down into a quarry pit with slimy green water at the bottom. I wished I hadn't disobeyed instructions because I suffered from secret nightmares afterwards.

Bye Road contained a surprising number of shops - starting with the Co-op on one comer and the Post Office on the other (before it moved up Whalley Road). There was the chip shop (the centre of our small universe), CASSLEY's potato pie shop, and several shops which seemed - to a child's eye - to sell nothing but toffees. And although we had a Co-op, the DRIVERs next door to us also had a little grocery shop in their front room.

One of my all-abiding memories is of the clogs, clattering on the setts. They started early in the morning, in pitch darkness during winter months, as the women (and it was usually women who worked at those looms still operating) left for the Ramsbottom mills. One pair of clogs to begin with, followed by another, and another, until the noise built up to a crescendo, slowly subsiding until all was silent. At schooltime it started again, with my clogs part of the general clatter. And when we came home from our labours so did the clogs. The clogger (another shop in Bye Road) must have done a roaring trade.

I remember too a visit from the Britannia Coconut Clog Dancers of Bacup, prancing up and down with their coloured flowing ribbons and blackened faces - fearsome yet tremendously exciting. All visiting entertainers performed in the road outside our house because we faced Richard Street as well as the chip shop. The Salvation Army often appeared on Sunday nights, and brass (or was it silver?) bands came up from Ramsbottom on New Year's Day.

Facing Richard Street had its drawbacks. Those outside privies had to be periodically emptied, and that's where the night soil cart (or 'muck cart' to use the local term) came into its own. On one infamous occasion, before my time, it was proceeding steadily up Richard Street, heavily laden, when the back fell off!

Returning to the subject of entertainment - we children had our own musical custom, pace-egging. Pace-egging goes back to pagan times, but the words of our song probably go no further than the 19th Century. I've sent a copy to Heritage Society (complete with my attempt at the tune) and it is now in the Collection. For our performance we too blackened our faces and begged or borrowed our fathers' old shirts. We sang our way from door to door, including the big house (I think it was called *Spring Bank*) in Whalley Road - where they actually had maids to answer the door - hoping for small monetary contributions, and we were rarely disappointed. Ha'pennies meant a lot to us in those days. And to the givers.

I received no pocket money from my parents, so I went into business. When the women came home from work, tired and hungry, I used to run up and down the road crying: 'Can I get your chips?' I had two or three regular customers and it proved quite lucrative because the wage was either a ha'penny or penny, or a chip butty made with shop-bought bread. This was a great treat for a child whose mother insisted on making her own bread. It seems incredible now to recall that I turned my nose up at delicious home-baked bread but, as the saying goes, 'familiarity breeds contempt'.

When I was four years-old my grandfather, Herbert LIPTROTT, died in Jericho Hospital, Bury, at the age of 84. His open coffin was laid out in our front room table and people came to 'pay their last respects'. I had never met him, but we had a large photograph of him dominating our front room wall, and as his coffin lay there I surreptitiously crept in to gaze at his face, in death, stroking his beard quite fearlessly. Funerals were many in those days some families were decimated by tuberculosis - and even if you were Chapel (as we

were) you were always christened and buried by the Church. My father and his nephews, all 'six-footers', were invariably called upon to be pall bearers, and Dad kept a bowler hat and black tie especially for this purpose. So they headed our funeral procession, carrying granddad's coffin on their shoulders, up Bye Road and Whalley Road to St John's Church and, after the service, over the road to the graveyard. He was buried in an unmarked grave - we couldn't afford a gravestone - but although 66 years have passed, I could find it now. That was the first time I'd ever set foot in a graveyard but I felt quite at home because I'd been told that a lot of people I had known were there too. I became a regular, if solitary, visitor, thoroughly enjoying the sight and smell of the flowers. Flowers were a luxury to us.

Mum and I faithfully attended Bank Lane Baptist Chapel twice every Sunday. I've still got two of the books I received for good attendance - *Alice in Wonderland* and *The House in the Little Green Wood*, both signed by Elders of the Chapel, Gilbert HOLT and Tom FIELDING. A book I did not keep was *Down the Snow Stairs* by Alice B CORCORAN, with its drawings of nasty little hobgoblins lurking on the stairs and waiting to catch me if I fell and do me to death if I'd been naughty. And we complain about the horrors fed to our children and grandchildren now!

We had some wonderful times at Chapel. I particularly remember the New Year concerts. We laboriously rehearsed for months beforehand. Mum made the costumes and there was much coming and going for fittings. The great day arrived, and after a high tea of ham and pickles we were up on the stage at last, behind the footlights, with the smell of the grease paint and the roar of the crowds. Well, perhaps I'm exaggerating about the crowds. But we were clapped and cheered heartily, and inspired to go on a tour of other chapels. We performed at Park, and Patmos, and I'm sure they enjoyed our musical gems such as: *'iver Stay Away from my Door* and our recitations - for example my solo about Baby Jesus: *He had 10 tiny fingers and 10 tiny toes*.

The Whit Walks were also a highlight of our year. We marched through the streets of Shuttleworth behind the band, queen and princesses, resplendent in our new frocks, waving importantly to our public. Afterwards we repaired to the field near our Chapel for games and refreshments.

The starting age at Peel Brow School was four years-old, and we went first of all into Miss ELSBY's nursery class. We all loved the 'Jungle Him' and rocking horse. We had our own band but, much to my annoyance, although I yearned to play the tambourine, I was never promoted beyond the triangle. When we reached our fifth birthday we each had a party, complete with table fireworks. Then we moved up to Miss FOSTER's class and real work commenced.

When I first started school we had a cinder playground. Can you imagine - cinders for children to play on! I was forever going home with bloodied knees and I've still got the scars. Later, the playground was concreted over, and this was great for 'sparking' our clogs.

I was an only child and thoroughly molly-coddled by my mother. In winter I was probably the most-dressed child in school with my woollen vest, combinations, liberty bodice, jumper, gymslip and woollen stockings. Not only did I feel positively indecent, stripping down to my vest and knickers, but it took me ages to get there!

Despite all Mum's efforts I suffered bouts of illness, and late in 1937 I went down with the dreaded diphtheria. There was an epidemic throughout Lancashire but somehow, until then, it had missed Shuttleworth. I was rushed into the Florence Nightingale Isolation Hospital, Bury, in an ambulance with two other children from further afield, as it was so rife. Bye Road people blamed the tap water which, so I was told later, came out a 'funny brown colour', and long afterwards they collected their drinking water from Sally Well, a spring at the bottom of the road. Why 'Sally' I wonder?

My stay in hospital lasted five weeks. There was a suspicion that I might also have caught scarlet fever, so 1 ended up doubly isolated, in a tiny bedroom all alone. This was well before the NHS so I don't know whether my parents had to contribute towards the cost of my treatment and, if so, where the money came from. They could seldom afford the bus fare to visit the hospital, but even when they did they were only allowed to view me through a plate glass window. But the worst part for me was the food. Unless relatives paid extra for food we existed on a basic and monotonous diet. Every day, for five weeks, we had stodgy porridge for breakfast, stew and rice pudding for dinner, bread and jam for tea. All served on battered tin plates.

Tragically, whilst I was incarcerated, one of my friends, Jean LLOYD, died of meningitis. I will always remember her version of the popular song *Go to sleep my little piccaninny*, which went: 'Go to sleep my little pinky ticket.'

When I returned to school, still feeling frail, there was a big diphtheria immunisation campaign in progress. We all had to be immunised. My protests that I had only just had the wretched disease fell on deaf ears. My arm was grabbed and in went the needle. I was justifiably indignant.

If my memory served me correctly, my father's dole money was 26s 0d a week -10s 0d per adult and 6s 0d per child. Mum's sisters used to send her their old clothes which she duly cut up and re-made for me. I longed to have a brand-new dress 'off the peg'. She struggled to improve our lot by taking in washing and sewing, but she was anaemic and her health deteriorated. She was a southerner, having been brought up in Southampton (she and Dad first met when he was stationed there during the First World War) and her relatives startedto plead with Dad to let us move down there to live.

He was not enamoured of the South. We had all heard about the Edenfield family who won the pools, went off to the New Forest for a holiday and returned in double quick time complaining that it was 'nowt but grass and trees'. As Dad spent most of his army life on Salisbury Plain and Southampton Common he tended to agree with them. However, in 1938 he gave up the struggle and we moved to the bustling sea port where a job had already been found for him on the Docks. It seemed to me to be a noisy, unfriendly place. The streets were swarming with foreigners.

I couldn't even understand the locals and they certainly couldn't understand me. A far cry from Shuttleworth, where everyone knew everyone else. I'll never forget my happy, and in some ways quite unique childhood, and my roots will remain in Bye Road.

Freda Molyneux (née Liptrott)

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS: SOME IDEAS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

This is in the nature of a request - a request for you to venture out more with your camera and take more photographs. Despite having used a camera since I was knee high to a tripod, I have a great many regrets for all those missed opportunities I let slip through my grasp. There are photographs and photographs, and a good deal of mine (and my father's) early attempts, although technically proficient are now almost meaningless to me.

Imagine, for instance, you are going away on holiday - when is the first time you will use your camera ? More often than not it will remain tucked away in its case until you are firmly ensconced on a beach somewhere feeding endless ice creams to your ever hungry offspring. I have many a shot of myself in exactly this situation. Yes they are quite good photographs, but now, four decades after they were taken, what exactly are they photographs of ? A young boy, obviously me, sat in the sand with his back to a brick wall. They could have been taken anywhere, in a builders yard within a mile of my own home, for all I know. How much nicer it would have been if a recognisable building had been carefully "posed' in the background. Possibly the lifeboat house or perhaps a theatre with placards of weekly events strategically placed ? Anything really that will pinpoint the exact location for future reference. And why wait until you are on the beach?

How well I remember my own childhood holidays in the 1950s. One of our favourite destinations was Rhyl on the north Wales coast. Even our family, all avid photographers, committed the cardinal sin of not using our cameras until we were settled into our new surroundings. How I wish we'd taken shots of our journey there and back. Setting off from home with my father struggling under the weight of our suitcases. Arriving at Ramsbottom Station where my 70 year-old grandmother, still working full time as a cleaner, would stand under the large clock alongside the platform indicator boards, waiting to wave us all off. What a memorable picture that would have made, taken from inside of the train with ourselves looking out - not just a family portrait but a record of the station and its staff as it was many years ago. Then we set off, passing through all those stations with the strange sounding names which were magic to me as a child. Besses o'th' Barn and Mickle Trafford were always a couple of my favourites.

Then came the refreshment trolleys, rattling up the platform towards our carriage and our purchases being handed to us through the sliding top windows. Cartons of orange juice with tiny windows to force your straws through, if you didn't bend them in six places first in the attempt. I often wonder what would have happened if the train had set off while we were still paying our dues, or, worse still, waiting for our change. But what a wonderful memory a photograph of that scene would have made.

My recollections are fading now of all those stations displays with huge glass cases containing giant model ocean liners, of the posters and milk churn laden trolleys adorning the platform. All gone - never to be seen again. And those large red machines with the giant 'hour-hand' that you could turn to the letter of your choice, and by swinging on a long lever, stamp out your name on a thin strip of metal, all for only one penny.

Eventually, when we arrived at our destination, and stepped out onto Rhyl platform, the engine driver would give us all a cheery wave-another picture opportunity missed. Spilling outside into the warm sunshine, practically guaranteed in those days, we'd be met by the screams of the gulls overhead and the cries of the local barrow boys, 'Carry your cases, sir?'

For the princely sum of sixpence my father was relieved of our luggage until we reached our holiday home on the sea front. What a wonderful picture that would have made, and another piece of history we don't think of at the time. These sort of photos mean much more in later life than young So-and-so posed on front of a deck chair somewhere in Southend.

A few shots of street scenes or of the locals going about their daily business would not go amiss-reminders in future years of the shop fronts and the transport and dress of the time. It all adds to the atmosphere of your holiday.

So too with snaps taken at home for your family album. I have photographs of myself in my school uniform in our back garden which now seem almost mundane, but the ones taken of me in the house doing my homework are something else. Sprawled on the carpet with a bowl of 'cherry-lips' (one of my favourite sweets, I'm told, from decades ago).

Newspapers thrown on a nearby chair, all the paraphernalia of the '50s lying around the room, and no TV! Only our faithful valve radio in the comer standing next to a large first aid cabinet my father made before I was born. I still have both of these, and what's more the radio still works! I've lost count of the times I've poured over this particular photograph until a hand lens straining to read a date or a headline on the newspapers to give me a clue as to when it was taken. How much more meaningful if it had been on the back of the print in the first place .

I can remember a few of the photographs actually being taken. Electronic flash was still in the future and we had to make do with the old magnesium filled bulbs slotted into a six-inch aluminium reflector - another item I still own. As children, the brilliant flash followed by the crackle and hiss of the bulb cooling down amused us no end. Flash shots, though, were few and far between, largely due to the expense of the bulbs. They used to have blue spots of chemical inside them, and if this ever turned pink it meant that air had leaked inside and the bulb was not to be used. I'm reminded one time of my delight at eventually finding one of these 'pink' bulbs and then attempting to find out the reason. The loud explosion as I tried the shutter and the cascade of glass which powdered the entire room gave me my answer.

Luckily no-one was hurt, but how much easier it is in this age of compact electronic cameras to reproduce what we had to struggle to achieve then. Even the film in those days was limited to bright daylight. Nowadays, however, there is no excuse. High speed film, colours easily obtainable and at a cheaper price than black and white, and wonders of wonders - the video. Not only a moving picture but stunning sound too. And if you don't like your first attempts you simply record over them and try again. There is absolutely no reason any more for not going out and making a record of everything in sight. Not even the weather should dampen your spirits.

We've all had the experience, huddled together under a shop awning or doorway shivering in a torrential summer downpour and cursing the moment we ever set foot in the place. The last thing we'd think of is to record it on film, but I'm certain, in our later years, just such an image would bring a smile to the face of even the hardiest of souls.

Joe Crompton

MEMORIES OF RAMSBOTTOM STATION SIGNALBOX AND CROSSING

Few railway level crossings have been the subject of a parliamentary question, addressed to a minister in the House of Commons, but ours has that enviable distinction. The crossing and its box are now significant railway heritage features, even figuring on the town's Market Place history plaque. The crossing celebrated its 150th anniversary in September 1996. The present brick-built Ramsbottom Station Signalbox, at least the third box to have occupied this site, celebrated its 60th anniversary in 1999. Constructed by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, probably in 1938-9, it replaced the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway's stone box, which had been in commission since 1875. The LMS box was unused between 1980 (when the final weekly coal train to and from Rawtenstall ceased running) and 1991, when the line from Ramsbottom to Rawtenstall was reopened as part of the East Lancashire Railway. The present 40-lever frame (also of 1939 vintage) was taken from Burn Naze box, near Fleetwood, and installed at Ramsbottom in 1988.

With a lifelong interest in railways, I inevitably became a working member on the ELR once I started seeing its trains from our window chuffing along the valley bottom. By 1995, I had passed out as a class one signalman, which meant that I could be rostered for turns in charge of Ramsbottom Station Signalbox.

There have been signalmen at Ramsbottom since 1846, when the original East Lancashire Railway opened. The wheel-operated level crossing, very rare now on the Railtrack system, is one of the present line's most interesting operational features. All the gates, points and signals operated from this box are interlocked, so that it is mechanically impossible for a signalman to pull levers which could permit a dangerous train movement. To take a simple example, signals protecting the approach to the level crossing cannot be cleared for a train until:

(1) the gates are shut to the road, and (2) the four brown locking levers are pulled, ensuring that neither road nor pedestrian gates can be opened. These levers (numbers one to four) are just visible beyond the black cast iron wheel which works the gates - see front cover.

As with so many other aspects of the ELR's operation, these levers have a history. To allow us easy passage up and down the box, the normal position for a lever is 'in the frame' - ie pushed back away from the signalman. They are only 'out of the frame' when permitting a train to pass. Thus a signal is pulled 'off' (ie cleared for a train) when its lever is pulled forward by the signalman. Similarly, levers three and four, the brown levers which work the two small, pavement wicket gates, are out of the frame when these gates are locked shut to pedestrians, as on the cover illustration. But levers one and two, which lock the four big road gates, work oppositely - they are 'out of the frame' when the gates are locked to the railway, and road traffic can pass.

With an up and a down train passing over Bridge Street only every hour, and usually only at weekends, the delays occasioned by the gates are tolerated by most road users with equanimity, and only occasionally, perhaps after a special events weekend, does the railway receive complaints. Some road drivers, however, indulge in hair-raising races to jump the gates as these swing through their 90° turn against the road, and at least once this has resulted in damage to everything concerned, most recently only weeks ago, when a stolen van made contact. Such drivers (and our most heart-stopping experiences seem to be with the drivers of taxis) are actually the latest representatives of a long tradition of gate jumpers at Ramsbottom. The crossing has long been a source of vexation to road travellers, but as the following evidence should show, any modem difficulties are miniscule compared to those of the past.

Road traffic at the dawn of the railway age was exceptionally light by modem standards, and since the railway had the legal right of way, it adopted the practice of closing its gates to the railway only if road users appeared. So, the normal position of the gates was closed to the road - and this is why the normal position of those brown locking levers, one and two, is 'in the frame' - ie locking the gates to the road.

The East Lancashire Railway operated the crossing from the line's opening in 1846 until its amalgamation into the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (1859). It is clear that the company kept the gates closed to the road for long periods of time. The problem was that early in the line's history (probably after the 'Extension' line to Accrington was opened in 1848) sidings were laid out north of the station. There was also a water tank beyond the crossing, with the combined result of much engine and shunting movement back and to over Bridge Street. Two employees appear to have discharged what we would now consider the signalman's function, judging from the 1851 census returns - 17 year-old Robert HOPKINSON, who lived at Factory Bottom, was enumerated as 'Rail Porter, Signalman', whilst 30 year-old 'Railway Pointsman' James SUTCLIFFE lived on Ramsbottom Lane. There was probably no signal cabin, and the gates would almost certainly be operated manually, like the farm or turnpike gates that they resembled. Whoever tended them would need to steel himself against the complaints and abuse from delayed road users. It seems from newspaper reports as late as 1891 that there were no locking levers for the wickets, and walkers chanced to dart across between train movements, despite the warnings of the gatekeeper.

Early on, the railway company responded to complaints by constructing a public footbridge over the line to the north of the crossing, round the west and north walls of the box. At least the delays to foot traffic occasioned by shunting would now be obviated, opined the *Bury Times* of 8th Oct 1859 under a heading 'Ramsbottom Public Safety'.

This bridge, and a subsequent reconstruction, were in evidence for around 130 years, the stone steps only being removed shortly after Ramsbottom Station was reopened in 1987. There are few clear photographs of this footbridge, primarily because it was itself a favourite perch for photographers. The western rise of steps occupied the tight, now cobbled space between the signalbox and No 5, Bridge Street (*Figure 1*).

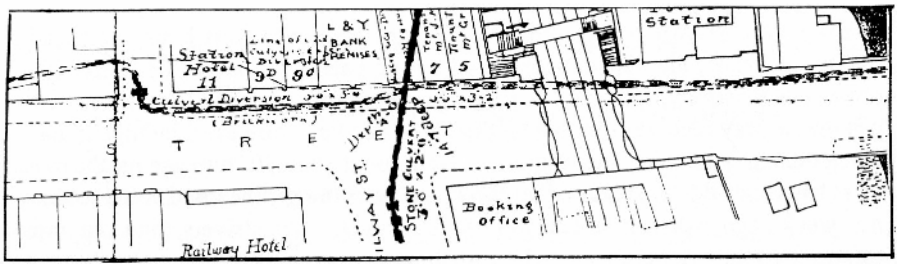

Figure 1: Portion of an Urban District Council survey of Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, May 1917, showing the crossing and 1859 footbridge to the north (Bury Archives)

In its final form, stone steps led up to piers which supported the iron lattice overbridge section. A couple of gaslights offered unassuming illumination. Ramsbottom Station was a 'continuous box', manned in three eight-hour shifts, and it might have been expected that late night drunks would regularly pester the signalman as they passed the two sides of the box. In fact the close proximity of the Police Station immediately to the east of the crossing reduced this aggravation. The locking room (ground floor) windows of the 1939 box were bricked up, presumably, because they adjoined these public steps.

The original 1859 footbridge was evidently somewhat crudely designed, and proved itself as hazardous as the foot crossing it was intended to augment. The *Bury Times* of 26th November 1859 contained a report of the death from concussion of Bank Lane sizer James MORRIS, who had fallen down its steps around 11-00pm the previous Saturday. A coroner's inquest, held at the *Railway Hotel* on the Wednesday after the death, was told how Thomas LORD, also of Bank Lane, had heard MORRIS fall down 20 steps, and helped carry him to the toll house, on the east side of the police station where the entrance to the Wharf picnic area is now situated. Doctors WOODCOCK and FORSHAW attended. Nancy GRIME, who lived at the tollhouse, stated that since the bridge had been erected, just two months before, a man, woman and several children had fallen. Susan MORRIS, widow of the deceased, told the inquest that her husband had been a sizer at ASHTONs, earned 24 shillings a week, and had left home for Ramsbottom at 6-15pm that evening with three shillings; since there was 2s 7½d on his person when he fell at 11-00pm, and he did not smell of drink, it was clear that drunkenness had not caused the accident. The jury, finding that MORRIS had suffered accidental death, was critical of bridge's design, suggesting that it should be removed to the south side of the crossing, be provided with two landings, have a reduced rise and broader treads and be covered from the weather. Landings were certainly incorporated into the later reconstruction (*Figure 2*) but its location and exposed state were unaltered.

By the 1890s, increasing road and rail traffic combined to make the issue of delay and safety at the crossing a regular item in the local press. The railway itself, of course, generated a lot of road journeys - as late as the 1920s, horsedrawn hansoms run by Abraham DUCKWORTH from 75, Bolton Street (known colloquially as 'Old Ab's Cabs') queued up outside the station plying for hire; the station was a busy parcels centre;

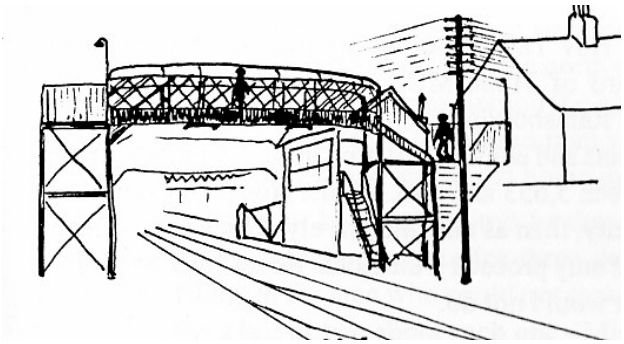

Figure 2: Rough sketch of the public footbridge at Ramsbottom Crossing, looking south towards box and station (based on a 1957 photograph in The East Lancashire Express, No 1, Autumn 1987, page 14)

there was a goods shed on Railway Street; and local butchers used to collect their meat from the sidings. 'It is no uncommon thing to see a good half a dozen carts, lurries and carriages wait a good 15 minutes before they can cross the line,' declared the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 13th June 1890,

> ***and notwithstanding the great care which is constantly exercised by the company's intelligent and alert officials at this junction, the number of fatal accidents has been very great. True there is a footbridge by which pedestrians may cross but the bulk of people have a rooted objection to ascend and descend two flights of steps to make a mere 20 yards headway... if they are physically capable.***

(Evidently, it was common practice to 'rush across the metals', using the wicket gates which, clearly, had no locks.) Local people, the paper opined, 'are unanimous in their desire to see Ramsbottom Station spanned by a bridge, one that will accommodate vehicular as well as pedestrian traffic,' a demand which the paper considered so reasonable 'that we cannot think it will long remain ungranted.' By 19th September 1890, the paper was referring to 'the proposed subway beneath the level crossing' and deriding the Local Board for inactivity.

The issue surfaced the following year, the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 7th Aug 1891 reporting how one member, James HOLT, had raised the issue at the Board's last meeting, following a further accident. The gates and wickets were being painted, and the L&YR had displayed a board instructing pedestrians to use the footbridge. 'An injustice!' declared Mr HOLT, 'the road was there before the railway came...'. He had seen a dozen people and a lurry waiting to cross, and no train coming either way.

Chairman BARLOW explained that the position of the current Board had been compromised by the inaction of earlier members. He had met railway officials at the station and presented weekly pedestrian traffic flows. 'They quietly tabled letters sent to them by the Ramsbottom Local Board thanking them for the money they had spent - £8,000 - in alterations to the station.' The railway had asked the Board for suggestions whilst they were doing these, and the Board had simply approved the plans, which included the present footbridge. 'We looked very simple then,' a Board member chipped in. (Laughter). It was agreed that a further deputation be sent.

The alterations referred to had occurred after 1874 (see *Figure 3*, page 14) when the railway facilities in the town had had a general makeover. The 1875 signalbox may have

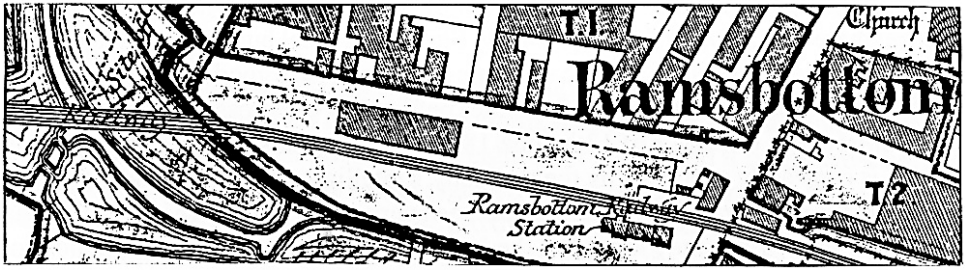

Figure 3: Ramsbottom Station from the 1874 plan of the Grant-Lawson estate (Bury Archives)

been part of this development. But any improvements had since been overtaken by the increasing volume of traffic. Representations were evidently made beyond the town, and the *Bury Times* of 25th Nov 1893 reported a parliamentary question addressed to President of the Board of Trade MUNDELLA by local MP, Mr CHANNING on the inadequacies of Ramsbottom's controversial crossing.

On 30th Sept 1893, 8,948 persons and 181 trains and engines had used the crossing, whilst the equivalent figures for 7th Oct had been 5,653 and 146. Whilst House of Commons questions may make for good publicity, then as now they rarely achieved anything. Ultimately, the subway scheme could only proceed if the Local Board were willing to spend ratepayers' money, and this it would not do. The history of Ramsbottom's railway facilities can be pursued in the ELR and L&YR Board of Directors' Minute Books at the Public Record Office [known as the National Archives since 2003] in Kew, SW London.

Figure 1 (page 12) shows a peculiarity of the layout of Ramsbottom - that there were two footbridges, one on either side of the level crossing, within a few yards of each other. The southerly one, a hefty, timber, half-glazed affair, was on the station proper, and was used by passengers walking from the booking office at the Railway Street entrance to the up platform (Bury-bound). This bridge may have dated back to the major redevelopment of the station in the mid-1870s or later - its timber looks surprisingly new on the photograph of Friday 26th October 1900 which shows Peel Bridge toll bar and tollgate, on the afternoon that they came 'out of trust' - see copy in Ken BEETSON's *Ramsbottom Volume 2* (1978). This footbridge was demolished in 1959/60. The present cast-iron station footbridge was brought over from Dinting, Glossop. Ramsbottom Station was not easy to work. The two platform canopies (demolished in the winter of 1970/1), the two footbridges and the curve of the line made sighting difficult, the dangers being aggravated by the heaviness of rail traffic and the frequency of shunting manoeuvres. The *Accrington Observer* of 7th September 1895 reported how local fireman Willie POLLARD, had been knocked off the tender of an engine whilst shunting round its train in Ramsbottom Station the previous Friday evening. It was 8-30pm, and presumably dark. Another train was due, and to save time POLLARD was changing the engine's tail lamp whilst it was in motion, climbing over the coals to reach the back of the tender. The driver, John BRIGGS, claimed at the inquest that he had warned his fireman of the two bridges. A witness, Ramsbottom labourer Thomas PILLING, had been standing at the gate, presumably

waiting for the engine to pass, and had seen the fireman walking erect on the tender so that his head was struck by the public footbridge to the north of the crossing, the lower of the two. POLLARD plunged onto the track behind the engine and was taken into the porters' room. Dr DEAN was called. The injured man was rushed to Accrington by special train, and he died of his head injuries at home the following evening.

Fred HANSON, who has contributed to these pages many times, worked as a signalman in the Manchester area for three decades. From 1947, he was a relief signalman, filling in for men who could not make a shift, has experience of scores of boxes, and has a tale or two about each one - Middleton Junction West Box haunted by the white apparitions of a signalman and his dog; Alderbottom haunted by a signalman who had got caught up in his own wires and died of overnight exposure; and Fred himself being snowed in at Bacup Junction for five days early in 1947.

Fred recalls Ramsbottom's level crossing as

> ***always an obstruction to road transport. It had a footbridge for the hasty, though the majority preferred to wait and watch the steam trains passing. In the 1960s, 120-130 trains passed over the crossing every 24 hours, the box being open continuously, and had been for over 100 years, the turns being 6.00am-2.00pm, 2.00pm-10.00pm, 10.00pm-6.00am, Monday to Saturday; Saturday 10.00pm-8.00am Sunday, 8.00am-7.00pm, then 7.00pm Sunday to 6.00am Monday, and the man on this turn came back 2-10, after eight hours.***

Fred worked in both of the Ramsbottom crossing's boxes. He remembers the old L&Y pre-1939 model as

> ***poky, a queer little hole. Oil lamps inside before the 1930s, then gaslights, heavy L&Y levers facing the line, very limited clearance around the wheel which was parallel with the tracks, so you had to move front and back of it to get a view up and down the street.***

The steps up to the box were near to the pavement, at 90° to it, and in the ginnel by the footbridge. 'They were moved to stop drunks coming up and mithering the signalman,' says Fred. 'People would ask train times and come off the platform to ask where a train was.' But there were domestic comforts:

> ***A pot-bellied stove heated the box, best Yorkshire coal was the favourite, and soon got white hot, and on the top was the kettle, perpetual hot water! Engine drivers dropped off the odd cod or two. Also every signalman had a tin for cooking bacon, steak etc in a minimum of time. My favourite being a large onion cut small and fried until brown with butter then drop the cheese in, slap it on two rounds of real bread (homemade). Brill! That in one hand and pull levers, ring bells, answer phone and swing wheel as necessary with other.***

Fred remembers Ramsbottom's gates as being exposed to the wind, and in consequence often being 'heavy' to swing. The trick was to keep them well oiled. Peter STEVENSON, who is still a volunteer on the ELR, recalls his BR days, when linesman Bill TATTERSALL, who lived on Stubbins Lane, was able to lever each gate in turn out of its bottom hinge, with the help of one other man and using a block of wood as a fulcrum.

There was no bearing, just a brass sphere seated in a brass cup. Fred recalls trainee signalmen at Ramsbottom who were frightened that they simply would not be able to get the gates open to the railway in time for approaching trains because of the number of people crossing.

Particularly difficult were cricket match days in the '30s and '40s, when large crowds as big as any now seen at Gigg Lane, would come out of Acre Bottom, and fill the width of Bridge Street as they walked up to the station. If the gates needed closing, the signalman had to go down onto the street waving a red flag, and leave this posted in his window. Many came by train, since the station was so close. When Leary CONSTANTINE, of the West Indies national team, was Nelson's professional, special trains worked from Nelson, and were stabled in the loops to the north of the crossing, or on the 'machine road'. On match day Saturday afternoons, COTTERILs' stand would sell hundreds of pork pies (they were baked in the shop at the top end of *Dungeon Row*, on Bridge Street). 'I've seen Ramsbottom Cricket Ground,' said Fred, 'when you couldn't get on. I'd go on the Cheeky Stand.' (This was the bank above the Irwell, below Bury New Road.) CONSTANTINE once scattered some of the illicit spectators here by hitting a ball over the river and amongst them!

The local signalmen had their own grandstand view - Ramsbottom South Box stood by the old Square Works, overlooking Acre Bottom, and the signalmen had put in their own 18-inch square window, in the back of the box. The signalling inspectors assumed it was official! On match day Sundays, when the box might be manned for an engineer's possession, the rostered signalman would have nothing to do but watch the game! 'You're supposed to show initiative in the box!' said Fred.

There were some scary moments:

> ***We had a few express trains daily, mostly for Manchester Stock Exchange - the 4.30pm Victoria to Colne was one. On this particularday, I was working the box at Ramsbottom on the 2pm-10pm turn, when I got this train flying through Summerseat at 4.50pm, next stop Accrington. Set the gates for the train, and on indication of passing Nuttall Park pulled the brown levers [3 and 4] to lock the wickets. Phone ringing, grabbed it. Mytholmroyd to Ramsbottom coal train passing Bury L&Y, came off phone, to window, people still walking across, down wicket open. Half a dozen trying to get out of up wicket - locked.***
>
> ***Express coming through the station, I released the up wicket, shouted and stopped people coming through the down wicket as the Express shot passed at 60mph. On testing locking lever it was not working. I got the station foreman Conkey NEAVES to tie both wicket gates up with rope to put them out of use, and sent for the signal fitter to repair fault!***

Fortunately, nothing quite like that ever happens on the preserved ELR.

Thanks to Fred HANSON for passing on so many railway memories, and to Mrs NP MARTIN for the newspaper account of her great uncle, Willie POLLARD's death in the 1895 accident.

Andrew Todd

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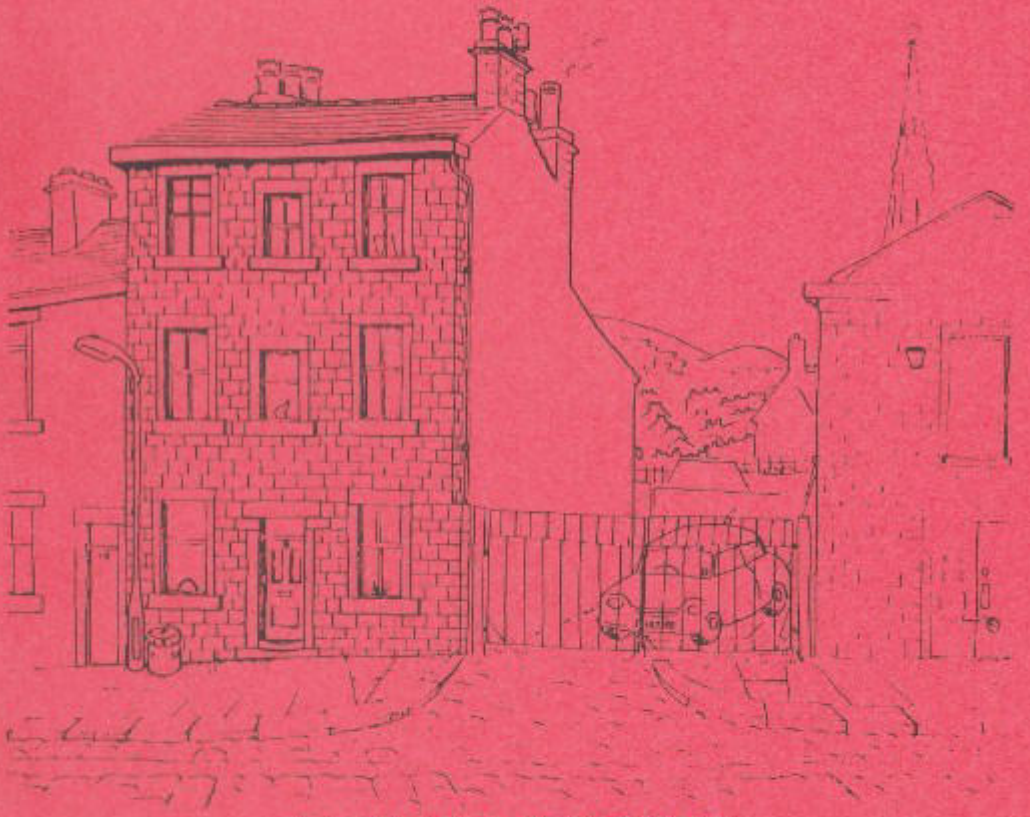

NEWS MAGAZINE
SPECIAL MILLENNIUM EDITION

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

2000 PROGRAMME

13th Dec	Christmas Meeting - Tony Foster, *The Girl Without a Name*

2001 PROGRAMME

17th Jan	Ralph Hart, *Styal Mill*
21st Feb	Dr Alan Crosby, *The 13th Earl of Derby*
21st March	Photographic Competitions + Richard Catlow, *The Ribble to the Sea*
18th April	Birthday Meeting - Dr Mike Cresswell, *Lace Bonnets and Urine Pits*
May	AGM and Members' Night

All indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

Entry by donation, please.

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30	Tom Wightman : When I were a Lad	Joe Crompton

FRONT COVER - Ramsbottom's Model Lodging House, 8, Paradise Street, 2000. Drawn by John Taylor of Stacksteads

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

The **Autumn** Floods - the last few weeks of the century will surely be remembered for rainfall of biblical persistence. The Ouse at York exceeded by one inch on the night of 3rd/4th November its previous record high of 17 feet and 7 inches, reached in 1625. Fortunately, the Pennine rainfall seems to have concentrated its worst excesses on the Yorkshire side, and apart from some flooding in Stubbins the Ramsbottom area was largely spared. This brought back memories for many locals of the great Irwell inundation of September 1947, when 6.28 inches of rain were recorded in Bury between the 1st and 20th of that month. In the 12 hours after 9pm on Thursday 18th September 1947, 2.24 inches fell:-

> ***First news of the flooding came from Ramsbottom when the Irwell, overflowing into Stubbins Lane and Kenyon-street, turned the Ramsbottom Cricket Field and Nuttall Park into a huge lake. The rapidly rising water, travelling at 15 miles an hour, wakened the householders in Stubbins at 4a.m. Three hours later water a foot deep was swirling along Stubbins Lane . . . At 9 o'clock water at Stubbins Lane was three feet deep, and all traffic had to be diverted through Shuttleworth.***
>
> ***Householders . . . watched helplessly as the water continued to rise. In Strongstry, residents took shelter in their bedrooms, while their furniture floated round their kitchens.***
>
> ***Bury Times, 20th September 1947***

Kenyon Street was especially badly affected, five mills having to stop work, employees at Pemberton Mill being stranded on the *second* floor. A four-foot-high wall in River Street collapsed at noon, and this had the effect of releasing the water in Kenyon Street. Residents could now escape from their refuges in their bedrooms. Workers at Stubbins Mill going home for their lunches in Ramsbottom had to avoid the floodwater by walking along the railway line from Stubbins Station as far as the bus depot. Further down the Irwell, German PoWs used sandbags and cinders to try to stop flooding at Warth.

Flooding at Ramsbottom was reckoned to be the worst for 65 years, the rainfall was calculated at Bury to have been the worst since 1918. Records at the Bury Sewage Works indicated that the Irwell had risen by nearly nine feet, breaking all previous records there, including the eight feet plus of 4th November 1931, and December 1936.

Of that same Friday, the *Ramsbottom Observer* reported how on Stubbins Lane:-

Mr SANDERSON and his family were completely marooned and at 5-30 in the evening their kitchen was still under water, the family Finding refuge on the table.

At 93, Kenyon-street, the home of Mr. HITCHCOCK and family, the 'Observer' found order being restored out of chaos, although a Mr. E. HOWE, a son-in-law said, "Conditions in normal times are far from pleasant with eight of us living in the house."

***Ramsbottom Observer*, 26th September 1947**

The floods of December 1936 were recalled by my 82 year-old neighbour in November. He remembered saving the weavers at PEMBERTON's Mill on a flat cart, letting them out of the first floor on a ladder. A woman in labour was similarly rescued from a house in Kenyon Street, and taken on the cart to the ambulance waiting at the higher end of the street.

It was as well, perhaps, for the current residents of Stead Street, Harrison Street, and other inhabited houses around Kenyon Street, that Ramsbottom's flood defence scheme, started in the summer, finished on time in October, days before the heavy rain began. A large rubble bank had been built up along the eastern side of the Irwell to give access to the elderly stone walling which had to date protected this low-lying area. Substantial blocks were placed by the curve in the river immediately to the north of Peel Bridge, and these were then faced with sympathetic stonework. Flood work has also been underway by the railway bridge over the Irwell at the northern end of Nuttall Park, and the resultant closure of the footway which tunnels under the line at this point could not have come at a worse time, the grand opening event of the Heritage Society's Millennium Week on Sunday 18th June taking place in the park! Pedestrians were directed to the only other route into the park, a full mile along Railway Street, Peel Bridge and Nuttall Hall Road.

The great debate is now on as to why we had such dramatic rainfall in 2000, and global warming, caused by carbon emissions resulting largely from car use, has emerged as a possible culprit. So it was a wry coincidence that the Fuel Protest of 8th-15th September occurred just six weeks before the rains set in. The queue at Stubbins Lane garage reached back to the Edenfield by-pass; one motorist there was seen passing an NHS jacket to a relative in order to jump the queue; and there were a number of fights observed on the forecourt by nearby residents. Then on 19th September some local radio hoax, spread with frightening speed over mobiles, had a huge queue back at Stubbins Lane within minutes! Nothing illustrated better our over-dependence on the motor car. In the same period, on 30th October, the new M60 link opened from Heaton Park to Denton, after some delay owing to carriageway floods, bringing workplaces in Tameside within 25 minutes-drive of Ramsbottom, and likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions. At last, we are beginning to see some connections between cars, fuel use and weather, and it was reassuring to see that the infamous 60 Day deadline of the Fuel Protest (which had been actively supported by some hauliers in this area) passed without any more fights and queues at Esso. Andrew Todd

THE RAMSBOTTOM MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL, 17th TO 24th JUNE 2000

The great Ramsbottom Millennium Festival has come and gone, leaving many happy memories of a truly wonderful week. Townspeople and visitors were welcomed to an event which had taken 12 months of planning and organising, culminating in a highly enjoyable week of fun and interest, aimed to please all ages and interests.

Sincere thanks are due to members and friends for their considerable help to the project and also to local companies and traders for their assistance. It has been most gratifying to find that the Society's work is well recognised and supported by such a spectrum of local business, organisations, churches and schools. We feel that the profile of the town and the Society has been raised (we welcome new members. If you wish to join, contact Brian on 01706 828705). The friendship and kindness shown to us during the long planning period has been overwhelming and was much welcomed by co-ordinator Linda de RUIJTER. No praise is too high for all her hard work and dedication.

A valued grant from 'Millennium Festival Awards for All' gave us the financial base for the project and extra funding from the Ramsbottom Area Board enabled us to take plans a stage further. Subsequent enthusiasm from all concerned has helped to turn a dream into a reality.

Young people from schools, dance and drama groups took part in an open-air concert hosted by BBC/TV North West News Presenter, Martin HENFIEI.D, who rode into town in the silver Morris Minor in his recent 'Out and About' leisure series on BBC2.

He was a great hit with everyone and added lustre to the day, which included a cherished vehicle show and was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Bury, and a Town Crier. Tottington Town Band played in the Memorial Gardens and special events were put on at the station by the East Lancashire Railway. The town was en-fete with bunting, and a flower display in Market Place, whilst one of the local churches held a flower festival.

Details follow of church involvement, and of the 'Cherished Vehicle' event.

A copy of the week's souvenir programme is available to those who were unable to attend the Festival. Please write to the Heritage Society, c/o Heritage Centre, Can-Street, Ramsbottom BLO 9AE.

Dorothy Moss, Chairman

THE CHURCHES OF RAMSBOTTOM IN FESTIVAL WEEK

It seemed right that the local churches join in the Festival week; after all our dating system uses the birth of Jesus as its basis and we are celebrating the year 2000AD (Anno Domini meaning in the year of our Lord).

The Festival Week started with Holcombe Brook Methodist Church's Anniversary Service on Sunday 18th June at 10.30am. This was an informal service with the young people taking part.

On Sunday evening there was a *Songs of Praise* in St Paul's Church at which many people joined in a selection of favourite hymns. The congregation of St Paul's Church was also celebrating the 150th anniversary of their present church building. Rev Jeff ARCUS led the service which included short Bible readings by members of different churches. Coffee and tea were available after the service and many people stayed and enjoyed a chat with those they had met there.

During the week, churches held open mornings/afternoons to which everyone was invited. At Edenfield Parish Church and Edenfield Methodist Church there was the added attraction of seeing both the 'Edenfield Millennium Tapestries' together. Normally each church will have one banner and twice a year will exchange them. The making of these banners was co-ordinated by Mrs Betty GARVEY and blocks were sewn by people of Edenfield, each block shows an aspect of the village; a local club or group, a special view or an event.

The many visitors to Edenfield Parish Church's Open Day included each class from Edenfield C of E School. During the morning, a Wedding Blessing took place and the happy couple left Church through a guard of honour provided by one of the classes. (Congratulations to Clive and Denise).

At Edenfield Methodist Church there was an exhibition of all the activities taking place within the buildings - Sunday School, Women's Institute, Age Concern, Mother and Toddler Group (Pram Club), St Philip's Cubs, Scottish Country Dancing Group,

Keep Fit and Sunday Church Services. There were photographs of the work that has been undertaken during the last five years to eradicate dry-rot and restore the building.

The partly finished 'Stubbins 2000 Tapestry'[1] and the newly refurbished Mothers' Union Banner could be seen at St Philip's Church, Stubbins. Tower Radio interviewed the vicar, who explained the theme behind the tapestry. Barry ALDOUS brought videoing equipment, so we will all be able to see the St Philip's event later in the year, in 'Festival Week Video'. There was a 'Gardening Question Time' at Christ Church. The audience heard a talk by local rose grower Tony BRACEGIRDLE (a national champion) and then the panel answered questions.

Christ Church held a 'Flower Festival', on Saturday and Sunday 24th and 25th June. The rooms were beautifully decorated with flower arrangements, some of which reflected the colours and motifs of the stained-glass windows.

On Saturday 24th June, Festival Finale Day, St Paul's opened its doors again, with light refreshments available all day.

On Sunday 25lh June, Holcombe Brook Methodist Church held a special service with the theme 'The Family'.

All the churches taking part in the Festival week were happy to welcome both friends and first-time visitors into their buildings. The churches tried to show all the activities that go on in church buildings week by week. These include cubs, brownies, guides and scouts; keep fit classes; Music Society; Women's Institute and Age Concern meetings; Mother and Toddler and play groups; Mothers' Union; Sunday Services and Sunday School and Bible Study/Fellowship meetings. Each Church will be happy to supply details of dates and times and welcome newcomers to all meetings within their premises. Churches in Ramsbottom at the beginning of the new Millennium are community-centred, offering friendship to all the people of Ramsbottom.

Many local churches have had major repairs or renovations in the past few years. The former Christ Church building opposite the Civic Hall has become *Adderstone Mansions*, retaining the exterior while transforming the interior into apartments. The members of Christ Church Methodist and Baptist Church moved into the new Christ Church, on Great Eaves Road, in December 1999.

St Andrew's Church received internal refurbishment in 1993-4. Pews were removed, a kitchen added and the entrance changed (see our issue no 12). St Paul's Church has had alterations inside, creating a meeting room which can be used for many purposes.

Edenfield Methodist Church has just finished dry-rot repairs, and replacement of many windows. Much redecoration will be needed. I should be pleased to receive any up-to-date news of building changes or general information about any local church.

Elizabeth Duxbury

CHERISHED VEHICLE SHOW

This took place on our Festival Finale Day - Saturday 24th June. We had decided to restrict the show to exhibitors who had links within our local area. When it began, nearly three months before Festival Finale Day, we knew of only a few prospective entrants. Soon, however, Martin HENFIELD had promised to join in our show by arriving in the car which had featured in his 'Out and About' BBC television series, Alan WOLSTENCROFT's silver coloured 1954 Morris Minor - see page 9.

To involve more people, posters were produced and we distributed them for display at local business premises. Amongst people we met there were other car enthusiasts who were keen to take part in our show, notably Neville CORMACK of Cormar Carpets and Chris WHITE of Holcombe Brook Garage. Just as important, poster distribution also yielded valuable information which enabled us to target other vehicle owners with our entry forms. There were also more ideas for the show, such as opening it with a vehicle cavalcade. Nuttall Park and Holme Mill were designated as cavalcade starting points and beautiful classic cars were seen checking the road humps on Nuttall Hall Road.

Just after 10.30am on Festival Finale Day, the two vehicle convoys moved off from their starting points. Ramsbottom station staff kept the railway crossing gates open and a cavalcade was formed along Bridge Street and into Market Place. It was led by the Land Rover fire engine, then Martin HENFIELD in the ballooned Morris Minor



Jeff HINCHLIFFE's 44LK ERF dropside lorry, made in 1966, and once used London to Scotland runs. Photographed alongside Ramsbottom Civic Hall

NAME	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	REG NO	BRIEF HISTORY
Chris WHITE	AC	3000ME	1985	C81 LWB	One of only 106 made.
Alan WOLSTEN-CROFT	Morris	Minor Convertible	1954	YSY 946	Restored in the last 3 years by owner, in everyday use. See* above.
Alan CLAYTON	Ratline	Friable	1936	MG 5013	Chassis, engine and wheels imported from USA. Body English. Restored by present owner.
Neville CORMACK	MG	VA	1939	HMU 176	Tickford body.
Neville CORMACK	MG	PB	1936	CXO 240	
Neville CORMACK	MG	TC	1949	MVT 444	
Leonard FACITT	Singer	Bantam	1935	AVB 786	
Alan LOMAS	Humber	9/20 Fabric Saloon	1928	YX 8934	Total of 223 built. One of only 12 survivors.
Geoffrey MILLS	Morris	Minor Van	1972	LMX 829K	Purchased in 1999 to promote business after renovation.
Mrs Janet HODGSON	Morris	Minor Van	1971	XKD 313J	Owned by local florist of *The Flower Gallery*. Nickname 'Jeremy'.
David THOMAS	Morris	Minor 1000	1970	RJH 202H	Owned for 14 years. In daily use until 1995.
Ralph CRAVEN	Morris	Mini	1963	6413 LG	Run from 1965 by present owner and family. Restored 1998.
Graham KIRBY	MGB	Roadster	1972	FRA 262L	Owned for 15 years and rebuilt by the present owner.
Ronald AYRE	MGB	Roadster	1969	WBB 35H	
David SCURRAH	Jensen	C - V8	1963	ONW 399B	
Barry SANSOME	Buick	Limited	1958	RSY 483	Belonged to the brother of ' Untouchable'Eliot NESS.
Barry James SANSOME	Chevrolet	Camaro	1980	YFR 70Y	
Fred BRINDLE	Chevrolet	Corvette	1991	B13 USA	Exported from Florida in 1996, one owner, 55,000 miles.
Ian MORRIS	Pontiac	Fiero GT	1987	A11 SPC	Mid-engine 2 seater, steel space frame, body - composite panels. 0-60 in 7.7 seconds.
Tony ROLLASON	Ford	Model T (Hot Rod)	1998	Q79 JJO	V8 Chevrolet engine modified, supercharged. 0-60 in 3 seconds. 6mpg.

NAME	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	REG NO	BRIEF HISTORY
Peter CORBISHLEY	Vauxhall	Victor VX490	1966	YFM 199D	Owned for 4 years and restored by the present owner.
Gerald S COHEN	Rolls Royce	Corniche	1974	HUI 4492	Only 700 of this model were built, 1969-85.
Peter ROBY	Bond Minicar	MD Family Deluxe	1956	XTV 273	
David C HILL	Land Rover	Series II	1959	XFF 621	Bought in 1990 and rebuilt to original condition by the present owner.
Jeff H HINCHCLIFFE	ERF	44LK (dropside lorry)	1966	RRT 591	Originally used for goods, London/Scotland. Bought by present owner in 1996.
Ian SMITH	Land Rover	Fire Engine	1955	XFF 633	Ex-Army until 1973. Can pump 350 gallons per minute.
Edward WILKINSON	Singer	Vogue Mk 2	1963	AJN 658A	Acquired by present owner 1996 needing only minor repairs.
Alec BURTON	Bristol	401	1951	NKC 446	Present owner since 1966.
Alec BURTON	Humber	Pullman Limousine	1946	VSJ 913	Present owner since 1977. Only 36,000 miles from new.
Jeff POMFRET	Sunbeam Talbot	Sports Saloon 10	1939	JX 7344	Ex police car from Halifax. Used by ARP wardens during the War.
David FLYNN	Triumph	TR 7	1979	SRE 990W	Acquired by present owner in 1999. Featured in *Classics* magazine November 1999.
Thomas LOMAX	BSA	250cc C12 Motor bike	1957	DSU 659	Bought 4 years ago.
Michael REID	Matchless	G5 350cc Motor bike	1959	JHG 598	Stored for 15 years as a wreck. Rescued, restored and now in daily use.
Austin STIGWOOD	Jowett	Bradford	1952	HBU 579	Restored by Tameside College 1986-8.
Graham STANSFIELD	Austin	A60 Cambridge	1965	BEN 846C	Locally owned from new. 90% original. Only 100,000+ miles.
Alan JONES	Covin/ VW	Porsche 911 (replica)	1992	FKN 653L	Built by owner from Type 3 VW fastback (1972) using Covin Body/Chassis kit.
John KELSEY	Mercedes Benz	190 SL Convertible	1958	YYM 47	Former owners include S LONG (restored 1997-8) and J MARTIN.
Chris EDGE	MG	Roadster	1970		
Chris EDGE	MGB	GT	1971		Once owned by Lord Stokes' wife, chairman of British Leyland.
Gordon BENNETT	Ford	Custom Fairline	1957		Rare vehicle. Thunderbird engine.

Exhibitions and Vehicles

and the Rossendale Search and Rescue vehicles. All blue lights were flashing brightly in the light drizzle and Marlin held up his colourful umbrella until it cleared.

Our main show marshals were members of the Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force and Ramsbottom Library Staff who all did a brilliant job. Also very heart-warming was the kindness, enthusiasm and friendliness shown by the participants in the cavalcade and in the vehicle show itself. This took place from 10-30am to 6pm in the Market Place and behind the *Grant Arms* and was not competitive. Any local 'cherished' vehicle of any age, whether car, motor bike or commercial vehicle, was welcome in the display. Altogether there were 45 exhibitors, including the Search and Rescue and Greater Manchester Fire Service. There was so much to admire about the vehicles, very few of which had travelled more than five miles to the show, about 25 being Ramsbottom 'residents'. We should also be proud to note how many of them were made in Britain.

On our behalf, Martin HENFIELD presented each owner with a Ramsbottom Heritage Society commemorative plaque. Sincere thanks to all the people who helped to make the show a success.

* Alan WOLSTENCROFT has now reluctantly sold the silver-coloured Morris Minor in which he chauffeured our Festival Finale Day celebrity, Martin HENFIELD. (He owned two other Morris Minors which he is also selling.) He has now bought a miniature Field Marshal tractor which is a copy of a 1950s model.

Janet and Ian Smith

'THE MODEL' AND THE 'DOSSER CLASS': RAMSBOTTOM'S LODGING HOUSES AND LODGERS A CENTURY AGO

The end of the 20th Century seems an appropriate point in time from which to survey a social phenomenon very current in the Ramsbottom of 1900 which by 2000 has completely vanished from the town. A little-used path drops down from the north end of Market Place, alongside the former Wesleyan Chapel, and emerges by the 1910 electricity supply station on Paradise Street. Located on the opposite side of this incongruously named street, and just visible from the Market Place end of the path, is now one of the least well-known public buildings in Ramsbottom, the Model Lodging House. Known as 'The Model' or 'the Doss House', no 8, Paradise Street is a three-storeyed brick building, with pitch stone frontage, boasting lines of three windows on its first and second floors. It has an extension at the rear which must have provided it with rather more internal accommodation than the proportions of its frontage might suggest.

Recollections of The Model

To those older residents who recall The Model from their childhood, it remains a forbidding memory. Perhaps like modern fears about child molesters, there was a mythology, the dangers of which were largely in parental imaginations. Some believed that men slept hanging on a line of rope.

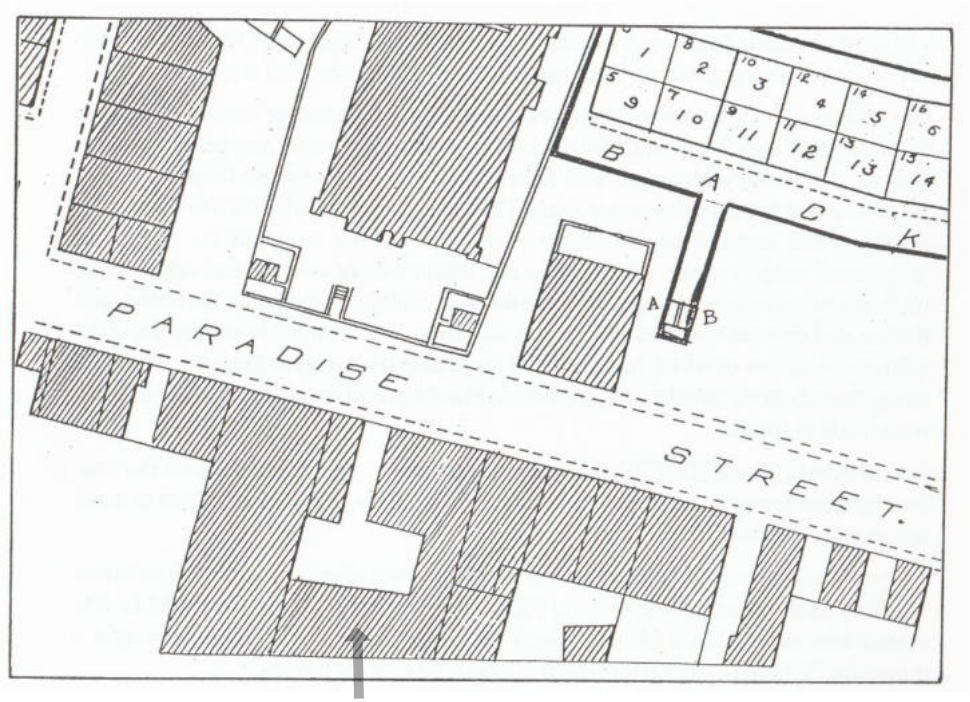

Figure 1: Paradise Street and The Model in 1935, showing the extension to its rear. Christ Church and the electricity station are to the north; alongside the latter, marked A and B on this Ramsbottom Lane Clearance plan, are the two privies which served some of the houses on Back Ramsbottom Lane (Bury Archives)

To George Barton KAY, who spent the first40 years of his life from 1916 in nearby Carlton Place, The Model was the resort of 'tramps, layabouts, odds and sods', located 'behind Wesleyan Row' alongside Christ Church Methodist Chapel. Fred HANSON, who lived in Carr Fold in the 1920s and 1930s, recalls 'the Doss house being situated down Back Bridge Street,down the steps by [WARDLEWORTH's] pork shop. There was no food on and thepork shop bins were always empty'. The Model was 'rough and ready, avoided likethe plague'.

Margaret NOLAN lived on Carex Street by Spring Wood, and remembers delivering milk in the 1920s for Lower Dickfield farmer George PICKUP. The Model was always very clean, and she could judge how busy they were depending on whether there was one quart jug outside waiting to be filled, or two. There would be a lace cover to replace. Paradise Street was 'a bit rougher than it is now', and she would go with her sister for safety, but only as far as The Model, since further on was the 'rougher end where we were not allowed to go'. Tramps from as far afield as Rochdale and Rawtenstall would be there.

She recalls how 'we always got away quick if we saw any of the men coming', but admits that nobody had any trouble. There was no local hostility to such transients, and they would often be given whatever could be spared.

Margaret FERGUSON (née SHORE) spent seven years of her childhood in her mother's grocer's shop at the bottom of Carr Street. Yet she too was forbidden from going into nearby Paradise Street on account of The Model, which she thought of as 'a sort of doss house for tramps, down and outs, and old men who had no proper home. In fact all the occupants seemed to be old men.' (*RHS*, 1996, p36).

George ASHWORTH was born in 1902, and he recalls The Model and a remarkable group of casual workers, the very type likely to be frequenters of the town's lodging houses. It is hard to believe that this roll call, resonant of a distant, almost pre-industrial age, existed even on the margins of the town's social and economic networks within the lifetime of a man who died as recently as 1990:-

I can well remember the days when people were recognised by rather unusual names which connected them closely with their own family, viz Long Toms, Jack o'Molley's, Tom o'Jerry's, Robin o'Bob's, Owd Baa Lamb, Charlie w'it Crutch.Others were Trade Whiskers, Tommy Slap, Sally Slap (they had a toffee stall on the market week by week), John o'th'Greenhill (I have a picture of him stood outside the Co-op shop in Holcombe Village), Bob Worknomore (a very well-known person in the town for many years). He had no fixed job, made his living doing errands and odd jobs. Owd Sing Smo (choirmaster at Holcombe Church at one time), Shilling Mangle, Cissy Sixpence, John Willie fro't Turn (he used to walk through Ramsbottom to Tottington for some currant cake, usually saying 'Awn nod so numb, am 1?' (He was well-known for knocking the Bobby's hat off.) Tommy Cross was a well-known character in later days. He was the bag carrier for the Ramsbottom Cricket Team. He also acted as the night watchman when outdoor jobs were being carried out, sheltering in a special wooden hut with a roaring coal/coke fire, very attractive to passers by. He was forever cadging cigarettes. Another character was known as Cheadle Bobby - Why? Hisjob was to go round in the dark nights lighting the gas street lights, then turningthem off in the morning.

Thinking of all these characters (many of you older folks will remember some of them, I am sure) brings to mind the Lodging House (men only) in Paradise Street, off Bridge Street (behind the Wesleyan Chapel). It was known as 'The Model'. The man in charge lived in a house nearby. At one time most towns had a similar place. These men were mostly called vagrants. So far as my knowledge of them goes they were well behaved people (they did not have enough money to get drunk!) I do not know how much they paid for their accommodation, or just what kind of sleeping accommodation they had. Most of them earned a living by working in the coal yard at Stubbins Lane tilling coal bags. 1 would say that mostof them lived on scraps bought from local shops, ham and bacon bits, cheese, meat, bread etc, the only pan they used was a frying pan. Whenever we had any leftovers - eatables of any sort - it was taken over to them, and they were always very grateful. Some of them would move to other parts of the country (usually in the summer months) visiting smaller places on the way.

'Alice', who knew the town from 1922-34, also recollects 'Work-no-More', a tall man, and a permanent resident of The Model:-

> ***He was always walking around and now and then would earn a few pence or shillings by being a board man, advertising someone's sale or such things - two boards hung over his shoulders. Other people lived at the Model and seemed content. The people who owned the place were very well respected.***
>
> *RHS*, 1992, p22

'Alice' later refers to one group of temporary residents at The Model which has entirely vanished from Ramsbottom. Before television and radio, various forms of live entertainment were a regular feature of town life:-

> ***Now and then buskers would come through the town and spend a night there [The Model], sometimes going on the Market Place to perform their acts such as lassooing and other acts with whips etc. Then of course about1926/8 there opened a sort of theatre on the Taproom of the Co-op Hall. It was more of a dancing troupe . . . the girls seemed to be troupers and moved from town to town.***
>
> *RHS*, 1992, p22

A Contemporary Account

We also have an account of The Model written four years after it was opened, which introduces us to its first owner, William H ENTWISTLE. John Joseph RILEY, proprietor of the town's newspaper, the *Ramsbottom Observer*, may well have personally visited the establishment, for an early edition carried the following description:-

> ***How the Poor live. A Visit to the Ramsbottom Model Lodging House***
>
> ***The building in question is of stone and some idea of its size may be formed when it is stated there are in it, for the use of the lodgers, 72 beds single and double. I was met by the courteous proprietor, MrENTWISTLE, and was at once escorted by him to what is known as the kitchen or dining room. This is a large lofty hall and it is in here that thelodgers live. It is fitted with strong, useful tables having zinc tops togetherwith forms and chairs, whilst in the centre is a large stove at which the cooking is done. At the time of our entry, there were about a dozen of theinmates grouped around the fire, one of them being a woman who was discussing with evident relish a short clay pipe filled with bad tobacco. There were several labourers who had been forced to idleness through the snow, but it was by one particular group, that of a young man, his wife and two children that my attention was particularly arrested.***
>
> ***They had an air of respectability about them which was altogether out of touch with their surroundings. The place was heated throughout by steam. Each of the lodgers had a cupboard in which to store their food.***
>
> ***We next passed into the washhouse, which is very well fitted up and then my conductor took me through the bedrooms, whose cleanliness and cheerful appearance struck me, to use common parlance, 'all of a heap'.***

I had never imagined that in so large a place cleanliness could be observed to such a degree as I found here. All the beds have spring mattresses and not only is each bed provided with an adequate amount of clothes, but they are superbly clean and fit for anybody of whatever station to sleep upon. The rooms are well heated and ventilated and nothing is lacking to ensure the comfort of the guests. The majority of the lodgers were of a respectable type. 'Of course,' he said, 'there are exceptions and many times we have a row. But we soon fetch the police and if they do not be quiet they are turned out and then locked up. Taken as a whole they are very orderly, and especially so when you consider the class of people we have to deal with.'

Ramsbottom Observer, 19th February 1892

There was an extension/outbuildings in the rear yard, and it is not clear whether the 72 beds 'single and double' that were mentioned in this 1892 report were all contained in the building that is there today.

Origins of The Model

The nickname derives from the adoptive nature of much local government legislation in the 19th Century, central government preparing a set of Model Bye-Laws which could be adopted by local authorities. William ENTWISTLE's establishment in Paradise Street, opened in 1888, was the first lodging house in the town to comply fully with them, hence the nickname. John TAYLOR, who drew the cover illustration for this issue earlier this year, tells me that the Bacup Naturalists Society premises in Yorkshire Street was a model lodging house, and had the same nickname.

In 1987, a small group of local people toyed with the idea of using the old Model as a visitor centre for the tourists that the newly reopening railway was expected to bring. Consequently, I had the opportunity to examine photocopies of Paradise Street's deeds. These indicated that this portion of Ramsbottom had been known as Calf Croft. Part of the Ramsbottom estate which the GRANTs had bought in 1807, the strip of land now covered by the assorted buildings on Paradise Street was in the 1870s and 1880s gradually leased off plot by plot, to local businessmen, development moving northwards along the street's eastern side. Thus builder James GARNETT erected no 8, formally leasing its plot on 13th October 1879, by which time work had probably finished. GARNETT belonged to the Lancaster family of architect-builders responsible for the erection of most of the major buildings in the town. This could have been a speculative construction, sold on immediately - the early uses to which no 8 were put are not known. One George HOLDING, Householder, is listed at no 8 in BARRETT's 1888 Directory. On 3rd December of that year, the Ramsbottom Local Board of Health, the late 19th Century precursor of the Urban District Council, had granted Mr William H ENTWISTLE a licence for 'his New Lodging House in Paradise Street'.

By 1888, lodging houses had come a long way from the days earlier in the century when a row of itinerants could, for a penny each, get what sleep they could hanging 'on the line' of rope which was strung across the room of some doss house, or lie on straw for 2d. By the late 1800s, you could expect a bed for the night for around 6d, though you would usually be sharing it with strangers. Before 1905, there was in English law no agreed definition of a 'common lodging house'. The Public Health Act of 1875, which attempted to regulate such establishments, was interpreted as excluding lodgings let to the middle classes or in inns, and applying to houses in which persons 'of the poorer classes' (the 'dosser class', as contemporary legalese quaintly termed them) who were strangers to one another, were put up for one to six nights, sleeping in shared rooms either in shared beds or (in the up-market institutions) in separate cubicles, and having the use of other shared rooms.

At a time when food could only be cooked in a normal kitchen, and long before the appearance of the modern flat, it was common in 19th Century towns and cities for households to take in lodgers, this being the easiest way for short-stay workers to be housed. Census returns reveal how common this was in Ramsbottom, but at what point did a housewife taking in lodgers from her husband's workplace become a common lodging house keeper, needing the same degree of official control as the proprietor of a house with tens of beds? This problem of definition made it difficult for the State to control a social phenomenon about which it had very real concerns. Lodging houses experienced cyclical overcrowding with seasonal workers like haymakers, fairground and show people, and those marginal workers who were forced out of rented housing by spells of unemployment.

It had long been recognised that overcrowded populations were susceptible to disease; there was also the ease with which a lodging house could evolve into a 'house of bad repute' - ie a brothel; more generally Victorian sensitivities about the sexual intemperance encouraged by unregulated and overcrowded sleeping arrangements were increased by the more material fact that it was the very poorest who in consequence were most likely to overbreed, with implications for the level of the poor rate; and there were the law and order issues which historically have always attached to poor, transient populations.

The Invisible Lodging Houses of Ramsbottom

Despite the rich social history that a study of such lodging houses seems to offer, any modem local historian will share the frustrations of 19th Century local officials when trying to identify these places. The absence of a clear definition made it difficult to insist on registration, even though the 1875 Public Health Act required all local councils and health boards (a) to keep a register, and (b) to insist that each establishment had an external notice carrying the words 'Registered Common Lodging-house'. Of Ramsbottom's lodging houses, all but The Model have long been demolished.

The only reference to such short stay accommodation that I have found in the town's trade directory entries is Miss Elizabeth WOLSINGHOLME (WOLSTENHOLME)'s house at 32, Crow Lane, which appeared in BARRETT's 1883 Directory followed by the word 'lodgings' (TODD, 1986, p90). This late 19th Century property, however, would have been a world away from the rougher, dilapidated semi-slums to which the 'dosser class' resorted.

Such haunts were never listed in trade directories, because the respectable and commercial classes who bought these 19th Century equivalents of our yellow pages never stayed at them. Judging from census returns, the common lodging houses were away from the immediate Ramsbottom town centre, usually at the north end of the town, in some of the earliest purpose-built industrial housing which accompanied the construction of the ASHTON Brothers' Ramsbottom Mill in 1802. Some were in 'Irish Row', the back-to-back terrace which, prior to demolition in 1935, occupied what is now the wooded area on the eastern side of Ramsbottom Lane, opposite Carlton Terrace and the alpinely gradiented Ox Hey Close. The compilers of SLATER's 1888 Directory politely omitted 'Irish Row' from their pages as well as the adjacent 'Eight Row', which I believe was also called 'Wesleyan Row', the back-to-back terrace of 16 houses which occupied what is now the grassed area by the Market Place bus bay. There is a 1930s pre-demolition photograph of these houses (RHS, 1995, p 11). The front line of single dwellings in 'Irish Row' were two-storeyed, but as the terrace had been built on sloping ground, the rear dwellings on Back Ramsbottom Lane had three storeys, making them ideal for taking lodgers. This was the area, 'Factory Bottom', that Margaret NOLAN was forbidden to enter, and whose houses Margaret KAY, recalled from her childhood as 'horrible'.

The Local Board of Health and Ramsbottom's Lodging Houses

The minute books of Ramsbottom Local Board of Health, available at Bury Archives, are one of the few sources of evidence about these lodging houses. Ramsbottom's first foray into modem local government dates from its rather belated formation of a local board of health in April 1864. Within a year, the new board had acquired legal powers over insanitary nuisances and building quality by adopting Bacup's byelaws 'off the shelf'. On 3rd June1867 the Board's Inspector of Nuisances was asked to look into state of the town's common lodging houses and report. It may be that the register of common lodging houses, required by the 1875 Public Health Act and mentioned elsewhere in the minutes, began at this time, but it does not appear to have survived. Nor does the Inspector's report. The Board's actions with regard to lodging houses are, at this early stage, therefore not easy to pursue. There are occasional references to the register in the board minutes, as on 8th February 1872, when Michael DEVET applied to have 34, Ramsbottom Lane, in 'Irish Row', registered as a common lodging house. This was refused on the grounds that the house only afforded enough room for DEVET's own family. No doubt DEVET continued to take lodgers as before - the census returns of 1881 and 1891 reveal that many of these Ramsbottom Lane houses had one or two lodgers or boarders. On the following 6lh January, Job RILEY's

request for registration of 38, Ramsbottom Lane was approved. The 1891 10-foot Ordnance Survey map indicates that 38, also in 'Irish Row', was identically proportioned to 34, so presumably RILEY's family was rather smaller.

Rather belatedly, a Medical Officer of Health to the Board was appointed in December 1873, James SMITH being the first postholder. For a few years, we have a little more detail of the town's lodging houses, for his early reports were copied into the Board's minute books. From the outset, Dr SMITH was expressing concern about lodging houses, his very first report dated 5th January 1874 citing their overcrowding as 'a fruitful source of evil, and . . . not, I am sorry to say, confined to lodging houses' - overcrowding was a norm in the town. Amidst such a universal problem of inadequate housing, crowded lodging houses were a low priority, remaining so until finally tackled by the Board in the 1890s.

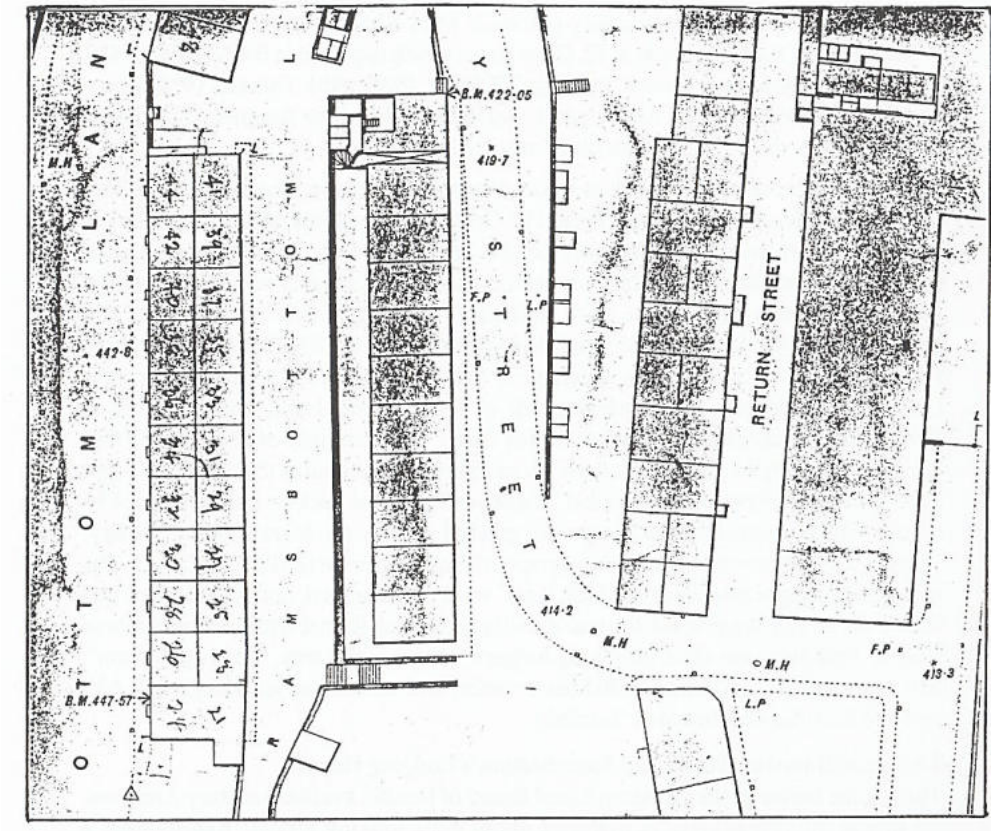

Figure 2: Nos 21-44, Ramsbottom Lane ('Irish Row'), Factory Street and Return Street in 1891, as shown in a 66% reduction of the 10.56 feet to the mile OS map

Dr SMITH'S report of 4th January 1875 related how 'a placard' had been issued insisting on immediate registration, 'but so little notice has been taken of it, that we have only been able to inspect one such house.' It was a Catch 22 situation which, as we shall see, was to be lamented in the *Ramsbottom Observer* 16 years later - that enforcement of standards could occur only if a house were registered with the Board yet the Board had no powers to compel registration. Powers did exist, however, to close temporarily or permanently any house which its Medical Officer of Health deemed unfit for human habitation, and this was how the Board proceeded. Thus on 10th January 1881 the Board minuted that Mrs WALSH's house in Return Street should be closed 'for a time'. But there was little use of such powers before 1891.

Return Street: 'a low neighbourhood'

No living person will be familiar with Return Street, and perhaps that is just as well. A few yards behind 'Irish Row', this terrace of 16 dwellings, ten of which were back-to-back, included some of the town's worst lodging houses. Occupying a site later used for the telephone exchange at the corner of Factory Street, these properties were some of the poorest and most rudimentary in the town, with street utilities to match. A report in the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 16th January 1891 related how a burst in an old water tank at Factory Bottom Mill (then occupied by cotton spinner William RUMNEY) flooded houses in Return Street to a depth of one to two feet, all the sewers being blocked with a covering of ice. There were no cellars to take the worst of the flood water, which inundated the kitchens 'where the families lived and in some cases slept'. This could have been because the bedrooms were occupied by lodgers.

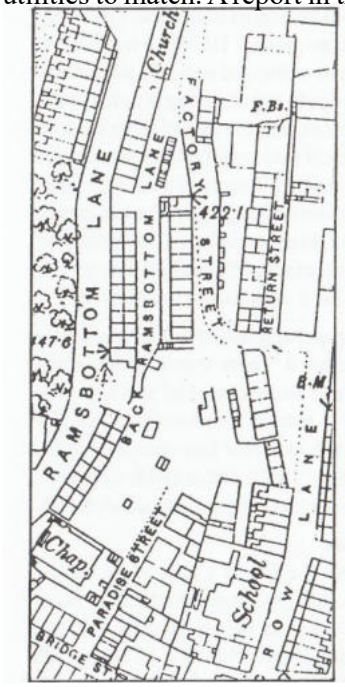

Figure 3: Ramsbottom's Lodging House Land, 1893, as shown on the 25-inch OS map

Return Street is a little-known part of our town. It was sufficiently awful to be cleared long before the late 1930s assault on sub-standard town centre housing. Oddly, I have found no mention of it in any trade directory, nor in any account of Ramsbottom's past, even though its houses must have been some of the earliest in the town. An embarrassment to the respectable, Return Street has been airbrushed out of the town's recorded history. Its inhabitants do not appear in electoral registers, and I have never seen or heard of a photograph. It was subsumed under the name 'Factory Bottom' in the earlier censuses, and only identified by name in 1871, 1881 and 1891. The houses carried the odd numbers from 1 to 31 in the 1881 returns but only one, no 31, was described by the enumerator as a lodging house.

This had 11 boarders on census night (3rd April). Unregistered houses were evidently not classified as lodging houses. But there is a wealth of very telling evidence about this disreputable spot in the columns of the *Ramsbottom Observer,* in its reports of drunken disturbances, and worse, which came before Bury's Police Court. I suspect that some of its female inhabitants were prostitutes. Return Street must have had an appalling reputation around the turn of the 20"' Century, and the town's great and good must have longed to see it razed to the ground.

In 1987, I combed the earliest issues of the *Ramsbottom Observer* from April 1890 to March 1892, and was much impressed by the number of references to Return Street, none complimentary. In particular, the names of one internecine couple, James and Catherine MARSDEN, appeared so frequently as to invite profound sympathy for any genealogist unlucky enough find them on their own family tree. By October 1890 a magistrate could claim that they had together clocked up some 30 court appearances for drunkenness, foul language, brawling, and attacking the unfortunate police constables who had to patrol this area in pairs. One officer, Constable BROOKS, opined of the couple in court that 'the life of one would be taken as in these rows they used such dangerous instruments', whilst a magistrate, Henry HEYS, who lived in James Terrace, Ramsbottom Lane, and may well have witnessed or heard personally some of this anti-social behaviour, offered at one stage to pay the couple to leave the town. MARSDEN served several short prison sentences, and the two of them seemed to have a standing arrangement for someone to mind their establishments in case they were in custody simultaneously. Nos 3, 5, and 11, Return Street had been registered in the Board's committee minutes as common lodging houses in James MARSDEN's name on 6th September 1888, whilst *Observer* reports also connected no 7 with him. MARSDEN appears to have been something of a lodging house 'Mr Big' in the town, and not one likely to be supine if his livelihood were attacked.

It may be that the Local Board found it difficult to act against such lodging house keepers because the beds they provided were in demand. There was a serious trade slump in the mid-1880s, and this would have forced some marginal workers into lodging houses either to search for work, or simply to reduce their housing costs. By 1890, trade had eased, and the Board could perhaps take a harder line - nos 21 and 23, Return Street were closed that year (UDRA 1/5, 8th Sept 1890). Since 1888, of course, the town had had an alternative resort for its 'dosser class' at no 8, Paradise Street.

Hardship in **the Winter** of **1890-1** : **the 'Great Frost'**

The harsh winter of 1890/1 may have slowed down the Board's assault on Return Street. There was a good deal of snow. In January 1891, the Bury magistrates were fining Ramsbottom youths 2s 6d and costs or a week in prison for snowballing young women in Bridge Street, the chairman stating that 'this sort of thing was becoming an intolerable nuisance'. There had been snow on the ground since November, and a frost was to clasp the area for ten weeks, so hard that there was skating on mill lodges in the town (*RO*, 9th and 30th January 1891). Weather of this

severity had a direct and immediate impact on the 'dosser class', but could also generate significant hardship for classes of worker who normally had no call to stay in lodging houses. By 16th January, soup kitchens were appearing in the Rossendale Valley, the *Observer* describing the distress amongst quarrymen and the free dinners on offer at Stacksteads Liberal Club. The 'Great Frost' had by then lasted eight weeks, and a public meeting of influential gentlemen discussed how the plight of the unemployed might be relieved by the Local Board extending its main sewage scheme from Hazel Street to Holcombe Brook. The Rev William Henry CORBOULD, whose parish of St Paul's covered Central Ward, the poorest in the town, suggested that there was very little town centre distress - outdoor workers (the most likely to be laid off in the frost) were commonest in Holcombe, Shuttleworth and Edenfield. But there was, then as now, no consensus about the issue of the unemployed - someone opined that there was not one case of genuine distress in any of those places.

A fortnight later, an impassioned letter from one Frank LOMAX angrily refuted, in Dickensian tones, such a generalisation. There were, he wrote, cases of families resorting to the pawn shop and the workhouse. Indeed, one man had been taken to the workhouse 'bereft of reason', but

> ***the stomach was more ailing than the mind and this man was helped by Mr Henry HEYS on the Monday before Christmas Day and I am told that he relished the potato pie which was bought for him at Mr COOPER's restaurant No poor indeed! Ask the shopkeepers. Note the changes there have been over the last few years in the names of the shopkeepers and you will find that many shopkeepers are very poor, simply from the fact that they help the poor.***

LOMAX was of course drawing attention to what we now term the 'multiplier effect' which, in this context, meant that any tradesman who numbered the poor amongst his customers would also be hit by ten weeks of frost. A woman millworker, he related, was summonsed for non-payment of her cemetery rate. This was settled by a shopkeeper, for whom she was now working one evening a week to pay off the debt (*RO*, 30th January 1891).

In the same week's issue, however, the Local and District News reported, in memorable prose, how the thaw had set in earlier that week:-

> ***the River Irwell into whose rapids the sizer, dyer, papermaker and local board cart cast their refuse with as much enthusiasm as the Hindoo mother casts her offspring into the Ganges was flooded to a greater extentthan has been known for nearly a quarter of a century. However the snow has entirely disappeared, the Great Frost is a thing of the past, and best of all the outdoor worker has a chance to earn bread and fire for himselfand children. For those who in the best of times live on the edge of Want, this has so far been a memorable winter.***

It could be that the bad winter had led to overcrowding in the town's worst lodging houses, thus raising Return Street's insalubrious profile to the local establishment; and perhaps with the worst of the winter over, the Board could now deal more robustly with this festering issue. It instigated a series of midnight raids on some of the street's worst unregistered lodging establishments, having warned them that they risked prosecution if they continued to trade.

The Local Board's Tough Line

One cannot envy the work of Sanitary Inspector William JACKSON, who had the unenviable task of fronting this operation. He visited 15, Return Street at 12-40am on 7lh Feb 1891, finding four lodgers there - two for one night, and two 'weekly lodgers who had been with them a couple of months'. (The latter would not be covered by the 1875 Public Health Act which applied only to lodgers who were staying for less than a week.) William WILD, Clerk to the Local Board, told Bury County Police Court the following Monday how this house, run by Edward RAFTIES, was 'the lowest in Ramsbottom . . . in a low neighbourhood and quite unfit to be registered'. Indeed, the proprietor had never applied to the Local Board for registration, so he had been summoned for using his house as an unlicensed common lodging house, contrary to the 1875 Act. RAFTIES was fined 5s with costs (*RO*, 20th February 1891).

Knowing the MARSDENs' reputation for drunken violence, one can only marvel at JACKSON's courage in visiting their lodging houses the same night. Accompanied by a policeman ('it was scarcely safe to go alone') JACKSON had in the early hours of 7th February found lodgers at 5 and 7, Return Street, Catherine MARSDEN being summoned as proprietress at the same sessions. There was, claimed WILD, only one registered lodging house in the town [viz 8, Paradise Street] and the MARSDENs had had notice as of 6th February that they could take no more lodgers. James MARSDEN, appearing for his wife, claimed that his property had been on the register for two years and four months, that at registration the inspector had informed him he could take 39 lodgers in his seven rooms, and that he had been issued with a copy of the relevant regulations. WILD insisted that the house was 'not fit . . . in such a filthy state'. MARSDEN had applied several times and the Board had resolved in January not to allow him a licence. The Board was on weak ground legally, for one of the summonsed addresses had indeed been registered in 1888. The Bench dismissed the summons, but stressed to MARSDEN that his houses were not now registered and threatened him with more serious treatment if he continued taking in lodgers. MARSDEN, his livelihood under threat, now got into a heated argument with the court, in which he vainly tried to establish that the registration had taken place:-

MARSDEN: 'What am I to do with my beds?'

Police Superintendent HENDERSON: 'Bring them under the hammer.'

MARSDEN: 'I shall not I will have the books searched through. I am registered and I shall find it.'

Mr HALL: 'You can't read.'

MARSDEN: 'No, but I'll get someone that can'. Laughter.

MARSDEN then stepped down from the box, raftily asserting his "rights".

Ramsbottom Observer, 20th February 1891

Within a fortnight, the Board heard that 'the owners of a well-known lodging house in Return Street' were not complying with the police court's judgement. Hearsay suggested that the MARSDENs had seven, nine or 11 lodgers at a time. Unfortunately, because the house was now unregistered, the Board's officers had no powers to enter the property to gain the necessary evidence (*RO*, 6th March 1891).

A further prosecution occurred later that month. Sanitary Inspector William JACKSON had again taken life in hands and entered one of the MARSDENs' houses. On 14th March he had found five 'show' people and six others, weekly lodgers, in four bedrooms of dimensions 15 feet by 11 feet, and 8 feet 6 inches high, 'dirty . . . and insanitary', though the buildings could be adapted as lodging houses after certain alterations. MARSDEN undertook to keep them clean (*RO*, 27th March 1891). The Board must have seethed. Thwarted, it now seems to have rediscovered its power to close any house which the Medical Officer of Health declared unfit for human habitation.

Just three weeks later, the census, taken on the night of 5th April 1891, sheds interesting light on the final weeks of Return Street's lodging houses. The Local Board was evidently having some success in its campaign to close them down. There were now just seven addresses on the street, of which no 3 was 'uninhabited' and just one was a lodging house - nos 5 and 7, a double address, were enumerated as a single 'Lodging House', with nine lodgers. Catherine MARSDEN, who we know was the proprietress, was recorded as a cotton weaver, at no 2, Factory Street. It seems to have been common for the owners of these places to have additional occupations and to live elsewhere - Edward RAFTIES, whose no 15, Return Street was missing from the census enumeration, closed following his prosecution in February, appears as a gas stoker at no 16, Factory Street, where he had two lodgers. James MARSDEN himself, whom I suspect from the 1883 directory doubled as a chimney sweep, was also 'off site' on census night, but for a different reason - he was in police custody.

This time, it was for a rather more serious offence than brawling with his wife, or keeping an unregistered lodging house - a charge almost certainly involving sexual abuse had brought MARSDEN before the courts in the spring of 1891, when he was convicted of a 'criminal assault' on 10 year-old Charlotte JONES, also of Return Street. The girl's mother, Sarah Ann JONES, was judged unfit to be in charge of the child - MARSDEN claimed that he and Mrs JONES had settled the issue over 'a pint of ale'. The committing magistrate, Dr FLETCHER, commented on the unsuitable nature of the little girl's environment, placing her into the Victorian version of local authority care, ie Bury Workhouse, with a view to her

being sent to an industrial school. 'If she were to be brought up for another year or two, he opined, she would be as bad as some of those were whose cases were brought up there.' (R*O*, 3rd April, 1st May 1891). I suspect that the *Ramsbottom Observer* did not report sex cases - there are no charges of prostitution, for example, in the issues I searched. The veiled report of the MARSDEN case, and the above hints from FLETCHER about the sorts of offences that he routinely encountered, may be the nearest we get to discovering the true character of some of those houses on Return Street.

MARSDEN's absence may have allowed the Board to finish off Return Street with a minimum of opposition. Just six days after he was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment at Manchester Assizes, nos 1 to 19 were declared unfit for human habitation and closed at the same time as the adjacent 2 to 18, Factory Street (UDRA 1/5, 4th May 1891). Presumably the whole terrace was demolished later that decade.

Inmates of The Model: the Census Evidence

In fact, market forces had probably finished off these original lodging houses, their custom base having deserted to The Model. The returns for the census of 5th April 1891 reveal the name, marital status, age, occupation and birthplace of every person resident in Britain. Thus we have detailed data on each person who spent that night at no 8, Paradise Street. As well as William ENTWISTLE, his wife and two daughters, there were 43 lodgers viz four married couples and 35 individuals (ie unaccompanied by anyone of the same surname) - 34 men and an unmarried 69 year-old female hawker. Of the 34 men, 25 were unmarried, seven married, and two widowed. Ages ranged from 19 to 80. Only two, the 80 year-old man and one of the four wives, claimed to have no occupation, though we cannot know whether the other 41 were actually in work. Of the remaining wives, two worked in cotton card rooms, and one was a servant. The three commonest male occupations were stone labourer and coal labourer (confirming George ASHWORTH's statement that The Model often housed casual labourers from the railway yards on Stubbins Lane) and workers in textiles, six apiece. There were four other labourers, including one farm labourer. Apart from two tailors and two cloggers, all the other inmates had unique occupations which reflected the economic diversity of the town - quarryman, mason, blacksmith, cooper, carter, ironworker, servant, groom/ostler, machine breaker-up, road labourer for the local board and a mineral water maker.

Only one in three had moved more than 40 miles from their claimed birthplace:-

Bury-Edenfield valley corridor	**11**	**Liverpool**	**3**
Elsewhere in Lancashire	**12**	**Yorkshire**	**2**
Ireland	**8**		
Cheshire, Cumberland, Durham, London, Staffordshire, Scotland, and Unknown	**1 each**		

This is the nearest we are likely ever to get to a profile of Ramsbottom's 'dosser class' in the late 19th Century.

By the time of living memory, The Model seems to have become more of a hostel for unskilled male workers without family, rather than the common lodging house as envisaged in 1875, accommodating casual workers for less than a week. The number of non-casual trades represented in the 1891 returns suggests that this was a trend already evident towards the end of the 19th Century.

'The Mansion of the Aching Hearts'

Whilst Return Street may figure in the columns of the *Ramsbottom Observer,* there were certainly other lodging houses in the town which did not. Fred HANSON, who lived in Carr Fold and worked Ramsbottom Station Signalbox in the 1930s, remembers how third class travellers arriving at the station, or enquirers at the *Railway Hotel*, would be sent to a lodging house in the Union Street/King Street area. First class passengers would be directed to the *Grant Arms.*

Fred also recalls playing as a boy in the 1920s at the 'top of Tory Town', where his friends the BRENNANs lived in the end house of the famous stilted terrace of six, at the south end of Albert Street. 'Tory Town' was 'upper crust, apart from that end', Fred says. Adjacent to the BRENNANs were two large semi-detached three-storey houses. Nothing now remains of the huge building which, until demolition sometime in the 1960s or 70s, dominated the ground leading down to Bolton Street.

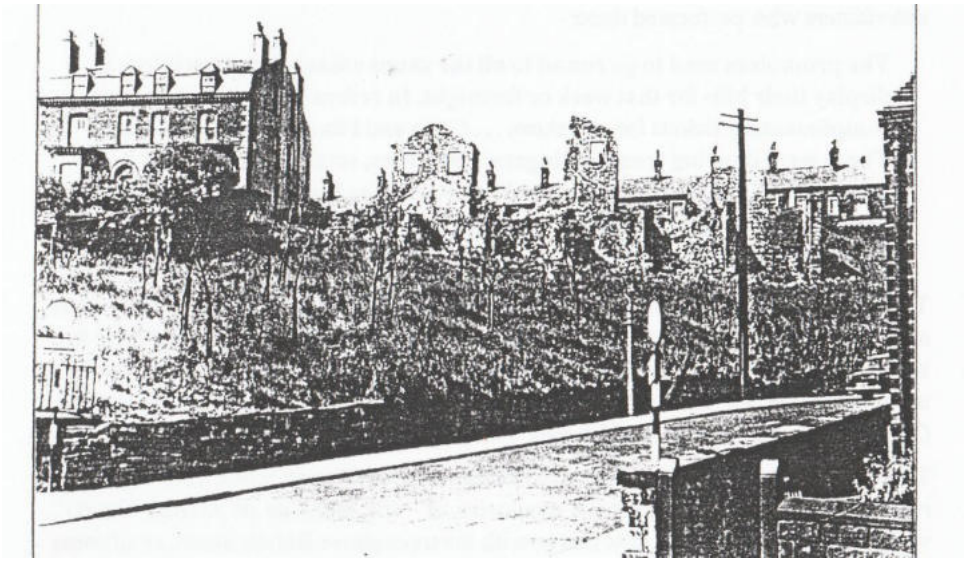

Figure 4: 'The Mansion of the Aching Hearts' in its final years, the theatricall lodging house which stood to the left of nos 91-101, Albert Street (Bury Archives)

Its site has since 1980 been occupied by a bungalow which fronts onto Albert Street. It was clearly visible from the stretch of Bolton Street around the junction with Cross Street and Callender Street (see *Figure 4* also *RHS*, 1995, p 18). Known as *Mount Villas*, this grand pair of houses had probably been built in the 1870s by James ANDERTON, Ramsbottom's 19th Century equivalent of our Barrett Houses. Stone mason, builder and contractor, and later surveyor to the Local Board, he erected much of the housing around St Paul's Church. Numbered 100 and 102, Bolton Street, *Mount Villas,* overlooked their own extensive, sloping gardens, the steps up to which can still be seen, often littered and beleafed, in the retaining wall opposite Lodge Terrace and St Joseph's Church.

Beyond, nearly lost in the trees, is a corner of brickwork with neatly dressed stone quoins, all that survives of the garden wall. ANDERTON himself lived in no 100. By the time of living memory, *Mount Villas* had fallen on poorer times, a genteel skid row, having become lodging houses. No 102, or possibly both, had the universally used epithet of 'the Mansion of Aching Hearts'. Fred HANSON recalls that by the 1920s it was 'scruffy, a lot of real down and outs. . . a place to be avoided'. He had been told by an elderly local that amongst the Mansion's residents were war widows (hence the name) who held seances. I have heard the Mansion associated with single mothers/fallen women. An alternative origin of its odd nickname may be the building's association with transients, especially of the thespian persuasion. Margaret FERGUSON remembers the Co-op theatre, its shows, and some of the bizarre travelling entertainers who performed there:-

> ***The promoters used to go round to all the shops asking the proprietors to display their bills for that week or fortnight. In return they were given two complimentary tickets for any show. . . Gran and I took advantage of them. There were dancing troupes, singers, conjurors, small plays — and . . . a hypnotist. He came on with what I presume was his stooge. Supposedly hypnotised the poor man, and then stuck a large needle through the man's tongue*** *(RHS, 1996, p51).*

The 1932 Register of Electors shows John and Margaret LEAHY as the householders at no 100, whilst Henry Saville and Ethel FAULDER were at no 102. Each house had six additional adult residents. Margaret NOLAN recalls Mr and Mrs FAULDER putting up 'theatrical types' who performed in concerts in the top floor theatre of the nearby Co-operative Hall. Mr FAULDER was 'flamboyant', and wore a cravat!

There is now no possibility of further information about Return Street from any living resident, but a number may have memories of 'the Mansion of Aching Hearts', whose overgrown gardens now merge with the trees above Bolton Street, or of some other of the town's lodging houses. We would be delighted to hear from them.

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Andrew Todd

THE MYSTERY OF THE BUTCHER'S VANISHING TELEPHONE

Amongst the thousands of items in the Ramsbottom Heritage Society Collection is a horde of old bills, all dated 1914-1918, which were received by Mr Edward Hill GREENWOOD, prosperous butcher, with a shop at 31, Bridge Street and an abattoir and houses on Bolton Road West. They are truly fascinating, throwing light on the way of life at that time. For instance the Government insisted that special insurance be taken out in case of air raids - a wise precaution, since a Zeppelin did indeed bomb Holcombe. The collection was described in issue no 5 of this magazine, and the butcher's grandchildren were able to flesh out the topic in no 6 (Summer and Winter 1992).

Mr GREENWOOD had a pony and trap for deliveries, and bills relating to harness repairs and shoeing, as well as bills from J S CORD1NGLEY of Haslingden (a family firm still trading today) for repairs to his recently acquired Arrol-Johnston, no doubt his pride and joy. He was one of the first of the people in Ramsbottom to own a car, Dr DEANS and the LOBLEY family on Bolton Road West being other early owners. One can imagine the thrill it would be just to glimpse this car on the street, let alone the delight of actually riding in it. Mr GREENWOOD'S 1916 car licence survives - it cost £4 4s 0d (four guineas).

A telephone bill shows that in 1915, 500 calls were made to the cost of £2-0s-0d, but in 1916 a letter from the Telephone Office in Bolton confirms that Phone Number 87 (one of the earliest in the town) would be removed on 31st July.

The mystery was - why did a flourishing business want to dispense with the phone?

This has puzzled the Society for some time. Certainly the First World War was a

difficult time for many small tradesmen. Fortunately Mrs Doris HILLARY, granddaughter of Edward Hill GREENWOOD, recently recalled for us that as a little girl she was looked after by her grandmother while her mother delivered orders, walking with a large basket on her arm , often in atrocious weather, as far Holcombe Brook. This became necessary as Mr GREENWOOD's three sons all went into the army in the Great War, as did his other male staff.

One can imagine what hassle there was with the many war-time restrictions, he would be greatly annoyed when customers rang with a second small order - perhaps for 'two lamb cutlets up for lunch' from the big houses on the Moor Bottom, Holcombe - on the same day, which would mean another long walk for his daughter, with basket on arm. So he finally decided enough was enough, the phone had to go, its usefulness outweighed by its nuisance value.

Mrs HILLARY also recalls how her father, Jack GREENWOOD, supplied meat in the 1930s to Colonel Austin Townsend PORRITT, who by then had left the area to live at Grange-over-Sands. Two special baskets with locks would be taken to Ramsbottom Station in time for the 8.45am train, one on Tuesdays, the other on Fridays. There would be a change of trains, hence no doubt the locks, and a chauffeur would meet the train at Grange, bringing the empty for the return journey. This practice was only ended by the introduction of meat rationing in World War II.

It was Jack GREENWOOD who sold to Harold WALMSLEY in 1946, in which family the shop has remained. Dorothy Moss

Coincidentally, as this magazine was in preparation, it was reported in the Bury Times of 3rd November 2000 (p 23) that the WALMSLEYs' connection with the Bridge Street shop had just ended, Harold's son Eric having retired after 38 years in the business. Editor

JAMES HORROCKS: SOME INCIDENTS IN THE VICISSITUDES OF HIS LIFE

This autobiographical piece, written nearly a century ago by a local self-made man, was submitted to the Society's Collection some years ago, and was apparently typed at the time of writing. Whilst its subject matter is not exclusively about Ramsbottom, it has sufficient association with the town and insight into patterns of employment, investment and movement to justify inclusion. The punctuation and wording are as in the original text. Editor

I was born at Greenfields Farm, Shuttleworth near Edenfield, Lancashire, on December 2nd 1828. When I was about 5 years old, my parents removed to a place called *Brass Row* in the vicinity of Edenfield. At that time I went to school for about 18 months, then my father took a farm near to the house in which we were living and at this period my sisters and brothers worked at Mr John ROSTRON's mill better known as Pinch Dicky's mill, there being three sisters and two brothers, Rachel, Alice and Sarah, and John and Tom, I was then the odd lad about the farm, milking cows etc; this at the age of seven years. My brother John got married and left to work at Charles OPENSHAW's, Butcher Lane, Bury, as a loom overlooker,

at this time a great event happened. The mill where my sisters worked, stopped for cotton, and never any more came, and that put them all out of work, my father said he would keep them until more cotton came, but they got tired of waiting, so they went and looked for work and managed to get situations at Limefield Mill[2] near Bury, this would be about the year 1841.

Then my father and I went to work for my eldest brother, George who was managing a length of road from Edenfield Bar to Limefield[3], Bury, I should then be 13 years of age and continued working with my father on that road for about three years.

About this time the country was completely upset in consequence of the plug drawing, then, my parents would have me to go into the Mill to learn weaving; my brother John had sent for our Tom who was also working at Limefield to go to him at Bury and he would teach him overlooking[4]. So Tom went while I remained at Limefield Mill for two years, when John came up for me to go and take Tom's place, I was then 18 years of age; after I had served three years apprenticeship with my brother John, I got looms for myself.

I went to London Exhibition for twelve days and to Dublin for a week in the year 1851 ; at that time 1 was very fond of dancing, and this went on for about four years, then 1 got married which settled that job. My Father and Mother were then living in Walmersley Road, Bury, so as all their children were married, they went back to my brother George at Shuttleworth, there after a time they died, my mother first at the age of 70 years, and my father at the age of 87.

About 18551 set up house in Farnhill [sic], Bury, where my daughter Emma was born, in a short time after my wife's father died, at a beer house in Rock Street Bury, and my mother-in-law wished us to go and live with her, but I strongly objected to going unless 1 took stock and went on my own account, so it was settled that way; my mother-in-law, her youngest daughter and eldest son to live with us, and bonny job I had with them. This went on for about five years, 1 had kept to my work at the mill all the time but at last I gave notice to leave after being there 12 1/2 years; I was making money at the beerhouse but 1 did not like the job; we had two sons born at this place, William and Adam.

In six months after leaving the mill, a Mr ANDREWS, from Top of Hebers near Middleton, turned up, and asked me to work for him, so I sold the business out and went to Hebers, May 1st 1860, taking a small house in Plunder Town near Middleton, at which place my daughter Helena was born; 1 had made close upon £400 up to that time so I lent £300 to Mr ANDREWS at 5%, I received 28/- per week standing wage. I fixed all the looms for this gentleman, and started them working, managing them for a length of time, after which we got a man in my place, and I fitted up a bleaching shed and followed bleaching the remainder of my stay with Mr ANDREWS, about 4!4 years, and managed the whole place when Mr ANDREWS was absent.

I went to London exhibition in the year 1862. I was then living at Top of Hebers and in a short time after this my wife died and left me with four children, one a week old.

I did not get on very well for a time but at last I went to see my brother George at Shuttleworth and got his daughter Alice to come and help me, she did very well but in five months my youngest child died, and was interred at the Brunswick Chapel Bury with its mother.

After that, I was very often over at Bury, my friend Hugh BIRCH, was at that time keeping the *Old Boars Head,* Moorside, Bury, with him was Miss BIRCH his sister, who was his housekeeper and barmaid; well! I wanted a housekeeper too, so one day I asked Miss BIRCH if she did not think of making a home for herself, and she said, 'What do you mean?', so I explained to her, and after a considerable length of time (so it looked to me) she consented to become my wife, that was on the 10th March 1863 so all went well and we were married on the 24th of June the same year. After the usual time we had a little girl born which however did not live very long; I was still going on with my bleaching for Mr ANDREWS, but he was going on at such a speed I was afraid of losing my money, so I gave him notice that **I** wanted it back; when I got it back my services, of course, were no longer required, although I had been my a great friend to him often finding wages for the men. So then I was out of work, and had only been married about twelve months, with three children and a new wife, just a nice job for a young man like me, 34 years-old.

Emma and Adam were going to school and Helena, a little dumpy thing, two years old, was very nice company for the new mother, and they liked one another very much. I went about, up and down looking for work, visiting several towns in Yorkshire, and was away six or seven days, but trade was very bad, so after a few weeks and whilst I was waiting for work at PLATTs of Oldham, my wife said, why not look after a business for ourselves?, I said 'Well! You have sold beer and so have I, so let us have another round at it, I can see nothing else at present'; so we went looking about, to a great many places for many a week. At last we heard about the *Old Freemason's Arms* at Heywood being 'To-Let', from an old friend of mine at Bury, so my wife and 1 called to see the place; I liked the old house very well it was £100 goodwill, and take all the stock, about £500 worth.

We arranged to take stock on November 1st 1864; when I received my £300 back from Mr ANDREWS I had lent it to my friend, Hugh BIRCH, so on this occasion he had to hand it back to me, and other friends were very good so we made a start.

Heywood at that time was in a very bad state, I have never known it worse, the mill hands being out of work and trade in general very bad. The old house brewed its own beer, so I learned to brew, and in the second year trade began to improve, and continued to do so; my first weeks takings amounted to £3 and when we left on account of my wife's health, on June 24* 1874, we were drawing, on an average, £65 per week; at this place we had two girls born, Lila and Minnie.

The Doctor having recommended us to go to either Leamington or Southport, we chose the latter place and I bought four houses in Zetland Street, and we went to live in one of them. We had a pony and trap at this time, so I had to build a Stable

and Coach House, which cost £50, so then we though we were all right; we had left Adam at Bury, serving his time to Ironmongery business, and staying with my sister Sarah.

My wife improved in health and times were good. All went well for a time, then I began to invest money in Companies, that turned out very bad, particularly that Gathurst Brick and Tile Co. In this I was a Director, and had £200 shares at £5 per share; I had also 200 shares in the Burnley Paper Co, upon which I had paid £325, but could not pay any more on account of the Gathurst Co going down.

I sold the Burnley Paper Shares for £75 and the Heywood Gas Shares for £900, there were other small lots, too numerous to mention, altogether I parted with close upon £2000; this took place in the years 1875-6-7.

I had then five children, four daughters and one son. In the year 1877 my daughter Emma was married on 1st December to Mr J W LEES of Middleton. In the month of October 1887 my son Adam was married to Miss SMITH of Bury; In the year 1889 on March 6th my daughter Helena was married to Mr Ezra HOLLINGWORTH of Mossley, and on September 7th 1894 my daughter Lila was married to Mr James LAMB of Southport.

I am pleased to have been able to assist them all in commencing business for themselves, except my daughter Minnie, and I shall be willing to assist her the same should she desire it.

In the year 1875 I bought 20 shares in the Victoria Hotel Co, which were paying 10% and £5 shares were selling at £7. In the same year I bought 50 shares in the Birkdale Park Land Co Ltd., the shares were £3 paid and I gave £6 per share, they were then paying 15%, but for many years afterwards they paid very badly.

In 1882 I was appointed a Director in this Company and in 1891 we discharged our manager, and the board of Directors, appointed Mr SHEPPARD and I as joint Managing Directors, in order to see if we could improve things a little, for the undertaking was making very poor profits. Mr SHEPPARD and I went on very well but in 1899 Mr SHEPPARD died, the management since that time it has been left to me and in 1903 we paid 7½.

I should add in conclusion that on January 6th, 1904, my youngest daughter Minnie, was married to Mr W G PICKVANCE, of Bolton. My wife and I are still residing in Zetland Street, Southport, my wife being 73 years old and myself 76 years.

21st December 1904 James Horrocks

References

1. *Brass Row* is on the north side of Rochdale Road, near its junction with Bury Old Road, just below Turn Village
2. Limefield - on the Bury-Walmersley road at Pigslee
3. The Bury, Haslingden, Blackburn and Whalley Turnpike Trust
4. Overlooking - supervising the operation of several looms in a weaving shed

TOM WIGHTMAN: WHEN I WERE A LAD

I was born into the wintry' sunshine of a small town named Erith in Kent almost 84 years ago, on January 19th 1915, but within the space of nine months my life's travels had already begun as the family packed up its bags and headed north for Manchester. Three years later in 1918 we were on the move again, to a little two-up-two-down cottage in Hazel Hall Lane, off Newcombe Road Summerseat. Mum, Dad and four children all packed together under the same roof. Wash days became an experience when the ubiquitous tin bath, heated in our case from a gas boiler, took over the entire house. I recall, however we did enjoy one luxury compared to nearby homes - our outside toilet was actually heated in winter!

My education began in 1919 at Summerseat Wesleyan School and I still feel nothing but admiration for our teachers of the time. The minimum of equipment but the utmostof standards and the lessons so well taught they remain with me even today. To keeptrack of our progress we were subjected to two or three examinations each holidays.Top of the class in these was rewarded with a threepenny piece, the second collected twopence and I myself came third in one year. How my face must have glowed when I was presented with a bright shining new penny. Yes, bribery worked even in those days! How well I remember the scratching slate pencils and the voices of my teachers, Miss WALSH, Mrs WALSH, Miss JONES, Mrs NEEDHAM and of course the headmaster Mr PEARSON, a man who not only expected respect but earned it from every child there. I still visit his last resting place alongside the school building, and frequently cast my mind back to those longdistant days of my childhood. Over 300 children were educated there at any one time. The school still exists but only a small fraction of this number attend now.

We had to make our own entertainment in those days, cricket, football, rally-ho (an old name for a game which sounds very much like our more modem game of tig). Sledging in winter was one of our favourites, that is until neighbouring housewives scattered fire ashes into our pavement runs to give visiting tradesmen a safe passage through to the houses. But not before sieving the ashes through, for the large pieces which were dutifully returned to the fire. Waste not want not, that's what we were always told.

Summer holidays from school only lasted four weeks, throughout the month of August, but didn't we make the most of them! Walking up to Redisher Woods and paddling barefoot in the stream with our clogs tied around our necks by their laces. Lose a sock, though, and you'd be in for a right 'winger' when you arrived back home. Then up on to Holcombe Hill and back in time for tea, the time being calculated from the rumblings of our stomachs as we didn't have a watch between us. If we took our own lunches these invariably consisted of 'jam butties' or similar, and a bottle of water flavoured with a small amount of lemonade powder. No plastic then, so if we were really smart we'd carry our picnics in cardboard shoe boxes tied up with string.

Robin Road and the stream up to Woodhey, from Lammy Bank, was one of our preferred haunts, and the woods around would ring with our battle cries as the US cavalry once again routed the entire Apache nation. Just like most children nowadays we considered a camp fire to be well up on the list of things to amuse ourselves. There was always at least one of us who managed to secrete a couple of matches on his person, but what a crime this was, woe-betide any one whose parents caught them with matches. And many a time we would be greeted on our return with the cry 'You've been swealing again!', as the smell of grass smoke crept into the house on our clothes.

Grants Tower, gracing the summit of Top o'th'Hoof on the eastern side of the valley, was another of our destinations, being very well attended in those days. Families picnicked under its shadow, soaking up the fresh air of the hill tops, well away from the dozens of sooty chimneys and the dismal grey stone buildings below. The first landing of the tower contained a fine selection of slot machines. Many a hard-earned penny was heard to rattle its way through their mechanisms, but what an immense amount of pleasure it gave to us all. Then upwards to the very top with views on a clear day stretching way across the Lancashire plain to the Welsh hills and beyond, accompanied by the laughing and shrieking of the people having the times of their lives in boat swings 40 feet below us.

In the winter pace egging was a must - anything to earn a few coppers. With our soot blackened faces and our fathers' old clothes, especially his 'billy-cock' or bowler hat, we'd be seen marching around Summerseat and Holcombe Brook, but more especially the 'Stockbrokers' Belt' of Greenmount, collecting our meagre handouts. Hazel Hall Farm was not to be missed. It was owned by the GREEN family and a visit there never failed to leave us feeling like millionaires, clutching in our grubby hands the sum of half a crown. (2s 6d). Such was the attraction of this farm that we could quite often be found there on a hot summer's evening lending willing hands with the hay making, our reward being an unlimited supply of fresh milk to drink.

Whit Friday was always a special day, walking around the village singing hymns, then on to Sunday School for buns and coffee. If we were really lucky our buns had a bit of jam or icing sugar dabbed onto them. A simple but much welcomed little treat. After Sunday school we would gather in a nearby farmer's field to begin our afternoon of running races. Over a course of 80 to 100 yards with a small, but nonetheless greatly appreciated prize, for the winners at the end of it. Something along the lines of a pencil, pencil sharpener or eraser. My own favourite was a small leatherette writing pad with interchangeable pages. I recall once, in 1938, taking my wife Lillian to her sister's in London by train, the fare came to 25 shillings (£1.25 in new money).

I finally left school in 1929 at the tender age of 14. This was a Friday and the following Monday I started work with the Ocean Chemical Company at Lower Nuttall. The rapidly decaying ruins of this once thriving works are still visible across the river from Nuttall Park to the south, along with the sole remaining building, once the foreman's office, but now completely renovated into a private residence.

My first job was assistant store keeper which consisted of issuing stores and booking in new stock, collecting timesheets and answering the telephone. I also issued delivery notes to drivers and checked weights of finished chemicals for the various orders. Stock taking took place twice a year. My starting pay came to 17s-6d a week for the first 12 months.

After two years at this job I received a temporary promotion when the regular store keeper suffered a motorcycle accident but on his return the management decided they could not afford two people in the stores and I was moved outside onto the yard gang. Here it became my role in life to get the orders ready, filling drums and road tankers with caustic soda, weighing the products and loading the orders as required. This was quite hard work at times especially during bad weather.

After the age of 18 I was trained in the operation of all the various processes throughout the factory. This was a form of insurance to cover for other workers who may be off ill of on holiday. Over the years I became quite proficient at running all the processes right from the raw materials to the finished product. Later on, as circumstances demanded, I was also taught oxyacetylene welding and cutting, followed by electrical welding and soldering. I became a Jack-of-all-trades to the extent of pulling down and rebuilding some of the structures on the site using rope blocks, chain blocks, windlass and scaffolding. This stood me in good stead for my next big adventure - six years (minus 11 days) serving as an engineer in the army. Beginning in 1940 I was stationed at Chatham in Kent, from where I was posted for a period of nine months to the wild and woolly islands of Orkney. Back to the mainland for extra training then off to the sunnier climates of North Africa and Italy, eventually landing in the South of France and travelling back north through Belgium.

My home and demob gratuity for the six years came to just £75 which didn't last long, but I was then lucky enough to return to my job at the chemical works until they eventually closed down for good five years later. My final move was to PORRITTs and SPENCERs card room where 1 was to remain for a further 22 years.

I still keep in contact with several of my old friends and a recent visit to a gala day at Summerseat School found me chatting to several more. It's not many people who can go back to their classrooms from 80 years ago, the sheer thrill of which was doubly rewarding for me due to my meeting some of my old friends from many more years ago than I care to remember. If there are any more of you out there please get in contact - I'd love to hear from you.

Joe Crompton, from notes by Tom Wightman

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

1 Bury Archive Service - Edwin Street (off Crompton Street) Bury BL9 0AS; tel: 0161 797 5897 - preserves the historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. There are over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans and photographs, almost all of which are available for consultation in the public reading room. Holdings include the records of local authorities (eg Ramsbottom Local Board, and UDC, including many building plans) schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, sports clubs, charities, political parties and other social organisations. The Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

The service is based in Edwin Street (off Crompton Street, next to Plumb's Hi-Fi shop), and entrance is via the yard at the far end of the street on the right-hand side. The reading room is open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm every Tuesday; and at the same times on other weekdays Monday to Friday, but please make an appointment in advance by ringing archivist Kevin Mulley before visiting on these days. Group visits (minimum six persons) on evenings and weekends are available if booked in advance.

2 Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services Department) 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 Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of BMBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

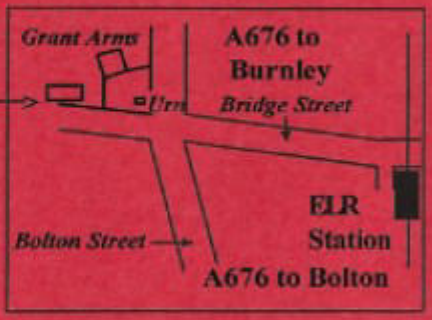
The library is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm each weekday (open until 7.30pm Wednesdays), and from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturdays.

3 Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury; tel: 01706 822484 - has much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev RR Carmyllie, including many local newscuttings and books eg Hume Elliot.

4 Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Vicky Barlow, Bob's Ley, 6, Mowbreck Lane, Wesham, Preston, Lancs PR4 3HA; tel: 01772 687234 - membership is only £9-00 per year, and this entitles you to four magazine issues, an opportunity to publicise your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall.

Visit us at Ramsbottom Heritage Centre





opposite the Library

Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AE

Telephone 01706 821603 (weekends only)

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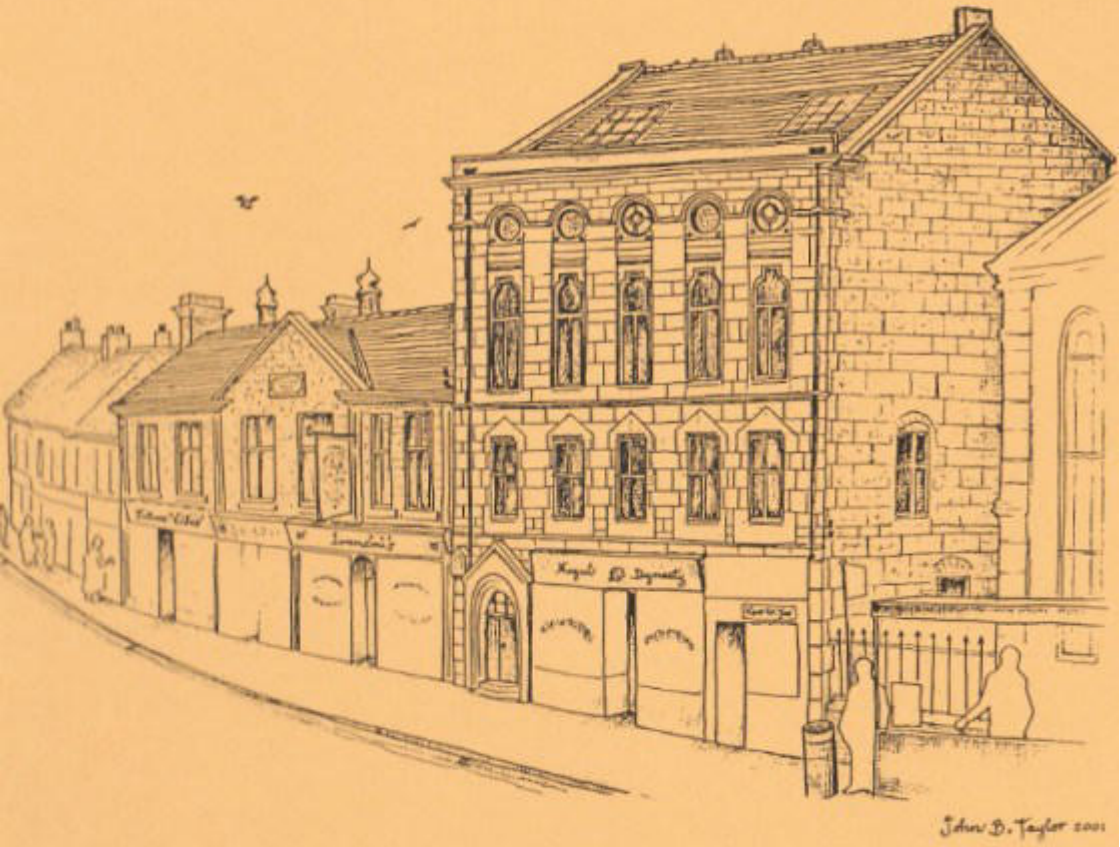

NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

2001 PROGRAMME

18th April	Birthday Meeting - Dr Mike Cresswell, *Lace Bonnets and Urine Pits*
16th May	AGM and Members Night
20th June	Ken Inman, *Poor Law Migration into Lancashire, 1835-37 Part 2* (illustrated)
18th July	Circular Walk led by John B Taylor, *The Porritts and Helmshore* - meet at the *White Horse Hotel*, Helmshore at 6-30pm
15th Aug	Peter Watson, to be arranged
19th Sept	Dick Amende, *Waterways Restoration and Sustainability* (illustrated)
17th Oct	Margaret Curry, *Cumbria - Up the Sides and down the Middle* (illustrated)
15th Nov	Members' Evening
12th Dec	Stella Slater, *Ramsbottom and Me (No Enoch)*

Please note that all indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30 for 7.45pm

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FRONT COVER- the Ramsbottom Industrial Provident Society's Central Building, Bolton Street, April 2001. Drawn by John B Taylor of Stacksteads

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

The 2001 Census - by the time you read this, the 10-yearly headcount, which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year, will be underway, assuming that the current Foot and Mouth epidemic has not led to a postponement. Those of us who have taken advantage of the 100 year rule to look at the census returns of the 19th Century (on microfilm at Bury Library) will have a sense that a moment in our families' history, a snapshot of who was at our home on census night - their ages, occupations, birthplaces, how they travel to work, and much else - will be recorded for all time, to be made available, if current legislation remains in place, for the fascination of our grand and greatgrandchildren on the first working day of January 2102. You could, of course, photocopy your return as an heirloom, before handing it in!

The Ramsbottom Friendly Burial Society - older Ramsbottom residents may remember it as the 'Carr Club' or 'Dead List', but it is not well documented. Dues were collected at the *Rose and Crown* on Carr Street, and guaranteed a benefit payment to members in the event of a family death. I am hoping to research this club, and similar ones in the area, notably the Bank Lane Burial Society, and would be interested to hear from anyone with even the smallest jot of information about the operations of such organisations.

Andrew Todd

A RAMSBOTTOM COUPLE'S VISIT TO LONDON AND BELGIUM, 1921

Exactly 80 years ago, in May/June 1921, Britain was in the midst of a lengthy miners ' strike, one result of which was that the decennial census, due to be held in spring had to be postponed until 19th June. Ramsbottom couple Richard and Doris HOLDEN (nee HALL) had a fortnight's holiday in London, and got back a fortnight before census night. Doris was greatly impressed by the experience, but especially by their brief cross-Channel visit to the Belgian battlefields around Y pres. Just 30

months after the Armistice, this area where so many British soldiers had fought in three major battles, was clearly still recognisably a war zone. Other references indicate how immediate was the First World War in recent memory. Doris HOLDEN wrote to an aunt, Pollie HOLDEN, in Canada, shortly after her return, and her letter, reproduced here almost in full, has survived in the family for 80 years.

There are a several words and phrases which will be unfamiliar to modern readers. 'Everything wick you could think of, Doris writes of London Zoo, employing a northern dialect word for 'alive ' which will be unknown to most people under

Richard and Doris were the parents of member Doris HIBBERT, of 17, Carr Bank Avenue, Ramsbottom, who explains the background:-

> ***At the time (1921) my parents lived with my Dad's family before moving into 10, Crow Lane. Mother worked in John HEATON'S (Coal Merchants) office in Market Place. Father was Chief Goods Clerk at Ramsbottom Station. She was writing to her aunt in Canada, and after her cousin Jack, the aunt's son [mentioned in the letter] diedsome years ago, his family found the letter and sent it to me.***

I am grateful to Doris HIBBERT for sharing with us this intriguing glimpse into 1921 - Editor.

112, Bolton Rd W
Ramsbottom
June 21/21

My Dear Auntie Pollie,

I am most uncomfortably aware of the fact I have not written to you since before Christmas (except the P.C. from London,) and it is no use my trying to excuse myself. (I just felt I could not possibly write when Auntie Fanny was so ill, and afterwards, I didn't know how to begin…).

We went to London on our Summer Holiday for a fortnight in May - we took them rather earlier than usual, you see, we were both slack, so it was convenient.

It has been the real holiday of my life! Better, actually than my honeymoon!, and I don't think we wasted one little moment. This is a brief summary of how we spent our time:-

May 21st Saturday Arrived at London. Found our digs, had tea and then wentto visit Cousin Will TAYLOR and family, then bed.

22nd Sunday am Went to Kew Gardens. Beautiful place.

pm Tube to Richmond. Sailed up Thames to Hampton Court. Went through Palace and grounds, tea, then to Bushey Park then bus home (tired).

23rd Monday Bus to Tower of London (closed couldn't get in but saw itfrom outside) then to Billing's gate market; (horrible place, dirty and fishy. All sortsof foreigners down there. I thought I was going to be kidnapped.) Then to Monument,

then to the Bank of England, saw Royal Exchange and Mansion House. Then lunch. Caught tube at Bank to St John's Wood and spent the afternoon at Lords Cricket ground, watching the Australians play Middlesex. After the match we walked to Baker Street and went into Madame Tussaud's waxworks show, and had tea in there. Spent all the evening inside. Very interesting, then home.

24th Tuesday Bus from Chiswick to Shepherds Bush, Oxford Street,Oxford Circus, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Lower Regent Street, Trafalgar Square, to Whitehall (all such wonderful streets to me.) Saw the change of the Guards at Whitehall and the soldiers rehearsing the Trooping of the Colours for theKing's Birthday, June 4th. Saw War Office, and Scotland Yard, and the Cenotaph, flowers and wreaths all around. Made us a bit sad, but proud. Then lunch and afterwards to Westminster Abbey. Stayed to Empire Day Service, then went through the Royal Chapels and saw all the old historical things there. Then to the Houses of Parliament, (Big Ben etc) we could not get inside. They were closed tothe public owing to the Sinn Fein raids etc, so we crossed Westminster Bridge andwalked along the embankment (where the loafers sleep, until the policemen movethem on.) Then over another bridge back again, and walked along that side of the embankment until we came to Cleopatra's Needle and the Belgian War Memorial.Then went into the Strand, had tea, and being very tired we caught a bus home. I call that a full day.

25th Wednesday Tube to South Kensington Natural History Museum.Spent all morning there, (and only saw the basement!!) Lunch there and then wentthrough the 2 Science Museums (where all the patents are, the first engine, bicycle,motor car, etc, etc, all kinds of ships, working models of all the engines.) Then intothe Victoria and Albeit Museum, until teatime. Tea at Brompton Road, then home.

26th Thursday Bus to Marble Arch, walked along Park Lane to Hyde ParkComer then sat opposite Rotten Row, (we forgot to take our horses.) Saw all the 'Nobs' out riding, then went and sat by the Serpentine and just as we got there theguns in the Park fired a salute in honour of the Queen's Birthday. (We said it was in honour of our visit of course.) I think the guns must have upset the elements a little because it began to rain a little in the afternoon, but not on us, oh no! We went fromHyde Park to the Strand Theatre, 'The Safety Match', (matinee) and had a jolly good time there - then tea, strolled along Pall Mall, caught a bus and went home. (You notice that we kept good hours.)

27th Friday Bus to Regents Park walked through the 'Broad Walk' (squirrels and rabbits and things all running about the grass) then to the Zoological Gardens. Talk about Belle Vue! Belle Vue nothing! Everything wick you could think of. Lunch there, then spent the afternoon at the Olympia. (That is a kind of Exhibition. It was all about King Neptune and all the sea soldiers, right from the times of the Ancient Britons up to the Royal Marines of today.) There were exhibitions of Bridge building and demolition, horsemanship, (even horse dancing the Lancers and waltzing) there were the same horses that drew the Unknown Warrior to his grave in the Abbey. Good old Mons horses, with the Mons Star on their harnesses, bless them! Then tugs of war, a hurdling competition, and how the A.S.C. took the

ammunition up the line, I just wished our Teddie could have been there.[1] Then we caught a bus to Shepherds Bush and walked through Hammersmith home to Chiswick. (We stayed at Chiswick High Road, quite near Will TAYLOR's.)

28th Saturday Bus from Hammersmith right to the Crystal Palace, andspent the whole of the day there. (Could have spent two if we had had the time.) There was a wax exhibition there. Guns, aeroplanes, ships, even the gun at which Jack CORNWELL[2] was killed. There was a fair outside in the grounds and a Japanese village. Inside (the Crystal Palace, not the Japanese village) there were waxworks, fountains, Palm courts, an enormous organ, (I think they had a recital because we went) also the Life Guards band, which played selections, a statue gallery and models of villages in the battlefields. Then home, with a fixed determination to spend Sunday quiet. (On the way home, looked in a shop and sawa coat. Walked home with a parcel.) You should see it more of a cape than a coat, serloppy sleeves, and will button right up to the chin with lots of covered buttons, or will open back into revels it was called a Paris model, and I was fear't of wearingit in Ramsbottom, but Dick reassured me it looked jolly nice. It kind of clips my ankles. That's all by the way we were talking of holidays not coats.

29th Sunday Walked to Ravenscourt Park, bought 2 tuppeny chains andsat down to hear band, quite restful and enjoyable. Home to lunch, then had a walkround old Chiswick and saw places where the Germans had done a lot of damage with bombs. Home to tea, rested, and went to bed soon, because:-

30th Monday Up with the larks, caught a tube at 7.30 to Victoria Station,train to Dover 9 o'clock, then boat from Dover to Ostend, Belgium, arrived there at 3pm (lunch on board). Then by train to Bruges, arrived 4pm. Madame met us onthe station (you have heard of Madame of course? Yes, I thought so.) She was just delighted to see us and took us in the car to her home. Tea there, and then to a Belgian cinema until bedtime.

31st Tuesday Madame insisted on motoring us over the battlefields. Wehad honestly only intended calling on her and giving her everybody's best regards from Ramsbottom, but once she got us there, there was no escape! We assured herthat we must return to London on the following day, (Wednesday) so she evidently intended to make good use of the time we had at our disposal. So we motored from 9 in the morning to 7pm all day long, through such shamefully devastated country. You would have cried. I did. We had lunch at Ypres and tea at Ostend then back to Bruges. Of course, there is a great deal of reconstruction going along now but it will take ages to make Belgium look like a country again. It's just a wilderness. We had supper early as soon as we got home, then Dick and I went into Bruges and bought some postcards to send home. Then home to bed. You know Madame has the loveliest home I have ever seen. I don't mean nicer or cleaner than anything, but just richer. She has every little detail of the very best. The kind we should say - print, and she, satin or silk, and she stands on one side whilst the maid opens the door. Now wouldn't it be difficult for someone like that to have to make do with what we've go to offer?

June 1st Wednesday 9-30am train from Bruges to Ostend (but before wegot to the station we called in the cathedral a most gorgeous place.) 10-30am boat to Dover arrived 3pm then a train to Victoria Station, London. Arrived at diggingsat 8-30pm, so went to the pictures, until bedtime. (Weren't those three busy days?)

2nd Thursday Bus to Selfridges store in Oxford Street then shop gazedall morning Oh I did like that part. Lunched in Shaftesbury Avenue, then spent all the afternoon in the National Gallery, where the most wonderful pictures are hung.Tea in the Strand, then bus to Hammersmith Broadway, and walked home.

3rd Friday Spent all Friday morning having a last moon aboutChiswick and Hammersmith, picking up little mementoes etc, had lunch near Kensington, then it began to pour with rain. I think it was so despondent to think that we should be leaving on the following day. So we bought an ice-cream brick, (first time I had seen any) pink and yellow, brown and white, brought it home and spent the afternoon reading and packing up.

In the evening went to the Chiswick Empire (George ROBEY was there) and laughed enough to strain our faces.

June 4-h Saturday Goodbye to London. Arrived at Ramsbottom at 9-00pm. Rather slow travelling, but everybody pleased to see us, and we pleased to be back.

It is the 24th today and I commenced this letter on the 21st, and still it feels incomplete. But suppose I post it right now and then write again soon. I will write, honest injuns. Give my fond love to Jack and Uncle Johnnie.

Your affectionate niece, Doris

PS This is my tenth week off work owing to the Coal Strike, I think I must have retired. Dick has had another advance in salary.

References

1. Mons - Mons was the first major battle on the Western Front in 1914, andthe Mons Star its medal; ASC - Army Service Corps
2. Jack CORNWELL - teenage sailor and Great War hero who inspired the poem *The Boy stood on the Burning Deck*

MEMORIES OF THE RAMSBOTTOM CENTRAL CO-OP

George ASHWORTH, who died at Grange-over-Sands on 1st January 1994, had lived in Ramsbottom for most of his life, living finally at 430, Bolton Road West. His recollections of our town in the earlier years of the last century appeared in this magazine in the Spring 1999 edition (no 18). Eventually the secretary of the Ramsbottom Industrial and Provident Society, and author of its centenary historical outline, Working Men of Ramsbottom Founders of our Society (November 1958), he describes here his earliest experiences of the Society's office,

where he began work in 1916 at the age of 14, retiring in 1967. This specialised information about food and diet 80 years ago is of particular interest.

An ever-diminishing band of people in Ramsbottom will remember the Co-op as an operational organisation in the town. There were nine branch shops scattered about the town and its outlying hamlets (Rostron Road, Nuttall Lane, Hazelhurst, Holcombe, Holcombe Brook, Bank Lane, Peel Bridge, Bridge Street and Stubbins) but its main, Central building occupied nos 45-55, Bolton Street. The top storey of the taller portion was for many years the location of a popular theatre, the first floor was occupied by the offices where I assume George ASHWORTH worked for so many years, and the ground floor (currently Mogul Dynasty Tandoori Restaurant and New-To-You) was, I believe, the retail area. The warehouse was in the basement, accessible from Back Bolton Street - Editor.

In April 1916 I commenced to work for the local Co-operative Society in the Office. I soon became quite versatile collecting rents weekly, keeping records in the Central Grocery Warehouse, also working in the small wooden hut, the office, in the coal yard sidings in Stubbins [Lane] when the regular man was absent for one reason or another, or no one at all would do the job. Several other firms had similar places alongside, WRIGLEYs, HEATONs etc. In those days we all had horse drawn lorries or box carts. The lorries had one or two horses, a man with two horses coulddeal with 50 hundredweight bags of coal, anywhere in the district. These bags of coal had to be filled direct from the large rail wagons of various quality and price. This is where the odd men from the 'Model' came into use, they used a spade to fill each bag from the wagon whilst the driver held the bag on the scales on the lorry. During my time I paid these men 2d (old money) for each 20 bags they filled. It was important that the weight was correct, quite often inspectors would check each bag and also at times the weight of the load, also the accuracy of the scales themselves. I very soon became aware that it was not wise to pay these men at noon for the work done that morning, apart from a 'sub', otherwise they would probably not turn up in the afternoon.

In addition to dealing with the cash, our Co-op customers had to be given a check (for dividend purposes). It was a very 'messy' job on a cold wet day and the men had to bring in the cash after each load, except that for the last load the cash had to be taken to the general office (there was no tick).

With orders of 10 hundredweight [half an imperial ton] or more a ticket was given so that the cash then had to be paid later at the shop of office. In addition, the box cart was used to deliver a ton or more.

It was a very important job to keep all the necessary records concerning the coal business. When I had completed my job in the coal cabin I had to continue my work in the General Office. There was no extra pay. It could be for a few days or weeks. However, I was learning an important job which became useful to me in later years.

From time to time the customer would dispute as to the actual number of bags delivered, one or two short. So I would go back with the coal man and settle the matter, one way or the other.

I mentioned earlier how important it was to always keep in mind that the Police Inspector could stop the lorry at any time. In later years, as the Secretary of the Society, I was summoned to attend Court in order to account for the misdemeanours of the men employed in our Coal Department.

I noticed many things taking place in the large warehouse and in the shops. Very few items were pre-packed. Almost everything had to be weighed up and packed in the shop (there was no spare time at all). Flour was very difficult to deal with, it was always done on a Monday morning, the Central had to pack up the needs of several other shops, it was done in a separate room so that the 'Flour dust' did not pervade the shop itself. Sugar, dried fruit, rice, coffee, tea, etc. Items such as biscuits had to be weighed out from the tins as required. Butter, margarine, cheese, etc. was wrapped up when purchased. Hams and bacon had to have special care in the Warehouse, being hung up within a wire protected cage to keep the vermin away.

The warehouse and all the shops had their own special cats to keep check on the vermin. Vinegar came in large casks. Syrup and Treacle came in drums of about five hundredweight each. Customers had to bring their own container in which these items were placed. In these days almost everything in the shop has been prepacked (or overpacked). So I might continue telling you of the difficulties of packing many things in poor quality bags etc. A short time before I arrived on the scene in 1916 the Co-op were using Metal Checks to give customers the equal value of the amount spent in order to pay the quarterly dividend due. They system had just been changed with the use of Cash Registers issuing a paper check showing the amount spent.

These checks had to be totalled and dividend paidaccordingly each quarter. At the beginning, the adding up of these checks in frontof the customer was almost a nightmare but, like anything else, practice makesperfection and, after a few years, the figures just jumped into line for me. Severaltimes each week I had to go down into the warehouse in the basement in order tomake out the list and prices on the charge sheet for each shop, it was mostly of fruitsand vegetables in season, plus items such as bacon or boiled ham. These hams wereboiled each week at our own bakery. The fruits in season came on the early am trainfrom Manchester. (I had some wooden boards round my desk to protect me fromthe cold winds etc.) When the electric cables were brought into the Warehouse, say 1917/18 a very large refrigerator was installed in the Warehouse for storing bacon,hams, etc.

Having to do so much of my work in the grocery warehouse I was able to learn a great deal about how many different foodstuffs were dealt with. For instance, there was a room immediately above the heating boiler in the basement, this was the banana room. The crates of fruit came to us unripe (green) and were hung in bunches in this room. As they became ripe they were sent out to the shops for sale. Most of the apples came from Canada in large wooden barrels, the Manager showed me that the very best ones were always at the top, and these were sold separately at the best prices. The ones from the middle part, being less in selling value, although quite good, were sold a little cheaper, whilst those from the lowestpart were the cheapest.

Green grapes came in wooden barrels, packed in cork shavings. These would keep well if kept in a dry place. Certain fruits were only available at various seasons of the year. We never had tomatoes at Christmas time,only apples and oranges were available then. It was all on account. There was no refrigeration on any of the boats, or on land also, in many instances.

It was interesting to know how cheese was dealt with. There was what was called a wooden 'stillage' with slatted shelves in order to let the air get through. There was a big trade in cheese and thirty to forty of one kind would come from the same dairy (English of course). Wooden kegs of butter (approximately one hundredweight) would come from Holland by boat, always from the same dairy.

As the years went by more and larger refrigerators were installed in the warehouse. It was at Christmas time that any kind of perishable foodstuff could only be in the shops for about ten days in advance. This applied particularly to chickens, turkeys, rabbits and other game birds. They had to be ordered in advance (NOTE: no frozen ones at the present time).

When I was young I remember that a tin of salmon was always a special treat for tea on a Sunday. I do not remember any other items being in cans at that time. Certainly NOT the great variety of fruits and meats of these days.

George Ashworth (1990)

Editor's comment - when I moved to Ramsbottom in February 1977, the Central building was a ghost of its old self, only a small portion of the ground floor still being used as a retail food outlet, run by two female assistants. The upstairs had long been abandoned, perhaps in the 1960s. Barbara PARK wrote about the Society's 1954 Stocktake in our Winter 1994-5 issue (no 10), which, against all the odds, survived the sale and clearout of the Bolton Street premises in 1987.

In that year, a small group of locals organised a 'Ramsbottom Trust', the objective of which was to preserve important town buildings, and to establish a heritage centre. I was invited to join as the requisite local historian! We first considered the stable block at Barwood Lee, below Kay Lodge, and then the old Co-op building of which George ASHWORTH writes. We were shown round on 1st July 1987 by an estateagent from WRIGHT, DICKENSON and CATLOW whose main concern was to avoid stepping in the masses of pigeon droppings that were festooned about the upper storeys. The offices in which George ASHWORTH had so carefully followed the procedures described above looked like Hitler's Wehrmacht had just taken it by storm - all the paperwork with which George must have been so familiar was scattered over the floor. I had literally seconds as we toured through to see the mountain of records so utterly discarded. Pigeons flew around the theatre, plastic sheeting draped over the red velvet circles of seats to protect them from the aerial bombardment. We were offered the place at £45,000, but the council surveyor came up with a figure of £366,000 for refurbishment, not least on account of the dry rot.

I rang the eventual buyer to ask if we could have the piles of 'rubbish' - he thought I wanted the radiators for scrap, and asked me to make an offer! When I clarified my request, he said we could have the lot. Before anyone told the builders, however,a skip was in Back Bolton Street, a shute filling with old wood, plaster and the paperwork I had seen on 1st July. I was able to extricate, with some difficulty, a large, strung bundle of documents which, once dusted, turned out to be thestocktake of 1954.

The only other important survival from this appalling treatment of the Co-op's archive was a mid-20th Century membership list which 1 had surreptitiously 'rescued' whilst the estate agent was sidestepping the guano. Both these items are now in the Heritage Society's collection at Bury Archives. It wouldbe gratifying to think that so large an organisation as the Co-op would today be rather less cavalier with its archive material.

The Ramsbottom Trust finally switched its attention to the old Model Lodging House, no 8, Paradise Street, described in some detail in our last issue. Nothing came of that either, and it was left to our society to bring a heritage centre to the town on 26th May 1990.

I have already discovered extra material on the old Co-op Central building, and would appreciate any additional documentary or reminiscence evidence of its operations - Editor.

LIFTING THE LID ON THE TRAMSHED: RAMSBOTTOM'S BUSES

Remember the title 'The Happiest Days of Our Lives'? A film wasn't it? Well, when were our happiest days? When we were young usually ... younger at least! I don't have to stop and think when were mine. It was during those idyllic months when I was conducting (another of those defunct occupations that went the same way as sagger maker's bottom knockers) on any of the 13 buses of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council's Transport Department - Rammy Buzzes in the vernacular. That was in the mid-1960s. Life has been more or less downhill since.

It was during university vacations and it was Paradise ... in motion. We ran over variations of a basic route - from Bury, through Ramsbottom, Stubbins, Edenfield to Rawtenstall. Most journeys terminated at Edenfield, some having arrived via Stubbins, others via Shuttleworth. Some turned at Stubbins.

We offered an intimate little service. I soon became familiar with the quirks of the buses (mostly elderly), the passengers and crews (also mostly elderly or so it seemed to me). But they were a cheerful lot, who turned almost everything into a laugh. There was a certain camaraderie and bonhomie that welded us into a highly tuned team - at the cutting edge on the transport revolution.

Eddie was particularly quick-witted. His repartee was legendary and any significant gathering of crews with Eddie would soon be in stitches. He operated with Evelyn, a Cockney, who had moved north during the war and stayed. Evelyn was all right... but she talked . . . and talked . . . and talked. As she moved down the bus it was 'Tickets, please..Fenk you, lav... Bury, Lav?... Roit, lav... Lavely die (as in spry) ... Fenk you very much, lav, ta'. Then louder, more formally, more firmly: 'Hey youall got your tickets now please? Next stop, lav? Roit lav?... Bye, bye, now, lav, fenkyou. Hold toit now, please — Her lips were never still.

At the terminals she could talk a driver to despair (some preferred to stay in the cab). But Eddie took it all in good part... although he did once say, with a smile: 'Sometimes I look in the cab mirror and it's like watching a goldfish in a bowl! '

Generally speaking the same conductor worked with the same driver (apart from some special occasions) until one or other fancied a change. Most crews were twosomes who had operated over years ... like Harold and Florrie, man and wife. Florrie was something of a local personality. They were all in their way. But *she* had been on Wilfred Pickles *Have a Go* on the wireless.

They had been on the buses since the relief of Mafeking and had some rare tales to tell... of the '30s, the War, and the blackout... Harold explained how they had once had a lady passenger who Florrie knew had recently been in hospital. She stood up to alight, picked up her shopping bag, then, aghast, and went white and trembling.

'Oh dear!' she gasped. 'I've lost my liver!'

'Oh Goodness!' said Florrie. 'Whatever shall we do? Had we better call for an ambulance?'

It was, of course, lunch that had gone astray. With such tales did days disappear without consciousness of passing of time. Since I was there basically to replace people on holiday or off sick, I worked with most drivers at one time or another. Thus Dick regaled me with his adventures driving steam lorries on the East Lancs Road in the '20s and '30s; Derek with the joys of budgie breeding which consumed his spare time. Tom 'Pom' was our philosopher-in-residence and turned many a fine symbolic phrase on the meaning of life. Well into his fifties, suffering intermittently from lumbago, sciatica and various other debilitating complaints, he was, nevertheless, an extremely cheerful chap and time passed swiftly in his presence.

They were excellent drivers, steady as the Bank. They coddled their conductors, who had to move about a shifting workplace, often with no free hands to hold on. There was Jack…He had learned that during frost it was advisable to pump brakes ...then couldn't lay off the habit... got in a permanent sort of frost, perhaps, Jack did. Instead of braking normally and with increasing pressure until coming to a smooth halt, he would brake with long rhythmic pumpings. His clog would crash down for the first pump causing the conductor to hurtle down the bus... to thud into the front bulkhead. He might just manage to turn around before the pedal was released which would send him scurrying back down the aisle, streaming money bag and machine, and if lucky, on exiting from the platform, grab the pole .. . there being nothing so namby-pamby as doors on most Ramsbottom buses.

I was on a shift with one of the three Georges when I approached the only passenger on the top deck for his fare, a waterworks' man in uniform. His face was blue-purple; his eyes staring!

'Are you alright?' I asked, concerned No answer.

I hared down the stairs fearfully and slid back the driver's window.

'George! George! There's a chap upstairs having a heart attack! He's blue and purple! ' 'Has he paid?' George asked calmly.

'What?' I asked, uncertain if I had heard aright.

'Has he paid?'

'No.'

'Well, go and get the money off him then.'

I wasn't quite sure what to make of this advice, but returned to find the man a perfectly normal colour.

'Bury, please,' he said and gave me his bus tokens.

'Thank you,' said I as I gave him his ticket... and that was that.

Neither of us mentioned his indisposition and he alighted quite normally in Bury. Not easily panicked Ramsbottom bus drivers weren't!

I was with another George on his first day alone after passing his PSV (Public Service Vehicle driving licence). He drove through the shift well enough, if a shade nervously, until we took out the Holcombe bus. This operated just once a week... on a Saturday night. It was something of an event for the Holcombe villagers, but George and I turned it into a real spectacle. Number 13 was the number for that job - a pre-war single-decker of uncertain temperament and one requiring extra driving skills. Turning round in the narrow road through Holcombe was difficult . . . not helped by the inevitable Saturday night overflow from the *Shoulder of Mutton* car park. Between us, I blowing my whistle and thumping increasingly hysterically on the back of the bus and George tangling his feet in the pedals, we managed to reverse number 13 quite substantially into a house. Number 13, which had a through-chassis, was considerably put out, as was the management down at the tramshed!

I did have regular drivers. One year it was Stan who described life in the Australian outback where he had spent some time. Another year it was Justin (let's say) who outlined life in Stangeways Gaol, where he had also spent time in the debtors' section. (The name Justin doesn't really do him any justice). He had enjoyed it.

He had 11 children and during one spell of unemployment, when Social Security was being a little niggardly, he took them all there, and planted them on the counter. 'Here,' he said, 'if you can't give me enough to look after them, you do it'.

He turned to leave.

'Come back,' cried the startled clerk. 'I'm sure we can find a little more.' (That was in the days before Mrs THATCHER, of course.)

I was 'in the shed' for a short period, when no replacement was required - cleaning the buses and pottering about. There were 'shed men' who looked after the non-mechanical side of the buses and also went out driving or conducting when crews 'ducked' early in the morning.

In the rest room of an evening old Will, the doyen of the shed men, who also acted as a night watchman, would reminisce about solid tyre days. Before the War, the shed man/watchman also doubled as ambulance man. Once, according to Will, a Ramsbottom man, whose wife was having a baby, rang for an ambulance... to get no reply. He left his father on the telephone and walked to the depot... to find the shed man/watchman/ambulance man (not Will)... fast asleep! The telephone still rang in the background.

Will went to some important road smashes all alone. Did he have any first aid training? 'No, I just stuck them in the ambulance and let the hospital sort them out.' But how did he manage to lift the stretcher in by himself?

'Oh, there was usually somebody to give you a hand. If not you dragged it to the back and gave it a knee up. There was a knack to it.'

He sometimes took patients to a large mental hospital near Clitheroe.

'That was a bit weary. You saw all sorts there. They used to take you aside and tell you their troubles... "I've been here for thirty years," they'd say. "Will you tell our George to come and take me out." They'd give you an address. Repeat it over and over again. "You won't forget now, will you?" I'm sure half of them weren't mentalat all.'

'And did you?'

'Did I what?'

'Go to the address?'

Will sucked his pipe, and blew out a cloud of smoke and smiled.' —'No.'

Lording over all was Inspector Philip Dobson. 'Dobbie' was the greatest characterof all-tubby, red-faced, bucolic, like an 18th Century squire. He cursed us upto scratch, but all in good humour. He didn't bear grudges and nobody bore him any. Appearance belied what he was - a very astute man. From time to time the Irwell would flood under Stubbins railway bridge which swiftly reduced our little network (not that there was much of it!) to chaos. I'll never forget Dobbie standing imperiously, but heroically, in pouring rain, in Wellington boots as floundering buses dribbled back to the depot. At one and all he fired instructions and times likea talking timetable. They all swept out again rapidly restoring the service to near normality.

In covering the same ground so regularly we came to know the passengers well. The Chocolate Lady always gave a bar to be shared with the driver. She was popular. The Cigar Man, on his way down to Bury of a Saturday night, would give the conductor a cigar knowing he would be on the Last Bus.

I may be a bit under the weather when I come back, so you'll look after me won't you?'

We did.

However, there was the Irishman who became frighteningly drunk of a Saturday night. He was a hard nut and frightened me, but always called me 'Sir' or 'Sorre.' On the same subject, one lad from Stubbins arrived aboard in Bury in an advanced state of nausea. The downstairs passengers edged away from him one by one as the journey progressed to huddle on the back seats and I was afraid the bus would tip up. He did eventually vomit around Dundee Lane. Dogs caused a fair amount of dislocation to the service by vomiting, too, I recall.

At Hazelhurst there was a pub called the *Cemetery Hotel* since renamed, less sombrely, as *The Fusilier,* On Tuesdays we did a Sunshine Special which picked up Senior Citizens from Shuttleworth Sunshine Club. They would surge (if that isn't too strong a word) excitedly into the lower deck. Soon the legal limit would be passed and I would order firmly, 'Upstairs only now, please.' But large ladies would bosom me aside like hydrofoils cleaving up out of the waves. They would squash inexorably inward: not upward. Then I would have to squeeze through them all, heaving money bag and machine around them, under them, over them.

One Tuesday I fought to the front of this raucous crowd to find an old lady sitting serenely like a lily just out of the eddies of a troubled pond. She was thin, especially compared to her mountainous sister Sunshiners. Her cadaverous face was the colour of flour brightened by a vivid orange lipstick done in cutie-bow style. She tendered her pennies and whispered, 'Will you put me off at the *Cemetery*, please,luv?'

The Sunshine Special was something of a professional challenge. Otherwise it was a relatively easy life, aside, that is, from the Stubbins to Ramsbottom factory bus. There were six factories in Stubbins and many workers lived in Ramsbottom barely half-a-mile away, so upward of 60 fares had to be processed in that distance. The fare was tuppence. And, in those days, pennies were pennies - heavy metal objects, none of our fancy pence. By Ramsbottom the ticket machine would be aglow; conductor on his knees, weighed down with coppers.

There were 16 duty rotas, some less jolly than others. There was the 'Three Rawtenstalls' - Bury to Rawtenstall and back three times before breakfast - which was inexplicably wearing, and there was the one with 'Black Friday' in it, although 1 can't remember why the Friday was black. Then there was the turn of the first bus which left at fiveish and which took its toll after a week of early rising. One did feel a certain sense of achievement about it, though, superiority even .. . of being up and about when others were lying a-bed. Each sunrise was different. We often had to wait at staging points on early buses with time in hand and I remember, on the first busturn one year, we were always, by chance, waiting opposite the Ramsbottom TownHall as sunrise broke over Peel Tower above. It was never twice the same that week- purple, rose, grim and grey, golden ... the Tower emerged from the dawn to herald another day.

One regular client had an artificial leg. He would stomp on, sit on the side seat, leg extended across on the aisle. He then fumbled for a knee switch and the lower leg sprang down like a gin trap. Best not to be too near.

Mervyn was hopelessly deformed held together by springs, but extraordinarily cheerful in an inarticulate sort of way. At Holcombe Brook the driver would leave his cab and, between him and the conductor, Mervyn would be virtually carried across the road to await the Bolton bus. It was that kind of service. Archaic, easy going, but it worked. We gave a personal service; even waited for old ladies!

The depot was known locally and affectionately as the Tram Shed. Mighty Ribble also swept majestically through part of our route. They considered themselves very much a cut above us. We were only *Municipal.*

One day a Ribble driver, on approaching our depot, called out facetiously to his passengers, 'Anyone for the Museum?' The lady there gave him such a verbal lashing it passed into Ramsbottom folklore. In the brief moments it took to arrive at the stop she listed all their faults and all our qualities. As she stepped off she concluded disdainfully, but vehemently: 'And it makes a profit.' It did too, whereas most bus services, including Ribble's local services, did not.

Alas, Number 13 is long gone to that great garage in the sky and Ramsbottom Urban District Council Transport Department is no more, swallowed in Greater Manchester's mighty maw and, over the years, as I returned on visits, people would tell me, darkly, that things were, decidedly, not what they were... for as long as they could remember how they were! But much water has now flowed under Stubbins' bridge since then.

Harry Hanson, Mas de Mourgues, Gallician, Par Vauvert, 30600, France

RAMSBOTTOM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S LAST YEARS: A POSTSCRIPT

I greatly enjoyed reading Harry HANSON's foregoing account of the last years of 'Rammy Buses', and was moved to follow up some of his memories. Ramsbottom's little municipal bus service, with its distinctive maroon and cream livery, is well chronicled. An eight-page commemorative booklet was produced immediately prior to its absorption on 31st October 1969 by SELNEC PTA (South East Lancashire North East Cheshire Passenger Transport Authority) as a prelude to local government reorganisation in 1974. There will be many surviving copies, including one at Bury Archives in the Heritage Society's collection.[1]

In 1903, the UDC obtained powers to build a tramway from Holcombe Brook to Edenfield, with a loop via Bridge Street and Shuttleworth, the latter conditional upon a bridge or subway being built to cross the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. This would have produced a remarkable situation at the site of the level crossing, and the mind boggles at how this area might have looked had the powers ever been exercised. The costs of the tramway scheme resulted in eventual abandonment, and a trolley bus service was, after a referendum of all ratepayers, introduced instead in

August 1913. Barbara PALMER contributed a piece on these early buses to our Winter 1992 issue (*News Magazine*, no4, pp12-16).

Harry refers to the competition with the Ribble Bus Company. Bus operation before 1986 was a curious mix of private and municipal, and highly regulated according to the powers that each local council was able to obtain through private Acts of Parliament. Ribble prevented a number of RUDC initiatives, including operation into Burnley, and a Ramsbottom, Bury, Blackpool service, run jointly with Bury Corporation. The modem 273 Stagecoach service, incidentally, the descendant of the old Ribble 236 run from Bolton to Burnley, dates back to a parliamentary compromise of 1926, when Ribble undertook not to operate between Ramsbottom and Bury, in return for an RUDC undertaking not to compete with them on the Ramsbottom-Bolton route. Ribble similarly agreed not to carry local traffic on the Edenfield-Holcombe Brook route, along which Ramsbottom operated its trolley buses. Ramsbottom people thereby faced the frustration of watching Ribble buses travelling the very road that they wished to, but being forced to wait for an RUDC service. In 1931, an agreement between Bury, Ribble and RUDC allowed Ribble to carry local passengers.

The problems encountered by Ramsbottom's buses at Stubbins bridge persisted for most of the department's existence. Built in the 1840s as a skew bridge to carry the railway over the turnpike road, the bridge's clearance of 13 feet 6 inches restricted operation to single-deck buses, even though double-deck buses had started to come into use in 1947. In 1948, the RUDC began campaigning for a new bridge. Through passengers wanting to go on to Bury had the inconvenience of having to change onto a waiting double-decker at the Depot on Stubbins Lane, since more seating capacity was required on the busier southern part of the route. The intensity of competition from the private motor car, and from British Railways' introduction of diesel multiple units onto the Bury-Bacup line in 1956 made the UDC's position worse. A compromise of lowering the roadway to increase clearance to 14 feet 9 inches was begun in September 1960, a mystery gas main was inevitably struck, traffic lights were installed, and double deck buses could now operate throughout the route. The fleet was reduced in size, bus mileage reduced, and savings made.[2]

This simple bridge alteration, though probably the cause of regular flooding into at this dip in the road, brought the department into profit, and it was a sore point in 1969 that an efficiently run operation should lose its autonomy to SELNEC. There is a file of newscuttings in Bury Library which chart the controversy. With a modern fleet of 12 buses (11 double, one single-deck) and a staff of just 16 drivers, 16 conductors and two inspectors, it was the smallest municipal bus undertaking in England, Ramsbottom being the only urban district council to have its own service. Its buses ran some 425,000 miles a year. In 1968-9 it had turned in a profit of around £8,000 on a turnover of £75,000, and its fight against dissolution soon earned the attention of those national newspapers most critical of the Labour Government of the day. 'A small, happy, hardworking and efficient bunch,' opinedone such report.[3]

Ernest HUTCHINSON, a former councillor who had served on the Transport Committee of RUDC at the time, recently told me that the Council was unanimous in its desire to retain an independent bus operation. He related how the Council received a visit from Transport Minister Mrs Barbara CASTLE in advance of the SELNEC merger, and had told her civil servant how strong local and Council feeling was against the policy. 'Listen, Councillor,' the official had said, placing a patronising hand on his shoulder, 'in the general scheme of things what you think doesn't matter at all.' Interestingly, the RUDC transport General Manager supported the merger - but perhaps that may have been because he knew he would have to work the new system, under new bosses.

The local press reported extensively on the UDC's campaign to remain out of the proposed merger with 10 other municipal fleets. 'Hands Off Our Buses Mr Marsh' splashers on the sides of each bus informed a later Transport Minister of the candour of local feeling![4] Each bus had run at a profit of £697 that year, covering more miles than in most other transport undertakings. Costs were lower than Ribble's, and of other English municipal bus departments, only Leicester's being more profitable.[5]

The debate anticipated Ramsbottom's merger into Bury MBC in April 1974, when there was a strong feeling that the town's true destiny lay with Rossendale, not Bury or Manchester. We had to wait for the return of the THATCHER Governmentfor a dismantling of the Labour vision of urban state transport monoliths. Deregulation of bus services in 1986 promised smaller, more responsive, private operation, but in the intervening 15 years corporate giants have swallowed up mostundertakings. Perhaps the Ramsbottom model was about right - 'a small municipalpassenger transport undertaking, fundamentally sound, basically a happy one, witha staff held in high esteem by the public they so loyally serve,' opined the official history.[6] Certainly Harry HANSON and most of the old UDC's passengers would concur!

Andrew Todd

References

1. *Ramsbottom Urban District Council Transport Department, 56 Years of Municipal Passenger Transport Operation 1913-1969* (1969)
2. *RUDCTD, 56 Years of Municipal Passenger Transport Operation* (1969)*; Bury Times,* 24th Sept, 8th Oct 1960
3. *Daily Express,* 19th Sept 1969
4. *Bury Times,* 27th Sept 1969
5. *Bury Times,* 9th, 30th Nov 1968
6. *RUDCTD, 56 Years of Municipal Passenger Transport Operation (1969)*

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

1 Bury Archive Service - Edwin Street (off Crompton Street) Bury BL9 0AS; tel: 0161 797 5897 - preserves the historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. There are over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans and photographs, almost all of which are available for consultation in the public reading room. Holdings include the records of local authorities (eg Ramsbottom Local Board, and UDC, including many building plans) schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, sports clubs, charities, political parties and other social organisations. The Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

The service is based in Edwin Street (off Crompton Street, next to Plumb's Hi-Fi shop), and entrance is via the yard at the far end of the street on the right-hand side. The reading room is open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm every Tuesday; and at the same times on other weekdays Monday to Friday, but please make an appointment in advance by ringing archivist Kevin Mulley before visiting on these days. Group visits (minimum six persons) on evenings and weekends are available if booked in advance.

2 Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services Department) 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 Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of BMBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

The library is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm each weekday (open until 7.30pm Wednesdays), and from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturdays.

3 Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury; tel: 01706 822484 - has much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev RR Carmyllie, and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets, as well as Hume Elliot's history.

4 Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Vicky Barlow, Bob's Ley, 6, Mowbreck Lane, Wesham, Preston, Lancs PR4 3HA; tel: 01772 687234 - membership is only £9-00 per year, and this entitles you to four magazine issues, an opportunity to publicise your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall.

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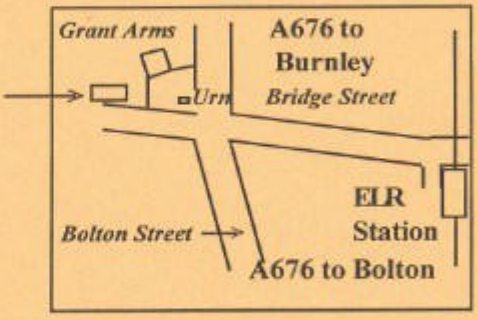

Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AE (opposite the Library)

NOTE OUR WEB SITE:-

www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk

Telephone 01706 821603 (weekends only). To arrange school or adult party visits outside the following opening times please ring 01706 827602

Open Easter Saturday until Christmas 2001, Saturdays and Sundays, 1-00 to 4-30pm (1-00 to 4-00pm, October onwards)

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

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RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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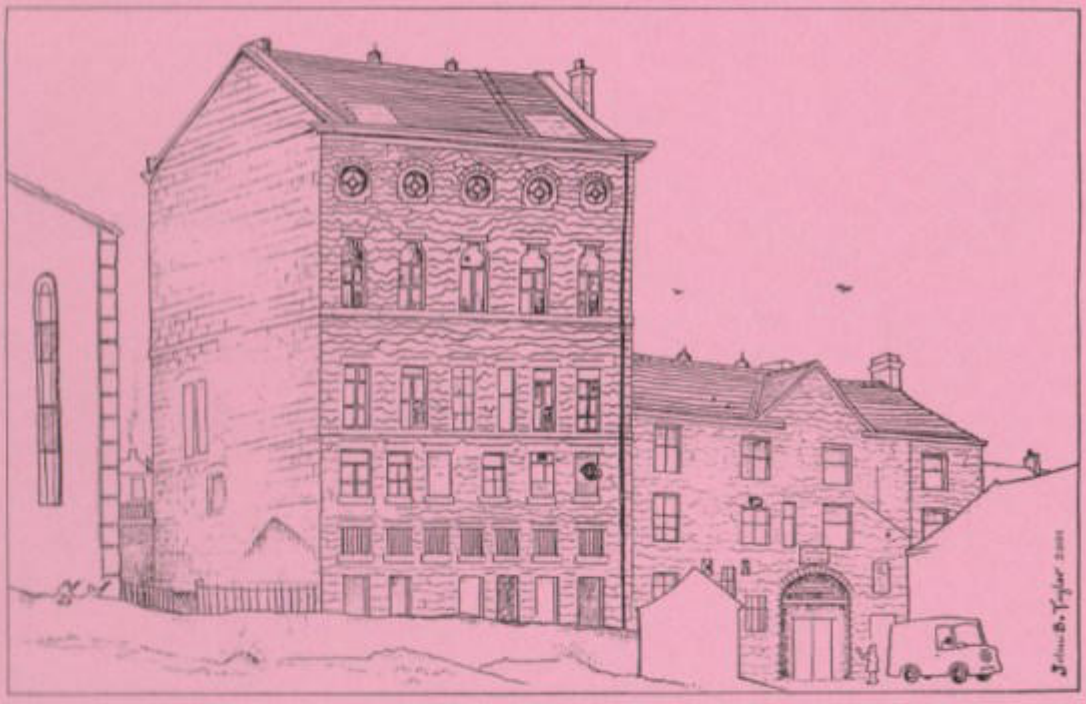

NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

2002 PROGRAMME

16th Jan	Alex Walker, *The East Lancashire Railway, Past and Present*
20th Feb	Mr and Mrs B Corbett, *Pilkington's Lancastrian Pottery* (illustrated)
20th March	Photographic Competition + Peter Watson, *Medicine and Magic Part 2* (illustrated)
17th April	Ralph Hart, *King Cotton* (illustrated)
15th May	AGM and Members Night
19th June	Mrs MM Gilbertson, *The Cotton Queens*
17th July	Guided Walk to Peel Tower. Meet *Shoulder of Mutton* car park, 6-45pm
21st Aug	Denise North, *Violet's Story: Part 1*

Please note that all indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30 for 7.45pm

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FRONT COVER - rear view of the Ramsbottom Industrial Provident Society's Central Building, Bolton Street, April 2001, from Cross Street. Drawn by John B Taylor of Stacksteads

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Ramsbottom Dead List - thanks to those members who have sent in snippets on the subject of the Ramsbottom Friendly Burial Society. Further recollections will be most welcome. I hope to write up a short account in a future issue.

Model Lodging Houses - following my article on 'The Model' on Paradise Street in issue no 20,1 note that records relating to the Model Lodging House at Rawtenstall for the period 1906-22 have been deposited at the Lancashire Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston under catalogue reference no DDX 1634.

The Reverend Hume Elliot revived: the Long-awaited Reprint - like myself, many members will have read the well-known Chapter VII, *Ramsbottom (Industrial),* of Hume ELLIOT's fascinating *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers,* compared its descriptions of our town centre in the early 19th Century with what we see today, and attempted to superimpose the famous foldover plan of the Old Ground calico printing complex onto modem Ramsbottom's street plan. They may have shared my frustration at finding that the plan had been removed from the copy they were reading, and been exasperated by the high prices demanded by those second-hand book dealers who occasionally had the book for sale.

There has long been a need for a reprint, and the whole society is grateful to Janet SMITH for getting Chapter VII into print and in a most attractive and affordable format.

Janet has also included all those valuable topographical photographs which appeared throughout the original 1893 edition - they have lost nothing in reproduction. Many depict scenes which have disappeared in the course of the intervening century - The Square Mill, Springside (home of William GRANT, the site of which was by the railway crossing half a mile south of Summerseat Station, Nuttall Hall and grounds before they became Nuttall Park, Dundee Chapel on Dundee Lane (demolished in 1978), Old Nuttall Hall Farm, Chatterton Mill (scene of the April 1826 riot) and St Andrew's (Dundee) - the huge and impressive Presbyterian Church that stood at the top of Kay Brow, just below the *Major Hotel,* until the 1920s. There are also photographs and prints of members of the families influential in the town's development -

ASHTON, GRANT, PEEL, PORRITT and STEAD to list a few. To give some comparative dimension to Hume ELLIOT's text, the town centre portion of the 1842 tithe map (its earliest large scale representation) is included in the historical introduction, together with relevant extracts from its accompanying schedule. The large-scale Ordnance Survey Map of 1891 is juxtaposed, of especial interest because it namesall the town centre mills and delineates the hundreds of houses then in those town centre streets, a good proportion of which disappeared in the pre-war clearances.

Published as *Nineteenth Century Ramsbottom,* the reprint is carefully indexed, runs to some 80 pages, is printed on quality photographic paper, and costs just £4.00, or £4.75 with postage and packing. (£6.00 for overseas orders.) Cheques payable to Ramsbottom Heritage Society. Please send orders to:-

Book Orders, Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr St, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AE.

Ramsbottom Oral History Project and - we now have a very active Taping Team, and in all some 39 tape recordings have been made since 1987. Interviewees volunteer to speak to one of the team at a place of their choice, usually their own home, and are given a copy of the tape. A copy is also sent to the North West Sound Archive in Clitheroe. Voith Fabrics, who have absorbed the former PORRITT company, made use of some of these taped conversations in their 100th anniversary celebrations in 2001. As a result, Voith Fabrics made a donation, for which we are most grateful, to the Society which has enabled us to purchase a transcribing machine. It is a long job, but eventually we hope to have all our tapes in typed form, and copies will be available at the Library. The mass of material currently stored magnetically will be far more accessible, so that future students of 20th Century social history will be able to use it far more easily.

The Porritts/Voith Fabrics Open Day - in 1901 PORRITT and AUSTIN were first registered as limited company, and the present owners, Voith Fabrics, marked this centenary on 12th August 2001 with an open day, former employees and villagers being given an opportunity to see how the Stubbins Vale Mill has changed in recent years. A number were taped by the Society, and other former workers were interviewed at their homes. All the former employees that contacted us stressed how happy their time their had been - a good employee which has a strong tradition of loyalty amongst its workforce. Very much a family firm in more ways than one - it was hard to get a job there unless a relative 'spoke up' for you. The history of the firm is charted in a 30-minute video which can be purchased at £6.00 from the Heritage Centre. The PORRITT family is well documented in this magazine's back numbers - notably 4,5,10 and 11. John SIMPSON advises me that Helmshore Local History Society hold an unpublished history of the PORRITT family and their associations with Stubbins, presented to them in 1965 by Augustus MUIR. It runs, John reckons, to 450 pages.

Help! Missing books - in 2001 I loaned my copies of *Around Ramsbottom* and Ken BEETSON's *Ramsbottom* to someone, probably a member. Anyone remember who?!

THE REVEREND HUME ELLIOT 1857-1927: HIS OBITUARY

In view of our reprint, it seems appropriate that we should in this issue acquaint readers with some biographical details of the Ramsbottom's first historian. The following item appeared in the Bury Times of 18th June 1927. The photograph which accompanied the article is the same one that we have used from our collection on the front of our reprint. Punctuation, other than the use of capitals throughout all surnames, follows the original newspaper version. Editor.

DEATH OF THE REV. W. H. ELLIOT

FORMER RAMSBOTTOM PASTOR

By the death of the Rev. William Hume ELLIOT of 23, Lyford-road, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W., on Monday, a veteran figure has been removed from the ranks of ministers of the Presbyterian Church. The deceased, who had reached the ripe age of 90 years, had been living in retirement for some years. His last ministry was at Ramsbottom, where he was the minister of St. Andrew's (Dundee) Presbyterian Church, which he served for 33 years. He was born at Teviotdale, Roxburghshire, in 1857. He entered the University of Edinburgh as a student in 1859, and gained distinction in philosophy. Before coming to Ramsbottom he was for seven years at Haltwhistle, Northumberland. At Ramsbottom he succeeded the Rev. J. Kerr CRAIG. He was inducted on Tuesday, December 15th, 1874, and the completion of 25 years' service there was marked by a presentation which took place in the Old Dundee School on Saturday, December 16th, 1898, when Mr. and Mrs. ELLIOT were the recipients of gifts. The minister received a mahogany writing desk and a purse of forty guineas, and his wife three table centres. The desk was inscribed 'Presented to the Rev. W. Hume ELLIOT with a purse of gold by the congregation and friends of St. Andrew's (Dundee) Presbyterian Church, Ramsbottom, to commemorate 25 years loyal and devoted ministry. December 15th, 1898.'

On Monday, November 12th, 1907, Mr. ELLIOT announced, at a meeting of the Manchester Presbytery, his resignation as a minister of the church. It will be interesting to recall that a number of ladies and gentlemen from Ramsbottom attended the meeting, including Messrs. James SCOTT, H. S. BENTLEY, Dr. LAWRIE, Mrs. ELLIOT, Mrs. EMMETT, Mrs. H. WHITWORTH, Mrs. G. CRAWSHAW, Miss BENTLEY and Miss KIRKMAN. Messrs SCOTT, BENTLEY and LAWRIE addressed the Presbytery and gave expression to the regret with which they had learned of Mr. ELLIOT's pending departure. The rev. gentleman's ministry at Ramsbottom was marked with remarkable ability, zeal, and fidelity, and he had a great affection for the church. While there he had many inducements held out to him to accept invitations to other spheres of labour which had many attractions but always declined them. He was the eldest of the seven original members, still living, of the Presbyterian Church in England and the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland situated in England; when the jubilee of the church was celebrated at Liverpool last year. The deceased was an able and accomplished writer; he had a remarkable command of the Scotch language and Scotch dialect, and also of the Lancashire dialect.

His chief publications were *The Country and Church of the Cheerybles* [sic] and *The Cheeryble Grants,* but he was also the author of many pamphlets and poems in English and also in the Scotch and Lancashire dialects. He was a member of the Bury and District Burns Club, and in May 1900, he was elected an honorary member because he was "a person distinguished in poetic and general literateur and a benefactor of the club." He never failed to send "an effusion'' to the annual gathering of the club known as "Burns Nicht." He was also a member of the Manchester Branch of the Dickens Club. He married a daughter of the late Mr. P. L. MACTAGGART of Liverpool, and her sister was the wife of Mr. Russell REA, former M.P. for Gloucester. She died five months ago. The deceased's funeral service took place at St. Peter's Presbyterian Church, Beechcroft-road, Upper Tooting, on Thursday, and the interment took place subsequently at the Wandsworth Cemetery.

Editor's Note - One can only wonder whether 75 years on, the Bury and District Burns Club, is sufficiently extant to be holding its annual 'Burns Nicht'. Its existence is interesting evidence of the number of Scots who had settled in the Bury area in the 19th Century.

By coincidence, I have received from Karen Pinder, one of the sculptresses who worked on the Irwell Valley Sculpture Trail, an interesting reminder of how heated Ramsbottom had become in 1869, when the present St Andrew's Church, at the junction of Bolton Street and Nuttall Lane, was taken from the Presbyterians on the orders of William GRANT, and reopened in 1871 as an Anglican place of worship. The congregation erected a replacement, St Andrew's Dundee, perhaps the grandest of Ramsbottom's churches, as a grand V-sign to GRANT and the Anglicans!. It stood from 1873 to 1926 at the top of Kay Brow, far taller and more opulent than its dour Scottish-looking predecessor just up Bolton Street. Hume ELLIOT describes the controversy at some length in The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers, pointing out how dangerous the situation became. On the evening of Tuesday 28th November 1869, 'a vast crowd' assembled outside St Andrew's, angry at the takeover, the 'more aggressive portion of it', Hume ELLIOT remarks, 'embracing muscular and fearless delphmen from the neighbouring hills, with stern implements at hand'. Only the diplomatic and calming eloquence of a Presbyterian minister seems to have prevented the quarry men doing serious injury to GRANT'S 'mercenary force ' of agents who were in possession of the church. Rams bottom in the late 1860s was a rough place - serious hardship from the Cotton Famine earlier in the decade, and major political division. In the general election of 1868, when many working men had the vote for the first time, gangs of quarrymen (known as 'Brownbacks' on account of their dusty apparel) and colliers wrecked political meetings, and police armed with drawn swords had to parade the streets to bring some calm.[1] Given this background, the town in 1869 must have been split down the middle, probably with an Anglo-Scots and Conservative-Liberal garnish to the nonconformist- Anglican rivalry. A wonderful piece of newspaper research on law and order and violence in Ramsbottom in the mid-19th Century is awaiting someone!

Karen Pinder's evocative piece is a reminder that we are forever walking over the footsteps of many ghosts. Editor.

In the last decades of the 19th Century, the family of the Rev William Hume ELLIOT viewed the River Irwell from *Woodhill House*, Shuttleworth. Today my family enjoys that view. We also possess the book which William wrote in 1893 (*The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers*) to record the bitter dispute over St Andrew's Church. In the book, the river enables the community to thrive and is the source of prosperity. At the height of the dispute over the Church, William is threatened with acts of violence, and his riverside-walk home becomes dangerous: -

> ***The Chief of Constabulary was good enough to warn the writer of danger, and it happened that we had to pass through some fields to reach home from Ramsbottom, and part of the way was flanked with hedges. From that time we avoided the hedgerows at night ad stuck to open fields. One well-defined line, with partial variations, we usually followed, and one very dark night we were deliberately waylaid.***
>
> ***Our way lay along the top of the rather broken and precipitous bank of a little dough, the base of which was somewhat miry and perplexing, especially in a wet season. Our would-be assailants had got down this bank in the intense darkness, and about eleven o'clock, after we had reached home; they were heard crying for help. We had passed, it appeared, quite near to them, silently and alone, under the sable of night, unconscious of their presence.***

I follow William's path on my way home from the library and shops, along Kenyon Street and up the path to *Woodhill*. Providing me with so much pleasure, it is difficult to imagine how perilous that walk became for William. I remember the danger, however when I hear plaintive bellows and squelching noises coming from the direction of the hedgerow. I sprint the last hundred yards to my house and I do not look back. A small herd of bullocks, their feet anchored in the mud near the hedge; stop lowing as I speed past.

1 Ramsbottom Observer Special, 24th March 1905

Karen Pinder

RAMSBOTTOM CENTRAL CO-OP, BOLTON STREET: A FOOTNOTE

George ASHWORTH's recollections of this large building, reproduced in issue no 21, can be augmented by the following provided in 1978 by Mr Gaby PORTER, curator of an as yet unidentified museum. He cites detail from the *Bury Times* of 23rd September 1876:-

> ***The Co-op Hall occupied the top storey of the three-storey extension (nos 51,53 and 55, Bolton Street) added by the Ramsbottom Industrial & Provident Society to its earlier (1863) two-storey building (nos 45,47 and 49). The earlier hall was adapted for use as library, newsroom, smoke and conversation room.***

The new extension, containing shops below, and hall, offices, storerooms, and dividend room above, was designed by BIRD and WITTENBURY, Manchester. The Gothic hall was approached by a stone staircase directly from the street. It had galleries along one end and both sides supported by cast iron pillars, and with gilded panels of open ironwork; the fourth side contains a stage, quite large. The hall is 54 feet x 51 feet x 50feet high. The original decoration was a French grey roof and light drab walls; later, perhaps around 1920, the walls were stencilled with symbols and mottos of co- operativeness such as the beehive and the wheatsheaf. The furniture was pitch pine, stained and varnished. The whole was lit by two gas sunlights, of 40 jets each; these were later replaced by electricity.

The hall was used for lectures, Guild meetings, concerts, performances of all kinds. A ticket survives from 1886, when Charles BRADLAUGH gave a lecture there. During the 1920s the Hall was used by many travelling groups of players; a stage set was painted by one group, MAIN and SCOTON, for general use and was still standing (though tom) in 1987, when I visited the building. The society started its own cinema shows in 1930/31, but the hall was too wide to be suitable. The Co-operative WholesaleSociety ran promotion films and 'smoking concerts' (can anyone explain?) in the mid- 1930s; a cinema advertising board survives from this date and is now in the collection of whichever museum Mr PORTER was curator.

'In 1939 the hall was commandeered by the army and used as a recruitment/training centre. It was probably at this time that seating was removed from the main part of thehall. In 1944 it was taken over as a labour exchange; ugly booths were erected in the hall, and its original function destroyed. It fell into disuse thereafter.

One octogenarian I spoke to recently remembers the Central Co-op between the Wars. The grocery department on the first floor had the usual counter, and customers queued at one end as assistants 'wandered around the rear shelves' to collect the required provisions. Cash was dealt with separately, in a fashion which still survived into the 1950s in some shops - the cashier would receive and send money via vacuum tubes to the assistant, he presumably not being trusted to perform the appropriate mental arithmetic.

At the rear of the building, in the now rather rundown Back Bolton Street, you could buy henfeed - corn, 'pigeon peas' (black peas, I believe) and indicorn (split cobs of corn) - from wooden bins with pulleyed lids, counterweighted so that they stayed up when opened.

Further down Bolton Street, at no 35, was the Co-op's boot and shoemaking department. A lot of Ramsbottom people kept their own personalised lasts at the shop,so that a precisely fitting piece of footwear could be assembled around it.

My informant suggests that there were so many different services offered by the Coop that a great many businesses in the town owed their origins to men who learned their skills there, and then set up on their own account.

Gaby Porter

ST PAUL'S CHURCH: SOME HISTORICAL NOTES

I am grateful to Joan BARCROFT for submitting this account. It is appropriate that we should acknowledge St Paul's 150lh anniversary, even if it did occur in 2000! I have taken the liberty of adding a little, notably on the gravestones which are such a fine component of the town's heritage. Editor

St Paul's Church was consecrated on 23rd October 1850 by Bishop LEE, the first Bishop of Manchester. It was the realisation of a proposal put forward in 1847. A new Parish of Ramsbottom had been formed in 1841. Previously, Anglican worshippers in Ramsbottom went to Holcombe or Edenfield, most baptisms and burials occurring at the former. Marriages had to take place at Bury St Mary, the ancient parish church.

In 1841, the Brothers ASHTON, proprietors of Ramsbottom Mill, built a small school in Crow Lane, adjacent to the present church, and encouraged the use of these premises for Sunday School and church services. The services were conducted by the first incumbent of the Parish, the Rev A GIBBONS. He retired through ill health in 1843, and was succeeded by the Rev James Hornby BUTCHER who was thus the first vicar of St Paul's Church.

Judging from the tithe map of 1842, the site for the new church, Rookery Field, was given by Samuel ASHTON, part owner of Ramsbottom Mill, and Thomas ELTON. According to Hume ELLIOT, this field was called Crowtrees Meadow, and Crow- trees farmhouse stood at its western end, roughly on the site of the church tower. The field extended the length of Crow Lane, separated by a five-foot high stone wall, as far as Ramsbottom Mill. It was on this far portion that St Paul's Street, Church Street, Rook Street, Garden Street and Athol Street were built around the 1870s.

Garden Street took its name from the many allotments which occupied the northern portion of Rookery Field. The rookery after which the field, farm, lane and street were named actually comprised four or five large trees, which stood at this northern end, beyond where the school now stands. This part of Rookery Field was used by the pupils from St Paul's School as their playground.

Hume ELLIOT charts the subsequent history of the occupants of the rookery, once the trees were cleared - apparently, they moved to new home in trees near the cricket ground and paper mill; and when later in the 19th Century these too were felled, the 'dusky denizens' migrated up to the trees around Barwoodlea, that is just to the north of Kay Brow, where, presumably, their distant descendants now roost nightly. Thomas HOLDEN, who was born about 1849 and lived at his father, James's newsagents and stationery shop, 16, Bridge Street, recalled in 1924 that the trees to which the rooks fled when their Crow Lane residence was destroyed stood in what was later the railway yard. These trees were ancient, and one would occasionally blow down. It was to gain greater security that the rooks went up to Barwood!

The cost of the church and grounds was £3,400, £2,000 of which was raised by public subscription, and the remaining £1,400 being given by Messrs ASHTON. A stained-glass window in the north wall commemorates this gift.

The first confirmation at St Paul's was in 1865. The church soon proved inadequate to meet the needs of the growing population of Ramsbottom, and a new aisle was added to the north side of the church. The Palmerston aisle, containing a stained-glass window (now obscured by the organ pipes) to the great statesman's memory, was provided through the generosity of William GRANT of Nuttall Hall who also defrayed the costs in 1870 of an organ chamber, organ and choir stalls. The organ, previously in use in Brompton Oratory, London, gave splendid service at St Paul's until 1934, when rebuilt, the old one being incorporated into it. The east window of the church was erected to William GRANT's memory.

In 1871, the Rev BUTCHER, was succeeded by the Rev William Henry CORBOULD whose long incumbency was marked by various breaks with the past which angered the more conservative of his congregation. He ceased the traditional practice of preaching in a black gown, and, most controversially, declared St Paul's a 'free church' in 1882, ending the centuries old system of raising money by allowing the more substantial members of the community to reserve particular seats in the church through the payment of pew rents.

In 1879, a bazaar and private subscriptions raised the sum of £1,200, used to rebuild the churchyard wall and to install a peal of eight bells.

In 1887 a new vicarage was built in Crow Lane, opposite the west end of the church. This was in use until 1937 when a modem vicarage was built about half a mile away, off Bury New Road. The old vicarage was then used as a police station, but it was later demolished. The site is now, appropriately, occupied by BOOTH & WOLSTENHOLME's chapel of rest. Another new vicarage was built in 1990 owing to the redevelopment of the Maple Grove area.

The Rev CORBOULD died in 1893 and was buried in St Paul's churchyard. His incumbency and that of his predecessor are commemorated in stained glass windows in the church. He was followed by the Rev JJ LEWIS who proved to be a good organiser and during his time at St Paul's, Church, Day and Sunday Schools flourished. To mark the Jubilee year of 1900, the bells were recast and a new clock placed in the tower. The clock was automated in 2001, ending the twice weekly climb up a steep ladder to rewind it! This improvement was made possible by donations of £3,000 from Pilsworth Environmental, £700 from local business, £500 from Bury MBC and various others from parishioners and townspeople. Whilst considering the church's giddier heights, statisticians may like to know that the weather vane cock measures 2 feet 4 inches from feet to beak, and 2 feet 6 inches from beak to tail!

A handsome reredos in alabaster was erected by subscription in 1909 in appreciation of the service rendered to the Parish by Henry HEYS Esq who had held office for 49 years, being churchwarden for 32 years. His vault is at the north side of the church, by the gate into Church Street. Electric light was installed in the church in 1912.

Many young men from the Parish were casualties in the Great War and their names are recorded on a brass plaque on the pulpit, which was erected in 1920 and dedicated to

their memory. The death of Wilfred HAYHURST, at Arras in 1917, is recorded on the family grave by the main path to the porch from Crow Lane. The Great War deaths of Arthur BARLOW at Messines in 1917, and of William HORROCKS in France in 1918. The Rev LEWIS was succeeded in 1915 by the Rev J PRESTON who bore the burden of the war years and the unsettled post-war period. Rev PRESTON exchanged livings in 1923 with the Rev H T R BRIGGS who had but a brief ministry at St Paul's, dying in 1925 and being buried in his churchyard. 'He went about doing good' reads his memorial cross.

The new vicar, the Rev E MORGAN, was immediately faced with the problem of dry rot in the church roof, and to meet the cost of repair, £1,500 had to be raised. Rev E MORGAN was followed in 1933 by the Rev L A WILSON. He had ideas for changes and improvements. We have already mentioned the new church organ of 1934 and the new vicarage of 1937. The churchyard originally covered all the space as far south as Bridge Street, but in 1938 the freehold of the main part was relinquished and transformed into the present Garden of Remembrance. The memorial cross was dedicated by the vicar of St Paul's in 1950.

The chancel of the Church was panelled in alabaster to match the reredos, and alabaster communion rails were installed in 1940 through the generosity of Mr H Randle HEYS to mark the long association of his family with the church.

Another family with long associations with St Paul's was that of Thomas WOLSTENHOLME, organist for 35 years, followed by his son, also Thomas, who was organist and choirmaster for 43 years.

Post-war vicars have been the Rev Tom MARTIN (1946-1964), Rev E W FORREST (1965-1976), the Rev R BARSLEY (1977-1988), Rev D P VALE (1989-1992), Rev Don ALTHAM (curate in charge 1992-3) and Rev Jeff ARCUS since 1993.

In 1950, during the incumbency of the Rev MARTIN, the centenary of the church was celebrated; special services and events were held to mark the occasion. Rev MARTIN produced a souvenir *Centenary Booklet* to which the present writer is indebted for much of the material in this brief history.

In 1981 a significant event in the life of St Paul's occurred. The parish was united with the neighbouring parish of St John in the Wilderness, Shuttleworth. The new parish took the name of the Parish of St John and St Paul, Ramsbottom. This union has proved to be a very successful one, and the lives of both churches have been much enriched.

The redecoration of the interior of the church was completed in 1991. The installation (with the cooperation and assistance of the Local Authority) of external floodlighting of the south facade and the tower took place in 1991.

In August 1994, a musical evening and presentation attended by several hundred past and present parishioners was held to mark the golden anniversary of Mr William HANSON's time as organist.

A parish room at the west end of the church was officially opened on Easter Sunday 1999, and the pews in the Palmerston (north) Aisle were removed. These internal changes have given us a new community venue, where we can hold meetings, coffee mornings, and an after-school club for 9-11 pupils from our day school in Crow Lane.

The Millennium Year of 2000 was the church's 150th anniversary and was heralded by a peal of bells at the turn of the year. During the Heritage Society's Millennium Week in June there was a BBC *Songs of Praise*, attended by all the churches in the town, and a sell-out concert by the Dob Cross Youth Band. On 15th October Bishop David GILLETT of Bolton preached at the anniversary service. Mr Les NORRIS gave some personal recollections. St Paul's has a number of memorial windows. The following list details the subjects depicted and the persons to whose memory they are dedicated.

EAST WINDOW

subject: the Crucifixion, erected to the memory of William GRANT of Nuttall Hall.

NORTH SIDE

1. ***subject: Feed My Lambs, and lower panel Christ Before Pilate, in memory of the late Rev W H CORBOULD.***
2. ***subject: Gethsemane, bearing the inscription - 'To the Glory of the Captain of our Salvation, made perfect through suffering, this window iserected in memory of those who through much tribulation rested in Himwhilst holding office in the school, the choir, the belfry of this church 1871-1882.'***
3. ***subject: The Last Judgement, in memory of Thomas and Edward ASHTON, the last representatives of the firm of Messrs ASHTON Brothers, who contributed with exceptional generosity towards the erection of the Church.***
4. ***subject: Christ raising the daughter of Jairus, in memory of Lydia COURBOULD, sister of the vicar of this Parish.***
5. ***subject: Christ blessing little children, in memory of Jane GRANT of Nuttall Hall.***
6. ***subject: The Good Shepherd, in memory of James Hornby BUTCHER, 28 years incumbent of this Parish.***
7. ***subject: The Baptism of Jesus, in memory of Jane BRENNAND.***

WEST END

8. ***subject: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, in memory of William and Betty BRENNAND.***
9. ***subject: The Child Samuel and his Mother, in memory of Margaret Heys, wife of Henry HEYS, Churchwarden of St Paul's Church.***
10. ***subject: David playing before Saul, in memory of James HEYS, formerly organist at St Paul's Church.***

SOUTH SIDE

11. ***subject: Christ walking on the Sea, in memory of William Randle HEYS.***
12. ***subject: St John, in memory of William TURNBULL.***
13. ***subject: St Paul at Athens, in memory of William RUMNEY.***

14. subject: St Peter, in memory of Thomas WOLSTENHOLME, 35 years organist at St Paul's Church; John DEARDEN, 42 years a member of StPaul's choir; Robert ARMSTRONG, 37 years a member of the choir.

15. subject: St George, in memory of Pte P TURNBULL.

The Processional Cross was given to commemorate the long ministry of Rev JJ LEWIS, vicar 1893-1915.

Joan Barcroft

Editor's notes - More representative of the town's population, perhaps, are the 96 surviving gravestones in the yard, transcribed in the 1980s by the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society. As on most memorial inscriptions, occupations and (especially) addresses are rarely recorded, but the run of 19th Century trade directories published for the years 1818-88 and the 1851 census returns allow us to identify a good number of tradesmen and women, many of whom worked only a few dozen yards from the spots in which they were laid to final repose. A good number of Ramsbottom tradespeople are at St Andrew's. In the following account, the year of death is shown in brackets.

Some of the stones commemorate the deaths of very early residents of the town, like John BARR of Stubbins Lane, tailor (1854) and Daniel CAMPBELL, a Scots born porter (1864) of Dungeon Row (28-48, Bridge Street) whose son, also Daniel, was a boot and shoemaker. William and Margaret CLITHEROE of Stubbins Lane (1879 and 1901) were grocers; Dr William FALSHAW of Bridge Street (1865) a surgeon and Joseph and Ellen FODEN (1877 and 1887) beerhousekeepers at the Good Samaritan, Ramsbottom Bridge. Close by, in life as well as death, were John and Nancy GRIME (1873 and 1866) 'of Toll Bar, Ramsbottom' viz no 1, Bridge Street (on the site now occupied by the entrance to the riverside ornamental area) toll collectors for the Ramsbottom Bridge. Their son Joseph (1895) seems to have combined toll collection with clogging, a common supplementary occupation for tollbar keepers who were compelled to spend many hours seated by a door or window, with an eye on the street.

Joseph HEAP (1878) was a farmer and stone dealer at Crow Trees in the 1851 census, and owner of the quarry at Fletcher Bank. A farm occupied by this family survived the construction of the church, perhaps on that part of Rookery Field which was later built on. The HEAPs were subsequently a family of builders, responsible for building the streets on Rookery Field referred to on page 7.

John KILLER of Irwell Mount (1863) was a shopkeeper and postmaster at 14, Market Place, now MOSLEY & Co chartered accountants, in the block originally called Ballantyne Place, adjacent to Christ Church Methodist Chapel. The small street to its rear bears the name Killer Street. His nephew was chemist, druggist and diarist Jamieson MORTON. Rather more traditional in her remedies for sickness was Mary MURPHY (1864) presumably Bridge Street's famous 'bleeder with leaches' who lived above one of the shops on Dungeon Row.

Arthur LOW (1866) is also commemorated on a datestone (A&AL 1834) in the upper storey of 76, Bridge Street. He built this block, nos 72-78 on the site of the joiner's shop of the Old Ground.

William TAYLOR (1863) 'Coal Agent', worked for HARGREAVES, ASHWORTH & Co of Stubbins Lane. William TRILLO (1904) confectioner at 14, Bridge Street, was associated for many years with the Ramsbottom Cricket Club. Noah WALSH (1880), the Bridge Street hairdresser and shopkeeper, was the father of the very versatile Lot WALSH, hairdresser, toy seller and bill poster.

Some of these stones contain family burials over many decades. The deaths of Robert and Zilpah BOOTH and their two daughters span the years 1839 to 1903. In contrast, one gravestone pathetically chronicles how disease, almost certainly cholera, given the year, could carry off a family in a matter of days:

Sacred

to the memory of

Samuel the son of Thomas & Betty Lord of Stubbins, who died Feby 3rd 1853, aged 4 years. Also Jane Ellen their daughter, who died Feby 5th 1853. Aged 1 year. Also Ann their daughter, who died Feby 7th 1853 aged 8 years. Also Thomas their

son, who died on the same day aged 14 years. Also Elizabeth their daughter, who died Feby 15th 1853 aged 7 years.

The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away blessed be the name of the Lord. Job 1.21.

Also Betty, wife of the above named Thomas Lord, late of Stubbins, who died August 1st 1867, aged 53 years.

George LONGWORTH'S stone records the fact that he was, on 24lh May 1851, the first body to be interred in the new churchyard. Apparently he drowned.

Trade directories explain the masons' names that feature at the foot of many of the stones. Thomas PILKINGTON of Milton Street appears once; the majority of inscriptions were carved by local masons Francis W PARKINSON of Stubbins Lane, who obtained the stone, presumably, from his quarry on Holcombe Moor, and the brothers Tom and John HILLARY of Peel Brow.

This catalogue of the many former residents and worshippers seems a fitting place to conclude a historical account of the church which has for 150 been so much at the heart of Ramsbottom life.

References

Possibly the most detailed source for the history of St Paul's is Rev Tom MARTIN's A Short History of the Parish of Ramsbottom and its Church of St Paul, contained in the centenary booklet of 1950. There are a good number of copies around, notably in Ramsbottom Library, Bury Library and Bury Archives. Of particular interest are the many shop and trade advertisements, so common in these commemorative church booklets.

William Hume ELLIOT'S The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers (1893) needs no introduction.

Thomas HOLDEN's memories of Ramsbottom were published in three instalments in September and October 1924, and are reproduced in Ken BEETSON's Ramsbottom (Tower Press, 1978).

John SIMPSON tells me that there is, in Bury Central Library, a scrapbook compiled in the 1840s and early 1850s by Archdeacon RUSHTON which includes material on new churches of the time. The book contains a handbill and an engraving, commemorating St Paul's opening. Editor.

MY RAMSBOTTOM BEGINNINGS... AND BEYOND

SHOP AND HOME

The family moved from 13, Woodlands Road, Edenfield about 1949 to 10, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom. My mother Mrs Jane Hutchinson CLARKE bought the shop called SIDDALLs and traded as a draper in that name (not to be confused with my Aunt Annie CLARKE who ran the drapers shop at 46, Bolton Street.)

10, Bolton Street was busiest, I believe, in 1837 (vague memory of seeing the deeds as a child) and thinking then that it must have been concurrent with the early growth of Ramsbottom as an industrial, cotton town.

Memories of the 'shop' as we called it were that my father gutted the interior and rebuilt it from the fabric inwards! This included making good the walls and ceilings. The shop was at the front, the living room at the back; a dark, damp kitchen; outside toilet, flagged lower yard, steps up to an upper yard and a very small flower bed and coal bunker. Upstairs, front bedroom - Roy and I, back bedroom - Mum and Dad - bathroom above kitchen with basin and bath, but no heating or toilet! No central heating! Only coal fires in each room.

We moved because my father was working at the local Ramsbottom UDC bus depot RUDC as a mechanic and driver and we needed to supplement the income! So mother ran the shop.

In the middle 1950s father acquired the shop opposite (now part of CRAWSHAWs Chemists) but in those days HUTCHINSONs Tobacconists. He continued to trade in that name as a retail and wholesale tobacconist. I believe the shop may have been

rented from CRAWSHAWs. Not sure, but I don't think we owned the premises. The reason for acquiring the tobacconists was that mother wanted father out of the Bus Depot. It was heavy, dirty work repairing buses, especially at the side of the road in winter! He didn't like the tobacconists 'selling sweets to old ladies' he called it and saw it as demeaning. HUTCHINSONs was a lock up shop. We continued to live at 10, Bolton Street. There was no garage, but we did have a small car, which I learned to drive, so we must have acquired it about 1958. It was a second-hand Singer Super 10, black, and a lovely little car - very posh for its time, built in 1947. It was garaged for a while in Bury where we bought it - Killelea Ave? South of the town, off Bury Road South. Then we acquired a garage at the junction of Callender Street and Rostron Road, on the right next to where James HASLAM of St Paul's Parish Church - layreader - lived.

SCHOOLDAYS

My earliest memory of my schooldays was that of starting at Stubbins Primary School as a five year-old. The old stone-built schools which was an integral part of the church on the site is no longer there, having been replaced by a modern school building over the road. It must have been 1947 or thereabouts -1 well remember snow piled high on the road back up to Woodlands Road. It looked 6 foot high so it must have been the winter of 1947. I still have the photographs of it - The school was housed in the millstone grit building with a large yard to the rear and a field behind that where we played football and cricket of sorts. There was also a brick air raid shelter there as well. There was also an ex-army hut on the left-hand side which I believe is still there. That was the dinner hall and where we stored jam jars with MF stamped on the bottom as part of the post was recycling campaign. We were told that the school received money for the empty jam jars. I have happy memories of those school dinners, especially the artificial cream!

I remember the teachers as Miss ALLEN, Miss WILLS and the headteacher Mr HILL. Miss WILLS was a very prim and starchy schoolmistress with whom you watched your Ps and Qs. However, there was a real love of learning embedded there, in that she must have had friends or relations in East Africa and she gave us stamps from the British colonies there, Tanganyika being one I can remember. (A lesson in geography).

There was also an occasion when the River Irwell must have flooded because I distinctly remember being reprimanded by Miss WILLS for laughing at the floods and being asked in a very stern way whether I would find the experience of being flooded something to laugh at. (A lesson in morality).

She also insisted we crossed the road at right angles outside the school and not diagonally (a lesson in health and safety).

There was a popular mythology that she was rather sweet on the local bus inspector by the name of Cyril which kept our young imaginative minds active!

Mr HILL was a caring man. He threatened the cane but never got around to using it.

It was his inspiration and guidance that saw to it that I went from there to Bury Grammar School in 1954 or thereabouts, having sat the 11+ and also passed the entrance exam. My mother had been to Bury Grammar School girls after the First World War but had left at 16 to seek employment, there not being enough money to maintain her into the sixth form.

My life at Bury Grammar School was very different from primary school. An all boys school, the best academic school in the area, in the same league as Bolton School, whose entrance exam I also sat but was not accepted! I started Latin at the age of 11. By the time I was 14 I was doing Greek as one of my options, much to my chagrin since I wanted to do Chemistry. I collected 10 'O' levels and found myself in the classical sixth with Latin, Greek and Ancient History as my A levels. Two years later in October 19611 went to Manchester University where I gained a BA general degree in Latin, Greek and English. October 1964 saw me at Reading University doing a Post Graduate Certificate in Education as a teaching qualification. I was on teaching practice at Bradfield College in Berkshire (a far cry from Ramsbottom and its cotton mills) I remember the Rolls Royces at the end of the term collecting the offspring, and the wine cellar that the masters common possessed. I must say that I received the best of support there and never once experienced the sort of petty snobbery and puffed-up airs and graces that I sometimes meet in my current workplace. Such are the benefits of a real education that teaches modesty and a caring sensitivity to others).

I was commissioned into the Territorial Army in 1964 and served with it until 1995 when as a Lieutenant Colonel my tour as Commanding Officer of the West Midland Specialist Training Team based at Lichfield and attached to HQ 143 Bde came to an end. I still serve in uniform even now, as Deputy Commandant of the Hereford and Worcester Army Cadet Force and will continue to do so as long as my knees keep going!

By this time I was well married with one daughter. So, a Latin schoolmaster's pay being what it was, necessitated me to take my next step forwards. I went back to Manchester University and took a masters degree in curriculum development. From there it was a short step into higher education with a job at Shenstone New College Bromsgrove and now University College Worcester.

My mother died in July 1998, and my brother and I stood on the road next to Shuttleworth Church - my mother had lived in Edith Street in her early years - and we looked down into Ramsbottom and the Rossendale Valley and mused what would have happened to us if we had not had the benefits of a good education. My brother's tale is equally wide ranging and ends up in America where he is Professor Roy CLARKE, Director of the Applied Physics programme at the University of Michigan. But that is another story.

Brian Clarke

THE MOORS

My memory takes me back to a Saturday in the 1920s when our parents took us for a picnic to Robin Hood's Well, just near to the end of Moor Bottom Road. I was only about eight years old then. We walked up Buckden through Buckden Farm and through Iron Stone Delph, where we ran up and down the old spoil heaps before going on to the well. This was a popular picnic spot and while we played around, my Dad made a fire with sticks he had brought, and boiled a large brew can filled with water, made tea and then we had our sandwiches. When tea was over we followed the path to Ellen STRANGE's Cairn. It was tradition to add a stone to the cairn in passing, which we duly did, then made our way home via the route of our outward journey.

This was my first encounter with the Moor, and in later years I have been many times to the picnic place and had a quiet moment there, where I remember both my parents being together with us.

From Ellen STRANGE's follow the contour to Pilgrim's Cross or go west up the hill to the top of Bull Hill, 1,350 feet. It is recorded that flint implements were found here. Forward to the west is Wet Moss, there is a path but inadvisable except after a long, dry spell and with someone who knows the way. Red Brook rises near here, I always found it better to follow a sheep track through the bog, crossing the brook where you find no way forward on that side. The crossing place is obvious. On the way down, you may see what looks like an old cave. This was Turner's Cabin, or some call it Longstockings' Cabin, Johnny Longstockings being one time gamekeeper of the area. Maybe, but there are some old rock workings on the other bank of the stream. Longstockings (reputedly GREENHALGH) said to be buried in the yard at the Methodist Chapel, Hawkshaw, the grave cuts off a comer in the cellar. The Chapel was built in 1830, so that puts a near date on him. Of Turner's, Elias TURNER died at Boardman's on the 27th January 1835, aged 70.

When I told my father of finding the cabin, he said, Turny Cabin'. He must have been there in his early days.

The hill on the far side of Red Brook comprises Wet Moss which I have mentioned and Black Moss to the south, where a 3 to 4-foot bridge crosses. This must be where the peat has been taken off. A few holes indicate where mining has taken place, and looking down onto Longshore Head, and tracks slant down to Moor Bottom.

Alden (Ratchers) Ratchel? 'Loose stones above bed rock'.

Edwin Longworth

MAGAZINE MATERIAL: AN EDITORIAL APPEAL

We need items of whatever length on any historical aspect of the old Ramsbottom UDC area for possible publication in future issues of these magazine. The 1952 succession and 1953 coronation are possibilities; but as ever it is the normal, everyday topics which are most illustrative of life in the past.

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

1 Bury Archive Service - Edwin Street (off Crompton Street) Bury BL9 0AS; tel: 0161 797 5897 - preserves the historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. There are over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans and photographs, almost all of which are available for consultation in the public reading room. Holdings include the records of local authorities (eg Ramsbottom Local Board, and UDC, including many building plans) schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, sports clubs, charities, political parties and other social organisations. The Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

The service is based in Edwin Street (off Crompton Street, next to Plumb's Hi-Fi shop), and entrance is via the yard at the far end of the street on the right-hand side. The reading room is open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm every Tuesday; and at the same times on other weekdays Monday to Friday, but please make an appointment in advance by ringing archivist Kevin Mulley before visiting on these days. Group visits (minimum six persons) on evenings and weekends are available if booked in advance.

2 Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services Department) 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 Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of BMBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

The library is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm each weekday (open until 7.30pm Wednesdays), and from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturdays.

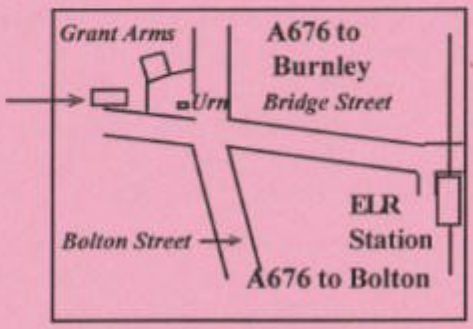
3 Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury; tel: 01706 822484 - has much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev RR Carmyllie, and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets, as well as Hume Elliot's history.

4 Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Vicky Barlow, Bob's Ley, 6, Mowbreck Lane, Wesham, Preston, Lancs PR4 3HA; tel: 01772 687234 - membership is only £9-00 per year, and this entitles you to four magazine issues, an opportunity to publicise your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall.

Visit us at Ramsbottom Heritage Centre

New Exhibition for 2002 -Memories of Local Lives





Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AE (opposite the Library)

NOTE OUR WEB SITE:-

www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk

Telephone 01706 821603 (weekends only). To arrange school or adult party visits outside the following opening times please ring 01706 827602

Open Easter Saturday until Christmas 2002, Saturdays and Sundays, 1-00 to 4-30pm (1-00 to 4-00pm, October onwards)

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Sales counter with good selection of Local History books, details of town and country walks, videos and tourism leaflets, gifts, postcards and local information . . . or just a chat about Old Ramsbottom!

Free Admission Refreshments Disabled Facilities

See imminent publicity for our showcase event,

Ramsbottom Heritage Society 'At Home' - 5th Oct 2002

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RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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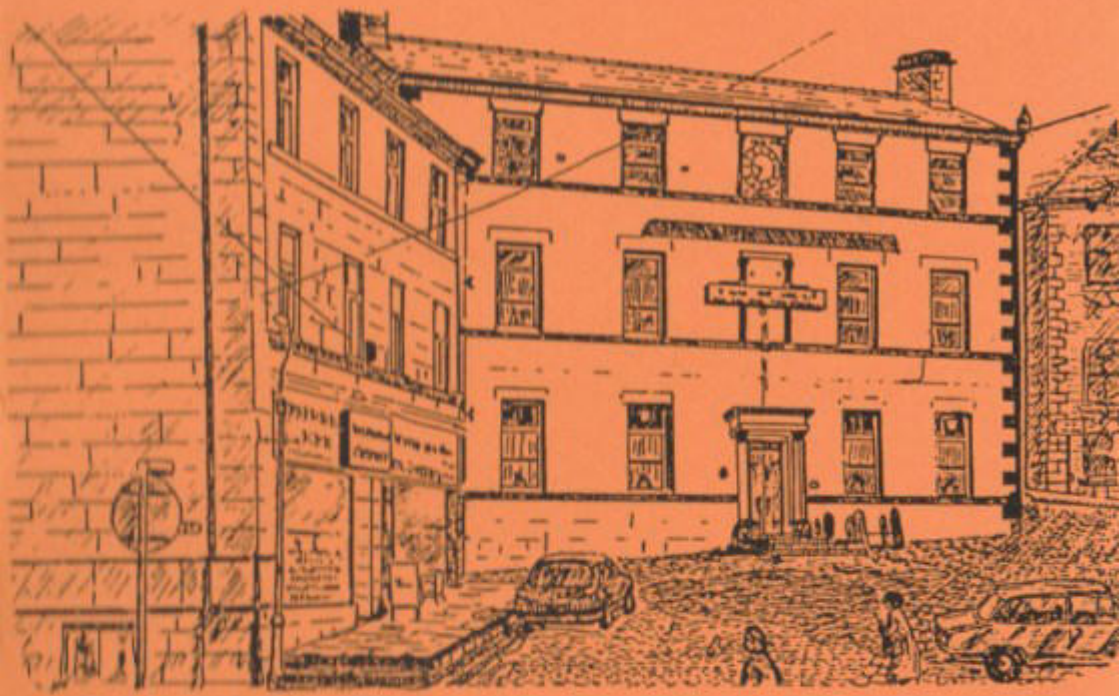

NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME

2002

5th Oct	Ramsbottom Heritage Society's 'At Home' at the Civic Hall
16th Oct	Mr KF Bowden & Mr K Simpson, *Oddities from Bacup Nats*
20th Nov	Mr D Hartley, Members' Night - *Ramsbottom between 1964 and 1987* (illustrated)
11th Dec	Mystery Guest Speaker

2003

15th Jan	Mrs D North, *Violet's Story - the Sequel* (illustrated)
19th Feb	Mrs C Barlow, *Papers from a Secret Drawer*
19th March	Photographic Competition - judge Mr J Ali
	Mr J Ali, *The Boys - Hawkshaw's War Memorials* (illustrated)
16th April	Mrs C Giles, *Working Class Housing Conditions in 1930s Ramsbottom* (illustrated)
21st May	Annual General Meeting and Members' Night

Please note that all indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30 for 7.45pm

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5.	A Wartime Return to Bye Road and Peel Brow School	Freda Molyneux (née Liptrott)
11.	Two Surviving Buildings from Ramsbottom's 'Old Ground'	Andrew Todd
11.	George Goodrick, the *Grant Arms* and the Truck System	Andrew Todd

FRONT COVER - The *Grant Arms* and Market Place in 1984. Drawn by Andrew Todd

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Crow Lane - a group of members is about to launch a project to amass as much historical information as they can on Crow Lane, one of the objects being to involve inhabitants, and raise the Society's profile. The majority of the houses seemto date from the 1860s-1880s, but there are some intriguingly earlier ones. The property flyer for no 40, Crow Lane at WEALE & HITCHEN, the Bridge Street Estate Agents, said 'mid-18th Century cottage, the end row of only three similar dwellings believed to be the oldest in Ramsbottom'. Personally, I would put it at around 1800, judging from the window details, and that would tie in neatly with theconstruction of Ramsbottom Mill nearby. If anyone has information on any house in Crow Lane, access to deeds, or recollections, however recent, of any of the inhabitants, please contact the Heritage Centre. Perhaps we will get a clearer date for no 40 in the process! John TAYLOR is in the process of sketching the houses on the lane as part of the project.

House Martins at Allen and Todd's, Aladdin's Cave, 10-12, Square Street and 1, Smithy Street - this morning, I foolishly volunteered to perform what is a regular summer task for us - bleaching away the guano deposited on the pavement by the small colony of house martins which returns annually to nest under our eaves. It is not a pastime conducive to appreciation of how privileged we actually are to be one of the few buildings in the town to have eaves which extend sufficiently well out to attract these sprightly little fellows. Yet scraping away this morning, it occurred to me that generations of these martins, almost certainly belonging to the same core family, must have nested here. In fact, their ancestors may have been here just after the building was erected, some time between October 1849 and February 1850, judging from the deeds. Families of rooks have similarly long associations with particular clumps of trees - our last issue mentioned Hume ELLIOT's famous account of the displacement of the rooks of the 'crow trees' when St Paul's Church was erected, to the vicinity of the cricket ground, and then on to Barwoodlea.

But human, not avian history is the purpose of this item. Irene's shop has an unusual history, having had many uses over its century and a half of existence otherthan as a martin roost. Until the 1930s, it comprised six back-to-back houses, and two

workshops; one chap who saw me painting window frames in August 1999 told me that he had been attached in the War to the Air Training Corps, based on the ground floor, whilst upstairs there was a small bar and two full-sized snooker tables. Another local reckoned that the building had once been occupied by the Co-op Funeral Service, and horses were stabled here. Until 1999, Chris O'GORMAN used the Smithy Street workshop as a painter and decorator's store. I am hoping at some stage to research the building's history, and would be very grateful for any snippets of information that anyone can provide. You can phone me on 01706 824511.

The 'Spring' issue of the magazine! - yes, I know, it is a little late, and this has been entirely my fault. It is also indicative of the fact that I'm having to cease to be the editor, and pass this job on to a team, who will I'm sure be introducing themselves to you soon. Many thanks to all the many members who have sent in contributions over the years, from the Ramsbottom Diaspora, which is now spreadvery wide indeed. I do hope to be contributing the occasional item myself in the future, but it will of course be up to the new editorial team as to whether it gets published!

Andrew Todd

THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF PEEL TOWER, 9th SEPTEMBER 2002

The whole event started as a result of a chance meeting late on the afternoon of St George's Day on Holcombe Hill. Returning home from the direction of Pilgrims Cross, I noticed the flag of St George flying on the Tower. When I got there, Ramsbottom Councillor Barry THECKSTON and Brian FARLOW were locking up and as we made our way down the hill, Barry explained that as a member of The Society of St George he felt that Peel Tower was the ideal location for flying the flag, as it was the most prominent feature for miles around. Sadly, he said, most people took it for granted and were totally unaware that it would be 150 years old on 9th September or of who built it and why, and wouldn't it be a good idea to celebrate the up-and-coming anniversary and thereby raise people's awareness of the tower and its history. Some weeks later, as Secretary of the Holcombe Society, I received a note from the Conservation Officer at Bury Council asking whether we intended organising an event to mark the anniversary, such as a bonfire and fireworks display. Remembering the Millennium new year celebrations and the Herculean efforts required then to transport the wood and build a suitably sized fireon top of Holcombe Hill, we said definitely not. But we did agree to think about it,which we did. We then responded with three options, each requiring differing degrees of effort

1 Dress the Tower overall like a ship, with bunting running diagonally at each comer from top to bottom and drape a large banner down its front, as they did on 9th September 1852, and open it on the anniversary weekend free of charge with display boards depicting the life and times of Sir Robert PEEL.

2 Do the above and re-enact the opening ceremony in costume accompanied as on the actual day, by a brass band and a Punch and Judy show,thereby giving the whole thing a Victorian air.

3 Do both one and two, and extend an invitation to Sir Robert PEEL's descendants to attend the celebrations should they be still around, and to other VIPs.

Bury Council, or rather the Ramsbottom and Tottington Area Board, went for all three options, nominating Phil PARKINSON, the Board Co-ordinator, to work with us in organising it. This was an arrangement that proved invaluable, albeit we didn't have much to start with - a mere three or four weeks to set up the whole event.

The bunting was ordered from a specialist maritime company in Liverpool. The only bunting available locally was too small and lightweight to be rigged up on the Tower and withstand the weather conditions that can prevail up there even in late summer, or to be seen from any distance.

The gentlemen of The Summerseat Players very kindly agreed to re-enact the opening ceremony in costume on the understanding that the Society would provide the ladies and costumes to accompany them. I have had worse jobs than procuring three ladies, and in no time at all had found three most suitable and handsome ones for the parts on offer. Historically accurate costumes were hired for the re-enactment from the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester.

Helmshore and Haslingden Brass Band agreed to play on the afternoon. They volunteered to do their own research to ensure the authenticity of the pieces that would have been played in 1852, in addition to *Rule Britannia* which we know from contemporary accounts was played on the day.

We agreed to the Punch and Judy man's suggestion that he perform the early Victorian version even though the gallows scene may not have been strictly politically correct for 2002. Greater Manchester Police provided 'Peelers' to grace the occasion. They dressed in uniforms worn originally by the 'Peelers', the early police forces created by Sir Robert PEEL as Home Secretary some few years before.

We traced Sir Robert's descendant, Earl Peel of Masham, near Ripon, Yorkshire. He was delighted with the idea of the re-enactment and agreed to attend depending on his prior commitments. Unfortunately the weekend we chose happened to be the 80th birthday of his mother-in-law Lady Soames (Winston CHURCHILL's youngest daughter). The only alternative date was the weekend when the Countryside Alliance were holding their national demonstration in London and he was to be one of the main speakers. However he did drop us a most sincere letter of apology which we decided to read out on the day.

We wanted to make the whole thing as accurate and authentic as possible, so having got all the main players lined up, we redoubled our detailed research from contemporary reports as to what actually happened on the day.

Our researchers used the resources of Bury Archives and Ramsbottom, Bury, Bolton, Blackburn and Manchester Reference Libraries. We soon discovered that the unveiling of Sir Robert PEEL's statue in Bury on 8th September, the day before the tower was opened, was covered extensively in *The Times* and *Manchester Guardian.*

Both reports ran to four or five columns of closely typed print, but their coverage of the Tower's opening ran only to a few inches.

The specially hired train from the East Lancashire Railway Company which left Salford carrying a large party of VIPs arrived in Ramsbottom over an hour late, and we concluded that it must also have been carrying the reporters, who discovered on getting up to the Tower that the ceremony was over. So their reports were limited to descriptions of the weather on the day being 'sunny but very boisterous', and the crowd:-

> ***several thousands and in a state of great animation. It was quite a holiday throughout the neighbourhood, the factories and print works having ceased to work so that work people could attend the occasion.***

The music played by one of three bands in attendance was. *Rule Britannia.*

The reports named the speakers (Joshua KNOWLES of *Stormer Hill*; Frederick PEEL, recently elected MP for Bury; and John Robinson KAY of Bass Lane House, Summerseat) specified the order in which they spoke, but said little on the content, unlike the previous day in Bury when every word of these speakers was faithfully printed in the national press.

At two o'clock Joshua KNOWLES opened the proceeding, introducing Frederick PEEL second son of the deceased statesman in whose honour the Tower had been built. He extolled the achievements of his father's parliamentary career, with particular emphasis on his Free Trade principles, pointing out that although the repeal of the Corn Laws, which the Tower had been built to commemorate, had in fact lost him favour with his party and forced his resignation, he had been amply compensated for by the gratitude of working people enjoying for the first time plentiful supplies of good food at cheap rates. He then 'eulogised the site which had been selected for the column intended to commemorate the passing of the Act'.

John Robinson KAY proposed three cheers for Frederick PEEL 'as the son of the deceased statesman who had saved his country'.

A footnote that appeared only in the *Salford Chronicle* reported that the crowd's response to the call for three cheers 'was rather thin and patchy the majority remaining silent'. PEEL had been elected as a 'Liberal Conservative' in that summer's general election. Perhaps the audience were Radicals ... or farmers who had opposed the Com Laws' repeal! All the reports closed with:-

> ***The proceedings having terminated, many persons ascended the column and others walked in different directions over the heath.***

Which is exactly what happened on the afternoon of the re-enactment. This turned out to be a great success, the weather being fine with enough breeze to make the flags and bunting on the Tower flutter. The banner hanging down its front proclaimed: '150 years, Happy Birthday Peel Tower' and featured half way down a head and shoulders portrait of Sir Robert.

The Brass Band and Punch and Judy took it in turns to entertain the ever-growing crowd until 2 o'clock when the main ceremony commenced. The Summerseat Players and ladies in all their finery cut an impressive sight on the brightly decorated stage erected immediately in front of the Tower. Following a brief introduction and synopsis on the life, times and achievements of Sir Robert by our Master of Ceremonies they commenced the re-enactment using a script written by Louise FITZWALTER and Margaret CARRUTHERS, based, in the absence of any details of the original speeches, on what had been said by the same individuals at the unveiling of PEEL's statue in Bury the day before.

The re-enactment ceremony closed with three hearty cheers for Sir Robert PEEL, general and hearty applause and a rousing chorus of 'Rule Britannia' being sung by all present. The Helmshore and Rossendale Brass Band and Punch and Judy played on and the Tower was open to all comers. And a good day was had by all!

John Ireland

Notes

Joshua KNOWLES of Stormer Hill, Tottington built the Tottington calico printing works in 1821-3, after serving his apprenticeship and rising to the rank of manager with Messrs GRANT at their Ramsbottom printworks, the Old Ground. They had taken a kindly interest in him as friends of his father. Active in St Anne's Church Tottington, he was a chapel warden in 1824. His brother-in-law was John TURNER, builder of Nabbs House, Tottington. He died on 20th September 1855. There was also a well-known sister, 'the Lady Bountiful of Bury', Mrs Alice Eliza DAVIES of Rhiwlas.

Frederick PEEL was born on 28th October **1823,** second son of Sir Robert PEEL and brother of first Viscount PEEL (Speaker of the House). He was elected MP for Bury on 10th July 1852, defeated in 1857, re-elected in 1859 and sitting until 1865.

Knighted in 1869 he was made a member of the Privy Council and finally Chief Railway Commissioner. He died on 6th June 1906.

John Robinson KAY of *Larkhill*, Bury, and later Bass Lane House, Summerseat, was born in Burnley son of Thomas KAY, cotton manufacturer of *Longholme* (Rawtenstall) and Brooksbottom (Summerseat). An active member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church and a friend of good causes, he was appointed a JP in 1849 and was one of the earliest presidents of the Bury Athenaeum.

A WARTIME RETURN TO BYE ROAD AND PEEL BROW SCHOOL

Freda MOLYNEUX (née LIPROTT) contributed her first autobiographical article on Shuttleworth's Bye Road in issue No 19 (Autumn 1999). Here, she takes up the story again. Editor

My 1999 article about my childhood at 19, Bye Road, ended in 1938 when I left with my parents (Charlie and Annie LIPTROTT) for Southampton. A job had been found

there for my father, who had been on the dole for three years. However, life is full of unexpected twists and turns.

Dad worked on Southampton Docks, and Mum was a caretaker for a firm of solicitors, so we lived in the basement of the house where they had their offices. Bythe late summer of 1940 the daylight bombing of Southampton was intensifying and very frightening. We only felt safe at home in the basement. One day the bombers pounded the docks. Dad and his workmates always sheltered under a huge cold store, at that time filled with margarine, but when the siren sounded he couldn't reach it before the bombs started to fall so he took shelter elsewhere. After the 'all clear' he ran to join his mates, but the cold store had received a direct hit. They were all dead, buried underneath the rubble. He helped to dig their bodies out and then came home, smothered in grease and shaking violently. He was nearing 60 then, and although he lived into his 70s he never stopped shaking.

Dad was unemployed again, as a result of the bombing, so Mum decided that he would be better off back in Shuttleworth. His sister, Lucy LAMB, who lived at 38, Bye Road, found us a house, no 10, to rent for 8s 3d per week. We left Southamptonjust before the nightly blitzes started, and the following month our former home was destroyed, all five storeys collapsing into the basement where we had felt so safe!

The journey back to Shuttleworth was long and tortuous. We left in the morning and had to keep changing trains, at the stations whose names had all been removed to confuse the German spies who we knew would be dressed as nuns to confuse us (heaven help the genuine nuns!). When the trains did arrive they were packed with service personnel so it was often impossible to find a seat. It was night when we reached Manchester's London Road Station. We groped our way through the blackout across the city to Victoria Station, but arrived too late to catch the last train to Ramsbottom, so we were stranded until morning.

We stayed with Aunty Lucy until our furniture arrived. Her house, at the top of a steep flight of steps, has long since fallen victim to the quarry. We were so relievedto be back - no wailing sirens, no dog fights in the sky, no bombs, nothing to fear. It seemed at first that nothing had changed. But we soon discovered that all the young men had been called up to service in the Forces, and the children no longer played in the street at night because of the blackout. 10, Bye Road was huge after no 19, our original home. It had an enormous bedroom over two front rooms, and we wondered whether one of these rooms was originally used as a shop, in commonwith other Bye Road houses of the past. Dad's condition improved and he got a jobat Ramsbottom Gasworks. His mates there teased him about his 'shakes', but he warned them that their turn would come. They thought it highly unlikely that bombers would come so far north, but several lived in Manchester and Salford so their complacency was short-lived. They never teased him again.

In Southampton, the War had badly affected our schooling which, for a while, was half-time only. Nevertheless I managed to pass the scholarship and that Autumn I should have taken my place at Grammar School, but Dad would not permit it. It may

be difficult to understand now, but he left school at the age of 11 and it wasn't long before he had left home and was taking responsibility for his own life. Oh, how I wish I had asked him more questions about his younger days. He maintained that we all had our station in life and no good would come of it if we tried to change things, so I was destined to leave school at 14 and earn my keep. In truth, I suspect he was afraid of what he did not understand.

As a scholarship girl, I arrived at Peel Brow School feeling rather superior but I was soon 'cut down to size'. I was completely taken aback by the extremely high standard of education in Ramsbottom and the wide variety of subjects taught, many entirely new to me. Among them were French, science, swimming (at Haslingden Baths), cooking (at Stubbins), geometry for boys, home accounts for girls, and we did country dancing too - remember Sir Roger de Coverley? We also had school 'houses', of which we were very proud. I was in Rembrandt and wore a red badge; the others were Degas (blue), Goya (yellow) and Hogarth (green). It was a clever way of introducing us to these great artists.

We had a motley collection of teachers. They were nearly all ancient (to us) as the young and fit had been conscripted. The Headmaster was Mr BOOTH. I think his Christian name was Vincent but as he was very tiny we never called him anything but Dinkie (behind his back, of course). We were all terrified of him. He demanded absolute attention at all times. Unfortunately, I had developed a nervous habit and kept convulsively jerking my head. It was very tiring but I couldn't stop it despite being dosed up with Parish's Chemical Food which was supposed to cure everything! I was probably completely run down. So I sat in Dinkie's class, jerking away, and he accused me of doing it deliberately. I was being insolent. I thought I was being funny. Funny?! But even the cane didn't stop me. The most popular boy in the school was Charlie CRYER. He too had a problem - he stammered and Dinkie couldn't stop that either. Charlie's aim in life seemed to be to commit a punishable offence every day, and he was good at this. It seemed to us that every day he was called to Dinkie's office, a partitioned corner of the main hall, to receive his punishment - usually the cane. It was rumoured that Charlie had secret methods of dealing with it, and one involved breaking it with a horse's hair on the palm of his hand. Whether this was true or not, it's a fact that one day the cane came whizzing over the partition wall before our delighted eyes.

I can't remember all the teachers but some stand out in my memory. There was Miss FODEN, the only one who was young, and she taught art. She always seemed to be cross with me because she thought I didn't concentrate. She was right. Miss HARDMAN taught history and geography. She was a merry, plump little lady and she wore her hair in a bun. I recall one history lesson when we were asked to imagine that we were invading warriors (Vikings?) charging into a village on our horses and striking terror with our ferocious chant, which went: 'Ratty bommel, ratty bommel, ratty bom bom bom.' (My spelling could, of course, be faulty.) We all enjoyed this, especially when she jogged up and down with us, her hair fell out of its bun. It's always fun when your teacher is discomfited. Mr MAXWELL (I think I've got the

name right) taught maths and science. There was also a tall, dark and handsome teacher - I can't remember his name although I fancied him.

And then there was Miss JAMES. She took us for English, French and swimming. I quite liked her but she blotted her copy book not long after I arrived by telling my fellow pupils that they should try to copy my speech. At that time, our rich heritage of regional accents and dialects was in danger of being wiped out. My father and his generation in Bye Road spoke very broad dialect - I never heard him say 'you', it was always 'thee', 'thou' or 'thy'. (I wonder if that's why I prefer the King James version of the Bible?). Teachers were encouraged to promote the King's English and the BBC only used announcers with public school accents.

Eventually, they did respond to criticism and employed Yorkshire-born Wilfred PICKLES to read the news. There was an outcry from the purists but most of us thought it was about time, too. But Miss JAMES was not English, she was Welsh, and what she failed to notice was that I did not speak perfect English at all.



Paddling in the brook 'up the Croft', the mid-1930s. Left to right: Teddy WHITTLES, Veronica MORGAN, Freda LIPTROTT (the writer) and Edna LEACH

When I first arrived in Southampton, I didn't fit in and was lonely. I really struggled to speak Sotonian which is very sparing with its consonants, for example 'as a matter of fact' becomes 'asama' o' fac', and I thought I'd done really well but now here I was in the place I thought of as home, derided by my classmates for being too posh! So I became a 'foreigner' straight away, and that hurt. It was also Miss JAMES who told me that there was no such river as the Ganges, which featured in one of my compositions. I thought, 'Well, Miss JAMES, we do have an atlas at home.'

But you didn't argue with your teachers. She also pointed out that the daffodils and chrysanthemums, referred to in another composition, could not have been growing at the same time in my imaginary garden. I had to concede that she was probably right, but we had never had a garden. My end-of-term reports were evidence of the difficulties I was experiencing with my schoolwork. In the beginning the teachers were all kindly 'looking forward to better results next time', but gradually

their opinions of my capabilities hardened. My PT (Physical training) remained 'disappointing' (and what did they expect, forcing me to expose my navy-blue knickers in front of boys?). I lurked at the bottom in history, they 'had hoped for a better result', but they might have been pleased to know that it is now one of my great interests. However, I did shine in English composition and literature, coming top with 'excellent, a most original style'. So perhaps I wasn't a complete duffer?

Do any readers remember the Ramsbottom Musical Festival of 1940 or '41? We were each asked to go to the front of the class and sing a few notes. If we could reach the high notes we were told we would sing descant in the choir, which was tobe an honour, and I was one of these. From then onward we practised like mad. The Festival took place in one of the cinemas (I think it was *The Empire*) and among the choir's offerings were 'Jerusalem' and 'Linden Lea'. In those days we were still singing the lovely old-fashioned songs at school, such as 'North Country Maid', 'Who Is Sylvia?', and 'All Through The Night'. We were told that the Festival wasrecorded for English evacuees across the seas, to remind them of home. I wondered afterwards how they were all going to be gathered together for this treat, given that they were scattered around the globe.

In February 1941 my Southampton grandmother died. It was all very mysterious. Few people had phones, so the telegraph service was widely used in emergencies, and telegrams were dreaded because they only seemed to bring bad news. As everyword cost the sender money they were always brief, but always seemed to carry the same message: 'So and so dead. Letter follows.' When the Telegraph Boy in his navy-blue uniform, complete with pill box hat, and riding his red bicycle, arrived at our house there was panic. The telegram was from my Aunty: 'Mother dead. Letter follows.' Mum was in her black mourning clothes and making plans to travelto the funeral before the letter arrived. It wasn't until the 1990s that I discovered the truth, unearthed by a cousin. Granny had hanged herself in her cellar, and no-one ever knew why she did it. The decision was taken that the children must not be told, so we weren't. My mother must have been shattered, because she was deeply religious, and in those days suicide was regarded as a sin and a criminal offence. If you failed you were sent to prison. If you succeeded you were buried in unconsecrated ground, along with babies who had died before they were christened. It was completely inhuman.

Then a message came over the wireless - all men who had experience of working in Dockyards should report for duty. We didn't know why then, but in the light of events to follow it was probably to prepare troop ships for the North African offensive. Well, Dad might be 'getting on' (for those days), very shaky, and with poor sight (the onset of glaucoma, although we didn't know it yet), but his countryneeded him. He went to Woolworth's in Bury to buy a pair of spectacles (sixpence)which, with a magnifying glass, enabled him to read the newspapers. He then disappeared to Ramsbottom one day and came back sans teeth!

He was a heavy pipe smoker, and his teeth were in need of attention, but this seemed a trifle drastic.However, they were all gone, and although he acquired dentures he never wore them; in fact, he could eat an apple better than my mother who wore a full set!

And off he went to Southampton. We weren't allowed to go with him because of the bombing. He must have been terrified after his previous experience.

Our lives at home settled into a comfortable pattern. When the blackout curtains were drawn at night, Mum and I either read or listened to the wireless. We were members of Ramsbottom Library and I loved books about boarding school, wallowing in pillow fights and midnight feasts in the dorm. My mother owned many Victorian novels, and we read them again and again. Several had messages written on the flyleaf. *Daisy,* by E WETHERELL, was a school prize for 'General Progress and Good Conduct' in 1906. That year Mum was 14, and left school to become a live-in maid-of-all-work (a hard and lonely job from which she ran home, only to be sent back again). *Little Women* and *Good Wives, The Wide Wide World* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* were all Christmas gifts from one of her employers, Madame RIECHELMANN.

These gifts ceased abruptly in 1914 because Madame RIECHELMANN was German and when the First World War commenced she was interned. All the books were highly moral and only the good died young. We tried to be good but there seemed little point if we were to be cut off in our prime! I still have these books and treasure them. There were some enjoyable programmes on the wireless too, for lighter relief. Remember 'The Gang Show', 'It's That Man Again', and Rob WILTON"s 'The Day War Broke Out'? There were also famous dance bands - Henry HALL, Ambrose, GERALDO. And do you remember the singers - Ann SHELTON, Dorothy CARLESS and Betty DRIVER? Yes, Betty from the *Rovers' Return.*

In the autumn Dad sent for us, because the bombing had reduced considerably (we didn't know the doodle bugs were 'waiting in the wings'). Mum decided I should have a perm (my first) to make me look 'presentable' so I was taken to a hairdresserand reluctantly plugged into one of those perm machines with long, dangling wires(one per curl) and left to cook. Sadly, a year after my arrival, I said goodbye to the new school friends I had managed to make, including Mona GREGSON and Freda POOLE, and away we went again to Southampton. I only came back once, when I was in my late teens, to spend a fortnight's holiday with my cousin Edna (nee LAMB) and her husband Ernest ROTHWELL.

Until, in 1997, my husband, Peter, and I drove to Shuttleworth whilst holidaying in the north. I asked a lady arranging flowers outside the church if she knew who held the key. She directed me to the organist, Geoff WILLETTS, since sadly deceased, and he let us in. It was very moving for me, because having been brought up a Baptist the last time I was there was in 1932.1 was four years old, attending my Granddad's funeral and I could remember it clearly. I mentioned to Geoff's wife, Marion, that I was related to the LAMBs with whom I had lost contact 40 years ago, and to my amazement she was able to put me in touch with my late cousin Eddie's son, also named Eddie, who still lives in Ramsbottom. So we now correspond, and he has been able to give me news of the family I thought I had lost forever. This has been a great joy to me. And, of course, I have also joined Ramsbottom Heritage Society.

Freda Molyneux (nee Liptrott)

TWO SURVIVING BUILDINGS FROM RAMSBOTTOM'S 'OLD GROUND'

Soon to occupy the Old Ground Mill site, bounded by Cross Street, Back Bolton Street, Old Ground Street and Square Street, is *St John's Court,* 22 houses and maisonettes. The noisy work of site levelling, I am told by one inhabitant of Scotland Place, has the distressingly early start time of 6am! Despite its name, the mill was never part of the original PEEL and YATES' Old Ground calico printing complex which covered the town centre from 1783 to 1821-2. Old Ground Mill was a mid-19th Century erection, specialising for many years as a cotton waste processor. It was, I think, largely cleared in the 1980s, and was recently MARTIN's buildersyard. I know of only two remnants of the original Old Ground buildings:-

1 the Dry-house, now Scotland Place (initially known as *Scotch Row* when converted to the present four cottage terrace when the Old Ground became redundant).

2 the large, quoined, three-storey house on Silver Street, no 16/18, now flats, but probably once the manager's residence, substantially built, sufficiently so to be approximately assimilated into the new street pattern which grew up on the site of the Old Ground from 1821 onwards - it stands 18 inches proud of the present streetline.

I have, incidentally, sent the builders some alternative historical names for their new court - this part of the town was known as Little Meadow, which sounds twee enough! The owner, according to the 1842 Tithe Schedule was John GRAY - can't see *Gray Court* catching on!

Andrew Todd (2002)

GEORGE GOODRICK, THE *GRANT ARMS* AND THE TRUCK SYSTEM

Golden Jubilees have been in the news. Two years ago, at a family history fair in Grassington, I met the great great granddaughter of John GOODRICK, brother of Ramsbottom's most famous licensee. George GOODRICK was landlord of the *Grant Arms* for over 50 years, taking over in 1834. This charming middle-aged lady told me that in the family there was still the large silver tree, presented by his customers in 1884, to commemorate a Ramsbottom jubilee - half a century of clearing them out when they had drunk too much of his wares. The family had moved from Terrington, near Malton in Yorkshire, to Manchester. Hume ELLIOT suggests that George GOODR1CK had been 'a trusted servant of Mr John GRANT at Nuttall Hall'. The GRANTs had many dealings in Manchester, which may be how GOODRICK came into the family's service, but it seems no coincidence that John GRANT's daughter, Isabella, married Andrew Sherlock LAWSON of Aldborough, near Ripon, in Yorkshire, only about 15 miles west of Terrington.

The *Grant Arms* has always been *the* public house in Ramsbottom, the oldest in the town centre, and therefore a natural focus for consumers of alcohol both on and off the premises. As a child in August 1914, Joe HITCHON came to live in one of the three

now-demolished cottages on Ducie Street, just behind the *Rose and Crown.* In 1990, he could recall the women from the two rows of back-to-back cottages on the north side of Carr Street coming to the *Grant Arms* for beer, 'in clogs with the jugs under their shawls'. But it did not start life as a hotel, and there is an interesting story behind how it became one. Originally called *Top o' th' Brow,* on account of its commanding location at the head of what was to become Water Street (later Bridge Street) Ramsbottom's 'great house' may have been built at the time of the construction of the Old Ground by PEEL and YATES in 1783, probably for a resident partner.

It was common in the pioneer days of the Industrial Revolution for the proprietor to live on site, not least to ensure that the buildings were secure, and to organise a defence if machine breakers appeared. The precise age of *Top o' th' Brow* is unclear. In the 1794 Survey of Tottington Lower End, *Top o' th' Brow* is not named specifically, but is clearly the 'Capital Messuage Stable, Garden, and other Court Lands' [sic] in Higher Ramsbottom, owned by Henry WARREN, occupied by John ROSTRON, and valued at £15, the same rateable value as given to Barwood Lee. Hume ELLIOT states only that the GRANTS occupied the house on coming to Ramsbottom in 1806, and that its previous occupant had been Henry WARREN, one of PEEL's partners.

As with other arrivistes, the GRANTs preferred to perpetuate their own name in that of their house, and rechristened it *Grant Lodge.* According to Hume ELLIOT, Grace McKENZIE, wife of William GRANT (1733-1817), founder of the Ramsbottom dynasty, was especially attentive to flowers and plants, and it was probably she who instigated the flower garden, which occupied what is now Market Place. It was laid out:-

> ***... 'in the shape of a heart,' whose lines curved round right and left from the frontof the house towards the gates, which, with stone pillars and rounded capitals, stood just opposite the top of Bridge Street. Round the outer fence of the garden ran a row of goodly trees, which continued in front of what is now the Conservative club and Dr DEANs' surgery [the Civic Hall and the lodge house - Editor] and past the site on which the old Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1825, and where the handsome and commodious successor since 1874, now stands [Adderstone Mansions since the late 1990s - Editor). The trees extended northwards towards the point where the New Jerusalem Church was afterwards erected [at the sharp junction of Ramsbottom Lane and Factory Street - Editor] —***[1]

Thomas HAYHURST, writing in 1884, said of *Grant Lodge:-*

> ***It was then a beautiful residence which had frequently been used by Sir Robert PEEL. Gardens and orchards came down to what is now the line of street; it was colour-washed, and commanded an extensive view of the valley towards Summerseat, and formed moreover, a pretty object in the background from the hills east of the vale. It had been well furnished and specially pictured. Today the interior walls of the building are exhibited with pride by one of our most notable landlords in the county, George GOODRICK, an octogenarian. Immense paintings - rough, but indicative of the intense loyalty of [sic] the GRANTs - hang upon the***

> ***walls in the spacious corridors, and in the larger rooms. Structurally, the place is but little altered. It is safe to assume it will not be altered whilst George GOODRICK lives - and he is chatty and vigorous as many men a generation younger.***[2]

William GRANT had died in 1817, and his gardening widow Grace in 1821. By then, their four sons, the most famous generation of the clan, had settled in other, more salubriously located houses, and *Grant Lodge* became surplus to domestic requirements. The town centre must, by the 1820s, have resembled a permanent building site - the Old Ground had been abandoned in favour of the much more productive Square Works, space was available, and labour was needed. Houses were being erected piecemeal along and around Bolton Street and Bridge Street.

The hard, hot physical labour involved in calico printing created a large market for beer. And the boomtown condition of Ramsbottom made this an especially profitable market. Yet new towns on 'greenfield' sites often have to rely on what infrastructure already exists in the rural locality. The nearest public houses to the Old Ground had been in the older settlement of Holcombe Village, where Higher House (the *White Hart)* and Lower House (the *Shoulder of Mutton)* were the only ones in the area. The *Rose and Crown* came sometime between 1794 and 1818.

By 1820, the construction of turnpike roads from Holcombe Brook to Ramsbottom and through Holcombe Village to Helmshore and Blackburn had created new opportunities and the *Hare and Hounds* and the *Bay Horse* [later renamed *The Dun Horse*] had appeared at key junctions. But there was nothing in the immediate town centre, where the biggest demand lay. *Grant Lodge* occupied an ideal site for an inn, and the power that the GRANTs had in the town could increase its profitability.

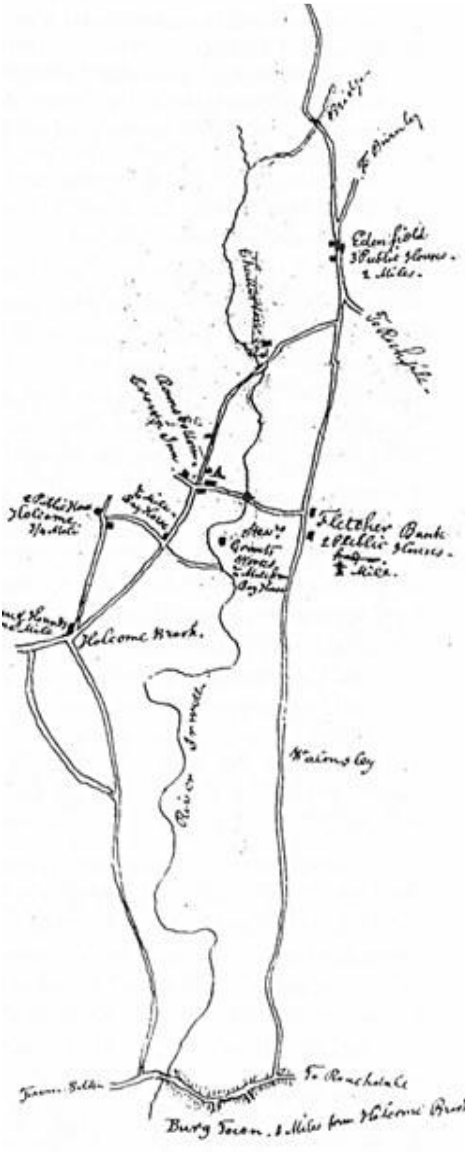
Virtually our only source on the involvement of the GRANTs in the beer trade comes from Ramsbottom Chartist physician Peter Murray McDOUALL who in 1842 gave evidence to a parliamentary committee on the illegal operation of the truck system. A verbatim record of the committee's questions and its witnesses' answers was published later that year. McDOUALL accused the GRANTS of keeping public houses out of Ramsbottom through their powers as magistrates.[3]

This was not through any commitment to temperance, rather to protect their own beer retailing venture. In 1828, the Messrs GRANT petitioned the magistrates to license *Grant Lodge,* a purpose possibly not made harder by the fact that William, the senior brother, had, as HAYHURST records, himself become a magistrate in 1824.

A small survey at Bolton Archives amongst the ALBINSON Collection, reproduced on page 14, hints at local politicking for the beer market.

Mileages between *Grant Lodge* and existing public houses were given, implying that opponents claimed the town was already well served.

The survey states that Mr John SHARPLES of Horwich Vale opposed the application. Perhaps he had interests in one or more of the other public houses.



Sketch of roads and public houses in the village of Ramsbottom with distances from Ramsbottom and number of public houses in each place, dated 14th August 1828

The map also shows that a public house referred to as *Crown Inn* (clearly the *Rose and Crown)* existed in Ramsbottom. This inn appears in ROGERSON's directory of 1818. In the rate book of 1834, it was occupied by Arthur LOW.[4]

Situated in Higher Ramsbottom, in the earliest population centre of the town at Carr, the *Rose and Crown* was probably built to save PEEL and YATES' workers the steep hike up to Holcombe, site of the only two inns in the area.

Evidently, SHARPLES' opposition came to nothing, since *Grant Lodge* became the *Grant Arms* in 1828. Perhaps the licensing of *Grant Lodge* was intended simply to secure a share of the legitimate beer market of the town. Or it may have been to involve the GRANT workforce even more in the truck system.

The GRANTS and Truck

Truck or 'tommy' shops, where employers provided their workers with groceries and other goods, were inevitable in view of the remote locations of many early water- powered factories. The presence of substantial falls of water, not of labour, determined early mill location. Pauper 'apprentices' carted up from city workhouses, and lodged in apprentice houses, as at Nuttall and Summerseat, were an early solution to labour shortages.

Once Factory Acts restricted child labour, cotton masters had to use free labour. The truck shop and the terrace of mill cottages were initially a means of attracting, rather than exploiting workers; and the procurement of coin from distant banks, despite security difficulties, was essential if these isolated industrial colonies were to function.

All this was part of the paternalistic model of enterprise, so much a feature of the early days of textile industrialisation, and later to reach its apogee in those communities where the millmaster saw an obligation to educate his workers and provide for their spiritual succour in shape of a chapel of his own persuasion.

The chance survival of the PEEL and YATES wage book for 1801-2, for their carding and spinning mill at Burrs near Bury, shows how benevolent this early paternalism could be, an import of squirearchical social responsibility from the countryside. Credit notes were issued to employees for purchases in the town's shops, mostly household goods, since the factory had its own truck shop. Sums incurred would be honoured by the firm, and deducted from wages.

In the hands of a benign employer, the loss of direct contact with money wages would have been a small price for these rural workers to pay for convenient access to a well-stocked shop, given that they worked 12-hour days, or nights, with limited opportunities for getting into Bury, a mile away. They probably welcomed the disciplined provision for family deaths that compulsory membership of a funeral club afforded, their employers making the deductions from their wages thrice yearly.

No less valuable was the guarantee of credit from their employer for boots and clothes at town shops, at a time when war with France and harvest dearth were pushing prices upwards, squeezing living standards to some of their lowest levels since the worst Tudor harvest failures of the 1590s. Interestingly, one of the 16 shopkeepers named in the Burrs wage book was William GRANT, whose drapery shop on The Wylde marked the launch of his 'Cheeryble' sons into business, and perhaps introduced them to the inner workings of the truck system.[5]

Abuses led to a tightening of the law in 1831, making the payment of wages other than in cash illegal. But the ASHTONs at Ramsbottom Mill could still stretch the letter of the law as long as infringements, as at Burrs, were of advantage to their workforce. The ASHTONs were rated good employers by Ramsbottom Chartist physician Peter Murray McDOUALL in his evidence to the 1842 select committee:

> ***The only place where there are independent shops is in the village of Ramsbottom; the only reason of their independence is, that the ASHTONs have no shop at all; they pay in money, deducting the house rent, the price of the mutton or beef when they kill cattle for the people, and the money lent upon the Saturday night (Question 2060).***

The retention of the beef money was technically illegal, but it was clearly a practice which suited all parties. It sounds like an age-old rural practice, communal killing and consumption of a large beast, but imported into an industrial context, an intriguing half way stage in the development of an independent retail network that delivered food in return for cash.

Monopoly provision and payment of wages in kind, however, led to the abuses most usually associated with the payment of wages in goods - poor quality food ('tommy rot'), high prices and a culture of 'tick' which led to improvidence. The provision of

housing by the masters, wages being top-sliced for rent, led to the evils of the 'Cottage system', described by Friedrich ENGELS in *The Condition of the Working Class in England,* his famous study of Manchester and district conducted during a 21-month stay here between 1842 and 1844. Workers were compelled to take the masters' houses, and pay above the market rent for them, even though the employer ran no risk of rent arrears, having first charge on their tenants' weekly wage. No worker dared cross their employer, for fear of losing their home. Some workers were compelled to take one of these houses, even though they had one already. In the pioneer years of the early 1800s, good money was to be made from truck. A unique sophistication, however, that the GRANTs introduced to Ramsbottom was a company public house which operated a truck system in connection with beer.

The Truck Acts relied upon the actions of local magistrates, a class closely connected with the factory owners. The only evidence that I have encountered of the truck system in Ramsbottom, Nuttall, Brooksbottom, Haslingden, Irwell Vale and Edenfield, is contained in the testimony of McDOUALL who, with an income independent of the GRANTs, could make the allegations that their workers could not. This well-known radical activist had practised medicine in the town since 1835, and in 1842 was living at 18, Bolton Street, presumably his surgery. He was therefore ideally qualified to assist the 1842 Select Committee on the Payment of Wages in its investigation of the considerable shortcomings of the 1831 Act, and he gave evidence to the parliamentarians on 17th June.

McDOUALL claimed that the GRANTs had a truck shop in Nuttall, where they were the sole landowner and employer. To circumscribe the terms of the Act, they let the shop to an agent, at a staggeringly high rent, thereby benefiting from monopoly provision, but at one step removed. Since they owned the whole village, they let no other shopkeeper lease a property to set up in competition. But in Ramsbottom itself, and alone in the district, the ASHTONs, the other big employer and property owner in the town, did not operate the system. This almost certainly made it dangerous for any fellow employer to flout the law too clearly, and here the GRANTs paid wages in cash, having no tommy shop in the town. The absence of truck shops with a tied customer base allowed 'free shops' to flourish in Ramsbottom, a circumstance which may have affected the speed at which houses on Bridge Street and Bolton Street converted to shops in the 1840s and 1850s, and which may in part be responsible for the survival of Ramsbottom's unique townscape to this day. The Ramsbottom workers, claimed McDOUALL, were more provident than those in the surrounding district, and their condition far superior: 'ASHTON's mill,' said McDOUALL:-

> ***... is the only mill in the district where there are to be found any of the people owning property ... the people dressed better, their houses were furnished better, and they appeared more independent and comfortable on their scanty means (Qnn 2060-5; 2160-72).***

Truck was 'prevalent', claimed McDOUALL, between Bury and Manchester, and in the Ramsbottom/Haslingden district, but not in Manchester 'because the middle class would resist it', a reference to the harm that truck did to normal retailers (Qnn2212-5).

But where a manufacturer was a dominant economic and social force, as in the remote Ramsbottom district, it was far easier to evade the law. McDOUALL went on to allege that the GRANTs employed the truck system at the *Grant Arms*. Around 100 of their dyers and block-printers were paid there by the landlord on a Saturday night. Whilst the GRANTs are named in the evidence, George GOODRICK is not, but McDOUALL's references to the landlord must be to him. As with their Nuttall shop, Messrs GRANT kept their hands clean by using an agent, in this case their tenant GOODRICK, to disguise their own involvement. GOODRICK was a trusted and discreet retainer, having been butler to John GRANT at *Nuttall Hall*, and he could therefore be relied on to handle the firm's weekly wage bill, to make the appropriate deductions, and to use his control of the workers' wages illegally to boost beer consumption:-

> ***.... they have a very large inn in the village and being magistrates, they take very good care not to license any other place ... those employed in the dye-works are paid there, and the block printers ... they have established what they call a round table, and the block printers receive notes form the book-keeper at the works, the landlord of the inn finds the change; they send up the whole of them under the plea that they cannot give them change; the men and boys bring a note from the shop, and the publican pays them the difference due to them on account... and 3d is deducted from every man paid any wages there... it is charged for the change(Qnn 2172-81).***

The deducted 3d was actually paid to the workers in liquor, whatever their age or wage, McDOUALL explained - block printers might be paid 5s, 15s or 20s, but each was paid 3d of it in drink:-

> ***... the little boys in the dye-house are paid there; I have seen them come down drunk (Qnn 2182,2193).***

There was of course a large temptation for the workers to carry on beyond the 3d -on a Saturday night, the inn would close at midnight or one o'clock:-

> ***I have known them remain there till they have exhausted their credit and their money (Qnn 2190,2192).***

Despite these drinking bouts, McDOUALL said that the *Grant Arms* was 'well conducted', and was not a disorderly house (Qn 2191). The system welded the GRANT workforce to the *Grant Arms,* turning them into a captive market for beer. Truck bred improvidence, McDOUALL argued, since the men could obtain drink on credit. And on the Saturday night, GOODRICK would settle the account, deducting from the wages 'his own score for drink during the week, which score is freely run up for the men, thereby fatally encouraging intemperance for the sake of profit' (Qn 2195).

The Committee wondered whether anyone could refuse to be paid in the public house:-

> ***He would charge it whether they go or not; it is understood it is for his trouble in giving change, and comes in in drink [sic] (Qn 2198).***

Had anyone insisted on their legal right to be paid fully in cash?

> ***I am not aware of any man who asked the question; it is the rule, and all seem to submit to it There would be a complaint made regarding him, and it would be easy to find fault with his work (Qn 2200).***

McDOUALL went on to describe how he had personally travelled with the GRANTs' licensee/wage clerk, perhaps hitching a lift in his trap or cart, when he had gone into Bury to collect 'a bag of silver' from the bank for the payment of the wages (Qn 2186).

McDOUALL and the GRANTs

McDOUALL's evidence to the Select Committee on the Payment of Wages comes as a powerful antidote to the many accounts of the GRANT family's excessive generosity. It would not have reached as wide an audience of course as DICKENS' characterisation of them as the 'Cheeryble Brothers' in *Nicholas Nickleby* or in HAYHURST's *Appreciative Estimate,* and even in recent times his allegations have been largely unknown. McDOUALL did not fit into the cosy set up that most of the manufacturers had established around Ramsbottom in the early 19th Century. He was a radical, a campaigner for parliamentary reform and a national figure in the Chartist movement. He had served a prison term for sedition from 1839-40.[6]

McDOUALL hinted at a common practice in the Ramsbottom area of medical men conniving with the masters, factory inspectors and parents by signing certificates of age for children too young for employment under the Factory Acts. A Mr HUTCHINSON had the monopoly in Ramsbottom. In return, such surgeons were given this paid work on a regular basis, to the exclusion of the more honest members of the profession. McDOUALL told the 1842 select committee that he had never been approached to sign one (Qnn 2259-66). It may be that this issue had caused ill feeling between him and the GRANTs. But it seems more likely that this was just one further abuse to which McDOUALL's medical practice amongst their workforce alerted him. In 1838, he had published some damning statistics about the GRANTs' houses, citing the overcrowded state in which their workers lived. In what was almost certainly Nuttall Village and Ramsbottom, 137 of the 309 cottages had just *one* bedroom, for the typical family of four to seven members. Twenty of the 137 had between eight and 13 members – in a single bedroom. The workers had to occupy GRANT houses as a condition of their employment, the cost of rent, water and coal being deducted from their wages (Qnn 2270-4).

The all-encompassing nature of the truck system in the area, but especially in Nuttall, meant that many of the GRANT workers lived in a near cashless economy. This made it difficult to obtain services, like medical aid, which the GRANTs did not supply. Women resorted to 'money clubs', a not-for-profit lottery, to raise sums in times of need.

It seems that despite having an extensive practice, McDOUALL made little money, since his patients had none to give him - 'the working men complain that they cannot send for a medical man, and there is no chance of getting your account paid if you attend,' he commented wryly to the Committee (Qnn 2253-8). It was impossible for a member of the GRANTs' workforce to testify against them, which is why so little evidence of their involvement in truck has survived. In June 1842, Benjamin MORGAN, an employee at the Cambrian Works near Bridgend, had preceded McDOUALL as a witness to the committee; he concluded his evidence by emphasising how precarious his position was:-

> ***There is one thing I wish to say; that I fear that, in consequence of my being examined, I shall be discharged when I get home … I hope the Committee will consider that.***
>
> ***What makes you think you shall be discharged? - Because I am so much against the system; but I am only one out of 3,000 who have the same feeling against it*** *(Qnn 2046-7).*

As magistrates, and with the legal profession largely sympathetic to the masters, the GRANTs and other operators of the truck system had little to fear from the courts. Workers did not complain because they would lose their house and job. Moreover, the names of such troublemakers would be passed on quickly:-

> ***. . . there is such a communication between the masters, that I have known a messenger sent to the various mills with the name of the man discharged; they have complained to me of it perpetually; and I have known families emigrate 40 or 50 miles*** *(Qn 2091).*

McDOUALL cannot have been popular with the GRANTS, a known radical with an ear for the complaints of their workforce. His evidence to the 1842 select committee must have been of particular annoyance to the family, especially as manufacturers were on their guard to conceal any involvement in truck on account of parliamentary interest in the abuses of the 1831 Act (Qnn 2068-9).

William GRANT's death on 28"' February 1842 must have been a family tragedy, and the eulogies from the *Manchester Guardian*[7] about his successful and benevolent life must have had the shine taken off them by McDOUALL's accusations of illegal exploitation of an enthralled workforce.

McDOUALL's testimony is the only source material I have encountered on the GRANTs' 'darkside', and its accuracy has been questioned. Did McDOUALL resent the GRANTs because they would not let him in on the scam of signing Factory Act certificates for underaged workers? Was he simply a troublemaker who had a grudge against manufacturers in Ramsbottom, Nuttall, Brooksbottom, Haslingden, Irwell Vale and Edenfield, the area in which he claimed to have knowledge?

Any reading of his life story, however, suggests that he was an intense idealist, genuinely appalled by the abuses of unfettered capitalism, whilst the detail of his evidence has a very authentic ring - he exonerates the ASHTONs, and GREIG at

Stubbins, of any involvement in truck, which suggests a close level of enquiry; and his accusations tally with practices elsewhere. And could anyone have made up:-

> ***. . . the masters carried it to such an extent that some of them bundled the cheeses into the people's houses, that they might have less money on Saturday to pay them (Qn2155).***

Similarly, would any inventor have gone to the length of citing wage levels, which were better with the GRANTs than the ASHTONs, because a considerable portion could be recouped through higher prices and rents?

The accuracy of McDOUALL's testimony has become irretrievably connected with the iconography of the GRANTS, universally celebrated as the life models for DICKENS' oddball altruists, the Brothers Cheeryble. The GRANTs were a regional power - from the minutes of evidence (Qnn 2160-1) it is clear that Stockport Radical MP Richard COBDEN, a member of the 1842 Select Committee, knew of the firm by name. McDOUALL's allegations of the GRANTs' involvement in illegal activity may already have spread beyond Ramsbottom.

These early years of the Industrial Revolution were wild, insecure times for entrepreneurs. Before limited liability evolved in the 1840s, failure meant personal ruin, and could result in bankruptcy and imprisonment. Fortunes were laid down for families who may not have cared too much to know, in later, more comfortable generations, how roughly their money had been made. Some redeemed the reputations of their ancestors retrospectively, by engaging in charitable acts - the AITKENs, another trucking millowner family according to McDOUALL, were some of the Valley's greatest benefactors a generation or so later. McDOUALL's accusations can only have been damaging to the GRANTs' social aspirations in the regional capital, Manchester, where truck was frowned on by its free trade elite.

Perhaps their reputation needed rescuing long before McDOUALL and 1842. Is it possible that the legend of the 'Cheeryble Brothers' and their utopian generosity was a similar damage limitation exercise by the GRANT interest, with the connivance of a socially and literally ambitious young novelist working on his third novel, and looking for 'realistic' characters against whom to contrast optimistically his many villains? This rich vein for speculation must wait for a future issue!

Andrew Todd

References

1. William Hume ELLIOT, *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (Selkirk, 1893) p72

2. Thomas H HAYHURST, *An Appreciative Estimate of the Grant Brothers,of* Ramsbottom (Bury, 1884) pp39-40

3. Select Committee on the Payment of Wages, Minutes of Evidence (Parliamentary Papers, vol xi, 1842) Question 2172

4. Arthur LOW, commemorated on the 1834 datestone on nos 72-78, Bridge Street, was almost certainly the man who in 1848 took out a lease from the GRANTs to build the *Railway Hotel,* opposite the newly-opened station,

5. Francis COLLIER, *Workers' Family Economy in the Cotton Industry: a Country Factory, Burrs Mill, Bury* (Chetham Society, 1965) pp34-5

6. Trevor PARK, *The Mysterious Doctor McDouall* (Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine, no7, Summer 1993) pp9-11

7. *Manchester Guardian,* 5th March 1842, quoted in HAYHURST, pp57-8

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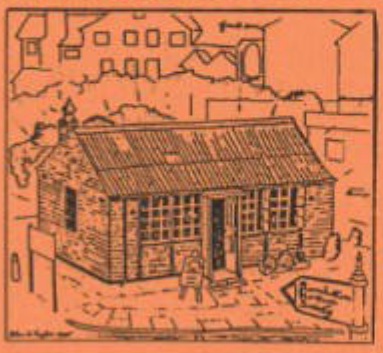

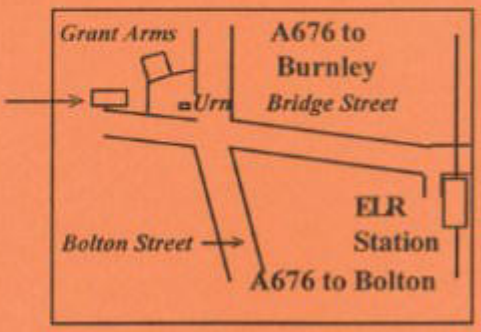

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RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME

2003

16th Apr	Mrs Christine Gillies - *Working class housing conditions in 1930s*
21st May	Annual General Meeting and Members' Night
18th June	Mr D Lewis, illustrated talk - *Textile Mill Engines*
16th July	Visit to Northern Mill Engine Society Museum, Bolton. Meet at Heritage Centre 6.30pm [transport by car sharing]
20th Aug	Visit to Portland Canal Basin Museum, Ashton-under-Lyne. Meet at Heritage Centre 6.30pm [transport by car sharing]
17th Sept	Mr Andrew TODD - *Ramsbottom's early housing*
15th Oct	Mr C Mintz - *Tales from the Bench*
20th Nov	Members' Night - *The Crow Lane Project*
10th Dec	Mr A Gill, illustrated talk - *Lantern Magic*

Please note that all indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30 for 7.45pm.

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15.	Motor Cycling in Ramsbottom 1955-1966	Colin Anderton
17.	With reference to Porritt's Mill	Edwin Longworth
19.	Memories of "The Flan."	Barbara L. Howard
20.	Robert Wittenbury, Ramsbottom's unsung architect	Andrew Todd

FRONT COVER - Crow Lane from the eastern end. Drawn by John B Taylor of Stacksteads for the *Crow Lane Project*

INTRODUCTION

When in 1990 Andrew TODD, our esteemed President and first Chairman volunteered to take over from Barbara PARK as editor of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine, little did we realise just how prestigious this twice-yearly publication was becoming for the Society. Each issue is now eagerly awaited, particularly by the many members who live away from Ramsbottom but maintain their roots here.

The magazine has helped to encourage research by members (many of whom have contributed articles to the Magazine) and has carried the message that we are a recording Society and need to document the history of our town. As a local historian, Andrew was well placed to inspire interest, and editing the News Magazine was an ideal medium for this. However, after giving of his valuable time to this important and much appreciated work for the past eight or nine years and 16 editions, he now feels it is time to take a back seat.

Andrew's work for the Society will continue to be greatly valued. As Chairman, Magazine Editor and President, he has put so much of himself into ensuring the viability of the Society in so many ways and has always been willing to give freely of his knowledge and considered advice. We shall indeed miss him but are greatly encouraged that three of our members have come forward to edit the News Magazine from this edition. *The Editorial Team* will consist of Barbara PARK (Editor from 1990 to 1993) Janet SMITH and Elizabeth DUXBURY. I know they are immensely grateful to Andrew for his help in producing this and future editions of the magazine and that you will join me in wishing them the very best of luck in all their endeavours.

CHEERS ANDREW - THANKS A MILLION FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE SOCIETY.

Welcome to the *Editorial Team.* Please support them with articles and items of local interest for inclusion in future editions of our own *Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine.*

Dorothy Moss, Chairman.

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Very sadly we have heard that three of our members died at the end of 2002. We tender our sincere condolences to their respective families.

John Garnett HILLIS (1923-2002) - we were sorry to hear from John's wife, Audrey, of his death in early December. He will be remembered as the blind gentleman who attended our meetings for many years, together with a companion who helped interpret all that was going on. He recalled 'the early days' and was able to help our archivist in research and was valued for this. John was for the last two years a resident of the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond, Surrey, and Audrey tells us that as he had difficulty in reading she used to read him extracts from our news magazine. John was born in *Bank House*, Bolton Road, Edenfield. and had contributed a piece, 'Childhood Memories of Edenfield' (No 14, Spring 1997).

We are also sad to hear of the death in November 2002 of **Betty ULLATHORNE** who was an early and active member of the Society. She returned to Northern Ireland to be near her daughter, but maintained contact (always sending the Society a Christmas card) and she was in touch with many individual members of the Society.

Joan BROMLEY was one of our earlier members and she was valued greatly for the help she gave at the Heritage Centre for many years until her recent illness. Her gentle kindness and pleasant smile will be remembered with affection by visitors to the Centre.

Pebble Beach - This has been mentioned in a recently taped reminiscence. Where was it? What was it? Does it still exist? It was in the Stubbins Lane area of Ramsbottom. We believe that children used to play there but have never heard any stories of sandcastles or paddling! So if you remember it, please contact the editors. We would love to have your reminiscences - or better still - a photograph.

Heritage Centre - We also take this opportunity to remind you that the Heritage Centre will re-open on Easter Saturday 19th April 2003 with a new exhibition entitled ''Round and about Ramsbottom." The Centre will be open each Saturday and Sunday 1pm to 4pm. We always welcome more helpers for the Centre, for an hour or an afternoon. If you would like to help, please ring 82 7602 and speak to Linda or call into the Centre any Saturday or Sunday to chat to the volunteers there.

Editors' Notes on future magazine items.

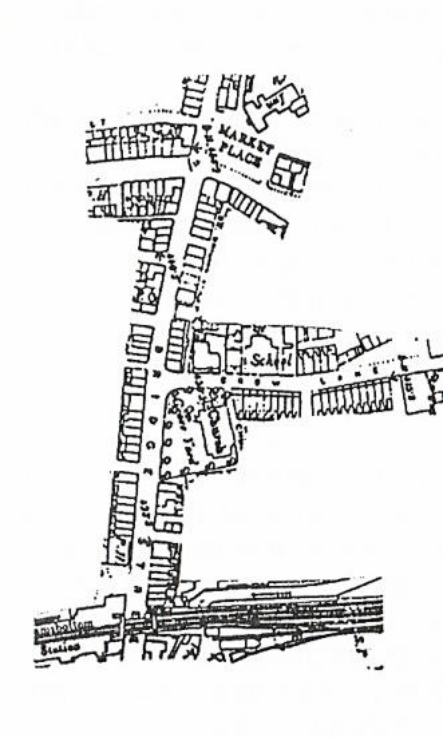
Hazlehurst School celebrates its Centenary this year. Were you a pupil (or teacher) at Hazlehurst? [See *Around Ramsbottom* page 74 for a 1905 photo of the children and staff.] The first recorded Methodist meeting in Hawkshaw was in 1803 and there is still a strong Methodist presence in the village. The present church building of Emmanuel Church at Holcombe was consecrated 13th April 1853. All contributions to the magazine on these or any other local topics will be welcome and can be handed to the editors or in at the Heritage Centre.

The Society collects written and oral histories, so write down your memories or speak to anyone at the Heritage Centre.

THE CROW LANE PROJECT

Ramsbottom Heritage Society members and Crow Lane residents are currently researching the history of Crow Lane, Ramsbottom. This fascinating street of Victorian houses is situated off Bridge Street and whilst the School, the Church and the Drill Hall are still there, other buildings such as Crow Trees Farm and the earlier Police Station no longer exist. Three of the houses were once shops.

What is unusual about this project is that the residents will be researching the history of their own houses.



Recently over 30 came to a meeting in St Paul's Church Parish Room where Kate SLINGSBY introduced the project and Andrew TODD presented a short illustrated history of the area. Details from some census and directories were available plus information to help them to continue their research at home, Ramsbottom Library. Bury Library and Bury Archives.

There seemed to be great interest and enthusiasm as the present-day residents began to find details of people who had lived in their homes in the nineteenth century. Some material from the Crow Project will be published in the next News Magazine, and exhibited in the Heritage Centre.

The Heritage Society's website will carry information and photographs as available. On 10th May members of the Society' and the general public are invited to a Public

Meeting in St Paul's School to view the results of the research thus far and the North West Sound Archive will be recording memories of Crow Lane. In the meanwhile, if any readers of this magazine have any photographs or wish to contribute their own reminiscences of Crow Lane, we would be very grateful.

You can contact Kate , Barbara, Janet or Elizabeth in the Library.

Kate Slingsby

SCHOOLDAYS AT ST PAUL'S, RAMSBOTTOM

This article was written in April 1988. George ASHWORTH died in 1990. Editor.

I only attended one Day School - namely St Paul's, in Crow Lane, Ramsbottom. I was born at 95, Callendar Street, Ramsbottom on 1st August 1902. I had two brothers - John (older) and Harold (younger) and a younger sister (Annie) who also attended St Paul's. We did not attend St Paul's Church - we were Wesleyans. At no time did they ever press us to attend the Church, in fact, on those occasions when the scholars went into Church, we were allowed to go home. I can well remember the Vicar (Rev JJ LEWIS); he often came into School and on many occasions addressed the scholars. I always appreciated what he had to say to us. I have no fixed idea of my age when I first went to school but I think I must have been about five years old.

The Infant School and The Senior (ie Junior) School were separate buildings each with a different entrance. I can remember quite well the teachers I had in the Infant School, Miss WHITTAKER (she lived along Bolton Road West, about no 500). I have recollections of her in later years when schooldays were long past, also Miss HARTLEY and Miss HEAP. I have group photographs of my class and also my sister's class (copies are available in the local library). I do not remember any problems, I enjoyed going to school; I was good at most subjects - I particularly liked reading and spelling and I can remember that on one occasion I was given *1d* (one penny in old money) for spelling *Constantinople* in the infant School.

In due time I was moved into the Big School - I was quite keen about it. The Head was Mr Henry PRICE, the next in seniority was Mr John RENWICK (he was Wesleyan) and I had contact with him from time to time in the Wesleyan Sunday School. He was strong in his opinions about the evils of drinking alcohol. Miss L WEST (I think she lived with the PRICE family) used the class-room upstairs; we called her '*Cocky*' WEST. I am not sure if she was aware of this. It was most amusing when she was taking the Music lessons, for she had an awful singing voice. Miss Janey HOYLE (also a Wesleyan) used the classroom downstairs. The other teacher, and the one I liked best of all, was Miss Margaret PARKIN (I think she attended the Presbyterian Church) - she had Class 1, the first we joined in the Big School. I and a friend of mine (George RAMSBOTTOM) were selected to be monitors. From time to time we remained in school at the close and she often treated us to chocolate taken from large blocks. It was very seldom indeed that I

was given *'the stick*'. In those days from the age of 12, it was possible for boys and girls to be 'half-timers', so that one week they were able to go into the mill in the mornings and the following week it would be in the afternoons. I never did this and I don't think my sister or brothers did so.

At that time the School Managers gave prizes each year to scholars for 'Conduct & Diligence'. I still have the book which I was awarded in 1913 when I was 11 years-old - it has been well used over the years and is entitled *The Parents' Book - Answers to Children's Questions.*

I left the school in August 1915 at the age of 13. Shortly afterwards, I began my working life in the Ironmongers Shop at 41, Bolton Street, owned by Mr J YATES and is still the same type of shop. [It remained so until 1999, Editor. In April 1916, I secured a job in the Co-operative Society Offices. I cannot remember the date of Mr PRICE's retirement but I went to the presentation which was open to the public. As an Old Scholar I was invited to the platform and asked to speak of him as *'My Headmaster'.* In December 1929, Mr PRICE sent me a letter on the occasion when I was promoted to the position of Secretary of the Local Co-op Society. He liked to keep in touch with his scholars of old.

There is another item I should mention. It was not until I went to the Day School that it was discovered that I had one good eye and one 'bad' - my problem was astigmatism. I used to turn my head to gel in focus with my good eye. After a few years I had to have a separate pair of spectacles to read with.

We did not have a school uniform - I don't think that any of the Elementary Schools did in those days. We did not partake of any sports. There was only a small paved yard for us to go in during playtime, and the school did not have a field or premises to use for this purpose. Physical exercise inside the school was minimal. I was never taught to swim and never possessed a swimsuit of any kind. The nearest baths were in Bury and I could never afford to go there. None of my friends were able to swim and when I was at the seaside (in later years) I was only able to paddle.

During my time at St Paul's (in the Big School) they commenced a scheme whereby the scholars were able to go once per week to the Technical School (now part-demolished - but was opposite the present Fire Station.) Joinery was not in my line. The wastage of good timber must have been quite expensive. In a similar manner the girls went for Cookery lessons.

The toilets - latrines in the school yard were very primitive, but they were in line with those used by everyone: Flushing by water was not introduced until years later. Electricity was not brought into the town until about 1910. and even then it was only for lighting purposes. None of the many electrical gadgets of our modern times was available until many years later. The housewives had to work very hard in those days. In my home *Baking Day* was the highlight of the week. I have two medallions in my stock given to most or perhaps all scholars in Ramsbottom in 1911 and 1913.

Both relate to King George V and Queen Mary; the date 1911 is in connection with their coronation of 22nd June 1911, the other concerns their visit to Bury on 12th July 1913. The 1913 medallion was presented by John WILKINSON, Chairman of the RUDC [Ramsbottom Urban DistrictCouncil, Editor] at that time, and so marked. Scholars from the schools in Ramsbottom travelled by train to Bury. From Bury Station we all walkedto the place appointed on the main road, and I have since been able to locate it as Heap Bridge. It was quite a long way, then we had to stand for some time, each with a tiny Union Jack ready to wave as the King and Queen passed slowly along.Then we walked back to the Station and home. I am not quite sure about this, but I think that each one had to take their own packet of sandwiches. I do not remember any other 'eats or drinks' being provided until we reached home.

At that time I was three weeks short of my birthday, my eleventh. It was in later years that I came to know more about Mr WILKINSON. He was the senior partner in a very well-known Gents Outfitters' shop *WILKINSON & LANCASTER* in Bridge Street. In more recent years that shop and the one next to it were taken down in order to make room for the Police Station near to St Paul's Church.

For a long number of years there was an Annual Show between Bury and Ramsbottom (alternate years.) It was on the area which is now Nuttall Park. I am not sure when it came to an end and am almost certain the Bury and Ramsbottom Agricultural Show was in being in 1922. I found it a most interesting show. Scholars from various schools could enter the competitions: I won a prize for pencil drawing.

George Ashworth

CELEBRATIONS



THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Queen Elizabeth's Coronation 2nd June 1953

What patriotic memories this title brings back to me. My sister, our cousin Joyce and I set off from Ramsbottom Station on 1st June 1953 for our overnight journey

to London. To say we were excited would be an understatement going to the Coronation - even as a bystander - was quite something.

We arrived at Wembley at about 6am and because of the crowds, made our way to Birdcage Walk, which was on the Queen's return journey from the Abbey, settling ourselves down on the already crowded pavement. I had borrowed a long wooden periscope from p colleague at work - quite cumbersome. It was about 18 inches tall and you had to turn your back to the procession and hold it above the people in front - not very popular with those behind, but lots of people had similar ones, mostly made from cardboard.

We heard what was happening from a broadcast -1 can't remember whether it was a radio or loudspeakers; the newspapers told us that HILLARY had conquered Everest along with Sherpa TENSING, of course that raised a cheer. In fact anyone who passed got a cheer from the good-natured crowds - road sweepers, the police, soldiers, flag sellers!

At last we heard bands approaching and we knew the Queen's procession was imminent. I can't find the words to express how proud we all felt. The Duke was on our side of the Golden Coach, but just as it passed the Queen leaned forward and waved to us (well, wouldn't she just have to?) and we all cheered and cheered. The other carriages passed, but the greatest cheer after the Queen's was when the Queen of Tonga, riding in an open carriage in spite of the torrential rain, waved to the crowds - what a welcome she got. Afterwards we drifted to the Palace to see everyone on the balcony, but we couldn't stay for the fireworks as we had to catch the train home. London was littered with discarded plastic macs but the rain hadn't spoiled a memorable day Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee June 1977

Next came the Silver Jubilee, a better day if I remember rightly. This time we watched from the bottom of the Mall and the Queen passed, again in the Golden Coach. She was wearing pink and her little pink hat had 25 bells hanging at the back, and as almost always, she was wearing white gloves. The Queen Mother's coach was quite memorable - she was dressed in an apricot colour and the lights inside the coach made her look like a ray of sunshine.

Afterwards it was incredible how the police manoeuvred the throngs up the Mall to the Palace, so we were able to make our way around Queen Victoria's statue with ease. When the Royal party came out on to the balcony - the Queen, a tiny pink figure - we could all quite clearly see her white gloves, and again we cheered and waved.

A little old lady nearby couldn't see. She said she had been up since 6am and she was quite disappointed until a Police Constable lifted her up. She nearly knocked his helmet off with exuberance! Again the crowds were so happy and it's the atmosphere that is electric on these occasions.

Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee June 2002

Finally the Golden Jubilee - well I just had to go! After the crowds who turned up in the Mall for the free concerts previously, I hoped there would be at least as many to support the Queen on this notable day; I was not disappointed. We arrived in the Mall about 8.30am and found a place near one of the giant TV screens, so we could follow everything! As on previous occasions the crowd was happy - and the day glorious. Coaches and cars passed us with various Royal personages and VIPs, but the one we were waiting for was the Golden Coach - and there it was! We craned our necks and there she was - this time in blue. How we waved and cheered.

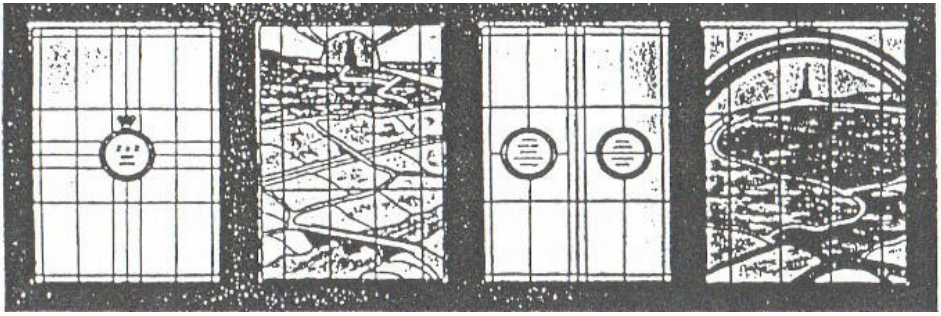
Watching the giant screens, you felt even more part of the proceedings and it was nice to see the important folks in all their finery. On her return from the service the Queen wore deep pink. The wave of cheers engulfing the Coach was deafening and you could see how delighted she and the Duke were with the overwhelming public response.

We ate our sandwiches in St James' Park, then took our places to see the parade. We saw the Princes, returning from Clarence House, walk down the Mall and then the P A R A D E. It went on for ages and ages but it was great fun.

The final moments came after the police allowed us into the Mall which was now a ribbon of people, waving flags and multi-coloured umbrellas and wearing patriotic hats. The fly past was very impressive - everyone pirouetted as the planes flew down the Mall and yet another great cheering roar echoed. At last, dodging between the flags, we caught a glimpse of a tiny pink figure - a dot on the balcony - and then she was gone. It had been wonderful to see the city, and indeed our own towns, decked out for this special occasion. We trooped away, tired but exhilarated - wondering if we'll be lucky enough to see the Diamond Jubilee - I hope so!

Doris Hibbert

Stained-glass windows at Ramsbottom Library November 2002



EIIR ***Grant's Tower*** ***Narrative*** ***Peel Tower***

On 30th November 2002 Colonel John TIMMINS KCVO OBE TD JP Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester dedicated the new stained-glass windows at Ramsbottom Library. They had been commissioned to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee by the Ramsbottom and Tottington Area Board.

The Lord Lieutenant is the Queen's representative. George Ashworth [see pp3-6] writes: During my lifetime there has only been one occasion when a reigning monarch has visited Ramsbottom. It was in 1945 when King George VI and his Queen Elizabeth made a tour of Lancashire towns. Gilbert HOLT was the Chairman of the Council at that time. The party occupied a specially erected platform in Market Place.

The ceremony was preceded by a short visit to the Ramsbottom Heritage Centre where those present included the Mayor and Mayoress of Bury, artist Bryan FARLOW (who designed and made the windows) and piper Mr Wilf MARR. On show were copies of Bryan's initial sketch book work, his original full-size drawings and information and photographs about the design process, materials and construction stages. Sir John and Lady TIMMINS spent some time viewing this display before, escorted by Councillor Dorothy GUNTHER. Sir John and the other visitors were piped by Mr MARR from the Heritage Centre, across Carr Street and up the library ramp.

The dedication took place in the Library's Local and Family History area where the windows are installed. They comprise two panels incorporating commemorative plaques and two more depicting views to the east and west of Ramsbottom. The focal point of the eastern window is Grants' Tower which has lost none of its detail as it has been kiln fired on to a single piece of glass. The "western" panel shows Holcombe Hill and Peel Tower and the position of the Millennium Seat is shown as a piece of faceted glass known as a jewel. Other special materials used in the project include streaky glass with swirls of two or more colours mixed together but not blended.

Bryan FARLOW was born in Eccles within hailing distance of the tugs and ships on the Manchester Ship Canal. He often visited Eccles' "*Carnegie*" Library finding pleasure in the architecture and stained-glass windows. After serving an engineering apprenticeship, he became a marine engineer on the Manchester Liners, but spent most of his working life as an engineering draughtsman. Just before his retirement, he attended a Bury College course on stained-glass work and he also acknowledges the help of Jaycee Stained Glass of Rossendale in the development of his knowledge. The River Irwell continues to play a part in Bryan's life as he has now lived 'upstream' in Ramsbottom for the past 20 years. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit the Library and to look at the windows from the inside and to write their comments in the visitors' book.

Janet Smith.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee in Ramsbottom May-June 2002

The town was decorated with bunting, and the varied and interesting shop window displays and the Union and England flags evoked a nostalgic yet celebratory atmosphere. As the Jubilee weekend approached, local involvement increased and the community spirit was reminiscent of former great royal or national celebrations.

Early in Jubilee week, Bryan FARLOW's commemorative stained-glass windows were installed in the Library. East Lancs Railway held their famous Wartime Weekend in Jubilee Week which added to the existing patriotic fervour. On Friday 31st May, Ramsbottom Civic Hall was the venue for the *'Made in Ramsbottom'* Exhibition, organised by Christine LEARY of TNT It was opened by David CHAYTOR MP and attracted many visitors. The following evening, guests were entertained by *Sounds 18 Big Band* at a Jubilee Dance in the Civic Hall.

Despite poor weather, the Bank Holiday Country Show in Nuttall Park, attended by local dignitaries and with the very popular local resident Martin HENFIELD on hand to present prizes to the competition winners, attracted huge crowds and was a great success, enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all who helped so unstintingly, with the planning, preparation and participation on the day itself. Your support contributed to the show's smooth running and the friendly Ramsbottom atmosphere.

The money raised from individuals, companies, traders, various local organisations and Ramsbottom Area Board enabled us to stage a magnificent weekend of events as a fitting tribute to this special occasion. The amount raised locally to promote the Jubilee events was £9,190 (and all this without any help from the Lotten' Fund) a magnificent total considering the size of our town. All credit to you all for your financial support and enthusiastic response. Our town's image can only be enhanced by hosting such events.

Linda de Ruijter, Jubilee Events Organiser

RAMSBOTTOM RAMBLINGS

I have lived in the US now for 39 years and obviously I like it here for many reasons, although some of those reasons are fast dwindling now, but that is the reason for writing this. In my later years, I have thought many times of my upbringing in Ramsbottom and the more times I visit, the more my interest in my heritage grows. On one of my many visits to my brother Ken's house in Bury, I was privileged to meet a very remarkable lady, Joan YOUNG. Through Joan I became a member of the Society. This year on my visit, I met an old school friend, Eileen WHITTAKER.

These memories are not in any order, and were set off by Andrew TODD's article on 'The Model.' [No 20, Autumn 2000] Ken and I read it several times and

discussed it in detail on my visit this year. I lived round the corner at 35a, Back Bridge Street, behind the old Co-op on Bridge Street, and remember my mother telling me to watch out for old men. The Co-op building is now *Memories*, the collective antique store. It was separate from the Co-op's shops, three storeys high with the house portion at one end:

The remainder of the building was not used and consisted of two huge rooms on each floor where we used to play and ride our bikes. It was known as the house with the ghost and underneath the stairs where the floor and the bottom of the stairs met, was a gravestone. The shop next to the ginnel was the furniture store and next was the grocery where everyone had a number and a book for credit. My father, Willie SLATER, better known as Bill, was manager in the furniture store. Ken and myself had the advantage over all the other kids as we used to get to play with all the toys before they were bought and knew which kid was getting which present for Christmas! There was never a surprise, as we used to tell the kids which toys were earmarked for them. My father was also the Co-op's Funeral Manager, source of a good story.

One Sunday, my mother's sister and her husband came to visit from Manchester. As we sat and ate dessert, my mother poured the tea, which my aunt had made, and my mother remarked on the very poor quality of the brew. Mother told my aunt that just because she scrimped on everything we didn't, and she should put more leaves in the pot. My aunt was very put out and told mother that she might have a fancy tea caddie, but her choice of tea was her problem. Mother asked her sister about the fancy tea caddie and my aunt pointed to the sideboard to this urn. It was somebody's ashes that my father had brought home to take to their house that evening!!

My earliest recollections of 'Rammy' were about escaping from our back yard. Other than going through the back doors of the furniture or grocery store, my only route was through the big yard gate. I never went anywhere on my own without my tricycle, so the gate was my only way out. 1 found that if I stood on my trike. I could open the bar and lift the latch and so I was off!! Unfortunately, everyone in town knew who I was through my Dad and so when Mam came looking for me. people would say: 'Art lookin ' fer yung un wi ' blonde hair?' I was caught and had to pay the penalty. There was no spare-the-rod in those days.

When I reached the ripe old age of 2½ years, I decided to find out where 'Kenny went to school'. I went on my trusty trike and made myself known to the faculty of St Paul's, which I knew was only down the street and round the corner of the Bank. Here I first met the Misses HASSEL and WHITTAKER, the most dedicated and wonderful people that a child could hope to meet. Miss HASSEL taught what we would call kindergarten and Miss WHITTAKER taught grade school. My Mam was informed as to my whereabouts and I guess suggested that seeing I was not

in nappies and was quite happy 'in school', I should be allowed to attend kindergarten.

It was a fun time for us kids in 1935 really! We had our lessons, learned by rote and had our own band. To us we sounded great, but we were never invited to play anywhere! I think we needed a better marketing strategist. Some in our class were Kathleen HOUGH, Gordon BARNES, Doreen BOWERS, Eileen WHITTAKER. Glynis HUTCHINSON, Joan WARBURTON, Jean KNOWLES and Marjorie WHITWORTH. We played at *Robin Hood* and *Cowboys and Indians* after school, carving some fabulous swords out of wood. Our bows and arrows were the best in Rammy. We were the Crow Lane Gang, consisting of Alan RICHARDSON, Billy and Barbara RICHARDSON, Doreen BOWERS, Jean KNOWLES, Evelyn ROSTRON, the BLAINE twins (Geoffrey and Alan) Florence HADDOCK and her brother, and Austin F1NNERTY, along with my brother Ken and myself. We had Stone Fights with the gang from Rostron Road. How we never killed each other, 1 will never know. I guess we were very agile and could sec the rocks flying through the air. We also had Sod Fights in which you tore up a large sod of grass and bashed your enemy on the head until all the soil was gone and all that was left was a handful of grass, the soil being in your hair, down your shirt, in your socks and in your shoes.

In summertime we used to walk for miles through the woods, go swimming in the ponds and reservoirs and spend hours on the moors picking whinberries. We used to do 'swealing', which meant setting fire to the moor grass and trying to contain it. We would build huts with old bricks and wood and sheets of corrugated iron, salvaged from the tip or junk yard. We used to build fires in them and roast potatoes in the ashes and go home smelling of burnt wood.

In winter, we went sledding down St Andrew's fields [Church Field - Editor] and the Rake. Anywhere there was a slope. 1 once remember us sledding in a field at the back of Carlton Terrace. The farmer would chase us away, but we would return. I had just come down the slope, Billy RICHARDSON was coming down behind me with Evelyn ROSTRON on the front of his sled. Just as he was three quarters of the way down, there was a stick, about half an inch in diameter, pointing up. It stuck into Evelyn's thigh. We hadn't a clue what to do and didn't realise how serious it was. The stick broke off close to the skin and at least we had the good sense to leave it in and take her home. Off she went to the Cottage Hospital, had it removed, stitched and was sledding again the following day.

We all built our own sleds and went to the smithy to have the irons fitted to the wooden sides, unless you built a skeleton sled. This was made from two pieces of round metal stock bent into the shape of a letter C. A piece of wooden slat was then fastened to the open form of the *C* and another was screwed across the two slats

to form the sled platform. We also used to take slats from old barrels and fasten leather strips to the barrel staves into which we could stuff our feet. Our unique form of skis! These barrels were 'swiped' from the mills on Kenyon Street.

We used to play marbles at night by the light from the shop windows - very little traffic on the roads at that time. Coal was still hauled from the railway yards to the mills by two wheeled carts drawn by huge Belgian draft horses and Clydesdales. I would go round to the smithy on Paradise Street and watch them being shod. They were so big that as a child I could walk under their bellies. Another great thing, for us at least, was haymaking in the Fall. Gathering it into sheaves and then on the cart and into the barn. We would spend hours in the barns making hayslides and jumping from the top of the loft into a pile of hay below.

I remember climbing the chestnut trees and collecting the big spiky pods to dry out the inner conkers. When they were completely dried, you threaded string about 18 inches long through a hole poked through the middle and tied a knot on one end. The *Conker* then swung like a pendulum. The object of the game was to smash your conker on your opponent's which was suspended in the air. Each took turns, until you split his conker, or he split yours or you got fed up trying. For every one you split, it counted one - if you split five others, yours was known as a 'fiver'. If you split a 'sixer', your fiver became an 'elevener'.

Prior to the outbreak of World War II, one of the major events of the year was 5th November, Bonfire Night. Each area of Rammy had its own bonfire. Weeks prior, we kids would go out collecting anything that would bum, no matter how large or small, carrying it on a 'bogey'. This consisted of a plank of wood, about six feet long, with a pair of fixed wheels at the back and a pair of steerable wheels at the front. The front wheels were attached to a piece of wood about 36 inches x six inches. A hole was bored through the plank and the centre of the wheel assembly and a coach bolt held the two pieces together and allowed the assembly to pivot. Steering was by means of a piece of rope with the ends attached to either side of the front wheels, in a loop. For brakes, you used the sole of your shoe or clog.

Older kids and fathers were pressed into service to stack the wood, to heights of 20 or 30 feet and around 15 feet in diameter by the time of the big day. On top of course, had to be *The Guy,* the effigy of Guy Fawkes who was executed for trying to blow up Parliament. Old clothes, hats and shoes were donated to make the life-size effigy and the final result was placed on top of the pyre. We younger kids were allowed to stay out longer than usual at this time, as we had to guard our pile from raiders from another area. There was many a Sod Fight and plain old fisticuffs prior to the lighting. On the night, whole families in the area gathered round for the lighting of the pyre. The parents set off fireworks for us kids and we used to run around throwing *Penny Bangers* and *Ha'penny Demons* behind people to make

them jump. We would stuff several of these bangers into the old-fashionedlocks on people's doors, trying to blow them up! Needless to say, we were never successful as the doors were solid wood about three inches thick. You had better be a fast runner when the owner came out or you would 'get your ears boxed', as the saying went and a large boot up your backside to finish it off. You could never go home and complain that *Mr So and So* had hit you, because then you would have to explain what you had done to deserve the bashing. What happened to that simple way of life? Now all you hear is sue, sue, sue.

The highlight of Bonfire Night was when the fireworks had all been set off, the fire had died down to a large mass of red hot ashes and we put potatoes in the hot ashes to roast. You just peeled off the blackened skin with a lot of ooohs and aaaahs because it was burning your hands, slathered it with salt and butter and scoffed it down whilst waiting for the next one to be pulled from the fire.

People rallied round to help each other when someone had a misfortune. The fact that you didn't know the person had nothing to do with whether you helped or not....you just did what you could do or afford to.

The biggest event of my life, of course, was the outbreak of World War II. I was 6½ years-old. I remember listening, with my parents, to Neville CHAMBERLAIN on the radio, announcing sombrely that as of that date, 3rd September 1939, Britain was officially at war with Germany. Worst of all, the street lights were shut off for the duration of the War. It was crummy in winter, when it went dark early, but in summer it didn't have much effect, as it stayed light until around 9.30pm and wasn't fully dark until 10pm, Being the kids that we were, we now shrugged off our cloaks, swords and bows and arrows, for our new games - Fighting Jerries! We made tin hats out of colanders and carved wooden guns from food crates. No kid worth his salt did not earn a sharp penknife. One big kick we got. was when we were issued gas masks. At school, we had to practise putting them on in case a gas bomb was dropped. Instead of pulling the straps tight as told, we used to leave themslightly loose and blow hard through our mouths. This caused the rubber around your face and neck to vibrate and sounded to us kids like someone was breaking wind. We thought this was hilarious and competed for longest and loudest!

Most houses had railings and as we walked down the street we used to run a stick across the railings to make a noise. This ceased when all iron was taken away to make munitions or ships. Suddenly, there was no fruit in the stores. Meat and fish became scarce and toffee, chocolate, ice cream and cigarettes were a memory. This didn't sit well with us kids, as we were used to our Fry's bars, with the five faces on the wrapper and going to the cigarette machines for Five Woodbines and Five matches for 6d for your Dad. The Chip Shops suffered due to the shortage of fish,

but being the entrepreneurs they were, came up with Rice Cakes - two slices of potato with rice in between, then dipped in batter and deep fried. Then came *The Black Market*, mostly in the bigger cities. There were some *Carryings On* in Ramsbottom, but most people bartered and swapped amongst themselves for things they needed. Remember those cigarettes called 'Pasha?' What a stink they made! No one would swap anything for them.

Everyone went to *the Pictures* at least once a week, where British Movietone News or Pathe Pictorial kept us abreast of the war happenings along with the newspapers. Saturday night was a ritual. We ALWAYS went to *The Royal* picture house, secondshowing. Several families had seats permanently reserved. We had E12, 13, 14 and 15. When my mother owned the hairdressing shop, she had a phone. The lady in the ticket booth at *The Royal* used to phone to make sure that we wanted our seats for the show.

I remember going into NICKSON's Bakery and watch them making bread, muffins and cakes. Nothing tasted quite as good as a muffin straight from the oven. The Salvation [Army? Editor] Band played on Friday nights on NICKSON's comer. Any kind of band seemed to fascinate me. If my mother was looking for me and she heard a band playing, she knew I would be there on the front row, missing nothing. Prior to the outbreak of war, my family used to go for a ride in the car on Sundays, after church. We would go visiting relatives or just go to Blackpool or Southport. With the onset of wartime, the car was sold, because of petrol rationing and father's loss of sight. Then all of us as a family would go for Sunday walks in summertime, and we thought nothing of walking up The Rake, through Holcombe Village, up to Peel Tower, down into Holcombe Brook and then back to Ramsbottom. The other walk was up Peel Brow, through Shuttleworth into Edenfield and back to Rammy through Stubbins.

If anyone would care to contact me, my address is:-

Alan Slater, Springfield, Massachusettts, USA

MOTOR CYCLING IN RAMSBOTTOM 1950-66

I have had a love of motorcycles from the first time that I set eyes on one and from then on that's all I wanted to own. But not having any cash and being a lowly- paid apprentice at Edward KEMPSTER & Sons of George Street, Bury (next door to Robert HALL & Son) the prospects of owning one seemed decidedly poor. My mother did not like bikes, so help from that direction was out of the question. I was told '*If you can save up for one you can get one'* As I was only earning £3. ls.6d. per week things did not seem hopeful.

However at about this time I had a stroke of luck and won £17 10 0 on the Bury Football Supporters' Club Draw at work; a heck of a lot of money to a poverty-stricken apprentice. So now the search for a suitable bike was on. Eventually I had

heard of an old bike near the Hospital at Jericho which I bought for the sum of £10 and I sold the sidecar chassis off it for £2.10s to a friend in Eliza Street. It was a 1948 *500cc AJS.* EN 9481; I still remember the number. Eventually the wreck was refurbished with help from my father and was used for travel to work and around the district.

There was quite a sporting community in Ramsbottom in the 1950s and quite a few of the local lads were into racing, trials and scrambles. Scrambles had been held on Holcombe Hill but due to the difficulty of getting injured riders down and general inaccessibility, the *"Lancashire Grand National'* and the *'War of the Roses"* scrambles were moved to Cuerden Park near Preston, but the events weren't the same. The hill was one of the more difficult tracks in England at that time and Cuerden Park was more like a grass track.

Motor cycling was popular in the Ramsbottom district then and motor cycles with sidecars were quite common. Not many people had cars and the traffic was not so heavy. Many travelled to work by bike but it was rough in the winter months. We were living at 81, Victoria Street in 1963 and if getting up Rostrons Road on my *500 Ariel* (that I was using then) on packed ice was quite an epic, coming down was a never to be forgotten experience.

It's now 45 years since 1 worked under a sheet stretched over the yard wall, with candles in jam jars illuminating the *500cc AJS* as I worked on it with the snow falling; that was enthusiasm. The love of the old bikes is still there. I still restore old bikes and have a small vintage collection.. I wonder how many of the riders I rode with 45 years ago are still riding. Not many I think; I still remember my rides around Ramsbottom with fond memories. I now ride in better weather and the problems now are not freezing cold but heat. It gets a bit hot sometimes and 60 year-old engines prefer the cold.

Some of the riders and their bikes that I remember in Ramsbottom in the period 1950-63

Frank CHAPMAN, railway fireman of Chatterton Lane – *AJS 650cc twin*

Bobby HENDERSON of Stubbins - *Matchless 650 twin*

John DAVENPORT of Stubbins - *BSA 250cc*

Dennis BRIDGE, hairdresser. Pin Meadow, Stubbins - *Triumph 350cc single TTRep*

Stanley HALL of North Lodge, Strongstry - *Excelsior Talisman twin 250cc*

Malcolm GREEN, Well Street, Chatterton - *Royal Enfield 500 Bullet*

Mr DEMLIN, Edenfield, insurance collector - *I25cc Two Stroke (Enfield*7)

Colin ANDERTON, 17 North Street. Strongstry - *5OOccAJS/197 James/Ariel 500*

Frank HURST. Ramsbottom - *DOT 250cc Ariel Colt 198cc*

Brian ASHWORTH, Strongstry - *A MC 250cc*

Peter WALSH, 1 Farm Cottages, Stubbins Vale Road - *125cc JAP/ Cyclemaster 32cc*[1]
Harry WALSH, Stubbins Lane - *Velocette 500cc*
Kenneth BAILER (worked in Stubbins Co-op) - *Autocycle* make not known
Graham BROOKS, Stubbins - *BSA 350cc B32*
Arnold RACE, Edenfield Council Estate - *Triumph 350cc T3 Twin*
Laurance McAVOY, Ramsbottom - *BSA 650cc Road Rocket*
Mr MAGERISON, shoe repairer, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom (lived at 82 Albert Street) - *Ariel SQ4 1000cc & Sidecar*
George GLOVER, Ramsbottom - *Ex w/d 350cc Royal Enfield*
Barry KIPS, Dundee Lane area - *BSA 125cc Bantam/197 Francis Barnet*
Gordon ISHERWOOD, Dundee Lane - *BSA 250cc*
Peter CHADWICK, Tanners, Ramsbottom - *BSA 125cc Bantam D1* Raymond
CHADWICK, Eliza Street - *Sunbeam S8/Vincent Rapide 1000cc*Alf
WHITWORTH, Albert Street - *BSA 500cc M20 & Sidecar*
Donald WRIGHT, Strongstry - *BSA 350cc Gold Star Comp*
Burt JEFFERIES, Strongstry - *Ex w/d Matchless 350cc*

Local riders who competed in Trials/Scrambles/Road racing

Garry BRITAIN, Tum - AJS 350cc Model 16MCS Comp Joe
ROSCO, Ramsbottom - BSA 500cc Gold Star DBD34Ken
EMET, Eliza Street - 197cc James (Special)
Harold ISHERWOOD, Peel Brow Estate - *Ariel Comp*
Jack ISHERWOOD, Peel Brow Estate - *Ex Surtees NSU250 Racing*
Brian INGHAM, Ramsbottom - *BSA/Triumph 500cc Special*
Bill BARAUGH, Ramsbottom? - *DOT 107cc (works rider)*
Harold LINGARD, Peel Brow (plumbers shop) - make not known but small - *Villiers T/Stroke*

There were probably a lot more but after 45 years that's all I can remember. All the best. PS I hope it's of some interest and will prompt others to record perhaps an earlierperiod.

1 *Cyclemaster* – basically, a single cylinder, two-stroke engine-powered push bike!

Colin Anderton, South Africa

WITH REFERENCE TO PORRITTS MILL

We heard of the death of Edwin in 2002. Eddie was very interested in the history of Hawkshaw Lane and the Methodist Church there. We send our condolences to his family and thank them for their kind permission to use this article. Editor

In response to your notice in the *Bury Times*, ref 'PORRITT's MILL', I am myself ex-PORRITT's. I lived at 20, North Street, Strongstry, and attended Stubbins Council School until the Summer of 1929, when, after the holiday, we

had to go to Peel Brow Central School which opened in September. I enjoyed everything at that school, including football instruction on Saturday morning.

My birthday was the 9th November; and when I became 14 years I had to leave this lovely school at Christmas end of term. After Christmas I went to PORRITTs to see Mr James HOYLE, the Manager, and he said I could start on Monday, which was 30th December and at the end of that day, the foreman, Mr Jack CROMPTON, said would I come at 6am in the morning, so there was I at 6am on New Year's Eve working, reaching in! Tom SWINDLEHURST moved on when I started, then I had a good relationship with George BONE before he moved on to weaving, being replaced by George DUCKWORTH.

When I had been there a few months, Mr Frank WHITTAKER, an elderly weaver, told me to come to him in my spare time and he taught me to weave, unofficially. After two years reaching in, I was moved to drawing in, then two years later I was sent to learn weaving with Herbert DENNIS. In the war years PORRITT's paid 10 shillings weekly to single dependants. I left PORRITT's in November 1947 to become apprentice overlooker at SHEPHERDS Ltd, Ramsbottom.

At this juncture I would like to say my Grandfather Edwin *'Ned'* WAKELIN also worked at PORRITT's and indeed gained a 50 years' service certificate. He was a stockwright and joiner and supervisor and is reputed to have made and fixed the large window facing the road, of the cottonfelt weaving shed. Edwin WAKELIN's father (Joseph WAKELIN) had responded to an advert in the 1870s in the national newspapers for people to come and work at PORRITT's. They would be provided with a job, a house to rent and their travel expenses paid. So Joseph WAKELIN *upped sticks* as they say and brought his wife and family from Croughton in Northamptonshire to Stubbins. In the 1881 Census he was living at Stubbins Vale, occupation carter. All these people, including my grandfather, Edwin WAKELIN and my great-grandfather, Joseph WAKELIN are buried in Stubbins United Reformed graveyard.

In addition to this, William and Martha YATES came from Bamford, near Rochdale, to live at Stubbins. William and Martha lived at 25, North Street, Strongstry, and Edwin WAKELIN married their daughter, Rachel. Edwin WAKELIN's brother James WAKELIN also worked at Stubbins Vale, then went to South Africa in the 1890s. Looking up North Street, Strongstry today (the odd numbers are then on the right) I realised that there were 14 families, the same number that in previous census returns had been called *Buckden Terrace.* The even numbers on the left were built in the 1870s, all back-to-back houses, and those were offered to immigrant workers. Indeed, I think according to the 1881 Census there were five or six families called NUTTER on the even number side, these people came from the Gisburn area. So I think *Buckden Terrace* became *North Street.*

Edwin Longworth (age 85)

MEMORIES OF 'THE FLAN'

'The Flan' (as it was known locally) was the Flannelette Shop, Hope Mill or BDA (Bradford Dyers Association). The Mill was situated on the Holcombe Brook side of Nuttall Lane, and new houses including Lansdowne Roadwere built on the site in 2002. Editor.

I started working in the BDA office in February 1946 and stayed there for 13 years as a comptometer operator. Working in the office then were a few older men but most of the staff were young women. As the men came back from the forces they replaced the women and in the end there were twice as many males as females. We worked from 8.30 - 12.30 and 1.30 - 5.30 from Monday to Friday. On Saturday we worked from 8.30-12 noon.

When I first went there we each had a light over our desk, hanging from the ceiling. Then all the offices were fitted with fluorescent lights - most of the fitting done while we were trying to work. This was a great improvement. If any figures were wanted urgently at the head office at Bradford, we had to work overtime. If someone was off ill or on holiday and the work was piling up, we had to work overtime to get straight. Late one afternoon the Bradford office rang to say that they wanted a report the next day. Two of the men in the costing department stayed on to do this and I had to go back in at 8.30pm and I worked until midnight with them. Because we were on the staff pay-roll we didn't get paid for doing overtime. But we did get a tea allowance of one shilling and sixpence. We usually went out to the chippy and brought back fish and chips which we ate at our desks.

About 1950 or 1951 the BDA had a celebration [could be 1951, Festival of Britain Editor] a special train was hired and we waited at Ramsbottom Station for the gates to close at the level crossing and to see the train come steaming in. When we arrived at Blackpool Central Station we went our separate ways and we had to meet again at 11.30pm. We all had a good time, it was a nice sunny day and some of us had booked to go to the Tower Circus in the evening.

The Ramsbottom Wakes Week changed from August to July. This was the week when all the mills, factories and shops closed. Because this was stock taking time, someone had to work on the comps *(comptometers)* and I always worked this week. Later when everyone had two weeks' holiday I worked the fortnight with just a skeleton staff in the office.

A lot of the staff played badminton for the different Churches in the area. The week the badminton tournament was on at St Andrew's School, we were all there every night. Each morning we couldn't start work until we had had a discussion about the previous evening's play. We talked about who played well, who was still left in the tournament and who we thought would win at the end of the week.

We had a few staff trips in my early years there. We left by coach one Saturday-morning and had a day out at Llandudno. Another time we had an evening trip to

a theatre in Bolton. We also went to Manchester one Saturday afternoon and had a look round a newspaper office. Another Saturday we went to Clifton Junction to be taken round a tile manufacturers!

I have a lot of happy memories of my time at the BDA. We were a very friendly crowd and had a lot of laughs. That is where I met my husband and we have been married for 44 years.

Barbara L Howard [née Freeman]

ROBERT D WITTENBURY: RAMSBOTTOM'S UNSUNG ARCHITECT

Readers may remember the reference in issue No 22 (Autumn 2001) to BIRD & WITTENBURY of Manchester as architects of the 1876 extension to the Cooperative Stores. It seems highly likely that the *Robert D WHITTENBURY* recorded at *Square Lodge* in WORRALL's 1871 Directory was one of these partners. Readers of *Around Ramsbottom* (1995) will be aware that the GARNETT family were the architects of many of our town's most prominent buildings, but it would appear that WITTENBURY ran them a close second. I am grateful to Bill BENNION, archivist of St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on Bolton Street, for pointing out that WITTENBURY was also architect for the church's construction in the late 1870s.

It can hardly be a coincidence that this Manchester-based architect lived so close to these two buildings, both situated on the south stretch of Bolton Street, the ribbon of the town largely built during the 1860s, '70s and '80s. The current presbytery (the priest's residence), built in 1862, was the first Roman Catholic place of worship. The chapel was on the first floor, the priest living on the ground floor (Bolton Street level). The school was in the basement, and was accessible from Lodge Street which has always been a storey lower, on account of the gradient engineered into Bolton Street. Bill BENNION points out that the presbytery's steeply pitched roof is an indication of the first floor being given as airy a character as possible, in keeping with its use as a place of worship.

The present school was opened in 1878/9, and the current church in 1880. WITTENBURY planned a rather grander building, despite the physical limitations of the site. A chancel and a tower were to occupy the east and south sides of the church respectively. Perhaps the money ran out, for neither was ever built, the space for the tower now famously occupied by the priest's garage!

Bill incidentally also points out that Miss Gaby PORTER, writer of the 1978 letter quoted in the article in the last magazine, was curator at Bury Museum, and that the photographs referred to will now be in Bury Archives or Museum.

Andrew Todd

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

1 **Bury Archive Service - Edwin Street (off Crompton Street) Bury BL9 0AS; tel: 0161 797 5897** - preserves the historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. There are over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans and photographs, almost all of which are available for consultation in the public reading room. Holdings include the records of local authorities (eg Ramsbottom Local Board, and UDC, including many building plans) schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, sports clubs, charities, political parties and other social organisations. The Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

The service is in Edwin Street (off Crompton Street, next to Plumb's Hi-Fi shop), and entrance is via the yard at the far end of the street on the right-hand side. The reading room is open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm every Tuesday, and at the same times on other weekdays Monday to Friday, but please make an appointment in advance by ringing archivist Kevin Mulley before any visit. Group visits (minimum six persons) on evenings and weekends are available if booked in advance.

2 **Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services Department) 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 Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of BMBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

The library is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm each weekday (open until 7.30pm Wednesdays), and from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturdays.

3 **Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury; tel: 01706 822484** - has much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev RR Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets, as well as Hume Elliot's history.

4 **Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Vicky Barlow, Bob's Ley, 6, Mowbreck Lane, Wesham, Preston, Lancs PR4 3HA; tel: 01772 687234** - membership is only £9-00 per year, and this entitles you to four magazine issues, an opportunity to publicise your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall.

Visit us at Ramsbottom Heritage Centre

Exhibition for 2003 -Round and about Ramsbottom



Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AE (opposite the Library)
NOTE OUR WEB SITE:-
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* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Sales counter with good selection of Local History books, details of town and country walks, videos and tourism leaflets, gifts, postcards and local information . . or just a chat about Old Ramsbottom!

You may also want to offer to have your memories of the area recorded.

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THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME

2003

15th October	Mr C Mintz – *Tales from the Bench*
19th November	Members night – Crow Lane Project Team
10th December	Mr A Gill - *Lantern Magic*, an illustrated talk

2004

21st January	Mrs M Clarke – *The true history of chocolate*
18th February	Mr C Formby *Conservation and restoration of bookbindings*, an illustrated talk
17th March	Photographic Competition Judge - Mr L Norris - *A peep behind the scenes*
21st April	Mrs M M Gilbertson – *Votes for women*, an illustrated talk
19th May	Annual General Meeting and Members Night

Please note that all indoor meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30 for 7.45pm

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FRONT COVER - 18, Bolton Street, home of Peter Murray McDOUALL, according to the 1842 tithe map and schedule. Drawn By John B TAYLOR of Stacksteads

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

At the 2004 AGM I will step down as your Chairman after serving the Society since its foundation in 1987, first as Secretary and then as Chairman. It has been a big part of my life and I have gained much pleasure and satisfaction since the day in 1987 when as part of a small band of Local History enthusiasts we were encouraged to form a Group to record the past and present history of the area for posterity.

The time has now come for a successor to take over the position of Chairman and I hope you will give this due consideration and put forward your nomination, suitably seconded, on the nomination forms which will be available at the monthly meetings at the Civic Hall, or from the Secretary c/o the Heritage Centre, as from the 1st January2004.

Dorothy Moss, Chairman

MRS EVELYN WAITE, HONORARY LIFE MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

Tuesday 10th June 2003 was a memorable date for the Society and for Mrs Evelyn WAITE when she was invited to the Ramsbottom Heritage Centre (with her daughter Ann) to receive Honorary Life membership of the Society in recognition of her dedicated work for the people of Ramsbottom and Edenfield.

Our President, Andrew TODD presented a scroll (hand scribed by John B TAYLOR, on handmade paper from our twin town Angouleme) and in a short speech of welcome he touched on several aspects of Mrs WAITE's life of service to others. She was born in Middlesex, left home to become a student nurse and quickly became one of the youngest Nursing Sisters. She was in London during the heaviest of the bombing in the War and worked with the ambulance crews helping soldiers rescued from Dunkirk. She was

posted to Brighton where she met a soldier, Harold WAITE, and they were married by Special Licence - the only way he could get her to come to his home in Lancashire. They came to Edenfield in 1946, the cottage was a great shock to her, no electricity, no flush toilet and it flooded in heavy rain.

Drawing from her mother's example she spoke out for those in need and campaigned for a baby clinic in Edenfield. Because of the acute shortage of nurses she was persuaded to return to nursing and worked at Bury General Hospital, Aitkin Sanatorium (now *Darul Uloom College*) and Robinson Kay Hospital (now *Highbank*). She was well known and loved as the District Nurse and persuaded the local Council to establish care for the elderly and young people, was involved with the W R V S and was instrumental in getting the Meals on Wheels service operating in Ramsbottom, She was also a Guide Captain, helped to found Shuttleworth Women's Institute, helped set up the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital League of Friends and was the first female Youth Leader, working with Rhodes BOYSON.

In 1973 Mrs WAITE was elected as one of the Councillors representing Ramsbottom, became Chairman of Leisure Services Committee, chaired the Personnel Committee, was on the Libraries Board and served as Mayor of Bury during the Municipal Year 1986-1987. Throughout her Council career, Mrs WAITE was known as a formidable opponent who always knew her subject and could never be fobbed off. She was probably one of the most respected Councillors in the borough, irrespective of political colour. Everything she has done has been of the best and she has served her community well in every way.

In response Mrs WAITE modestly insisted that all the improvements she had been able to make for the local community had been achieved with the help of many other people; some, alas, no longer with us and some now very elderly. Mrs WAITE was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Society's assistant secretary, Joan MURPHY and with a selection of the Society's publications by Tony MURPHY. Mrs WAITE and her daughter and friends made a short tour of the Heritage Centre exhibition. So ended a very happy occasion honouring a most remarkable, much loved and respected lady who has given much of her life to the betterment of her fellow men and women.

Dorothy Moss, Chairman

OBITUARIES

Sadly, since issue 24 of the News Magazine three of our members have passed away.

Mrs June Brierley died in June 2003. Although fairly new to the Society she enjoyed the monthly meetings and also helped in the Heritage Centre. She is sadly missed by the many friends she made in the Society.

Mr Eric Quinn died in July 2003. Eric came to Ramsbottom as an evacuee during World War II and grew to love the town. When the time came for him to return home at the age of 14 he was devastated. At the earliest opportunity he returned and has lived here ever since. Eric was one of our early members and was a great help when the

Heritage Centre mounted an exhibition about World War II. He wrote forthe Magazine and also made a tape recording describing his experiences as an evacuee providing us with invaluable first-hand information concerning life as a child in wartime Ramsbottom.

Mrs Hilda French died in August 2003. Hilda was one of our earliest members and helped the Society in many ways. She contributed to our first News Magazine and was a great source of information on life in Nuttall Village where she spent her childhood. Until ill health prevented her, she wasalso a regular helper at the Heritage Centre where her kindness and good nature and wealth of local knowledge will be remembered by helpers and visitors alike.

We send our sincere condolences to all their families.

Barbara Park

PETER MURRAY McDOUALL, CHARLES DICKENS AND THE GRANT MYTH

In issue No 23 of this magazine, I concluded an article on George GOODRICK and the *Grant Arms* with a hint that the well-known association of Charles DICKENS' Cheeryble Brothers with the GRANTs, William (1769-1842) and Daniel (1783-1855), may have been contrived to boost the reputation of Ramsbottom's most famous family. I have always been surprised at the extent to which this entrepreneurial family has, even down to recent times, commanded so muchrespect in the neighbourhood. Contemporary evidence from their greatest critic, Peter Murray McDOUALL, strongly suggests that they were unscrupulous employers who exploited their workers to an extent that was probably not unusualin the first half of the 19th Century, but which seems completely at odds with their reputation of benevolence.

McDOUALL had used his access as a medical practitioner amongst the GRANTs' workforce in Ramsbottom and Nuttall to assemble a damning case against them. In 1838 he haddelivered a paper to the Royal Statistical Society based on a survey of 309 cottages, alleging that they were operating a tied cottage system in Nuttall, where overcrowding was severe[1]; and in 1842, he personally alleged in evidence to a parliamentary select committee that the GRANT Brothers were illegally practising a sophisticated version of the truck system amongst their workforce. If these accusations were indicative of local and regional opinion of the GRANTs, then they and their industrialist friends must in the winter of 1838/9 have had a strong motive for cultivating the publishing phenomenon of the decade, one Charles John Huffam DICKENS, a novelist known to model from real life the distinctive characters that populated his prodigious and highly influential literary output.

Local respect for the GRANTs' extraordinary humanitarianism seems to have emanated from their subsequent portrayal by DICKENS as the wildly generous

Cheeryble Brothers, a reputation resurrected and boosted 45 years later in a remarkably bold attempt to convince local opinion that one of their relatives should be elected to the House of Commons.

The GRANTs had been textile highfliers, successful players in the growth industry of the day, and must have enjoyed a measure of reputation amongst the respectable commercial classes in and around Manchester, the textile capital. Despite his strongbias in favour of the family, Thomas H HAYHURST, writing nearly half a century later, can be relied upon for the basic facts of their respectability. The Brothers supported the great free trade issue of the day. opposition to the Corn Laws; they supported dispensaries, hospitals and mechanics' institutes; and William himself subscribed to, and famously laid the foundation stone of Thomas HENSHAW's Blind Asylum in Manchester in 1836, not least because he personally had lost an eye in childhood.[2] All this was noblesse oblige for anyone aspiring to social advance - after all. the family had begun life in the Lancashire textile industry as unskilled labourers in calico printing and dyeing only half a century before.[3] Given these lowly origins, the GRANTs would have welcomed good publicity. It is in this context, as well as the criticisms of McDOUALL, that we must look at their reputation for exceptional altruism, which dates from the serialised publication of DICKENS' *Nicholas Nickleby,* starting in 1838.[4]

In that year, Charles DICKENS, just 27, at the threshold of his literary career, and himself of modest origins, was touring the country in search of material and inspiration for future instalments of *Nicholas Nickleby*, particularly those 'topical allusions' which were making his second serialised novel, *Oliver Twist*, such a success. We should remember that the first episodes of these serials appeared long before the content of the final portions was known to DICKENS, let alone his readership. It may have been this that made DICKENS so fascinating a guest, and one whose visits spawned so much written commentary. One has a sense that those who met him felt in the presence not simply of a novelist but of the novel-writing process itself, a dynamic. One curious result could have been that people tried to turn themselves into Dickensian characters, imagining psychotically that it was they by whom the author had been inspired!

DICKENS' latest biographer, Peter ACKROYD, suggests he wished to seem 'accurate' and 'truthful' when dealing with the polemics of the day. Having collected key data at Bowes on the contemporary evil of the 'Yorkshire Schools', DICKENS sought to 'work up' other *Nickleby* scenes, by visiting northern cotton mills, topical because of the agitation of the Ten Hours Movement. He was in Manchester for a total of eight days in the space of two visits in November 1838 and January 1839.[5] It seems that in the process of these short stays he hit upon the idea of creating out of the GRANT Brothers an idealised role model for other industrialists. It was important for his purposes that the 'Cheerybles' existed in the real world, prospered and their 'liberal charity, their singleness of heart, their noble nature, and their unbounded benevolence' led them daily to perform 'some munificent and generous deed in that town of which they are the pride and honour.'[6]

In short, their example could be sold to the economically powerful of the day. DICKENS, the 'romantic radical', dealt in such archetypes, and perhaps it was this wish to 'work up' idealised heroes as counterpoises to the villains of his plots that made him, in the course of his Manchester visits, more interested in eccentric characters for his novel than in all too familiarly adverse social conditions. These, in the depths of the economic depression of 1837-42, must have been grim indeed. DICKENS wanted to peddle hope, not despair.

According to one contemporary source, which ACKROYD suspects may be apocryphal, DICKENS was much 'tickled' by the GRANT Brothers. During breakfast with one, DICKENS:-

> ***... did not utter one word, but soon after retired to a corner of theroom, pondered for a few moments, turned his head to the wall, put his hands before his face, and burst out into an uncontrollable fit of laughter.***[7]

I suspect that the textile industrialists in Manchester must have been on their best behaviour with their literary guest. His populist writings had a habit of stirring up opinion in London, and they had no wish to be portrayed as an evil, against which restrictive legislation alone was the solution. No doubt DICKENS welcomed the attention and colluded happily. This was a wealthy, and influential interest, and the young author enjoyed social ascent.

Even if we do concede that the GRANTS were the prototypes for the Cheeryble Brothers, we should beware of assuming that DICKENS was in any sense faithful to his originals in *Nicholas Nickleby.* DICKENS famously claimed in his preface that 'the Brothers Cheeryble live'; predictably, DICKENS received hundreds of begging letters addressed to the Cheerybles.[8] Presumably, if he believed his own assessment of the GRANTs, he would have passed them on.

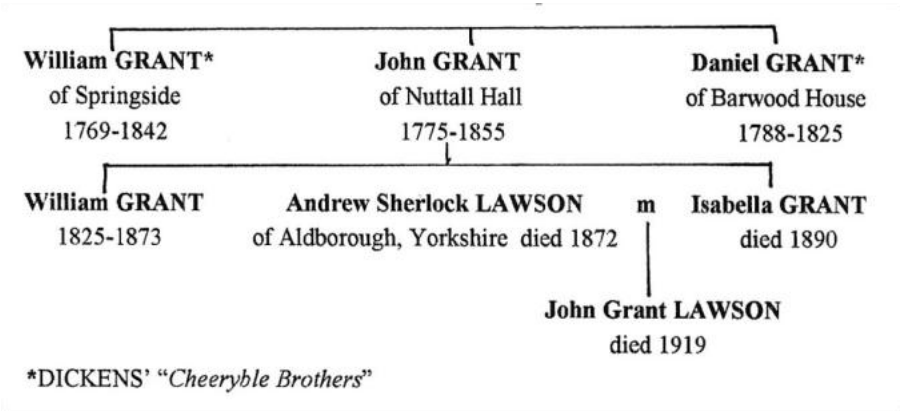
If we are to believe Thomas H HAYHURST, author in 1884 of that most adulatory account of the GRANT family, *An Appreciative Estimate of the Grant Brothers, of Ramsbottom (The Brothers Cheeryble),* every such request for money or help would have received a prompt and generous response. But HAYHURST's account, normally bubbling in praise of the GRANTs, is silent on how, if at all, these worthies responded to these entreaties. HAYHURST was a Victorian spin-doctor, and made even DICKENS' effusions in the Cheerybles' praise appear grudging. He had one of politics' most difficult tasks - to sell to surly, parochial voters a non-resident candidate.

In 1884, John Grant LAWSON, grand-nephew of the Cheeryble Brothers, second son of their niece Isabella, and heir apparent to the GRANT property in Ramsbottom, was chosen as prospective Conservative MP for the Bury constituency. In an age when politics and religion went together, the Liberal interest in the constituency could make hay from the family's recent bad press. LAWSON's uncle, William GRANT, had abandoned the Presbyterianism of his Cheeryble uncles to embrace high Anglicanism. Had the conversion involved only GRANT and his conscience, Liberal tolerance might have excused it. But GRANT acted on his beliefs and the consequent stormy events of 1869, best told by Hume ELLIOT[9] must have been a defining moment in the religious

history of the town. In that year, the Anglican convert ejected the Presbyterian congregation from St Andrew's, the imposing 'Scottish church' built by his uncle William GRANT,the senior Cheeryble, and handed it over to the established church. He refused to pass onto the dissenters an endowment of several thousand pounds, and thereby caused the displaced worshippers to dig deep in order to build a costly replacement a few hundred yards down the street. By these actions he must surely have antagonised the whole of the town's non-conformist/Liberal camp.

Ramsbottom is a politically divided town, as relatively high modern election turnout and turnover figures in ward councillors indicate. Nineteenth Century Ramsbottom was even more polarised, as its great Liberal and Conservative club buildings and myriad churches testify. Bury constituency was no easier - HAYHURST had the unenviable challenge of endearing to a hostile Lancastrian electorate a Yorkshire-born absentee landlord with such family connections as these! Moreover, politics in Bury was new and tough - the town had only been granted parliamentary representation in 1832; and following the Second Reform Act of 1867, most working men in towns andcities had the vote. HAYHURST had to win over an emerging class of elector to whom his party had no natural appeal. Nationally, Tory leader and ideologist Benjamin DISRAELI had anticipated this problem, and responded with 'One Nation Conservatism', the party's only hope against William GLADSTONE'S Liberal embrace of working class electoral enfranchisement and social reform. DICKENS' Cheeryble Brothers constituted a Tory ideal of how the ruling classes should exercisethe charitable responsibilities that wealth and good fortune carried with them.

Despite the size of his challenge in 1884, HAYHURST rose to it with gusto, and his *Appreciative Estimate* is truly a propaganda piece of stunning persuasiveness.[10]



Simplified Family Tree of the GRANTs mentioned in the Text

One can picture him seeking out elderly GRANT tenants and clients who could be persuaded, over a pot in the *Grant Arms* tap room, to gaze into a remote, rose-tinted past and work up, as well as DICKENS might 45 years before, memories of the heroesof their political persuasion. For in a town of Ramsbottom's small size, and given thatvoting was a public activity until 1872, partisanship would be complete, and workerswould have to share the political and religious allegiances of their masters. With such material, and given his own powers of lily-gilding, HAYHURST could apotheosise the GRANT Brothers with apparently first hand evidence of their character, and thus associate the Conservative candidate with a family of philanthropists. But even a tentative knowledge of 19th Century class relations throws the credibility of HAYHURST's account into question. One hardly needs to be a Marxist to detect more than a hint of fairy tale!

Mr William, HAYHURST wrote of the Cheeryble Brothers, would be driven from his house at *Springside,* (where the poor were 'perpetually feasted') to the familywarehouse at Mosley Street, Manchester, and daily distribute money along two linesof poor people who formed an avenue through which his carriage passed:-

> ***On their way to and from town these Brothers would scatter copper and silver among the poor workpeople, nor stay orreceive the thanks of overfull hearts . . . The grandfather of the present writer often spoke of how the GRANT Brothers halted at the bottom of Walmersley-road to meet Bury friends, stepped from their handsome equipage to talk and fraternise with people, and quietly slip shining metal in their palms while taking the parting handshake.***

One wonders why anyone worked if they knew the Brothers were around. We shouldbear in mind that these events took place in the early days of the 19th Century, when any reading of contemporary poor law overseers' accounts demonstrates how wretched was the lot of the old, sick and unemployed. It is odd, then, that this district,so bounteously provided for by such altruists, did not share the fate of Bedford. Here, a wealthy 18th Century humanist had left substantial funds for the benefit of the poor,with the effect that deserving and undeserving paupers flocked to the town!

Of course, generous patronage of local good causes was an important component of the paternalistic model of textile mastership which the GRANTs did pursue. Patronage of churches and local charities was *de rigeur.* and no doubt there were many Ramsbottom people who had done well out of the GRANTs. But HAYHURST's dedication of *An Appreciative Estimate* to Isabella LAWSON, the heiress to the GRANT estates, could have been uttered by DICKENS' own Uriah Heap. It was, it claimed, a 'humble effort to estimate the high character of her ever-generous uncles and father.' And John GRANT, her father, was central to HAYHURST's purpose, for he needed to be associated solidly with the Cheerybles' reputed generosity. He was the grandfather of 1884 Tory candidate John Grant LAWSON. Again, there was no shortage of anecdotes:-

> ***The resident poor old people of Ramsbottom were recipients of largess every day. The casual poor were daily assisted from a cottagestored with flour, meal, bread, cheese, and bacon near the entrance tothe GRANTs' works. In the winter months load after load of coals would be seen tipped at the Market Place. The***

> ***poor folks fetched them away in baskets without let or hindrance without the asking, well knowing the purpose for they were sent, nor doubting a moment from which heart the generous impulse sprang. Blankets, warm counterpanes, articles of clothing, found their way frequently and mysteriously to the very places where they chanced to be most needed; and invalids were frequently surprised by the appearance of comestibles and wines rarely seen on deal tables standing on sanded stone floors.***

HAYHURST claimed to have been told by one John ROE, who had died in August 1884, aged 84, how during a strike at the ASHTONs' mill he, ROE, had, on Mr John's behalf, distributed 'thousands of pounds' to the poor in the district, known to be starving on account of the lack of work. And 'mourned by the entire population of the district', this last member of the Cheeryble generation, was at his death in 1855:-

> ***. . . carried to the grave on the shoulders of eight of his principal workpeople, several of whom, it is pleasing to record, still live [1884]. They are all but one octogenarians, and they all live in Ramsbottom to speak good of the GRANTS. Their names are George GOODRICK, landlord of the Grant Arms, who when a young man was butler at Nuttall Hall, aged 81; George CUSSONS, formerly foreman blacksmith, of Bolton-street, now retired, aged over 80; Thomas SCHOFIELD, retired, Bolton-st, aged 82; James KAY, Park, aged 81; and Henry SCHOFIELD, who lives near the Grants' Arms, hale and hearty at 74.***

Thus HAYHURST sought to extend to Isabella's father, John GRANT, the Dickensian 'Cheeryble' makeover of his more famous brothers. And in a short postscript, the author recommended their carpet-bagger descendant to the voters of Bury, without saying anything remotely of any political substance. Earlier that year, Grant LAWSON's delivery was 'philosophical, calm, reasoning, well thought-out, and with a conspicuous absence of invective'. Moreover, HAYHURST continued:

> ***Mr LAWSON is well acquainted with current politics, home, foreign, and colonial, [and] ... the policy he advocates is both broad and comprehensive...***[11]

Politicians have long been good at saying nothing mellifluously! Unfortunately, HAYHURST had misjudged the mood of the electorate of Bury. They no longer subscribed to the Edmund BURKE model of patrician politics, by which a deferential populace mandated their political fate to a man of superior talents in return for which this representative guaranteed no more than the exercise of good judgment on their behalf. These were the birth years of modern politics, when the concept of a binding manifesto as the basis of electoral support was evolving. Nor did LAWSON's attempt to trade on his ancestral connections with the constituency cut any ice. In keeping with his GRANT ancestral pretensions to Tory respectability, and his wish to seem a local boy, LAWSON utilised his mother's maiden name to create for himself the double-barrelled name of GRANT LAWSON.

In the 1885 General Election, Bury rejected the Conservative candidate, ignoring a national swing in the party's favour - they seemed no more impressed by the Cheeryble

mythology than McDOUALL hadbeen with the GRANT Brothers' version of millowner paternalism half a century before. LAWSON returned to his native county to secure the seat of Thirsk and Malton, and never occupied his grandfather's stately home of Nuttall Hall, despite HAYHURST's claim in 1884 that his master believed his future to be in Lancashire. The Ramsbottom estate bought by his great grandfather was administered by a steward . . . and its documentary archive is always known by a name, GRANT LAWSON, largely created in a forlorn attempt to ingratiate the electorate of a parliamentary seat nearly 120 years ago.

It would be interesting to speculate how HAYHURST's *Appreciative Estimate* went down in Ramsbottom. One can only imagine the feelings of William Hume ELLIOT, pastor since 1874 to the displaced St Andrew's Presbyterian congregation, the eventsof whose ejection had received cursory treatment in HAYHURST's book. It is likelythat Hume ELLIOT'S 1893 history, *Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers***,** was in part intended to correct some of the imbalance in HAYHURST's fawning workof nine years earlier. If the *Ramsbottom Observer's* reviewer of Hume ELLIOT'S book is to be believed, HAYHURST was a relative of the GRANTS.[12]

Finally, in our search for the truth behind inflated local reputations, we should consider the radical doctor, Peter Murray McDOUALL, arch-debunker of the GRANTs, and their truck activities at the *Grant Arms*. He is, in anyone's book, a romantic figure, marrying the daughter of his gaoler at Chester, a national leader of a movement that was ahead of its time - its six point Charter of parliamentary reform was gradually and largely achieved, but not until 1918. The late Trevor PARK wrote an excellent summary of extensive research into the life of this 'strange and extraordinary man,' describing his tragic death at sea, whilst *en route* with wife and children to Australia.[13]

But as with McDOUALL's enemies the GRANTs, mythology and reality are not so readily disentangled. McDOUALL was by 1842, virtually the national leader of the ChartistMovement, heading on horseback the two mile-long procession which delivered on 2nd May the movement's three million name National Petition to the House of Commons. But his critics have depicted him as a hothead whose demagoguery cost other people's their lives and freedom. At Hyde in 1839, he had urged a Chartist meeting to resist by armed force if soldiers were called out against them, an action which led to his imprisonment for one year. He had been procuring muskets and bayonets for stockpiling in Ashton-under-Lyne, if credence is to be placed on the deposition of a Birmingham gunmaker obtained by the Home Office's network of intelligence agents.[14] It may be that he was behind the trove of assorted weaponry discovered in cottagesin Bolton Street (no 72) and Ramsbottom Lane in the late 19th Century.[15]

Mark HOVELL, potentially one of Chartism's ablest historians up to his premature death in World War I, concluded of McDOUALL:-

> ***his veracity and good faith [were] more than disputable, and his constant change of policy ... as much due to self-interest as to instability. He was one of the least attractive as well as most violent of the Chartist champions.***[16]

His critics attacked his quackery, and 'the doctor' was a term of ironic abuse thrownat him. He may have been a plier of quack medicines. But this would hardly be the professional or social offence that it is today given that the medical profession was unregulated. Working people could expect no contact with surgeons with medical school training, and were as likely to seek the assistance of a bleeder with leeches asthat of a physician. McDOUALL never claimed the title 'doctor' at the 1842 parliamentary hearing.

But like the GRANTs, those closest to him were his greatest supporters. In Ashton-under-Lyne where he practised in the late 1840s, he was enough of a local hero for a mob to murder a policeman whom it mistakenly thought had given evidence against him; and in times of penury he was supported by Chartist public subscription in the town. Similarly, Nottingham Chartists helped his destitute widow set up a stationery business in the city.[17]

One intriguing variant on the 'Did DICKENS meet the GRANTs?' debate, which has received so much pointless attention, is infinitely more interesting. What were the links between the Chartists and those architects of 20th Century world communism, Karl MARX and Friedrich ENGELS? The latter, from Barmen in Germany, was in Manchester from 1842-4, on the biddingof his cotton master father.



Wanted Poster for PM McDouall, issued by the Chief Commissioner of the Manchester Police, Town Hall, Manchester, 3rd September 1842 (PRO 45/249C, ff 331-333)

It was from the Manchester Chartist leadership that he learned the more practical techniques of class struggle, as devised in the Plug Riots of 1842[18]; his famous book *The Condition of the Working Class in England,* written in the winter of 1844-5, covers much the same ground for which McDOUALL was a living primary source - Chartist proletarian militancy, trade unionism, truck, working conditions, and all primarily in the Manchester area. If Jimi HENDRIX's London home can sport a blue English Heritage plaque, surely no 18, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom should have one! This appears to have been his surgery from 1835-42 Judging from the 1842 tithe survey.

It takes a great imaginative leap, 160 years on, to imagine just how desperate circumstances were in Lancashire in the 'Hungry Forties'. By mid-1842, when McDOUALL was in London giving evidence to the Select Committee on Payment of Wages, there were chilling reports from the East Lancashire handloom weaving districts of gangs of beggars, 'poor hungry, haggard people, wishing for any change, even should it be death', of the unemployed sleeping on wood shavings because all household furniture had been long sold, and even death through starvation.[19]

This, thedeepest recession of the century, led to a high water mark of Chartist agitation. Whentheir 'moral force' strategy of the National Petition was rejected by Parliament in May, the 'physical force' option was adopted. In August 1842, the Chartists involved themselves in the outbreak of popular unrest known as the Plug-drawing Riots, initially in Lancashire, and over wage reductions. No doubt it was McDOUALL's suspected or actual involvement, added to the GRANTs' hostility, that led to a warrantbeing issued for his arrest in September, and he disappeared from Ramsbottom forever.[20]

I can well envisage a 'Did Friedrich ENGELS meet Peter Murray McDOUALL' controversy brewing already in the former taproom of the *Grant Arms.* Unfortunately, McDOUALL was in exile in France for much of those two years, and what could have been a good tourist draw, and as productive of print acreage as the DICKENS/ GRANTs question, falls at the first hurdle. But who knows, was Karl MARX ever inRamsbottom at the same time as McDOUALL? Now that *would* warrant a plaque!

Andrew Todd

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CROW LANE PROJECT

A wealth of unexpected and fascinating facts has been discovered as a result of the Crow Lane Project and information, maps, photographs and diagrams are already available to the public. John LEYLAND who manages our internet website (*www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk**) and Kate SLINGSBY, the project leader, haveworked very hard, and a link to an impressive amount of research is already on the site. It is well-structured into different topics and as more Crow Lane material is being added, there is already something for everyone. Also Elizabeth DUXBURY has compiled a *Crow Lane Project* file, copies of which are in the Heritage Centre and inthe Local and Family History area at Ramsbottom Library. In response to demand, Kate has produced a leaflet for local people researching their house's history. It contains advice from a number of local sources, especially Bury Archive, and is on sale at the Heritage Centre, price £1.00.

As well as the work of Ramsbottom Heritage Society members and residents of Crow Lane, there has been excellent support from local people, especially those who used to have relatives there. We still need to contact one or two people about the informationthey offered us. The help of the staff of Bury Archive. Art Gallery and Museum and Ramsbottom Library has also been important. A few responses have come from afar, such as the one from Colin ANDERTON in South Africa and two others via the Internet from the USA. We are also grateful to the staff of St Paul's School where weheld our May 10th event, when members of the Society and the general public were allinvited to view an exhibition of results of the research. Kate's street tours were very popular and copies of recordings that were made by the North West Sound Archive have been passed on to our Oral History Group. We were delighted with the high attendance and level of interest but it was the friendly '*reunion*' atmosphere which made this such an enjoyable afternoon.

Crow Lane houses about which research has provided most information up to now:

Numbers 2 and 4 They were built in 1863 as two terraced houses but evidence suggests that in 1932 part of number 4 belonged to number 2 and that at one time theywere joined by an upstairs internal door.

Number 27 One of the oldest houses, it is shown on the 1842 Tottington Lower End Tithe Map. It is now a detached stone house, symmetrical with the front door in the middle leading into a stone staircase with two doors adjacent to it. From maps, censuses, rates valuations and one of the reminiscences, it seems that number 27 has been two one-up-one-down houses in the past.

Number 33 We have a detailed description of the inside of this house in **1965** by granddaughters of Annie HAGAN who lived there. It still had no inside toilet or electricity and was lit by gas. The bath was kept in the kitchen and whilst in **1965** a gas stove was used, originally cooking was done in the front room on a cast iron range surmounted by a hood and mantlepiece almost 6 ft high.

Past Crow Lane families which have been studied include:

HEAP - number 11, from 1851.

WOLSTENHOLME - numbers **27 (29) 31 and 33** from 1861 until the early 1940s. Lots more details are on the website and in the *Crow Lane Project* file. There will alsobe more in future newsletters. Contributions from readers would be very welcome, including amendments! The following topics will also feature.

Shops

Several of the houses were once shops and these feature in many of the taped memories. There are also some very detailed descriptions.

Miscellaneous Topics

Tipplers or automatic slop-stone closets
Black lead and bungalow ranges

*** There is free access to the Internet if you book in at local libraries, and help is given. There is no problem getting to our website if you take the exact address with you.**

Janet Smith

CROW LANE REMINISCENCES

At this time, and for several years afterwards, many of the houses were still used as shops including grocers, bakers, greengrocers and even a high class milliner. There were also insurance brokers and other agencies and the Registrar of Births and Deaths.One house was run as a nursing home which, when not fully occupied by patients, would accommodate the performers appearing at local theatres. With St Paul's School and Church, the Drill Hall, the Chapel of Rest and mills and factories nearby, it seems that almost every need was catered for without leaving the Lane. Perhaps this may explain why some families opted to remain in the Lane instead of moving away as their needs changed over the years? They simply moved across the road or along the Lane to a larger or smaller house.

During World War II the land opposite the Drill Hall (now the front gardens of the houses) was occupied by a Bren Gun Carrier and an Emergency Water Supply tank. There was also a pole on which was mounted a piece of wood coated with a substancethat should change colour in the event of a poison gas attack - Ramsbottom's very ownearly warning system! Another wartime memory was of sweet rationing when the local children acquired a taste for cough lozenges which were not on ration. Collecting this

material was an interesting and enjoyable experience. Everyone we approached responded with good humour and patience. The task did sometimes have its lighter side when an apparently mundane question elicited a completely unexpected answer. For example when Doris HIBBERT was asked about the inner workings of a tippler toilet she was immediately reminded of the time the family cat fell down one and had to be rescued with a mop. Apparently after it was cleaned up the unfortunate animal appeared to be unharmed, but I imagine it steered well clear of that particular tippler for quite a while. Doris also gave us a serious answer to our question and we gained much useful information that day. But we did have to switch off the recorder from time to time to regain our composure and get back to the job in hand! That interview was also the one where there were three people present and only two microphones available so, ever resourceful, two of us shared a microphone by placing it in a bowl of fruit on the table - very James Bond!

Recording reminiscences by whatever means, written or oral, takes a lot of time and effort, but all our contributors agreed that it had also been an enjoyable experience - despite all the racking of brains and hunting for old photographs. It was good to see them all at the Open Day inspecting the exhibits and having good humoured debates about the *'old days'*. And all looking nowhere near the ages I know they are!

The Heritage Society and especially the Crow Lane Team are very grateful to Frank HALL, Doris H1BBERT, Jack HOLDEN, Alice O'DONNELL and Alan RICHARDSON and his sister Barbara, as well as those people who were recorded by the North West Sound Archive at the Open Day in St Paul's School. Eventually we plan to publish extracts from the reminiscences.

Barbara Park

TAPING TEAM ACTIVITIES

Since its inception, the Taping Team has produced a considerable archive of material, comprising approximately 50 hours of wide-ranging reminiscences of inhabitants (past and present) of Ramsbottom and the surrounding district. The archive is a unique, living window allowing us access to the domestic, industrial and social activities of past decades, giving life to photographs and the written word.

During the last two years, illness has had a serious impact on the Team's endeavours. New members can help to build on the existing archive. Those with a particular interest in Oral History, or having taping interests or skills, can become involved in this unique area of historical record and supplement the team numbers.

Anyone having an interest, please contact me, via the Heritage Centre. History is being made today; let's not lose it.

Tony Murphy, Taping Team Co-ordinator

MEMORIES OF PEBBLE BEACH

In issue No 24 of the News Magazine the question was asked 'Where is Pebble Beach'? Several people contacted us to explain but Marlene Crowley went further and sent us

this fascinating description of playing there as a child in the 1940s.

Pebble Beach was on Stubbins Lane where the Firemen's houses are now built. But when 1 was born in the 40s it was *Pebble Beach* the place where Grandma and Granddad PILKINGTON lived!

Jack and Florrie PILKINGTON broughtup eight children, two boys and six girls,in a two-up-two-down cottage on *PebbleBeach*, and when two of the girls married they also lived on *Pebble Beach*.



Children playing on Pebble Beach

The houses were set back off the road with the *beach* in front. Unfortunately this was not sand but plain dirt and pebbles but we children had many happy hours playing on it. At the side was spare ground which we knew as the *Twelve Row.* This also proved to be a great playground as a small brick wall from the old houses survived and made a goodcounter to play shop.

We would display our array of mud pies and pretend cakes and these were easily distinguished by a small dandelion placed on top. Two of my cousins lived on *Pebble Beach* but at school holidays and weekends we all congregated at Grandma's and played on the beach and spare ground. When itrained my auntie, who was the stewardess of the Stubbins Working Men's Club also on Stubbins Lane, would let us play in there while she cleaned, lit the roaring fire in the tap room, and prepared for opening time when we were promptly evicted.

At the back of Grandma's was a small court yard that housed the customary tin bath and dolly tub, also the outside toilet and coal place at the side of which were steps leading to Granddad's pen where he kept hens and grew vegetables. Over the years I remember different animals lived there - geese, ducks, and at one time a goat. Every year Granddad would get a box delivered by the railway. Inside the box were newborn fluffy yellow chicks and these were put on the peg rug (which Grandma had made outof pieces of old coats) to keep them warm in front of the fire. Granddad would let each of us children choose one and give it a name, but because they all looked the same, we soon forgot which our special one was. This proved to be a blessing really as this was a time of rationing and eventually they all ended up as Sunday dinner.

Then we were kept happy by being given a chicken claw to play with,if you pulled on the sinews the claw moved. Somehow we never associated these with real chickens and would play with them for hours. I will never forget what it was like to get up in the morning and come downstairs for breakfast and Grandma saying *"Just nip up to the pen and get yourself an egg".* I like to think I had a special knack of knowing which were the double yolk ones. The trouble was Granddad also had a great big cockerel which took offence at people taking the eggs away, so much so that he was prepared to do battle with anyone who tried. The taste of those eggs is something I will always remember.

In summertime we would pack a picnic and set off through the pen into the field and over to Tub Lodge where Uncle Jack and his friends would be swimming and there was also a small stream for us children to paddle in. All Stubbins seemed to be there.Over the years as Tub Lodge began to dry up I was amazed at what had been under the water. Old prams, bikes and pieces of metal sticking up from the bottom could have proved so dangerous. Gypsies were occasional visitors to *Pebble Beach* and we would wake up to find them camped on the *Twelve Row* spare ground. They were thereal Romany gypsies who, after a few days, would vanish as quietly as they had arrived, having sold a few pegs no doubt. We lost our playground for a few days but found their bright caravans and horses fascinating.

Also on *Pebble Beach* was the *White Lion,* no longer a Public House but home to Joe NOVAK and his family. It had double wooden doors which opened on to a courtyard. I think he started his tailoring business there. Next to this lived my Auntie, Grandma, and two brothers Tommy and Billy BUTTERWORTH. Then came Arnold BOOTH, who along with his brother owned the hardware shop on Bolton Street. Later he and his family moved further down Stubbins Lane but his sons, Alan and Peter still played on Pebble Beach. Ted GOODFELLOW (who I believe once wrote for the *Bury Times* and later had the *Hark to Dandler* in Walmersley) moved in. Next to them lived John and Florrie BARNES and son John, and Mrs SMITH and son Ronnie. Two more houses were up some steps on the top. My aunty who was stewardess of Stubbins Working Men's Club lived there. Grandma and Granddad moved to *Pebble Beach* with three children and a babe in arms about 1912/15. He was a Tackler at the *Field Mill* on Kenyon Street. During the War he would go across the road fire-watching at the factory we knew as the *Flock Shop* [now an auto centre].

In 1957 *Pebble Beach* became a sad place for me. Grandma died and children no longer played on the beach. They had all grown up and moved away. 1 continued to go every week to visit Granddad, and my auntie still lived next door but he never became used to living alone. His eyes would still light up when I called but he went through the motions of living and took very little pleasure in anything. In the late 1950s or early '60s they built some houses and old people's flats on William Street inStubbins and Granddad and my auntie moved there.

Pebble Beach disappeared when the firemen's houses were built on the site. Children are again playing on *Pebble Beach* but now on green lawnedgardens, and providing pleasure and memories for a new generation. Marlene Crowley

A HISTORY OF EDENFIELD AND DISTRICT, BY JOHN SIMPSON

John's previous book *Edenfield: Life in a Lancashire Village* covered the period from 1500 to 1770. This interesting new book continues the story of Edenfield and its neighbours - Turn, Stubbins, Irwell Vale and Ewood Bridge through the Industrial Revolution to the present day. It is a hardback book with over 300 pages and is well illustrated with photographs, maps and contemporary documents, many of which are

published for the first time. There are copious notes at the end of eachchapter as well as an extensive bibliography listing manuscript sources, printed sources, directories, unpublished dissertations, newspapers and parliamentary papers. Information in the book is made easily accessible by a large fifteen-page index.

John states in his preface that he has had to leave much out and that he does not claim it as a definitive history, however it does contain much interesting information and is a very useful reference book. There are thirteen thematic chapters including; housing, farming, workshops and mills, quarrying and coal mining, shops and inns. Other chapters cover transport, education, churches, sportsgames and pastimes and wartime.

This book is full of details which will interest local people, for instance, how many residents seeing the three pairs of semi-detached houses at the end of Woodlands Road built by Turnbull and Stockdale in 1913, realise that these were the start of anestate on garden city lines, which was never completed due to the war?

Il is also a book which will be enjoyed by anyone interested in the changes in a I Lancashire village over the last three hundred years. The long chapter on mills and workshops covers their start in 1765 with a water powered fulling mill in Dearden Clough, their rise with over 23 mills being built and their decline in the twentieth century. The chapter on farming shows how by the end of the eighteenth century there were more than 70 farms in the area with sheep, cattle, pigs, poultry and grass grown to feed them, but by 1941 there were only four working farms!

Many thanks to John for producing a book that is well researched and written and is an excellent companion to the earlier book. It is available for £15.95 from John SIMPSON Tel 01706 216162 or from Roger BARLOW Tel 01706 825157.

Ian Summers, Edenfield Local History Society

The book is also available at the Heritage Centre.

MEMORIES OF HAZLEHURST SCHOOL

I attended Hazlehurst School from the age of three (in 1912) until I was 14 and have many happy memories. My brothers Jack and Charlie and my sister Edna (all olderthan I am) attended Hazlehurst too but my oldest brother Dick went to Holcombe School, as Hazlehurst wasn't built then.

My first teacher was Miss Edna HOLDEN (of the HOLDEN's Towel Mill family). In the 'baby class' I recall a rocking horse and a hammock, and that if you fell asleep, you were put in the hammock. Some of the classrooms are still as I remember them then. I was there when Mr BRIGGS was the first Headmaster and Tom SCORAH was his Deputy. Mr BRIGGS was very strict and used to give the pupils the 'stick'. Many pupils wore clogs and he insisted on clean clogs. I remember the lads rubbing the front of their clogs against the backs of their legs to clean them. You had to walk tidily into classrooms in a neat line - and clump, clump, clump went the clogs. Anyone with

dirty clogs had a taste of 'the stick'. Mr BRIGGS' wife was also a strict teacher. 1 must have been good at darning because she made me darn his socks and her gloves! School started at 9am with assembly in the big hall. We all went home for dinner, maybe noon until l pm and finished at 3.30pm (Infants) and 4pm (Juniors). I can't remember anyone staying for dinner. Mother used to bring me a cup of warm milk during break (we lived in Butler Street) and hand it over the railings. The school nurse (we called her 'Nitty Nora' as hundreds of children must have done) came twice a year to inspect your eyes, your hair for lice and your teeth. If you had any loose teeth she removed them with her thumb nail! !!

Of course there were no uniforms, but all the girls wore white frilled aprons over their dresses. *(A photograph on p. 74 of our newly reprinted "Around Ramsbottom" shows Hazlehurst Council School and its pupils c!905. The girls are wearing white frilled aprons over their dresses. Editor.)*

The games we played were Tops and Whips, Hopscotch. Jacks and Dobbers and we had skipping ropes (made out of old clothes lines) balls and hoops. In the winter we made slides out of ice in the yard and were disappointed when they disappeared. As children we thought the caretaker had done this, when really it was a natural thaw. The present playing fields, The Long Meadow', belonged to Giles TAYLOR. Once in thewinter the heating broke down - but no sending us home in those days! We all sat wearing our coats and had to do 'Drill' in between lessons to keep warm.

During World War I we knitted scarves for the soldiers. I remember walking round the playground at break, knitting as we went. Later I could knit socks, but Mother had toturn the heel. The Zeppelins bombed Tagg Wood and we all hoped the school had been a target so we wouldn't have to go. During that night we were all together downstairs in our nightwear with blankets round us. When daylight came we realised we were all covered in soot - the Zeppelins must have *swept* our chimney!

When I was 14 I was ready to leave school and start work, but I have always been interested in Hazlehurst School, and I worked there for thirteen years as a Welfare Assistant. I still attend functions there and I am happy and proud to be associated withthis fine school, where my son was also educated.

Alice O'Donnell (née Hall) September 2003

(Last term, at one of the celebrations to mark its centenary year, a luncheon was heldfor former and present staff and pupils at Hazlehurst School. Mrs O ' DONNELL and the current deputy head teacher Mr Geoff EASTWOOD cut the specially made centenary cake together . More events are to come in the build up to November, the month of the school's completion in 1903. Editor.)

200 YEARS OF METHODISM IN HAWKSHAW

[Many thanks to Jonathan for kind permission to use extracts from his article printed in the Bury Times, 29th August 2003.]

The first mention of Methodism at Hawkshaw was of a Wesleyan Sunday School in 1803. By 1810 the congregation was meeting in a *'house-church'* at *Finney Cote*, a farmhouse just off the old Hawkshaw Lane. It was the house of Samuel PILLING, who had previously been Churchwarden at Holcombe Parish Church, before defecting to the new religion …..It wasn't long before the congregation outgrew the house and by the mid-1820s members were looking to build a new chapel next to thenewly-built Turnpike Road (now the A676). The building was completed in 1830 andwas a simple chapel with one main room and two vestries. During the next 60 years the village of Hawkshaw Lane End grew, with a boom in the textile trade and an influx of workers. The old Georgian chapel soon became too small ….and plans were drawnup to build a new church next to the old chapel, which would then be used as a Sunday School. It cost the church nearly £1,400 and took six months to build, opening in December 1891

From the Hawkshaw Lane Wesleyan Church magazine of February 1895

> ***Our annual Sunday School tea meeting was held on Christmas Day (1894) and about 180 scholars, parents and friends sat down to tea. This was followed by an excellent programme of entertainment with songs, duets, trios, glees, recitations, dialogues and violin solos, to the delight of the audience.***

The old Chapel, now in use as the Sunday School, became inadequate for the needs of the congregation and in 1909 it was decided to take down the old building, and to erect a new school. Tenders were sought the lowest was submitted by Mr BYROM ofBury, for the sum of £997 15 shillings. This was accepted and the work put in hand, a farewell service being held in the old School on the evening of April 24th 1910. The preacher was the minister of the Church, the Rev J POLLITT.

Various people subscribed and had their initials put on stones on the front of the building. A memorial tablet was put in the School to the memory of Samuel PILLINGand his son William Hawkshaw Wesleyan Methodist Church was at its zenith, it hada new Church, a new Sunday School and a thriving community. But this came to an end on August 4th 1914 with the start of The Great War. The majority of the men from the congregation of service age immediately enlisted. The Roll of Honour, which stillshangs in the Sunday School, list each man's name chronologically as he left *'to do his duty*', ... Eight men [of 25 who enlisted] from the Church were to be killed on active service.

In 1932, a resolution was passed …..to bring about Methodist Union ….

Shortly afterwards the members of Hawkshaw Lane United Methodist Church decided to close their premises.

Beryl RATCLIFFE nee COATES, who grew up in the Church in the 1950s, recalls "Some Saturday nights when 1 was quite young we had a social - Leslie FIRTH was M C and we played lots of 78 records. We danced to the Barn Dance, St Bernard's Waltz, the Gay Gordons and the Russian Ballet. I remember the Sale of Work. We hadan opening with a Chairman and Opener, Mrs LONSDALE the Secretary and a soloiston the stage. The children, including myself took it in turns to present the stage partywith a buttonhole

each. Just before Christmas we had our Christmas party. Then the tables were cleared and we played games - Farmer wants a Wife; Oranges and Lemons; Musical Chairs and Musical Mat. About 6pm Father Christmas came, announcing his entry with a sharp rap on the door, which silenced us all. We finished the night by standing in a circle and singing Auld Lang Syne.

WAR MEMORIALS OF RAMSBOTTOM

Jonathan Ali

As the War Memorial in front of St Paul's Church, Bridge Street does not carry any names, we intend to print, over the next few issues, War Memorials from individual Churches in Ramsbottom area. If you have access to a War Memorial please send us a copy. Editor

Edenfield Methodist Church, Rochdale Road, Edenfield

Two memorials. Market Place (Wesleyan) and Rochdale Road (Primitive Methodist)

Edenfield Market Place Wesleyan Methodist, War Memorial

In proud and grateful memory of the following men, from this Church and Sunday school, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War 1914-1919

.

Fred HAWORTH July 1st 1916 Fred HOYLE July 12th 1916

Harold WORSICK July 31st 1916 Herbert LORD Aug 8th 1916

James FARNELL May 12th 1917 Thomas HILL Aug 11th 1917

Milton HOYLE Aug 9th 1917 William HOYLE Aug 22nd 1917

Harry LORD Aug 28th 1917 George A HAWORTH Nov 20th 1917

Geoffrey LORD March 28th 1918

Edenfield Primitive Methodist Church, War Memorial

In reverent memory of those from this Church & School who made the supreme sacrifice for their country in the Great War 1914-1919 Greater love hath no man than this.

William HALL William HARTLEY Henry JEFFERSON Geoffrey LORD
John E MADDOCKS Richard MARGISON John H SENIOR

Elizabeth Duxbury

The Heritage Centre is open each Saturday and Sunday afternoon, Easter to mid-December, and more helpers are always welcome. Please speak to any of the helpers in the Centre who will be very glad to show you what is involved. You do not need to be Ramsbottom born and bred, just have an interest in the history and life of our great little town.

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

1 **Bury Archive Service - Edwin Street (off Crompton Street) Bury BL9 0AS; tel: 0161 797 5897** - preserves the historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. There are over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans and photographs, almost all of which are available for consultation in the public reading room. Holdings include the records of local authorities (eg Ramsbottom Local Board, and UDC, including many building plans) schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, sports clubs, charities, political parties and other social organisations. The Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

The service is in Edwin Street (off Crompton Street, next to Plumb's Hi-Fi shop), and entrance is via the yard at the far end of the street on the right-hand side. The reading room is open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm every Tuesday, and at the same times on other weekdays Monday to Friday, but please make an appointment in advance by ringing archivist Kevin Mulley before any visit. Group visits (minimum six persons) on evenings and weekends are available if booked in advance.

2 **Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services Department) 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 Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of BMBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

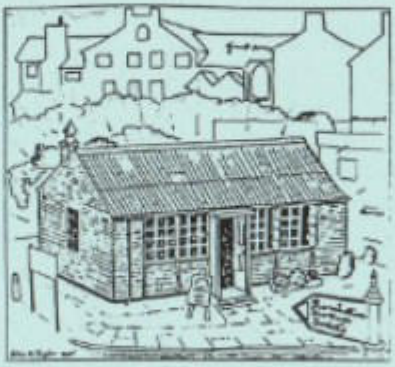
The library is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm each weekday (open until 7.30pm Wednesdays), and from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturdays.

3 **Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury; tel: 01706 822484** - has much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev RR Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets, as well as Hume Elliot's history.

4 **Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Vicky Barlow, Bob's Ley, 6, Mowbreck Lane, Wesham, Preston, Lancs PR4 3HA; tel: 01772 687234** - membership is only £9-00 per year, and this entitles you to four magazine issues, an opportunity to publicise your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall.

Visit us at Ramsbottom Heritage Centre

Exhibition for 2003 –Round and about Ramsbottom



Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AE (opposite the Library)
NOTE OUR WEB SITE:-
www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk
Telephone 01706 821603 (weekends only). To arrange school or adult party visits outside the following opening times please ring 01706 827602

Open until mid-December 2003, Saturdays and Sundays, 1-00 to 4-00pm
Re-opening Easter 2004 with new displays
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Sales counter with good selection of Local History books, details of town and country walks, videos and tourism leaflets, gifts, postcards and local information . . . or just a chat about Old Ramsbottom!

You may also want to offer to have your memories of the area recorded. We are always extending our oral history archive.

Free Admission Refreshments Disabled Facilities

Printed by ALLEN & TODD, Printing, Stationery and Toys, 10-12, Square Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BLO 9BE
Tel/Fax: 01706 827988

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME

2004

21st April	Mrs M M Gilbertson *Votes for Women*, an illustrated talk
19th May	Annual General Meeting and Members'Night
16th June	Mr R Wilshaw, *Gawthorpe Hall, a National Trust property*
21st July	A visit to Gawthorpe Hall, guided by Mr R Wilshaw. Car-sharing, departure time to be announced
18th August	Guided Walk around Crawshawbooth led by Mrs K Fishwick Car-sharing leaving Heritage Centre 6.30pm
15th September	Mrs K Mulholland. *The King's Shilling*
20th October	Mrs M Oliver, *The Good Old Days*
17th November	Members' Night
8th December	Christmas Celebrations

Please note that all indoor meetings except December are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30 for 7.45pm

The Editors welcome articles for inclusion in the News Magazine. These may be hand-written, typed or on disc (in Word) and sent to the Heritage Centre. Please include your full address and a contact telephone number if possible.

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Front cover: *Irwell Bridge Mill, Kenyon Street, Ramsbottom 2004* - John B TAYLOR

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In this, my last Chairman's report for the Society's News Magazine, I am very glad to be the bearer of good news.

Firstly congratulations to our Vice-Chairman, Jack KENNEFORD, who won the Bury Man of the Year award in January. This recognised his many years of charitable work. Nominated by our local Area Board, where he represents both our Society and Tottington Civic Trust, Jack has worked in the voluntary sector since he joined the Bury Young Farmers Association. He became involved in other organisations including Bury Lions; Hospital Radio; Tottington School where he is a Governor; Speakeasy and driving for Meals on Wheels. A modest, unassuming man, whose pleasure is in helping others, the award was a complete surprise to him We in the Heritage Society consider that it could not have been given to a more worthy person — we are very proud of you Jack. Next, the Society has commissioned a video of Ramsbottom which will be on sale in the autumn, an attractive Christmas present. And finally, because of the concern of many members and residents about the increasing amount of new building and rebuilding in the area, a Conservation Group has been set up, hopefully to liaise with Bury Metro Conservation and Planning Officers. (See articles on St Paul's

School and Irwell Bridge Mill later in this issue, Editor) Some of the newly-built properties are in keeping with those around them but many planning applications are now being made for blocks of flats three or four storeys high and sometimes in red brick, which is quite inappropriate within or outside the Conservation area in our small town. Perhaps there is a case for extending the present Conservation Area and we hope to discuss this and others matters with the specialist Council officers.

Dorothy Moss, Chairman

(Do you how anything about Ramsbottom's existing mill buildings? We would welcome information or articles for inclusion in future issues of the Magazine. Editor.)

SOCIETY SKETCHES - Dorothy MOSS

An ever diminishing band of survivors of the initial 70 who attended that public meeting at St Paul's School on Thursday 26th February 1987 will remember how Mrs Dorothy MOSS had written to the *Bury Times* that month, suggesting that the town's moribund local history society needed a successor. At that time and since, she has been the prime mover of our society as its very effective secretary until May 1998, and ever since as its chairman.

Dorothy and her husband David had been members of Ramsbottom Local History Society which, until its demise about 1980, had met upstairs in the *Grant Arms*. It was through their invitation that Rev Roy CARMYLLIE, its former chairman and minister of St Andrew's Church, was speaker at our inaugural meeting in April 1987. Dorothy and David have been great travellers — whether on cycles, a BSA 350 or in a 1932 Ford 8 — and Dorothy has always been interested in the origins of place.

Their involvement with both the local historical societies was inevitable — and possibly unique.

Born in Camberwell, Dorothy married Royal Navy pen pal David, a fellow Harrow resident, in 1951. They came north in 1966, living first at Greenmount and then moving to Carr Bank. David was Sales Director at the Car Plan at Tetrosyl, Walmersley. Few people can boast so wide a range of interests as our chairman. Like her husband, she attended Speedway, and was a youth hosteller, whilst their joint interest in travel led to involvement in that post-war phenomenon of town twinning. Her musical tastes range from ballet through Chopin to jazz. But it has been Dorothy's close involvement in the Ramsbottom community which has made her so well known in the town. Quite apart from the Heritage Society, she has been an active member of the local Women's Institute, St Paul's Ladies Group and the Recorded Music Society. A devotee of public speaking, she has used her talents on many occasions and in

many venues to represent and promote our town and society.

Dorothy stands down as chairman of Ramsbottom Heritage Society in May. Her contribution has been unique — it is no truism to say that without her our society would simply not be where it is today. It may not even have come into existence. Those who have worked with her, as I have had the privilege to do since 1987, will remember her quiet courteous efficiency and her overriding desire to put the Society above all issues of personality.

When she and David came to Ramsbottom in 1969, she expressed the view that there should be somewhere to find out about the history of the town. Thanks to Dorothy (and more than to anyone else) there is such a society and centre, dedicated to educating resident and visitor alike about the unique and captivating heritage of our town

Andrew Todd

FILM CELEBRATION OF RAMSBOTTOM

The Society is engaged in promoting the production of a video film celebrating Ramsbottom — its industrial, commercial and domestic past. Stemming from an idea mooted by Derek ROWLEY, following a chance meeting with the producer of a similar film celebrating Horwich, the proposal was introduced to the Society by Andrew TODD at the Society's open meeting in November 2003. So with the aim of completion of production by late autumn 2004 (in time for Christmas) a small group of facilitators and co-ordinators met at the end of November to determine sequencing and locations for shooting. Working to a script by Andrew, filming actually began in December to take advantage of pre-Christmas town centre opportunities — decorated streets, markets, churches and the East Lancs Santa Specials. Script writing continues apace, locations are determined and refined. And archive material is being sought (see *Bury Times* February 13th) for possible incorporation into the video. If anyone is aware of the existence of, or has access to archive film that could be made available, please call me.

Tony Murphy

THE HERITAGE CENTRE - THE DISPLAYS FOR 2004

As a new venture for 2004. we have invited other local groups to join RHS and Edenfield Local History Society in contributing to the exhibition. Responses were received from the following Bury Local History Society; Rossendale Civic Trust; Tottington and District Civic Society

We thank them and look forward to their displays. which will be on view when the centre opens at Easter until Christmas. Subjects for panels/displays by our own members include: Hazlehurst School; Local Industry - Turnbull &

Stockdale; Crow Lane; Local Maps; Photographic Competition and a selection of recently donated documents and artefacts.

NB: Douglas Hartley compiled a 2003 Centre display about local buses, which created a lot of interest. He follows it up in this magazine with an article on the subject.

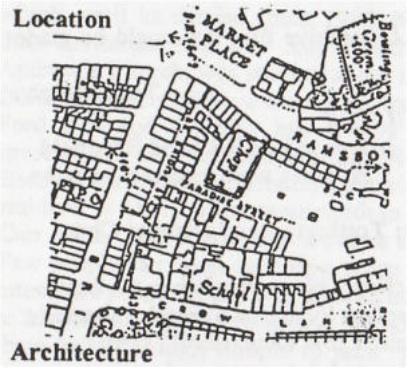
Janet Smith

THE CASE FOR LISTING: ST PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, CROW LANE

Members will recall the vigorous but ultimately unsuccessful campaign which parents, former pupils and townspeople fought in 2002-3 to prevent the closure of our town's oldest school. Mrs Margaret CHAMBERLAIN, St Paul's last head teacher. presided over the final day on 18th July 2003, and having chalked up emotional messages of farewell and good wishes to their school, the pupils who had stayed to the end rather than leave early for other schools walked out into Crow Lane for the last time. For the first time in about 162 years, there was no longer a school on Crow Lane. And thereafter, the building. which may in parts be over 150 years-old, has been almost completely neglected, an internal alarm ringing undisturbed for months, and a symbolically incomplete downspout spitting rainwater onto the pavement.

Apart from housing the annual supply of Christmas trees prior to attachment above the town's shops, the school has been left to its memories. There is much concern locally that the building will used in an inappropriate way, hence my attempt to obtain listing. My application was submitted last June to the Listing Branch of the Architecture and Historic Environment Division at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4, Cockspur Street. London SW1.

Protesters had been reassured by none other than the Rev Dr John FINDON, Rector of Bury, that the school was not simply being closed to sell it off so the Diocese could make a few bob on a flat conversion scheme - tidying up the property ownership issue could take 10 years' he told me. Perhaps - though, no one was surprised to hear in January 2004 of the planning application to demolish the building, other than the facade, and to erect an additional storey as part of the inevitable apartment conversion. I have since tried to invigorate the pedestrian procedures of Whitehall, and have been promised that the caseworker from English Heritage will visit soon. The following notes are an extended version of what I submitted to the Department in June 2003.



The school stands on Crow Lane, Ramsbottom, map reference SD792170. It is part of an architectural unity, only 50 yards from its mother church and churchyard, and surrounded by terraced cottages on Crow Lane which have furnished it with many of its pupils throughout its history. These buildings form an unusual chronological and geographical concentration which, with the exception of the removal of the vicarage, has remained unchanged in over 150 years.

Like all the buildings in the vicinity, which date from the 1840s-60s, the school is constructed of locally quarried sandstone. The architectural unity is further emphasised by the common style of Gothic Revival architecture employed in the school and its adjacent ecclesiastical buildings. The school has very distinctive lancet windows, complementing those of the church; and on its south side is a house which shares the Pennine style hooded moulding dripstones over the windows. This house was erected and occupied by the HEAP family, local farmers, quarriers and builders, who developed one field to create this urban landscape in the mid-19th Century.

The building carries a datestone: 'St Paul's Church Schools 1868'; but it is clear that the 1868 expansion incorporated much earlier work. Watershot stonework, common in the Pennines up to the 1840s, is evident not only on the south side of the building (non-public wall use seems to have been associated with cheaper stone) but on the very fine frontage as well.

There is an early slate roof, its crudity reflecting the lack of mechanised slate production of the later century. The interior is almost certainly barely altered since its earliest days, apart perhaps from the erection of partitions at some time before 1910 - if 700 pupils were catered for in the 1870s, it may be that they were taught in one huge room in accordance with the monitorial system – only a master and mistress are mentioned in the trade directories. A board school was erected a mile away in 1903, and this may have allowed overcrowding to be reduced.

History

A small Sunday school was opened on Crow Lane in April 1841 by the ASHTON Brothers, owners of Ramsbottom Mill. It was grandly known as the 'Athenaeum School', despite modest accommodation in a pair of cottages, probably because it doubled up as a reading room.

Church services were also held there until the church opened in 1850. At some stage, a day school began in the building, prompted by the Factory Acts which required employers to provide some schooling for their child workers. Initially not intensive (two hours a day under the 1833 Factory Act) many employers hired in a master to teach on site. But the 1844 Factory Act made 'half-timer' schooling compulsory. The school appears as the 'National School, Ramsbottom' on the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey map, surveyed at six inches to the mile in 1844-7, and in HEAP's 1850 Bury trade directory.

Initially, the Athenaeum School catered exclusively for boys. The schoolmaster was the one-armed Mr James Holden, his wife Rebecca acting as 'mistress'. Population growth soon outstripped the Athenaeum's humble facilities, and in 1868 the Parish bought the building, extended it to form junior and infant sections, and adopted the name St Paul's National Schools. By 1872, according to trade directories, St Paul's had room for 700 scholars. Photographs from 1910 show classes of 50 crammed into classrooms which now comfortably accommodate just 20.

Special Qualities

South East Lancashire was unusual in that a number of its towns did not need any board schools to 'fill the gaps' in voluntary provision under the 1870 Education Act. Local Anglicans were concerned that their children might be schooled in the new board schools alongside the Catholic Irish, whom they disliked on both counts!

There was therefore a flurry of church school building activity in the years immediately before and after the Act's passage, with the result that in Ramsbottom, no board school was ever required in the town. I suspect that given some of its 1840s lineage, St Paul's School is one of the earliest surviving church schools in the area.

It has been the longest-serving educational institution in Ramsbottom, possibly one of the longest on one site anywhere in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury, and the public building with the longest uninterrupted use in the Ramsbottom and district, apart from three public houses. In those 162 years, it has had thousands of the town's children in its classrooms.

St Paul's and no 27, Crow Lane

We have early references to the school as initially occupying a pair of cottages in Crow Lane, and if the opening date of April 1841 is correct, this can only have been what is now no 27, Crow Lane, the only cottages in existence on the Lane according to the Tottington Lower End Tithe Map of 1842.

Interestingly, no 27 was a double cottage, occupied then by Thomas LORD and Robert HOPKINSON. In the 1851 census returns, the pair were still the only cottages on the lane, cotton workers Robert MILLS and Thomas LORD being their occupants. The Rev Tom MARTIN, vicar of St Paul's, writing in the 1950 centenary booklet of his church, states that:

> ***in April, 1841... the Brothers ASHTON, proprietors of Ramsbottom Mill . . . erected a small school on Calf Bank in Crow Lane, and encouraged the use of the premises as a Sunday school and for Church services.***

This intriguing reference cannot refer to the school building that was in existence by the time the First Edition OS map was surveyed (1844-7) since it does not figure on the 1842 Tithe Map. The conclusion must be that the 'small school' was indeed that pair of cottages - now 27, Crow Lane. Calf Bank is mistakenly rendered Carr Bank in the 1842 Tithe Schedule. To clinch the connection between the school and this pair of cottages, we need some reference from the records of the ASHTONs, the deeds of no 27, or the court books of the Manor of Tottington. It would shed light on an intriguing transitional stage in the development of Ramsbottom' s educational provision.

Andrew Todd

OBITUARIES

Arthur QUINTON



27 Crow Lane, home of Arthur Quinton – John B Taylor

Sadly we note the death on January 13th 2004 of Arthur of Crow Lane. Last year, along with his family, he was especially helpful to our Crow Lane Project team and made interesting and valuable contributions, even though he was not a Society member.

Mr QUINTON will be remembered with affection by countless local people and visitors as the gentleman with the pony and trap giving rides to children, usually from outside the E L R station or at events in Nuttall Park. He was born on a farm in Norfolk where he met his future wife, Jennie, a Land Army girl from Ramsbottom. In 1950 they married at St Paul's Church and in 1957 they moved to Ramsbottom. Both Mr and Mrs QUINTON were porters at the

railway station. [We have been told about the fry-ups, done on a shovel over the waiting room fire!] They worked different shifts to enable them to look after their young family. During Mr QUINTON's funeral, his pony, *Jade*, and the trap full of flowers waited in Crow Lane outside the Church. *Jade* had a black plume and a black drape over her back and afterwards led the cortege all the way to Ramsbottom Cemetery. I'm sure the family would want everyone to know that both *Jade* and the trap have gone to a good home.

Barbara PARK recalls another link between Mr QUINTON and the Society - one Sunday morning several years ago, he drove the trap up the back lane behind her house to visit one of her neighbours. This caused great excitement among the local children, who all rushed out, many still in pyjamas and dressing gowns. Arthur good-naturedly allowed them to climb up into the trap and gave them a ride down the lane. Hearing all the excitement, Barbara also rushed out with her camera to record the event and the photo was entered in the Society's annual photographic competition and won a prize! The photograph is therefore in the Society's archive.

Janet Smith & Barbara Park

Mrs Evelyn WAITE

Born 26th October 1921, died 16th December 2003. The Heritage Society was deeply saddened to learn of the death of our Honorary Life Member, Mrs Evelyn (Lyn) WAITE on Tuesday 16th December 2003. Committee members attended her funeral at the Church of St John-in-the-Wilderness, Shuttleworth along with over 100 friends and colleagues, paying respect to a very fine lady. She had the care and well-being of the community that she had served so faithfully over many years, foremost in mind despite ill-health and much pain during her last weeks.



The Mayor and her consort - Mr and Mrs Harold Waite

Throughout her life Mrs WAITE took her mother as her inspiration, always thinking of those less fortunate than herself, especially the young and the very old. Many people still have good cause to bless her name. She helped in so many capacities, as District Nurse, Meals on Wheels organiser, Youth Leader, local Councillor then Mayor of Bury and to the last she remained Secretary to the Ramsbottom Aid in Sickness Fund. This is but a short selection from the imposing list of her humanitarian interests from the time she came, as a bride in 1946, to live in Edenfield.

She is already greatly missed by so many in the community where she served so well and we will remember her with much affection.

Dorothy Moss, Chairman

In June 2003, on receiving Honorary Life Membership of the Society (report News Magazine 25), Mrs Evelyn Waite emphasised the importance of the part other people played in her dedicated work for the people of Ramsbottom and Edenfield. She used as her example what she described as the 'wonderful help from Bert Hinchliffe' when the elderly residents of Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital were taken on outings. (One of the things he did was to remove some of the seats so that wheelchair users could go on the trips.) We reproduce here one of three articles which formed part of a 2002 Heritage Centre display about the Hinchliffe transport businesses. The other articles will appear in a future issue.

J & H HINCHLIFFE LTD - THE COACHES

In 1946 the brothers John and Herbert HINCHLIFFE started their haulage company and sister Edith became book-keeper in 1947. Only three years later, they began to expand into coach travel. Three coaches, with licences, were purchased. The first trip was a New Year's Eve booking in 1949. The fleet was gradually expanded, and more coaches were purchased from Walter BOOTH of Moorside. HUTCHINSONs (Coaches), in Dundee Lane, Ramsbottom, were bought out around 1952. A travel agency, with coaches, called PICKWICKs was purchased about 1954. The work was very varied. Edith was very involved in the coach side of the business.

All the year round there was a daily contract with Joshua HOYLE, Summerseat, to pick up workers for a 7.30am start, and collect at 5.00pm; at one time as many as seven coaches were involved. Later, the job became complicated as a shift system was introduced; there were penalties for late arrival; also Ramsbottom workers were taken to work at PORRITTs of Broadway, Haslingden. For a number of years, transport was provided to take Ramsbottom pupils to Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School. The

firm successfully tendered to take schoolchildren to swimming baths, and to special schools; there were contracts with De la Salle Training College; also with the army, involving movement of personnel from camp to camp, including Holcombe Moor, and bomb disposal units to their site of operation. At Christmas time, coaches were used to distribute Royal Mail personnel and parcels. At holiday times there was a regular programme of excursions to Southport, Blackpool, Morecambe, etc, and most of these trips also ran on Sundays.

There was a regular clientele for the 'Sunday evening' run; this was something of a mystery tour, and cost 4/6d. At Wakes Weeks, and the September break, excursions were more varied - the Wye-Valley, Windermere, even London Airport. A service was also provided for people who were going on a week's or fortnight's holiday; these were known as long dates.

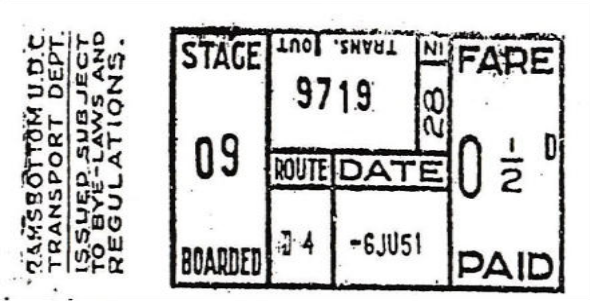
An annual excursion was the Holcombe Hunt Races. Also very popular were outings to shows, pantomimes, and 'blockbuster' films in Manchester. A variety of tours took place, mainly in the summer. John, and his nephew John, were regularly drivers-cum-couriers on these tours. Coach drivers were often on hire to other companies. The coaches were also available for private hire outings, to various organizations: churches, schools, local mills, clubs, pubs, the team coach for Ramsbottom Cricket Club away matches, and for supporters of Burnley FC, including the FA Cup Final against Spurs, in 1961.

There was a network of agencies in shops throughout Ramsbottom, Edenfield and Summerseat, for bookings and for picking up passengers. Cleaning of coaches was a job undertaken by family, pensioners and drivers - not always a pleasant task! The coach drivers could be full time, or lorry drivers doing part time coach-driving, according to need; other coach-drivers did driving as a second job.

In the 1970s, the advent of more universal car ownership led to a dwindling demand for excursions, and the termination of the coach business in 1975.

A SHORT HISTORY OF RAMSBOTTOM'S BUSES 1913-1969

Anyone who lived in the Ramsbottom area prior to 1969 will certainly remember the red Leyland buses operated profitably (most of the time) by Ramsbottom UDC, with their friendly conductors/conductresses and drivers. In 1969, all this came to an end, with the amalgamation of Ramsbottom's bus fleet into SELNEC (South East Lancashire North East Cheshire) which subsequently became Greater Manchester Transport, Greater Manchester North and now First Manchester Buses.



Do you remember these? A Ramsbottom bus ticket issued on machine number 28, for a halfpenny ordinary (O) fare, boarding at stage 09 on route 4 (Bury to Rawtenstall was always route 4, although the buses themselves did not carry any route number), for a journey on 6th June 1951. Ticket no 9719

The present daytime service is actually more frequent than it was up to 1969 (a bus every 10 minutes as opposed to every 15 minutes before 1969). But in every other way a deterioration has taken place, with different drivers every time you travel (no conductors of course), an inferior evening service, and very much higher fares. For example, soon after the SELNEC takeover, the single fare from Ramsbottom to Holcombe Brook was 3p (and only 2p off-peak). It is now 85p (unless it has gone up since this was written).

The story begins in the early years of the 20th Century, at a time when many towns already had tramway systems, often in the process of conversion from steam to electric operation. So, in 1903, Ramsbottom Council began to consider the provision of some form of local transport, and were empowered by the Ramsbottom UDC Tramways Order 1903, confirmed by the Tramways Orders Confirmation (No 2) Act, 1903, to construct, within the district:

> ***Tramway No 1*** *from Holcombe Brook to Edenfield via Ramsbottom*
>
> ***Tramway No 2*** *from Edenfield to Ramsbottom via Shuttleworth (conditional upon the construction of a bridge or subway to cross the railway line in Ramsbottom*

Although the date for commencement was extended from time to time by the Board of Trade, the powers were never exercised (owing to the high capital outlay involved) and instead Ramsbottom UDC decided to apply to Parliament for powers to construct a railless trolley system over parts of the routes along which tramcars had been authorised. The outcome was the Ramsbottom UDC Railless Traction Act, 1912, by which Council was empowered to construct overhead equipment and to run trackless trams (trolleybuses) between:

1) Holcombe Brook and Edenfield via Ramsbottom
2) Ramsbottom Market Place and Ramsbottom Railway Station

In 1913, a trolleybus shed (always known as *The Tram Shed* or *The Depot)* was constructed in Stubbins Lane (where the Esso petrol station now stands) at a cost of £1,898, overhead lines were erected and orders for vehicles placed. The first trolleybus arrived on Sunday 9th August 1913, having been towed all the way from Leeds by a steam wagon. Following testing trips and a Board of Trade inspection, car number 1 ran the first public service to Holcombe Brook at 6pm on Friday 14th August. The local newspaper carried an account of the first journey under the headlines *'First Cars Make Their Appearance. Packed Cars to Holcombe Brook'.* One account of the opening night read:

> ***When darkness descended, the electric light was brought into use and the car presented quite a brilliant spectacle. As it passed through the lampless streets, it made Ramsbottom people realize how far behind the times the town actually is.***

Mrs Alice O'DONNELL, on a tape for our Oral History Group, says:

> ***I went on the very first tram to Ramsbottom. I can remember mother taking us all down. We'd walk it down to ride all the way back and that was a treat, an afternoon treat.***

Five trolleybuses were purchased in 1913 and a further two, slightly more modern ones (nos 6 and 7) in 1915. These seven trolleybuses provided the sole means of transport until 1923, but owing to the experimental nature of the equipment (breakdown were extremely common, and individual trolleybuses could be out of action for months on end) coupled with the First World War, substantial losses were shown. In 1920, Mr S PARSONS became General Manager, replacing Mr J WILD, and in 1922, a scheme was submitted to the Traction Committee of the Council for the introduction of motor buses. The Committee did not approve this scheme, but in 1923, a second approach was made and accepted by the Committee. Three motor buses (nos 8 to 10) were purchased and in August 1923 services were commenced between Edenfield and Rawtenstall Station and between Edenfield and the *New Inn* tram terminus in Bury. In April 1925, a motor bus service was commenced between Shuttleworth and Holcombe village, and in November 1926, a half-hourly bus service commenced between Edenfield and Bury via Ramsbottom. At about this time, Ribble Motor Services applied for licences to run buses in the area, and, after various legal battles, Ramsbottom Council agreed not to operate between Ramsbottom and Bolton, in exchange for a similar undertaking by Ribble not to operate between Ramsbottom and Bury.

Further purchases of motor buses took place throughout the 1920s: nos 11-14 in 1926, nos 15-17 in 1927, no 18 in 1928, nos 19-21 in 1929 and no 22 in 1930. As the motor bus services increased, so the trolleybus service declined until, during the last few years of its existence, it operated only at peak times. Eventually, on 31st March 1931, as the vehicles and equipment became obsolete, the trolleybus system was finally abandoned. During the years leading up to the Second World War, services were increased to cater for rising demands, and further motor buses were purchased: no 23 in 1932, no 12 in 1933, nos 10 and 11 in 1934, nos 13 and 14 in 1935 nos 8, 9 and 15 in 1937, and nos 6 and 7 in 1939. Profits were achieved from 1934 onwards.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, fuel rationing was introduced and services drastically reduced. Problems were also caused by blackout operation, staff call-up, and unavailability of spares and replacements. As had happened during the First World War, conductresses were again employed.

No new buses were bought in the war, with the result that by 1945, the Council owned a rapidly ageing fleet. So in the next two years, 10 new buses were purchased: four rear-engined single-deckers (nos 16-19) in 1946 and six open-platformed, rear entrance double-deckers - the first double-deckers in the fleet (nos 20-25) in 1947. Motor cars were still very much a luxury, so demand for the buses was high and a period of expansion followed the end of the war. The peak mileage of 619,721 was reached in 1950, with 5,371,995 passengers carried and income of £42,740. Because of the low railway bridge at Stubbins, the double-deckers could not operate beyond this point, and journeys from Rawtenstall to Bury often involved a change of bus at *The Depot* from single-decker to double-decker.

In 1950, Ramsbottom helped to pioneer the operation of the first Leyland underfloor-engined single- deck 44-seater buses, taking delivery of four of the first 12 vehicles manufactured. (The present First Manchester buses on routes 472/474 are simply a fifty-years-later version of this design.) Three buses (nos 26-28) were obtained in 1950 and no 30 in 1952. A further double-decker of essentially the same design as the 1947 (no 29) was purchased in 1951. The fleet now remained unchanged for the next nine years, except for the withdrawal of the last four pre-war buses, nos 8 and 15 in 1958 and nos 6 and 7 in 1960. General Manager Mr S PARSONS, who had held this post since 1920, was replaced in 1951 by Mr L T MERRALL (who combined this post with that of General Manager of Rawtenstall and Haslingden Corporation Transport Departments). During the 1950s, discussions took place with a view to the formation of a joint transport undertaking comprising Ramsbottom, Rawtenstall, Haslingden and Accrington, but nothing came of these discussions.

Throughout the 1950s, increasing car ownership, increasing costs of operation, rising wages, and higher costs of materials led to a decline in passengers, and this inevitably led to reduced services and higher fares - a vicious circle. In 1956, British Railways introduced a diesel passenger service between Manchester, Bury, Rawtenstall and Bacup. This service was frequent, fast and comfortable, and proved a very serious competitor to Ramsbottom's bus services.

In September 1960, the carriageway under Stubbins Bridge was lowered, thus enabling double-deck buses to operate to Stubbins, Edenfield and Rawtenstall. Almost overnight, the basic service was changed from single to double-deck operation, and in 1961 and 1962, seven of the eight single-deckers in the fleet were disposed of. The 1946 rear-entrance buses went for scrap, except for no 17, which has been preserved (and also no 19, which I think has been preserved, although I have no confirmation of this). The first batch of pioneer underfloor-engined buses were only 12 years-old, and were sold to Rawtenstall Corporation Motors (no 26) and Haslingden Corporation Transport (nos 27 and 28) for further use locally.

At the. same time as the operation became virtually double-deck only, a decision was made to replace the current fleet with yearly purchases of new buses. This commenced with no 1 in 1961 and no 2 in 1962, both of which were of basically the same design as the 1947 buses, open-platform rear-entrance. 1963 saw the introduction of the first front-entrance double-decker in the fleet (no 3), and all subsequent purchases were of this design. Although Leyland introduced their *Atlantean* double-deckers with rear engines in the late 1950s, and Ramsbottom bought all their buses from Leyland they never purchased any of this design. Purchases continued with no 4 in 1965, no 5 in 1966, nos 6- 9 in 1967 and nos 10 and 11 in 1969. A small single-decker (no 12) was obtained second-hand from Warrington Corporation, mainly to operate the Holcombe Brook to Holcombe village service. The 1947 batch of double-deckers was scrapped in 1965, together with no 29 of 1951. The last of the pioneer single-deckers (no 30) was withdrawn in 1966 and sold on for future use in another part of England.

The final two purchases (nos 10 and 11) actually arrived after the takeover by SELNEC in 1969, and no 11 holds the distinction of being the very last traditional front-engine front entrance double-decker to be constructed. This bus is now preserved in Manchester Transport Museum. After the SELNEC takeover, the fleet of 12 buses (11 double-deck and one single-deck) was renumbered by adding 6400 to the number (so, no 1 became 6401) and were gradually repainted in the orange SELNEC livery.

Fairly soon, these buses were employed on other routes, and most were disposed of by SELNEC within a very few years. The buses of Ramsbottom might seem, to a non-Ramsbottomian, to be without a great deal of interest.

However, the Transport Department and its buses held several records:

1. Ramsbottom was the only Urban District Council in England to run its own bus service.
2. Ramsbottom ran the smallest municipal bus undertaking in England.
3. Ramsbottom took delivery of four of the first 12 underfloor-engined buses ever manufactured.
4. Ramsbottom took delivery of the very last traditional-style front-entrance front-engined double-decker ever to be manufactured. (Rumour has it that it was made up of spare parts which had been left over.)

I have taken much of the information from a booklet produced by Ramsbottom UDC in 1963 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Transport Department. Finally, I hope that the dates and other information given in this article are correct, but I can't guarantee this, as I found some information very hard to come by. If you know of any major errors in the article, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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PARISH ACTIVITIES AT ST JOSEPH'S BETWEEN THE WARS

'There's nothing going on in *the parish',* my wife would be told whenever she telephoned her aunt or when we called to see her. Aunt Helen was referring to the secular activities of the parish, not to the religious ones with which she was content. She had lived in the Ramsbottom area and been a member of St Joseph's parish throughout her life. Having been born during World War One, she had grown up when many churches were also centres of social activity, with their members organising concerts and dances and performing plays. Those were the days of wind-up gramophones, radio in its infancy and although the cinema was developing and growing in popularity, many people still provided their own entertainment.

During the 1920s and '30s, working hours were long for those with jobs (48 hour, five and a half day weeks) and time passed slowly for the unemployed. Parish social activities were not only as source of great pleasure but provided a welcome break in what could be dreary and *difficult* times. St Joseph's parish was fortunate in having a new school opened in 1926 [on Queen Street].

It had been designed with social activities in mind, with a kitchen/dining room and teachers' room in the middle with classrooms on each side. These were divided by partitions that allowed each half to be opened up into one large hall. In the northern half, provision had been made for a substantial sectional stage, designed to fit at one end of the opened-up hall. When dismantled the stage was stored in the loft above. All the floors were of smooth wood which, when waxed, was ideal for dancing.

Although half a generation younger than her aunt, my wife and I can remember much of the annual timetable of parish social events that continued throughout the 1930s and which she looked back on with such happy memories in her later years.

The New Year Party is a good place to begin, starting the year with an event that was popular with parishioners of all ages. Planning the party and' rehearsals for the concert began well in advance and early in December a poster would appear on the Church notice board advertising the *New Year's Tea Party, Concert and Dance,* something to look forward to after the Christmas festivities. Demand for tickets was always brisk, even though the cost for adults was two shillings or more - a high price in those days when a meal at the *Midland Hotel* in Manchester would have cost little more. Even with half the school opened out, when the stage was in place there was little room to spare for all the tables needed. Cold meats and salad was the typical fare at large parties, but in this case the variety and quantities provided were exceptional. Then there was such a selection of fruit, cream, custard, jellies, trifles, scones and cake that the choices became difficult. Even Billy Bunter would have been satisfied. Service was quick and there was no delay in clearing the tables and moving them into the other half of the school; chairs were put in rows and we were ready for the concert.

Over the years, many parishioners took part in the concerts, some only occasionally and reluctantly; others were enthusiastic and welcome regulars. Among these favourites was Teddy McINTYRE, a fine and versatile musician. Singers owed much to his piano accompaniment, he could enhance the performance by giving support without overpowering the singing. After listening for a few minutes he could pick up a tune and adjust his playing to fit in with the singer's interpretation of it. However, his main instrument was the violin on which he could play anything from classical music to the popular music of the day. Norman BIRCH had a range of ballads and operatic solos that were always well received. I picture Alex FEARFULL wearing a sou'wester, his strong and confident voice was well-suited to his favourites such as *The Fishermen of England.*

The well-practised duets of Mr and Mrs John HALL were performed with enthusiasm and obvious personal enjoyment that carried the audience along with them. Leo LYONS was popular with everyone, a whimsical, very friendly character with a range of comic songs such as *Paddy McGinty's Goat.* He had a distinctive style, hands folded and rocking backwards and forwards he sang in his mixture of Lancashire and Irish accents, and the audience could hear every word clearly.

Forty years later, he could have rivalled Val DOONICAN, but would have needed a personality change to become EMINEM. The musical content of the earliest concerts I attended was largely influenced by popular operettas and by the shows put on by Ramsbottom Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society at the Empire Cinema. Among those were *The Mikado, The Gondoliers* and *The Desert Song.*

Later the influence of films like *Rose Marie* and the shows of Ivor NOVELLO and Franz LEHAR was evident, with songs by Vera LYNN being introduced during war-time. By the end of the 1940s musical tastes had changed and schoolchildren sang *Pedro the Fisherman* from *The Lisbon Story* at one of the last concerts I attended. When the concert was over and chairs pushed back to the wall, Billy HOWARTH, the caretaker, would shake wax polish on to the floor and after a few tuning-up noises the band started to play and the dancing began.

Mixed in with the waltzes, quicksteps and foxtrots were barn dances, St Bernard's waltzes and novelty dances like the one to the tune of *Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree* so everyone joined in. Grandparents directed children in *The Lancers* but sadly now many only remember this intricate dance as performed by Billy DAINTY or Richard HEARNE in their comic versions in later years. The New Year Party was a fitting end to the Christmas season. Within a day or two the stage was dismantled and stored away in the loft and the school made ready for the re-opening after the holiday.

Soon would come the Shrove Tuesday Dance, during which were competitions for tossing or eating pancakes. Once, when lengths of elastic had been included in the pancakes, Billy KAY the winner complained *'It was stretching a joke too far.'*

St Patrick's Day Party, Concert and Dance was especially significant for families with Irish connections who had been exposed to the songs and stories of elderly relatives. (In recent years as interest in family history has become widespread, we have found that it was the grandparents of these elderly relatives who had come to England and many of the memories and images of

Ireland passed on to us were a romantic mixture many years out of date.) After the remains of the tea had been cleared and chairs rearranged the serious business began.

The content of the concert may have been predictable, but it was what the audience expected and enjoyed - Jack DUNNE singing *The Minstrel Boy* and Leo LYONS singing *Delaney's Donkey* and similar items. Ensemble performances by singers and dancers were a feature, *Kerry Dances* and *Phil the Fluter's Ball* were old favourites, often augmented by the fiddle of Teddy McINTYRE. There were reminders of all parts of the country - from *Danny Boy* of Londonderry through *Galway Bay* and *Killarney* to where the *Mountains of Mourne* sweep down to the sea. We learned more of the geography of Ireland than in any school lesson.

It is strange that most of the songs were about emigrating or dying or being far from home yet the tunes were pleasant and memorable and often light-hearted and in the traditional jigs the twinkling legs made intricate patterns of steps while the rest of the body was kept rigidly straight. Recently the highly popular *Riverdance* introduced a much greater freedom of movement into these dances.

The Whitsuntide Walks were a long-standing custom in Lancashire and many of the churches and chapels of Ramsbottom arranged their own processions through the streets; the Friday following the Whit weekend being the most popular day. These were traditional religious celebrations with a social element. Crowds of local residents lined the streets, wearing their new clothes, and as the separate processions passed by there would be many friendly waves and exchanges of greetings between friends and acquaintances. St Joseph's procession took place on Whit Sunday. With brass bands playing and banners flying it set out led by the clergy, followed by the splendidly-dressed queen with a long train held by a retinue of maids of honour and page boys chosen from the younger schoolchildren.

Then came large numbers of parishioners, the girls wearing white dresses and carrying flowers and the boys smart in grey flannel trousers and white shirts. (The boys' knees were well scrubbed as short trousers were worn until the age of about 14 in those days.) The route usually included Bolton Street and Ramsbottom Lane, turning at the New Jerusalem Church to come back along Factory Street, Crow Lane, Bridge Street and Bolton Street to St Joseph's. Even though it was early in the year, it was often warm enough for the tar on the roads to melt and stick to our shoes. [The New Jerusalem Church was demolished years ago and recently, when passing the site, I wondered how what had seemed such an imposing building had been built on such a small

space. The same comment applies to the former Patmos Chapel site at the bottom of Peel Brow.]

When at school Aunt Helen joined in the Field Days, arranged on a Saturday close to Whitsuntide. I remember Field Days on Comrades' Field, land on which houses have been built behind the school. The children of the parish would assemble in the afternoon (bring your own mug) and there would be organised games and races followed by refreshments and ice-cream from a large tub from BROOKS or MATHERS or other local suppliers.

Many parents and other relatives attended, an opportunity to get up-to-date with the latest gossip. Joe BARRETT would be in attendance (as he was during the processions) in his St John Ambulance uniform to deal with any casualties. Joe was also the Scoutmaster and full of community spirit and always ready to volunteer his help. From Whitsuntide the timetable became less rigid, varying from year to year. The operetta *Babette* with Mary BARRETT in a major role, and *Giant's Castle* with Norman BIRCH as the giant, were put on in the early 1930s. Mr BIRCH had a deep voice and commanding stage presence and made a convincing, frightening giant. Occasionally my father would get (from Abel HEYWOOD & Co in Manchester) a small parcel of plays printed on thin paper, with red covers and costing only a few pence each.

Sometimes a full-length play was chosen or maybe a short sketch for a concert Though not qualified to comment on the technical ability of the actors, I can confirm that the plays were always entertaining and greatly enjoyed. Even now, on reading the words clergyman or curate, I have a picture of Harold COLLINSON as a nervous excitable curate. One occasion when things did not go exactly to plan was during a production of the melodrama *The Monkey's Paw.* At a critical point an atmosphere of menace and foreboding was developing and one character drew attention to a brewing storm – *'Hark at the wind'* he said, but had to repeat it several times before someone backstage switched on the Hoover that made the wind noises. The Grand Celebrity Dance was another event which did not run smoothly. Jackie BROWN from Manchester became World Flyweight Boxing Champion and an international celebrity.

It was a great coup for the parish when Mark KERRONE, a Rossendale promoter, arranged for Jackie to make a personal appearance at a dance at St Joseph's. On the day of the dance my father, who had been involved in organising the event, telephoned to check on Jackie's expected arrival time and was told that there must have been a mistake as Jackie BROWN had gone to visit local clubs with his friends and was not expected back until late evening.

On my arrival at the dance, I was told that my father had gone to Manchester to try to find Mr BROWN and persuade him to come. By the interval there was growing concern about the absence of the celebrity, then we were told that the Champion had been delayed and was on his way but as time went on those who had bought their tickets in the hope of meeting him were complaining of being let down. It was a great relief when at about 10.30pm he arrived, flanked by two *'supporters'*. He was not very steady on his feet and looked as if the towel would have to be thrown in if he had another round to box. However his professionalism took over as he was introduced as World Champion and he clasped his hands above his head and acknowledged the applause. He mumbled a few words, shook some hands, scribbled some autographs and left. Honour was satisfied but only just; there were no more Celebrity Dances but we had met a World Champion and few of those came to Ramsbottom.

Several different bands played for dances. In the early years *George GRAY's Band* performed but *The Rhythm Boys,* who were younger and better equipped to provide the music of the day, gradually replaced them. Then *The New Florida Dance Band* was used. Some former St Joseph's pupils played with this band, including Joe SIMPSON who could play trumpet and piano; Kevin GAFFNEY on drums and (I think) Gerald QUINLAN on base fiddle. Kevin became a professional musician with his own band and appeared on television in *The Six-Five Special shows,* using the name Bobby KEVAN. During and after the war, we had Alma HARRISON's band with Jim BAILEY on drums. A regular autumn feature was *The Old Fashioned Tea Party*, followed of course by the concert and dance.

The ladies who prepared and served the tea wore period costume and some brought their own crockery and cutlery to augment the school's institutional supply. I remember teaspoons with coloured thread tied around the handles so that the owners could identify them afterwards. At major parties there were families with three or four generations represented and many of them took part in the entertainment. Among these families were the ASHES; BRENNANs; GALPINs; GROGANs; HANKINSONs; HENRYS; HOYLEs; KELLYs; KENNEDYs; McCORMICKs and RUSSELLs. Concert items included *Genevieve* and *Oft in the Stilly Night,* and *Brotherly Love* was a regular by the Glee Club singers. On occasions Leo LYONS sang *The Sweet Rat-Catcher's Daughter* which I recently learned was an English folk song, not Irish as I had supposed.

Except for the Nativity Plays and entertainment for the schoolchildren, the final event of the year was The Christmas Fair which usually featured a short concert but the big stage was not used. Again this was an occasion for a chat over a cup of tea, together with a few purchases from tables displaying goods

made or supplied by parishioners. There was also the satisfaction of helping a good cause.

During World War II, members of the Youth Club gave two performances of a concert featuring music popular at the time such as *Don't sit under the Apple Tree.* New talent emerged and continued to entertain us for years.

The Secretary of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, who travelled to Ramsbottom to see the show, congratulated all who had taken part and made special mention of the tap-dancing expertise of Laurence MORRIS, who for months had been spending all his time practising his steps. Over the years the cast of characters involved in these activities changed and I cannot now remember all of them but Wilf LLOYD who moved to Ramsbottom around 1940 made a big impact. He was an experienced producer of and accompanist for musical shows and generated a great deal of enthusiasm. He had a flair for choral work and items like *The Anvil Chorus* were well received by the audience.

Bill DAISLEY was married to one of the KENNEDY girls and he joined the parish at the end of the war. In the forces he had served in Italy and taken the opportunity to develop his singing and knowledge of popular operatic songs, learning English words to many. With his excellent voice he raised the standard of performance to a new level particularly in a memorable version of *Torna A Surriento.* On the occasions when John KAY and Robert HANKINSON sang, they also kept up a high standard and John continued to develop his singing technique and later won prizes at many amateur music festivals.

This regular programme of parish social events continued with little change until 1939, when it reduced and became less regular because of the war. There was a revival after the war but it never achieved the level of pre-war years and has since declined again. This is no doubt because of the changed pattern of life with increased personal mobility and the growth in TV, video and other home entertainment. Pre-war communities had stayed together and most people worked close to home and these social occasions gave them an opportunity to keep up with gossip and to see how the younger people were developing and how older people were progressing. I suspect that it was this element, as much as the entertainment, that my wife's aunt and others of her generation miss in more recent years as re-housing and better travel facilities have led to a more widely dispersed and mobile population The widespread use of telephones and *e-mail* make it much easier to keep in touch with friends and relatives and there is no longer any need to rely on parish social events to exchange news and gossip.

I cannot imagine that parish events in the form recalled by Aunt Helen will make a come-back; perhaps my wife and I are the last generation to remember them but it is always pleasant to do so. Norman Kay, Sheffield

IRWELL BRIDGE MILL, RAMSBOTTOM

The First Fifty Years

When *Irwell Bridge Mill* was built around the 1860s (at the south end of Kenyon Street on the bank of the River Irwell) by Messrs WILD and BRIGGS, it comprised a three-storey mill with an office, boiler house, engine power and a chimney. They also had a 202 square yard cellar, which must have been a problem during floods that blighted the site until recently. Before this mill was built, the only industrial buildings east of the river had been a carding mill (dating from some time after Old Ground days; considerably further south, and marked as *Old Engine* on the 1908 OS map) and a farm, to be occupied by John KENYON in 1888 and 1893.

By 1871, *Irwell Bridge Mill* had been acquired by the STEADs, whose business at that time also included Hope Mill, and they had added a substantial two-storey extension. (Lawrence STEAD is recorded as being a linen and woollen draper of Ramsbottom in 1850. Lawrence STEAD & Brothers Ltd was established in 1854 and they were cotton spinners and manufacturers at *Garden Mill*. This partnership was dissolved in 1870 when all but Lawrence and Henry STEAD retired, being replaced by Lawrence STEAD & Brother Ltd.) Lawrence STEAD (died 1891) and Henry STEAD (died 1892) were trained under the GRANTs at Square Works. By 1884, when it had been built up further into a large business, STEADs' premises included *Garden, Hope, Railway* and *Irwell Bridge Mills* and there was a warehouse at 31, York Street, Manchester.

At the founder's death the business had been expanded to five mills and 2,000 looms by his grandson (also Lawrence), and it employed over 1,000 people. As businessmen the STEADs ranked in importance with the PEELs and GRANTs of former generations. The period 1880-81 was a disastrous time at *Irwell Bridge Mills*, which at the time is described as a spinning mill and a weaving, winding and warping shed connected with each other by the one-storey boiler house. They were twice flooded when the River Irwell overflowed and worse was to follow. In the *Bury Times* of 3rd August 1881, a fire on the previous Tuesday is reported to have destroyed the stone built spinning mill, then described as three-storey, 14 windows in length and six in width. The first alarm had been given at 2.30am. Factory hosepipes failed so a messenger was sent on a railway locomotive to summon the Bury

firemen, who arrived about two hours later, too late to save the spinning mill. The reporter continues:

> ***The scene at this period was extremely grand, the flames darting through the roof and windows and illuminating the surrounding hills with their lurid glare……***
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> ***When the fire had burned itself out ... the scene presented by the gutted building was of the most melancholy description. Not a vestige of the roof remained, and no portion of the flooring stood: the large beams which supported the upper floors were burnt through. Only two small portions of the beams which supported the topmost floor were to be seen, but the blackened and charred beams upon the massive iron pillars, on which the floor of the first storey rested, still maintained their position, although they appeared to be burned through. The whole of the machinery was fallen and was mixed in inextricable confusion, and the ironwork was twisted in all directions by the intense heat....***
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> ***The cause of the fire is a matter of conjecture only. It is supposed to have originated in the spontaneous combustion of some cotton.***

The flames did not spread to the weaving shed where work was resumed after repairs to the engine. About 50 people were out of work but there was insurance and rebuilding eventually took place to restore/rebuild it as a two-storey building. The rate book of March 1882 shows a substantial reduction in the amount payable. There appear to have been only minor alterations to the mill since, including improved WCs in 1905 and the addition of a small office at the front in 1907, both for Messrs, The Irwell Bridge Company.

An advert in the *Festival Souvenir Handbook* (1951) for Lawrence STEAD & Brother Ltd, Cotton and Rayon Manufacturers, *Irwell Bridge Mill*, lists their products as spun rayons, hair-cords, humbrics, slub cottons, cambrics, pillow cottons, tailors' linings, book cloths, surgical dressings, industrial cloths, bleaching cloths, printers etc for home and export. Memories of a Mill Girl at Irwell Bridge Mill Another source is former employee, Joan BARCROFT who writes:

> ***I started work at STEADs in November 1952 after four years at PEMBERTON'S mill just a few yards further down Kenyon Street. (I had left PEMBERTON'S because they were already on "short time"- a three day week that they had been on for several months.) STEADs, which had been bought by ROBINSONs of Chesterfield were on "full time". ROBINSONs had also acquired another mill (in the Wigan area, I think). Their Chesterfield business was large with several departments and it employed several hundred people. I was once part of a group***

of Ramsbottom employees who had an interesting visit--to the Chesterfield site, where workers had a canteen and a social club with various activities, including bowls and an amateur dramatic society. For a few years the men from STEADs paid an annual visit to play bowls and, no doubt, to enjoy a pint or two. Our management arranged day outings in summer and a dinner and dance at Christmas when some of the directors from Chesterfield would join us for a few hours. Sometimes at Irwell Bridge Mill when the river was in flood, work would stop if the water affected the steam boiler system. Looms would gradually slow down and weavers would be dashing along their "alley", "knocking off" looms, trying to avoid shuttles "trapping". This was often accompanied by a few choice words!

In time the system was electrified, though we still had the old looms from the beginning of the 1900s. These sometimes caused problems for tacklers and weavers as spare parts became difficult to obtain and a lot of improvisation was called for. In the 1960s the cotton industry was in serious decline so staff was difficult to recruit as young people refused to "enter the mill". When STEAD's did finally close in December 1972, I think I may have been the youngest employee (in my late thirties). Over the years we'd had a lot of laughs, some tears at times, and lovely companionship. Even though in 1976 I went on a business studies course at Bury College and started working in an office (another mill!), first on production then in accounts on computer, I still remember my almost 30 years as a mill girl.

(See also News Magazine 12: In her report, Joan said that she thought an Irwell Bridge Mill loom had gone to Helmshore. On checking, we were told that it is in store there and, although it is not in working order and very hard to reach, it still has some cloth on it)

Since textile manufacturing finished

Irwell Bridge Mill has been owned and used by The Parker Box Company Ltd for high volume processing and manufacturing of cardboard packaging boxes. It now consists of two large single-storey, northern light weaving sheds with a core of two-storey office and storage buildings. The attractive front elevation is of coursed natural stone with ashlar stone lintels and cills to the windows and the mill walls along Stead Street and Kenyon Street are random stone. *Irwell Bridge Mill* is now one of only three stone built textile- related buildings in Ramsbottom, the others being *Field Mill*, Kenyon Street and *Cobden Mill* (which is a large site at the junction of Square Street and Kay Brow).

Janet Smith

(Although the recent application for outline planning permission to demolish Irwell Bridge Mill and build 30 apartments has been withdrawn, the building may still be under threat of redevelopment. At the second of only three remaining stone-built, textile related buildings in Ramsbottom, Cobden Mill on Square Street, there are already twelve new apartments and a current planning application is for 39 more. Under this latest proposal, the Cobden Mill building on Square Street itself would be converted into 24 apartments but its large weaving shed alongside . Kay Brow would be demolished and replaced by new build apartments and car parking. Editor)

MEMORIES OF CROW LANE

Alan RICHARDSON describes facilities at 17/19, Crow Lane:

We had a three piece suite, large sideboard, table, four dining chairs,

Two bentwood chairs and the heating was what they called a Bungalow Range….. coal fired of course with a good oven, and the fire provided all the hot water ever needed. There was also an out kitchen which had an old Victorian cast iron fireplace with a very large oven. Then there was the back yard consisting of outside toilet and coal shed. The toilet, by the way, was a proper WC.

Doris HIBBERT describes facilities at 10, Crow Lane:

We had a very tiny kitchen and that had a gas boiler, a white sink and some The gas boilers were a bit lethal looking -- with the flame

underneath. The living room was our main room where everything happened. We had a clothes rack hanging from the ceiling and I vaguely remember a large black fireplace range with its oven and side boiler. You scooped the water with a ladling can ...later we had a Bungalow Range (there was the fireplace and to the right an oven so the fire fed the oven) which had four mottled tiles on the door and we thought we were so posh. The outside toilet was a tippler and once our cat fell down and Mother rescued it on a mop and plunged him into a bucket full of water to clean him up.

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

1 Bury Archive Service - Edwin Street (off Crompton Street) Bury BL9 0AS; tel: 0161 797 5897 - preserves the historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. There are over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans and photographs, almost all of which are available for consultation in the public reading room. Holdings include the records of local authorities (eg Ramsbottom Local Board, and UDC, including many building plans) schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, sports clubs, charities, political parties and other social organisations. The Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

The service is in Edwin Street (off Crompton Street, next to Plumb's Hi-Fi shop), and entrance is via the yard at the far end of the street on the right-hand side. The reading room is open from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm every Tuesday; and at the same times on other weekdays Monday to Friday, but please make an appointment in advance by ringing archivist Kevin Mulley before any visit. Group visits (minimum six persons) on evenings and weekends are available if booked in advance.

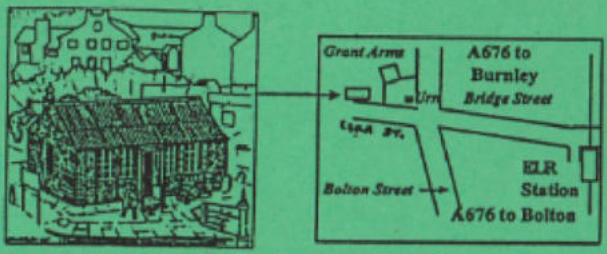
2 Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services Department) Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 0DG; tel: 0161 253 5871 - has publications on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older Ordnance Survey maps for the whole of BMBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

The library is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm each weekday (open until 7.30pm Wednesdays), and from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturdays.

3 Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury; tel: 01706 822484 - has much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev RR Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets, as well as Hume Elliot's history.

4 Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Vicky Barlow, Bob's Ley, 6, Mowbreck Lane, Wesham, Preston, Lancs PR4 3HA; tel: 01772 687234 - membership is only £9-00 per year, and this entitles you to four magazine issues, an opportunity to publicise your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall.

Visit us at Ramsbottom Heritage Centre



Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom,
Bury BL0 9AE (opposite the Library)
NOTE OUR WEB SITE:-
www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk

Exhibition for 2004 –*Circle Round Ramsbottom*

Including - old maps of Ramsbottom; Local Industry, Hazlehurst; the Experimental Farm; Photographic Competition entries.

Open from Easter Saturday until mid-December 2004

Saturdays and Sundays 1pm – 4pm

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Ramsbottom Heritage Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom,
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NOTE OUR WEB SITE:-www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk
Telephone 01706 82 1603 (weekends only).
To arrange group visits outside the following opening times please ring 01706 82 2620

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Sales counter with good selection of Local History books, details of town and country walks, videos and tourism leaflets, gifts, postcards and local information . . . or just a chat about Old Ramsbottom!

You may also want to offer to have your memories of the area recorded. We are always extending our oral history archive.

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THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

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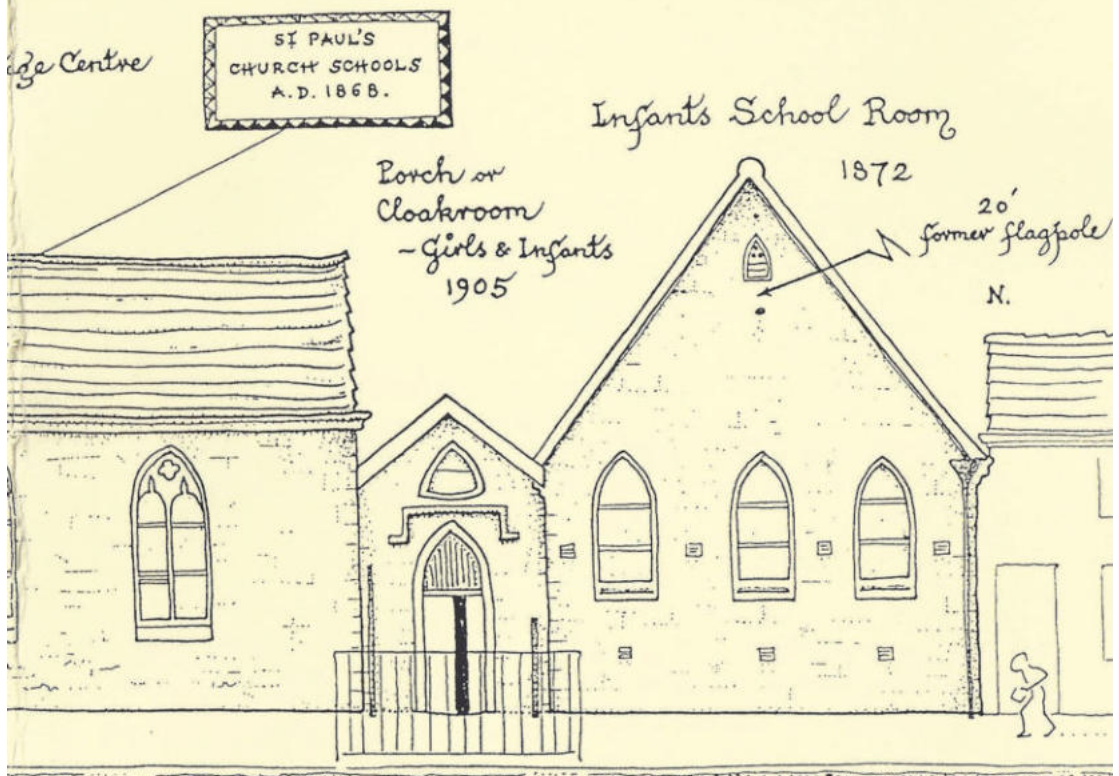

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Telephone: RAMSBOTTOM (01706) 821603

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 as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME 2004-5

Dec 8th	M/s Davies - *"Angels with Dirty Faces" – illustrated*
Jan 19th	Mrs K Fishwick - *"Crawshawbooth – A Village Story" – illustrated*
Feb 16th	Mr C Tweedale – *"Profits from the Porritts"*
Mar 16th	PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION Miss Margaret Curry - *"The Eden Valley" – illustrated*
April 20th	Mr N Coates – *"Railways in East Lancashire" – illustrated*
May 18th	***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and MEMBERS' NIGHT***

All indoor meetings except December are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

Entry by donation, please.

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

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FRONT COVER - *St Paul's School, Crow Lane at closure, July 2003.*
Drawn By John B Taylor.

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

Society Sketches: Tony MURPHY - a member, with his wife Joan, since our earliest months, our new chairman was born in Miles Platting Manchester in 1937, moved to Prestwich at four days and so traded the status of Mancunian for Lancastrian! Few people can boast a CV quite so varied, and its names and occupations will resonate with many members. First Tony served as an apprentice locomotive engineer from 1952-8 at Gorton to Beyer-Peacock 'Engine Builders to the World'. His lifelong interest in steam locomotives, seeded on the four great Manchester stations in the 1950s, grew as he worked on the articulated freight giants destined for South Africa, Rhodesia, Kenya, Australia and Chile.

Deferred National Service from 1958-60 took him into the Royal Engineers. In Movement Control he helped transport troops and equipment throughout the world, not least through the construction of ports, roads and railways. In those days before Britain withdrew its military commitments east of Suez, Murph could be found as far afield as Malvern, Longmoor and Oman!

Tony now transferred these skills to a civilian career in export control, starting with Thomas MEADOWS, Shipping and Forwarding Agents of Manchester. In 1970 he joined FISONS Pharmaceuticals at Loughborough, living in digs, and buying his first car, a Singer (with 'walnut veneer' he told me proudly!) to commute back to Prestwich at weekends. Export of toiletries, medical and laboratory equipment and chemicals involved a spell in Holland to help circumvent the 1972 British dock strike.

After three years working from home for Trailer Express of Immingham, Tony briefly joined the British Aircraft Corporation at Samlesbury, controlling the export of spares to Saudi Arabia, whose airforce flew Lightning fighters. He recalls watching test flights at Warton - 'They accelerated vertically and could disappear in seconds' he said. Next Tony became shipping manager with Sir James FARMER-NORTON, the once world renowned Salford machinery manufacturers, but this became a casualty of the slump in traditional British manufacturing in the early 'high pound' Thatcher years.

Tony had met and married Joan THOMPSON of Northenden in 1973, and in accord with the entrepreneurial zeitgeist of the time they ran a confectionery, tobacconist and newsagents shop in Cheltenham from 1981 to 1985. He returned to employment, setting up the shipping department of James H DENNIS at Trafford Park, and finally rejoined what had now become British Aerospace at Samlesbury retiring in 2002.

This severance from the world of work has been our gain! Tony has transferred his administrative skills into many aspects of our Society's activities, including Oral History recording, the Conservation Group and the famous Video Project.

Tony's geniality and quiet sardonic humour are now more widely known since he took over from Dorothy MOSS to become our third chairman. He is interested in Geography, History and 'things green' but it has been his interest in steam railways that I have come to enjoy especially, and it is fitting that Tony gave me this thumb nail sketch of his life between trains in Ramsbottom signalbox!

Andrew Todd

Chairman's Report - my term as' Chairman has begun at a time of change and challenge for the Society, with some uncertainty over the short-term future of the Heritage Centre and all that goes on there. However, I am encouraged and I believe that members should be too. There has been an increase in attendance at our monthly meetings and committee and ordinary members have responded with enthusiasm to fill the roles left vacant by the retirement, due to ill-health, of several key members. I look forward to continuing the endeavours of previous chairmen in advancing the Society.

In response to members' concerns about the inappropriate or over-development of Ramsbottom, a Conservation Group has already been established under the chairmanship of Dorothy MOSS. Liaison with Bury MBC is enabling our voice to be heard, our opinions are being sought and also listened to.

At the Society meeting on 15th September, I had the difficult task of informing members of the proposal by Bury MBC that the Arts & Libraries Service use our Heritage Centre in Can Street for the provision of a reduced lending service, whilst the library building opposite., is extended and refurbished. We have been assured that the proposal envisages our presence in the Centre by way of the promotion of our Society and display space whilst the work is going on, together with access to the Centre for weekend activities, as at present, and for meetings. In the event of displays and materials having to be removed and stored, assistance with transportation and storage will b e given.

The Society's Committee has met to consider the proposal and to document its concerns; these have been put to the head of the Library Service who addressed the Committee and gave some reassurance. The view of the Committee is that the Society should agree to the proposal. It is acknowledged that the scale of our presence in the Centre would be reduced but at the same time the Society would be promoted to a larger audience for a greater period of time than at present. The Committee now looks forward to an opportunity to discuss with Bury MBC our element of the shared service concept.

In the last issue of the magazine, I mentioned the film in celebration of Ramsbottom which the Society is producing. At the time it was planned that the video would be on sale by Christmas 2004. It is now clear that whilst we are delighted with the filming that has been done, there is insufficient time to complete the editing before the end of the year, the wet summer having caused several filming dates to be postponed. The expectation is that the film will be ready at Easter 2005.

Tony Murphy

New Conservation Areas in Ramsbottom - on 28`h September 2004 Bury Council's Planning Control Committee designated the Bury New Road Conservation Area and the Tanners Conservation Area.

There are some additional planning controls affecting conservation areas -

1. permission from the Council is required for demolition of buildings and walls;
2, prior notice should be given to the Council for any work on trees;
3. the extension of dwellings, without the need for permission, is restricted;
4. alterations should use traditional materials and designs, consistent with the period and style of existing property;

5. consultation is required for changes such as cladding of exterior walls, changes to the shape of roofs and installation of antenna/satellite dishes.

The Bury New Road Conservation Area will cover the odd numbers 3 to 45, Bury New Road - the stone cottages and houses to the east of the road and the land and retaining walls on Every Street. No 43 *(Park Cottage)* was built in 1846 as the manse for Park Chapel, Walmersley Road. Irwell Terrace *(3 to 21)* and the large three storey houses calledIrwell Mount*(23 to 31)* appear on the 1864 Local Board valuation list.The other houses*(33 to 41, and 45)* are thought to be contemporary with these.

The Tanners Conservation Area will cover - 2,12 to 76 *(even numbers)* Tanners Street; Tanners Croft; 1 to 7 and 2 to 10, Milton Street; 3 to 13, Douglas Street; 6 and 8, Taper Street; 1 to 11, Mount Street; 1 to 15, Coulthurst Street; 1, Manor Street; and 1 and 2, Prospect House.

Some parts of Tanners existed in the 18th Century, being absorbed into larger groups of cottages from about 1850. Both Foot o'th'Rake and Tanners Lower Tenement are recorded on the 1795 Survey of the Township of Tottington. Parts of Tanners Street date from the 18th Century but much is from the mid to late 19th Century. They are all built in stone with slate or stone flag roofs and (except for a few modern alterations) are well preserved.

Elizabeth Duxbury

St Paul's C of E School and Listing: Update - I sent an application for the listing of the town's oldest surviving school building to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in June 2003, and was disappointed to receive no acknowledgement or response until I re-contacted the department in April 2004. And it was only after the granting of planning permission for a 'residential development' by Bury MBC that the department wrote to advise that they did not consider St Paul's School merited listing.

I'm grateful to Janet SMITH for her notes on the proposed rebuilding scheme. The plans distinguish between what they call the 1 868 building (to be converted into six dwellings) and 'the original 1840s school building', the old school hall at the extreme north end (to be split into a further two, one at the front, one at the rear). Thus there will be eight houses in all.

Readers of the last news magazine *will* remember that there remains some uncertainty as to the earlier stages of construction of the school. Judging from the wording of the planning file, it may be that the hall is all that remains of the 'original' building on this site. This first appeared on the First Edition Six Inch OS map, surveyed in 1844-7. The words 'original building' do not refer to the site a few yards further north along Crow Lane, which we

believe was truly the first part of St Paul's - the pair off cottages, now no 27 Crow Lane described by the Rev Tom MARTIN as 'erected in April 1841'. It may be that this early uncertainty could be demystified through access to l9th Century plans in the possession of the applicants...

The main frontage of the school will be largely unaffected by the change in use, since entrance to each house will be from the rear, i.e. from the old school yard. The front windows of the Crow Lane elevation will be retained and opening lights restored to working order (former occupants might say about time). The roof at the front, facing Crow Lane, will be left intact, though the ridge will be extended upwards by about four feet to the level of the old school hall, altering the proportions of the building in relation to its environs. Lintels and sills in the new build are to be plain smooth stone, to match those of the adjoining cottages. The later brick portions of the school, appended to its rear, will be demolished, and replaced with a coursed stone extension, 'to match existing building colour and finish'.

The former school playground will be converted into gardens, with a row of 10 parking spaces occupying the rear portion and backing onto properties on Paradise Street. I hope that any children who play here in future years will have a thought for the recently displaced pupils whose earliest formative social experiences, almost all happy, took place in this small area. The new Conservation Group, set up by the Heritage Society earlier this year, has been active in opposing the development. At least, we should be glad that complete demolition or emasculation will not occur. Comments made by local people seem to have made an impact on the scheme. Originally, there were to be a row of gables inserted into the front roof, but these have been replaced with roof-lights. Generously, the interests of any resident bats and nesting birds have also been taken into account - there will be a bat survey, and work is to be at 'an appropriate time of year regarding potential nesting birds'. In all this, I just wish the interests of that close community of children, now split up into just about every school in the old UDC, had received as much consideration.

Andrew Todd

Obituaries - We are sorry to report the death of member Leslie DUCKWORTH - he was always interested in the work of our Society and we are grateful for his support over the years.

It is with regret that we also have to report the death of Tom BARRETT, one of our long serving members and a great asset to the Society. He helped in íhe Heêiíage Ceníêe ï heêe hië local knoï ledge ï aë inîalìable í o boíh helpers and visitors. In the early 1990s a small group of members including Tom and his wife Hilda, Hilda's sister Marion BEECH and Roy FISHWICK

(the photographer) and his wife Joan used to meet in the Heritage Centre on Tuesday afternoons. They worked with Society Archivist Brenda DECENT, fling, cataloguing and most importantly identifying the many photographs which were donated to the Society. Long discussions and a large magnifying glass were often required before some of the more difficult items could be defined and entered onto the computer database. Tom was especially good at locating views photographed from unusual angles and identifying old, often long gone buildings.

The Centre also benefited from Tom's DIY skills. The wooden map case in which the Society's collection of maps is still stored, and the shelving and storage in the office are just two examples of his handiwork. Over the years, he also researched and assembled several displays, mostly on aspects of TURNBULL and STOCKDALE where he was employed for most of his working life. In later years, especially after losing Hilda, his health deteriorated but he still insisted on doing his sessions in the Centre and for many years was a key holder. Tom was also famous for the prodigious quantities of cakes and mince pies he baked for us, which must have raised lots of money over the years, especially at holiday times and special events. They were delicious and always much enjoyed, especially by the helpers ! In addition to the Heritage Society, Tom had many interests. He was a Friend of Scouting having been actively involved in the Scouting movement for many years. During World War II he served in the RAF as a wireless operator. His duties included monitoring messages in Morse code on German radio frequencies. These were then transmitted to secret establishments in the UK such as Bletchley Park where the famous Enigma machine was based. He was a member of the British Legion and later became a Freeman of Bletchley Park. He was a lifelong member of St Joseph's RC Church.

Tom *will* be remembered by many people for his great kindness and his mischievous sense of humour. He will be sadly missed.

[Tom steadfastly refused to have his recollections tape recorded but just a few weeks before he died he was persuaded to write the article which follows.]

MEMORIES OF KENYON STREET

I was born in 1921 at 66, Kenyon Street, home of my maternal grandparents Henry and Melinda FLETCHER. As a small child I moved to Princess Gardens and then to Prince Street. I started school at Lodge Street, which was two-storey with one classroom upstairs and one downstairs, and later moved to St Joseph's when it opened in 1927.

My father, and also his brother and sister, worked at Ramsbottom Paper Mill but he advised me not to work there. When I was 14 years old it was on Kenyon Street that I started my first job, at Field Mill where my mother's brother already worked as a spinner. I worked in the warehouse, where the weavers brought the cuts of cloth and I used to fold them by machine into yard laps. After that the cut lookers used to check them before they were made , ready for the waggon which took them to Manchester. There was about one waggon load a week. After a while, because Field Mill's record for security of employment was not good, I was allowed to go first thing every morning to seek a job at TUTRNBULL and STOCKDALE where I started work about a year later. I stayed at TURNBULLs until retirement with a break for war service from 1941-5. When I came back after the war, I was at their Manchester office for about three years, travelling down daily by train before returning to Rosebank.

I think that Field Mill was owned at the time I worked there by Mr ASHWORTH. It was run by the owner's nephew, Donald COUPE. The raw cotton was carded *on* the ground floor and the spinning was on the second *and* third floors. The weaving shed, which was at the Peel Bridge end of the mill, had 148 looms. There were half a dozen four-loom weavers but most had three looms, two *on* one side and one on the other. At Field they made white calico with one special section making fabric for lining Wellington boots.

While I worked at Field Mill I used to go across the road to my Grandma's house at dinner time and I was there one day [in December 1936] when the River Irwell flooded. There was a step down into the pantry, where we first noticed the water. At its height in the house the floodwater was about three feet deep and I can remember that in the front room we had to take the drawers out of the dresser. (It had drawers below and a dresser for pots above.) Outside we found that water from upstream was flowing across the field and into the end of Kenyon Street and also that the river was so high that it was coming into the end of Cunliffe Street between KAY's Britannia Soap Works and Cunliffe's Soap Works, a small concern behind one corner of Field Mill, on the other side of Cunliffe Street from KAY's. All the water was then rushing south along Kenyon Street. My Granddad died soon afterwards, and my Grandma always said that the floods killed him. He had worked as a fireman for both Field Mill and KAY's (separately) and was involved in the work caused by the flood.

At that time, there was nothing blocking off the end of Cunliffe Street to hold the river back. A wall was built across it soon afterwards, certainly before the War. The last big flood was about 1951 but the problem has continued. Recently, around the time of the improvements that were made

to the riverside wall near the weir, the Cunliffe Street wall was made higher and other works were carried out including the strengthening of the riverside wall and windows of the Britannia Works. [See also News Magazine no 20, Autumn 2000, for more accounts of flooding in this area - Editor.]

Dad had an allotment on Kenyon Street ('the Pen') where we grew vegetables and kept a few poultry. Also there were the HEAPS, Harry GREENWOOD, scorer for Ramsbottom Cricket Club, and his brother who played for them, 'Uncle' David and Mr LIGHTFOOT, a pigeon fancier. I remember that you had to be very quiet on a Saturday because of the pigeon racing. Sometimes the birds were flying from France and to end their race they needed to fly into the coop so that their rings could be removed. Granddad also had an allotment there which Dad took over later.

Next door to Grandma's was a small shop selling sweets etc. Also on Kenyon Street were two other shops including Howard BENTLEYDSoff licence. There was a shop in a side street called Hardy Street where Norman KAY's grandma sold bread and on Mill Street was a chip shop. At the top of Kenyon Street on the main road next to Peel Bridge was a row of shops: COULTHURST's butchers, a Co-op and a clogger's.

Tom Barrett

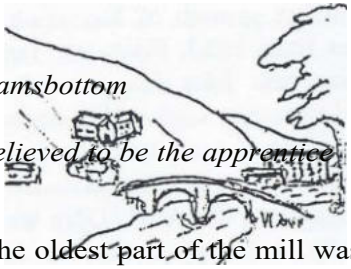
RAMSBOTTOM MILL - THE MOST POWERFUL MILL IN THE VALLEY, BUT WHERE IS IT NOW?

In 183 3 Ramsbottom Mill was by. far the largest mill in the Irwell Valley, both in power and production. First opened just over 200 years ago, by the 1830s it boasted a collection of buildings, two chimneys, three water wheels and three powerful steam engines[1]. However like many mills it closed long ago. Can such a large mill just vanish? No! There are plenty of traces of its existence if you know where to look.

Brothers Samuel and Thomas ASHTON built their cotton spinning and weaving mill in Ramsbottom in 1802[2], four years before the more famous GR.ANTs settled in the town. They originally produced fustian cloth, a mix of cotton and either flax or wool, using skills they had learned from the family business. Hume ELLIOT refers to them as handloom weavers[3], but they were clearly more than that.

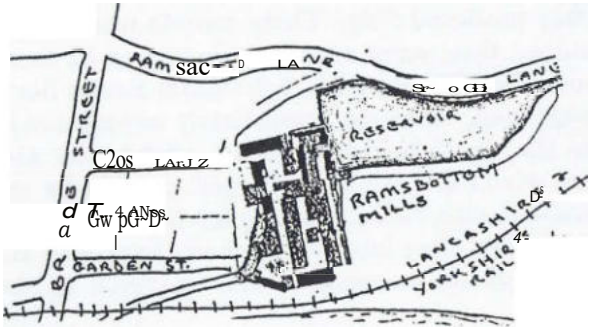
The only known illustration of their long vanished Ramsbottom Mill is shown on the next page. It is probable that the painting shows the original 1 802 spinning works, since later accounts indicate that it eventually was rebuilt with only one or two storeys.. The river, however, was to be the key to the ASHTONs' success. Whilst other water powered mills were supplied by streams coming down the valley sides, the ASHTONs planned a mill so

great that it needed water from the Irwell itself to fill their reservoir or lodge. The lodge had to provide sufficient water to fill the buckets of three large water wheels; and it needed to be high enough above the factory floor to give a sufficient fall to drive them. Drawing and storing so much water from the river was therefore a major undertaking, requiring the construction of a weir just below Stubbins Bridge, a goit or headrace nearly a quarter mile long, and a large reservoir. This lodge was just west of Ramsbottom Lane, extended several hundred yards southwards from Great Eaves Road, and included the areas now occupied by GRIFFITHS Skip Hire, Esso's Stubbins Lane Garage, the bus turning area, and Garic's yard (with its distinctive yellow equipment) at the top of Factory Street. [4] All that survives of the ASHTONs' original water power arrangements are the wooden stumps of the weir visible from Stubbins Bridge; odd stretches of goit earthworks by Stubbins Lane; and the eastern embankment of the lodge which falls away from Garic's towards the Baths Field, south of Ramsbottom Pool.



Sketch based on the illustration in Hume ELLIOT (p106) showing Grant Lodge (now the *Grant Arms) and Ramsbottom Mill - the low building to the front of the four storey mill is believed to be the apprentice house and survives in part.*

The 1 874 plan on this page shows that the oldest part of the mill was in the yard at the end of Crow Lane, the water-wheels operating in the north eastern corner the mill where fixing points for a possible driving shaft can still be seen.



Ramsbottom Mills, based on the Survey of GRANT LA TYSON Estate, 1874 (Bury Archives). Surviving buildings are shown in heavy black

The small square building in the yard is thought to be original. The mill site also included the land now owned by Joshua GREAVES and Sons, visible from the end of Garden Street. Here the two storey building with northern lights was known to exist by 1 842 and the single storey shed used by Ramenco was built between then and 1874.[5]

The Development of the Mill

The earliest description of the mill was in 1 809 when it consisted of several buildings including a factory, sizing house, 10 cottages and an apprentice house.[6] The apprentice house is probably today's 40-44 Crow Lane. By 1 820 the mill had doubled its number of buildings, and other extensions were in hand. In October 1817, a plan had been drawn up in connection with a dispute between the ASHTONs and Edmund SAGAR of Chatterton Mill over water rights, and this indicates that Ramsbottom Mill was piping water across the Irwell direct from Chatterton Mill's tail-race and into their original goit below Stubbins Bridge. There is no indication of steam power in this area until 1 826 when handloom weavers destroyed power looms at Chatterton.[8] The fact that troops were stationed at Ramsbottom Mill would suggest that they too had powerlooms at this time.

The further growth of Ramsbottom Mill is reflected in two very detailed sources from 1833. First, the Tottington Lower End Poor Rate Assessment for that year lists four powerloom shops, a lime house, sizing house, scutching room, weft room, several store rooms, a blacksmith's shop, three steam engines with their boilerhouses and gas house, and extra cottages compared to earlier assessments. The apprentice house was again noted, indicating that the ASHTONs were using child labour throughout this time. Secondly, a survey drawn up for The Irwell Reservoir Scheme includes details of all the factories in the valley from north of Bacup down to Radcliffe and Farnworth. Ramsbottom Mill was by far the biggest of them all, using water and steam to produce a total of 183 horse power. Two of the water-wheels were 15 ft in diameter and 10 fl wide, whilst a third was 16ft by 6ft. In they produced 50hp. These wheels were almost certainly inside the mill building, their water supply falling 10 to 12 feet from the lodge to the mill floor. The 1 874 GRANT LAWSON Estate Survey shows that it then ran underground, emerging immediately beyond the apprentice houses, and then into the Irwell just downstream of the weir above Peel Bridge. The arch from which this tailrace emerged can still be seen under the railway. The tailrace in turn formed part of the headrace for the GRANT Brothers' Square Mill. The three huge waterwheels have long since disappeared, but a working wheel of comparable size survives at the Helmshore Textile Museum.

The Irwell Reservoir Scheme shows that by 1 833 the power from the Ramsbottom Mill wheels was dwarfed by that of its three steam engines, which would have been low pressure beam engines. Together they produced a total of 132hp, and again this was far greater than any other mill in the Irwell Valley at that time. One engine assisted the 10 foot wide water wheels and with a second engine these drove 430 fustian looms and powered the dressing process. The most powerful engine, at 72hp, drove another 470 fustian looms and other machinery as well. Throstle spinning machines, developed from A RKWRIGHT's water frame, would have been used, but the weaving would have been put out to handloom weavers until 1820s when steam power looms became widespread throughout the industry.

Coincidentally, 1 833 was also the year that Samuel ASHTON died, having outlived his younger brother by three years. Whilst Samuel and Thomas saw many of the major developments in Ramsbottom, they did not live to see the opening of the railway in September 1 In their time the furnaces for their mill engines would have been supplied from collieries situated in the valley. Coal mines in the area were recorded as early as 1784.[9] There were several small pits on Scout Moor and at Oxhey on the edge of Holcombe Moor, one mile from Ramsbottom, and coal could also have been brought along the turnpike road from collieries such as that shown at Hawkshaw on the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in the 1840s.

A Period of Prosperity

The mill was profitable during the 20 years in which Richard, the son of Thomas ASHTON, was head of the firm. A magistrate, he appears to have been involved with the community. It was during his tenure that money was given by the firm (still called Samuel and Thomas ASHTON) towards the building of a school in 1841, believed to have started in a pair of cottages which were shown on the 1 842 Tithe Map and which later became 27, Crow Lane. Trade directories describe how, in 1850, the firm also donated money and land so that St Paul's Church could be built on the site of Crowtrees Farm, which stood roughly where the church tower is now.

Richard retired in 1 *856* and handed over the reins to his sons, who then renamed the firm Richard Edward ASHTON and Brothers. [10] Six years later, events in the New World fatally damaged the prosperity of the business.

Financial Disaster

Ramsbottom Mill must have been devastated when the supply of raw cotton all but dried up during the Lancashire Cotton Famine,1862-5. Like many other cotton businesses, the ASHTONs failed to recover. However they had other financial difficulties prior to this, the firm having been severely damaged when family members were bought out. We know that in 1861 the

youngest brother, Henry, broke with the partnership taking with him seventy-five cottages as his share of the estate, and this would have threatened their other source of income. '[1]

The 1 842 Tottington Lower End tithe map shows that the ASHTON s owned considerable land in Ramsbottom. Broadly speaking, the GR.ANTs owned the north of the town, including the town centre, whilst the ASHTONs' property extended from Ramsbottom Lane to the River Irwell, and from the Stubbins boundary in the north down to the modern Railway Street. When they first arrived, one of the few buildings existing on their newly acquired land was Lower Ramsbottom Farm, though Hume ELLIOT calls it Crowtrees Farm. By 1842, there was also the apprentice house, and several row of back-to-back cottages on Ramsbottom Lane, and around Factory Bottom, housing the workforce at the mill. Many of these terraces and tenements were demolished long ago, but Dungeon Row opposite St Paul's Church on Bridge Street (then Water St) still exists today as shops.

Papers belonging to Woodcock and Sons solicitors show that the ASHTONs later created 999 year leases for numerous plots of land on whic were built houses, shops, cotton mills and factories, the police station near the toll bar at Peel Bridge, Jerusalem Chapel at the apex of Factory Street and Ramsbottom Lane, and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. After 1862, as the Cotton Famine bit, the ASHTONs started mortgaging properties, including the mill. They must have sold others which do not appe in later documents.

Even this couldn't save the firm from their creditors and 1 867 saw the end of th ASIITONs as Ramsbottom property and mill owners. Advertisemen 1n the *Bury Times* indicate that their houses south of Bridge Street were so to William GRANT in the March and then at 6pm on 24th July 1867 the mill and their remaining properties were sold by auction in the *Railway Hote Various lots* included Ramsbottom Mill (with its reservoir and machinery), lan on Crow Lane and Garden Street, the School, no 11 Crow Lane (lived in by Joseph HEAP, an important local figure), and ground rents for houses in Crow Lane and mills on Garden Street and Stubbins Lan No contemporary record of the outcome of the auction has yet been found, but w know from local board rating valuation list of 1 876 that many of the houses were owned by either William GRANT or his niece Isabel LAWSON.

The ASHTONs still operated from the mill, but their activities were curtailed. Their 1 868 wages sheets for March to May, nearly a year after the auction, shows that occupations related to the manufacture of cotton cloth were being completely run down. WORRALL's 1871trade directory lists only as cotton spinners, the manufacturing side of their business having

evidently closed. The 1 876 rating valuation shows Ramsbottom Mills (plural) owned by The Bury Banking Company, but occupied by two different firms: Richard Edward ASHTON and Brothers, had the larger section including warehouses, throstle, weft and store rooms, gate houses stables and a few other buildings, two of the engine houses, a boiler house and one of the chimneys; John PEERS, a cotton spinner and manufacturer, had about a quarter of the working site. Part was standing empty. Since the water wheels were considered dilapidated and were allotted no rates evaluation at all, we can assume that the mill was run by steam power alone. Not all the details in Hume ELLIOT's account of the ASHTONs have proved to be accurate, but he was probably correct in believing that their last connection with Ramsbottom Mill was in 1877. Despite the vision and determination of Samuel and Thomas ASHTON in building the largest cotton spinning and manufacturing mill in the Irwell Valley, the family firm closed 75 years later because of splits between their grandsons and because of the American Civil War.

Where is it now?

The GRANT LAWSON Estate sketch map in this article shows what can still be seen of Ramsbottom Mill and its tail-race, and this article has described where remains of the weir at Stubbins Bridge and evidence of the lodge can be found. Some of the houses in Crow lane, shops on Bridge Street, St Paul's School building and St Paul's Church and other buildings were also built by or on land owned by the ASHTONs at that time. This entrepreneurial family may not be as well known as the GR.ANTs in Ramsbottom, but we can see that their legacy of buildings and influence is still with us to day.

Kate Slingsby

References

1 Irwell Reservoir Scheme Survey 1 833 (Bolton Archives)

2 Documents relating to the ASHTON family and mill, in the Heritage Society collection

3 Rev William Hume *ELLIOT, The Country and Church of the Cheerable Brothers* (Selkirk, *1893*) p*144*; pages *103-160*, are reprinted in *Nineteenth Century Ramsbottom* (Ramsbottom Heritage Society, 2001)

4 GREENWOOD's map of Lancashire, 1818 (Lancashire Record Office); Survey of GRANT LAWSON Estate, 1 874 (Bury Archives); Survey contained in the Conveyance of Ramsbottom Mill, 1907

5 Tottington Lower End Tithe Map and Schedule 1 842 (Lancashire Record Office, DR.M 1/98); 1 874 Survey

6 Tottington Lower End Poor Rate Assessments, 1809, 1820, 1833 (Manchester Central Library, Archives Department; microfilm copies at Bury Library); Ramsbottom Valuation Lists, 1 876 (Bury Archives)

7 Rough Plan of Part of Mr Edmd Mr SAGAR's Woollen Works in Tottington Higher End, 23 Oct 1 8 1 7 (ALBINSON Collection, ZAL 188, Bolton Archives)

8 William TURNER, *Riot! The Story of the East Lancashire Loom-Breakers in 1826* (Lancashire County Books, 1992) pp3 8ff

9 Gladys *COUPE, Tottington: the Growth of a Lancashire Industrial Village* (Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, *vo179, 1977) p 102*

10 There is a detailed summary of the ASHTONs in William HEWITSON's articles 14, 53 and 66, in *Heywood Notes and Queries, at* Bury Library

11 Family correspondence, ASHTON papers, 1 833 (Manchester Central Library, Archives) L6/4/2/2; WOODCOCK papers relating to the GRANT LAWSON Estate (Bury Archives) Author's Postscript

I will be happy to let anyone have the full reference list if they get in touch.

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION ? Since the ASHTONs finally left in 1 877 the mill has been divided up and sold and over the years parts have belonged to different firms. If you have any information about what has happened to the mill and its site, particularly if you have memories or photographs, I would be most grateful if you would get in touch - telex 01706 281 998.

D DAY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

We were fortunate to get a last minute cancellation to join the Bradford branch of the 'D' Day and Normandy Veterans' Association to this historic and moving commemoration. After travelling by ferry from Portsmouth, we arrived in our hotel at Honfleur late on the Friday night. In the morning of Saturday S[th] June we were at Colleville-Montgomery to witness the parade, by the Normandy Veterans' Association, past Sword Beach. Here in 1944 there were numerous casualties. There was a service of remembrance and a. march past of the veterans with their standards, parachutists overhead adding to the atmosphere.

Later that day we arrived at Caen where Prince Charles was due to open the British Garden of Remembrance four hours later. It was a boiling hot day with no shade at all but lots of chairs. A Salvation Army van was serving cups of tea and young French people passed round countless bottles of water. The Light Dragoons Band played, a splendid spectacle, but we

couldn't hear the speeches. Prince Charles reviewed the veterans - how proudly they marched - and he spoke to members of the crowd.
Sunday 6th June was the highlight of the weekend when Her Majesty The Queen and President CHIRAC jointly attended a service at Bayeux Cemetery. Members of the Government circulated amongst the crowds before the service, and Winston CHURCHILL's daughter Lady Soames was also there. The service itself was simple. The Duke of Edinburgh read the lesson and we sang rousing hymns: *Onward Christian Soldiers, I Vow to Thee My Country* and *Now Thank We All Our God*.The Queen reviewed the veterans after she and President CHIR.A.C had laid a wreath together. Then she walked down to the entrance of the cemetery, pausing mainly to speak to veterans. How we clapped her! (Later she was to be at Arromanches for the international commemorations.) It was at the Bayeux service that Alan met a chap from his old regiment, the 191st Field Regiment Royal Artillery Hertfordshire and Essex Yeomanry, who had recognised his regimental tie.
After a long wait for our coach, we went to Arromanches where pieces of the Mulberry Harbour are still clearly visible in the water. Later that evening the Queen was due for the final review of the Normandy Veterans. The town was a-buzz, with crowds of people and again very hot. I've never stood up for so long in my life before! The Red Arrows flew over; the French people were so friendly and we had a lovely view of the Queen leaving. Young soldiers had been present all day looking after us, making sure that all was well we felt very cared for.
Monday our final day, saw us at Pegasus Bridge - the Gondree Cafe there was the first building to be liberated - but fifteen of our group took a detour to a cemetery at St Manview, Cheux, Calvados, where some of the organiser's comrades were buried. He was eager to find the grave of one of his brave officers in the Seaforth Highlanders, Major ASHCROFT, so we all spread out and searched, successfully finding it! Eric had a photo taken by the grave, a poignant moment for him. Looking round the cemetery, reading the inscriptions on the graves made us realise the terrible cost of war in human life.
The Bradford Veterans were so welcoming and we felt privileged and proud to be with them on this unique occasion.

Alan and Doris Hibbert (June 2004)

Alan HIBBERT was 19 years old when his regiment left Tilbury Dock, London for the Normandy Landings. He tells us:

> We had not been told where we were going butwe realised it was Dthebig oneD.For over twelve months we had been

preparing in Kent. We fired 251b (medium-sized) guns in support of the infantry who called on us to fire a few rounds when they were stuck so that they could continue their advance.

We landed with the Canadian Saskatchewan Rifles at Gold Beach on the Thursday (Day One was Tuesday) and eventually went right to the Rhine through Holland.

After D Day itself the battle for Normandy lasted for another 77 days as the 100,000 retreating German soldiers were encircled and attacked in what was called DTheFalaise PocketD.After his regiment had broken out from Falaise, and was at Rouen, where all the bridges were down, Alan was the first one to cross the river, using the railway bridge. It was broken in the centre so that both halves sloped down into the water. Orders were to move, so they set off and managed to use one or two of the sleepers to span the bridgeDslowest point before the others followed.

HAZLEHURST SCHOOL - 100 NOT OUT

This year's exhibition in the Heritage Centre includes a display on Hazlehurst School, which celebrated its centenary on 3 M November 2003. According to the School records, I first attended there on 15 th April 1948 (I can't remember the day) and that I left in July 1952. But I possess a class photograph from 1953 and actually my last day there was 2"d July 1954. November 1953 was the 50th anniversary of the opening of the School and, although I was there at that time, I cannot recall any celebrations being held nor can I find any mention of 50th Anniversary Celebrations in the School Records or Archives. Did you attend Hazlehurst in 1953, and if so, can you remember anything being done to mark the 5 0 years?

But to return to the beginning. Preparations for building the School began in 1901, with the cost of construction given as £4,669 including internal fittings and furnishings. The original plan was to cater for 368 children, then an extension was proposed for an additional 160 children. The School was to be called The Hazlehurst Board School. *(Note the spelling - Hazlehurst. It has been suggested that the 'le' spelling came about when the stonemasons mistakenly carved the incorrect spelling on the front of the School, but the area was marked as Hazlehurst on some 1?' century maps and in the Council records dating back to 1901, before construction began, the School was always referred to as Hazlehurst Board School. So the reason for the spelling, still used today for the School, is a mystery.)*

By January 1902, it was proposed to build the School for '220 mixed scholars and 180 infants' and this was done. Records from the early years are very sparse but a Lancashire Education Committee report of October 1913 states that Mr Alfred F BRIGGS was headmaster at a salary of £150 per annum. I have been unable to obtain a complete list of headteachers through the life of the School , as pre-World War 11 documents are almost non-existent apart from a few photographs.

World War II had been over for less than three years when I started in the Primary Department. I have few memories of my early years there but I think that I must have been taught by Miss BIRTWISTLE before 'moving upstairs' to the Junior Depai tlnent. The headmaster at that time was Mr BOA.RDMAN and my form teacher was Mr STOTHARD (who subsequently moved to a school in the south-east of England which featured in an early 'fly-on-the-wall' TV documentary in which Mr STOTHA.RD appeared). Not many years after this TV appearance Mr STOTHARD died at a comparatively young age. Mr MELLODY (who I understand is still alive) was also a teacher in the Junior School.

I remember the old wooden desks (with ancient carved graffiti) for two pupils, with two circular holes for inkwells, and the daily ritual of filling the latter. Corporal punishment was still allowed in the 1950s and I remember being given the cane on my hand for something I did not do, it had something to do with books in the School Library. Whoever did this terrible thing would not own up, so I and several of my schoolmates were given the cane. I remember it hurt but despite the 'PC' non-corporal punishment rules of today I don't think it did me any lasting harm. Whoever did the misdemeanour and didn't own up must have felt far worse. Overall my time at Hazlehurst was very happy and I can't remember any bullying, and I must have been a prime candidate as I was always very shy.

When I left Hazlehurst in 1954 I lost touch with all my classmates, as none of them went on to the same secondary school that I did. I can recall the names of many of them - David RICHA RDS; David LONGFIELD; Ian MYATT; Geoffrey HANSON; Keith STANDR:ING; Eric FARNELL; Carol ORMEROD; Enid SCHOFIELD; Glenys DAMES; Sylvia FACITT; Dorothy ASHWORTH; Elizabeth WHITEHALL; Catherine Ann HOYLE; Catherine Margaret PYE. Have I mentioned your name or do you remember any of these pupils from your time at Hazlehurst? If so I would be glad to hear from you. I'm sorry, I don't have email, but my home address is below.

The Centenary was celebrated in style in 2003 with many special events and an Open Day. BUT was the 50th Anniversary celebrated in 1953? Can anyone remember?

Douglas Hartley, 64 Summerseat Lane, Ramsbottom, Bury BLO 9RQ

HINCHLIFFE - A FAMILY BUSINESS

John HINCHLIFFE was born in 1861 in the Penistone area of Yorkshire and married Ann Jane. He worked with horse and cart, taking steel to Sheffield from a local steelworks, possibly at Stocksbridge. Before moving to Lancashire he lived at Dunford Bridge near Woodhead where he may have been involved in reservoir work. Certainly he came to Lancashire to do work on Scout Moor reservoir, bringing *with him navvies* and the cabins for their accommodation; his wife looked after them and provided meals. There is some recollection of hauling stone from Scout Quarry. John and Ann Jane lived in the Scout area and had a son, Joseph, who married Yorkshire born Miriam BROOKE; and another son, John. Joseph began working with his father and by the start of World War I they had a large team of horses which were then commandeered for the war effort. By 1912 the family were living at Lowes Road, Walmersley, Bury, where Joseph's second son, Herbert, was born; the family later moved to Red Hall.

After World War I, John and Joseph had continued as Garters, their horses being stabled at the *New Inn,* Walmersley. There was a variety of work - greycloth was collected from Baxenden Industrial Cotton Mills Ltd (now the site of HOLLAND's Pies) to take to Manchester. Joseph's wife regularly walked alongside the chain-horses to meet him at Heywood where the chain-horses were used as additional power to pull loaded carts up the steep gradients. Their sons, John and Herbert, as Herbert recalls, accompanied their mother riding on the horses.

In 1922 John died, Ann Jane having predeceased him. In 1922 Joseph bought cottages at Gollinrod, near Red Hall, where at no 12 lived William HOPKINSON with whom he set up a short-lived partnership. The company J HINCHLIFFE Esq (Haulage Contractor) was subsequently established. Joseph's daughter Edith was born in 1924. Two Yorkshire steam lorries were purchased about 1920, these also being garaged at the *New Inn. At* that time, the site at Gollinrod consisted of a lane and cottages; however before the end of the 1920s a garage building had been attached to the cottages. In the early '20s the first motor vehicles had been purchased - these were mainly by Pagefield, but later mostly of Dennis, Albion and Leyland manufacture; in 1928 a Commer 30cwt was purchased for £450 for son John and in 1932 a Dennis costing £762 for son Herbert.

The work was varied, much of it for local firms such as KAY's soap, John WOODS engineers, F D SIMS Ltd wireworks, PORRITT & SPENCER, DUCKETTS of Burnley (white porcelain sink makers) and collecting and distributing weft and beams for the cotton industry. Increasing deliveries of textiles, shoes, slippers and felts to London led to the opening of an office there in 193 3 . Immediately after their 193 5 wedding, Herbert and his wife

Annie moved to London. There Herbert organised the distribution of goods and arranged backloads to Lancashire - bales of rags and waste paper for Radcliffe Paper Mill, timber from the London wharves and Weston biscuits from Slough. Annie put the drivers up and arranged vehicle spares and repairables from Hammersmith by bus.

On the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, the fleet of lorries, with licences, was sold to FISHER RENWICK of Manchester. Herbert returned home with his wife Annie and their children Margaret and John (born in London), and with his brother John, he drove for FISHER RENWICK during the War.

J & H HINCHLIFFE Ltd

This company was started in 1946 by John and Herbert, the sons of Joseph. Their sister Edith became book-keeper in 1947. The business operated under the name HOWA.R.TH SCHOFIELD Ltd, a company purchased from Ben SMITH owner of Fletcher Bank Quarry in order to obtain the licences required to run a haulage business. Ben SMITH had himself purchased the company on the death of the previous owner. John and Herbert each had a Dennis lorry, carting outcrop coal from the Sharneyford and Deerplay collieries above Bacup; they also were involved in demolition work and carting ashes from mills. They maintained the vehicles in the evenings. Later some ex-Army vehicles were purchased - for example, a Canadian Dodge for use on the potato round. Work was done for Fletcher Bank Quarry and Flag Plant and for HALSALL's Brickworks of Lowes Road Bury and Littleborough. These were handball operations requiring very hard physical work. In the 1950s textiles were still very important locally, raw cotton was brought from Liverpool and Manchester docks to Joshua HOYLE, towels were taken to London from HOLDEN's and to Oldham from GROVE's Mills. A full load of material was taken nearly every day to the east end of London for distribution, there being as many as 20 drops. Weft and beams for Chadderton Weaving Co and others, and work continued for KAY's Soap. Ribble Cement was distributed from Clitheroe and granite from Horton-in-Ribblesdale. J GREAVES (Mixers) also used the company. Work for Plaschem, Radcliffe began in the 1960s and continued for 26 years. Other interesting jobs were scenery shifting for the *Hippodrome Theatre, Bury* and moving the wrestling ring for YMCA, Bury. There was often sub-contract work from the railway company, distributing parcels, woodpulp to Kirklees Mill and general freight.

transportation for the textile industry continued, for

A feature of the business has always been the large number of family members employed, by the mid 1960s both John's sons (Jack and Fred) and Herbert's sons (John and Geoffrey) were there with Herbert's daughter

Margaret later commencing there. Younger employees and younger members of the family were lorry-mates. At this time the fleet consisted of rigid vehicles but in 1968 the first articulated lorry, an Albion Chieftain, was purchased and from then on many articulated vehicles were purchased operating alongside four-, six- and eight-wheel rigid vehicles. At one time the fleet comprised 30 units.

In the 1970s the building trade boom resulted in much work for the company, delivering for BAINBRIDGE's. Another regular job was delivering bread trays for METCALFE Brothers. That decade also saw the expansion into warehousing, following the purchase of H C A PATE C Sons, Bury who stored and carried baled cotton linters for Holden Vale Mill, Helmshore. The bales were collected from Liverpool and other docks. Subsequently a large warehouse was built in Kenyon Street, Ramsbottom on the site of the former Grove Towel manufacturers and of part of Pemberton's Mill.

R HOWARTH & Sons was purchased thus acquiring work at CROMPTON's, Elton and Simpson Clough Mills. The business was very busy during the 1980s and early 1990s with work from local manufacturers such as Ramsbottom Paper Mill (now Mondi Packaging), Fort Sterling (now Georgia Pacific) for both haulage and storage, Scapa (now Voith Fabrics), Tetrasyl, Bury and more recently large pieces of ducting for the ventilation of the Millennium Dome, which were manufactured by HARGREAVES of Bury.

By the mid-80s, seven more members of the family, the grandchildren of John and Herbert, were employed by the business - Alan and James had started work in the mid-70s, followed by Jane, Paul, David, Tony and Mark in the next decade. Harry also worked there for a time. The distinctive fleet of blue-and-red-liveried lorries could be seen up and down the country at b u y-gatherings, truck shows and road-runs; they were willingly loaned for carnivals and charity events.

Sadly in 2001, it was decided to sell the fleet and wind down the haulage side of the business. To this end, an auction was held at Gollinrod on 22nd September to bring to an end 55 years of haulage. The company livery is preserved in a classic vehicle Billy Boy owned by one of the family.

The Hinchliffe Family

TERCENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN KAY

In Bury Parish Church register -

1 704 John son of Robert KAYof Park born July 16, baptised July 23

John KAY patented "the flying shuttle" 26 May 173 3 .

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

Bury Archive Service – tel: 0161 797 6697:
NB. THEIR PUBLIC READING ROOM ON EDWIN STREET, BURY, WILL BE OPEN FOR THE LAST TIME ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2004, ready for the move to **Moss Street**. It is expected that a limited service (by appointment) will be started sometime in February followed by the opening of the entire service and museum on March 18th 2005. Details of new opening hours will appear in our next newsletter.

Briefly, the archive comprises over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans and photographs with historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

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 newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury – tel 01706 822484 –has much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev RR Carmyllie, local census returns and the *Ramsbottom Observer* on microfilm and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets, as well as Hume Elliot's history.

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 available on www.lfhhs.org.uk.

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10-12, Square Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BLO 9BE
Tel/Fax: 01706 827988

Visit us at Ramsbottom Heritage Centre

Carr Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AE (opposite the library)

Tel:01706 82 1603 (weekends only). www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk

To arrange group visits outside the following opening times please ring 01706 82 7245

Exhibition for 2004 – *Circle Round Ramsbottom* –

open until mid-December 2004

Sundays + 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm

Sales Counter with good selection of Local History books, details of town and country walks, videos and tourism leaflets, gifts, postcards, and local information ….
or just a chat about Old Ramsbottom!

Free Admission ***Refreshments*** ***Disabled Facilities***

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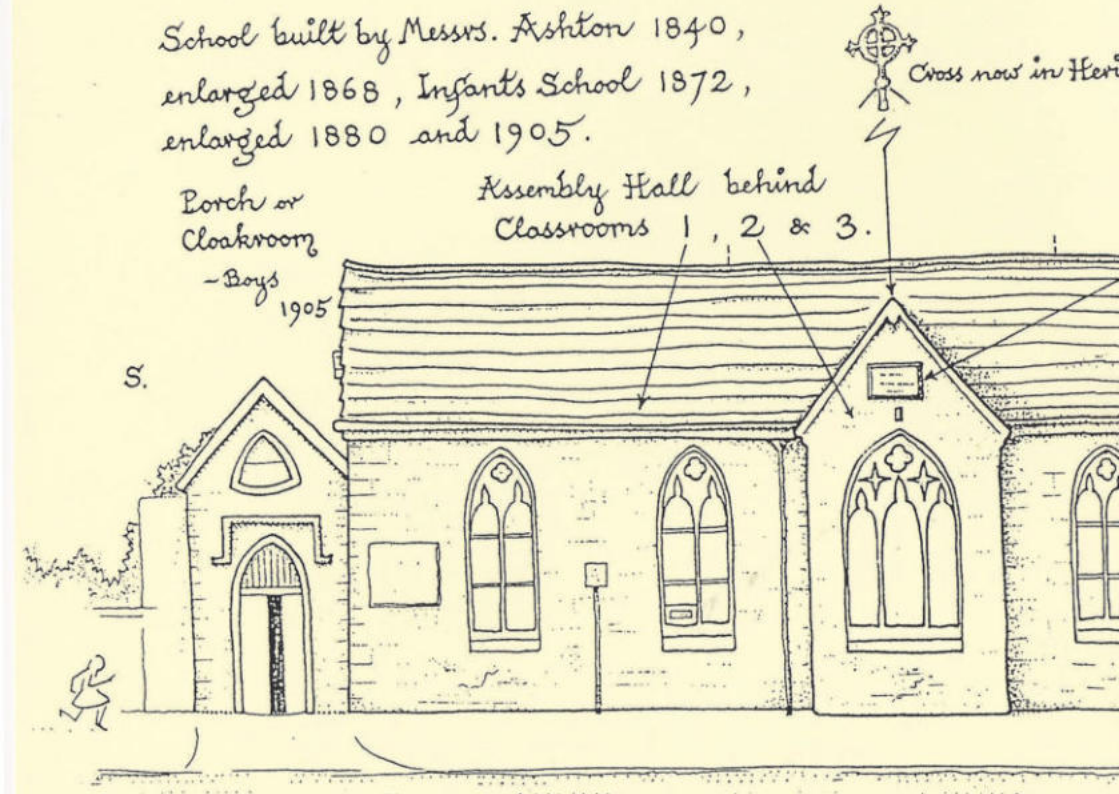

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 28 Spring 2005 ISSN 0960 - 1244



Parish Church of Ramsbottom
St. Paul.

Gary Taylor

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSROTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number for 2005: 01706 82 7245

The objects of the Society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public, by creating an awareness of :nd interest in the study of the history and heritage of Rainshottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-] 974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. 'I'o retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ra mshottom.

PROGRAMME 2005-6

June 15th — Mr A. Todd - *"The Grants of Ramsbottom: Altruism or Avarice"*

July 20th — Mr J. B. Taylor - Guided walk - Bury New Road and Tanners Conservation Areas, Ramsbottom. Meet 6.30pm at Ramsbottom Railway Station.

August 17th — M/s A. Green - Visit to Bury Art Gallery and Museum - *"The Changing Museum"*. Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park.

September 21 " Mrs D. Hughes - *"A History of Hand-Spinning"*

October 19th — Mr W. Hargreaves - *"The Manchester Guardian 1821-2005"*

November 16th — M/s D. Winterbotham - *"A View of the Irwell Valley; Radcliffe to Agecroft"*

December 14th — *Members' night-* Christmas Festivities

All indoor meetings except December are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

Entry by donation, please.

The Editors welcome articles for inclusion in the News Magazine. These may be hand-written, 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 :- *St Paul's Church, Ramsbottom* drawn by Gary TAYLOR.

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since my last report, the Society has vacated the Heritage Centre, a small team of members having undergone the trauma of sorting artifacts, photographs and documents to be retained for display in our new home, and packing the remainder for long-term storage. My sincere thanks to all who helped. The Library Service is now installed in the building whilst our presence there is maintained by a photograph and document display and the sale of Society publications.

The search for a new home for the Heritage Centre began well before our leaving the old one, with all possibilities (and the owners of empty office and commercial properties) being pursued, all to no avail. However help came from an unexpected source - the Church! Divine intervention, perhaps. Through the good offices of Reverend Ian (Canon ROGERSON) of St Andrew's Church, and Rev Jeff ARCUS of St Paul's Church accommodation in St Paul's Church was offered, sufficient to allow the Society to maintain a presence in our town. The offer was gratefully accepted and as the majority of helpers from the former Heritage Centre agreed to continue their support, arrangements were made for the opening on Easter Sunday with a display (in acknowledgement of the kind offer) linking the Church with the surrounding community and its activities. My sincere thanks to all members of the display team for their endeavours. It is expected that last year's level of opening (every second and fourth Saturday and every Sunday) will be continued, subject to there being no conflict with Church services. As I write, Easter is past and the public attendance so far augurs well.

Mention of Easter reminds me thet we had hoped our film would now be ready; sadly it isn't - but I can say that its completion is not far off. All filming is done and the editing is well underway. I hope that very soon a trailer to entice would-be buyers will be ready for showing and that a short sequence from the film will be on our web-site. All those involved in producing the film are sure it's going to be *a bestseller.*

Earlier this year we said goodbye to Kevin MULLEY, Bury MBC Archivist at Edwin Street, who has left Bury to take up a post at Kew. Kevin has always

been unstinting in the advice, support and encouragement he has given to the Society, particularly with respect to the maintainance of our archive, and more recently in sourcing materials for the film project. We are sad at his departure but wish him every success in his new post.

Tony Murphy

OBITUARIES

In November we heard of the death of former member Gordon WHITE who had left the area some years ago to live with his family in Surrey.

Also in November we learned with sadness of the death of Edith DUCKWORTH who had been a member of the Society from its earliest years, a helper in the Heritage Centre and a regular attender at meetings until overtaken by ill-health. Edith was born in Ramsbottom, was a pupil at St Paul's School and worked as a felter at Porritt's Stubbins Vale Mill before marrying and bringing up her family. Continuing to live in or around Ramsbottom, she became a member of the congregation at Park Chapel until its closure. Her reminiscences were recorded by the Society's Taping Team in 1997; ironically just a week before her death, extracts from them were played at the Society's November meeting as an illustration of the Team's work. Edith had a fine sense of humour with a ready laugh and was well liked by all who knew her. She is much missed.

In February we learned of the death of Tom WIGHTMAN another member from the earliest days of the Society. Tom was born in Erith, Kent but spent his early years in Summerseat attending Rowland Road Methodist School. Then followed a short interlude in Bury before his move to Ramsbottom. The bulk of his working life was divided almost equally between Ocean Chemicals at Nuttall and Porritt's Stubbins Vale Mill. Members will recall him, some years ago, leading a walk around the site of Ocean Chemicals, briefly bringing to life an area that had become one of overgrown dereliction. Tom's reminiscences are on record also; he too had a great sense of humour, was liked by all and will be much missed.

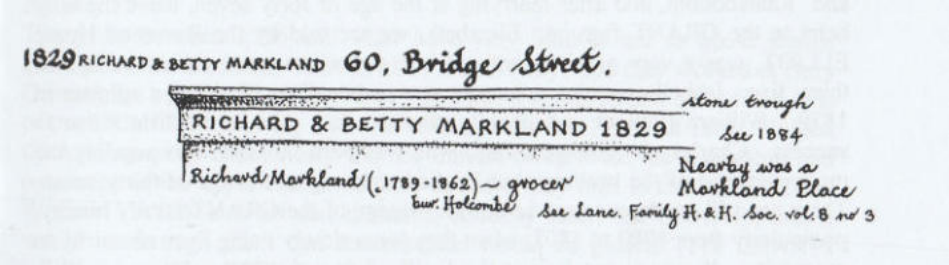
For the Society a sad end to 2004 and a sad beginning to 2005.

'SHOES HAVE TONGUES': KEN ROSE CLOSES AFTER 26 YEARS

In 1978, Mr and Mrs Jim BROUGHTON decided to retire. They had run the shoe shop at 64 Bridge Street for a number of years, having taken over from a Mr A HEWITT who had the business during the thirties. (One end of a shoe box with its label addressed to Mr A HEWITT and dated 31/5/35 was found on the premises. It shows that William GREEN & Son of Rushden, Northamptonshire, who still manufacture the *"finest examples of the art of English shoemakers",* had sent the *"Grenson Comfort Shoes"* via passenger

train, probably an example of their *"Grenson in Stock"* service. The London, Midland and Scottish railway ticket for the parcel costing 2/3d also survives.)

On August Bank Holiday weekend 1978 we moved in as the new owners and started an association that was to last until Christmas 2004. We lived in Littleborough with our two sons and already ran a shoe shop there so the Ramsbottom shop was an ideal opportunity to expand our business. Between I September and our first Christmas we had the shop windows broken twice and the following year a car turning out of Square Street lost control, hit the pavement outside the Royal Oak *and ploughed into the shop front. What a welcome! Undeterred, we carried on and took the "Rammy" people to our hearts. I became more and more involved in the town and in 1993-4 became President of the Rotary Club of Ramsbottom, starting a concert for the elderly people at the* **Theatre Royal** *which is still held today.*



It was a very sad day when we closed the door on a very special part of our lives. *Ken ROSE 2004*

(Our thanks go Mr ROSE who has kindly donated to the society a large photograph of Ramsbottom level crossing by Roy FISH WICK.
NB - The row of shops which includes 64, Bridge Street has the date 1829 on the stone trough over number 60 as shown in the above sketch by John B Taylor. A trades directory of 1913 shows W NEOBARD as the boot and shoe retailer at 6 Bridge Street. It seems, however, that the premises have not been in continuous use as a shoe shop since then because we have a 1927 invoice to John WOOD (Engineering) from H SCHOLES & Son, printers, stationers and booksellers of Union Street, Ramsbottom stating they were also at 64 Bridge Street at that time - Editor.)

DANIEL GRANT

Daniel GRANT was born at the highland home of William and Grace GRANT, the Haugh of Elchies, near Knockando, in the valley of the Spey, Morayshire, Scotland. His baptism was at the Parish Church of Knockando where the registers give the date of birth as 2nd March 1783 and the name *"Donald',* which was the Scottish nomenclature. He was named after an uncle, Daniel GRANT of Arberlour, whose son, another Daniel, was for a period employed at Square Works,, Ramsbottom as Manager.

In 1783, the GRANT family came to Bury. William GRANT, Daniel's father, made the journey from Scotland to Manchester, and, finding no work there he returned northwards, settling near Bury and obtaining work for his children. (The 1780s were years when the Bury area was experiencing a large influx of new families attracted by the mills of Robert PEEL and others like him.) The family consisted of William and Grace (nee McKENZIE) the parents; William, (junior); James, Elizabeth, John, Mary, Isabella, Daniel and Charles. Whilst still young, James returned to Scotland to set up in business and to marry. John was to achieve perhaps the greatest respect and loyalty from the people of Bury and Ramsbottom, and after marrying at the age of forty seven, leave the only heirs to the GRANT fortune. Elizabeth, we are told by the Reverend Hume ELLIOT, was a very gracious and spirited girl who was to die at the age of thirty five. Isabella remains unknown as a personality. She died a spinster in 1839. William (junior) undoubtedly played a key role in the firm's rise to success. Charles, the youngest child who was born in 1788, was possibly the most energetic of the brothers, but he died suddenly at the age of thirty seven.

There are still enormous gaps in our knowledge of the GRANT family history, particularly from 1783 to 1803, when they were slowly rising from obscurity to prosperity. It seems certain that the family first resided near Hampson Mill, then later moved to Haslam Bank, about a mile and a half south of Bury. Some premises in Bolton Street were also occupied by them. By 1790 business was proving profitable enough to enable William GRANT to transport his cotton goods by packhorse to customers in the area. In the year following, when there was great distress at Birmingham, the GRANTs were supplying clothing to children brought from there by Robert PEEL's firm.

From about 1791 Daniel GRANT followed William (junior), James, John and Elizabeth in becoming employed by James DINWIDDIE at Harnpson Mill, a calico printing concern. It is evidence of the friendship between the GRANTs and the DINWIDDIEs that Daniel was taken on, for William had then left the works, having declined a partnership and had assumed the leading role in his own family's commercial enterprise. At the works Daniel became a teer boy, or block-printer's assistant, most of the time to a certain John WARDLE. The block printer's role was that of controlling the printing process carried out by certain machines. The calico material was calendered, then laid over a table, a kind of sieve placed over it, and dyes or mordants were applied before engraved

block or cylinders applied pressure to produce the required pattern. The dyes were brushed on by hand, a process called teering, which gave the name "teer boy" to those who carried it out. This was Daniel's daily occupation for some years at Hampson Mill. It was a happy period of his life, and one when he learned a considerable amount about calico-printing. He also formed a friendship with James DINWIDDIE which was to continue until the latter's death in 1836. It was probably through the GRANTs' connections with DINWIDDIE that they were introduced to the principal merchants of Manchester.

It was most likely in the mid 1790s that the family moved to a shop in the Wylde in the centre of Bury, sometime after 1796, which was the year that James DINWIDDIE's firm became bankrupt' and Hampson Mill was put up for sale. In November 1784 there had occurred the death by drowning of Mary GRANT, aged only seven years. Before the 18th century ended Charles GRANT was placed in the local Grammar School, a privilege accorded only to him, as the means now made it possible. (In contrast, Daniel had enjoyed only a meagre education at a local Dame School, which he left before his ninth birthday.)

The years between 1796 and 1800 have very little to tell us about Daniel GRANT or his brothers. Thomas HAYHURST says that they worked at Bury Ground, the principal factory of the PEELs and a strong stream of tradition tells of the GRANTs' friendship with the PEELs. Between 1790 and 1800, William GRANT (junior) undoubtedly did his utmost to cultivate the friendship and patronage of the upper classes of Bury society. Key men in the PEELs' firm, William YATES and his son Edmund, certainly knew the GRANTs, and it would be through them that commissions would be gained. (The GRANTs supplied goods to PEELs' mill at Burrs at least from 1800 to 1803, very probably until 1806.) The HUTCHINSONs, who lived near the GRANT shop in Bolton Street, also formed a friendship with the family, and it was with Betty HUTCHINSON that Isabella was sent to learn dressmaking. James FISHWICK stood surety for William GRANT when he took the shop in the Wylde [3]. (Both John HUTCHINSON and James FISHWICK were wool staplers and very probably William GRANT would have bought from them or sold their materials.)

In a record of the principal inhabitants of Bury made for the 1801 Census in April of that year the GRANTs are listed as follows:-

Market Place.
Household of William GRANT, four males, three females
Bolton Street.
Household of William GRANT, one male, one female [4]

The Market Street address would include William (senior). John, Daniel and Charles, and Grace, Elizabeth and Isabella. The Bolton Street address would be William (junior). The female, we presume, would be his servant.

From the time of the partnership of William and Daniel GRANT, Daniel was chosen as the salesman of the firm. He commenced travelling all over the country, but principally to the market towns of northern England and Scotland. His wares were samples of cloth of different patterns, bound together in a pattern book. There is at least one story of him obtaining an order through great persistence, courtesy and patience. By widening their field of sales, the GRANT brothers were to build up capital and also make

business contacts which would support them in years to come. It was their sheer determination, along with their business reputation, which contributed to their commercial success. The history of the GRANT brothers is very much the history of Manchester. The period of their struggle to prosperity and acceptance in society runs parallel with Manchester's growth as an industrial community and its eventual recognition as a centre of culture. Daniel GRANT became, one might venture to say, a Manchester man, and indeed an epitome of all that was understood by that phrase.

In 1806 the family contracted with Sir Robert PEEL for the possession of his mills at Ramsbottom, and from that date took up residence at the house which had previously been occupied by Mr Henry WARREN, one of his partners. It was then known as Top o'th' Brow, but was afterwards called Grant Lodge. After a time of preparation printing commenced on January 1 [5l] | 807, when Daniel was in his twenty fourth year. His job as commercial traveller now became one of greater responsibility. The breadth of the firm's operations widened. Trading was carried on through offices in Liverpool as well as Manchester. Within a number of years visits were made to European countries and agents were employed to represent the firm abroad.

Soon after the family's settlement in Ramsbottom they made the acquaintance of John BUCKLEY of Buckley Fold. Mr BUCKLEY came from a long established family who farmed lands near what is now Greenmount. One of his sisters married into the HOLT BROWN family of Hey House, Holcombe, who had a strong involvement with the Holcombe Hunt. Another relative was Benjamin BUCKLEY who also was hunt master for the Holcombe Hunt. John BUCKLEY had a daughter Anne, two years Daniel's senior, of whom the brothers were very fond. Both William and Daniel were attracted sufficiently to consider marriage, but Anne chose Daniel. She must have been a lady of great charm, because there were other admirers. John BUCKLEY was very much in favour of a union between Anne and Daniel, and eventually an engagement was

announced. However, another suitor, William HOLT of Fence near Burnley, appeared on the scene; only weeks before the wedding he rode over to Goodshaw in Rossendale. Anne met him there, and the two eloped, leaving Daniel to nurse his disappointment and John BUCKLEY his anger[s].

From 1815 a more detailed account of Daniel's personal life begins, for in that year two important events occurred. One of these was the purchase of a residence in Mosley Street where a good selection of Manchester's fashionable elite resided. The house was bought from a common fund and was used mainly by William and Daniel. The house was number four, and in later years was to be renumbered eleven. The intention was to furnish and staff this residence so that it would be a welcome hearth suitable to entertain all and sundry of the city people. The main purpose of the Mosley Street house, however, was as a residence for Daniel and his new wife, Elizabeth. They were married early in the New Year, on 12th January, at St John's Church, Manchester. The marriage bond reads as follows:-

> **10 Jan 15 George Ill. Bond for the marriage of Daniel GRANT and Elizabeth WORTHINGTON, in £500 to George Henry, Lord Bishop of Chester, given by Daniel GRANT of the Town and Parish of Manchester Co. Lanes. And Diocese of Chester, merchant and Christopher PARKER of the same, merchant.**

For some years the GRANT brothers had known Thomas WORTHINGTON, a smallware manufacturer whose business was in High Street, but who lived in a country mansion near Northenden. Thomas was a man of wide connections who moved among the most prominent of Manchester's businessmen. He had a large family, a total of seven daughters and one son. Elizabeth was born in 1795 and therefore was Daniel's junior by twelve years. When exactly Daniel made her acquaintance is not known, but the link between the two families became strong, for nine years later Charles GRANT married Elizabeth's sister, Mary Ann WORTHINGTON.

Daniel and Elizabeth were happy together, but only for a brief time. In the autumn of the following year Elizabeth died, on the 18`[h] October 1816. What was the cause of death is unknown. The *Manchester Mercury* gave the following report:-

> **On Saturday week, in the twenty first year of her age, Elizabeth, the wife of Daniel GRANT Esq., Mosley Street, eldest daughter of Thomas WORTHINGTON of Sharston Hall, Cheshire. She was an affectionate wife, a dutiful daughter, a sincere friend, a benefactor to the poor, her disposition was pious and truly amiable, her loss**

irreparable to an indulgent husband and deeply regretted by all her relatives and all who had the happiness of her acquaintance.

Her body was brought to Bury, and she was buried in the graveyard of Bank Street Unitarian Church, next to another Elizabeth GRANT, Daniel's sister[b]. We may believe that Daniel had been an indulgent and loving husband, and that he was indeed struck with grief at his loss. A year later old William GRANT also passed away, at the age of eighty four, and was interred at Bank Street, Bury.

Daniel's grief passed, and he immersed himself in work, in entertaining and being entertained by the society of Manchester. His Mosley Street residence was cared for by a small staff, led by his butler, Alfred BOOT who had been engaged when the house was first occupied. He is described as a stocky, thick-set gentleman who "much beseemed his position" in the household, and kept a fatherly eye on Daniel's nephews and nieces. Like the other Manchester property, the Cannon Street offices, the house became a constant thoroughfare for both the members of the GRANT family and for employees of the firm such as Thomas RICHARDSON, the chief clerk; John DOMETT, his future successor; Joshua KNOWLES, and business colleagues like Robert DALGLISH of the firm DALGLISH & FALCONER.

Daniel usually resided in Manchester through the week and would return to Springside, near Bury for the weekend, to share the company of his brother William and other members of the family. He would, however, quite frequently travel to Bury and back three or four times a week. On Sundays he would bring home from Manchester "foreign" merchants who were entertained at Springside, and who attended morning worship with him at Dundee Chapel, Ramsbottom. For returning to the city, a coach was made ready to leave straight after breakfast, and usually reached its destination between ten and eleven o'clock. On market days he would go from there to the Exchange, and following that would go to Mosley Street for lunch. At two o'clock he had "tiffin", which usually meant a round of drinks for any guests, and there were often business colleagues present at this time. The remainder of the working day would be spent either in the Cannon Street offices or at Mosley Street, where eventually offices were built and warehouses taken over. Like many other Manchester merchants Daniel worked hard until evening, but there were many calls to make, both social and business, and he also would frequent the racecourses at Heaton Park and Kersal Moor. (Daniel and William may well have been introduced to horse-racing by Edmund YATES, the son of Robert PEEL's partner. Mr Yates owned a number of horses which ran in the Manchester Cup, or at Kersal Moor. One of them, a grey named "Catfire", he presented as a gift to Dr Ellis CUNLIFFE, from whom John GRANT `obtained' later the skin to upholster an easy chair.') In 1818 and 1819 Daniel and

William purchased two colts which regularly ran in the races. William's was named *"Cacambo"* and Daniel's *"Little Cymro"*[8].
Daniel kept late nights, and Tuesday evening in particular was a rendezvous for many friends and visitors. From the time that the GRANTs began to prosper, the Mosley Street residence became an open house, especially for local artistic and literary men. Daniel, perhaps because of his own lack of a cultural education, was greatly attracted to the men and women of talent. We know that about 1838 Daniel commissioned John BOSTOCK to paint his portrait and that an Irishman JT THOMPSON painted William. In later years a miniaturist, Thomas CARLYLE painted Daniel on marble and the original is at Bury Art Gallery. He bought several paintings by William ETTY and knew other artists including H W PICKERSGILL, a very popular portrait painter, and George HAYES. Amongst other eminent visitors were John DALTON, John BURNS (author: *English and Scottish Poems and Songs),* the Reverend J HOLME and Charles DICKENS. So it was that Daniel became a prominent and conspicuous figure in Manchester society, together with his brother William. The two other brothers John and Charles were less well known.
Though the Scottish engineer James NASMYTH did not need to accept from William an offer of financial backing, he did accept an invitation to join a gathering of the brothers' friends at Ramsbottom when their church, St Andrew's was opened. From his autobiography the following extract has been culled:

> **As it was a very fine day at the end of May, I walked out to Ramsbottom, and enjoyed the scenery of the district. Here was the scene of the Grant Brothers' industry and prosperity. I met many enterprising and intelligent men, to whom William Grant introduced me. I was greatly pleased with the opening of the church.**

Very regular guests at Mosley Street included James DINWIDDIE, Thomas WORTHINGTON, and a man who was to become one of Daniel's constant companions in society, Gilbert WINTER. Some of the most eminent of Manchester families, the BIRLEYs, POTTERs and ASHTONs came to meet Mr GRANT, who to them was only a novice in the realms of wealth and society manners. Daniel's invitations were extended to many officers of the city's Sunday and day schools and teachers of private academies. From Bury came members of Samuel ASHTON's family and the HUTCHINSONs and many other prominent Bury men. A lady friend of Daniel's lived nearby in Mosley Street. She was Miss Mary WHITEHEAD, whose brothers' warehouse faced the Grants in Cannon Street. There was for a time common gossip which paired her off with Daniel[9].

William and Daniel GRANT sometimes attended worship at Cross Street Unitarian Chapel, the principal centre of nonconformity in Manchester. One Sunday morning, whilst the whole company from Daniel's house were at worship, there was a robbery. Some hopeful thief had broken into number four. There was a hue and cry, but we are not told whether he was caught.

In public life Daniel supported many organisations, including the Commercial Clerks Society, the Manchester Philanthropic Society, Stockport Sunday School, the Humane Society for the Recovery of Persons, the General Dispensary for Children and the Southport Strangers Charity, and was often called upon to officiate in some capacity on their behalf. In 1811 William GRANT had been elected as a juror to the Manchester Court Leet, the body of men who by tradition were responsible for running the affairs of the town. In practice the court leet was ineffective and a survival of a feudal past. Daniel's turn to be elected was in 1815 and he served in six other years. He also took a beneficial interest in charitable groups in Bury and Ramsbottom, subscribing in particular to bodies belonging to local churches. William and Daniel materially assisted the foundation of the Roman Catholic Church in Bury and the Unitarian Chapel led by the Reverend Franklin HOWARTH as well as the church they built, St Andrew's, Ramsbottom. At Christmas time the St Andrew's Sunday School teachers and scholars were invited to Springside. It is appropriate to mention here that Daniel gave a gift of some books to Ramsbottom's first library which opened in 1838. It is significant that he did not associate himself with any political party. That is not to say that he did not hold political opinions. In later years Daniel patronised the Manchester Royal Brass Band. He and a small circle of his business intimates were also important members of the Manchester Billiards Club and the Broughton Archers. The same men patronised the Liverpool and Manchester Theatrical Fund.

Of the brothers' famed benevolence there are also stories which survived into the Twentieth Century, remembered by the children to whom the GRANTS tossed coins as they passed in their coach from Walmersley to Manchester. W e are told that Daniel parried money so often that he was on more than one occasion restrained by William and reminded of how much toil and effort had been made to earn it. During these journeys regular gifts of money were also made to poor people such as John BROOKS (who many years previously had helped to rescue the body of their sister Mary) and Sarah SCHOFIELD who ran a small school at Blackford Brow. Henry PARKER, another inhabitant of Blackford Brow, remembered chasing the GRANT carriage, drawn by two greys, when he was a young boy. In June 1838, on the occasion of the coronation of Queen Victoria, Daniel arranged celebrations at Ramsbottom, beginning at the Grant Arns, and instructed that shovelfuls of coins be tossed amongst the awaiting crowds, much to their delight. He made the game more difficult, by having the blacksmith heat up the coins first.

Among the Manchester merchant classes it seems that Daniel and his brothers, particularly William, had become men held in very high esteem. They had, from 1807 to the 1830s reaped great financial rewards and built a calico printing works reputed to be the best in Europe. In the journal of Lord John MANNERS, who had occasion to visit the GRANTs in 1841 whilst on a tour of the industrial counties we read:

> **The children by the roadside as we passed called, "Hurrah for the Grants." They have some miles of the Irwell, and a very pretty place it is ... they spin, bleach and print; anything more perfect I never saw, and the girls and men all looked healthy and clean too ... Brother John, who had ridden over from Nuttall, showed us round the grounds and when we returned there was the old gentleman lie** *William- Editor]* **sitting in the porch with his feet on a mat, dispensing his charity to half a dozen men ... then turning to me to explain, "It's the mill up yonder, Sir, has stopped; no they mustn't starve, and if we who can afford it don't feed them they will get fed somehow else, and that perhaps wouldn't be so well ...**

William was not in the best of health and was to die within six months of this occasion. Since about 1838 Daniel had ceased residing permanently at Mosley Street and travelled home every day in order to sleep in the room next to William. The relationship between them was very close and it is evident that Daniel regarded William with a certain degree of awe.Also, nearly all the policy decisions of the firm had been made jointly by William and Daniel who worked closely together in Manchester. When William died on 28th February 1842, Daniel was suffering an attack of gout which, aggravated by the shock, so affected his health that he was unable to attend the funeral and for several days, we are told, "his life was despaired of".
Daniel did survive, to live another eventful thirteen years.

Alan Hitch, 181, Burnley Road, Rawtenstall

References

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2 COLLIER, F *The family economy of the working classes in the cotton industry 1784-1833,* p34 (1965)
3 HAYHURST, *T H An appreciative estimate of the Grant Brothers* (1884)
4 HAYHURST, *T H The Conquest of Gentlemen,* p3 (1910)
5 HEAP, Martha - her diary (in private hands)
6 Bank Street Chapel registers
7 BARTON, *F History of Bury p110-11* (1873)

8 *Manchester Mercury, 21* April *1818, 13* May *1818* and 12 Jan 1819
9 SLUGG J T *Reminiscences ofManchester fifty years ago* (1881)
10 HEWITSON, W Newscuttings
11 ELLIOT, Reverend William Hume *The Story ofthe Cheeryble Grants* (1894)

RECOLLECTIONS

In the 1880s, my mother's family, the TAYLORs, had a foundry works at Top Wood, just below Dickfield. Among the four sons came a `falling out' or dispute, in the course of which the machinery was wrecked, so thereafter, you could say they came down from the hills. In the passage of time, they went to pastures new, with the exception of my mother, who lived at Ramsbottom for most of her long life. These are my recollections of tales she told me, and my own memories of the town as it was.

I was born Honora GALPIN and I was aged two when we came to live in Douglas Terrace; I had an older sister and twelve months later, a brother. Eventually there were six of us, (Kath, myself, Cornelius, Francis (Frank), Margaret (Peggy) and Brian but that was much later. Without a doubt, people today would consider the accommodation and amenities, such as they were then, most primitive. We had a cold water tap, and when hot water was needed, it was heated in a brick built boiler in the kitchen, where a small fire was built underneath. The baking was done in the living room oven at one side of the range. I remember my mother baking a `score' of flour into loaves, muffins and teacakes, and much besides in that oven. Still never dreaming of wonders to come - bathrooms, central heating and labour-saving devices, we were content.

Our house was one in a row of five, high up on the west side of town, a house of uniformity with all the others, each with a small front garden and a communal yard at the back. Of course, houses at that time were almost always rented; this applied also to the middle classes and, in some cases to the upper echelons of society. The owners of our particular terrace lived quite near, and the lady used to collect the rents on Friday nights, which was bath night for all us children using the zinc bath in front of the fire. (When not in use the bath hung outside the back door.) My mother would produce the rent book, and the lady, who wore a leather contraption round her waist which contained an inkwell, would take her pen, dip it in the ink and sign the rent book. Oh! How I coveted that inkwell.

I can remember looking through the bedroom window from which we had a birdDs eye view of the town and its environs. Tall factory chimneys were to be seen everywhere, thrusting up into the sky. On every day except Sunday, they emitted forth black columns of smoke. Looking across Carr Bank in those days, however, there was this lovely field, and standing in the middle, the most

beautifully shaped oak tree. I used to wish I could have a house right there someday. Well, there are plenty there now!

Apart from all the chimneys, you could see the railway lines and sidings, when, in readiness for welcome getaway that was the annual holiday time, the excursion trains would arrive with numbered tickets on their engines to denote their destination. You can imagine the `bonhomie' and good spirits that prevailed, with everyone looking forward to trips to the most favoured seaside towns, no less so than the present time when holidays are taken in far flung exotic countries, which in the 1920s would have seemed only possible by magic carpet!

Starting from my home in Douglas Street and continuing down Tanners Street, the building on the left facing down the hill, was a public house called the *Rising Sun,* and a little further down was a second one, the *Rose and Crown* which has changed little, but at the top side of it you could go round the end to find three cottages, which are now no more. An aunt of mine lived in one of them for a time, but then decided to move to Square Street. When I was about ten years old, I remember quite vividly, along with a brother and sister, carrying some of her goods and chattels, such as they were, down Carr Street, and coming to rest on the steps of the building which was then the *Ramsbottom Observer* (now a chemist - PALMERs). Among my aunt's possessions were two rather large framed pictures, one of my father and the other of the current Pope. Alas, when moving on, by some mischance, we omitted to take up the Pope's likeness! We never saw it again so, as you can imagine, Auntie was rather cross!

The row of houses past the *Rose and Crown* is still there and the end one was, for many years, a grocer's shop. Then you come to the opening where you can turn left into Springwood Street or right into Callender Street. This, incidentally, was known as Springfield. Long before industry and urbanisation came it was mostly rural, and so would surely merit the prettier place name. Callender refers, of course, to part of the work process in a bleaching factory. My father, Francis GALPIN was the callender at the Square bleach works.

Continuing down Carr Street, where the Pentecostal Church and car parks now stand, there were dwelling houses on both sides, and on the left, a small shop where there was an entry to the rear, leading to numerous allotments. I recollect going there on a summer Sunday afternoon for tomatoes and lettuce, and let me say, we girls wore pretty dresses and hats, with not a cotton top or a pair of jeans in sight! The right side of the street was very similar with the entry coming down from Rostron Road, which is still there by the side of the library. Two houses further on was a chip shop and more houses until you came to the corner, which was a sweet and general store. Standing on this site now, but much further back, is the Medical Centre.

We have now arrived at the Market Place. Imagine, if you can, a rather cold, windy Saturday night in the early 1920s, the smell of flaring naptha lights on

the night air, the excitement of people milling about, looking for bargains at the usual market stalls: drapery, haberdashery, pots and pans, fruit and vegetables. One of the vendors of the latter, Messrs BOYSON, had occupied the same site for many years; surprising now to remember that greengrocers did a very good trade in rabbits! The piece de resistance for us children, most certainly, was the penny stall, and HOWARTHs' home-made toffee stall. The sheer delight in anticipating what could be bought with our Saturday pennies, not to mention the agonising decision regarding the merits of caramels, pear drops or aniseed rock, until everything was resolved, and we plumped for a quarter mixed!

Whilst all this was happening on the market, the two `picture palaces' as they were then called, were entertaining other town inhabitants to the first and second house showing of that night's film. Those coming out after the first performance passed others waiting for the second and, as most people in those days knew everyone else, there was plenty of friendly verbal exchange, not least as to the verdict on the film. At this time of the evening there was a great convergence of people in the main street with little or no traffic; news vendors would do a brisk trade calling, `Last sports', and the shops were still open. You could buy the weekend joint at 9 o'clock on Friday and Saturday nights. For many years it was customary for men of the town to congregate at the corner of Bolton Street, looking down Bridge Street, talking to friends and acquaintances and watching the world go by.

Continuing down Bridge Street a little way and turning left, you arrive in Paradise Street, where at this time was situated what was euphemistically called the Model, a rooming house for persons mostly homeless. Also on this street were the premises where HOWARTHs' made their famous sweets, and further on, a cooper plied his trade. It was interesting to watch him making barrels and casks.

Back in Bridge Street, and on the right is Square Street where the post office stood for many years. Beyond that, at that time, there were houses on both sides. Walking along the street to the end you reached the pawnbroker's. His name was John FRANCIS and he was very well known, as pawning was a way of life for many in those days. It is now a solicitor's office. On the opposite corner was the billiard hall. Clarence Brow divides Square Street and crossing the road brought you to the *Royal* cinema. Across from this was an Irish club called the 'Nash', which most of the Irish populace used to frequent. Sometimes my father did a spell of stewardship there, and I remember, on a cold wintry day, calling on my way home from school for a hot peppermint drink. This was the time before home rule for Ireland, and on that subject there was much debating in the club.

At this particular time also, there was depression in England after the First World War. Quite a few of my parents' friends decided to emigrate to America, looking perhaps for their El Dorado. They were always given a warm send off, the valedictory song on these occasions being *I'm off to Philadelphia in the*

morning. In 1921, there was a coal strike and consequently fewer fires burning. I can recall going with my aunt and cousins to wooded plantations on Holcombe and Helmshore Road to gather firewood. Sometimes, on our way home, we managed to get a lift by pony and trap; few cars in those days!

Leaving Square Street, climbing up from town beyond Callender Street are the two long streets of stone houses, Albert and Victoria Streets. The location used to be known as `Tory Town', maybe because of the royal connection. Leading on from Victoria Street was the `Croft', an uneven path with stone walling on each side, separating two large fields. These belonged to Mr Shaw TAYLOR of Tanners Farm. Douglas Terrace (where we lived) is just off Tanners Street. I can't recall the farmer delivering milk, perhaps he did, but we used to collect ours from the farm dairy.

I have many treasured memories from a happy childhood, when life seemed to be lived at a more leisurely pace, and you really had time to stand and stare. A particular delight for me was when haymaking time came around; we would stand at the barn doors and wait until each cartful of hay was unloaded before climbing aboard to ride down to the hayfields. What games we then enjoyed in the sweet mown hay. At the other end of the spectrum, when snow lay deep on the ground, out came the sledges. The thrills we had, tobogganing down the steep incline of Rostron Road!

We had been very young when the First World War started, and so my memory is rather hazy, but I faintly recall the night the Zeppelins came. We were all awakened and dressed and told to say our prayers, to which we protested have already said them earlier. Our small brother then asked if he could fly his newly acquired kite from the back field, but we were quickly ushered, along with other families, to a large cellar nearby where all the children were given bread and jam, and behaved very well! A bomb was dropped in a field at Tanners Farm, making a large crater; this was not very far away and most windows were smashed. The next one fell in Holcombe village, opposite what was, at that time, the post office. Here, again windows were blown out and the outer walls badly pitted. (These remained a source of interest for many years.) Thankfully, there were no casualties and the Zeppelins then headed off towards Bolton.

Rationing of food was almost universal, and many had to forgo even necessities; even the thought of a jar of raspberry jam seemed well worth running all the way home from school for! In 1916, when we got a baby brother he was designated a `war baby' and I thought it was wonderful, fondly believing that he came with the rations!

Many years later, my father, speaking of the war, told me that the summer of 1914 was absolutely beautiful, the last two weeks before the declaration of war especially so. `There was,' he said, `a feeling_ of portent and unreality, and all life seemed held in suspense.'

Of course, like all children down the ages, most of the awful, shattering events were hardly noticed in our small world. My school days were some of the

happiest in my life and I never wanted them to end. Apart from enjoying (most) lessons, there was the warm feeling one gets from best friends. I remember, at this time, I developed an eye complaint and was told I would have to wear spectacles. Calamity! This was in the early twenties when silent pictures were in vogue, and just then, at the local picture house the serial of the *Perils of Pauline,* featuring Pearl WHITE was been shown. A coterie of girls in my class had decided to enact some of these `perils', though not to go so far as to lie down in front of an oncoming train as she did! It was my turn to be an actress but whoever heard of a screen goddess wearing spectacles, and what is more, a plait with bows top and bottom! However, with a little ingenuity, I conveniently forgot the glasses, took off the ribbon bows, undid the plait and my kinky hair flowed free. We then concocted a few escapades, there was much chasing and it was all great fun.

Despite, or perhaps because of all the miseries of the 1920s (unemployment had risen to two million) it was heaven to go and listen to the brass bands at the recreation ground. Attired in our Sunday best, we would promenade to the lilt of the enchanting tunes that beguiled us. It was wonderful to be young in those time-stopped summers, all such a distant memory now, but still, with the rebirth of the East Lancashire Railway and the enterprise and efforts of enthusiastic people, my home town has come alive once more and new generations are enjoying a kind of renaissance.

Honora SCHOFIELD (nee GALPIN) 1910-2003

REVEREND R R CARMYLLIE, *THE KIRK AT RAMSBOTTOM*

The interesting information in this new booklet, *The Kirk at Ramsbottom,* was published originally in 1983-84 in the parish magazine of St Andrew's Church, Ramsbottom as a series of articles by the then vicar, the Rev CARMYLLIE. He had written the articles to mark the 150" anniversary of the opening of the church in June 1834.

The nineteen page booklet. published by the Parochial Church Council, has some amendments to the original articles (which have been necessitated by the passing of time) and additional explanatory notes. There are fascinating details about the Church, important events which took place there and the people. The booklet is available for £1.00 from St Andrew's Church and also from our Heritage Society.

WAR MEMORIALS

I am still collecting inscriptions from War Memorials to produce an index to the men and women of Ramsbottom and the surrounding area who fought in the World Wars. At present I am concentrating on World War One and would welcome information about memorials, in Churches or other buildings, and also about individual men and women who died for their King and Country.

Elizabeth Duxbury

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

Bury Archive Service
NB. THEIR PUBLIC READING ROOM ON EDWIN STREET, BURY HAS NOW CLOSED. It is expected that the reopening of the entire archive service and museum at **Moss Street** will be around the **middle of May 2005.** Details of new opening hours will appear in our next newsletter.

Briefly, the archive comprises over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans photographs with historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services), Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 ODG - lei 0161 253 5871 has publication 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 newscuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

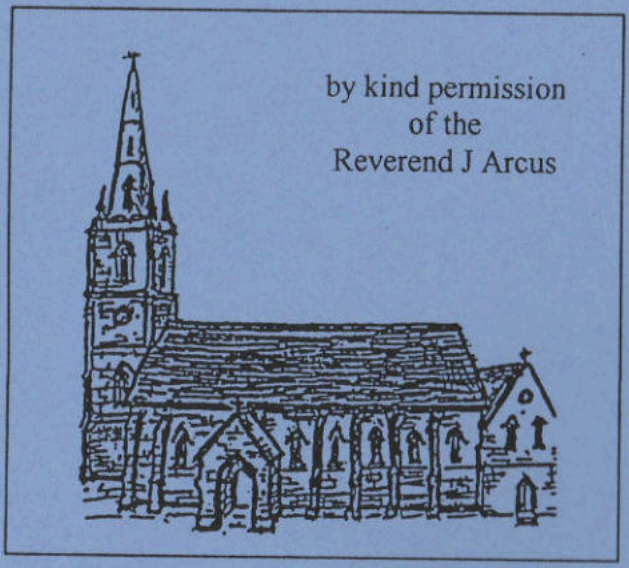
Ramsbottom Library, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, will be in the Ileritage Centre building for the foreseeable future. Ramsbottom library staff will be holding family history surgeries at Tottington Library. Please contact Ramsbottom Library for dates and details and with any other local history enquiries t**ei 0161** 253 **5352**

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Pip Cowling, 33, Windhill Old Road, Bradford, BD1O OSF 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 available on www.llhhs.org.uk.

Visit us at our new 'home' for 2005

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

(on Bridge Street in the centre of Ramsbottom)



by kind permission
of the
Reverend J Arcus

New display

ST PAUL'S CHURCH AND ITS ENVIRONS, INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL

Open Easter Sunday until mid-December 2005
in the Palmerston Aisle (north side) of the church
Sundays + 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm

Free Admission ***Refreshments*** ***Disabled Facilities***

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NOTE OUR WEBSITE:-
www.ramsbottom-heritage.fsnet.co.uk

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

No 29 Autumn 2005 ISSN 0960 - 1244



NEWS MAGAZINE

WORLD WAR II REMINISCENCES SPECIAL

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number for 2005/6: 01706 82 7245

The objects of the Society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public, by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME 2005-6

November 16th — M/s D. Winterbotham – *"A View of the Irwell Valley; Radcliffe to Agecroft"*

December 14th — ***Members' night*** – Christmas Festivities

January 18th — Mr W. Turner – *"Mary Hindle and the 1826 Riots"*

February 15th — Mr L. Mannering – *"It's the Ukulele Man"*

March 15th — ***Photographic Competition*** – judge: Mrs P. Parkinson
Mrs P Parkinson – *"Ramsbottom and the Grant Family"*

April 19th — Mrs P. Paterson *et al* – *"The Diary of Reverend Peter Walkden"*

May 17th — ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*** and ***MEMBERS' NIGHT***

All indoor meetings except December are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

Entry by donation, please.

The Editors welcome articles for inclusion in the News Magazine. These may be hand-written, 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 * Drill Hall, Ramsbottom by John B TAYLOR*

Chairman's Report

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two, and I believe it is right the Society should acknowledge it. Many members, past and present, have contributed to our oral taping archive reminiscences of wartime experiences, whether having been on active service, at home or abroad, in reserved occupations, as wives or children of those serving, as evacuees, or those accommodating evacuees. Thanks to the endeavours of our oral history group and our editorial team, articles based on some of these reminiscences appear in this special issue. I am sure they will evoke memories for many, and serve as a reminder for those too young to remember of hardships endured, and sacrifices made.

Members who live in, or visit, Ramsbottom, will have no doubt noticed refurbishment work on the library building has at last begun. The Area Board News Letter for summer 2005 acknowledges the fact, notes the Society's forbearance, and. suggests completion in February 2006, which, if realised, will allow a re-opening of the Heritage Centre in Carr Street at Easter; I am sure everyone is looking forward to that. That said, we are grateful for the use of St Paul's Church as a temporary home, making the most of the opportunity provided by the town-centre location in welcoming visitors from near and far. Many visitors from afar have connections with Ramsbottom, interesting tales to tell, and requests for information about forebears and ancestral homes, as our web site *`Requestfor Information' page* testifies. Mention of St Paul's reminds me once again that our continued presence there depends also on the goodwill of helpers, and I ask all those who have pledged support to continue to give it; I am grateful to you, all.

Our absence from. Carr Street has meant some planned projects have had to be deferred. However, some impressive additions have been made to our web site, and a small team has begun to look at how we might most effectively digitise, and make available for research, that part of our documentary archive and photograph collection which, is not in the care of Bury MBC Archive Department. There will be more of that in a later issue. Also, the Conservation Group continues its liaison with Bury MBC, monitoring planning applications, and maintaining involvement in reviewing local government initiatives.

One interesting quest which has taken up some time during the year was the recovery of some PORRITT family memorabilia. Michael HARVEY, of Norwich, a descendant of James PORRITT,(co-founder, in 1851, of Stubbins Vale Mill) and his wife Kathy, whilst researching their family history, became aware of the existence of several portraits of family members, which had hung at The Cliffe, Stubbins, home of the last surviving family occupant, Austin Townsend PORRITT, who died 1956. The Cliffe was more recently a retirement home which closed earlier this year so, concerned about the possible loss of the portraits and unable to contact the house owners or their agents, Michael and Kathy asked the Society for help. Contact was made, discussions began, and eventually, through the generosity of Mr Asif ZAMAN, of the owning family, the portraits were recovered and are now preserved for posterity.

By the time members read this, we shall be well into our autumn season of indoor meetings, which will have begun in September; I hope we shall soon be selling copies of our video/DVD celebrating Ramsbottom. At the time of writing, it is almost complete; some location re-shooting has been required, and some seconds of voice and background music recording, and historical film sequences remain to be slotted in. Those who saw the trailer earlier in the year, or have visited the web site, are, I'm sure, eagerly awaiting completion.

Although the festive season is still some way off, as my next report is not until spring 2006, 1 take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas, and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Tony Murphy

Obituary

On 1st June, after a lengthy period of ill-health, Betty HAWORTH sadly died, just a few days after celebrating her 76th birthday. Betty was born in Guernsey CI, came to Ramsbottom in the earliest days of WW2, and stayed,

eventually to become a long-serving member of the Society. Her role as Assistant Treasurer brought her into contact with many members at open meetings, where she received entrance fees, and occasionally dispensed raffle tickets. Her illness, and, during her last years, many visits to hospital, were a great trial to her. However, she had an indomitable spirit, and remained as active and involved as she could be until the very end. Betty also had involvement with several charitable organisations, and she will be very much missed by many. We are fortunate in having her reminiscences on tape and we have been able to include in this magazine a very interesting extract. Inher memory, her daughter Barbara and son in law Tim SMITH, have donated to the Society the framed print of Peel Tower which can. presently be seen in the Heritage Centre at St Paul's Church. We are very grateful for this kind gesture, Once we return home to Carr Street, the picture will be hung, and have an appropriate dedication.

MEMORIES OF RAMSBOTTOM DURING WORLD WAR TWO

Betty HAWORTH remembers:

I was born in 1929 on Guernsey, where my father was in charge at the docks, and came to Ramsbottom because of the war when. I was eleven years old. The people of Guernsey knew the Germans would probably take over, and wanted as many of the population as possible off the island. Just before the Germans arrived, the children, were evacuated first and some of the parents followed.

To us children it was an adventure. We thought we might be heading for the continent, America or Australia. Along with, most of the pupils at my school, maybe two hundred children, my group who were eleven years old and under, actually came by boat to Weymouth. There were two teachers and some nuns as it was a Catholic school, although I wasn't a Catholic. (My mum was but dad wasn't.) The children each carried one of the old baskets which had been used to put tomatoes in, the long ones with a handle. In it you had a change of clothes, a small toy as you wanted and that was your limit. During the journey I remember feeling no fear even when. we saw, sticking up above the surface of the water, part of a boat that had been sunk.

At Weymouth we were taken to a school, provided with some food and sent to the classrooms where we were told to get a blanket and a pillow. For three weeks we slept on the floor until we were moved up to Burnley by coach (or perhaps by bus). There it was the same procedure as at Weymouth with another three weeks sleeping on the floor. I don't recall any homesickness

and it still felt like an adventure. A few children stayed in Burnley but my group came to Greenmount, to the school there. We all had labels with our names and ages and I remember that there were ladies looking us up and down, some saying, for example, that they could take two, as they tried to avoid splitting up families. Soon a lady came towards me, saying, "Would you like to live with me?"

At that moment I felt bewildered, until I thought, " Yes IDllgo." I had a sister and cousin and we were fortunate because although we werenDttogether, my sister lived a few houses down and my cousin was further down in the same row

I lived with a Mr and Mrs HINDLE, who were absolutely marvellous people with no children of their own. At Greenmount School we had our own teachers and used the front part of the building. It was strange *at first when* the local children looked at us so we seemed to stay with our own group for a while, but we soon began to play with the other children at playtimes. One day I was amused to hear one lady saying, "We thought you would have grass skirts."

My first impression of the Ramsbottom area was that it was cold, a lot cooler than Guernsey. (I. did miss going to the beaches and it seems that after school every afternoon we asked Mother, "May we go to Fermain?" or one of the other beaches. We were taken there and brought back home for tea, after *which we* played out.) Buildings here seemed so big, especially the factories while on Guernsey we could more or less only think of the greenhouses and the produce such as tomatoes and *flowers.*

During the German occupation of Guernsey of which we children were aware, contact with our parents was done through the Red Cross. A man came round, asked what you wanted to say and wrote down a message of no more than twenty five words, making sure that it did not contain any information which would not have been allowed through. For example, you might want to say that you were at Greenmount but you couldnDtdo that, so you used phrases like "IDmall right" or "IDmbeing looked after", more or less to let people know that you were still alive. Your parents did not know where you were. They were also able to send Red Cross letters.

(Unfortunately, when Betty was thirteen or fourteen Mr HINDLE became seriously ill. Miss ROBERTSD,the lady who was in charge of her transferred her to another place where she wasnDtas happy and only stayed about a month before she asked Miss ROBERTS to move her again. Her next home was in Tottington. Editor.)

Betty continues: That was lovely. The lady even offered to share her own bedroom with her daughter. I thought this arrangement would not have been fair on them. and spotted a folding screen with a little chest of drawers which we used so that the daughter didn't need to give up her room. I stayed with them quite a while and was at Tottington ¯near Christmas time during the doodlebug attack which was just across the road. I lived with Mrs BARRETT then and she called me to come under the stairs where I remember hearing the sound of the doodlebug followed by a sudden crash. All the window glass came out and what stuck in my mind was the sight of the chicken which Mrs BARRETT had bought for Christmas. (In those days it was a marvellous thing to have a chicken.) It was on top of the piano and pitted with glass - but there wasn't a mark on the piano! We had to leave the house and go to Mrs BARRETT's daughter's at Greenmount. A row of houses in Tottington had gone down. A family from London, who had come to live in 'the row, were thought by the searchers to be missing until. they found out the family had returned to :London for Christmas. There were other casualties. My education finished when I was fourteen so I went straight to work and started paying my own way where I lived, I was told not to contribute the first week because I wouldn't have received wages from work but I started paying the second week. I found it hard to save for clothes and shoes repairs. I really enjoyed my first job at the *Elsinore* cafe in Bury because I was able to train in the kitchen, waiting on, in the cash box and typing menus so that meant there was a variety of work. It was the mid-war years and the menu was quite restricted. Every day, once the food ran out, we couldn't serve more. Luckily, I got on very well with the manageress. To this day I often think of one particular day when I was waiting on. A Mr HODSON, whom I knew as a Tottington engineering works owner, was in. the cafe with some friends. I came out of the kitchen carrying some soup, and where did it go? Down the back of his coat. Embarrassed and near to tears, I rushed off for a cloth and told the manageress while he removed the coat. I apologised and offered to pay the cleaning bill but the manageress shook her head saying that it was the cafe's responsibility. Mr HODSON insisted that it was quite all right and that I must forget it, but when he suggested that I serve the others I was afraid of spilling some more. I recall that he went home and changed his suit before returning to his meal. He even gave me a tip!

After the war, when I was sixteen or seventeen, I did return to Guernsey once, for about three and a half weeks. I knew the island but there was nothing to do except the beaches. Also, it didn't seem big enough with only one place, whereas I'd become used to being able to go to Bury, Bolton. and Burnley.

My mother gave permission for me to live in England and I wrote to friends who offered temporary lodgings. I soon found somewhere to stay and a job as a machinist.

Elizabeth HAWORTH

(Starting in 1939, about 20, 000 of Guernsey's population of nearly 44, 000 left during the evacuation of the Channel Islands compared with about one fifth of Jersey's 51, 000 population. All Alderney residents left but the five hundred or so islanders on Sark stayed. Soon after Dunkirk, Guernsey was occupied on 30th June 1940. Rochdale became the home of nearly eight thousand evacuees from Guernsey. Editor)

Can you help? On our website we have a request for information from Carol SMYTH, nee YOUNG from Surrey who was an evacuee living with her mother and brother in Crow Lane. In 1944, she was so seriously injured in a road accident that her leg had to be amputated. Mrs SMYTH would like to make contact with the HENRY family with whom her mother was friendly at the time. When this message was read out at a Ramsbottom Heritage Society meeting, although she did not know the HENRY family, Joan BARCROFT remembered the accident very vividly. Please tell us if you have any information which might help Mrs SMYTH.]

Phyllis RODWELL remembers:-

At the time when we had a visit to see if we had room for any evacuees I had two children. They were sleeping downstairs so that we could quickly push them under the bed for safety. Our evacuees were Ada and her son, from Dagenham, London. At first it felt strange as we arranged things. They had the room upstairs and we decided that we must do the housework and cooking together, although she was responsible for buying her family's food. She didn't seem to have baked cakes or to cook like I do and couldn't understand me making rice pudding. When Jam went on ration I remember that we agreed not to share the jam! Everybody seemed to eat lots of bread and j am in those days.

The little boy was frightened to death, especially when we had the big air raid on Manchester soon after they arrived. My husband was in the fire service and he was there, so we were both terrified, wondering what was happening and seeing the glow from Holcombe Brook.

" always remember one morning when the boy looked in the field near the house. He came racing back shouting, "Mummy, Mummy, come quick. There's a real live lamb," and he rushed her off. Apparently, he had not

believed that lambs were real and had thought they only existed in storybooks. (Other evacuees from Manchester hadn't seen fields before and thought Ramsbottom was the depths of the countryside.) The family stayed about eight months before deciding to return home because there was no bombing going on. We received five shillings a week for their family to stay with us. Sometimes the evacuees did not get a very good reception in the shops. Once, when there was some chocolate, I had bought my ration so Ada, who had her coupons, decided get the ration for her children as well. We were both upset when, at the same shop, she was refused and when I went across 1. was told that I "shouldn't have sent that woman for chocolate as I haven't any for evacuees".

On and off the family was with us for about eighteen months and her second son Alan, who was proud when they called him their *little Lancastrian, was* born here. For one of their stays in Ramsbottom they had a little cottage because by that time I had my baby girl so we couldn't really cope with five children in the house. *Ada's* house in London was bombed twice during the war: the first time all the windows and doors were blown in and the second time it was totally demolished. In the meantime her husband was called up. He once sent some Argentinian eggs which were dark yellow.

In 1948, when my husband died, Ada came up to see me. Her little girl was about six months old at the time. She has written to me every Christmas and since last Christmas she has moved house. Ada's daughter and Alan (the Lancashire lad) now live in Canada and Ada has sent me photographs of her 80`h birthday visit to Canada.

Phyllis RODWELL 1.989

Margaret NOLAN remembers: -

During World War Two, I went to work for Mr ENGEL. Mrs ENGEL, who was German and extremely good to work for, had started the Temple Manufacturing Company at Cobden Mill on Square Street. There was weaving underneath and we were on the top floor. When we were on shifts we had to have all the windows covered for the blackout but we didn't actually work nights, just until 10 pm. Mr ENGEL (of F D SIMS Wire Works) had built our machines on which wire came up from the bottom reel, through two heads with the silk covering for double silk (or if we were doing single silk only one head) and on to the top reel which worked automatically with the bottom reel. There was a traverse which sent the wire across from one side of the reel to the other. We had six pairs of reels altogether and the

work was very interesting. We had to keep checking and using a micrometer to measure the wire, some of which was fine as a hair (002). That was more often than not for the Admiralty, for the cross wires of the submarine periscopes, and so we had to be extremely careful that there was no lump on any of the wire. Mr REEVER came down from the Admiralty to check how our orders were going, and we were told that we had done very well in the few months since we had started practically new work. He came to thank us, bringing in a letter from the Admiralty, and Mrs ENGEL was very pleased. Mr ENGEL maintained the machines and we were told that if there was anything at all about the machines that was worrying us we should just call him up. Once my sister, who was in charge at the time, noticed that there was something wrong, as a reel of wire was building up at one side. It was nearly ten o'clock on a cold wintry night and although we were reluctant to send for Mr ENGEL we couldn't leave the machine like that for the 6am shift. If we had let it pile up much more it would have fallen over and wasted all the wire. Mr ENGEL came down with Mrs ENGEL, who had brought a big flask of coffee and home made buns for us before we went out in the cold. He told us that he was very glad we'd brought him in and he knew the cause of the problem. It only took him about five minutes to shave off one sixteenth of an inch off a part and when we ran the machine, it was perfect. Firewatchers were at the mill every night and we had to take our turn. Sometimes we would stay on after the 10 o'clock shift and firewatch until 6 am and during other weeks if it was our turn we'd start work at 6 am until 2pm after f i rewatch ing, which made us very tired, We had camp beds for if we wanted to sleep but there wasn't much chance. There were two big drums at the end of the room and two fire buckets in case anything was dropped. My bed was next to this and, while I sat there, some of the others had fallen asleep before their heads had hit the pillow. Some nights a little mouse came running around. I'm not frightened of mice but I used to throw something at the barrel and everybody woke up!

We were also in the W.V.S. and twice a week at night we'd go to meetings at Nuttall Hall where we sewed camouflage nets for the soldiers and sailors. It was interesting and we thought it was worth going for the really good cup of tea. Apart from that, one night a week, we used to go for first aid training to the Methodist School underneath the church. The St John Ambulance people came to give us talks and teach us how to put on bandages and slings. At home we had two evacuees Norman and Ronnie, who were brothers from Bradford, Manchester, where they had a lot of air raids. I think Ronnie was about six years old and Norman was older and they came with nothing, no

pyjamas or anything. They were taken to Bury Market on the first Saturday *and bought pyjamas* and a suit. Norman was quite happy about this but Ronnie never really settled with us, although we made them both welcome. The house where we lived at the time, 24, Callender Street, had an attic so they shared a room there and they went to St Joseph's School which seemed to be fine. They had no idea about setting a table or anything, which surprised us as they had come from a family.
One Sunday we decided to take them to visit their home and have a look where they lived. The little cottage was so small that when their mother opened a sideboard drawer it knocked over a bottle of milk which was on the table. We realised then what a vast difference there was between their life and ours. Ronnie, the younger boy, wasn't a bit happy when he had to come back but after that they settled. Occasionally their mother and sister visited us and eventually Ronnie was allowed to go home. Norman stayed on until he left school and we became fond of him. By then the war was all but over and he had to start work so his mother came to collect him. Sometimes Norman and his pals used to visit, cycling up from Bradford. One Sunday about six of them arrived after being on Holcombe Hill, saying, "We've come for our tea, Aunty," and they were all absolutely ravenous. (This was my Aunty Lizzie who lived with us after my mother fell while pregnant with my sister. Mother died on 12th February 1938.) We just made them as much as we could. That night, after they'd gone, Aunty Lizzie told us that we hadn't a scrap of bread in the house but she was pleased because the lads were full.

Margaret NOLAN 1997

Jeff POMFRET remembers: -

I remember waking up in the bedroom I shared with my two year old sister Eileen at 30, Dale Street, Stubbins. A voice shouted out, "Anybody in here?" and I saw a torch and warden Mr ISHERWOOD in his tin ARP helmet at the bedroom door. After I had told him about my sister I was asked to wait until she was found. Covering her cot was some plaster with the laths that had come down from the ceiling with it. Overhead was a clear view of the sky. When the sheet of plaster was pulled away we saw the little girl, who was fine but completely blackened with soot.
We reached the top of the stairs, where I was surprised to find that the staircase had gone! Mr ISHERWOOD carried us both down the ladder which had been put up in its place, Eileen first. The door, which had large wrought iron hinges leaded into the wall, lay flat on the floor and I was warned to take

care. As we stepped through it rocked back and forth. Everyone was assembled nearby and went on to Bolton Road near the chip shop, then a wooden hut which had been flattened by the blast (now rebuilt on the same site). Stubbins Post Office, which used to stand where the garden is now, and a row of bigger terraced houses going towards the River Irwell bridge were gutted.

(Before this WARWICK's ironmongers was on Bolton Road next to the bridge and Mr and Mrs Harry WARWICK lived in a bungalow behind it which had to be replaced - by a redbrick bungalow. Luckily the landmine had gone into the River Irwell, where the river bed provided a relatively soft landing. If - it had struck the roadway or the bridge damage would probably have been even worse. Another landmine had fallen in the field behind the lodge near the houses at East View, Stubbins. The field was walled at the front and potatoes were being grown there at the time. Editor)

Jeff continues:

After assembling we all walked to Chatterton to the first house on the right (called the haunted house by local children, which certainly used to help to keep us away). The adjacent building (now demolished) was in use as a Home Guard post. People from nearby whose houses had broken windows but were otherwise intact, rallied round, including my aunty and uncle (Cecil WILSON) at 111, Chatterton Road which was just opposite. The soot which covered us all was washed off and we were given cups of tea and taken to St Philip's School. After what seemed like hours, we were fed - on rice pudding.

I remember when I returned home that our piano, which used to stand facing the window, had shards of glass stuck straight in it, edgewise. Even after it was taken out the marks always remained. Other houses, like those in Robert Street, were just shells and took a year or two to be rebuilt with new windows and roofs. We used spindles from the bannisters of the wrecked houses as cricket stumps. One of the workmen, a joiner, was making me a sword. I kept asking him whether it was ready but he was making a proper job of it by bending the wood, so 1, had to be patient.

Jeff POMFRET (born March 1937) 2005

[Jeff Pomfret was only five years old when the landmines fell on Stubbins but he has a vivid recollection of his rescue, together with his sister, from their bomb-damaged house. Editor]

Bessie & Jennie JOHNS remember:

At the outbreak of World War Two sisters Bessie and Jennie JOHNS were among the many weavers who were soon made redundant from local mills when orders dried up. Lots of mill girls joined the forces and others went into the Land Army, which meant moving away from Ramsbottom. Bessie and Jennie needed to stay at home so they had to report to the Labour Exchange where war work was found for them. Both worked in munitions factories, arranging their night or day shifts so that one of them was always in the house to care for relatives who were ill.

After conscription they learned engineering skills on machines such as lathes and grinding machines at Woodlands Road Training School in Crumpsall. On qualifying from there Bessie first tried unsuccessfully to find work with one or two engineering companies around Bury Bridge and then, following an interview and a medical, she moved on to work at the Ford Trafford Park factory *. For four years she worked alongside hundreds of women and girls on a lathe making parts such as gears and piston rings for aircraft engines. She remembers particularly that all parts were very strictly inspected and that nearby there were four men watching, especially if you moved away from your machine. One day when she went to the toilet, she was timed! During the shifts when Bessie was at work at Ford's the factory was only bombed once and the attack was not near her area. Smoke filled the factory itself so that at first she could not see to go through to where she was supposed to shelter.

As a Ramsbottom girl, Bessie recalls being the only one at Ford's, although there was a man from Ada Street, Joe FRENCH on the same shift and another from Rawtenstall. On the train journey she had the company of some girls: from Waterfoot and also Mattie STARKEY, then of 13, Ducie Street, Ramsbottoni. Mattie worked in Trafford Park but at Metrovick's (once the main employer there with around 25,000 workers in the twenties). Bessie says that the travelling was worst when she was on nights. On occasion she had to walk across the middle of Manchester from Piccadilly Station to Victoria in the blackout, as well as making the usual change of trains at Bury to continue to Ramsbottom. Negotiating the huge crowds of workers from the awe-inspiring concentration of works at Trafford Park must have been a daunting prospect. An incredibly high percentage of the munitions for World War 11 were made there.

* During 1940 part of the old Ford car factory at Trafford Park (which had closed in. 1927 with the building of Dagenham) had been used to prepare for

the mass production of aircraft engines. In May 1941 DFordDsnew`shadow factoryDwas completed at Trafford Park. Owned by the government and managed by Ford, it covered forty four and a quarter acres. At its peak it employed over 17,000 people of whom 7,200 were women. It produced, on licence from Rolls Royce, a total of 30,400 Merlin engines of one type - the XX (twenty) series, loosely described as the `bomber engineD.Each engine consisted of about 10,000 separate parts and, because Ford could only achieve mass production with every part on their engines being interchangeable with the same part on any other engine, they had to redo Rolls RoyceDsdrawings and make all parts with more extreme accuracy. FordDsautomatic and semi-automatic machine tools could be operated by trainees and semi-skilled workers to make large numbers of highly accurate and intricate parts. Skilled Ford men were used to supervise and control this new process of Merlin manufacture and there was an elaborate system of inspection occupying about one tenth of their total workforce. Of the thousands of measurements taken during the manufacturing process, three thousand were smaller than. one fifth of the thickness of human hair [2]

Ford's Merlin XX engines powered the Beaufighter II, Defiant II, Halifax II and V, Hurricane II and IV, Lancaster I and II and the Avro York.

[Jennie JOHNS, who was among the last 50 to be made redundant from Holme Mill at the beginning of World War II, finished her training at Woodlands Road by passing a practical examination which involved making three different items including a shaft. Her friend passed out with her and they were sent out to find work. Once there was an air raid when she was on her way back from Woodlands Road and that the train pulled up and waited in a tunnel. Editor]

Jennie recalls:- When we first arrived at the munitions factories and said that we had come from the training factory the reply was always, "We do our own training here." I found a job at the Royal Ordnance Factory on Sandy Lane, Radcliffe doing lathe work on components such as heads for guns and I remember making inch-long pins with a three quarter inch shaft. Parts were very closely inspected. When I was on the night shift, starting at 7 pm, it was about 5.30 pm when I caught the bus from home to connect with a special works bus from Bury Bridge to the R.O.F. I remember one night that a Czechoslovakian man, who spoke very little English, was trying to explain that there was a `big fire' in Manchester.

There were always police at the factory gates. They picked out at random ingoing or outgoing workers to be taken into one of the two search rooms where bags were opened and checked. Security was very thorough and if the

police spotted anything unusual, they did a search. I was also in the A.R.P. and once had to ask for time off work and a late pass for 1.0 pm to go to Ramsbottom Technical College to do a first aid ambulance examination. I was told, "That's out in the wilds! You'd better have it till I I pm." but made it just after 10 anyway.

At the R.O.F. there was often entertainment for half an hour during the hour long lunch break. Perhaps talented' workers would sing solos or sometimes performers were brought in, one 'of whom. I especially remember singing So *Deep is the Night* because she had a wonderful alto voice. Once a group of about a dozen of us were practising for 'a concert which included *Song of the Island* with dancing steps made up by individuals in the group. One of the bosses found out about this and asked, "Would you like proper grass skirts and tops?" He ordered them and we used gravy browning to give us a `tan'. One lunchtime we gave the concert for the workforce and afterwards the boss told us that the following day the Mayor and Mayoress of Bury and other dignitaries had been invited to an evening performance. All the R.O.F. employees working there at the time would see our show as well. "You'll get camp beds to stay overnight. Ring up the canteen in the morning and you'll get a good breakfast," he said. I asked them for egg and bacon and really enjoyed it.

After the war I was able to get a job wire winding at F.D. SIMS, Ramsbottom where I worked from 1945 to 1975. When Bessie finished at Trafford Park it seemed that she would have to continue travelling down to Manchester and work as a weaver in the mills there because they had a labour shortage. Luckily, when we asked Mr ENGEL at F. D. SIMS she was able to go there instead and stayed from 1946 to 1974.

[1] *Trafford Park Manchester* - Ian McIntosh of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society

[2] *Ford and the Merlin* - Gary Mills

Bessie and Jennie JOHNS 2005

Cyril DAVENPORT remembers:-

At the age of fifteen I first started work on August 29th 1939 at PORRITT Brothers and AUSTIN, as it was then known, on 17s I I d per week. At that time Stubbins Vale Mill had over five hundred employees and was divided into two sections, the woollen side and the cotton side. I began work in the weaving shed as a reacher-in. on the cotton side, which was sub-divided into

two departments: one was where filter cloths were woven for industry and in the other dryer felts were made for the paper industry. I was in that job for perhaps two weeks at the most because with the war starting men were called up, leaving a lot of vacancies so I was transferred to the warehouse. Some weavers were called up but it became a reserved occupation because the paper mills kept working and so felt was needed.

Quite a number of PORRITT employees were in the Territorials before the war because Richard PORRITT was in the Territorials and he encouraged all the men to join.) When I went into the warehouse a gentleman measured and weighed me: I was four feet six inches tall and weighed seventy two pounds. As I was very small the family considered me becoming a jockey. 1, did once get a job as a telegraph boy but I couldnDtreachon the bike!

The chairman of the directors at PORRITTs at this time was Mr Roland SPENCER. When he came to the mill somebody would pop their head through the door and see his car parked outside the office. The workers had a sign, imitating the driving of a car. One day a chap was signalling at the bottom of the warehouse and when he turned round Mr Roland was standing behind him! I always knew there was a signal when I arrived," he said.

Very soon after the war started, a lot of the departments on the woollen side closed down as there wasnDtalot of work. Some rooms were used for storage of government foodstuffs such as sugar and corned beef. When the two land mines were dropped in Stubbins a lot of the windows in mill were shattered, including many of the northern light windows in that part of the weaving shed. Some of the glass had dropped right through on to the looms and cut through the warps. So that the mill could continue working, old stock cloth was put through the creosoting plant and used to cover the mill windows until the glass could be replaced. Some of the furniture from the damaged houses was stored in two of the departments of the mill until such time as the peopleDshomeswere ready or they got alternative accommodation. During the Battle of Britain one gentleman at PORRITTs used to run a sweep every day, only for coppers, of how many planes would be shot down. Out of the money collected so much was given to charity.

When I was eighteen and a half, in December 1942, I was called up into the navy. The wives of married men who were called up or went into the forces received El per week from PORRITTs and mothers of single men received l Os. (The average manDsweeklywage was about £2.)

I think I came back, into the warehouse again, around the end of May 1945. By this time different people were working there and it was a matter of where

you'd fit in. The wage in 1945 was about £4 10s which I had to take home, whereas I'd been used to having about £3 a week spending money in the navy.

Cyril DAVENPORT 2001

MargaretHAMMMERSLEY remembers:-

I was born in 1925 and when I left St Andrew's School at fourteen years old there was plenty of employment for everybody, mainly in the textile trade with eight or nine mills in Ramsbottom, as well as other work such as engineering. Nobody needed to travel out of town and there was a feeling that these were jobs for life. At the time it was the start of the war and I worked at the bottom of Kay Brow at Cobden Mill, which was a towel weaving mill. The business belonged to William ECCLES and I remember that as we were going to work he used to pick us all up along the way until his big old black Lancia was full. We were usually late but he never seemed to mind.

When everything changed to war work, the towels were for army and hospital use. Some of the big bath towels were made into dressing gowns for the soldiers in the hospitals. My job was a reserved occupation and, as I watched all my friends join the A.T.S or the W.A.F., we seemed to be in the back of beyond around here. Every night there was fire-watching duty at the mill and groups of four to six girls (depending on who was available) had to start at 1 I pm. I remember that there were beds upstairs and that men's groups also took turns. At the time an Austrian Jew and his wife took over the top floor of Cobden Mill where they made covered wire. (Eventually these people expanded their business when they bought part of what had been a slipper works that had burned down in a terrific fire. It became F D SIMS and was later extended.)

When the evacuees came from Newton Heath, Manchester, I was in the St John Ambulance and was at the station to meet the train. Many townspeople stood in the street weeping openly at the sight of the children with. their gas masks. They were taken to St Paul's and eventually found accommodation. In Ramsbottom there were one or two scares with the bombs, especially when we could hear them in Manchester as it seemed so near. At one point, my dad was very ill with appendicitis in Bury General. Hospital while Manchester was being bombed heavily. Some of the patients were being sent home, perhaps to free up beds for casualties, and suddenly a bus with stretchers laid across its seats drew up near our house. Everybody soon rushed out and we panicked, but it was another patient. My dad. was too ill to be moved and nurses stayed by him all the time. My sister and I had instructions, as soon as the sirens

Sounded, alwaós to dash home straight awaó, For a long time, while mó mum and dad slept in the pantró, we went under the stairs, which was veró uncomfortable but I suppose theó thought it was safe. I did go along to look when Stubbins was bombed.
As time went on a canteen was opened at the Coop on Bolton Street because soldiers had been billeted at Cuba Mill, Stubbins which belonged to TURNBULL and STOCKDALE. (Others were at an emptó factoró in Hawkshaw.) The Drill Hall was opened for recreation and there were dances to which we were eventualló allowed to go.

Margaret HAMMERSLEY (nee KAY) 2001

Alice O'DONNELL remembers:

It was in 1940, while I was snowed in during a visit to a friend at Bradshaw Brow, that I first met mó future husband John. There had been a veró heavó snowfall and I had decided 1. would still go but return as soon as IDdhadmó tea. I left home in time for the two oDclockRibble bus, but I soon realised IDd actualló caught the hourDsbeforerunning late. During the journeó to Bolton the weather worsened and at the *Lamb Inn we* ground to a halt. Luckiló there were some soldiers on board so theó had to get out and push. Eventualló I arrived but bó teatime all the buses had stopped running so I had to staó. John lived with his sister in the same row and mó friend brought him in to make up a four at whist.
On the Wednesdaó we walked from the top of Bradshaw Brow to the Starkie (Pub) which the trams from Bolton had just managed to reach. We took a tram into Bolton and went to the station where the trains were running, although not to timetable. You had to get off at Buró Knowsleó Street station so I walked to Bolton Street to catch a Holcombe Brook train, but we couldnDt go beóond Greenmount as the snow was thirteen feet deep at the time. We then walked in single file along a pathwaó which had been cut through to Holcombe Brook, where I remember seeing D.L.O.s (soldiers) from Stubbins. Wearing big capes, theó were on horseback riding up the Holcombe Brook brow taking packs of food to the rifle range. The scene looked like something *from Desert Song. I* plodded home to 4, Butler Street but, having no keó for the front door where the snow had been cleared, I had to borrow a shovel from neighbours and dig mó waó up the back óard. I had left Bradshaw at 9 am and it was 4 pm before I was in mó house. It was a month before buses got through to Bolton so John kept writing letters. Eventualló he got a job at Ramsbottom Paper Mill, lodging with one of mó aunties.

We were married that :Easter. On a bill for our wedding breakfast, which was at a little shop down the back where they had a large back room, it shows we had twenty teas at half a crown each, a child's tea at I s 6d and a bottle of port at 5s 6d. The total was £2 17s which we thought was a lot in those days.

Before World War Two I had been a member of Ramsbottom Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society and used to take part in the musicals which were held at the Empire Cinema. Practices were at the "Liberal Club which had to be used as an A.R.P. station so our production of *Miss Dibbs* had to be stopped. When war started my brother Charlie, who couldn't be in the forces because he was blind in one eye, went to Austria for three years working for the Ministry of Information.. He had learned German and Spanish. at Ramsbottom school.

During the war there were a lot of dances at St Paul's School and soldiers used to come from the Drill Hall. We had evacuees from London: a mother, her six week old baby and little three year old girl. This first time they stayed with us for a while and then returned home. When the flying bombs started the mother and her two children came again with her sister and her little girl who I think was about three. The children attended Hazlehurst School. The sister then returned to London, so it was a mother with two girls of her own and her niece.

Alice O'DONNELL 1998

Harry HOYLE remembers:-

When war broke out I went to Bolton hoping to join the RAF but medically I was grade four so there was no way I was going to war. I've still got my grade four card.

I had left school at fourteen. wanting to become a joiner but as there were no vacancies I was apprenticed to WORSICKs to become a painter. There were two other apprentices, one younger and one older. I served a full apprenticeship of seven years, starting work at 12s 6d a week. In those days it was hard cart work - up to Turn with about five hundredweights of mortar! I was lucky because WORSICKs took to me as though I was one of their own family. Very often, if they wanted to go out, they sent for me to look after the shop. It was a double- fronted shop at number 57, Market Street and right across the road was a row of cottages with our workshop in the middle downstairs. Just before the war, when]. was about to get married to Nora, we put our names down for a one of the new red brick houses down Rochdale Road. FOSTERs built them and WORSICKs plastered and painted them. I

don't know how we were going to pay - the house was £450 or £475 if you chose your own fireplace. However, one day Fred WORSICK came to me saying, "What's Nora going to do when you get married?" Obviously, since she lived and worked in Bolton she would have to leave. He asked if I would like the shop, saying that he was going to build a house for himself just down the road. We could live there rent free while Nora ran the shop. He also offered me the job of foreman at the workshop. Nora readily agreed as it was a lovely house and we lived there for five or six years, right through the war. Of course there was very little to sell then so we were only open part days. I was nearly twenty two by the time we took charge of the shop. I remember hand-trimmed wallpaper at 6 pence a roil and adhesive made from flour, water and a bit of bicarbonate of soda.

We were married on September 30th 1939 at St Edmund's Church, Bolton. I often said that war broke out but we weren't to blame! Everything had been booked beforehand and we had a small reception with cups of tea, sandwiches and cakes. The only snag with the wedding was that my brother Jim (James Thomas HOYLE) couldn't be best man as he was abroad. He'd gone into the militia, which started before the war when anyone who became 18 had to go into the army for 12 months. Jim was unlucky; he went in. for 1.2 months and stayed for five years. Nora's brother was a test pilot in the Air Force and he was our best man.

I had first met my future wife Nora, making sandwiches. I played football for St Joseph's, Ramsbottom which also had a rambling club. We used to play Bolton Catholic Ramblers and one night, by the time we reached Ramsbottom, the coach which was to take us all to a match and social evening at Bolton had left. We managed to catch a bus from the top of Kay Brow but we arrived too late to play in the match. At the club were a group of young women and a couple of lads preparing the food for the social evening. We helped to make sandwiches and that's how I met Nora. (She worked in the finishing department of a garment factory on. the corner before Bradshawgate in Bolton. Using special tools she did repairs on silk stockings and underwear such as vests. Later, during the war she repaired hundreds of silk stockings. I had some perspex magnifying glasses made and also a brass stand so that she could see the stitches and pick them up.)

At this time Fred WORSICK had obtained the contract for cleaning, painting and decorating at the I.C.I. Perspex factory at Townsend Fold, which meant that I was lucky as I didn't have to go away from home to do war work. Instead I went to Townsend Fold as supervisor with about a dozen men and the work continued right through the war. Only one or two of WORSICK's

own men stayed and came to Townsend Fold with me but although they were a lot older than me they weren't interested in being supervisor. The rest of my workforce were from Rawtenstall or Bolton and we were even sent people from Liverpool. If extra men were needed a phone call was made to the dole office at Rawtenstall and accommodation would be found for them in the town. Because a few specks of dust when the perspex was poured caused it to be scrapped, the factory had to be absolutely spotless, so we did as much cleaning as painting. We'd clear it all out and wash down ceilings and walls. The work lasted until the end of the war.

All sorts of objects were made at the perspex plant and I remember one that was most unusual. A man called Roland WHITTAKER, arts and crafts master at Rossendale Grammar School, had gone to the plant for war work and he was making a violin out of perspex. I became friendly with him and I had been learning to play the violin. for quite a few years, not that I was much good! I provided the strings but told him that the Perspex violin wouldn't play as the tone comes from the wood of the instrument - I was firmly convinced because I had been taught that the better the violin, the better the tone. His violin looked absolutely gorgeous: the whole case was perspex so you could see through it and it was complete with a perspex bow. When it was finished, I was given the job of playing it and I was dumbfounded! It played beautifully. I played it at Townsend Fold at the works, as it was done with the full knowledge of the management. Obviously it was shown to the bosses and eventually it even went on exhibition in London. It was amazing!

Henry (Harry) HOYLE

(Perspex was developed by I.C.I in the 1930s. In conditions of total secrecy, they opened a factory at Darwen in 1940 to ' manufacture aircraft canopies, with the Spitfire cockpit being one of the most well known. There were two large sites manufacturing Perspex and it was also used as portholes in RAF bomber planes. Splinters of shattered canopies embedded in pilots' bodies led to the discovery that the material was not rejected by the body. This resulted in several medical applications, including contact lenses.
Apparently there are still perspex brooches made by workers in the wartime factories, from scrap material presumably. Editor.)

Edith DUCKWORTH remembers:

In 1937 I left St Paul's School and started at SHEPHERDS cotton mill on Railway Bottom (Railway Street) in the warehouse folding towels which the men parcelled up ready for despatch. I had already put my name down at

PORRITTs at Stubbins Vale Mill and after four weeks I was asked to go there to see Billy STARKIE. .1 started learning to be a woollen felter which meant I was to piece each felt into a loop before it was taken to have the nap raised. Eventually the felts were used in paper mills.
When I was sixteen, war broke out and my job at PORRITTs continued until the mill windows were blown out by the Stubbins landmine in 1941 and we could no longer work in the conditions. Meanwhile, I had met my future husband, Herbert, at PORRITTs when he was a nineteen year old working in the warehouse. He had volunteered to join up and was also in the Local Defence Volunteers. It was 1941 when he was called up to the RAF. I did get another job in Carr Street at what 1: think was a Manchester firm making insulators, which I think were for aircraft. One of my Stubbins workmates told me about work being available at the Helmshore PORRITTs so that's where I really learned to felt. To get to work I caught the train from Ramsbottom to Helmshore and then walked to the mill, except that on Saturdays there was no train back home until 1 pm so we asked to come out of work early at 11.30am and walked across the golf links to Ewood Bridge Station on the other line. Later I put down for munitions work as I didn't want to join the services or the Land Army and I was sent to Stubbins paper mill. My job was on a machine, winding reels of paper of different widths. At this time my sister and I visited my mother's relations, our two aunties and uncles at Redhill in Surrey for a week. (Mother died when I was fourteen.) They had sent a telegram warning us that doodlebugs were coming over their area but we still decided to go. We also visited them again at Christmas. My sister learnt weaving when she left school and was a weaver all her working life, except for a short period of maybe twelve months when she went in the NAAFI. She was stationed in the West Kirby area where there were a lot of servicemen, maybe airmen. Once she brought us a cake that she'd made. Herbert had his twenty first birthday on his way overseas. I used, to collect what were called airgraphs from the post office - no charge for me but the messages were condensed. I had one for my twenty first birthday and another at Christmas. He returned in. July 1945 and we married on August 17$^{0'}$ 1945 at Market Place Methodist Church. I borrowed a wedding dress which I had altered, and also a wedding veil and wreath. My dad gave me away and we had a small reception in the Methodist Church schoolroom.

Edith .DUCKWORTH (nee WALLEY)

(Ramsbottom Reminiscences Volume 2 contains Herbert Duckworth's recollections, including more details about his war service. Editor)

Frank C Irene HALL remember.-

Our main recollection of Ramsbottom during WW2 is the blackout. Pitch darkness everywhere, no street lighting and ARP wardens patrolling the streets to check that no chink of light was visible. The wardenDsshouts of `put that light outDbecamea familiar catchphrase. People tended to go out on moonlight nights, where possible, so that they could see where they were going. Unfortunately clear moonlight nights also made it easier for pilots to see their targets and a full moon became known as a `bomberDsmoonD.On darker nights people wore luminous lapel badges, which glowed in the dark.
At nine oDclockinthe evening the buses stopped running and cinemas, dance halls and other entertainments all closed in time for people to catch their last bus.
Street signs, railway station names, road directions and anything else that might indicate the name of the town were all removed so that if enemy troops invaded they would not know where they were. Unfortunately, this also made it difficult for anyone else to find their way around if they were on unfamiliar ground, especially in the blackout.
We also remember evacuees arriving by train and being taken to St PaulDs school where they were allocated to their host families. What was not anticipated was the number of mothers who had accompanied their children and who also had to be accommodated.
At the bottom of Bridge Street, close to the Railway Hotel, there was a pastry shop called BARLOWs. One week they discovered that they had received a sack of white flour instead of the usual wartime flour which was a sort of pale brown. They informed their regular customers that it would be used to bake scones which could be purchased by those lucky enough to be in on the secret.

Frank C Irene HALL 2005

Marion BEECH remembers:

[Marion Beech (nee Poole) was fourteen years old when Stubbins was hit by two German landmines and had started her first job as a trainee weaver at Porritt's on the previous Tuesday. She lived at 249 Bolton Road North, Stubbins having moved there in 193 7 with her parents, brother Harold and sisters Hilda and Freda. Prior to this the family had lived in a cottage at Leaches Road. Editor]

On Saturday, 3rd May 1941 at 1.15 am in the morning two landmines fell on the village of Stubbins, one landed on the river bank and the other one on some allotments in Stubbins Street. No one was killed or seriously injured (probably because both bombs fell on soft ground), but there was a great deal of damage to buildings including our house at 249 Bolton Road North, which was just a few yards away from the river bank. Many of the houses were eventually repaired but some were just too badly damaged and could not be saved.

Earlier on in the war, especially during the Manchester blitz, we always took shelter under the stairs when there was an air raid warning but as time went on and nothing seemed to be happening we stopped bothering and stayed in our beds, although Mum still insisted that we three girls did not sleep in. our own room up in the attic. She felt, quite rightly as it turned out, that we would be safer sharing our parents room on the floor below. My brother HaroldDsroom was next door so we were altogether on the one level. It was wartime so no one seemed to worry about mixed ages and sexes.

When the bombs fell we were all asleep in bed. There was an enormous bang! Not knowing what it was, or what might happen next, Mum rushed us all down under the stairs. All the windows had shattered and there was glass everywhere, but it was only later that we realised we had all run, barefoot through about three inches of broken glass and not a scratch on any of us!. We were very lucky none of us was hurt, although Hilda did have a small cut on her nose where the gas bracket had fallen off the wall and hit her. Our dog, Tips, slept in the wash house in the back yard so we went out to check on him. What a shock! The back door was off its hinges and the wash house top and sides had collapsed but the dog was as right as rain, not a mark on him, just glad to get out.

At this time Harold worked for Mr KNOWLES at Sheephey Farm and he wanted to go up to the farm and see how they had fared. Mum said he should take us three girls with him so off we all went. Mr and Mrs KNOWLES were both alright and were relieved to know that we were all safe, despite the damage to the house. They made up temporary beds for us under the table. Their bedroom windows had wooden shutters that they used as blackouts. Usually they opened the shutters when they went to bed but on that night they had left them closed and the shutters had been forced off the windows. When daylight came we walked back home, What a mess it was - no doors, windows or roof I think the floors were still there but all the walls seemed to have moved and our furniture was all piled up outside on the main road. We looked for our parents but couldnDtfindthem anywhere which made us all

very anxious. We knew they were unhurt but couldn't find out where they were or what had happened to them. We eventually found. them at St Philip's Sunday school which had been opened as a sort of rest centre and canteen providing food and shelter for the people whose homes were damaged or destroyed.

Later the same day Dad went to see Dick TURNBULL and asked him if we could go back to our old cottage at Leaches Road. The cottages had been condemned but because of the war starting, they had just been left and were still standing. He said we should take whatever we could and move in. Conditions at Leaches Road were not ideal. We had moved out in 1937 because it was too small for the six of us and it had no gas or electricity and no running water supply, but as our own house was uninhabitable, we were just thankful. to have a roof over our heads. Eventually we were allocated a council house at Edenfield and moved there on the Monday before Christmas. The new house had gas, electric lights, a bath and lots of space for all of us. It was marvellous.

On Sunday, the day after the raid, we walked into Ramsbottom to visit friends but on the way back into Stubbins we were stopped by police and told we could not go through. Apparently, people were coming just to see what it was like. When we explained who we were and where we lived the policeman let us through.

The damage at Porritt's was a lot less than it might have been had the bombs not fallen where they did and by the following Thursday it had all been repaired and 1. was back at work!

Marion BEECH 2005

Snippets from Crow Lane Project

In 1940 where Ramsbottom Glass and Glazing is now was an old weaving shed. This was used by the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry as a stable for their horses. Children used to go there to stroke the horses. With the arrival of the army a notice went up in the Railway Hotel window that no-one would be served with more than 15 pints! The soldiers were stationed in Stubbins, the officers at Greenmount and the other ranks at Cuba Mill. *[one of the officers was the actor Dirk Bogarde]*

Jack HOLDEN

Early in the war years the weight of large loaves went down from 2lbs to 1 3/4lbs and small loaves from 1 lb to 3/41b. This was to save flour when U boats

were attacking shipping in the Atlantic ..... Sweet rationing began when the war started and everyone had coupons which had to be cut out of ration books. The allowance was 3/4 lb per month. Each month you were allowed 4 D's and 4 E's. The D's were worth l oz and E's were worth. 2 ozs. *Cough* sweets were not on ration, so when children had used up all their sweet coupons they developed a taste for Hack's, Dr Thompson's, Zubes and Victory V's. Supplies of these were limited however, which was probably just as well or the children might have got hooked on them. During the war years one of my tasks was to count all the sweet coupons.

Alan. RICHARDSON

The houses on our side of Crow :Lane had small front gardens surrounded by railings, some were coloured, some were different designs. I know ours had s pikes on but next door, had round tops to the railings. Like many others in the town they were all taken away for salvage during World War 11. 1 always imagined our railings going towards a Spitfire.

Doris HIBBERT

During World War 2 the land opposite the Drill Hall (now the front gardens of the houses) was occupied by a Bren Gun Carrier and an Emergency Water Supply tank, it also had a pole on which was mounted a piece of wood coated with a substance that would change colour in the event of a poison gas attack - Ramsbottom's very own early warning system!

In memory of those who gave their lives for their King and Country
Commonwealth War Graves Commission graves

From Ramsbottom Cemetery, non-conformist section
Plot 312 Per Ardua Ad Astra 1497144 Aircraftman 1st cl.. H. HAMER Royal Air Force 16th June 1943 aged 39. Memory is our greatest treasure in our hearts lie lives for ever.
Plot 466 3452013 Fusilier T. JONES the Lancashire Fusiliers 25th October 1941 aged *23. [Crest]* The Lancashire Fusiliers Egypt Silent thoughts true and tender just to show that we remember . .

From Ramsbottom Cemetery, Anglican section
[Plot number not known] *Per Ardua ad Astra 1517380 Aircraftsman* ,st cl H. QUINTON Royal Air Force 8th April 1944 aged 34 Duty nobly done. Also his wife EDITH 26th March 1983 aged 71.

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
Since the reopening of the refurbished museum, times have not been easy for the newly-integrated Archive Service: their long-time archivist left for pastures new, and they have struggled to replace him. The difficulties are now thankfully in the past and the new archivist is due to start work on October 17th 2005. She will have a lot of catching up to do, but we can then look forward to a full service being resumed in the new, state-of-the-art facility. Details of new opening hours will appear in our next newsletter.

Briefly, the archive comprises over 30 tons of documents, maps, plans and photographs with historical records from the 1650s to the present day of a wide range of organisations and private individuals from all parts of the Metropolitan Borough. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan there.

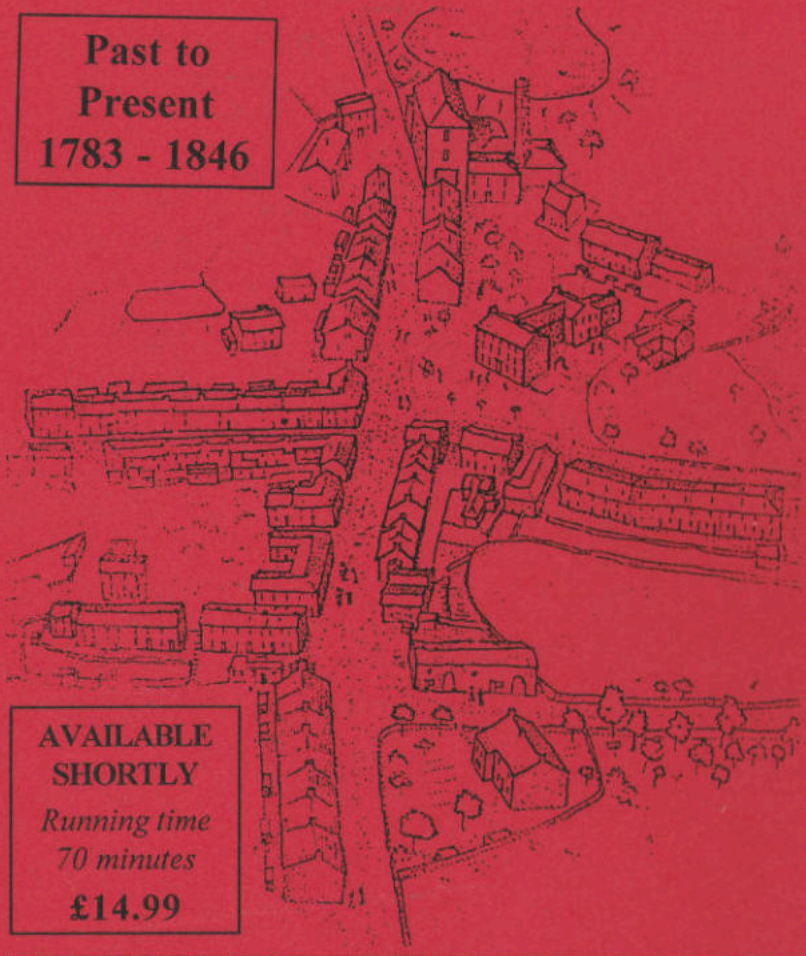
Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services), Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 0DG – tel 0161 253 5871 has publications on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older OS maps for the whole of Bury MBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, 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 Heritage Society
VHS/DVD

Ramsbottom . . . .

Past to Present 1783 - 1846



AVAILABLE SHORTLY
Running time 70 minutes
£14.99

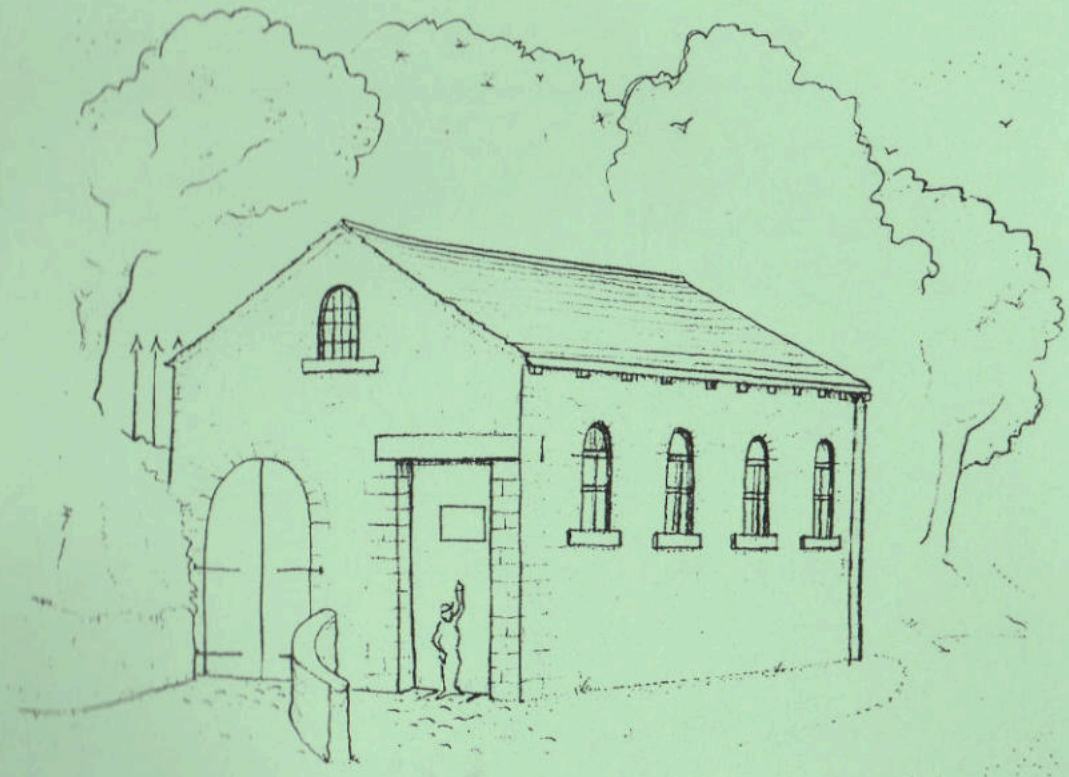
Industrial Village, New Town and Railway

One year in the making, *Ramsbottom Past to Present 1783 -1846*, comprehensively charts the early history of the town whose name became a music hall joke, and looks for traces of its past in the present day streets.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 30 Spring 2006 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

The objects of the Society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public,by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate as an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME 2006

May 17th	***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and MEMBERS' NIGHT***
June 21st	Miss Cecilia Ridley – *The Jolly Hatters*
July 19th	Mr J.B. Taylor – Guided walk – Grants' Tower and area: meet 6.30pm at Ramsbottom Railway Station
August 16th	Mr R. Parks – Guided walk around Stalybridge: meet 6.30pm, Carr Street car park, Ramsbottom. Transport by car sharing.
September 20th	Mrs D. Hughes – *The Life and Times of Samuel Crompton*
October 18th	Mr. F. Holcroft – *The English Civil War in Lancashire* (illust.)
November 15th	Miss Margaret Curry – *From Tyne to Tweed* (illustrated)
December 13th	***Members' night*** – Christmas social evening

All indoor meetings except December are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

Entry by donation, please.

The Editors welcome articles for inclusion in the News Magazine. These may be hand-written, 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 -former railway goods warehouse near the bottom of Rowlands Road, Summerseat, drawn by John B TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Society has begun 2006 in an auspicious way. The year marks the 200th anniversary of the coming to Ramsbottom of the GRANT brothers, William and Daniel, they of CHEERYBLE Brothers fame, whose enterprise led to the development of the town very much as it is seen today. An opportunity for the Society to commemorate the event, and at the same time launch the film celebrating Ramsbottom's heritage, which after 2.5 years of endeavour was finished in late February, and (after a year's absence from its Heritage Centre home) promote itself and its activities.

From a beginning immediately after New Year, with an event date of 5th March determined by the availability of Ramsbottom Civic Hall, which at the time was itself under threat of disposal by Bury MBC under cost-reduction proposals, a small team of members and non-members devoted a great deal of time and energy to planning and promoting the event, overcoming setbacks along the way, in order to ensure the clay was a success. I have the utmost admiration for everyone involved. From the formal opening by our Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Steven TREADGOLD, through the themed talk and walks, launch of the film, displays of Society activities, presence of the North West Sound Archive, and continuous supply of refreshments, to closure, the day was a great success, with visitor numbers far in excess of expectations; great interest was expressed in the film, in many of the

activities, and several new members enrolled. My sincere thanks to everyone who took part, organiser and visitor alike.

Such was the level of success, it has inspired the organisers to consider an event to mark the Society's 20th anniversary next year, has energised the Oral Ta ping Team, with several people on the day expressing a willingness to have their reminiscences recorded, and led to a joint venture arrangement with the Rossendale Free Press, who wish to publish a supplement highlighting the key events of the last 200 years of Ramsbottom's history. So, quite a day. Also, we learned shortly before the event, the Civic Hall is to live on!

Members who live locally will realise that work. has stopped on the Library building; we hope that it will recommence soon and that we will be able to return to the Heritage Centre in Carr Street later this year. I would like the thoughts of members on how we might take the Centre, and the Society, forward once we're back home.

Tony Murphy

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA Obituaries

At the end of November 2005, Bessie JOHNS died, quite suddenly, in her 91st year. Bessie was born in Summerseat, came to Ramsbottom at a very early age, and remained for the rest of her life. She was schooled at St Andrew's, in her early years worked as a weaver, during wartime in munitions (latterly with F.D. Sims); she was a chorister of note and one time member of Ramsbottom Choral Society. Of Primitive Methodist persuasion, Bessie worshipped at the Chapel until its closure, subsequently enjoying a long association with the Methodist/Baptist Chapel in Market Place, and, finally, Christ Church. A long-serving member of the Heritage, Society, active as a supporter until ill health during her last years prevented attendance at the Heritage Centre and open meetings; she will be remembered for her gentleness and great good humour and will be very much missed by many.

Early in January 2006, we learned of the death of Alice O'Donnell, in her 97th year, after a lengthy period of illness. Alice was born Alice HALL, in Ramsbottom in 1909; her young adult years were spent looking after a sick mother and later, in war-time, accommodating evacuees. She was a lifelong parishioner, and choir-member of St Paul's Church; an accomplished actress, with much involvement with St Paul's Players and Ramsbottom Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society. Her later working life was spent at Hazlehurst School. Upon retirement Alice played piano for the Heather Dalton School of Dancing and for the Sunshine Club and, until illness prevented, maintained active involvement with Bury & District Blind Persons Association and Ramsbottom Heritage Society. A lady who lived life to the full, she will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

For the Society, again, a sad end to the old year, and a sad beginning to the new.

Annual Photographic Competition

Many thanks to those who sent in their photographs of Ramsbottom in 2005.
Certificates were awarded as follows:-
Events & Daily Life -
Winner - Linda de Ruijter; highly commended - Doris HIBBERT
Buildings -
Winner - Jennifer BEECH; highly commended - Linda de Ruijter.
Town & country -
Winner - Jennifer BEECH; highly commended - Alan HIBBERT.
Themes -
Winner - Ian SMITH; highly commended - Roy WOOSEY.
Jennifer BEECH was the overall winner and awarded the Dickensian Trophy. Congratulations. Our thanks go to John LEYLAND who organises the Photographic Competition each year. Make sure you take some photos in Ramsbottom during 2006 so you can enter the next photographic competition early in 2007.
See www.ramsbottomheritage.co.uk/2005nhotos to view the photographs.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society publications, including the video/DVD and News Magazines, can be obtained from Ramsbottom Library. The Ramsbottom video/DVD (running time 70 minutes) costs £14.99

"Ramsbottom, past to present 1783 - 1846" video/DVD - review

How do you tell 70 years of a town's turbulent history? In a new DVD/video telling the story of Ramsbottom's development: an industrial village, new town and railway, that's how. Having been asked to review the production I settled down in front of my machine to indulge in what could be described as hard core porn, for the historian,
The presentation by Andrew TODD and Les NORRIS is engaging and they get over their passion for their subject matter in a series of pieces to camera. Andrew also manages to elicit a number of *'I never knew that'* moments as he reveals the origins of the town through the GRANTs, the PEELs and the ASHTONs- who all played their part in industrial development. The explanation of how the town grew from its central core at the Old Ground into the being we know today is fascinating. It is helped by a judicious mix of graphics, old photographs and live action which are woven into a story which is told at a good pace. The use of real people telling their own story is inspired and the combination really brings the tale of our industrial heritage to life.
The film sets the scene, in my opinion, for more research into the history of Ramsbottom. The central premise of the story told in film is Ramsbottom exploding into life in 1783. But why did it explode? What was burning in the background to allow the PEELs, ASHTONs and GRANTs to hit the ground running? I look

forward to further research pre 1783 to try to answer these questions. But in the meantime, I can fully recommend this valuable new addition to Ramsbottom's historiography.

Jonathan ALI, Hawkshaw (2006)

Saved for the moment:
the East Lancashire Railway goods warehouse, Rowlands Road, Summerseat.

Three planning applications for the conversion of the former railway goods warehouse to the south of Summerseat Station into apartments were rejected by Bury MBC's Planning Committee on 29th March. The balking of yet another apartment-makeover for a piece of our built heritage is very welcome news - the warehouse is a now rare example of many similar buildings to be found all over the Britain's railway system. It stands across the road from the modern ELR Summerseat Station platform. The goods shed was the only railway-owned warehouse in Summerseat; but further north along the line was another warehouse (now converted into apartments) owned by Joshua HOYLE of Brooksbottoms Mill; and John OLIVE's railway wagon works stood to the south near Chestwheel Bridge.

Trucks for Summerseat would be taken off the main line into the small goods yard. There were three sidings, one *of* which led into the warehouse. A loading gauge originally above the railway entrance determined whether trucks emerging onto the main line were loaded too high. The door at the opposite end of the warehouse may have allowed a guards van with its chimney to clear the building and not take up loading space. The lintel above the door is a metal girder with the cast inscription *MUSGRAVE, Son & HEATON. Bolton 1847'.*

The building is set into the steep bank above Rowlands Road. Next to this is another arched door, access for horse drawn carts off the still existing setted roadway. Inside the shed is a large rectangular working platform with a whip crane still in excellent condition, with ropes and manual crank handle still in situ and usable - a fine piece of railway heritage.

A derailment on the tight curve of the warehouse's access siding ended its use for trucks about 1961 when the sidings were disconnected. The amount of railway borne traffic did not justify the cost of straightening.

Since then, the warehouse has had a variety of uses. The sidings continued to be used to unload coal for the Summerseat Co-op Store until this closed. In 1963, Norman BOOTH used the warehouse to saw up reclaimed railway sleepers for reuse as fence posts. He also toasted and crumbed stale bread here, for use as surface bait by Fleetwood trawlermen! Agricultural engineer David BARKER repaired milking machines, well pumps and tractors here from 1968.

British Railways Property Board sold the site in 1976 to Bury MBC. Martin HODSON became tenant in the same year, and used the warehouse to refurbish electrical machinery.

The warehouse, which is in very good condition, is now the only original railway building on the ELR north of Bury, so the Planning Committee's decision not to allow redevelopment is especially laudable. A plan in 2004 to reinstate the siding closest to the running line for a static display of wagons came to nothing.

RHS Conservation Group report

A quick glance around Ramsbottom is enough to explain why the Conservation Group is needed. Demolition of old landmarks and the building of apartments and houses, some three storeys high, is changing the face of our traditional mill town. The increased traffic, which accompanies the new buildings, clogs the streets and ruins our enjoyment of the town. This Heritage Society sub-committee monitors all the planning applications for Ramsbottom: where we feel these would be detrimental, we respond with objections and suggestions.

The year 2006 has already been quite eventful, as we have addressed some longstanding issues and some new ones. Whilst the conversion of St Paul's School into houses and apartments has involved very little change to the Crow Lane face of the building, the new windows, with small panes and plain wood frames, are totally out of keeping. We made representation to Bury MBC's sympathetic and diligent Conservation Officer, Mick NIGHTINGALE, who has now taken up this issue.

Our 2004 Spring/Summer magazine *[No. 26, page 18, Editor]* featured the historical and visual importance of Irwell Bridge Mill and noted that there was a planning application which would involve its demolition. This resulted in a Public Inquiry in January this year and because Irwell Bridge Mill is now the last complete set of 19th Century stone mill buildings in Ramsbottom Andrew TODD spoke and we submitted written evidence. We learned at the end of March that the Planning Inspector has found in favour of Bury MBC's appeal against demolition, but the future use of this building remains unclear.

The former gardens of *Prospect House* on Tanners Street, less than 100 yards round the corner from the *Rose and Crown,* have been the subject of several planning applications over the years. The proposed build has now been reduced from a block of apartments to just two houses. Tanners Street, however, is so narrow that access would be difficult, and the modem style would be entirely out of keeping with the conservation area. The Conservation Group has consequently joined many local residents in objecting yet again.

A recent phone call to the Society alerted us to the fact that the owner of GRANTs' Tower is removing stones for his own building work. Whilst he is entitled to do this, the Heritage Society is encouraging him to appreciate the importance of the tower and to preserve it. We have made personal representations, and given him

information, photographs and a copy of our new video which features the tower. Unfortunately, Bury MBC has been unable to obtain spot-listing.

The conservation of Ramsbottom is far too big a task to be accomplished by the Conservation Group alone, so as members of the Society we all need to be vigilant. If you see signs of worrying changes in the town or would like to be involved, please contact Group chairman Kate on 01706 281 998

Kate SLINGSBY

A HISTORY OF ISHERWOOD'S FURNISHERS

In the early 1920s, James Henry ISHERWOOD - great grandfather of the present members of the family - begin the manufacture of furniture in the workshop he had set up in the house next door to his own in Ada Street. He was joined later by his two sons, Fred and Arthur, and the original shop on the corner of Ada Street and Bolton Road West was opened.

In the early days, the furniture was delivered by horse and cart. The horse was hired when required from a farm in Greenmount. It is interesting to read in the ledger dated 1923 entries such as *'shoeing the horse - seven shillings and sixpence'* (37'/2p) and *'for fodder one pound seventeen shillings' (£ 1.85).*

The business expanded and in the 1930s employed three cabinet makers, an upholsterer and a French polisher. By this time the original premises had become too small and so it was arranged to rent the house next door which doubled as a working area and the firm expanded into funeral undertaking. In 1930 ISHERWOOD's bought the shop at 44 Bolton Street, still the place of business. Over the years it has been greatly expanded with the purchase of adjoining shop premises. In the late 1930s, the firm also bought the old established Waterfoot house furnishers of Isaac LAW. By this time Fred's son, Eric, had left school and had begun work at the Ramsbottom store. He continued to work there until 1941 when he joined the RAF and spent the next four and a half years in the Middle East.

Early in the War, the supply of timber and other materials disappeared, the cabinet makers were called up or directed to more essential jobs and the workshop had to close. The original shop on Bolton Road West also closed. In addition to furniture, it had sold wringing machines (mangles), and was one of the first places to sell gramophones and records.

Business founder James ISHERWOOD died in 1942, and his elder son, Arthur, soon retired and moved away. This left his other son, Fred, with the difficult task of having to manage two shops for the remainder of the War. Undertaking and funeral directing was discontinued, as Fred did not take to embalming and preparing bodies.

During the conflict the Government set up a scheme for certain manufacturers to make a range of basic furniture designs, known as *Utility Furniture.* This was to help

young married couples buy essential items for their homes and was only available in exchange for Dockets or Coupons, issued in very limited numbers.

After the War, Eric rejoined the firm and married Elsie CHADWICK. He became a Director, together with his sister Eileen. Later Eileen married Ronald CRANE and she and her husband took over the management of the shop at Waterfoot.

In 1971 the firm bought the former Co-operative Society stables in Central Street, Ramsbottom, for use as a warehouse. The shop at 44 Bolton Street was converted into showrooms, a workshop and carpet workroom. Fred ISHERWOOD died in 1974, after a lifetime of working in furniture. He left a very successful business in the capable hands of his son and daughter, Eric and Eileen,

Meanwhile, Eric's sons, first David and then Paul, joined the firm, There was further expansion with the opening of a Pram and Nursery Goods shop in Bridge Street, managed by Eric's wife, Elsie. In 1976 a former furniture store in Bank Street, Rawtenstall was acquired.

Sadly, the firm suffered a grave loss in 1978 when Ronald CRANE, Eileen's husband became ill and died. Eileen retired in 1981, since when, over the years, the shops at Waterfoot, Rawtenstall and Bridge Street have closed as result of retirement and economic recession. Paul ISHERWOOD decided on a change of career and moved to Manchester Airport where he is now head of the Archive Department. Eric had retired in 1989 and his son David ran the remaining shop in Bolton Street until his retirement in 2004. The business still operates, under new management, but the name ISHERWOOD's lives on, selling a wide range of better quality furniture, upholstery, beds and carpets.

Generations of loyal customers have continued to visit the stores over all that time. Occasionally we still come across pieces of furniture originally made by ISHERWOODs. It has lasted well. If you have an item please let us know.

David ISHERWOOD (2005)

THE BRIDGE STREET ACCIDENT 1944

Below is Joan BARCROFT's response to a request for information on our website by Carol SMYTH nee YOUNG, the accident victim. Carol was an evacuee living in Crow Lane with her mother and brother and would like to make contact with the HENRY family, with whom her mother was friendly at the time. Although Joan, 10 ¾ years old in 1944, did not actually witness the accident (as reported in the last News Magazine), she did see the aftermath. She remarks how strange it is that she remembers so clearly the events of that day 62 years ago while, like many of us, she can forget what she had for lunch the day before.

Mum had sent me to a shop on Bridge Street. The streets were busy with people returning from work. Walking back home, I saw that a bus had stopped just past the

junction with Crow Lane, near the gardens outside St Paul's Church. It had occurred to me that this was strange because there was no bus stop there, when I encountered two men, one supporting the other who was carrying a small blonde child. I noticed her leg, very seriously injured. They were rushing up the street, I realised afterwards, to Dr CROMPTON's surgery on Market Place.

I then saw the bus driver and conductor, who were sitting on the church garden wall looking very upset, and a policeman was speaking to them. (At that time the police station was on Crow Lane, where BOOTH & WOLSTENHOLME's Chapel of Rest now stands.) As I waited around for a few minutes among other groups of people, a car stopped. The driver was a policeman and two people were sitting in the back, one of whom was Dr CROMPTON and he was supporting the child. They were obviously on their way to hospital. After a while I realised that I had better return home but I was delayed again in Church Street when I met neighbours discussing the accident.

Eventually I turned the corner into Garden Street and saw Dad's lorry parked in front of the house. Wondering why he was home early I entered and found my parents in the kitchen. Their conversation stopped and I was asked, *`Where have you been?'* When I said that I had just been talking and said that there had been an accident, I was told, *`You should come straight home!'* Apparently someone had come into ANDERTON's Stores (grocers, 72, Bridge Street, where Dad was delivery driver) to say that a little girl, who lived in a house owned by Maud CORDINGLY, had been knocked down. Because my family rented a house from Miss CORDINGLY, Dad drove home immediately to ask, *`Where is our Joan?' Mum* had been just about to send him to the police station to enquire when I walked through the door to the `telling off. The following morning at St Paul's School assembly prayers were said for Carol. We also had a road safety lecture.

I remember seeing Carol several weeks later. She was on crutches but seemed to be playing happily with her friends in the schoolyard. The house on Crow Lane in which Carol lived had previously been Miss CORDINGLY's hat shop and it had a large window. The building was eventually demolished as it was unsafe. Whenever wartime and evacuees are mentioned I think of all those from London and Manchester who came to St Paul's School and I remember Carol's accident. I am so pleased to hear she is well and happy.

Joan BARCROFT (2006)

DANIEL GRANT, FAMOUS OR INFAMOUS?

The GRANT family, originally from Speyside in Scotland, became Ramsbottom's most famous incomers from 1806 because of their associations with the novel *Nicholas Nickleby.* Charles DICKENS met two of the GRANT Brothers, William

and Daniel, in Manchester in the 1830s, and modelled his philanthropic Cheeryble Brothers on them.



[Taken from "Nicholas Nickleby " *(page 451) by Charles DICKENS, with illustrations by Phiz, Penguin Classics 1999. The illustrator of many of DICKENS' novels, Hablot K BROWNE, better known as 'Phiz', travelled with DICKENS on one of his Manchester visits,* **and also met the GRANTs.]**

Ned and Charles Cheeryble are not copies of William and Daniel GRANT, but DICKENS appears to have taken elements of both the character and appearance of the brothers. Apparently, when the eleventh issue of *Nicholas Nickleby* came out, everyone who read it `immediately recognised they were meant'.

`I am no angel, Heaven knows, but an erring and imperfect man,' says Charles Cheeryble to Ralph Nickleby. In the light of certain facts about Daniel GRANT's private life it is fascinating to ponder whether they were pure DICKENS fiction or in fact were remembered from conversations with him.

Daniel GRANT drew up his will in August 1847. The document included the following provisions:

To my natural son, Daniel GRANT BRERETON, lately residing in South America but now of Manchester, the sum of five thousand pounds. . .

I bequeath the following annuities, namely to my natural son Charles BRERETON an annuity of **one hundred and** fifty **pounds during his life. To Elizabeth BRERETON the mother of the said Daniel GRANT BRERETON and Charles BRERETON an annuity** of one hundred and fifty **pounds during her life ...**

Two sons and a mistress. Who would have guessed? Who in fact was aware of this family? How was it possible that a man who many regarded so highly came to be in this position? In an age when the stigma of such a situation could be very strong, how did Daniel GRANT manage to conceal it, if indeed he did? Many more questions arise about the relationship of Daniel with his apparently anonymous family, but first it is necessary to recount the story.

The account of Daniel GRANT's personal life begins in 1815. At that time the GRANTs were running their calico printing operation at the Old Ground, Ramsbottom, which they had bought from PEEL & YATES in 1806, and in 1812 they had taken over the Nuttall factory from the ALSOP family. There were also offices in Cannon Street, Manchester. Daniel and brother William were living at *Springside,* Walmersley, but in 1815 they purchased an elegant mansion in Mosley Street, Manchester. The intention was to furnish and staff the house so that it would be a suitable place to entertain the society of Manchester. It was used by William and Daniel, but its main purpose was as a home for Daniel GRANT and his new wife Elizabeth WORTHINGTON. The couple were happy together, but only for a brief ti me until Elizabeth's death on 18th October 1816, There were no children. A year later Daniel's father, old William GRANT, also passed away at the age of 84. Daniel's grief passed and he immersed himself in work and in entertaining and being entertained by the society of Manchester. The earliest known date of Daniel GRANT's alliance with Elizabeth BRERETON is 1824. PIGOT's directory of that year lists an Elizabeth BRERETON at 7 Pool Street, Manchester. The BAINES directory, completed in August 1825, lists *Mrs* Elizabeth BRERETON, 7a Pool Street, Redcross Street. Information in directories can be notoriously incorrect but the Elizabeth BRERETON of 1824 seems to have become *Mrs*Elizabeth BRERETON in 1825. Despite the 17 years between their ages, it is understandable how Daniel GRANT and Elizabeth BRERETON became attracted to one another. At forty one, Daniel was at the peak of his career. Although slightly stout, he delighted in and was a great admirer of physical prowess in sport. He had charm and social position, having achieved his wealth as an extremely successful salesman travelling the world in pursuit of the business which was to make the family fortune. (The famous Square Works, considered to be the most up-to-date in Europe, was built at Ramsbottom 1821 - 1822.)

Daniel and Elizabeth were never married but their son Daniel GRANT BRERETON was born in Manchester sometime between May and June 1825. How secret the event was kept is not known, but the remarkable lack of public praise for Daniel

GRANT in comparison with his elder brother William suggests that eventually the truth did seep out. The GRANT family themselves had a strict puritanical tradition so there must have been a strong reaction within the family and, had Daniel's parents been alive, they would have been extremely angry. Daniel most definitely incurred the reproach and judgement of some of his friends and colleagues in Manchester society, but as far as possible employees of the firm, especially those in Ramsbottom, were not allowed to discover the truth. It may be coincidental but it was in 1825 that brothers John and William GRANT withdrew their membership of the Bury Subscription Library. The GRANT family's carefully plotted course of honesty and good living suffered a great blow - only a year previously William had been appointed a visiting justice and magistrate of Salford Hundred.

From about 1825 to 1838 Elizabeth BRERETON resided at Mosley Street and in 1829 she gave birth to another son, Charles. It is not known where either of the boys was baptised. Within a year of Charles's birth Daniel engaged the very popular portrait painter Henry W PICKERSGILL to portray Elizabeth and the two boys. PICKERSGILL's portraits included ones of WORDSWORTH and Sir Robert PEEL. The portrait shows Elizabeth wearing a wide Georgian hat and a laced bodice typical of the time. She appears as a tall girl with a pale complexion, long dark hair and sharply defined features. Charles is a babe in arms, and young Daniel looks rather like a little girl. Daniel GRANT's love for Elizabeth was evidently strong, and he cared for her and the children as much as he would have done had they been married.

It was from the early 1830s that William GRANT began to feel his age, and was soon in need of regular calls by his doctor. In 1837 or 1838 William's health was such a cause for concern that Daniel was brought to a major decision. This concern was evidently more powerful than his love for Elizabeth because he apparently came to live permanently with William at *Springside*. He not only made the journeys daily from Manchester to Bury to be near William, but he dismissed his faithful butler, Alfred 1300T, and Elizabeth and the boys found accommodation at 45 Burlington Street, Greenheys where she appeared in the Manchester directories as Mrs Elizabeth BRERETON. From that time on their relationship cooled and, if anything, ceased; but nevertheless Daniel still took a dutiful interest in the welfare of his two sons. Elizabeth had one servant to assist her, Betsy TOBIN, and by June 1841 until 21st February 1842 when she married, her younger sister Lucy was living with her. By now, young Daniel Grant BRERETON was about 17 and it seems that he was allowed to mix freely with the grand-nephews and nieces of Daniel and very likely came to *Springside* occasionally. His younger brother Charles, subject to epileptic fits, may well have been a more sickly boy. Both of them are described as scholars in the 1841 census return for Burlington Street.

William GRANT died in 1842 and it became clear how much Daniel, who himself was approaching 60, had been attached to him. His appearances in public became less and less frequent but he rallied to return to work and pleasure. There were still

parties at Mosley Street and trips from *Springside- to* which groups of friends were invited. Amongst the continual residents and visitors at *Springside* were his great nieces and nephews. Work, however, was not to be the round of success that it had been formerly, for the 1840s brought a slump in business. It is from this period that more anecdotes are remembered of him. His journeys to and from Manchester continued and were a vivid recollection of many. Apparently, his carriage was drawn by two dapple grey horses and both the coachman and the footman wore green livery with gold braid. There were also two Dalmatian dogs to match the horses and these ran behind.

In the year following William's death, Daniel suffered what was to be another blow to his previously secure world. In November 1843 plans were drawn up by the Manchester, Bury & Rossendale Railway Company for making a railroad from Bury to Rawtenstall. The line would run fairly close to *Springside,* and over much of the land owned by the GRANTs. Daniel made an objection to the company, complaining that the line ran within his view across the valley. He may have reminded them that William GRANT & Brothers were large shareholders in the company. Eventually Daniel accepted a sum of £4,500 as compensation.

What else do we know about Elizabeth BRERETON? The answer is, very little. She was born about 1801 at Sandbach, Cheshire, the daughter of Joseph BRERETON, a merchant, who took over his cousin's rope-making and salt manufacturing business at Newton near Middlewich. From 1834 to the mid 1840s Joseph BRERETON had offices in Manchester and a residence at Heaton Norris near Stockport, as well as his Middlewich home. At the 1842 marriage of his other daughter Lucy, he is described as a `gentleman', and it is safe to say that the family belonged to the middle classes. In the 1841 census Elizabeth is described as aged 35, which meant that she was between 35 and 40, and of independent means. Her name appears in the 1845 directory for Manchester, but no later. She apparently moved to Cannock in Staffordshire, probably some time before that date. Her sister Lucy had also moved to Cannock where her husband became a medical officer and subsequent events show that they may have been living together. Charles BRERETON died of epilepsy on 5th March 1851, aged 21. In view of the provision in Daniel GRANT's will of 1847, with Charles seeming to be disadvantaged in comparison with his brother, one wonders if the death was expected. Where Charles was buried remains a mystery. In February 1853, Daniel BRERETON entered the army. He joined the Regiment of the 5th Royal Lancashire Militia as a lieutenant, and in the following year was made a captain. We can only speculate as to whether he purchased a commission or had one purchased for him by his father. (The Regiment was formed in Burnley in 1853 as an attempt to prepare for the war in the Crimea.)

The year 1855 proved to be tragic and decisive for the GRANT family. That year saw the deaths of Daniel GRANT, his brother John GRANT of Nuttall Hall, and John's wife, bringing the older generation to an end. *Springside* was vacated and

much of the contents sold. Reverend William Hume ELLIOT of St Andrew's Church knew of Daniel Grant BRERETON's existence at that time as there remains a very obscure note amongst his manuscripts which mentions `Daniel's son' among other family members being ordered by Mrs GRANT junior to leave *Springside* after the death of John GRANT. *(Mrs GRANT junior was the wife of William GRANT of Nuttall Hall, John GRANT's son - Editor.)* The sons and daughters of John GRANT lived on at Nuttall Hall, but in a new way and into a new era. All John GRANT's property was left to his sons William and Robert.

Towards the close of that same year Elizabeth BRERETON died at Cannock aged 55. The *Staffordshire Advertiser* reported her death at the residence of her brother-in-law, John WHEATCROFT (sister Lucy's husband). From her death certificate, which mistakenly gives her age as 57, we learn that the cause of death was epilepsy, so it may be presumed that she suffered from the disease throughout her life. There was great medical ignorance at that time and the association of epilepsy with madness must have greatly affected sufferers. This would have added to the burden of the disease for her and for Daniel, and may well have been one of the reasons why they never married.

The relationship was not an unusual one by the standards of the age and so may not have troubled Daniel GRANT's conscience at all, but it seems that in spite of his hard business tactics and sometimes abrupt manner, he enjoyed an image of benevolence, kindness and uprightness. Another searching question must be - not what did others think of him, but what did he think of himself? The whole picture is probably one that began with an unlooked-for encounter and grew into a more stable experience, but then in later years, cooled.

Alan HITCH

F D SIMS LTD -'THE WIREWORKS', REGENT STREET, RAMSBOTTOM: THE WAR YEARS

Pamela WOOSEY has been researching the history of F D SIMS Ltd of Regent Street, Ramsbottom, generally referred to as The Wireworks. *The firm was taken over and moved away from Ramsbottom and in spring 2005 Persimmon Homes began clearing the site to build houses and apartments. Some of Pam's material was displayed at the Civic Hall on our 5th March Heritage Day and will later be seen in the Heritage Centre. Pam has now given us permission to print extracts from her work. Continuing our recent theme of World War 11 we have chosen the War Years section together with an abridged version of her description of the firm's beginnings. Jennie JOHNS' recollections of working at the* The Wireworks *commencing in 1945 follows on chronologically and provides a different perspective. We hope to continue the F D SIMS story in a future issue. See also Fred*

ENTWISTLE's account of his work at F W SIMS Ltd, My Wartime Apprenticeship, in Ramsbottom Reminiscences *(RHS, 1992) pp24-6 - Editor.*

In 1926, Berlin-born Kurt Oscar ENGEL and his German wife Mrs E H ENGEL, came to England. Kurt was employed as a technician by the Concordia Electric Wire & Cable Co Ltd in Nottingham, a company which is still in existence.

Accepted for British Nationality in 1936, Kurt ENGEL decided to start his own company, producing first class insulated wires and strips. After travelling many miles, researching local labour availability, local government assistance and considering geographical localtion, the place was found - Ramsbottom. The original building in Mill Street on the 1893 map was shown as a. towel mill and in 1930 shown as *Hazelhurst Mill,* a cotton mill producing towels. In 1934 the mill was occupied by DAVIDSON's Slippers Ltd., the millowners being W & J ECCLES (1). The works was established next door to Giles TAYLOR's Mineral Water Works. The whole factory was planned with meticulous detail and on the 2nd November 1936, the journey North commenced and as far as the Board of Trade was concerned, F D SIMS Ltd was in business. Ramsbottom was not really familiar even in Manchester but had never been heard of in the Midlands and London. It was something of a Music Hall joke at the time, but the industry which *the Boss* (ENGEL's nickname) brought to the area literally put it on the neap. Letters addressed simply h D SIMS Ltd, Ramsbottom, England, were safely delivered from Australia, India, Hong Kong and the West Indies.

The mill was of typical old stone Lancashire construction. Simple renovations were carried out. The walls were whitewashed by Jack HOYLE. Despite being warned by the Boss to be careful, the young HOYLE, balanced the whitewash bucket on top of his ladders; of course the inevitable happened and Jack was whiter than white. A temporary fitting shop was built and then Mr ENGELS, George WIMBUSH and a couple of mechanics feverishly began building the first machine. A quarter of a century later these early beginnings with four bare walls led to F D SIMS Ltd becoming the fourth largest manufacturer of insulated wires in the UK.

Three people had provided the initial help. On 2nd January 1937 Denis FREARSON arrived to join the team. He was later to become Sales Director. He was followed by Cecil CLARK and in April 1937, by Johnny BUCKBERRY, all experienced in the specialised trade of insulated wire manufacturing. Denis and his wife Nancy lived with the ENGELs at *Manor House,* Holcombe Village until they were able to find their own home. Mr & Mrs ENGEL were friends of Mrs FREARSON's parents in Nottingham, and looked upon the young couple as family as they had no children of their own.

In the early days, Mrs ENGEL gave considerable help on the administrative and office side of the business and in between was a Jack of all Trades, acting as the company's first driver. In her .Austin 7 two-seater tourer, she regularly conveyed

members of staff back to Nottingham to see their families; five people would often descend from this little car. To convey heavy castings and other engineering parts, Mr ENGEL's *Rover 10* was used. On one occasion 16 steel spindles, each 7ft long, protruded through the sunshine roof, Mrs ENGEL steadying them with one hand and steering with the other.

The very first order gained by F D SIMS was solemnly recorded in a small black book which the Boss referred to as his bible. More orders followed and an oven for testing the heat resistance of the enamel was obtained. Into this oven, Johnny BUCKBERRY once slipped a tin of baked beans for his dinner, forgetting all about them - the result was a big bang and beans firmly affixed to the ceiling. There were problems trying to develop up-to-date equipment for heating these ovens. The local damp atmosphere, ideal for cotton, caused problems when handling enamels. In the end, the fitters, working through the night, bored hundreds of holes in tube burners similar to the domestic gas ring . This worked and output rose, but not without considerable cost, including sums paid by Mr ENGEL out of his own finances. The fitting shop was enlarged and more machines built for the paper covering type of insulation. Things were definitely moving upwards when War was declared in 1939.

The War Years

Some production was now geared to Government requirements for the war effort. Despite the problems caused by government demands and the difficulty in obtaining materials such as copper, the Boss was determined to fulfil his development programme and his enthusiasm permeated the whole works. He worked extremely hard and expected the same from his workforce. Their loyalty was rewarded each Christmas by a party for the employees and their families, including one in 1940 at Bury's Masonic Hall. (The 1941 party was reluctantly cancelled, owing to transport difficulties, the black-out and food rationing.)

| n December 1939 the first flurry of snow fell and continued intermittently until early January 1940 when the country experienced one of the worst snowstorms for years.

(2) Production was hampered by the difficulties of employees getting to work but they did not use this as an excuse to stay away. One girl set off walking from Radcliffe at 8.00am arriving in Ramsbottom at 3.00pm, only to discover the Boss had sent the workers home early. Such was the kindness of Mr ENGEL that he arranged for the girl to stay the week at his home to avoid the difficult journey. Ramsbottom suffered howling blizzards and snowdrifts completely engulfed the houses in the more remote areas of the town. In some instances only the chimney stacks were showing and the snow reached the telephone wires. One fitter stated he had walked over a car, although it was never discovered if anyone was trapped inside. Relief came when locally stationed platoons of the Durham Light Infantry cleared the main roads, although the bye-ways were snow bound for weeks.

A devastating blow occurred at 12.45am on Monday 20th May 1940 when fire broke out in the Winding Department. As the nearest telephone was situated near the seat

of the fire, the night foreman Cecil CLARK had to phone from a nearby house, which ironically belonged to the local undertaker. Two engines arrived from Rawtenstall at 2.00am but the Winding Department was completely burnt out. Typically, the Boss promised that no one would be laid off and the night shift resumed that very evening, working under tarpaulin sheets, As a result of this fire, the firm later had the finest fire precautions in the country combined with a direct link to the County Fire Brigade.

Petrol rationing by this time was at its worst and determined to do his bit, the Boss came clown the hill to the works on his bicycle. The long freewheel was invigorating but going back to *Manor House was* a different matter. He decided it was easier to walk home and send the bike back' by the lorry which passed his house on deliveries.

Another cotton machine was installed and business expanded. Mr ENGEL travelled to the Midlands and London in search of customers, often leaving at 7.00 am and returning in the early hours of the following morning owing to the war priorities on the railways and the erratic timetable. On one trip, anticipating a large order if the price was right, he telephoned the office for the lowest possible price, On dialling *Trunks* and asking for the Ramsbottom number (no STD) in those days) he was amazed to hear the operator say, *`This is no time for joking sir, I really am quite busy, just exactly which exchange do you require?'*

Increased orders particularly from new customers forced the pace and die polishing was introduced. In February 1941, Jack COPELAND arrived. The machines were located in a single storey building with a large sliding wooden door giving access to the works yard and rear entrance. The Boss garaged his car here and each lunchtime he and Mrs ENGEL would dash for the car to return home for lunch. The sliding doors were always swaying in the wind and Mr ENGEL asked Frank ROTHWELL, the general labourer, to nail some leather strips on the door sides. The following day, Mr ENGEL dashed for his car only to find that leather strips had been nailed all round the doors which would not open; he was livid.

About this time, some of the workforce was called up for war service. The Boss suggested starting a `Comforts Fund', an idea which was enthusiastically received. All kinds of efforts were made to raise finance to cover the cost. Parcels and letters were sent to the troops and Mrs ENGEL organised the collection of magazines and books to send to the men. When home on leave, the Boss invited them into the office for a private chat. They were invariably given some personal gift with instructions to enjoy their leave, In 1938 Tom BOOTHMAN started work at SIMS as a paper covering machine operator and served in the RAF during the War.When he was stationed in Belfast he did some work for SHORT Bros. Another lad who was then called up for service with the RAF was Stewart SIMS, son of the Director whose name the Company bears.

It was in 1941 that the Company had the opportunity of purchasing land for future development. A large piece was bought at the end of Mill Lane through which a

footpath led to Holcombe Church. (This path was used as a short cut to Hazelhurst and saved many an employee from being `quartered' on their wages. Together with other girls, Edith WOOD nee HOWARTH, Denis FREARSON's secretary, used to spend her summer lunchtimes sitting on a bench near the Recreation Ground prior to the building of the Tagwood housing estate.) Permission was given to build another storey for new offices on the top of the recently reconstructed main works, but owing to the shortage of building materials, work did not commence until the following year. An air-raid shelter, however, was speedily built in the yard and this was much used. One of the men, crippled with rheumatism, took so long to reach the shelter during an `Alert' that the `All Clear' sounded by the time he reached it. At this time the company employed about 80 people, a size the Boss had considered to be the maximum, but pressure from the Ministries and customers was relentless. The building of the second storey was nearing completion and plans for the office block were abandoned, the space being used for further development of the fine wire machines.

Outside working hours, members of staff underwent ARP training and Rescue Work which fortunately was never put to the test. Even Mrs ENGEL took her full share of this masculine task and Jack COPELAND remembered being lowered by a rope wondering whether he or the rope would reach the ground first. After passing the tests, the experts - Mrs ENGEL, Jack COPELAND and Gordon MORTON passed on their knowledge to other members of tide staff. Owing to blackout difficulties and other restrictions, the lorries bringing supplies arrived late in the evening and had to be unloaded in total darkness. On one particular occasion it was barrels of enamel. Jack COPELAND had left the wire drawing machines running with the lights turned out and rolled the barrels into the wire drawing shop. As they dropped off the lorry, they made a loud *whooooosh* sound as they hit the ground. The foreman was amused when one night, standing at the bar at the local *Cemetery Hotel* (now *The Fusilier),* he overhead a conversation in the tap room, *'I see that SIMS have been unloading them shells again. You know, I'm sure they have a gun platform there so they can shell Manchester.'* This story caused great mirth at the works.

Wings For Victory Week was a national co-operative effort of 1943. The town of Ramsbottom appealed to local industrialists to assist. Mr ENGEL put his heart and soul into the event to make an exhibit of credit to the Company. None of the townspeople had any idea of what the Wireworks produced. They were pleasantly surprised and staggered at the variety of products. This was also the turning point in the relationship with local tradespeople and the Town Council. Mr ENGEL always used local suppliers and tradesmen whenever possible. However, good relations did not extend to everybody living close by the works. Many, sometimes trivial, complaints were received by the Boss, who tried to rectify them. He was therefore stumped when after giving instructions that the machines must be turned off at night

because of complaints from people unable to sleep, he received another complaint that they could not sleep because they were used to the noise.

Orders were still pouring in and many were for war work. The Boss made a point of telling the operatives on different jobs what it was required for, such as submarines, battleships, tanks or planes and impressed on them the necessity to ensure a quality job as the life of one of their relatives or friends might depend on it.

In 1944 the highlight was `D Day' which resulted in even more orders for the firm. In spite of economies, a further wire drawing machine was purchased. This greatly facilitated the speed of wire drawing and the subsequent enamelling. The first official transport was also purchased -- a battleship grey 5cwt Ford Van FTF 84. This vehicle gave sterling service for a number of years and was a familiar sight in the town. The major events of 1945 of course, were VE Day and VJ Day. The Boss and George WIMBUSH climbed on the roof and broke the Union Jack, the Stars and Stripes and the Hammer and Sickle against the three flagpoles. It was for this event that the Boss opened the 80 year old bottle of brandy which his co-director, Mr F 1V BARNES had given him as a present years before.

[(I) Billy ECCLES drove a Lanchester Saloon car and lived in one of the large stone terraced houses in the terrace 163-171 Bolton Road West, near the Recreation Ground. He owned a towel mill in Kay Brow where Edith WOOD's mother was a warper.

(2) For another account of the snow of 1940 in Ramsbottom, see Norman KAY, *In at the Deep End* in *Ramsbottom Reminiscences* (RHS, 1992) pp7-10.]

Grateful thanks to the following for their invaluable assistance in producing this article and for supplying documents, many photographs and memories:

Mr Denis & Mrs Nancy FREARSON (who at the ages of 92 and 90 still reside in the area); Mr Tom & Mrs Ann BOOTHMAN;; Mrs Edith WOOD; Mrs Elsie COPELAND of the Red Hall; Ramsbottom and Bury Libraries and Archive Staff for their help.

Pamela WOOSEY (2005-6)

MEMORIES OF POST-WAR WORKING AT F D SIMS

In 1945, when I first went to F D SIMS for a job I was asked whether I knew anyone who worked there, As soon as I mentioned the names of Nora DOBSON, Frank TODD and his wife, I was told that I could start work the next Monday. On arrival, I was taken by Frank to be introduced to Mr ENGEL who came into the fine wire workshop and asked the foreman, Jack ROBERTS, to put me with Mrs DOBSON. Her work was winding the wires, some of which were as fine as a human hair. A large reel of wire was put on place at the bottom of the winding machine and the strand was brought up the winding machine, in a similar way to the threading of a sewing machine, to the smaller reel on to which the wire was being wound. A few days later I was still learning the job with Mrs DOBSON and I remember Mr

ENGEL coming round on one of his regular inspections of the machines. He remarked that I had done well and that I had kept the wires nice and straight, so I was paid for my first week's work - which was unusual as it was normal to work for two weeks without pay when you started. Downstairs was the heavy wire which was wound by the men. My sister Bessie JOHNS, who started at the wireworks in 1946, worked on some of the heavier wire and also on weighing. The chemical plant produced fumes reaching as far as Nuttall.

Some of the wire that SIMS processed was cotton or silk.-covered or the raw wire might be given a coating of enamel. I worked on the cotton-covered wire and this entailed introducing the cotton strand on to the wire which was wound as it was being covered, without even tiny gaps in the covering. A new strand had to be put on without a knot. Later the cotton covering machines were moved to the works at Bury, where Mrs ENGEL was in charge. I was once sent to Bury for two months to train the girls to do this work. At one time I also worked on 'pinholing' which meant checking the wire. To do this the wire was passed through a machine which bleeped if there was a fault,

I returned from Bury to ordinary wire winding at Ramsbottom and it was around this time that we went on short time with one day a week off. When we resumed full time we had to go anywhere in the factory where there was work. One of the jobs I did was on a packaging machine which was nicknamed the *Tunnel of Love* or *The Snake.* For each box of wire the weight was entered on the machine's keypad and a polythene cover was placed carefully over it. The machine was like a small oven and as the boxes passed through the packaging was sealed.

Wire making was a continuous process and SIMS only closed down for Christmas. There were about 200 employees altogether. I clocked in (number 106) at 7.30am and my working day finished at 4.30pm with a dinner hour for which I went home, although there was a works canteen. Workers had two weeks holiday. After 25 years with the company they received a gold watch at a special *Gold Watch Reunion Dinner* which was attended by most of the managers and also those who had already received a watch. Venues included the *Red Hall, The Crimble, The Last Drop* and *The Midland Hotel* in Manchester. There were separate dinners *for* the men and the women. I was the first lady to have worked at F D SIMS for 25 years and had to wait for nearly a year until other ladies, including my sister Bessie, Doris BURROWS, Jessie BARLOW and Nora HAMER, were ready for their gold watch presentations. At these dinners everyone received a present, my last one in 1975 being a see-through calculator. There were also annual dinner dances for which you bought a ticket. I retired when I was 60 years old.

Jennie JOHNS (2006)

[There are references to working experiences at FD SIMS in Margaret NOLAN's 1997 account of her wartime spell at `the Wire Works' in Memories of Ramsbottom during World War 11 (RHS News Magazine, *no 29, Autumn 2005, pp7-9))*

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY RAMBLES

Do you fancy a bit of a ramble ....?
How about .... a springtime saunter, a guided tour round that district youDve always wanted to explore, a close look with an historical theme, a two hour trip with an expert or a Sunday afternoon stroll with autumnal colour?

A series of shortish walks has been devised for the summer the third Sunday in the month - looking at certain parts of Ramsbottom, Holcombe, Holcombe Brook, Stubbins and Summerseat.

Be dressed for walking: strong shoes or boots, and be prepared for sun, rain or cold weather. Maybe bring a light snack to eat somewhere around the circuit.

All are welcome. Hope to see you.

Distances are from 2 to 4 miles.
Times are about 2 hours starting at 2pm.

16th April	Redisher Wood led by John B Taylor, meet - Hare and Hounds, Holcombe Brook
21St May	*Round Holcombe Tower* led by Joan Young, meet - Grant Arms
18th June	*Ramsbottom Mill and the Ashtons* led by Kate Slingsby, meet - Ramsbottom Railway Station
16th July	*The Railway Comes To Town* led by Andrew Todd, meet - Ramsbottom Station (bring rail fare)
20th Aug	*A Nuttall Ramble* led by Bury MBC Park Ranger, meet - Nuttall Park car park
17th Sept	*Hawks haw - a Dip into the Past* led by Jonathan Ali, meet - bottom of Hawkshaw Lane, 2pm
15th Oct	*National Trust, Stubbins* led by Marjorie Knight, meet - Stubbins Vale Road

Any questions? Phone Linda on 827602 or Joan on 827245

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

Staff have been in post at Bury Archives Service for a number of months now and many of the issues surrounding the move to Moss Street have been addressed. Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund project staffing levels have been doubled at the archives with Joanne Fitton, Archivist and Donna Hardman, Archives Assistant in post. This in turn means that opening hours have been extended to cover 4 days of the week:

Tuesday	1pm - 4pm
Wednesday	1pm - 4pm
Thursday	10am - 4pm
Friday	10am - 4pm
2nd Saturday of the month	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 for the consultation of documents, 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 to deal with an enquiry, 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.

We hope to see you all in the near future, using the new facilities at Bury Archives Service, where 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.

The new Video/DVD from Ramsbottom Heritage Society

Ramsbottom's Heritage

Running Time: 75 minutes
Price £14.99
DVD or Video



Industrial Village, New Town and Railway 1783-1846

OoooooOOOOOoooooo

A story that will intrigue you, whether you're here for the day, or have lived here for years!

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 31 Autumn 2006 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME 2006/2007

November 15	Miss Margaret Curry - *From Tyne to Tweed* (Illustrated)
December 13	***Members' night - Christmas social evening:*** Barry Aldous - *Ramsbottom; Another Dimension* (a stereoscopic presentation and demonstration)
2007:	
January 17	Mr P. Watson - *Stranger Than Fiction*
February 21	Jonathan Ali - *History of a Village* (Illustrated)
March 21	Mr T. Ashworth - *Return to Lancashire* (Film – ELR) **Photographic Competition** - judged by Mr T. Ashworth
April 18	Jackie Ramsbottom and Michael Hiluta - *Haslingden Roots* (researching family history)
May 16	*ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and MEMBERS' NIGHT*

All indoor meetings except December are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. All welcome.

Entry by donation, please.

The Editors welcome articles for inclusion in the News Magazine. These may be hand-written, 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 - 'The Brook', *a public house known as* 'The Waterloo' *until the 1990s. The original name, carved into the door head, awaits rediscovery when more historically-minded proprietors remove the current name board!*
Drawing by John B TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am delighted to report that work has at last resumed on the refurbishment of Ramsbottom Library building, the proposed completion date being 15th December, with re-opening to take place on 8th January 2007. Despite previous setbacks, we are hopeful of a return to the Heritage Centre early in the new year, 12 months later than originally envisaged, but in time to allow an opening at Easter, and preparation for a 20th anniversary celebration.

Despite not having had a permanent home for a second year, Society activities have continued, with every opportunity being taken to promote them. The joint venture between the Editorial Team and the Rossendale Free Press, which resulted in a 4-part feature, evoked much interest, both locally and overseas; a series of monthly Summer Rambles, designed to introduce townspeople and visitors to historical features in and around the town has been a great success, the programme of monthly open meetings.' has continued' in popularity, and membership continues to rise.

Behind the scenes too, a great deal has been going on. A small team has been reviewing options for the future development of the Heritage Centre. Tape recording reminiscences is going on. The web site continues to be maintained and attract interest. The Conservation Group, in addition to its successful monitoring of planning activities, has undertaken a survey of areas of the town which are of historical or architectural interest not included in existing conservation areas, and is in liaison with Bury MBC in an endeavour to provide for eventual inclusion. It has embarked on a programme of recognition of former individuals and buildings of historical importance to the town, by provision of

blue plaques and interpretation boards - the first will commemorate Chartist leader Dr Peter McDouall, who lived in the town for some years from 1835. The Holcombe Moor Heritage Group, in which the Society has representation, has won a prestigious award from Defence Estates, (against international competition) in recognition of an outstanding conservation project , benefiting wildlife, archaeology, and community awareness of conservation on MOD land. So, members have been busy indeed.
In addition, the film, continues to sell, both at home and abroad, and the approach of Christmas provides an opportunity to remind everyone that now is the time to buy that present with a difference for the former Ramsbottom resident friend or relative.

Finally, one very recent happening. The Spring 21005 edition of the News Magazine contained a piece about the retirement of Ken Rose, and closure of his footwear business. The premises at Bridge Street have remained empty until recently. When refurbishment began work revealed what has been described as a `Time Capsule' of memorabilia, hidden away by previous owners in November 1952, and bequeathed by them to the finder; present owner Nick Hitchin, of Weale C Hitchin, Estate Agents, who was kind enough to advise the Society of the find, which has since been listed and photographed. The decidedly mixed content, some of which was in poor condition, is presently being assessed for historical worth by Alison Green and colleagues at Bury Museum. More news in the next issue.

My good wishes to everyone for a very happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Tony Murphy

OBITUARIES:

FRANK WARWICK :HALL -1920-2006

The society was greatly saddened to hear of the death of long-time member Mr Frank HALL in July. We send our condolences to his widow Irene and all the family.

Born in Crow Lane to a family well known for involvement in musical activities, from the age of nine he took a keen interest in drama and entertainment, later writing and producing plays and appearing in pantomime, concerts and revues locally and as far afield as Ashton-under-Lyne (where he spent some time doing War service). He was a life-long member of St Paul's Church where he was a chorister along with his three brothers, and in 1943 was married there to Irene NORRIS, daughter of local Police Sergeant Richard NORRIS. Mr HALL was a well-respected, quietly spoken gentleman who is greatly missed by his many friends. He took a keen interest in the heritage of Ramsbottom and

his, many other activities involved local politics and varied church activities (he was for .a number of years a lay preacher at Dundee United Reformed Church). He was a member of the Heritage Society from its early days, always available to pass on his knowledge of the town, and had recently donated an oil painting, by local artist the late Joe BARLOW, depicting buildings and characters as they were seen in the 1920s.

SHEILA KENNIFORD -1932-2006

The death in September of Sheila KENNIFORD, wife of our esteemed Vice-Chairman, Jack, has deeply shocked and saddened the Society. She ways a most kind and caring person with a ready smile.

Born in Accrington she met Jack, who was, farming in the area. They married in 1951, and enjoyed very many happy years together, both giving tirelessly of their time, joining in and becoming involved in so many local activities. They moved to Hollingbrooke Farm, Holcombe Brook in 1959 where Sheila became a member of Hawkshaw Womens institute and was an invaluable committee member.

Always ready to help when needed and having a strong social conscience, she was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. In 1976 the family, now with young children, moved to Tottington. Sheila began work at a Manchester loss adjusters, became involved in the community mid qualified as a youth worker, working at the youth club. She was also a member of Tottington High School P.T.A. After retiring from Bury Metro in 1996 Sheila became, if possible, even busier.

She acted as treasurer to Greenmount Discussion Group and Fairfield Hospital Patient Service Group. Painting, embroidery travel and music were a large part of her, retirement and her early musical talent and interest led her to the Holcombe Brook and District Recorded Music Society where she became Programme Secretary and then Vice-Chairman.

Our sincere condolences go to Jack and all the family.

ROSEMARY MORLEY

It is with much sadness we must report that Rosemary MORLEY passed away in May this year, a ferry months after her eightieth birthday. Rosemary was a keen member of Ramsbottom Heritage Society and her enthusiasm was infectious.

Although born in Keighley, West Yorkshire in 1926, Rosemary grew up in Daventry, Northamptonshire, before moving to Bury in the 1950s with her husband Ted, when he took up a position as an English teacher at Bury Grammar School. Having lived in Bury, for nearly fifty years, Rosemary had a genuine passion for local history and the preservation of all that is good about our local heritage.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her,

"FIRSTS" FOR THE CONSERVATION GROUP

The Conservation Working Group attempts to fulfil the wide remit of conserving the historical aspects of Ramsbottom. The work is interesting as members of the group are continually suggesting new *projects,* and Ramsbottom Heritage Society's first archaeological dig is currently being planned.

Plaques and Information Board At last Ramsbottom Heritage Society's first blue plaque commemorating 'the Chartist Peter McDOUALL has now been ordered and should be in place above the door of GREENLEES jewellers on Bolton Street before Christmas, The first Information or interpretation Board, with pictures and historical detail of the Swedenborgian New Jerusalem Church at the end of Ramsbottom Lane, and Factory Street, is also under way. If there is an historical figure or building in Ramsbottom you feel should be brought to public notice with a plaque or interpretation board, please lei us know.

Planning Applications The group make submissions to Bury MBC about any planning applications which affect our more historic buildings.

In Bridge Street and Bolton Street, two of' Ramsbottom's oldest streets, applications have usually been for changes of use, with one or two houses becoming offices, which require signs to advertise their business. The Clarence Hotel, in existence since 1871, has now become Callenders, with a much larger and more modern sign, The, betting shop at 11, Bridge Street, previously the Station Hotel, applied to have a full length window., which would have completely changed the appearance of this symmetrical building, and fortunately this application has been rejected, The fact that The Pack Horse Hotel in Shuttleworth is to be demolished and replaced with houses shows how vigilant we need to be. This public house, which had been in existence since at least 1361, had many interesting architectural features and was an integral part of the village with mainly 19th Century housing.

Areas of Historical Interest The group has produced a report on areas of Ramsbottom which are not currently within the conservation area, This supplied information to the Bury Conservation Officer whose review of the Conservation Areas should give more protection to our traditional town. Part of our report, which. dealt with Bolton Road West, is reproduced in this magazine. [See *Ramsbottom's South Western Approach*]

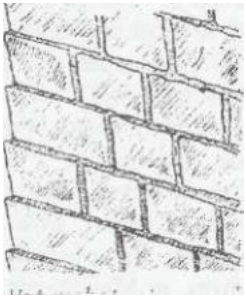
Archaeology. Over the years Ramsbottom heritage Society has rediscovered much of the history of Ramsbottom through documents, such as property deeds and maps. We are hoping that this work cart be taken a step further through archaeology, It is hoped to uncover the remains of a mill dating back to 1710, which was referred to in the Society's new video Ramsbottom's Heritage. This work should be undertaken next spring and we will be looking for volunteers. So

let, us know if you would like to help with the dig. You bring your boots, we can supply the trowel!

You would be welcome to get involved with the Conservation Group, just get in touch with Kate SLINGSBY

RAMSBOTTOM'S SOUTH WESTERN APPROACH

Bolton :Road West from the Nuttall Lane-Dundee Lane intersection, nearly to holcombe Brook, features terraced housing of virtually every decade in the 19th Century.



Watershot



Pitch Faced

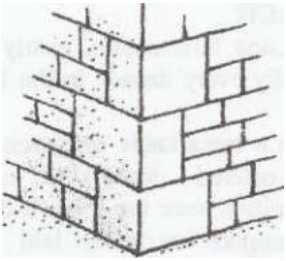
It is nevertheless a remarkable architectural unity, having coffered developers easy building opportunities once the Edenfield & Little Bolton turnpike road was laid out around 1800 to 1801. The court books of the Manor of Tottington show how, over time, copyholders leased out strips of adjacent land to a range of builders , so that the wealth of styles developed piecemeal.

One of the first developments was the public house (now *The Brook)* and terrace (nos 332-338) adjoining to the south, the whole area being known as Waterloo. This name implies a date of build of 1815 or just after, and rate books confirm this early date.

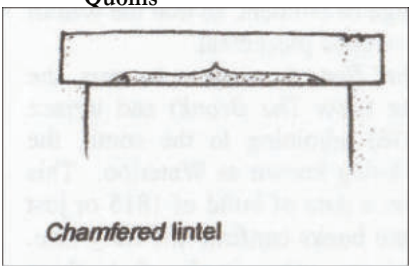
Large windows may imply that these properties were purpose built for handloom cotton weaving. The large extension to the front of no 336 is itself very old and was a shop until around a decade ago. The next Oldest terrace (nos, 226-240) was constructed progressively by a terminating building society in the 1820 and 1830s, as an extension of the self-help activities of The Female Union Society, Holcombe Brook (datestone on no. 238), and is much cited as evidence of proto-feminism.

The adjacent block of housing (210-224) was built in 1829. These houses are of waters hot construction and some between 2.08 and 240 have flag fencing between the front gardens. The former Hazelhurst Engraving Works with a square

chimney (now SpencerDs),,whichis a grade 2 listed building built around 18401, is adjacent to a terrace of cottages which dates from about 1820.



Quoins



There are other terraces of cottages of similar- age. Shops and houses on both sides of the road, near to traffic lights with Dundee Lane, also appear on the 18.42 Tithe Map. Whilst these older properties are small scale and built of watershot stone, there are several pitch-faced terraces dating from the mid- to later.

There is a wide variety of housing from such early stone cottages to large prestigious villa type detached (no 207) and a, pair of 3 storey semidetached houses (301-303).

The side streets running off Bolton Road West are also of importance and reflect a similar range of dates and social status. To the west there is a small group of streets, which vary from Annie Street with an unusually well preserved sett roadway, to Mary Street, only partly paved. To the east is hazel Street and Cemetery Road, at the end of which is Ramsbottom's1875 cemetery with its imposing Victorian gateposts and former lodge house/office.

Some of the larger Victorian houses on Bolton Road West, including Andertons terrace (1871), nos 302 - 314, were built to an exceptionally high standard and have outstandingly decorative features such as ashlar quoins, chamfered lintels and jambs, cellars, attics and bay windows. Some have original sashes and coloured leaded windows. Some of 1880s and 1890s high quality houses, along with the United Methodist Chapel dated 1885, are built of Yorkshire parpoint,

Thus Bolton Road West and its environs is a microcosm of the full range of 19th Century Ramsbottom society

Andrew Todd

CORMAR CARPETS 1956 - 2006

On 18th June 2006, Cormar Carpets, celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a, Golden Anniversary Family Fun Day for all its employees and their families at its Holme Mill premises in Ramsbottom. The event, with a barbecue, the Lancashire Fusilier Band, traditional dancing by the Britannia Coconutters, a bouncy castle, a tug of war and many other attractions, was attended by over 400 people. There

had also been a special luncheon for key customers, suppliers and friends of the chairman, Neville CORMACK, on the previous Friday.

Many Lancashire spinners, following the rundown of the cotton industry, gained a new lease of life by switching production to spinning carpet yarns. In this countrytufted carpets were first made with machinery developed by Stanley SHORROCK

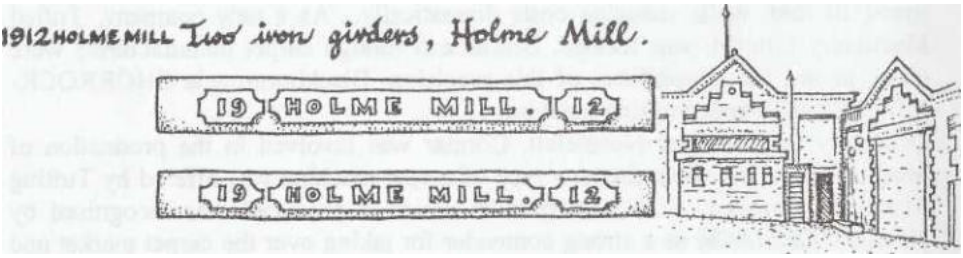
and Brian MERCER in Blackburn. In art article in The Blackburn Times (19thNov 1954) Mr SHORROCK freely admitted that the idea first came from America with a piece of carpet Mr MERCER brought back. The sample fitted in with a pattern of development which had been going on at their works, and over a period of about a year their own prototype machine was built secretly. The process as carried out by its 1000 needles is described as like that of a gigantic sewing machine and was said to be capable of stepping up carpet production speed 20 fold, while reducing costs dramatically. As a new company, Tufted Machinery Limited, was formed. British and foreign carpet manufacturers were quick to see the possibilities of this precision, Blackburn-made SHORROCK-MERCER high-speed tufting machine.

Originally, as Tunstead Needlefelt, Cormar was involved in the production of needleloom carpet when the new type of carpet machine was offered by Tufting Machinery Limited. The new product which it produced was recognised by Neville CORMACK as a strong contender for taking over the carpet market and so, in October 1955, he ordered a 60 inch Tufting machine at a cost, of £3,800. It was delivered to Nunn Hills Mill, Stacksteads seven months later, starting up in June 1956, the first year that tufted carpets were made in the UK. At that time the company was just GREENWOOD and COOPS, originally a textiles accessory supply business started in 1924.

With its total workforce of twenty employees, Cormar moved in 1959 into Brookhouse Mill, Greenmount, a larger factory bought for £6,000. The company expanded and soon outgrew this building, From 1963 the developments at the Greenmount works included a new office block, increased production areas and a new warehouse extension. In 1969, to increase capacity, Cormar purchased the production unit of Walkden Carpets (Warrington). Two low points during this period of expansion were the 1964 flooding of Brookhouse Mill to a depth of two feet of water, with machinery and some stock damaged; and worse, the fire in 1970 which wiped. out the entire stock and destroyed the main warehouse. It took quite a few weeks to build up the stock. In 1971, rebuilding was completed and work began on improving production capacity, including that of the backing plant.

On 1st June 1973 Cormar purchased Holmbury Carpets, production and offices, at Holme Mill, Railway Street, Ramsbottom from Bury and Masco Industries

Limited., (Holme Mill, also known as Holme Shed, was built in 1912-13 and the lease sold to Messrs, T H & F G HOLDEN in 1916. The brick-built, single storey building with its northern, light roof is, a good example of a weaving shed; looms were much heavier and created more vibration than spinning frames, and weaving needed good light, so single storey sheds were favoured. From 1925 the Rose Manufacturing Company (Ramsbottom) Ltd made a variety of cloths at Holme Mill, including winceyette, pure shirtings, cambrics, hair cords and cloths for bandages, and dye. From 1956 until about 1966, it as owned by the Bury Felt Manufacturing Company, who merged with MITCHELL, ASHWORTH & STANSFIELD to form Bury Masco.)



Soon Holme, Mill was extended and tufting was transferred from Brookhouse Mill. The Warrington Production unit was closed in 1975 and transferred to Holme Mill, By 1976 all other tufting, operations had also been moved and centralised there along with transport and repair workshops. A new 25,000 square foot warehouse for storage and unbacked carpet opened on the site in 1988 and Holme Mill's new 50,000 square foot extension was completed in 2003. The packing plant, updated in 2004, is at Greenmount.

The independently owned company trades from its two manufacturing plants at Ramsbottom and Tottington and sells residential wall-to-wall carpets to retailers and wholesalers throughout the UK. All carpet supplied by Cormar is produced in Britain. Over the years the firm has regularly introduced new ranges and its carpets have won many prestigious awards. Neville CORMACK, was awarded the OBE in 1987 and became Chairman of the company in 1994. Cormar is now the largest tufted carpet manufacturer in the country, employing 230 people nationwide, and ranking amongst the world's largest carpet producers. Apparently there are only small number of places that have the knowledge and expertise to produce top quality wool /nylon yarn, principally in the UK and

Australasia. Once, you turn that yarn into carpet, it is heavy and difficult to ship around the world and when it is moved there is a risk it will be damaged. The big challenge is to stay ahead of the far Fast.

[Our thanks to Cormar for information in this article, much of which was taken from the Cormar Carpets 50th Anniversary issue of "CormaReview" June 2006. We also acknowledge the help of Diane RUSHTON Community history Manager at Blackburn. a

F D SIMS AFTER 1945 - A CHRONOLOGY

After the War over 200 people were employed by F D SIMS, .Practicallyevery TV, washing machine, electric light and plane produced in this country contained electric motors using SIMS' wire. A motor car contained approximately 80 lbs of wire.
F D SIMS and F W BARNES, who provided finance, were Nottingham lacemakers and friends of Kurt ENGEL. (German-born ENGEL had started his own company producing insulated wires and strips. Known as the Boss, he set up and ran the business and also designed and built the machines)
During the War a number of F D SIMS workers had been called up far service in the ,;farces, including Stewart SIMS, the son of the director whose name the company bears, ,another SIMS servicemen was Tom BOOTHMAN , who was released in 1945. Throughout the War years and during the period of rehabilitation, workers could not change their occupations without permission from the Ministry of Labour . Such were the good relations between Kurt. ENGEL and the Ministry that Tom was able to return immediately to SIMS. Eventually a canteen was provided prior to which, dinners (pie, peas) were purchased from SPENCER's pie shop on Bolton Road West. Dances and other social events were held regularly a.. many of the dances at the Old Astoria Ballroom in Rawtenstall,

After the War it was obvious to industrial companies that machines needed to be redesigned. At SIMS there was the possibility of producing silk covered wire. The only answer was to purchase new machines but there was no space and no Capital. Matters worsened at the latter end of the year when the fuel crises shut down machines and reduced production. In January 1947 things were very grim. Severe power cuts meant that all sources of heat were cut off for quite a, time. In order to keep warm the workers wore their topcoats and gloves, Out of doors, snow lay thick on the ground. Life was also grim at home with a coal shortage and poor electricity supply. Queues]Formed outside coal merchants for buckets of coal. The local baker and fish and chip shop could not cope with the demand as they too were on a shorter working week.
[NB On page 15 of our last News Magazine we mentioned another heavy snowfall of January 1940, saying that the Durham Light Infantry cleared the

main roads. Alan HIBBERT tells us that it was in fact the Duke of Lancaster's Yeomanry who did this.]

After growing from strength to strength for 10 years, SIMS was practically forced to close down. It was a sad day when the "Guaranteed Week", which previously had been a simple agreement, became the real thing. Ministry of Labour officials made temporary arrangements enabling the workers to draw unemployment benefit . Staff men were reduced to doing labouring jobs such as cleaning machine parts and reels and related tasks which would enable a rapid rise in production when power was restored. When limited power supplies were available, the wire drawing machines were the first to go into production at 4 pm.

When production recommenced, the company was beset with problems from all sides. Orders could not be met, copper supplies were difficult but worst of all was that linseed oil, one of the basic materials in SIMS' enamel, had been diverted for cattle cake and the substitutes seriously affected the quality of the finished product. By the middle of 1947 orders were being received at an alarming rate and delivery rates were quoted for 18 months ahead, or 2 -2½ years for finer gauges. Copper had become as scarce as gold owing to the USA cornering the world market, and some customers were willing to pay two or even three times the price. One of the original members of the team, Denis FREARSON, worked conscientiously in the background travelling two or three times a year to London to maintain contact with customers. It was Denis's suggestion that WARBURTON Bros of Tottington carried out the transport requirements, proudly displaying the F D SIMS Ltd headboard above the cab, It was now considered desirable to appoint an office manager due to present and future expansion of the business. Kurt ENGEL endeavoured where possible to employ ex-servicemen and Bill TRAINOR was appointed. He arrived early in February to the unheard-of Ramsbottom with the snow lying thickly on the ground. As Bill lived in south Manchester, journeys by public transport took 21/2 hours so he travelled on an ex-WD 750cc American Harley Davidson. One morning he turned the sharp left hand bend into Regent Street totally unprepared for the change in road surface to setts - they were greasy as it had been raining, The motorbike ended up on the far pavement and Bill landed at the front of the steps of the Co-op shop. It took two men to lift the bike and Bill- he recovered. More office space was now urgently required but due to the shortage of building materials plans for a new building had been rejected. However, a proposal to convert the *Old Slaughter House* was approved. The temperature in this building never exceeded 55^0 and it was used for storing packing cases and bulky items. The apparatus for the slaughter of animals, including hooks, pulleys and iron

baths, was still there, Although the architect had to adhere to the existing structure outside, a start on the conversion was made in January 1948 and by May the girls moved into their light, spacious office with a delightful view of Holcombe Hill. Denis FREARSON was accommodated in a small office directly facing the hill with grazing land behind occupied by cows and poultry. His phone conversations with London customers were often punctuated by farmyard noises. They must have wondered what a strange place they dealt with. Growing workload prompted the appointment of a sales manager for London and the Home Counties and a production engineer for the works. In July 1949, James GREGORY arrived and was given a free hand to develop his ideas. Eventually, he was replaced by Ken EDWARDS as the London Sales Manager, and GREGORY stayed in the north. By this time the number of invoices being typed and the amount of book keeping had increased considerably so mechanised accounting was introduced.

In 1950 a further wire drawing machine was purchased. This was a Farmer Norton which enabled a new range of sizes to be drawn. It was this year that Mrs ENGEL's businesses, The Temple Manufacturing Company and the Manor Trading Co Ltd, located at the Bury works, were taken over by SIMS as it was imperative that additional space was acquired. All her workforce were sacked and immediately taken on by their new boss Mr ENGEL. Another ex-serviceman, Cecil GOLDING, was appointed as chemist in order eventually to produce enamels in-house instead of having them supplied from outside. One of the problems was the supply of reels. Copper was in such short supply that customers were carrying as much stock as possible and not returning empty reels. The cost of purchasing extra reels was staggering and suppliers could not meet demand. Kurt ENGEL decided to make them as part of the plant at Bury works (Grecian Mill, off the left hand side of Bolton Road travelling in the Bolton direction). Tom ROBINSON was told that, as there was now no money left, he would have to dream up a machine to cut the flanges and drill holes in the reels. Towards the end of the year there was a major breakdown in the National Power supply due to worn-out equipment which could not be replaced during the War. Load shedding became common throughout the winter of 1950/51 resulting in loss of output and short time working.

In 1951, the Festival of Britain was celebrated in London. Many exhibitions were staged up and down the country and once again, Kurt ENGEL gave his blessing for SIMS to participate in a display of RamsbottomDsindustry in the local parish hall. At this time two far-reaching developments within the company were made. One was the perfection of dies, initially made with brass pellets, then steel and finally with tungsten carbide pellets. The second was the building of the varnish

plant for the manufacture of enamels and varnishes, which could save the company money in the future. There were changes in the trade regarding the use of synthetic enamels and Formvar was becoming essential. Kurt ENGEL started to manufacture this particular brand which was given SIM's trade name of Simvar. This type of enamel was covered by dozens of different patents, which were later extended, and during the period of their existence SIMS paid over £20,000 in royalties.

In 1952, the first long distance lorry was purchased and after several months travelling to and from London, the question of an alternative petrol supply was investigated. To this end the old petrol tanks by the side of the office, which had been used by the former occupant W ECCLES C Co, were examined and found to be serviceable. There was some conjecture as to whether or not they contained any petrol. One of the boys making the examination knew very well that they did not as, 12 years before, the "gold" had been discovered by himself and another motor cyclist, who adopted the ingenious practice of driving a car over the petrol tank cover, lifting out the floor boards and, using a stirrup pump, one of them filled up a number of drums whilst the other had his head under the tank tinkering with the engine.

The same year Kurt ENGEL consolidated his position at the Bury works and set up a small enamelling plant to take some of the backlog of orders from the Ramsbottom works. Carrying out all the experimental work in his own home and garage, Tom ROBINSON developed strip and adjustable dies, which was quite an achievement. This was reminiscent of the early struggles of Kurt ENGEL who had set up a small lathe in his front room to make parts for a new type of spinner whilst Mrs ENGEL acted as his labourer.

In ,Coronation Year, 1953, the monogram FDS was at last recognized by the Board of Trade after many applications. This had been embossed on all products and stationery from day one but was now copyright and a recognized trademark. By 1954, plans were well advanced for the extension of the works and building work was progressing according to plan, when Kurt ENGEL became seriously ill and Denis FREARSON was hastily recalled from London. Prior to this illness, ENGEL had been studying mechanical handling of loads delivered to the works and shortly afterwards a forklift truck was purchased. The new extension was completed in March 1955. Jack COPELAND and George WIMBUSH made heroic efforts to program the job and worked continuously through the Easter holiday. When the works re-opened after the break, to much pleasanter working conditions, a major upheaval had taken place. The enamel shop had been extended, the wire drawing department transferred upstairs, and its place taken by the fitting shop. The winding and dispatch departments had also been extended.

This mammoth undertaking was achieved without loss of production and as a memento of this splendid achievement, George and Jack both received a silver plaque inscribed *"For Outstanding Service to F D SIMS Ltd 1953",* presented to them at the Annual Christmas Party. With the increase in production, it was necessary to have some control over customersDordersso that those who shouted the loudest did not get priority. Tom BOOTHMAN, who from the mid 1950s was General Foreman at the Bury works, returned to Ramsbottom in 1955, as Production Controller, later to be Production Manager/ Sales Manager and on Denis FREARSON's retirement in 1972, Sales Director.

For the first time F D SIMS Ltd exhibited at the Radio C Electronics Component Manufacturers Federation, very successfully, being praised by customers and suppliers who valued their personal touch and excellent delivery times.

In 1955, more ground was purchased fronting Ada Street. There had been many complaints from local residents regarding the smell from the varnish kitchen so arrangements were made to have a catalyst installed to burn the fumes before they escaped. At 3.30pm on Friday, 6th May 1955, the Chief Chemist Cecil GOLDING set the new gadget into operation, jokingly saying to his assistant,

"Here goes, now wait for the bang," On a visit to the Ramsbottom works just at this moment, Tom BOOTHMAN and Tom ROBINSON entered the yard and reached the Kestner plant. There was a terrific explosion and the corrugated iron roof shot up into the air about three feet. A few seconds later, Cecil staggered out minus his eyelashes and brows with his hair singed and curled. It was discovered the suppliers had sent the wrong drawing and the fitting had caused the exhaust gas to ignite. Later everyone saw the funny side of the incident although at the time Cecil had a lucky escape. Also in 1955, Stewart SIMS was appointed representative for the Midlands area, having returned to SIMS after war service with the RAF. (Stewart had been shot in the back the day after the War in Europe ended and he later took early retirement due to ill health. He died in 2004.) As more and more customers were visiting the works Kurt ENGEL decided to instigate a clean-up operation which lack of space had previously prevented. The laboratory, which for years had been in the boardroom, was removed to the works and the boardroom was reinstated to its former glory. Kurt ENGEL's office was revamped and modern lighting and heating installed. A new test room was installed and money invested in measuring instruments to ensure strict quality control.

In 1956, Gordon MARTIN was promoted to Fine Wire Foreman as a reward for his diligence and loyalty. During this year the son of one of the ENGELDs friends in Austria who owned a business similar to F D SIMS visited on an educational tour. Hans George FUCHS stayed with them and Mr ENGEL provided the boy

with pocket money (0 per week), whilst he was working at the company. The company pension scheme was inaugurated this year through the Norwich Union and heavy premiums were paid in order to give employees the benefit of a pension for their past services. At the foremenDs Christmas party an award for outstanding service to F D SIMS Ltd was presented to the Chief Chemist Cecil GOLDING as he had successfully formulated a new type of oleoresinous wire enamel which did not require "cooking", thus avoiding the troublesome fumes about which the local residents had complained.

In 1957 when the Company attained its majority, Frank PITHERS who had been the Company Secretary since its inception, was made a director.
Denis FREARSON, who had been in charge of sales since the first reel of wire left the works, was made Sales Director. (Denis had only 10 days sickness in all his time at SIMS). Kurt ENGEL also came in. for recognition when the directors, managers, foremen and representatives subscribed towards a silver cigarette box presented to him at the party by Ifor DAVIES (the boy who was always last in the air raid shelter) who had just been promoted to foreman.

Production was constantly stepped up and in January 1958, the London depot at Sydenham was opened in order to supply the many smaller customers in the area who preferred to buy off the shelf and not stockpile, Also in January William ERICSSON was appointed Export Manager as Kurt ENGEL firmly believed in the "we must export to live" creed. A new reel was produced which was silky smooth, highly varnished and labelled in attractive colours, and the sales overseas steadily built up. The top customer of FD SIMS was Laurence SCOTT C Electromotors of Manchester. The fourth "Oscar" was awarded that year to Tom ROBINSON who had done some remarkable jobs at the Bury Works using antiquated equipment furthering development as economically as possible.

In 1959, the Boss and his co-directors decided to go ahead with the installation. of a Cost Office. A firm of consultants was given carte blanche and a Mr ROOKE arrived to make investigations. A cost accountant was appointed and after some months of what he described as brainwashing, Kurt ENGEL was reported as saying to friends, "This new system is marvellous. Before I had it .I could run my Bentley, maintain my home and generally live it up not knowing how I did it, Now, I make a loss, and can account for every penny of it."

The dirt road which formed the main. entrance to the works and offices was levelled, drained and tarmacadamed at the company's expense. This was a tremendous improvement on the streams and pools of water after rain or the swirling dust on a windy day. Just prior to this the wooden garages and hen cabins were demolished. In March 1959, the old stables were demolished, but no matter what steps were taken the smell of horses could not be eliminated despite it

being 25 years since a horse was kept there. The bricks were used to fill in and level. off an old lodge which was between the stables and BROADLEY's house. (In past years biology students from Manchester University had sought permission to collect frogs from the lodge on a Saturday morning and travelled back to Manchester on the electric train with a bag full of writhing, squirming amphibians.) June saw the return of Hans George FUCHS, the Austrian, who had accepted a short service appointment and took up residence in Holcombe Brook, He made a number of changes designed to improve the quality of SIMS' products and was responsible for increasing the test room facilities.

In March 1960, SIMS' all-British Vacuum Annealing Plant was officially opened by the council chairman, J H PARKINSON, together with all involved in the construction, including architects, builders, the County Surveyor, North Western Gas Board, representatives of the Electrical Resistance Furnace Company (who made the plant), Lancashire Constabulary and Dr C J CLOHESSY the factory doctor, The *Bury Times* published in their issue of 26th March 1960, that Kurt ENGEL had said, *"I don't believe all this nonsense about American, French, German, or what have you being the best. Ours are the best, and I always say, keep the money in the country; British products will beat any others "* When asked about the cost, he said that there would be few pounds change out of £25,000.

On the 1stMay 1960 F W BARNES and F W SIMS, two of the founder directors, retired as F D SIMS had joined the WINTERBOTTOM Industries Group. A reconstituted board appointed Mr ENGEL, chairman while Frank PITHERS and Denis FREARSON served with him. A young graduate Keith McCANN joined the firm about this time and quickly proved his ability to understand the operations of wire production.

The new owners agreed with Kurt ENGEL that extensions to the works were urgently required and in October 1960 a draughtsman, Alan CLOUGH, was appointed to assist with the building design and the relocation of various departments. The architects appointed were Richard BYROM and Fred HILL. After many, traumas the building work was completed, departments moved and new machinery purchased.

Take over bids were never out of the news and on the 21st November 1960, it was announced that VENESTA Ltd had taken over the WINTERBOTTOM Group and its subsidiaries. Some time earlier, Councillor Albert LITTLE of Ramsbottom U D C was advised that VENESTA Ltd had planned to take over SIMS and close the firm down. He arranged a meeting with the directors of VENESTA at the Normandy restaurant, Birtle, where they were strongly advised not to close the firm down as this would have a disastrous effect on the local

economy and that the firm was highly efficient, employing a hard-working loyal workforce. At the end of this year, the old house wedged between the annealing shop and stables belonging to BROADLEY's was purchased thus giving the company control over Mill Lane and the ability to close off the entrance when desired. In mid-January, local builders T C J FOSTER started work on the new buildings. At the same time Ada Street was levelled, drained and made-up completely at the Company's expenseto enable a more convenient exit from the works. Despite many frustrating delays, the new building work was completed and the loading bay roof raised to enable the use of a crane to speed up loading and palletisation. The original company secretary, Frank PITHERS retired and on 1st April, James Frank BRIGHOUSE was appointed in his place. A further London representative L CONROY-FINN was appointed to deal with the increasing orders.

In October 1961, the first 25 years of the incorporation of the company was celebrated privately in Nottingham where Frank PITHERS made history by receiving the first gold watch to be awarded for 25 yearsDloyalservice. Shortly after, in November at the *King William Hotel,* Bromley Cross, the second gold watch was awarded to George WIMBUSH for his 25 years service and loyalty, Kurt ENGEL expressed the wish that all employees would retain the family and team spirit and their pride in the company and its products, despite the fact that thousands of shareholders were now interested in results. Hardly any of the workers left the company and this was in part due to paternalism and thoughtfulness of Mr ENGEL, his fellow management and the family atmosphere which prevailed. In 1970 the Company was taken over by GEC Ltd. who appointed Denis FREARSON Managing Director. (He retired on the 31" December 1978.)

In 2001 SIMS became part of the TTi Group - Irce spa of Imola Italy. Some of the workforce were relocated to F D SIMS at the Shadsworth Business Park, Darwen, Lancashire. The land forming the entire site of the Ramsbottom works was sold to Persimmon Homes by TTG Electronics Ltd part of TT Electronics Plc. Clearing the site began in Spring 2005 and the first few detached houses were sold off plan as soon as they were advertised. 90 houses and apartments are planned for this site known as the Tagwood Estate, Regent Street, Ramsbottom.

Our grateful thanks to the following for their invaluable assistance in producing this article and for supplying documents, many photographs and memories:- Mr Denis C Mrs Nancy FREARSON, Mr Tom C Mrs Ann BOOTHMAN, Mrs Edith WOOD and Mrs Elsie COPELAND

Pamela WOOSEY (2005-6)

E.R.P. - SIGN FROM VICTORIA STREET/ROSTRONS ROAD

This sign is painted on the terrace end of 1, Victoria Street facing **Rostrons Road, Ramsbottom.**



Please make *contact with the* **Ramsbottom** Heritage Society if you know what the sign is.

BURY ARCHIVES SERVICE IN 2006. Who do *we think* we are?

The Archives re-opened in *April* 2006 to a full service and since then things have been progressing quickly. Past visitors to have returned and we are seeing a lot of new faces too. This is due in part to the monthly talks being held: *"Introduction to Archives". At* these sessions visitors see a variety of archives documents, learn how to access the service in Bury and find out about online archives resources - there is even time to look around the stores.

New opportunities are available in the archives to study family history as the Service, along with all Bury MBC libraries has subscribed to Ancestry.com. This allows visitors to access census returns (1841-1901) and birth, marriage and death indexes (1837-2002) for free. We will be running a family history event on Saturday 18th November in conjunction with Manchester and Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society (Bury Branch). Visitors will be able to book a 20 minute session with a family history expert in the library and a series of talks will be *running* in the archives. This will be a good opportunity for anyone starting out on their family history or wanting to solve some of the bigger hurdles they have come across.

Now that the archive is based in the museum (in Moss Street) we will be presenting changing displays of documents on a bi-monthly basis, starting in October. This will allow museum visitors to learn about historical documents that they may never have heard of before and hopefully will encourage further document exploration with the collections.

We have some very keen volunteers working in the Archives, helping to process documents and create catalogues. Volunteering opportunities are available for a

range of projects and time periods - if you are interested in local history and archives and think you would like to get involved please get in touch with us to discuss the possibilities.

We are increasingly working with local schools and next year we will be doing a range of projects that will promote the bi-centenary of the abolition of slavery. Using the HUTCHINSON family papers in the Archives and objects in the museum we will explore the links between Bury, New Orleans USA and the transatlantic slave trade. If you have any information that you could share with the Archives about links between the local area and slavery we would be very interested to hear your story - and to see the evidence!

This autumn we will be promoting our database of photographs Picture Memories. We want to improve the database information and so would like local people to tell us anything they know about the images. So are the photographs *Up Your Street?* We would like to hear from you with any information you may have!

Joanne Fitton, Archivist, Bury Archives Service, Moss Street, Bury MBC BL9 ODR

The Archives are open: Tuesday - Wednesday lpm-4pm, Thursday - Friday 10am-4pm and every 2nd Saturday of the month loam - 4pm

HERITAGE CENTRE - re-opening 2007

Please contact Janet SMITH or any committee member if you have any ideas for the new displays in the Heritage Centre. You do not need to do the display yourself, both "brain and brawn" are needed and very welcome.

RAMSBOTTOM CEMETERY, some inscriptions from non-conformist plots

Plot NC 13 In loving memory of JOHN CHARLES, son of ROBERT F. & MARGARET M A SKELTON who died May 19th 1900 aged 4 years. Also of ROBERT FRANKLIN the dearly beloved husband of MARGARET M A SKELTON who died June *16"' 1916* aged 42 years. Also of THOMAS their son who died November 29th 1905 aged 9 months. Also of the above MARGARET ALICE SKELTON, who died January 13"' 1953 aged 78 years. *[Second stone nearer to plot* 28] Erected as a token of esteem to ROBERT F. SKELTON by the employees of Ramsbottom Paper Mill

Plot NC 51 Thy will be done In loving memory of HELEN HANNAH, wife of FREDERIC KENYON ASPINALL, of Bolton St Ramsbottom, who died March 7th *1890,* aged 34 years. Also JOHN, their son who died Septr 12 th 1881, aged 4 days. And is interred at St Andrew's Church. Also MARTHA HELEN, their daughter who died Decr 10th 1888, aged 4 years & 5 months. Also WILMA GWENDOLEN

daughter of FREDERIC K & ELIZABETH ASPINALL who died August 18'h *1901,* aged 7 weeks. Also of the above FREDERIC KENYON ASPINALL, who died July 6th 1931, aged 76 years. Also Pte. FREDERIC ERNEST ASPINALL, son of FREDERIC K & ELIZABETH ASPINALL, who was killed in France Sept 4 th 1918, aged 22 years.

Plot NC 71 In loving memory of JOSEPH STRANG, who died Dec. 30th 1924, aged 44 years. "Peace perfect peace with loved ones far away In Jesus keeping we are safe & they."

Plot NC 75 Union is strength. *Eendracht Maaict Macht.* 17235 Private R.H.GASKELL 4th Regt. South African Inf. 1st February 1918 aged 40. "True to his post.D" *[C W G C grave]*

Plot NC 145 In loving memory of GEORGE CUSSONS, of Bolton Street, Ramsbottom, who died April 23" 1894, in his 86th years. He lived in the village over 70 years and was connected during that time with many social movements, he was one of the founders of the Ramsbottom Industrial and Provident Society. Also Mary, his wife who died March 20th 1889 in her 78th year. They died trusting in the merits of Christ, and of entering into eternal rest. Also MARY ANN, their daughter who died Feby 7th 1924, aged 86 years. (145)

Plot NC 177 WILLIAM HUME HUNTER ELLIOT born 29 h Nov 1879 died 16 Oct 1902, ELIZABETH BURROWS ELLIOT born 18 April 1871 died 4 Nov 1919 [Isaiah XL *30] [second stone]* WILLIAM HUME ELLIOT died 13th June 1927 aged 90 years. Minister of St Andrews (Dundee) Presbyterian Church. Also EMILY ELIZABETH MacTAGGART, his wife died 2. January 1927 aged 79 years. Interred in Wandsworth Cemetery.

Plot NC 213 ELIZA ANNE MATHER formerly missionary in the Zonanas - daughter of the late Rev, Dr. COTTON MATHER missionary Mirzapore India - who died May 6th 1912 aged 72 years. Matt XXVIII 19, 20

Plot NC 312 Per Ardua ad Astra 1497144 Aircraftman I" cl. H. HAMER Royal Air Force 16th June 1943 age 39. Memory is our greatest treasure in our hearts he lives for ever. (312 *[C W G C grave]*

Plot NC 421 G Vi R Military Police 13100193 Private J, LEES Corps of Military Police 8th February 1946 age 42 Your star of hope will be my guide till we meet you at eventide. *[C W G C grave]*

Plot NC **435** Thy will be done. In loving memory of RICHARD HENDERSON, died Nov. 10th 1945, in his 90th year. Also MARY ANN, wife of RICHARD HENDERSON, who died May 23 rd 1910, aged 53 years. Also BETSY ALICE, daughter of the above who died August 25th 1884 aged 7 years. Also of SAMUEL, son of the above who died November 23 d 1886, aged 2 years. The above children were interred in St Paul's Churchyard. Also of ALICE, beloved daughter of the above who died April 10th 1973, aged 83 years. [second stone] In loving memory of ERNEST HENDERSON, L/Cpl Scottish Fus. killed in action in France, June 16"'

1915, aged 22 years. Also of RICHARD HENDERSON Pte Lanes. Fus. killed in action in France Sept 20th 1917, aged 36 years. Also of WILLIAM W. HENDERSON Pte Lane. Fus. killed in action in France March 31" 1918 aged 26 years.

Plot NC 466 3452013 Fusilier T. JONES the Lancashire Fusiliers 25th October 1941 aged 23. *[crest]* The Lancashire Fusiliers Egypt Silent thoughts true and tender just to show that we remember (466)

Plot NC 512 In loving memory of Pte JOHN TAYLOR, S.W.B, the dearly loved son of GEORGE WILLIAM & GERTRUDE TAYLOR died July 3rd 1943, aged 24 years. Also GERTRUDE the dearly beloved wife of GEORGE WILLIAM TAYLOR died June 26th 1976, aged 80 years. At rest. Also GEORGE WILLIAM TAYLOR died July 24th 1985, aged 87 years. Also their daughter HILDA, died March 22nd 1992, aged 71 years. Treasured memories. *[vase]* Erected as a token of esteem to Pre, JOHN TAYLOR by his fellow workmates & friends of Hope Works 1943.

Plot NC 562 In loving memory my dear husband JOHN H KIRKBRIGHT, died April 25th 1923, aged 66 years. Also of ELIZABETH, his beloved wife died Novr 23" 1939, aged 67 years. Also of JOHN WILLIAM, son of ALICE ANN TAYLOR, died Novr 21st 1940, aged 61 years. Also of ALICE ANN TAYLOR died March I Ith 1956, aged 97 years. "At rest." *[small stone]* Erected as a token of respect to the memory of JOHN HENRY KIRKBRIGHT, by the employers & his fellow workers of the Ramsbottom Branch of Painters. (562)

Plot NC 603 A T S W/105270 Corporal MARIAN DEWHURST Aux. Territorial Service 19th December 1944 aged 23 To live in the hearts of those we love is not to die (JD 603)

Plot NC 1026 In loving memory of the Rev. GEORGE HOWELLS, Baptist Minister, born at Caerwent, Mon. March 15th 1827 died at Ramsbottom, Oct.2"' 1890. For 14 years he was Minister at Whitebrook, Monmouth, & for 21 years at Coniston, North Lancashire. "He sleeps in Jesus & is blest." Also MARY HOWELLS, of Bury widow of the above who died October 19"' 1914 aged 82 years. Also ARTHUR ERNEST, youngest son of the above who died at Bacup March 7th 1902, aged 37 years.

Plot NC 1050 Erected as a token of respect to the memory of RICHARD CARTER by the employees of J. R. CROMPTON Bros. Paper Mill Stubbins 1925

Plot NC 1068 South Lancashire Prince of Wales's Vols. Egypt. 44700 Private J.H.BROOKS South Lancashire Regt. 29th December 1917 age 19 *[CWGC]*

Plot NC 1141 Thy will be done. In loving memory of CAROLINE, the dearly loved wife of the Revd N.W. STAFFORD, of Ramsbottom, who entered into rest 12th December 1886, aged 58 years.

Plot NC 1294 To the memory of JOHN GORTON from his fellow workers & friends, at Nuttall Mill, 1914.

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	Friday	10am - 4pm
Wednesday	1pm - 4pm	2nd Saturday of the month	10am - 4pm
Thursday	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, Carr Street
The news on the library refurbishment is that new contractors are progressing with the work both inside and outside the building. Meetings have resumed and final touches (counters, desks and shelving) are being discussed with a company who are designing, making and installing the furniture on the library side. Bryan FARLOW has had his latest stained glass window fitted and it looks fantastic.

Thanks to everyone for their patience. We look forward to seeing you in the new building.

The new Video/DVD from Ramsbottom Heritage Society

Ramsbottom's Heritage

Running Time: 75 minutes
Price £14.99
DVD or Video



Industrial Village, New Town and Railway 1783-1846

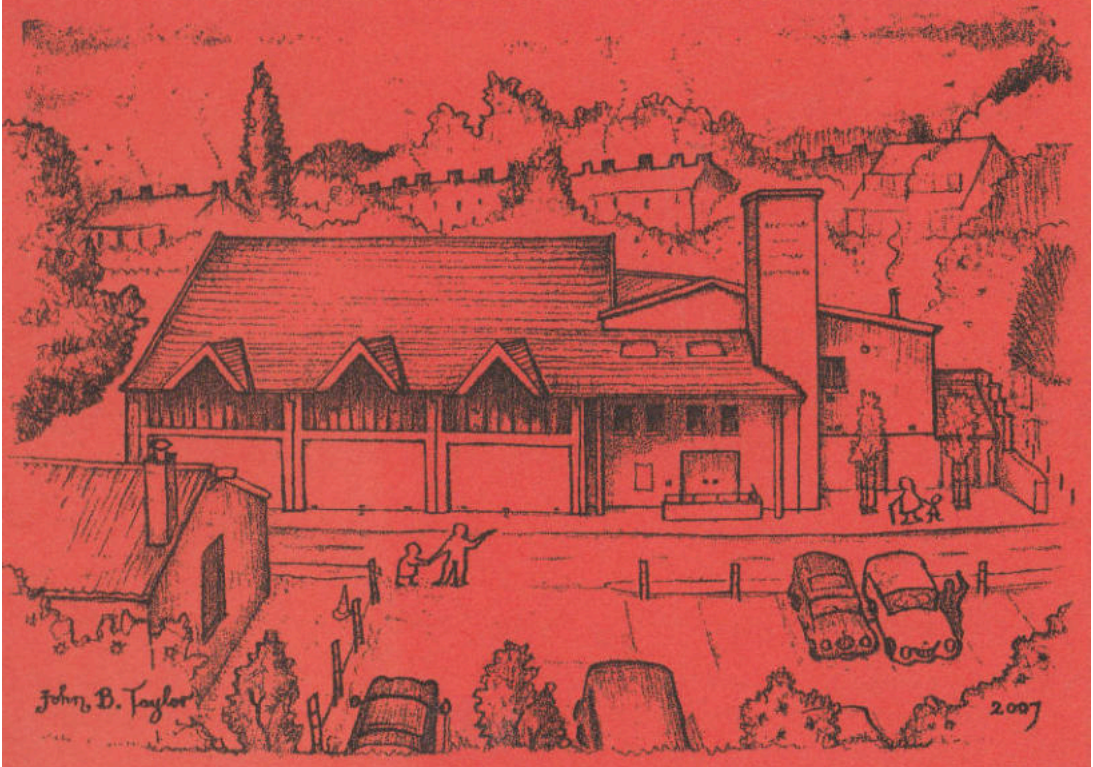
OoooooOOOOOooooo

A story that will intrigue you, whether you're here for the day, or have lived here for years!

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 32 Spring 2007 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME 2007

May 16	*ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and MEMBERS' NIGHT*
June 20	Mr M Townend – *Clogs Shawls and Egypt* - local history at Towneley Hall)
July 15	**Ramsbottom Heritage Society's 20th Anniversary Event**, Civic Hall Doors open 12.00 noon. Formal opening at 1 pm by Mayor – displays, demonstrations, walks, and much more
July 18	Mr J B Taylor – Guided walk – Castlefield Trail, Manchester. Meet 6.30pm car park, Carr Street, Ramsbottom. Transport by car sharing, 2 hours duration, undulating terrain, dress for walking – stout footwear
August 15	Walk round Jumbles Reservoir. Meet 6.30pm car park, Carr Street, Ramsbottom. Transport by car sharing, 2 hours duration, undulating terrain, dress for walking – stout footwear
September 19	Mr P Sweetmore – *More Than a Mill Shop* –Musbury Fabrics
October 17	Mrs P Parkinson - *The Rochdale Pioneers and their Legacy of Co-operation*
November 21	Miss Margaret Curry – *Tales of Two Cities* – Manchester and Salford (illustrated talk)
December 12	**Members' Night** – Christmas Festivities

All indoor meetings except December are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. All welcome.

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Front Cover - *Ramsbottom Librwy and Adult Learrdng Centre*
John B Taylor

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

My anticipation of a return to the Heritage Centre early in the new year, on learning of the proposed December completion the refurbishment of Ramsbottom Library, recorded in the last issue of the News Magazine, turned out yet again to be premature. As I write, the Library, which is a fine building, has been open for some weeks, although formal opening has not taken place, but the Heritage Centre remains closed awaiting refurbishment, which it is hoped will begin soon. Upon *completion, the Society, in* partnership with Bury MBC Arts & Leisure Services will be able to determine the level of provision it can give to members, and visitors to the town.

In the meantime, activities go on. Thanks to the endeavours of a core group of enthusiastic, and seemingly tireless, workers, our profile generally is being promoted widely. Membership is being sustained, and attendance at meetings remains high. Options for development of the Heritage Centre continue to be reviewed. The project to acknowledge former individuals and buildings of historical importance goes on, supported by our Area Board, with a further blue plaque planned. The Summer Sunday Rambles programme resumes in April, with a wider promotion. Indeed, relations with the press continue to strengthen, with this year's photographic competition winning entries being publicised by a feature in the Rossendale Free Press. Additionally, there is a Community Dig, in association with University of Manchester Archaeological Group, at the site of a *former* Fulling Mill at. Magbrook. The site is on privately owned land, and, out of

consideration for the site owners, Mr & Mrs J. WILD, who have not only generously allowed the dig to go ahead, but also, together with our.Area Board, contributed to its funding, for which we are extremely grateful, the exact location of it has not been revealed. The findings will be reported in a future issue of the News Magazine.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Society, and a commemorative event similar to that of Heritage Day 2006, is planned for 15th July, again to be held at Ramsbottom Civic Hall. The focus will be the Society and its activities, and we hope for as well supported a day as we had last year. Programme details will be advertised locally, and appear on the Society web site. The event will also be featured in the next issue of the News Magazine.

Tony Murphy

NEWS **FROM THE WEB SITE** *www.ramsbottomheritage.co.uk*

Designed and maintained by John LEYLAND, the society's web site is very informative and well worth a visit. On the home page is an impressive list of links to other parts of the site, which contain lots of interesting details about our town and also about society news and activities. Most pages include photographs.

DISCOVERY OF 'TIME CAPSULE' AT 42 BRIDGE STREET

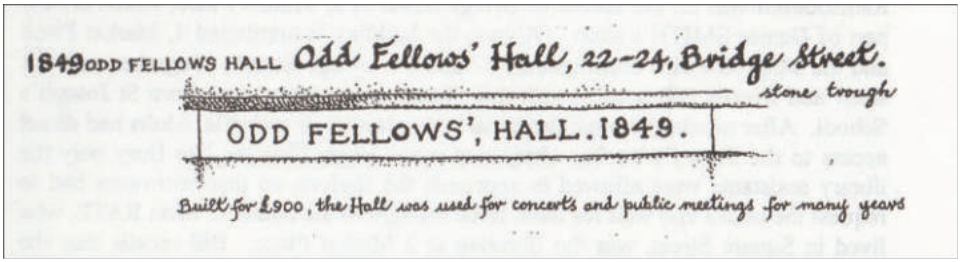
The Chairman's Report appearing in the Autumn 2005 edition of the News Magazine contained a paragraph about the discovery of ^ a `Time Capsule' of memorabilia hidden away by previous owners at the Bridge Street premises until recently occupied by Ken ROSE and his footwear business. The find, attributed to the BROUGHTON family, and containing references to Mr P. HARE, of George Road, Ramsbottom, hidden away in November 1952, sadly, largely in poor condition due to the way in which it had been stored, comprised an assortment of items, mostly in everyday use at that time, from cigarette and match boxes, a razor and blades, spectacles, to ladies handbags and footwear, oil lamps and a flat iron, but curiously, also a pair of stirrups, and an animal trap, together with newspapers of the day, including the long vanished Sunday Graphic, and Sunday Pictorial, wartime copies of the Ramsbottom Observer, various parish magazines, and porcelain vases and figures, was listed, photographed, and subsequently assessed for historical worth by Alison Green and colleagues at Bury Museum. Sadly, no treasure trove. Owner Nick HITCHIN, of WEALE and HITCHIN, has very kindly donated the find to the Society, on whose behalf it will be held by Bury Museum Service. The paper and animal based and metal manufactured items were in too poor a state to be saved, but apart from an earlier breakage the porcelain ware had survived well, and arrangements are being made for it to be displayed at the 20`h anniversary event.

Tony Murphy

LIBRARIES IN RAMSBOTTOM

Looking west from the corner of Con 1 Street, (where the Health Centre now stands) was a terrace, possibly dating back to 1780, with number 1, Carr Street - a grocery shop - on the corner. Number 3, next to the grocer's, was the town's first public library from 1838 to 1919. Daniel GRANT (1783-1855), of Ramsbottom's pre-eminent family gave some books to the old Carr Street library. In 1871 it was said to contain upwards of 1200 volumes'. By 1890 it was in a sad state, dismissed in one of the earliest editions of the *Ramsbottom Observer* as no more than `moths' food'. During the winter of 1893--4 the newspaper reported that the library premises, `rent free through the kindness of Mr GRANT LAWSON' had been `for some years past lying out of use' and an attempt was made to have the library taken over by the Local Board.

Mechanics Institutions, which were generally supported by skilled workers, tradespeople and their families, housed libraries and reading rooms. The Mechanics Institute in the Oddfellows Hall **at** 22, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom had been established by 1850. At the Mechanics Institute in Back Lane Shuttleworth, which was said to be "a locality of some consequence"' in 1861, there was a Subscription Library and Newsroom[3] for the village's approximately 3000 inhabitants. (Ramsbottom's population was estimated at over 3500 at the same time.) Summerseat had a small Mechanics Institute and Reading Room at Brooksbottoms[4]. Apparently the Liberal and Conservative associations had News and Reading Rooms too[1].



[From *Stories in Stone, Datestones in Ramsbottom by* John B Taylor.]

We are also told that there was a library of upwards of 1700 volumes in connection with the Cooperative Society at Ramsbottom[5] and that its newsroom and library had been closed for about five weeks in 1897 for the purpose of moving to premises in Central Street. The ground floor of the new premises had been used for a stable and saddle room by Mr E ISHERWOOD, and later as a mechanics' shop. The work of converting *the* building included making a new entrance and

installing a wooden floor, a new ceiling, extra windows, new heating apparatus, incandescent gas lights and shelving for the 3000 books. A new staircase led to the newsroom, which had seven reading desks. According to the newpaper report, both rooms `now present an airy and well lighted appearance' 6

In the Autumn of 1849 the *Morning Chronicle's* correspondent Angus Bethune REACH had spent about two months in Manchester and the surrounding textile towns investigating, among many other things, the reading habits of the people. He picked up the information that the evening pursuits of girls and young men `by the score and hundred appear to be learning to read, write, cipher and sew.... The men were anxious to read well also, that they might avail themselves of the libraries.' The Public Libraries Act 1851 sanctioned the levying of a rate of up to 'fed in the £ (increased to Id in 1855) to enable town councils to establish public libraries,, However, this only applied to boroughs with populations over 10,000 and was subject to a local referendum with the support of two thirds of ratepayers needed to approve plans. Even then, most of the libraries which were set up were stocked with books donated by parishioners, as ratepayers money could not be used to buy books. Another Public Libraries Act in 1919 reformed the old system, taking responsibility for libraries away from boroughs and giving it to county councils, which would now have the power to establish libraries without the restrictions of the Id rate or a referendum. This paved the way for libraries to become a truly national service.

Mr W BENNION (Bill) remembers having his first library ticket in the late 1930s when he was six years old. At this time Lancashire County Council's library in Ramsbottom was on the corner of Bridge Street at 2, Marketplace, which is now part of Denise SMITH's shop. (Above, the building is numbered 4, Market Place and the shop now also encompasses 57 and 59, Bridge Street.) Together with his sister and friends Bill used to visit this library on the way home from St Joseph's School. After passing through the usual swing barrier or turnstile, adults had direct access to the library's books, whereas at many larger libraries like Bury only the library assistants were allowed to approach the shelves, so that borrowers had to request the books and wait for them to be brought to the counter. Miss BATE, who lived in Square Street, was the librarian at 2 Market Place. Bill recalls that she once remarked to him, `I hope they never give us a telephone. They'd be ringing all day from Preston. We don't want that.'

Much later in 1969, as Deputy Chief Librarian for Bury, Mr BENNION attended the official opening of a brand new Ramsbottom library on Carr Street. He confirms that L S LOWRY was present and that the Chairman of Ramsbottom Urban District Council performed the opening ceremony., The Chairman's introductory words were, "Come into my garden Maud." (It was the time of the MAUD report on local government which had recommended the abolition of small authorities, so most members of his audience were probably already concerned that it would lead to radical changes in the library's management.) Of course, when the reorganisation of local government actually did take place in 1974, the

responsibility for Ramsbottom Library was taken away from Lancashire County Council who had provided the new building the chairman had been opening. Before the completion of this new 1969 building, library services had been provided from across Carr Street (our Heritage Centre) where, between January 2005 and February 2007, it returned until recent extensions and refurbishment were complete. In 1951 our pre-fab was described as `a new temporary library', and apparently its life expectancy was then put at 10 years.

The two distinctive long ramps which gave the public access to the 1969 library were necessary to allow space underneath the building for a garage to house the library van. Mobile libraries were intended to serve outlying districts and it seems that this vehicle, 0TB 24, had eight stops, including Turton, and Longsight Road. (From another source we learn that Lancashire Libraries used to have a number of vans, one of which used to go down to a local farm - now demolished - especially for the convenience of an individual borrower.)

Edenfield Branch Library opened in 1950 at Edenfield and District's Community Centre, in part replacing another small library established at Turn in the late 1940s. At first the library opened only on Mondays between 2pm and 7.1Spm. It stayed at the Community Centre until 1964 when it moved to 77, Market Street with a stock of 2500 books. When this library closed in 1977, the books went back to the centre until a trailer library was brought into service in 1977.

References:

1 Trade Directory - Worrall 1871
2 Trade Directory - Heap 1850
3 Trade Directory- Drake 1861
4 Trade Directory - Slater 1888
5 Trade Directory - Barrett 1883
6 *Ramsbottom Observer 16.4.1897*
7 *A History of Edenfield and District*- John Simpson 2003

RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY AND ADULT LEARNING CENTRE 2007

The opening of the new co-located service has been a huge success, not only for the increase in library and adult education usage but also for the town as a whole. It was a difficult time for staff, closing two buildings and opening a new service point within two weeks but we seemed to cope really well. There have been a few teething problems with the building and we have not yet received all our shelving, so the final layout of the library has yet to be decided.

By the end of March we had nearly five hundred brand new library members and approximately three hundred and fifty renewing their memberships in the weeks since the reopening on February 12th. In addition to the library side we have also

increased the number of courses that we can hold in the building, varying from basic skills to computer courses.
Our official opening by the Duchess of Gloucester was on April 25th. We organised one or two events for the day with a `before and after' photographic display.
Many thanks to the Heritage Society for allowing us to use the Heritage Centre for the past two years and in particular to Tony MURPHY for his understanding and cooperation. We hope to see you in the new building.

Deborah SMITH (Centre Supervisor)

Our impression is that local people have good reason to be proud of their superb new library which is an imposing building fronted in smooth Ashlar stone - with its interesting blue uplights set into the pavement. Inside, oak has been used and the foyer floor and stairs are of Kirkstone slate. There is also a lift, The bright new main library has a mezzanine level with the original stained glass windows created by Bryan FARLOW to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, plus a new window featuring the East Lancashire Railway with the locomotive Princess Elizabeth to mark the Queen's 80th birthday. Upstairs, where the library used to be housed, are the computer area, reference library and Local Studies area and the rooms for the Adult Education Service. The art room is named after L S LOWRY, who attended the opening of Ramsbottom Library in 1969, and there is a language suite named in memory of Evelyn WAITE. The other two classrooms are named the PEEL and GRANT rooms.- Editor.

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY - the beginning

At a meeting in St Paul's School on 25 February 1987 around 70 people met to discuss the possible impact on the town of reopening of the ELR line between Bury and Ramsbottom. Among the many ideas put forward was a proposal to form what was to become the Ramsbottom Heritage Society. A volunteer steering group was set up and by the following April we were able to hold our inaugural meeting.

From the beginning we had resolved that we would be an active society and at the early meetings we divided into groups devoted to the interests expressed by members. These included making a photographic record of the many changes to the town, recording of people's memories, walks, visits, research projects and the collecting and preserving of historic documents, and monthly meetings where members could listen to talks and get together over a cup of tea to discuss their chosen interests. Our long term aim was the opening of a Heritage Centre.

As can be seen from the list below, most of these things have now been achieved and also some that we never even envisaged, such as making a film!. The past twenty years have been a very busy but productive and often exciting time for the Society. If you would like to join us in any of these activities you would be more than welcome join in!

GLIMPSES OF TWENTY YEARS OF RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

February 1987 Public meeting convened by Dorothy MOSS. Held at St Paul's School and attended by about 70 people.
(Reopening of East Lancashire Railway set for 25th July 1987)
Chairman of the society - Andrew TODD
April 1987 Inaugural public meeting of the society - speaker Rev Roy CARMYLLIE; Photo competition and oral history group started June 1990 Publication of the first Ramsbottom Local History Newsletter, Ramsbottom Heritage Society magazine number 1, sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland.
June 17'h 1990 Official opening of the Heritage Centre by the Mayor of Bury, Cllr Monty ADLER accompanied by the Mayoress. Others at the opening included the Mayor and Mayoress of Rossendale and Jim WELDING of Nuttall Village. Visitors during June included. Members of the Dickensian Fellowship, Worsley Rotary Club and the Mayor of Tulle, our French twin town, with a party of French people. (Lillian CULLEN, in costume, demonstrated spinning during this visit)
July 22°a 1991 Mrs Maggie OATES, one and only lady Chairman of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council, was enrolled as our first Honorary Member.
1992 The society acquired charitable status
1993 Our first society stalls at local history fairs at Accrington and Manchester. First society outing to Port Sunlight
Winter 1995-6 The Heritage Centre: "an interesting culture of moss on the northern roof, and dampness in a corner of the interior. In 1951 our pre-fab was described as 'a new temporary library', and I am told that its life expectancy was then put at 10 years. I seriously doubt whether it will see many years beginning with a 2," (Andrew TODD in the newsletter)
1998 Dorothy MOSS became society Chairman and Andrew TODD became our President
June 18-24`h 2000 Millennium Festival Week - the culmination of 12 months of planning by the society's festival coordinator Linda de RUIJTER. *(Details of the special activities organised by the churches and other reports about the festival appear in Newsletter 20 - Editor).* During the week Bury NBC's Lifelong Learning team provided taster sessions in various subjects while Ramsbottom Library held a Quiz Night and compiled *a Ramble Round Ramsbottom* guide. There were also dances, walks, talks, conducted tours and a children's painting competition. *A Countryside Fun Day* was held in Nuttall Park, and one evening Bill HESLOP gave sheepdog demonstrations there with his speciality "dogs and ducks". In the Civic Hall there was *a Made in Ramsbottom 2000* exhibition with many displays by local craftsmen and small and large firms. Festival Finale Day, also centred on the Civic Hall, was hosted by Martin HENFIELD. It featured an outdoor concert which involved local schools and other talented groups such as the DALTON School of Dance, the Summerseat Players Children's Workshop, the

FLYNN String Quartet from the R.N.C.M., Ramsbottom Youth Club and Cola Moon. An evening Pure Club Night for 13 to 17 year olds and a concert the Grant Arms

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY ARCHIVES

One of the Society's earliest aims was to `locate, retain and catalogue relevant documents ... and operate an information centre..' Appeals in the press and local radio elicited a huge response and by 1990 we had acquired around 1000 documents and photographs and by 1995 this had doubled. The mammoth task of cataloguing all this material was undertaken by our archivist Brenda DECENT and her team of helpers who spent many hours in the Heritage Centre researching and cataloguing documents and photographs, many of which arrived with little or no information.

Eventually the card index system became too unwieldy and an Amstrad PCW was purchased. Geoff JOHNSON BRETT set up a database and after the initial task of transferring all the records on to the computer searching for information was much simpler and quicker.

Eventually, in 1997, space in the Centre ran out, the outdated Amstrad became increasingly unreliable and Brenda and the team began to find it impossible to deal with the sheer volume of material and the many requests for information. The committee consulted Kevin MULLEY at Bury Archive and it was agreed that our archive should go to Bury. *The Ramsbottom Heritage Collection is* now safely stored, along with a printout of the Amstrad database which makes it easily accessible. The Photographic Archive printout has now been scanned, edited and put on CD making it even easier to access and the photographs are now in process of being digitised. It is hoped that the document index will also be made available on CD in the future.

Some interesting acquisitions from the early days of the society include:

Handwritten Minute Books of St Andrews Presbyterian Church dating from

1869.

Plan and index of Emmanuel Church, Holcombe (done in 1983 by a task force of the Manpower Services Commission)

A piece of core from approximately 4000ft down at Fletcher Bank Quarry brought up when drilling for oil in 1953!

A silver hunting horn which belonged to John JACKSON, Huntsman, Holcombe Harriers, 1867-1899 and a book of hunting songs and other memorabilia that he compiled.

A New and Actual Survey of the Township of Tottington Lower End (1794).

OUR FIRST BLUE PLAQUE - PETER MURRAY MCDOUALL

*(Detailed articles by Trevor PARK and Andrew TODD on the subject of our **first** blue plaque,.Dr McDOUALL, were in RHS news magazines 7 and 25, published in Summer 1993 and Autumn/Winter 2003 respectively. Additional information **about** McDOUALL's evidence to the 1842 select committee which investigated the truck system formed part of another article by Andrew in News Magazine 23, Spring 2002. The brief account that follows is drawn from that research, and is being repeated for members who do not have access to the original articles and are curious about the reasons for the placing of the blue plaque)*

Peter Murray McDOUALL, a young Scottish doctor, arrived in Ramsbottom in 1835 and set up his surgery on Bolton Street. His experiences in looking after the sick amongst the factory workers and their families led him to gather information on. their living conditions and to deliver a paper based on a survey of 309 cottages to a meeting of the British Association at Newcastle in 1838.

It was around this time that McDOUALL must have met up with Dr Matthew FLETCHER, a Bury Surgeon and a Chartist. He was converted to the Chartist cause. In 1839 he was supporting a programme of General Strike followed by armed insurrection and in August 1839 he was arrested for sedition. During his one year imprisonment at Chester he met the daughter of one of the warders and, on his release, they were married.

By 1840 he had become a nationally known leader of the Chartist movement. He toured the country as a Chartist lecturer and as a result spent less time in Ramsbottom, although he seems to have continued to maintain a residence here. He was also editing and publishing his Chartist Journal, which advocated his own revolutionary views.

In 1842 MdDouall gave evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee investigating the truck system by which factory workers were paid out wages in goods from their employers' shops rather than in money. Because employers, who also owned the workers' houses, had been abusing their power, the truck system had been illegal since 1831. McDOUALL found that in Nuttall it was still in use and he also alleged that the Grants insisted on their workers being paid on Saturday nights by the landlord at their pub, the *Grant Arms,* where they were forced to take part of their wages in beer.

In September 1842 McDOUALL went into hiding to avoid arrest and spent some time in exile in France. By 1844 he had returned to Scotland where he was heavily involved in Scottish Chartist politics. By 1847-8 there had been a revival of popular support for Chartism, and he resumed his speaking tours. By this time he was based in the Ashton-under-Lyne area and it was here that he was once again arrested and charged with sedition, illegal assembly and riot. He was tried at Liverpool Assizes and again imprisoned, this time for two years. On his release from prison he found Chartism once more in decline. He was by this time destitute and, having a wife and four children, to support, he tried to revive his medical career in Ashton. He was unsuccessful, being fiercely opposed

by political enemies in the town who denounced him as a notorious criminal. He and his family were only saved from starvation by Chartist public subscription. Like many other defeated Chartists, McDOUALL, still only forty years old, resolved to emigrate to Australia, but it was not to be. The boat in which he and his family were sailing was wrecked in a violent storm off the Australian coast. He was drowned but his wife and family were rescued, They returned to England destitute and were forced to live in a workhouse at Everton. Eventually, they were assisted by Nottingham Chartists, who helped Mrs McDOUALL to set up a successful stationary business in the city.

RADICAL RAMSBOTTOM

Writing in the 1870s, local author Benjamin Thomas BARTON noted how the radicalism and Chartism `took a deep hold of Ramsbottom'. Adherents believed that there could be no fundamental shift in the distribution of power and wealth in this country without parliamentary reform. There is emerging evidence of a connection between local adherents of this movement and the New Jerusalem Church of the Swedenborgians, built at the corner of Ramsbottorn Lane and Factory Street in 1831.

BARTON suggested that Ramsbottom's political radicalism dated back to 1802. In that year, the ASHTON Brothers brought several of their skilled workers from Middleton to their newly erected Ramsbottom Mill. Middleton, stated BARTON, was

> *one of the headquarters of the ultra Radicals, the residence of Sam BAMFORD the late Radical historian and poet. Some of the inhabitants attended the monster meeting in Manchester, which led to the well-known Peterloo Massacre, and were wounded there. More than one carried the marks with them for life; one man died here who received a flesh wound in the arm. i*

Evidence of this early radicalism, and its connection with New Jerusalem, comes in an interesting pair of e-mails from Peter SLEIGH, posted on our website on 9th April 2006 and 4th February 2007. Peter originally sent us details of his wife's great great grandparents, Thomas and Eliza SHARPLES. He was prompted to write further when he saw in the *Lancashire Telegraph* that we had put up a plaque commemorating Chartist leader Peter Murray McDOUALL. Thomas SHARPLES wrote a eulogy, which has presumably survived in the family, on the occasion of his wife's death on the 29th March 1858. It included the following:

> *Mrs SHARPPLES was born at Ramsbottom and formerly belonged to the Swedenborgians but afterwards attended the Church of England. In 1843-4, she often attended the house of Mr William MELLODEW, a thorough Reformer and Freethinker, a great admirer of Thomas*

PAINE. It was at his house I became acquainted with her. She had the highest esteem for Mr MELLODEW, as she afterwards had for all Freethinkers.

Several items of interest arise from this intriguing passage. First, William MELLODEW was clearly an employee of the ASHTONs at Ramsbottom Mill, Factory Bottom, confirming BARTON's view that the ASHTON workforce was a radical presence in 'the town . He is enumerated as a warehouseman in Factory Yard (viz Ramsbottom Mill) in the 1841 Census, living with wife Alice (HO 107/540/3, folio 13). The 1842 tithe survey reveals that he was the head of one of five households which then occupied what we now believe to have been the old ASHTON apprentice house. A reduced version of this building survives as the three cottages, nos 40-44, Crow Lane. It seems likely that William MELLODEW was Eli;za's father -- an Elizabeth daughter of William MELLODEW and Alice DUCKWORTH was baptised at Holcombe on the 9th April 1826. 'The couple married belatedly on the 18'h February 1827 at Bury St Mary.

Eliza DUCKWORTH married Thomas SHARPLES at Bury Re •a"ster Office on the 25'h January 1845, giving her father's name as James DUCKWORTH. A 15 year old Eliza DUCKWORTH was living with 70 year old heald sizer James DUCKWORTH on Ramsbottom Lane, in the 1841 Census (H0107/540/4, folio 10). So it appears that Eliza used the common fiction of substituting her grandfather's name for that of her father in order to protect her illegitimate status. The rare choice, in those days, of register office rather than Christian church may have reflected the couple's radical, anti-establishment views, or another attempt to conceal the circumstances of Eliza's birth.

Two of Thomas and Eliza SHARPLES' children carried distinctive names:

Mary Alice Harriet **Martineau SHARPLES,** born 1850 - Harriet MARTINEAU (1802-76), a journalist, anti-slavery campaigner and author, was a liberal thinker particularly interested in what might now be termed women's issues, notably in the fields of civil rights, education, employment and prostitution. She would have been considered a progressive in her day. Mary Alice SHARPLES (she had dropped the Harriet Martineau), aged 10, was living with the same William MELLODEW (her grandfather) at Park Field Terrace, Oldham in 1861 (RG9/3019, folio 109). She was discreetly enumerated as his niece. She was still living with him in 1871 at 620, Park Terrace, Oldham (RG10/4102, folio 35) when she was described as a boarder,

William *Mellodew* SHARPLES, born 1855, carried christian names which further corroborate his mother's paternity. Peter LEIGH suggests that he later became a Ramsbottom iron founder, appearing in a succession of trade directories at Irwell St Foundry. (In SLATER's 1888 edition, William SHAP.PLES and Co were described as 'makers off spur, bevel and mitre wheels', presumably items used in textile machinery.) Hume EI.LIOT's suggestion that this business was established in the

late 1850s does not tie in with William Mellodew SHARPLES' date of birth of 1855.[2]

Thomas SHARPLES' eulogy also connects freethinking and radicalism with the Swedenborgians. This sect, followers of the Swedish spiritual visionary Emanuel SWEDENBORG, was associated with unorthodox views: London artist and poet William BLAKE is probably the best known `freethinker' to have been influenced by Swedenborgianism. Whilst it is not as yet clear how Swedenborgian doctrine might inform political radicalism, BLAKE's attacks on the established order led him to be charged with uttering seditious words in 1800. Given such associations with radicalism and freethinking, we may now have an explanation for the often intense hostility that the Swedenborgians encountered in Ramsbottom from the -local establishment. The only detailed account of their origins in the town[s] suggests that from their earliest presence, around 1806, they encountered opposition from both religious bodies and local employers. We are told how the Swedenborgians met in an upper room of a cottage on the site of the later church and grew in numbers despite having to survive `strong opposition' from Rev PARTINGTON, minister at Park Chapel around 1824. And once they had built a permanent home, the Rev George GIBBON, first incumbent of St Paul's from the formation of the parish in 1841 to 1843, `threatened to annihilate them'. Further,

> *he was supported by the owners of one of the largest mills in the district and a number of members left the Society because they were dfraid they would lose their jobs in the mill. The mill manager Mr Thomas BERRY others maintained their connection and as a result sufered much over the years.*

Only one Thomas BERRY can be found in the 1841 Census for the town, a 55 year old cotton spinner in Factory Yard (HO107/540/3, folio 12). The implication is that the mill in question was Ramsbottom Mill, and this poses a puzzle: initially, at least one of the ASHTONs encouraged the Swedenborgians - they were allowed to meet on the third floor of the mill. Samuel ASHTON, one of the brothers who established the mill in 1802, provided land near the mill for the New Jerusalem Church, and became one of the first trustees [a] Perhaps he supported the doctrines of the church; more likely, he simply wanted to encourage any religious group that might civilise his employees. Samuel was similarly associated with the Methodists' first purpose-built chapel in the town, lending the members £30 towards the cost of raising roof, walls, and adding a gallery. The chapel had been built on ASHTON land in 1825.[5] Maybe leasing land to church builders was simply good business. Samuel's death in 1833 may have left the Swedenborgians unprotected. The next generation of ASHTONs supported the town's first Anglican church, St Paul's. They built the small school in Crow Lane at which the first services were performed in April 1841, and providing the site and some £1,400 for the erection of a proper church later in that decade.

In the 1858 eulogy on his wife's death, Thomas SHARPLES also described the circumstances of her death in Blackburn:

> *Banished, as you are aware, from the town in which I have resided for so many years, I have passed through many strange towns in search of employment since last you heard from me. I at length succeeded in obtaining a situation in Blackburn, to which place, cfer a separation of many months, I brought my family. But a reverse of circumstances had told upon the health of Mrs SHARPLES during my absence from home and she came here as it were, 'but to die'. Seized with the pain of labour in the streets, we had to repair to such a house as our poor means would admit of For fourteen days she lingered and on the 29th March she died, leaving to my care five small children.*

It may be that SHARPLES was involved in the sort of Chartist agitation that led to other activists having to move to avoid arrest or because their employers dismissed them. Perhaps he was involved in the Plug drawing riots of August 1842, We know from the historian BARTON that Ramsbottom Mill was directly affected, and subsequently local Chartist leader Peter Murray McDOUALL `harangued the inhabitants on the glorious charter of the people'.[7] **It** may have been its associations with Chartism at this time of industrial disharmony that turned manufacturers against the Swedenborgians.

SHARPLES' radical views seem to have made him more mobile than most. He was living in Ramsbottom at the time of his marriage in 1845, but by the time of the 1851 Census he and his family were at Mathers, Walmersley (H010712212, folio 431). We know from the eulogy that he was back in his native Blackburn by the end of the decade. A millowners' jungle telegraph may have kept him out of work elsewhere.

Peter LEIGH's research highlights how difficult the movements of 19th Century radicals can be to trace. I have wondered for *years* where Peter Murray McDOUALL was on census night in June 1.841. The tithe survey securely locates him as being tenant at no 18, Bolton St in 1842, but there is no *sign* of him or his wife in Ramsbottom in the census returns the year before.

Only yards south of no 18, according to Hume ELLIOT, writing in 1893, there was another rabid radical couple:

> *In 1839 a leader among the Chartists lived at 72 Bolton Street. He was well known, and is still remembered. At a great Chartist demonstration in the year named, he headed the forces; and, no less ardent, his wife, who, like Charlotte CORDAY, `never lacked energy,' took her place beside him, bearing conspicuously the cap of liberty.'*

House numbers seem to have appeared in Ramsbottom after the formation of the Local Board in 1864, the census returns of 1871 being the first in which they occur

regularly. In that year, widow Alice PARKINSON was living at 72, Bolton Street. Her husband, calico block printer James, had also been there in the returns of 1861 and 1851, but intriguingly Alice had been alone on the census night of 1841.[9] The tithe survey suggests that James PARKINSON was living at no 72 in 1842. An intriguing footnote *may* explain the whereabouts of both :McDOUALL, and PARKINSON in June 1841. McDOUALL fought unsuccessfully for a seat in Parliament at the general election of that summer, at Northampton. No. doubt he was campaigning there for some weeks, along with supporter PARKINSON." I had hoped that the arrival of comprehensive, indexed access to the 1841 returns for England and Wales through *Ancestry.co.uk* would throw up McDOUALL in some lodgings in Northampton, with the faithful PARKINSON. But he is nowhere to be found anywhere *in* the English and Welsh returns. If the Poll Tax dodgers of 1991, however, and civilly disobedient suffragettes of 1911 could evade the enumerators of their time, I'm sure a man used to arrest and imprisonment for sedition would be no less suspicious of the organs of the state, and equally capable of keeping himself off census schedules!

Andrew Todd, 2, Major Street, Ramsbottom, *Bury* BLO 9JH
(2007) **References**

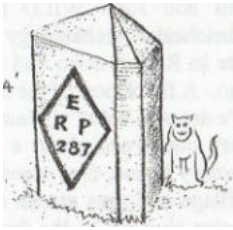
1. BT BARTON, *History of Bury and Neighbourhood in the County of Lancaster,* (cl874). Reprinted by
EJ MARTEN, 1973) pp210-211. BARTON was living in Blackburn in '1871, but was a `Newspaper
Reporter Stationer', in Parnworth, Bolton by 1881.
2. William Hume ELLIOT, *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (Selkirk, 1893) p:152
3. The New Church Magazine (vol XX, no239, November 1901) p21
4. Ibid
5. Jubilee Celebrations Souvenir Booklet, Wesleyan Methodist Church and School, Ramsbottom,
October 1924, pp6-7
6. Rev Thomas MARTIN, *A Short History of the Parish of Ramsbottom and its Church of St Paul*
(Centenary Magazine, 1949) p5
7. BARTON, p211
8. Hurne ELLIOT, p135
9. RG10/3946, folios 66-7; RG9f2837, folio 62; H0107/2212, folio 53; HO/1071540/5, folio 14
10. Mark HOVELL, *The Chartist Movement* (Manchester, 1918) p239n



In our last newsletter we showed the sign on the left which is painted on the terrace end of No 1 Victoria Street facing Rostron Road, Ramsbottom.

Now John B TAYLOR has spotted a similar sign and sent us a sketch. The sign is painted in a yellowish colour on a large stone at the junction of Beechacre and Nuttall Hall Road, near Nuttall Park.

Please make contact with Ramsbottom Heritage Society if you know what these signs are. Do you know of any more?



CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP REPORT

Question How long does it take to erect a blue plaque?

Answer Nearly twenty years !

Recently Dorothy MOSS handed us newspaper cuttings dated 1988 (not long after the RHS was formed) to the Conservation Working Group. These articles explained how Ramsbottom Heritage Society was striving to preserve the town's historic buildings and stated our intention to erect commemorative plaques. Yet in spite of a tremendous amount of dedicated work over the years, we had still not put one up. We are therefore extremely pleased to point out that we have finally achieved our ambition, and many of you will have seen the Society's first blue plaque above the door of Roger GREENLEES, Jewellers.

Whilst the main purpose of the Conservation Working Group is preserving the traditional and historic aspects of Ramsbottom, one of the main privileges is that of bringing the Society to the notice of the public. We try to ensure that events are well publicised and the `unveiling' of Peter McDOUALL's plaque was reported in three local newspapers. The reception and small exhibition to which our guests were invited, gave an excellent opportunity to explain the Society's work to our local MP and members of the Area Board who all support us. Other projects which are on-going and for which we are also receiving grants from the Area Board and Bury's Conservation Officer, are the archaeological dig, and the placing of another blue plaque. This plaque will soon adorn the front of The Grant Arms Hotel to commemorate the important GRANT family who brought prosperity to the town and after whom the hotel is named.

The long awaited dig took place between April 16th and May 4th and involved thirty to forty volunteers, many of whom are not members of the Heritage Society. The dig took place at Kibboth Crew with the kind permission of the landowners, Gill and John WILD and was supervised by staff from the University of Manchester Archaeology Unit. This is the earliest known industrial archaeological site in Ramsbottom and concerns a falling mill, which was built some 300 years ago. A full report of the dig will appear in the autumn magazine. We are still being vigilant about current planning applications and recently became very concerned about a house in Lower Nuttall Road. This striking early 19`x' century house, now standing isolated, is the last remaining property in old Nuttall Village and was at one time the offices for Ocean Chemicals. The plans show major changes to the *front,* back and side of the house including a large garage, which are quite out of keeping with the style of the house. On investigation we discovered that the major part of these plans were originally submitted and passed in March 2004 just a few months before the Conservation Group came into being. Our *very* strong submission about the architectural and historical value of this building was therefore mainly ineffective. However we did successfully object to a porch which was new in this years plans and which would have made a huge difference to the front of the house. The original distinctive frontage will therefore remain intact, although it will be extended sideways to include the garage.
Have you noticed that the double-yellow lines at the bottom of Bridge Street are only 50mm wide and are primrose in colour? These are the first lines we have had in Ramsbottom to meet with Conservation Area regulations, even though the centre of town has had conservation status for a long time. If you see any roads having new tarmac laid, let me know so that we can contact the council again, BEFORE they put down the wrong lines.
Keep an eye open, too, for Ramsbottom's post boxes. Over the next few months these will receive a new coat of paint and look considerably more handsome, thanks to Graham TWIDALE, a new member of the society. It is fitting that The :Ramsbottom Heritage Society is making a visible difference to the appearance of the town in our Twentieth Anniversary Year. If you have other ideas about ways in which we can best serve Ramsbottom, do let us know, particularly if you are willing to help! We welcome any society member wishing to come to the meetings of the Conservation Working Group or just find out more about it. Please contact Kate SLINGSBY on 01706 281998.

RUNAWAY TRAINS

The following article is reprinted from Chris ASPIN's Surprising Lancashire, published by.Helmshore Local History Society in 1988. In his own words this compilation of stories are 'almost all concerned with the lighter side of local history'. This one is no exception.
This year the ELR celebrate the 20 anniversary of the re-opening of the line between Bury and Ramsbottom so this may (or may not !) be a particularly*

appropriate issue in which to print this tale. Fortunately, railways have changed for the better over the last 150 years and such alarming and exciting events could not happen today. Which is just as well in view of our rather more stringent Health and Safety Regulations - not to mention passengers' peace of mind! If you know of any similar stories relating to Ramsbottom in times gone by (or perhaps during WW2?) we would love to hear them and possibly include them in the Magazine.

Railway work in the early days of steam was made all the more exciting by the unpredictable behaviour of the rolling stock. Runaway trains whizzed through Ramsbottom on several occasions; and twice at least there were multiple mishaps of the kind one might see in a slapstick film. The first of these occurred on December 28`h 1857, when a number of wagons laden with stone broke away from a train in Grane Road sidings, near Haslingden, and ran back down the incline towards Stubbins Junction three miles away. The guard, who had neglected to place pieces of timber between the spokes, jumped aboard the retreating wagons, but fell off near Helmshore Station. Catch points were not then in use; nor could anything be done to warn the driver of the oncoming train of the runaway's approach. So violent was the collision that the last two carriages were uncoupled and began to move backwards. In one carriage were Mr Henry HARGREAVES and his sister :from Blackburn; in the other was a Mr LITTLEWOOD.

Both men opened a door and, as the *Blackburn Standard* put it, `Mr HARGREAVES asked Mr LITTLEWOOD's opinion as to what was best to be done in the hope of effecting their escape'. Mr LI'1 I'LEWOOD shouted back that leaping out was their only hope. With the carriages rapidly gaining speed, Mr HARGREAVES took this advice and landed on the embankment, knocking himself out but breaking no bones. Seeing her brother lying motionless by the track, Miss HARGREAVES felt unable to follow. Mr LITTLEWOOD also hesitated and it was not until the carriages had shot through Ramsbottom that he flung himself out and was seriously hurt. Miss HARGREAVES, in the words of the *Bury Times,* `was carried on through tunnels and over bridges until the impetus was exhausted, which was not before the carriages had nearly reached Bury'.

The station master at Ramsbottom, `who had seen the rapid transit of the carriages past his station, forthwith pursued them with a pilot engine and found Miss HARGREAVES pacing backwards and forwards on the line near to a sawmill. He accommodated her with a seat on the tender and provided her with a covering as a protection from the rain which was then copiously descending. Being thus made safe, she was conveyed on the tender back to Ramsbottom, here she found her brother anxiously awaiting her'.

Some eleven years later, on December 19, 1868, four wagons and the brake van of an early-morning coal train ran away at Bacup. The engine driver gave chase but was unable to catch up with them. Travelling at `a fearful rate', they crashed into a goods train standing in Rawtenstall Station. The driver and stoker jumped clear

only seconds before the collision. The brake van and one of the wagons were `shivered into fragments', but, as the local paper observed, `this was not the whole extent of the disaster. The force of the collision reversed the engine and turned the steam on full, and the engine with two wagons set off for Ramsbottom, through which it passed with the speed of thought'.
The station staff at Ramsbottom, who always seemed to have a locomotive standing by, set off in pursuit. The morning was still dark and they failed to see that their quarry had run out of steam between Summerseat and Bury. The result was yet another crash, which blocked the line for several hours.

THE RAMSBOTTOM AND TOTTINGTON BLIND PERSONS' WELFARE COMMITTEE 1961 - 1994

This committee was formed by Mr Fred ISHERWOOD, then chairman of Ramsbottom UDC and Mrs Violet HOWARD, chairman of Tottington Council. It provided social meetings, outings and Christmas parties for the blind and partially sighted of the Ramsbottom and Tottington area. Throughout the thirty three years of its existence, its members and friends from the district worked directly on these activities with the blind people and also to raise the necessary funds. Various organisations, most of them local, made voluntary donations. Invitations had been sent to all the organisations of Ramsbottom and Tottington and the committee's officers were elected on 14th December 1961, at a meeting in the Council Offices, Ramsbottom. There was a discussion as to the ways in which help could be given and the sixteen members representing local organisations, listened to helpful advice from the welfare worker who was to attend the committee's meetings. She handed over £5 to the new treasurer, mentioning the possibility of applying for a grant. This brought the meeting straight to the question of money and on 23'd February 1962 the first coffee evening was held (at Ramsbottom Civic Hall) with 500 tickets having been printed. For the first two years committee meetings took place nearly every month, the original venue alternating with Tottington Council Offices.
There were also donations and, as soon as funds were available, money was used for gifts of fruit to be taken to the housebound blind and for supporting the welfare worker by paying for tea for the blind on their half day outing in May. The first independent event was arranged, a social afternoon at Holcombe Brook Tennis Club on 22Nd May 1962. Committee members welcomed about sixteen blind and partially sighted people and their companions, played records to break the ice and served a simple afternoon tea. A free taxi service had been provided. Soon quite a few blind people had been. visited in their homes and the Civic Hall Refreshment Room, Ramsbottom, bad been booked for monthly social afternoons, with transport and afternoon tea provided, starting in October 1962. The first Christmas Party for the blind and partially sighted and their guides was held with a carol service led by Reverend MARTIN of St Paul's Church, Ramsbottom and there were Christmas hampers. The next important fundraising effort was a coffee evening and bring and

buy sale at St John's Schoolroom, Tottington on 22"[0] March 1963 and there was an appeal to firms in Ramsbottom and to appropriate authorities such as the RNIB for a grant to help to support the committee's activities.

Prom 1970 Walshaw Sports Club Room, Sycamore Street, Tottington was the venue for the monthly social afternoons. Two of these were bring and buy sales which along with the monthly raffles, helped to make the afternoons self supporting. Proceedings opened with a fifteen minute religious service, entertainment such as a travel talk, poetry reading or live music was booked to follow and there was always a good afternoon tea. The Christmas parties continued to be held at Ramsbottom Civic Hall and in 1.973 turkey, ham, apple sauce and stuffing, cakes and mince pies were on the menu, with a concert by *The Showtimers* from All Saints Church, Tottington. Over the next decade the committee built up a long list of entertainers and speakers *(which included a few Ramsbottom Heritage Society members; Mr Les .NORRIS, Mrs Doris HIBBERT and Mrs Alice O'DONNELL who, for years was a regular performer - Editor)* and an excellent reputation for their catering, with the emphasis on home baking. A typical Christmas party, starting at 5.30pm at Walshaw Sports Club, included a three course tea and after the entertainment and dancing, a supper of malt bread and mince pies. The Presidents of Peel Lions and Ramsbottom and Tottington and Bury West Rotary Clubs, the Chairman of Walshaw Sports Club and the Mayor and Mayoress of Bury Metro were invited. There was a special effort for the 21' Anniversary Christmas Party: grapefruit segments, turkey, apple sauce, stuffing and roast potatoes, sherry trifle and Christmas cake for tea, the Bury Concert Band for the entertainment and supper. Transport to the party as usual was provided by the Rotary Clubs.

In addition to the monthly meetings, volunteer carers from the committee and their friends also took the blind and partially sighted on two or three summer outings to a variety of different destinations. Edenfield Sunshine Club began to invite the group every year for afternoon tea and a concert or other entertainment. The most frequently visited place was Rivington, for a dinner and afternoon tea and there were annual day trips to Southport. Many other outings were enjoyed, such as those for tea at the *Hark to Bounty,* Slaidburn and *The Moorcock* at Waddington. The committee also continued with financial help for when the welfare workers led holidays to resorts such as Scarborough and Llandudno. In addition, with regular gifts and home visits, the housebound were never neglected.

All the activities for the blind and partially sighted, including the cost of coaches to collect everyone from home, were paid for from money raised by the committee and friends. As well as bring and buy socials and monthly ra fes at the meetings, over the years members of the committee (and other organisations) held many other "efforts". There were band concerts, regular jumble sales and coffee mornings, and even more regular bring and buy coffee evenings in members' homes. Even Mannequin Parades were held, twice daily on 2n and 3rd October 1968 at W D SCHOLES shop on Bridge Street, Ramsbottom. Tickets were 2/6d each and

although arrangements had to be made for a hundred chairs to be taken in and brought away, everyone was delighted with the results. A highlight of the annual fundraising programme from about 1980 was a Ploughman's Lunch which was held on a Sunday at Walshaw Sports Club. In the minutes of a 1984 meeting it is noted that the committee had "established a reputation for a very ,good lunch". From around 1990 there had been suggestions that the Ramsbottom and Tottington Blind Persons' Welfare Society should amalgamate and meetings had been held with Bury, Whitefield and Prestwich societies for the blind. Early in February 1994 an announcement appeared in the newspaper entitled `Charity Group To Disband'. At the final Annual General Meeting president Mrs Gladys HAMER and treasurer Mrs Elsie ISHERWOOD had told the group that like many other organisations they could not find younger people to carry on the work. Thanks were expressed to everyone for their hard work and commitment, as a result which the blind people of Ramsbottom and Tottington had been able, for thirty three years, to socialise at fortnightly meetings, to attend a Christmas Party and receive presents.

The first chairmen of the committee: Councillors Fred ISHERWOOD and Violet HOWARD

Presidents:	Mr Charles HALSTEAD (1961 - 69)
	Mrs DEARDEN (1969 - 73)
	Mr J RYAN (1973 - 74)
	Mrs Gladys HAMER (1974 - 94)
Secretaries:	Mrs Gladys HAMER (1961- 73)
	Mrs E CRANE (1973 -75)
	Mrs P WINTERBURN (1975 - 94)
Auditor.	Mr Eric ISHERWOOD (1971- 94)
Treasurers:	Mr Eric ISHERWOOD (1962 -72)
	Mr KIRKMAN (1972 - 81)
	Mrs Elsie ISHERWOOD (1981-94)

Mrs McVICKERS was the contact with the committee for the Social Services and she was also in contact with committees for the blind in Radcliffe and Whitefield.

Ramsbottom Civic Hall is still very popular for community activities and no other venue ***in*** *the town compares with it in size, location and parking facilities. Work that has been carried out by Bury MBC and the hall staff to make the hall a comfortable and attractive venue is to be applauded and there has been a 20% increase in business during 2006-7. However, there is concern about its long-term future and the top floor remains out of use. A new group, 'Friends of Ramsbottom Civic Hall' is to be formed with the object of supporting the hall as a key element in the local community. For more information contact Linda on 01706 827602 or Janet on 01706 823658. - Editor*

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 ODG tel:** 0161253 6782 **Email:** qrchive!aD~bLirV_vov ik Website: www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Opening Hours:
Tuesday Ipm- 4pm Friday I Own - 4pm Wednesday Ipm- 4pm 2nd Saturday of the month I Own - 4pm Thursday y I Oam - 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 ODG- ***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 1·113C, including Ramsbottorn, 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, BDIO OSE- tel 01274 611087, email membership40flihs(rg.uL 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 ww-;,jflhhs...

Pamsbottoin Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street, VIA TAE tel 0161 253 5352, (IT- tel 0161 253 535Y email Ramsbottom.liba.,bury.gov.uk 'The newly re-opened library boasts a state-of-the-art IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottont Observer 1890-1950 on film* and microfiche reader- There will be more details about *access to* the Ramsbottom local history collection, local census returns etc, in our next issue.
Opening hours are: 430arn to 7,30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
130am to 1pm on Saturday. (Closed on Wednesdays)

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY RAMBLES

Another series of shortish walks has been devised for the summer ~ the fourth Sunday in the month. Be dressed for walking: strong shoes or boots, and be prepared for sun, rain or cold weather.

All are welcome. Hope to see you.

Times are 2 – 3 hours starting at 2pm.

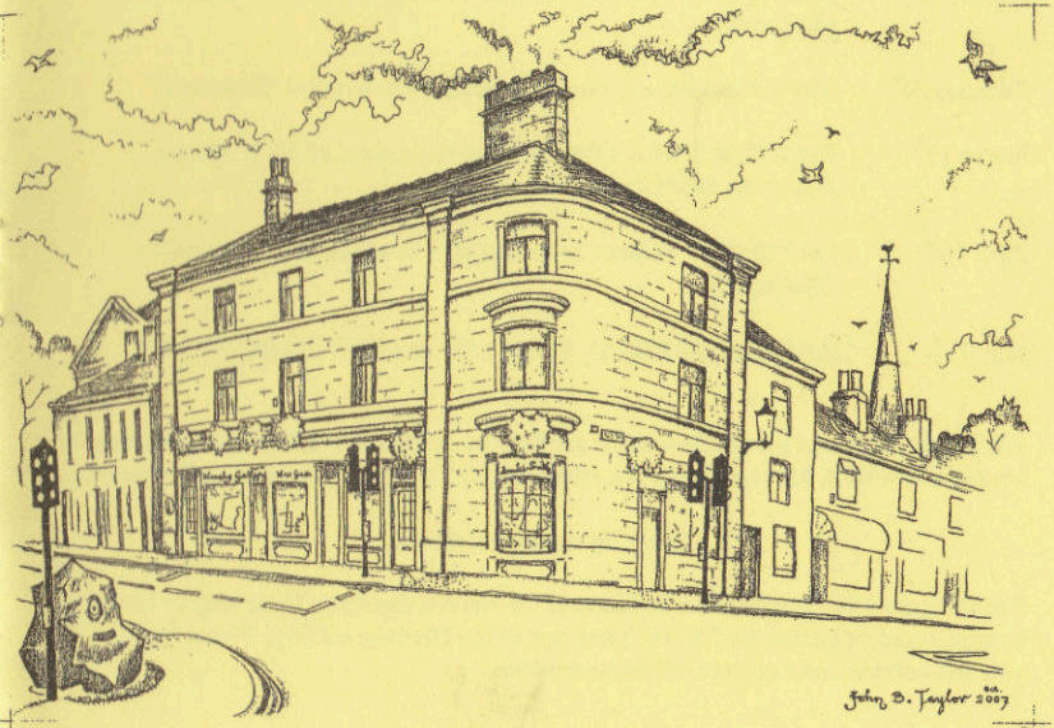
22nd April	*Roving Round the Range* (the Holcombe Moor Training Area, hilly terrain) led by John B Taylor, meet – MOD Range House, Holcombe Brook
27th May	*Picture the Past* (a nostalgic look at Ramsbottom, based on old colour post cards, hilly terrain) led by Arthur Baldwin, meet – Ramsbottom Railway Station
24th June	*Holcombe and Pilgrims' Cross and Back* (hilly terrain) led by John Ireland – meet car park, Lumb Carr Road, Holcombe
22nd July	*To Burrs and Back* (undulating terrain) led by Linda de Ruijter, meet – Summerseat Methodist School/Church car park
26th Aug	*Pubs and Clubs of Ramsbottom* (undulating terrain) led by Andrew Todd, meet – Grant Arms, Market Place, Ramsbottom
23nd Sept	*Greenmount Heritage Trail* (undulating terrain) led by Christine Taylor, meet – Greenmount Old School
28th Oct	*Musbury and the Alden Valley* (hilly terrain), meet Cecco's restaurant car park, Helmshore

Any questions? Phone Linda on 827602 or Joan on 827245

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 33 Autumn 2007 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME 2007-8

November 21st	Miss Margaret Curry – *Tales of Two Cities* – Manchester and Salford (illustrated talk)
December 19th ★	**Members' Night** – Christmas Festivities (★ Please note this new date)
January 16th	Mr J Doughty – *James Brindley, Millwright and Canal Engineer* (illustrated)
February 21st	Mrs K Fishwick – *Evolution of Mills in Lancashire* (illustrated)
March 19th	PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION – judged by Mr B Aldous *Where the Wild Garlic Grows* (illustrated)
April 16th	Dr P Hindle – *William Yates and the County Maps of Lancashire* (illustrated)
May 21st	**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and MEMBERS' NIGHT**

All indoor meetings ~~except December~~ are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. All welcome.

Entry by donation, please.

The Editors welcome articles for inclusion in the News Magazine. These may be hand-written, 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: - *2 Market Place, Ramsbottom* (which was once the premises of Ramsbottom Library) by John B TAYLOR. [See article "Memories of Lancashire County Library Ramsbottom Branch"]
Centre pages :- *Mineral Water Manufacturers around Ramsbottom* by John B TAYLOR

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After the disappointment of continuing closure of the Heritage Centre - refurbishment is still awaited - a summer of activity and involvement. Beginning with an invitation to the. Society to take part in the formal re-opening of the new Library building by mounting a display depicting the development of Ramsbottom during the last 200 or so years,. and introducing it to the Duchess of Gloucester, who performed the re-opening. The display certainly caught the attention of the Duchess. An honour for the Society, and sincere thanks to Janet SMITH, Display Organiser, for having put it together. This prestigious event was followed almost immediately by the Community Dig at the site of the former Fulling Mill at Magbrook, Ramsbottom, in which yours truly, several members, and soon to be members, took part. My physical input was minimal by comparison with some others, but I found it hard work; the end result was quite satisfying, with stone walls, floors, engine beds, and waterways, revealed for the first time in many decades, and some artifacts found. Thanks to Kate SLINGSBY for having organised the dig. The endeavours of those who took part have been preserved for posterity by way of a CD, and the findings of the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit are eagerly awaited.

Whilst all that was going on, arrangements for the 20"' Anniversary event were being finalised; held on 15th July at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, it provided a shop window for the activities of the Society and. friends. The event, opened by our Mayor Cllr. Dr. and

Mrs. CHOUDHARY, was a success in maintaining our profile, and sincere thanks go to the team of members and friends who organised it and took part.
At the end of July, unveiling of the Society's second Blue Plaque took place, at the Grant Arms Hotel in Ramsbottom's Market Place, inn commemoration of William and. Grace GRANT and. their family, (see article in this issue of the news magazine.) whose residence it was in early 19th century, and whose legacy remains very much with us today; thanks to Brenda RICHARDS for arranging the event. Sincere thank also to all, those members un-named, who have worked hard during the year to maintain the profile of the Society. After all the activity, time for an autumn break and the opportunity to prepare for the year ahead. Good wishes to everyone for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Tony Murphy

OBITUARIES

On lst July, Jenny JOHNS died, in hospital following a stroke. Jenny was born on 6th January 1916, at 152 Bolton Street, Ramsbottom, next to DAWSON's sweet shop, adjacent to the Major Hotel; she was schooled at St Andrew's, leaving at age 14 to work at Holme Mill as a weaver. At age 21 Jenny and her family moved to 80 Bolton Road West, where she lived for the rest of her life. During WW2, Jenny was employed in munitions manufacture, at a Royal Ordnance factory in Radcliffe, leaving in 1945 to become a wire winder at F.D. Sims, where she remained until retirement, gaining a long service gold watch along the way. In 1945 Jenny joined the Labour party, remaining a staunch and active supporter. In 1976, following retirement, she became actively involved with Age Concern, a commitment maintained for many years, receiving a long service certificate in 1996. Jenny was also a long-serving member of the Heritage Society, active as a supporter at the Heritage Centre, and attending open meetings until the end; she will be remembered for her forthright good humour, enthusiastic participation in activities, and will be very much missed by many. She had lived a full and active life, and her recollections of war time, and post war, work, can be found in Society News Magazines of Autumn 2005, and Spring 2006. Jenny worshipped initially at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Bolton Street, on its closure at the Presbyterian Chapel, Dundee Lane, on its closure at Dundee United Reform Church, Ramsbottom, where her funeral service was held on 11th July 2007

Tony Murphy

In July also, we learned of the death, in Morecambe, of Thomas (Tom) JACKSON, born an 20th September 1914 in Victoria Street, Ramsbottom. Schooled latterly at Haslingden Grammar, he began working life at a gents' outfitters on Bridge Street. Marrying shortly before the outbreak of WW2, his war years were spent as a radio operator in the Royal Corps of Signals. After the war, he, with wife and by then, son, went to live in Edenfield, when Tom joined his father in the family grocery business, located at 336 Bolton Road West, where he worked until retirement. From the 1930's

through until the 1950's Tom had an association with RADOS, playing lead roles in many productions, particularly musical and comedy. He also had long and active involvement with Freemasonry, being honoured in 2003 upon achieving 50 years of service, Tom also found time to support the Heritage Society, maintaining membership until the end, over the years providing information about RADOS activities, and local tradespeople, donating several items, including *'O'wd Bassets'* bell, and photograph, together with RADOS material. Tom's funeral was held in Morecambe late in 2006.

Tony Murphy

In October we learned of the death of Gladys HAMER, following a short illness. Gladys, nee GREENHALGH, was born on the 2nd October 1915 and brought up on Callender Street, Ramsbottom. The family later moved to Bolton Road West and then to Eliza Street, She attended Park Congregational Church until her marriage to John HAMER; when she became a member of Ramsbottom Wesleyan Methodist Church, now Christ Church (Baptist/Methodist). She owned a baker's shop in Bridge Street (now part of the Evangelical Church) and later worked in the Manchester office of the HAMER family business, as well as baking for parties and weddings etc. For thirty three years she held office on the Ramsbottom and Tottington Blind Persons' Welfare Committee *(see RHS News Magazine Number 32 - Editor).* She was the cook for the weekly Ramsbottom Old People's Luncheon Club at the Civic Hall for a period and was involved with the RNLI and the Inner Wheel, as well as being a very active member of Christ Church (taking command of the kitchen right up to the beginning of her last illness a short while ago) holding various offices in the Church. The highlight of her last year was being invited to attend the official opening of Ramsbottom Library by the Duchess of Gloucester. Gladys was the longest living library member, having joined in,1928. She was a long serving member of the Heritage Society, a helper at the Centre, and a fount of knowledge about mid c20th Ramsbottom.

Also in October, we heard of to death of John HOWARTH. Born at Radcliffe in 1925, John was an early supporter of our Society, attending meetings, and notably helping his son Bob to attach the *Nuttall Park* opening plaque and *Strang Street*sign to the Centre's wall! A motor mechanic by trade, he was an engineer in the Royal Navy during World War II, rising to the rank of Chief Petty Officer, engine room. He was on a landing craft on D Day. His naval service led to a lifetime's interest in the Sea Cadets, being involved with groups at Blackburn, Burnley and Bury. From 1957 he ran a newsagents on Bacup Road, Rawtenstall, before returning to being a motor mechanic in 1963, when he came to Ramsbottom with wife and son to work at Station Garage on Railway Street. He later worked at Sam HEYWOOD's garage (later Geoff DUTTON's), which formerly occupied the site where the new three-storey house stands by the *Hare and Hounds* at Holcombe Brook. A generation of us will remember him teaching car maintenance evening classes at the Technical College, once on Stubbins Lane, John

was a group scout leader at St Andrew's, and a sidesman. He lived at Cemetery Road from his arrival in the town in 1963 until his death in October of this year.

Andrew A Todd

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2006

The photographs for the 2006 Competition were judged in March 2007 and the winner of the Dickensian Trophy was Linda de RUIJTER with her photograph of the "Rear of Callendar Street" in the Events & Daily Life category.

Buildings - First - Linda de RUIJTER

Events & Daily Life - First - Linda de RUIJTER

Highly commended - Alan WILKS & Christine MORRIS

Town & Country - First - Jennifer Beech

Highly Commended - Jennifer BEECH & John LEYLAND

Themes - First - Ian SMITH

Thanks to all who entered the competition, and to the organiser(s). Congratulations to all the Prize Winners.

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

We have had a busy summer, which has resulted in plenty of publicity for the Heritage Society in the local press. Happily, some of the projects, which were pending in the previous magazine report, have now been completed.

***Blue Plaque* on Grant's Arms Hotel**

In the last magazine I mentioned that we had put up the Society's first blue plaque. Well, like buses, when they finally come along, plaques don't come alone. The second. plaque now adorns the front of the Grant's Arms Hotel to commemorate William and. Grace GRANT and their family who lived there. Sheila MAGNALL and Yvonne WRIGHT, Bury councillors were involved in the unveiling, Malcolm WAGNER of the Grants Arms kindly provided light refreshments and RICHARDS and RICHARDS Construction again very generously gave their time and erect the plaque without charging us.

Post Boxes

I'm sure, you will have noticed how splendid the post boxes in Ramsbottom and Edenfield now look, Graham TWIDALE painted the sovereigns crest and other wording in gold, to celebrate the Society's 20th Anniversary, and both he and the boxes appeared in the local papers.

Double Yellow Lines

It was obviously too soon to pat ourselves on the back about getting the council to paint the double yellow lines which should be used for the conservation area (ie. primrose in colour and only 50mm wide). Almost .as soon as. we went to print, most of the other double yellow lines in the centre of town were repainted incorrectly and although the council promised to remove and correct them, this has not been done.

Irwell Bridge Mill

You may have noticed the appalling state of the Irwell Bridge Mill now the present owner has removed most of the roof. Since this building is in the conservation area, this should not have been done without council permission, unless he was planning to replace the roof later. However a planning application was submitted to increase the height of the building to five storeys in places and to completely overwhelm the original facade with a very modern design. It would have contained 12 apartments, as well as offices and possibly workshops. You may remember that in January 2006 the chairman of a public inquiry refused a previous plan to demolish the mill because of its visual enhancement of the traditional character of the town and because the planned apartments would have limited the employment opportunities in what is an industrial area. This year's planning application has now also been refused, partly because of thee style of the building, but mainly because the council are not allowing residential accommodation in this industrial area.

Carr Bank Lodge

There are only two remaining lodge houses in Ramsbottom and planning applications were submitted to extend each of these buildings. The application to redevelop Carr Bank Lodge into a restaurant was passed and sadly this will involve some changes to this historic building,

Nuttall Park

Nuttall Park was given to the public by Lt Colonel PORRITT in 1928 and the Ramsbottom Heritage Society will be well represented at the 80th anniversary celebration next year. Brenda RICHARDS is preparing an interpretation board of the history of the Nuttall Hall and has other plans to make the public aware of the history of the park.

Arguably the greatest success since the last report has been the dig at Kibboth Crew, but this will not be dealt with here, as it is contained in. a separate report.

The number of people in the conservation group continues to increase. Some people just come along on a "one off' visit, whilst others have joined and are getting involved with the work. If you are interested to see what we do you would be welcome to come along -just let me know so that I can make sure we have enough chairs !

We meet at 7.30 on the first Monday of the month Kate Slingsby

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT KIBBOTH CREW

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's first dig took place during three weeks in April and May when, luckily, we had the longest spell of dry weather this year. Professional archaeologists from The University of Manchester Archaeology Unit (UMAU) supervised local volunteers, all novices, who were very keen and who worked with great enthusiasm. There were a total of 39 volunteers only 9 of whom were already members of the heritage society.

The dig site is in the tiny valley or clough at Kibboth Crew and can be reached from the road, which runs through the car park of the Old Mill Hotel, off Springwood Street. The dig is on. private land owned by John and Gill WILD and cannot be accessed directly, however you can get an excellent view of it from the public right of way which. starts just through the gates of Top Wood Farm (Rath Carrig) and runs up hill past the site.

At the outset we knew that the building we were excavating was a fulling mill and that one had existed on the site as early as 1710. Before the dig began a stone arch, a wheel. pit and a few walls could already be seen, however, we were amazed at the structures, which gradually emerged. We were also fascinated when later research showed that a mill on Kibboth Crew dated back another hundred years.

Before the volunteers were allowed to start, the university archaeologists spent three days setting up the site. During that time they fenced off the area and any hazards such as the wheel pit, and also provided first aid facilities and a portaloo. They used a minidigger to remove the top soil, *so* that the outlines of some of the structures were partly visible when we began. Having been taught the correct way to use mattocks and trowels, and having been provided with kneeling pads and hard hats where necessary, we set to work. Towards the end of the digM i k e NEVELL, Director of UMAU and Norman REDHEAD, Assistant County Archaeologist from Greater Manchester visited the site to interpret what had been found.

Structures excavated on the site

A rectangular_ room was excavated, the floor of which consisted of two huge flags on. which was lying a thick square stone several feet across. The purpose of this room was not understood even by the experts, nor was that of the large stone arch which had been visible from the outset. Whilst many of us had assumed that this was a doorway, none of the archaeologists agreed as it has no holes for fixing bolts. Beside the arch were large stone engine mountings made of dressed stone similar to the arch itself. Whilst it is not known exactly when steam engines were installed in this water-powered mill, the fact that the engine beds were made of stone not steel. apparently indicates that this occurred at quite an early date. Steam engines require a boiler and a brick lined boiler house was found on the south. east corner of the site. Whilst, we, the volunteers had very little idea, of what to expect, the archaeologists were aware that there would have been culverts to carry water under the floor of the mill and when the rectangular room had been fully excavated, the culvert from the wheel pit was found beneath it. However it was not so easy to find the by-wash through which water would have been diverted when the wheel *was* not in use. It was only after several flags in the floor of the mill had been lifted, that the by-wash was found running underneath the engine beds. There was nothing left of the fulling stocks, *which* may have been removed when the mill eventually closed, the only evidence of machinery being a line shafting box, through which a drift shaft would. have run. Strange ceramic washer-like items were

also found along with various pieces of pottery, the earliest of which, surprisingly, dated back to the middle 1600s.

History of the mill

A series of maps showed that the mill we were excavating was built sometime around 1850 and documents indicated that it had been closed before 1871. At the start of the dig, John WILD, the landowner told us there was a *story of* a dam burst in which a woman had been killed. Certainly a huge wedge-shaped breach in the dam, which supplied our mill, is clearly visible and the stream is now diverted across the site through a brick culvert and. a cast iron pipe. .A series of maps indicated a 17 year period during which the burst must have occurred and one of the dig volunteers then found contemporary newspaper accounts of the catastrophe. It was at 5:15 am on Friday 16th March 1894 that the occupants of two cottages below our dig site were awakened as water demolished our old mill building (then empty) and then flooded down through their homes. William TAYLOR made valiant efforts to save Mary HILL who was already suffering from heart failure and consumption and who had recently had a stroke. TAYLOR, with the fingers of one hand trapped in the front door, held onto to Mary with his other arm until the water level appeared to have gone down. Then, as he let go of her, the back door burst in and Mary was swept to her death,

Both maps and documents show that there bad been at least one earlier building on the site and some evidence of the mill shown on the 1842 tithe map was uncovered.

Before the dig Dr Mike NEVELL director of UMAU told us that 1710 was very early date for a fulling mill in this area. Since then the documentary research has continued and we now know that a fulling mill on the site existed in 1628 and Mike NEVELL's comment was "that is extraordinary"

The dig has increased our knowledge in some important ways. We have found structures in the mill, the purpose of which is not yet known, but which we are still. working to interpret, and we now know there was industry in the area nearly 400 years ago. The dig was also a success because the volunteers had such a fascinating experience and because it made so many new people aware of the Ramsbottom. Heritage Society. . Kate Slingsby *[Kate included a photograph and plans of the dig, unfortunately lack of space means these are not in this issue of the magazine, we hope that they will be available on the Society's web-site. -Editor.]*

EXTREME WEATHER: FLOODS IN THE RAMSBOTTOM AREA

Summer 2007 rainfall levels in parts of England (records of 4.1 inches in 24 hours in June at Fylingdales, Yorkshire and 4.8 inches on the .20"' July at Pershore, Worcestershire) may have strengthened the credibility of climate change theories and. placed these ideas at the centre of mainstream politics but the Ramsbottom area seems to have remained flood-free, apart from a roadway in Summerseat. Following major work on flood defences, especially in the year 2000, the regular floods which used to

affect Summerseat and areas around Strongstry, Chatterton, Stubbins and Kenyon Street, Ramsbottom are hopefully in the past.

An inscription on a stone obelisk standing on a stepped plinth behind the aft gallery- at Peel Park, Salford, shows that on Friday, 16th November 1865 the River Irwell flooded in that area to a height of eight feet six inches. Locally a Ramsbottom newspaper correspondent reports a "great flood" on that day:

> *In consequence of the continual rain the River Irwell has become so much swollen during the night that on Friday morning it was found that a great portion of land and road between Ramsbottom and Stubbins was completely flooded, preventing a great many people from getting to their various places of work. The water has also got into several of the houses, the inmates of which have been compelled to take refuge in their upper apartments. Many of the mills have also been compelled to stop work, the water having got into the lower rooms, among the machinery etc; and it is feared that considerable damage will be the result, as the water has now spread more and is rising a great deal higher than can be remembered for a great many years.'*

Cliff GASKELL recalls a disaster at Brooksbottom when both the railway bridge and the timber bridge to the Print and Dye works were swept away.[2] It was" December 1936 when this storm affected all parts of Rossendale after a week of fogs, frost., snow and gales which culminated in over twelve hours of torrential rain. A full account appeared in the press:

> *RAMSBOTTOM BADLY HIT BY MONDAY'S FLOOD*
>
> *Much damage caused <u>in</u> local cotton Wills - Many people temporarily out of work - Over 200 houses flooded - On Monday the River Irwell rose to an unprecedented height, and overflowed its banks for miles between Rawtenstall, Ramsbottom and Bury, with the result that most of the low-lying land was inundated and many roads were impassable, including the one to Lumb (Edenfield) and that to Strongstry, as well as a stretch of Stubbins Lane. At the last named place the water was 4 or 5 feet deep.... -Kenyon Street suffered as much as any part of the area. Here there are several mills and works and all, I believe, closed down soon after the rushing waters of the swollen swell began to flow over the river wall which flanks the yards of one or two of the works at the farthest end from Peel Bridge. - Gradually Kenyon Street became a miniature lake -and practically every house from one end of this long street to the other besides houses in abutting streets (Hardy Street, Mill Street, Moore Street, Harrison Street and River Street) was flooded. Householders -had to beat a hasty retreat to upstairs rooms as the water rose to a depth of anything from two to four feet, in some instances to the windowsills. Some of the operatives from the mills, including women, had to wade*

waist high through the water when they found themselves marooned on the mill premises, while others were rescued in horse-drawn carts... Lorries with the intention of bringing the marooned people from the works to the higher ground at the Peel Bridge end of Kenyon Street were affected by the height of the water and one had to be towed out before its load of survivors could steep e once more on to dry land. - Two of the houses in this area which suffered badly owing to being below the level of the street were those behind the Good Samaritan. In one known as number 6, tenanted by an aged couple (Mr and Mrs LOMAX) the water rose to the top bar of the fire grate in the kitchen, extinguishing the fire. In the tidy little front room the sewing machine was found floating about, while the settee and chairs were ruined by the murky waters which also damaged the sideboard,... - Shopkeepers in and around Kenyon Street report that there had been a brisk trade for brushes, mops and cleaning materials. Many people visited the shops for newspaper and boxes with which to light fires, as their supplies of firewood and paper were unusable. They asked, too, for cardboard boxes in which to put the contents of sodden drawers. From five o'clock until late at night on Monday, Kenyon Street and the other houses adjoining were a centre of activity as wives, assisted by their husbands and, families scrubbed their premises and carried their furniture outside into the breeze to dry.[3]

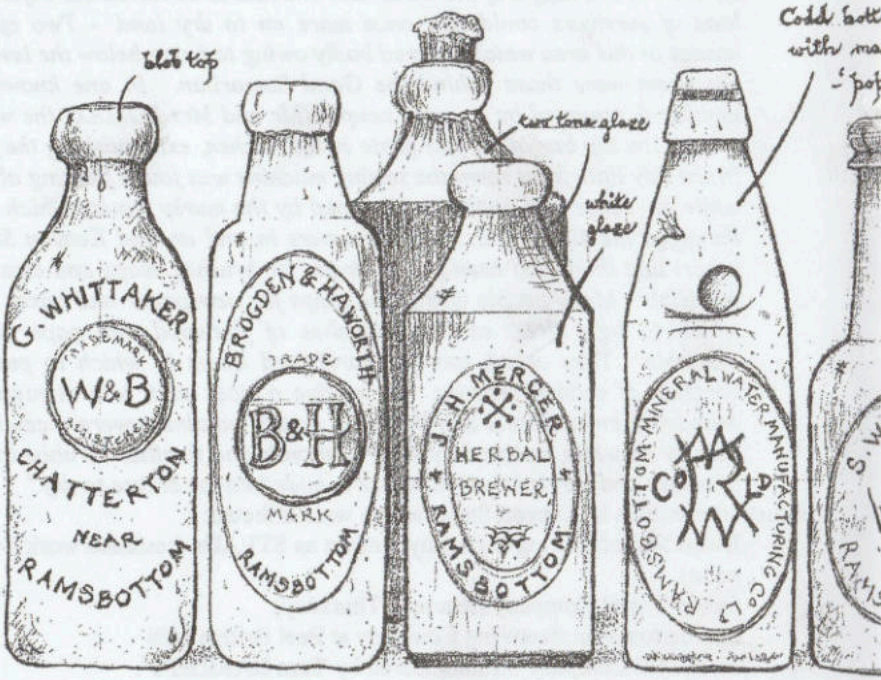
Industrial premises in Kenyon Street which were affected:

Irwell Manufacturing Company, known as STEADs (resumed work Tuesday noon)
Grove Towel Company (resumed Thursday)
Pemberton Manufacturing Company at Peel Bridge Mill
Field Mill Company - remembered by Tom BARRETT[4]. E CUNLIFFE's Chemical Works
J KAY & Sons, Britannia Soap Works

The widespread flooding on that day affected about half the works in Ramsbottom altogether, including Holme Mill, Bolton Street Mill, and Square Bleachworks, and also other vulnerable places, especially around Stubbins, Strongstry, and Chatterton. Late on Monday afternoon at Irwell Vale the village was a hive of activity, `every resident being busy with a broom, some being stockingless'. Part of several new extensions at AITKEN's Irwell Vale mill had been built over the River Ogden so water backed up because it could not pass in the space beneath the building. The weaving shed, big loom shed, warehouse, the doubling and winding departments and the offices were flooded. with seven electric motors inundated and a considerable amount of cloth and other mill. material damaged. About two hundred workers were laid off until Wednesday morning. CROMPTON's Paper Mill, Stubbins, was another works which closed down, temporarily while at nearby Stubbins Station people used ladders to access the

Mineral Water Manufacturers avoun

Based on work by Malcolm Starkie — in Rawtenstall Reg



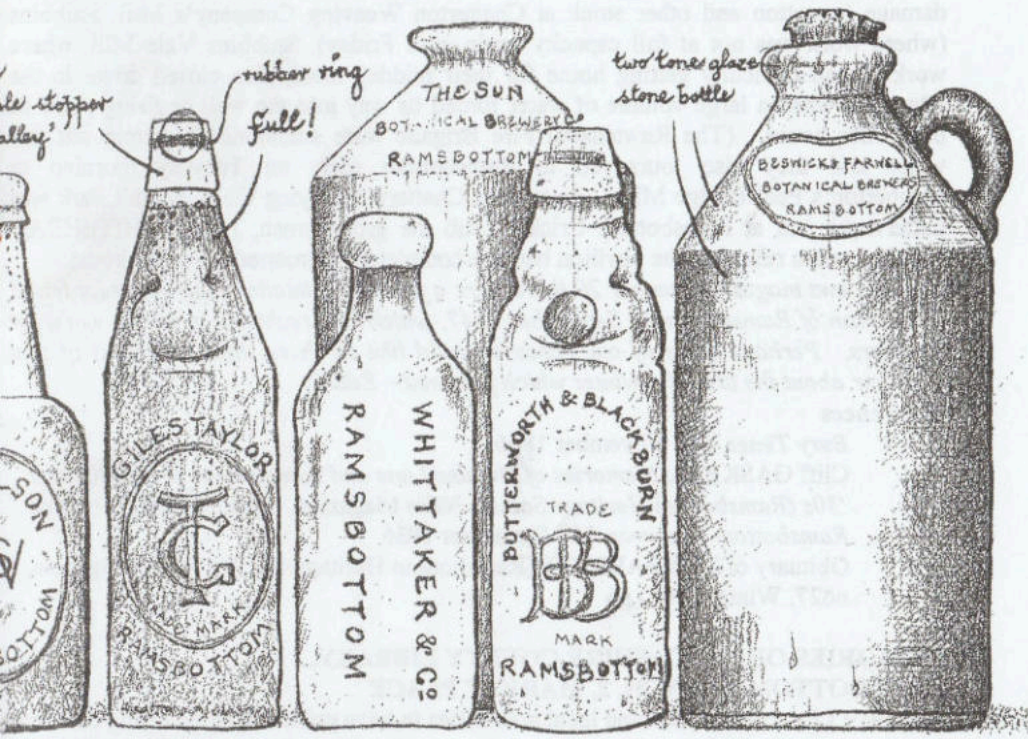
NAME...	George Whittaker	Brogden & Haworth	Joe Joseph H. Mercer	Ramsbottom Mineral	Samu S. W
MAKER...	Mineral water man. & farmer	Mineral water man. Ginger beer & Soda water man.	Herbalist Herbal brewer 'Station Temperance Bar'	Water Man. Co. Ltd.	Beer
ADDRESS...	The Eaves, off Holcombe Rd., Chatterton.	34, Bolton St.	7, Bridge St. (Church photo 'Around Bam' &	Kay Brow — Barwood Lea Flats	Rail
DATE...	1883 —	c 1880 —	c 1901 — c 1924	1892 — c 1913	c 18

Relation of Thos. Mercer, Springbank Brewery, Edenfield

d Ramsbottom

John B. Taylor 2007

Library



lson

Giles Taylor — Minerals. Cordials, Ginger beer. Soda water. Hazelhurst. Regent St. 192, Bolton Rd. Geoffrey St. 1895 ~ 1960.

Henry Whittaker — Ginger beer makers, Cordials. Back Bolton St. 1876 1883 ~ ....

Thomas Albert Butterworth & William Blackburn — Mineral water man. Botanic beer man. Chatterton Spring St. Rami ~ 1913 ~

Beswick & Furnell — Botanical brewers. Shuttleworth. Also ~ medical herbalist William Howard 9, Bolton St. G. Hanson .... & others ....

Is The Sun the Rising Sun near the Rose & Crown?

platforms because the subway was underwater. The Bury Fire engine was brought in to pump water from the retort house at the Gas Works. (It stood just north of Stubbins railway bridge opposite the *Railway Hotel,* now closed.) There was considerable damage to cotton and other stock at Chatterton Weaving Company's Mill, Stubbins (where work was not at full capacity again until Friday). Stubbins Vale Mill, where workers had difficulty getting home for their midday meal, also closed down in the afternoon when a large volume of water forced its way into the well or firing place of the boiler, house. (The Rawtenstall Fire Brigade were summoned to pump out this water and they also journeyed to Ramsbottom early on Tuesday morning to Pemberton's Peel Bridge Mill.) As well as Chatterton Playing Field, Nuttall Park was underwater and at Ramsbottom Cricket Club the groundsman, Harry WHITEHEAD who had taken refuge in the pavilion became completely marooned for a few hours. *(In our news magazine number 20 there were a few basic details about the great Irwell inundation of Ramsbottom in September 1947, which was reckoned to be the worst for 65 years. Perhaps some of our readers would like to share their memories of that event, or about the dreadful winter which followed - Editor)*

(References

I *Bury.Times,* .17th November 1866
2 Cliff GASKELL, *Memories of Dundee Lane and Summerseat in the '20s and '30s (Ramsbottom Heritage Society News* Magazine, no 13, Summer 1996) p3
3 *Ramsbottom Observer, 18th* December 1936
4 Obituary of Torn BARRETT (Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine, no 27, Winter 2004) p6

MEMORIES OF LANCASHIRE COUNTY LIBRARY, RAMSBOTTOM BRANCH, 2, MARKET PLACE

The 1919 Libraries Act enabled local. authorities to have public libraries in any town but it was not until 1925 that chairman of the town's urban district council, Councillor Daniel SHILTON, officially opened the voluntary service library in Market Place, Ramsbottom. Two years later a part time library was started and in 1937 we had a full time staff at the county branch library, as reported in the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 1st Dec 1950.

Mrs Mona HALL recalls the time when she worked in the library in the days when it occupied the premises at 2 Market Place, now part of Denise SMITH's lighting shop, on the corner of Bridge Street.

Her first job on leaving school in 1935, aged 1.6, had been on the cash desk at WEBSTER & PEACOCK's, high-class grocers, in Silver Street, Ramsbottom. Wanting a change she requested an application form from Lancashire County Council. for a position at the library. Mona remembers being interviewed by the County Librarian, Mr IRWIN. There were three applicants and Mona was offered the job on the spot. Miss Clara P BATE, who had transferred from Wigan, was the branch

librarian in charge. Six years older than Mona , she was at first in digs with Mrs PEERS in Dundee Lane. Later she moved to a cottage in Square Street, next to what is now the Bury Hospice shop, The library Working hours were between 9 a.m. (Or possibly 9.30am) and 8pm every weekday and on Saturdays till lunchtime, evenings were particularly busy. Two members of staff were on duty but when one of them took her holidays the other had to manage on her own. Every Saturday at that time there were stalls on the Market Place. The library was just one room with the entrance door facing the Market Place. Library staff shared the upstairs toilet with Mr Harry LONSDALE, a professional photographer, who had his studio above the library.

Early in 1945 the town was in a state of great excitement due to the impending visit of the King and Queen. The ladies in the library watched with amusement as workmen took up the cobbles one day because the Royal couple were coming. *`We all thought it was a joke,'* Mona said. The workmen. also built a platform in front of the *Grant Arms* for the occasion. On 8th March, the day of the visit, Mona wore her fur coat to work. Bought by her parents for her 21st birthday, she felt it made her took `very posh'. On a photograph taken that day of the King and Queen meeting town folk and local dignitaries Mona and her colleagues can be seen looking out of the library window at the spectacle taking place in front of them. Among the main subjects of the picture are the Chairman of the RUDC Gilbert HOLT and behind him on the right is the Clerk to the Council Frank BELLIS. Further right are members of the WRVS and the vicar of St Philip's Church, Mr WYNNE with his daughter Joyce who had attended Haslingden Grammar School with Mona. She recalls the occasion as a very special day for Ramsbottom and says that it is wonderful to have the memories still to draw on. Mona regrets not taking the Library Association examinations but at the end of the War she resigned and took a job as Registrar with Lancashire County Council on the retirement of Mr James HORROCKS.

(Mona was married to Billy HALL in 1940, She spent 40 years in local government altogether and eventually became Deputy Superintendent registrar for Bury, With the boundary redrawn in 1974 Mona moved to the Bury office in Parsons Lane until, just before her 60th birthday 1979, she retired.)

Here are a few items which have been selected from Miss BATE's annual reports to the Library Committee while she was the librarian at 2, Market Place: 1939- 40 - with the outbreak of World War II the library stockroom was converted to an air raid shelter *(presumably the basement of 2, Market Place - Editor)* The numbers of books totalled at Ramsbottom with 420 more housed at Summerseat, a village library centre *(which opened in 1938).*

A squadron of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry stationed in the district hod borrowed a set of Somerset MAUGHAN's plays.

1941-2 - There had been difficulty with transport for exchanging books at Summerseat.

1942-3 , arrangements had been made with the Railway Company for the carriage of three boxes of books to Summerseat periodically.
1943-4 - in March 1944 Turn Village Centre. (with 200 books in one cupboard) was opened in the Council School. The headmaster Mr PARKIN was the voluntary librarian.
1944-5 - when a second cupboard had been supplied to Turn, the stock was increased to 278. A branch at Harwood had 2,383 books.
1947-8 - Lt Col AT PORRITT, who was on the library committee, presented 28 volumes of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and an index for use at Harwood.
1950-1 - Tottington had its own library committee. Administrative details about Tottington appear in Miss BATE's reports,

The service point of Ramsbottom Library closed for eight days in November 1950 for the removal from 2, Market Place to Carr Street *(now Ramsbottom Heritage Centre - Editor).* This building is described as a new temporary structure, centrally heated with accommodation for about *7,500* books and consisting of a general room for all purposes, a small storeroom and a staff room.
In May a new village centre had been opened in Edenfield Community Centre.
Miss BATE continued her work as the librarian at Ramsbottom until she retired in March 1958. By that time details, of library service points mentioned in her reports included those froth Egerton, Whitworth, Eagley, the Barlow Institute Centre at Edgworth and the National Children's Home Centre. She also reports on an extensive schools library service and the mobile library.
(See the front cover for drawing of 2 Market Place Ramsbottom in 2007.)

Linda de Ruijter and Janet Smith

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF WILLIAM GRANT (1733 -1817)

William and Grace GRANT and their family are commemorated by our second blue plaque which is now in place on the facade of the Grant. Arms, Hotel. As the inscription says, before the present frontage was added in 1828 the rear part of the building was the GRANTS' home. Two of their sons, William and Daniel, are known as the Inspiration for Charles DICKENS' Cheeryble Brothers in "Nicholas Nickleby".
On 15' March 2006 Blue Badge Guide, Pamela PARKINSON, gave a talk to the society entitled "Ramsbottom and the Grant Family". We are very grateful to her for letting us have a copy of it. In the introduction she mentioned that on Ramsbottom. Heritage Day 2006 she had watched the short film on the making of our video, "Ramsbottom's Heritage", and heard one of the contributors say that people had little knowledge of the Scottish Drovers. The following extracts give us a glimpse into the life of William GRANT (senior), who had been a Scottish Drover, and they also illustrate Pamela's belief that the qualities required of a drover certainly helped the GRANTS to pursue their goals.

Let's consider what was happening in Scotland and England in the mid to late 18th century. In 1746 there was the Battle of Culloden which was the final blow for those who wanted to reinstate the Stuart family to the throne. After 1746 draconian measures were put in place to dismantle the clan system and enforce relative peace to the highlands. New roads were being constructed so that the military could move around this hostile country more easily. With these more peaceful times, the legitimate business of cattle dealing or droving gained importance and was to increase in value steadily through the later years of the 18th century.

In England there were outbreaks of cattle disease such as foot and mouth disease and we all know what that means to a livestock industry. The navy and army were involved in many wars in Europe and overseas and they needed salted beef as food for their journeys, Scottish cattle, fattened on the richer grasslands of England helped to meet this need. Cattle drovers took cattle from all over the highlands and islands to cattle fairs. The most famous one was at Crieff but after 1770 this "Great Tryst" as it was called, was moved to Falkirk. There was another cattle fair called the Hallow Fair held in Edinburgh.

Having bought or sold cattle at these fairs, the drover may have had to take cattle on to markets south of the border in Carlisle, Craven in Yorkshire or even London. The drovers were responsible for the health and welfare of the cattle in their care. When droving through the winter months they would need to buy hay to feed the animals and buy shoes to protect their hooves. The book "The Famous Highland Drove Walk" was written about the attempt in 1981 to recreate the famous drove walk from the Isle of Skye to Crieff and it explains this in more detail. Some drovers may have paid the farmer up front for the cattle but it was more common for the drover to give the farmer a promissory note or "Drover's bill" which would be exchanged for cash once the animals had been sold - and this could be many weeks after the cattle had left the farm for market. These drover's bills were often used as currency especially when the farmer needed to pay his rent to the landlord. He would hand over these bills to the landlord in payment.

By the late 18"' century such were the improvements in the quality of cattle feed and animal husbandry that cattle could fetch between 30 shillings and £4 -each depending on their weight and quality. If a drover was selling 1,000 cattle, this represented a large sum of money in those days. So it was definitely in the drover's best interests to protect the cattle in his care and to protect himself and the proceeds until he could repay the farmer, And don't forget, these drovers were more than likely to be illiterate. What skills did the drover need? Well he needed to know the countryside along his route and regulate his travel and rest days to get the herd to the market on time and in good condition. Once at the market he needed good business skills to gain the best price for the stock. Then he needed to be capable of protecting himself and his herd from attack by outlaws and cattle thieves. And drovers were always armed. There are reports of drovers not being able to repay the farmers and of drovers and farmers going

bankrupt but the majority of drovers were regarded as being fairly honest. For example, at the London Smithfield market in 1782 it was recorded that one drover distributed £2,000 between 30 farmers each of whom had no security for their money other than the honesty of the drover.

What has this to do with the GRANTs? Well we know that William GRANT was a cattle drover and tenant farmer in Scotland. We know that the family travelled down via Skipton. Skipton is in the Craven district of Yorkshire so William was most probably following one his old droving routes when he brought his family down to Manchester.

The drover as we have heard needed good business skills to gain the best price for his stock. I think you will agree that both young William and especially Daniel learned these skills from their father. Daniel was the salesman and travelled all over the country to secure orders. You may have heard the story of Daniel trying to secure an order from a busy customer in Glasgow. The, customer, irate that Daniel was being so persistent, threw him out into the street and the sample book fell into the mud. Daniel picked himself up, dusted himself down, wiped clean his sample book and undaunted went back in to see his customer. "Now sir, I'm sure you'll give me an order - there's fortune in these, a fortune, just look at them!" The story goes that this appeal was irresistible. A lasting friendship began and a long and lucrative business connection was formed between the two firms.

What other qualities did the parents pass on to their sons? It is said that William was a strong man and a noted athlete.. He was known for being able to lift up a 3-hundredweight 'knockin stone' used for grinding grain before the days of corn mills. He was kind, patient and obliging. His wife Grace was a woman of striking personality and extraordinary force of character. Whilst her husband was away for weeks on end driving the cattle, she was left with the management of the farm and bringing up her young family. She was resourceful and energetic and equal to surviving the harsh conditions that was farm life in those days.

Where was this farm? The farm known as Wester Elchies is across the River Spey from the. village of Aberlour and not far from the village of Craigellachie in the county of Morayshire in northeast Scotland. This area is in the heart of what the tourist industry now calls "Malt Whisky country". `Craigellachie' may be the war cry of the Clan Grant but it is also the name of the village at the confluence of the rivers, Spey and Fiddich.

So we know what a drover was, we know a little of the character of the parents and where they came from. What happened to make them leave Speyside? Well the short answer to that is that their farm was washed away in devastating floods. The winter of 1782 was one of the seven worst winters in Scotland in the second half of the 18th century. The effects of this would lead to widespread famine across Scotland. The GRANTs were left with nothing and faced certain famine and debt. Although there were very strong family ties to that area and they could probably have sought some

support from the family in the short term I think it was probably Grace. who took the initiative and said, "Come on, we must Move." Why did they leave Scotland? Why did they not move to another area of Scotland? The linen industry was thriving in Perth, and Glasgow was rapidly establishing itself as a major industrial centre with a growing population to rival Edinburgh.

I think William would have been well aware of this but it could be that he had heard better reports of the initiatives being undertaken in England whilst he was at the road driving the cattle. William would have told Grace about the new cotton industry in Lancashire and I think she pieced all the information together and recognised that their future lay south of the border. Certainly in some reports it says that William had a letter of introduction to Richard ARKRIGHT in Manchester.

So in 1793 the family left Speyside; William was aged 50, his wife grace was 40 and their seven children ranged in ages from 16 yrs to just 6 months old. Can you imagine what that journey must have been like? They had been able to salvage a horse and cart but there were no motorways or train, No macadamed roads. There was an improving network of turnpike roads but you had to pay a toll - in some cases there was a toll cottage every 6 miles. The drovers tended to shun these turnpikes not only because the surface harmed the cattle's hooves but mainly on the grounds of cost -this journey from Speyside was well over 300 miles.

They came via Skipton and found their way to the Park estate just above. Ramsbottom and camped there for their last night before the final push to Manchester. They had been rationing their food and were sparing with their money but that night they ate the last of their food and had no money left. It was a family tradition to have evening prayers and the prayers that night included a plea that they be relieved of their sore trouble and given food to feed the hungry. their prayers were answered the next day by two members of a shooting party. On hearing their plight these men gave the family two sovereigns to help them on their way. A sovereign was quite a sum of money. William thanked God for this proof of His care and proclaimed that the beautiful valley before him reminded him of his beloved Speyside even though the river Irwell was not as grand. What else would he have seen down in the valley? Well at the time Ramsbottom consisted of two farms, one mill and a building site for the future Old Ground works of PEEL and YATES.

They continued <u>their</u> way to Manchester only to have their hopes dashed on learning that Richard ARKRIGHT, the largest employer in Manchester at the time, was not taking on any <u>new</u> workers. Dejected they made their way back up to Bury where an old acquaintance lived. James DINWIDDIE was a fellow Scot and he owned a calico printing business at Hampson Mill. He helped the GRANTs find a home in Bury and was able to provide immediate employment to William and his two eldest sons, James and William. Subsequently he was able to employ nearly all members of the family. I say nearly all because little Mary, a frail 8 year old worked for PEEL and YATES at their Hinds Mills. One stormy day in November 1784 *Mary* drowned possibly whilst

crossing the River Irwell on her way to work. Mary was buried in the cemetery which used to be in Bank Street, Bury.

Very early on father William found that he could not adjust to the claustrophobic life of factory work. So he put his droving skills to good use by becoming an itinerant salesman hawking pieces of cloth at factory gates or in pubs, after payday, anywhere, where people congregated and still had money in their pockets. As enterprising as ever he enquired what sort of goods his customers would like and added to his stock accordingly.

Meanwhile the sons became first-rate apprentices learning all aspects of the calico printing trade. Mr DINWIDDIE was so impressed with young William that he invited him into partnership. William declined the offer because he had his sights set on a family business. When the children were not working in the factory, they helped out in the drapery shop which their parents had opened in Bury Lane (now Bolton Street, Bury). As business grew so all the family became involved full time and they moved into larger premises, lending up with a double-fronted shop in the Wylde by the Market Place.

I have to report that the GRANTs were not particularly popular in fury. The locals found their Scottish ways a little irksome. They spoke with a strange accent. They were used to getting up early so they had their shop open for business well before any of the other shops in the town. The shop was well stocked and the goods displayed attractively. They were always very gracious to their customers arid offered refreshment to any customers who had travelled in from the country. Today we would call this good customer service. It took quite a while for the locals to accept these incomers but the GRANTs persevered. The family was noted for their great love of music and entertainment. They acquired a barrel organ which played 32 tunes, They set it up in the front window of their shop and people used to gather round to listen. If you think about the Scottish ceilidh you will recognise this as another Scottish trait. In 1806, just six years after William GRANT and Brothers had started in Manchester, the GRANTs disposed of the shop in Bury and bought the factory and estate of PEEL and YATES in Ramsbottom. It cost them £9,800, a sum which was to stretch them financially for quite a few years.

So they have now arrived in Ramsbottom. Father William GRANT was 73 yrs, Grace 63. They moved into the property built for Henry WARREN, one of the partners in PEEL and YATES. This property was known as `Top of the Brow' but was soon renamed `Grant Lodge'. It is now part of `The Grant Arms' hotel. Grace turned it into a warm and comfortable home with a lovely garden. It was here that favoured customers would be entertained and also where some of the entertainments would be given to their workers.

(According to Reverend HUME ELLIOTT:

the garden was laid out in the shape of a heart, The gates of the house, with stone pillars and rounded capitals, stood just opposite the top of Bridge Street. Round the

outer fence of the garden ran a row of goodly trees, which continued in front of what is now the Conservative Club and Doctor DEAN's surgery ie the Civic Hall and the lodge house. The trees extended northwards towards the point where the New Jerusalem Church was afterwards erected i.e. the junction of Factory Street and Ramsbottom Lane.

HUME ELLIOT also makes special reference to his friend the nonagenarian Mrs Eliza WILSON; whose 'clear and accurate memory' apparently helped him with a large proportion of the information in his book. Before her marriage she was employed in the warehouse of the Old Ground. She was taken from the warehouse into the service of Mrs GRANT at Grant Lodge. - Editor.)

Soon Ramsbottom was to change significantly as did most villages and towns in the area. In 1807 the GRANTs built a drying house on land to the south of Old Ground. (Once Square Mill became operational after 1822, this drying house was no longer required so the building was converted into four dwellings, each occupied by a Scottish family, hence the name Scotch Row, now Scotland Place.) In 1812 the GRANT bought Nuttall spinning mill. This mill had been silent since the death of its owner Mr ALSOP. They rebuilt it and installed the latest machinery. They also built lots of accommodation for their workers - although housing them in some instances more than seven to a room was probably not what we would call comfortable. It is said that the GRANTs also provided the workers with a complete set of clothes, so destitute were they after the long lapse in work between the death. of Mr ALSOP and the re-opening by the GRANTs. In 1815 they bought Blackley Hall near Manchester together with four acres of land and built a print shop on the site. This they let out. They bought Springside, a large house near Walmersley, sadly now demolished. At first William. and Daniel used this as their weekend retreat but they settled there permanently in later years and this is where they both died.
Around 1817 their brother John GRANT built a new home for himself which he called Nuttall Hall. This was on the site of Lower Shipperbottom Farm. He also bought the former Nuttall Hall which was now in ruins and turned this into Nuttall Farm. Father William GRANT died in 1817 and his widow Grace in 1821. In 1827 the GRANTs bought the Park Estate and built Grants Tower as a monument to commemorate the family's first visit to the valley. It had been his mother's wish that a church .and Sunday school be built and in 1832 William laid the foundation stone for what was to become the Presbyterian church. It cost £5,000 to build and was probably the first church in the country to have heating. This came from waste heat from the Square Works down by the river which was fed through a tunnel up the hillside to the church. When. you think about it, this idea was centuries ahead of its time. It's only in comparatively recent years that waste heat from power stations has been used to grow tomatoes and such like.

Were the GRANTS any more popular in Ramsbottom than they were in Bury? Probably. It was reported in a conversation "Some masters when they get a bit rich, leave us and the capital goes with them. That's bad for us. The old GRANTs, they live in the valley and keep the brass at home for use. We want more of that sort. They don't leave us when they have made a bit of a pile. And we ought to stick to that sort of master, none of your idle globe-trotting fellows,"

So I will leave you with a question. Do you think we would be celebrating the life and works of the GRANT family if they had not been immortalised by Charles Dickens as the `Cheeryble Brothers'?

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Charles Dickens and the 'Cheeryble' Grants: R R CARMYLLIE,
Long Life and Success to the Farmer - a History of the Agricultural Societies of Bury: Alan J SEYMOUR

Pamela PARKINSON

"OUR BOYS - THE GREAT WAR IN A LANCASHIRE VILLAGE"

"Our Boys" were the lads, some still in their teens, who left Hawkshaw to fight in the Great war. Jonathan ALI's interest in the First World war started when as a youngster, he read the names on the three memorials placed in the church and chapels of Hawkshaw to the 40 dead and 127 survivors, These boys could have come from anywhere in Lancashire so great was the impact of the *War to end all Wars. "Our Boys"* is available from Ramsbottom Library priced £8.00.

DO YOU NEED HELP TO RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Ramsbottom Library is holding Family history Surgeries on the last Thursday of each month from 3pm to 7pm. So if you want to start or need a little help (or a lot) come along with your query or problem.
The next session is on Thursday 29th November; there will be no session in December; then each month from Thursday 3lst January 2008.

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

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

Our new searchroom features large reading tables, computer and internet access, microfich 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, Bu BL9 0DG – tel 0161 253 5871 has publications on local history, historical printed works local interest such as trade directories, older OS maps for the whole of Bury MBC, includ Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings wo pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Pip Cowli 33, Windhill Old Road, Bradford, BD10 0SE – tel 01274 611087, email membership@lfhhs.org.uk. Ordinary membership is £12 per year (concessi £9.50) and this entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your resea queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. More information is available www.lfhhs.org.uk.

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street, BL0 9AE tel 0161 253 5352, (IT – tel 0161 253 5354) email Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk
The library boasts a state-of-the-art IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local history collection of the Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets are also available.

Opening hours are: 9.30am to 7.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

The new Video/DVD from Ramsbottom Heritage Society

Ramsbottom's Heritage

Running Time: 75 minutes
Price £14.99
DVD or Video



Industrial Village, New Town and Railway 1783-1846

OoooooOOOOOooooo

A story that will intrigue you, whether you're here for the day, or have lived here for years!

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 34 Spring 2008 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME 2008

June 18	Ms J. Fitton - *Cotton Threads* - the Hutchinson family legacy to Bury
July 16	Ms Dorothy Greaves - Visit to Rochdale Pioneers, Co-operative Museum. Meet 6.30 pm at Carr Street car park, Ramsbottom. Transport by car sharing.
August 20	Mr A. Baldwin - Guided walk around the Scout Moor Wind Farm site. Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street car park, Ramsbottom. Transport by car sharing.
September 17	Mr A. Todd - *An Historical Saunter around Ramsbottom Town Centre*" – Illustrated.
October 15	Miss Margaret Curry - *Tales of Two Cities (continued) - Manchester & Salford* – Illustrated.
November 19	Mr Jonathan Ali - *Ninety Years On* - WW1 legacy to Hawkshaw.
December 10	**Members Night – Christmas Festivities** - Social evening

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

Entry by donation, please.

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Front cover The Cliffe at Stubbins 2008 byJ0hn B TAYLOR

To the left and behind are the old tennis court [1908] and the gardener's lodge house, later Porritt House. The garden has been "improved" by the artist grass cut, shrubs trimmed and some conifers removed to show the building to advantage.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Despite continuing absence from the Heritage Centre refurbishment having been further postponed whilst a bid for additional funding, and an application for planning approval, are being considered, requirements imposed in order to ensure, for environment reasons the external finish of the building -is in sympathy with that of the newly refurbished Library across the road. Society activities have continued unabated, This year marks the of the donation to the townspeople of Ramsbottom by Col. AT. PORRITT, of Nutal1 Hall, and Park A small group of members working together with Friends of Nuttall Park and Bury MBC, is arranging an appropriate commemoration, to be held on 12th July. Plans include the mounting of a replica of the plaque commemorating the original donation of 1928 into a stone monolith quarried from nearby Fletcher Bank Quarry and very generously donated by Marshalls Mono Ltd., the quarry owners. The Society has also organised a children's Art Competition, involving children from all schools in the town, with prizes to be awarded on the day by our mayor. A great day is anticipated. The Holcombe Moor Heritage Group, of which the Society is a member, has been working to create greater public awareness of the attributes of the Moor, partly a MOD training area, including flora, fauna, and aspects of historical interest former farmsteads, and industrial sites. Walk leaflets and orientation boards have been produced, and an archaeological dig is planned for later in the year jointly with University of Manchester Archaeology Group; this may be an

opportunity for those members who took part in the Society's own dig' last year to have another go. During the winter members of the Conservation Group have taken part in recently established Ramsbottom Business Group activities attending meetings and making contributions when appropriate; whilst we aren't strictly a business in the commercial sense developments in the town are very much our concern, and I believe it's right we should be involved, Another new venture in partnership with Bury BMBC Archive and other community groups, is the planning of a joint photograph archive, intended to bring to a wider audience the of member organisations via a shared web-site; it seems to be a highly technical business, and we are fortunate indeed in having John LEYLAND, our own web site manager involved on our behalf. Mention of photographs brings to mind the 2007 Photo Competition the results of which were declared at our March meeting, A wonderful array of images of events and activities taking place during the year, one of which depicted an activity not previously mentioned in these columns, that of member Graham TWIDALE gilding Ramsbottom and districts post boxes; with permission of the Post Office of course, but what a difference Graham's made to the image of the town. So, much goes on. We now look forward to summer, with the first Summer Ramble of the year at the end of April.

Tony Murphy

BOOK REVIEW •OUR BOYS - THE GREAT WAR IN A LANCASHIRE BY JONATHAN ALI

This is certainly a book with a difference, reflecting as it does the heartbreak of a community seen through the eyes of a person raised and still living in the village, ninety years after the events he describes. Hawkshaw was undoubtedly an unlucky village, having to endure a disproportionate number of casualties during the Great Wan as 40 of its 141 young men who went to war did not return. Picking painstakingly and comprehensively through contemporary records the author has been able to compile short pen-pictures of the 40 men and attach a photograph of each to the narrative, Although each death is put into its military context, he does not attempt anything more than an outline of the actual course of the war, and this has helped to localise the story, giving the overall impression that it is a story of Hawkshaw rather than of the war itself. Although the soldiers are the main focus of the story, the narrative paints a much wider picture of the village and some of its characters in particular the headmaster of the local school, Thomas BECKETT , who strove to keep in touch with the local men at the front, We get an overview of some of the village institutions it's three churches, the local mills and farms, the football team, but surprisingly not the village pub, which fails to get a mention. We are reminded that in such a small community everyone knew everyone else, and that each death was not just a blow to the immediate family but to all the village

Inhabitants. The official notifications from the front were formal though often speaking warmly of the qualities of the deceased but much more poignant were the letters sent by colleagues and follow Hawkshaw soldiers to the families, The story did not end with the end of the fighting and this is portrayed towards the end of the book For the widows and surviving the agony would continue, and the incident of the woman unable to watch the end-of-war celebrations as she sat at home behind closed curtains is particularly moving, The coming change in the way wars would be fought is hinted at in the disclosure that Hawkshaw lost just one man in the 1939-1945 War. Nobody was hurt when a Zeppelin flew over the district in 1916, apart from an elderly lady who died of shock but those of us old enough to remember will recall civilian casualties at Tottington in 1944. All in all this is an excellent publication, marred only by some less than perfect proof reading. That should .not be allowed to detract from the merit of the book which is a "must" for both local and military historians as well as the general reader The combination of text and photos has skillfully managed and the italicising of letters and verse breaks up the text and is easy on the eye, The high quality glossy paper and an imaginative cover add to the attraction of the book, and reading it will only confirm the first-sight impression that the price represents very good value for money.

Ken Inman Chairman, Buy Branch, Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society

["Our boys " is available at Ramsbottom Library for only £8.00 Editor]

CONSERVATION GROUP SPRING 2008

This spring the Conservation Group report is more to do with work in progress than of new projects completed, It continues however to be varied, interesting and challenging. In the last magazine I mentioned what is being done in preparation for the anniversary of the opening of Nuttall Park. The Friends of Nuttall Park, led by Bury MBC park ranger Amy LEACH, are organising an important event:

The "Nuttall Park Extravaganza" event is to be held on July 2008 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the park's opening by Lt Col PORRITT on July 21st 1928.

Andrew TODD wrote about that day in 1928 for the 70th anniversary (RHS Magazine number 17) and mentioned the original bronze plaque which was cast to commemorate the gift of Nuttall Hall and the park; by Lt Col PORRITT to the people of Ramsbottom. The 27-inch plaque is still held by Ramsbottom Heritage Society (l wonder how many of you have read the inscription on it when you visited the Heritage Centre?) Obviously .it is relevant to this summer's celebrations so we are busy pursuing ideas as to how it can be made more accessible to the public. Brenda RICHARDS has nearly finished the interpretation board, which tells the story of Nuttall Hall and in this magazine

we publish an article which gives glimpses of Lt Col PORRITT his family and their company. We hope that by the time the autumn magazine is published we will have erected two other interpretation boards. The New Jerusalem Board will be completed as soon as the council have renovated its site on the corner of Ramsbottom Lane and Factory Street and we are in the process of upgrading the Market Place board, which has deteriorated over the years. There has also been some progress on the University of Manchester's report on the archaeological dig at Kibboth Crew. We have now seen the draft report and there will be a site visit by Mike NEVELL, Director of the Archaeology Unit, to check some of the measurements and take a final look at the structures there. We hope that following a submission to the NHS and the council, the horribly garish yellow and black bollards around the car park in Carr Street will be painted black with a white line near the top, as are all the other bollards in the town. Having admired the local post boxes with their gilded sovereign's crests I'm sure you will be glad to know that Graham TWIDALE's paintbrush will soon be in action again. This time his task (with council permission, of course) will be to repaint some of the street signs, which have become so shabby they are difficult to read. You will remember that just over a year ago, the Ramsbottom Conservation Area was greatly extended and at that time an independent report was commissioned by Mick NIGHTINGALE, the Conservation Officer for Bury, to identify factors which are detrimental to visual impact of the area. Anne MORTIMER, Brenda RICHARDS, Graham TWIDALE and I have volunteered to help him prepare a management plan to deal with these issues so if you have any ideas which might preserve the heritage of the town, please let us know, Bury- Archive have approached us and other similar local groups with the suggestion of a joint heritage photograph website, With John LEYLAND, we are still looking into the implications of this and Tony MURPHY will be attending the next meeting to discuss it further. As you will see a wide variety of issues come under the remit of the Conservation Group and if you would like to be involved or just to find out more, you would be more than welcome to come along.

Kate SLINGSBY

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2007

Overall winner of the Dickensian Trophy is Alice O'Brien for her entry in the Town & Country Category. Congratulations.

Category winners are - Town & Country First prize Alice O 'Brien Ramsbottom Wharf 2007

Highly commended Tim Meadows & Karen Clarke

Events & Daily Life

First Prize	Ian Summers First load for Scout Moor Windfarm 2007
Highly commended	Brenda Richards & Ian Summers

Buildings

First prize	Brian Clarke Cottages,Bass Lane, Summerseat
Highly commended	John O'Connor & Kate Slingsby

Themes

First prize	Brenda Richards
Highly commended	Linda de Ruijter & Judith Appleby

LT COL A T PORRITT: DONOR TO OUR TOWN OF NUTTALL PARK, 1928

We hope the following article helps to satisfy curiosity about certain members of the PORRITT who were our town's most generous benefactors. As well as conducting our research we have used the work of others, notably Derek FITTON and John SIMPSON, to whom are particularly grateful.

PORRITTs', Stubbins Vale Mill Notes on Company Background:

When the PORRITT family established mills in the Ramsbottom area, they already had a long tradition of involvement in woollen manufacturing. During the 19 Century they carried on woollen manufacture in Norfolk and soon afterwards they moved to the West Riding of Yorkshire and settled at Easington, Early in the 17th Century one Thomas PORRITT migrated from there to Birstall., also in the West Riding, where he earned his living as a maker of broadcloth. Thomas prospered and became a master clothier. The business was handed down in the main line of the family until the 18th Century when Joseph PORRITT (1746-1802) transferred his business - first to Rochdale and then to Bury. Around 1825, Joseph's two grandsons Joseph (1808-68) and James (1810-96) became partners in their firm J and J PORRITT, Joseph decided to try his luck in the specialised work of making woollen felts for the paper industry, They had premises in Stanley Street, Bury in 1829, expanded rapidly and moved into Dearden Clough Mill in 1838. Brother Samuel PORRITT (1815-84) was taken into partnership and in 1842 brother-in-law John AUSTIN (1820-71) joined the firm. Soon they decided to lease a fulling mill from the GRANTs at Springwood, Ramsbottom. The firm's assets continued to grow. They again faced the problem of premises and also wanted to be free from the vagaries of landlords so they bought the Stubbins Vale Estate, .James PORRITT designed their mill, which was built alongside the railway line using millstone grit from quarries on the estate. He was so anxious to see that the work was properly carried out that he went up on the scaffolding every day, and was actually seen climbing to the top of the chimneystack to make careful examination. The partnership of PORRITT Bros & AUSTIN was installed in the new Stubbins Vale Mill in 1851 and they

left Springwood in 1852 following problems with the effluent. Senior partner Joseph PORRITT and his sons left the company and returned to Springwood in 1858. (The three PORRITT brothers had some twelve sons between them so their portion of the assets of the firm would not be very great.) Later Joseph bought Sunnybank Mills at Helmshore. Samuel PORRITT, who had five sons, decided to follow his eldest brother's example and left the firm in 1866 to start up in Bamford. When James PORRITT died in 1896 aged 85, his sons continued the business at Stubbins Vale Mill. Austin PORRITT continued his father, Richard Millett PORRITT's work in installing new machinery at Stubbins Vale Mill. A new weaving shed was added to the mill complex in 1907 and in the following year electric light was installed throughout the mills, Austin PORRITT also made the firm into a limited company and included fifty employees among the shareholders. Because of World War I some of his expansion plans were put on hold but there were more additions from the 1920s to 1940s. During World War some pans of' the mill had to be closed down because of shortages but demand for papermakers' felts continued to be high. The company contributed to the war effort by manufacturing felt for sealing bullet holes aircraft tanks. They opened a canteen at Stubbins Vale and workpeople began to enjoy holidays with pay. Throughout the war they also paid special allowances to the dependents of employees who were serving m the Armed Forces. Derek FITTON includes the following as a quotation:

The PORRITTs had not desecrated the landscape lite so many of their fellow industrialists. Their mills and houses were unobtrusive and well built. They planted trees along this part of the Irwell Valley and it has maintained its predominantly rural atmosphere. The PORRITT Family: Austin Townsend PORRITT (1875 - 1956) grandson of James PORRITT James had married Mary Hannah AUSTIN (1813-77) sister of the firm's John AUSTIN in 1832. Their son Richard Millett PORRITT (1840- 1906) married Sarah Jane TOWNSEND (1844-1936) in 1874 and the following year Austin Townsend PORRITT was born. In the l881 census the family is listed at Greenmount House, Stubbins, Lancashire with the occupation of the head, Richard M. PORRITT, given as woollen manufacturer. Apart from his son five year old Austin, there are two daughters, baby Alice and Kate aged four. The household also included three female servants who had all been born in Shropshire. *

In addition to its church and board schools -Edenfield Church of England School, Ewood Bridge National School, Stubbins Congregational Day School and Turn Board School - Edenfield was home to a number of small private schools during parts of the 19th Century. These included Acres House, run by Miss Jane WILSON, a cousin of Edenfield's vicar. It was advertised as a

ladies' boarding school but boys were admitted and Austin Townsend PORRITT was a day pupil there between 1881 and 1885. The family still lived at Greenmount, Stubbins. The 1891 census Includes Austin PORRITT as a boarder at Rossall School Fleetwood where he was educated from 1885 to 1891. According to his obituary he became a governor and one of the school's most generous benefactors, donating between £50,00 and £60,000 and a number of books to the school library. We are told that he endowed a leaving scholarship to northern universities and that each year before World War II, he used to send enough pheasants to Rossall to feed whole school. One of the buildings and some of the playing fields were named after him. A T PORRITT was one of the area's early motorists. In July 1907 he drove his car to Scarborough racecourse where members of the Ramsbottom Company of Volunteers were enjoying their week's 'most enjoyable encampment', On 23rd August 1907, this report appears in the Ramsbottom Observer:

Child knocked down by Motor- Major PORRITT to the Rescue. What might have been a very serious accident occurred at Bent Gate, Haslingden on Monday afternoon, when a boy named Joseph CAMPBELL aged five years, who resides with its grandmother, Mrs JACQUES at Bent Gate, attempted to race across the road in front of a motor car with the result that the side of the car caught the child and threw him violently down against the kerbstone inflicting a severe cut to his head and bruising to other parts of his body Had it not been for the almost miraculous manner in which the driver of the car pulled up in a remarkably short distance, the child would probably have been killed. The child was immediately picked up and carried to his grandmother's house. Major A T PORRITT of Stubbins, the owner of the car, at once motored to Haslingden and brought back Dr John HARRISON who dressed the child's injuries. Meanwhile Mrs Austin PORRITT [who married him in 1906 Editor]) carefully attended to the child. Major and Mrs A T PORRITT acted most commendably throughout and were in no way to blame for the unfortunate occurrence.

During the World War I he raised the 2/5th East Lancashire Regiment and took it to France in 1917 but •was invalided home the same year. For the short time that he was in France he was Acting Brigadier and had since taken a great interest in the Territorial Army. Until about two years before his death he was Honorary Colonel of the East Lancashire Regiment. In 1920 Col PORRITT gave a small plot of land as a recreation ground for the people of Strongstry and an old army hut was opened there as a village institute. It was divided into three — a games room, a newsroom and a practice room for Stubbins Vale Silver Prize Band. (Known to locals as Hanson's Band because from 1888 they were conducted by William HANSON and his son James, they

are reputed in 1906 as having two band practices a week on the premises of Stubbins Vale Mill in winter or in the open yard in summer.) In 1923, he presented five acres of land at Chatterton for playing fields. Five years later, having purchased Nuttall Hall and grounds comprising nearly fifteen acres, he gave them to the township of Ramsbottom as a peace memorial. Following a storm of applause at the opening ceremony at Nuttall Park, he began his speech by explaining that it had been considerably over twenty years since the idea first presented itself to him that Nuttall Hall and its surrounding grounds should at some time be transferred to the town and preserved as a public recreation ground and open space forever. (He was keenly interested as a member of the East Lancashire Playing Fields Association whose aim was that there should be five acres of open space for every thousand inhabitants.) Having already planted the park with trees and shrubs, he pointed out to the crowds the beauty of the site with the surrounding ‘noble hills and woods' which were ‘great assets’ urging the people to plant trees for future adornment', He also bore the costs of constructing tennis courts, a bowling green and a bandstand, In 1931 he added to his gift a further 14 1/2 acres of land as an extension. His obituary says:

These are only a portion of his benefactions. He has placed the town and neighbourhood greatly in his debt by his public spirit and generosity.

Brought up as a member of Stubbins Congregational Church, A T PORRITT had offered a piece of land near Stubbins Station as the site for an iron or concrete mission church. In 1923, the following year, the congregation had decided to continue to raise money for a more permanent building. On 5 June 1926 Mrs A T PORRITT laid the foundation stone of St Philip's, Chatterton. Six years later a procession left the old mission for the opening by Col PORRITT of St Philip's as a Parish Church. In 1928 he was granted a coat of arms, mainly coloured red and gold, with a shield which is described as having on it two roundels each with a leopard's face, Above the shield is a helmet and, on a green wreath, an heraldic antelope in black with a silver collar. It is holding a red rose between its forelegs.



On 10th February 1931, his appointment as Deputy Lieutenant of the County Palatine of Lancaster was announced. Contemporary reports say he was: a member of the firm PORRITT & SPENCER, woollen manufacturer of Bamford, Stubbins and Helmshore, a generous benefactor to the township, the council's representative on the County Council for several years, succeeding Mr STOCKDALE, senior magistrate for the district, having been appointed in 1907, President of the Ramsbottom British Legion, Vice-president of Ramsbottom Conservative and Unionist Association, life governor of Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital trustee of the Peel Memorial, Holcombe, and one of the leaders of the Conservative party in the Heywood and Radcliffe Division. The extension of Nuttall Park by an extra 15 acres was announced in 1931 along with the Deputy Lieutenant appointment. Before World War 11, Lt Col PORRITT was a member of the famous North Lonsdale and John o' Gaunt clubs of archers and was acknowledged as one of the best archers in the country. On 19 September 1930 at Springfield Park, Lancaster (at the 230th Recorded meeting in the 258th Year of the Society of Archers) :

Lieut Colonel A T PORRITT, North Lonsdale Archers and Mr J YATES, Royal Toxophilites, each with their 20th arrow pierced the target in the Gold. Lt Col PORRITT's arrow being judged the most central, he was declared the winner and so became Captain and Holder .of The Ancient Silver Arrow.

In 1936 he became Archer of the -north by winning the Scorton Silver Arrow for the second time. .(This archery tournament, The Ancient Scorton Silver Arrow Competition, which has claims to be the world's longest established and oldest recorded sporting event with records dating back to 1673, is still an annual event, The targets are set at 100 yards and the winner is the first archer to pierce with his arrow a three-inch diameter black spot in the centre of the 4-foot target. The 300th recorded meeting is due to be held at Scorton in the North Riding of Yorkshire on 17th May 2008, when some of the finest longbow archers will take part. Today the original Silver Arrow is deposited with the Royal Armouries in Leeds and the winner is presented with a replica to keep for one year.) In 1937 Lt Col PORRITT won the challenge prize, gilt arrow and retainable prize at the John o' Gaunt Bowmen's prize meeting.

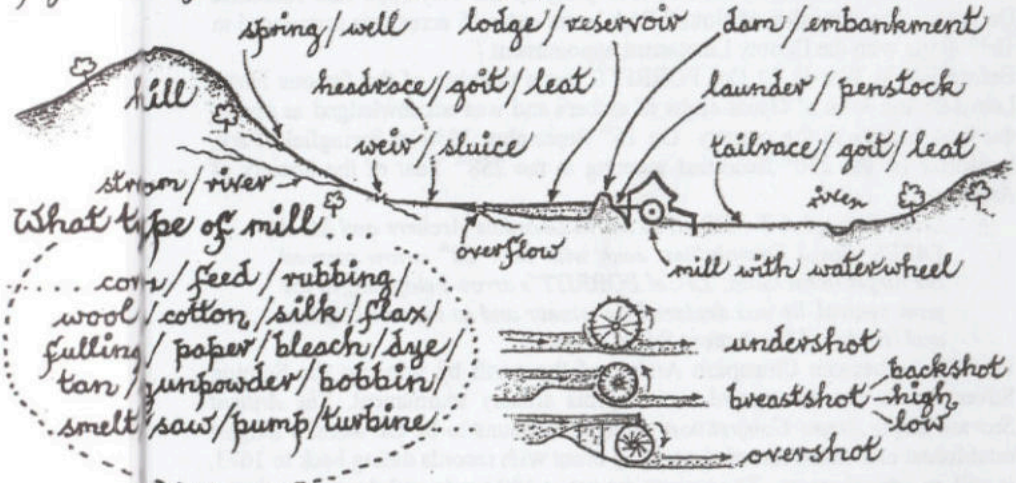
Austin Townsend PORRITT is listed in a 1911 telephone directory - which seems to cover most of northern England. He is at *The Cliffe*, Stubbins as Ramsbottom number 57 (with the company of PORRITT Bros and AUSTIN as Ramsbottom 100) but by 1923 his telephone number has become Grange-over-Sands 67 with no phone number for this area. It seems that for health reasons he had made his home at Yewbarrow Lodge, Grange-over-Sands. His cousin, Harold PORRITT (1855-1910) had lived in Grange .from 1895 to his death and had been a most generous benefactor to that town. Later, the now disused lido

* Take a stroll around Ramsbottom looking at the

LOOKING AT

WATER POWER WALK

Try it . . . any time, any day, any year. c 3 miles



What type of mill . . .

. . . corn/feed/rubbing/
wool/cotton/silk/flax/
fulling/paper/bleach/dye/
tan/gunpowder/bobbin/
smelt/saw/pump/turbine . . .

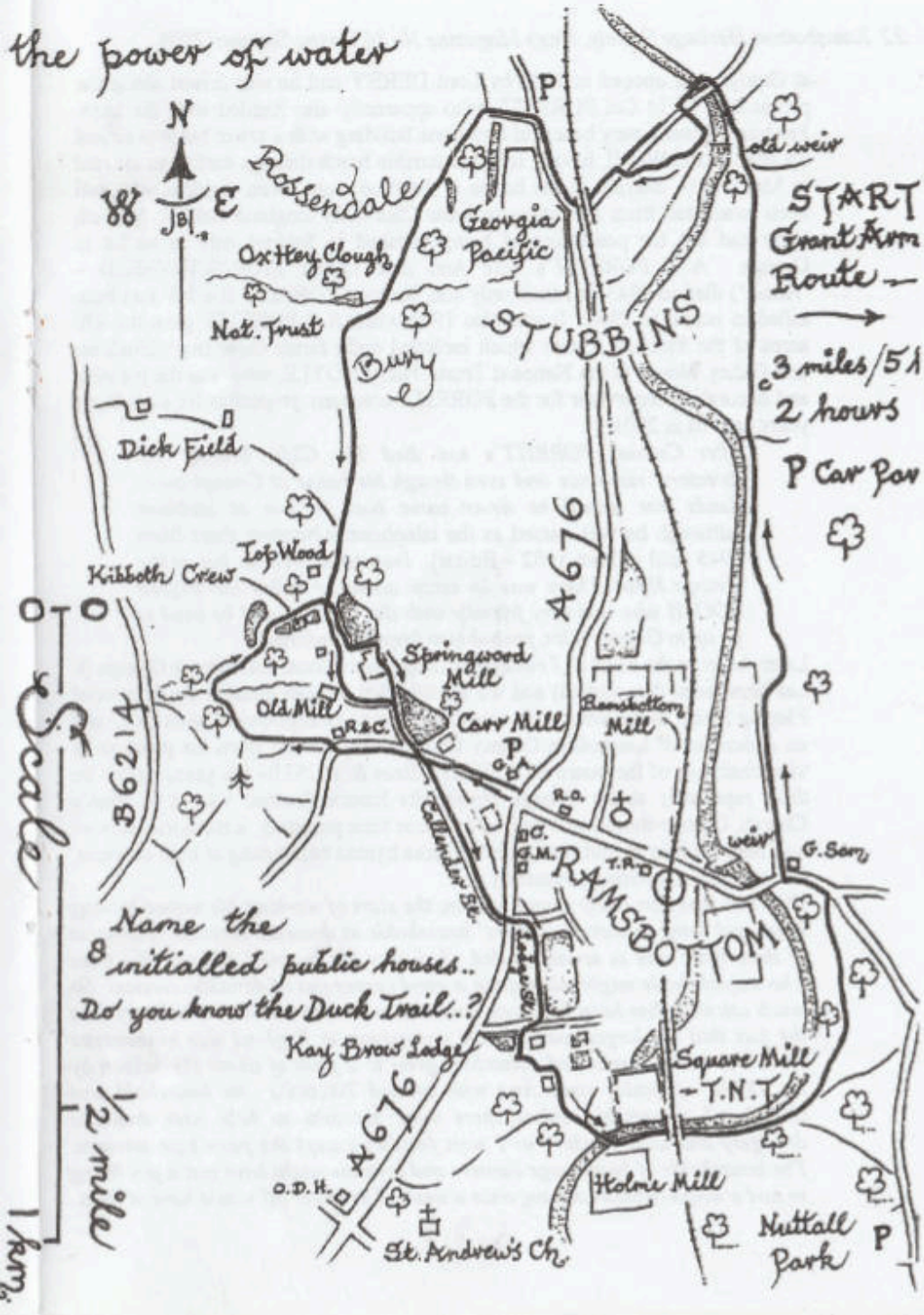
Do you know . . . ? Visit them . . .

* Higher Mill Museum, Helmshore . . . . high breast 20' diam. 10' wide
* Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Cheshire. (Nat. Trust)
* Nether Alderley Mill. (N.T.) two overshot 12' diam.
* Abbeydale, Sheffield
* George Leatt's Ind. & Folk Museum, Skipton.
* Muncaster Mill, Ravenglass, Cumbria.
* Stretton Mill, Cheshire.
* Lady Isabella, Laxey, Isle of Man . . . . backshot 72'6" diam. 3' wide

and others . . .

John B. Taylor 2008

0 Scale 1 km.


the power of water
N
W
E
Rossendale
Georgia Pacific
Ox Hey Clough
Nat. Trust
Bury
STUBBINS
old weir
START
Grant Arm
Route
3 miles/5
2 hours
P Car Par
Dick Field
Top Wood
Kibboth Crew
A676
Springward Mill
Old Mill
R.&C.
Carr Mill
Ramsbottom Mill
B6214
Scale
R.O.
C.
G.M.
T.R.
weir
G. Sam
Callender St.
RAMSBOTTOM
Name the
8 initialled public houses..
Do you know the Duck Trail..?
Lodge St.
Kay Brow Lodge
Square Mill
T.N.T.
A676
O.D.H.
Holme Mill
St. Andrew's Ch.
Nuttall Park
P
1/2 mile
1 km.

at Grange was opened in 1932 by Lord DERBY and he was driven along the promenade by Lt Col PORRITT, who apparently also handed over the keys. Yewbarrow was a very beautiful limestone building with a tower but was closed up after World War having suffered terrible bomb damage during an air raid in May 1941. Staying in the house at the time were seven children who had been evacuated from Broomhouse Lane Church of England School, Salford. They had left the possibility of being bombed in Salford only to be hit in Grange. A T PORRITT's wife Ann (née Louise LAW-SCHOFIELD 'Annie') died in 1943 and their only son, Richard PORRITT BA MP had been killed in action in 1940. It was also 1943 when A T PORRITT gave the 436 acres of the Stubbins Estate which included eight farms (now two), Buckden and Oxhey Woods to the National Trust. Harry HOYLE, who was the painting and decorating supervisor for the PORRITT company properties for over thirty years, told us in 2001

> *After colonel PORRITT's son died The Cliffe became the directors' residence and even though his house at Grange-over- Sands was ruined he never came back to live at Stubbins [although he was named as the telephone subscriber there from 1945 until at least 1952 — Editor], Instead he went to live at the Grange Hotel. There was an estate manager called Mr Wilfred BOOTH who was very friendly with the Colonel, and he used to go up to Grange a lot, probably to keep him informed*].

Later, he gave the ruins of Yewbarrow Lodge to the local authority at Grange (it has since been demolished) and we are told that he also donated the Memorial Playing Fields to the town. He was Chairman of Grange-over-Sands UDC and an Alderman of Lancashire County Council, He retired from his position as vice-chairman of the board of PORRITT Bros & AUSTIN ten years before he died, reportedly at the Grange Hotel. His funeral Service was at St Paul's Church, Grange-over-Sands and, at the same tune precisely, a memorial service was held for him at Stubbins with the same hymns being sung at both services. He was buried in Grange cemetery.

[*At that time, for many young women, the start of working life meant leaving home and living in their employers' households as domestic servants. For most of them their time in service ended when they got married although the ones who stayed single might make quite a good career out of domestic service. So much attention has been attracted to women working in industry that the fact that the largest paid female occupation in England was in domestic service is easily overlooked. Numbers grew to a peak of about 1 1/2 million by the 1870s. (Textiles came next with around 700,000.) No household was considered respectable unless there were servants to help with domestic drudgery and until World War I most families except the poor kept servants. The households of small wage earners and artisans might have just a girl living in and a washerwoman coming once a week. The better off would have at least*

a cook and a general maid while the wealthy would have several indoor servants and perhaps a gardener and a man in the stables as well. The great majority of domestic servants were young, unmarried and poorly paid and opportunities for better paid work locally would mean that by the 1880s owners of large houses like the PORRITTs would have had difficulty in recruiting their servants from this area, As stated above the childhood home of A T PORRITT had three female servants all born in Shropshire. Twenty years later, on census night 1901, with the rest of the family away in London, A T PORRITT is at home Greenmount where there are also four female servants: Sabetha BALL aged 36 born at Willington, Shropshire, Annie BRAITHWAITE (31) born at Kendal, Westmorland, Manfreda CARR (17) born at Gresford, Derbyshire and Catherine RICHARDS (56) from Montgomeryshire.]

A History of Edenfield and District by John Simpson (Edenfield Local History Society 2003)

A Brief History From 1825 To 2000 - Stubbins Vale Mills by Derek Fitton

Profit from Porritt by Clyde Tweedale (RHS Magazine No 10 Winter 1994-5)

Ramsbottom Observer— 26 7 1907, 13.2.1931 .

Bury Times 25.2.1956

Family Life in Britain 1900 1950 by Edmund Swinglehurst

State and Society A Social And Political History of Britain by' Martin Pugh (1994)

EDITORIAL TEAM REPORT

Over the years we have been encouraged by favourable comments to believe that the, RHS news magazines are well received and much good material has been submitted, Responses from members to articles we have recently published have been pleasing. In answer to our request for memories of early flooding in Ramsbottom Jean POGSON and Norman KAY sent us very interesting articles whilst Brenda RICHARDS, whose research on the GRANT family contributed so much to the Society's blue plaque on the Grat Arms has followed up Life and Times of William GRANT (Pamela PARKINSON's piece in our last magazine) with more new information about GRANT family* history. We are very grateful for all three pieces which appear in this issue showing that the news magazine is really working properly and is not just a matter for the editors. All contributions are very welcome, from fully worked articles to just a paragraph or so about something that happened in the past. As in the PORRITT story in this issue, snippets of information can be used within longer articles. We also thank Norman KAY for the following message which I am sure he would want us to share with our readers.

One brand of fizzy drinks being sold at the time [the 1930s Editor] had an unusual type of bottle, of a design that 1 haw not seen or heard of for seventy years or »now. Instead of a normal screw cap it had a glass ball pressed up to a narrow part of the neck, and held in place against a rubber ring by pressure in the bottle. The ball had to be forced down to allow the liquid to be poured out. 1 was surprised when the 'Origin of Words' column of the Sheffield Telegraph informed me that the bottles had been patented by Hiram CODD. and used by him to supply beer and soft drinks. The report went on to say that 'wallop ' had been a slang word for cheap ale, and Codd's Wallop ' became a derogatory term for the weak, gassy beer he sold. The term 'codswallop' has acquired a more extended use since then. How interesting it was to see the centre pages of the Autumn 2007 issue of the RHS magazine with its display of bottles used by Ramsbottom mineral water manufacturers in the past! And even more, it had illustrations of both a full and an opened CODD bottle. I must pay tribute to Mr John B TAYLOR who produced the illustration. based on work by Malcolm STARK1E. The illustrations of local scenes and buildings he has been providing for the magazine for a decade and a half, have given endless pleasure. particularly to former residents of the town.

Editors: Elizabeth DUXBURY. Barbara PARK, Janet SMITH and Andrew TODD

EXTREME WEATHER IN THE '30s AND '-40s

At the end of a piece entitled 'Extreme Weather in RHS Magazine Number 33 we asked readers to send in their memories, particularly about local flooding in the 1930s and the severe winter of 1947. We publish below two articles ***we*** *received in response. What we did not* ***know*** *at the time, obviously, was that torrential rain in January 2008 would bring the worst floods for years. The River Irwell burst its banks in several places, affecting toads, gardens and parks. The Nuttall Park bowlers' premises were inundated and a wide expanse of water flowed across the park, through the tennis courts and over on to the old Ocean Chemicals site before re-entering the river channel. The bowling green and Ramsbottom United's pitch also lay under water. Modern flood defences seem to have prevented water from entering other buildings as it had done in the past:*

A TRAGIC FLOOD

The **River** Irwell had occasionally flooded the Kenyon Street area in previous years. It was said that the height of the river water had caused surface-water

drains to back-up and run into factories and houses. The receding tide always left behind a layer of mud. This had to be cleared from floors, and also from floor coverings and other items which residents had not been able to take upstairs, or store above the water level. I always wondered why the weir was kept in place. Removing some or all of it might have made it possible to lower the height of the river alongside the mills. Perhaps the weir still had some purpose of which I was not aw7are. Perhaps it still has.

However, the tragic happenings on 13th December 1937, and the rest of the month, were something of much greater consequence. I was 13 years old at the time. The weather had been atrocious for several days and it was no great surprise when, as I walked along Bridge Street on my way home from school, I heard about the extraordinary flooding. A crowd of people stood at the Peel Bndge end of Kenyon Street, from a small part of which the flood had receded because the street sloped upwards towards that end. River w'ater had nsen swiftly as it ran along from where it had overflowed at the north end of Kenyon Street. At Stead Street, just before it reached the other end, most of the water flowed to the right, and then left into River Street. Both these streets sloped down towards the river. Eventually the main flow7 began to run over the low' wall back into the river. It may be that the pressure of the water caused part of the wall to collapse, but I am not sure about this. When I arrived I w7as told that the floodwater had earlier reached a height of over a metre in most of the area affected. By then it had subsided to about half of that height, and was still going down.

Work had stopped at all the factories. During the day a horse-drawn cart had been used to bring workers out of the mills, some of them having to use a ladder to come down to the cart from the first floor. Some residents had been taken to their flooded homes on the cart and others, anxious to see what damage had been caused to their property, had walked through waist-high floodwater. One ample had been an incongruous sight, huddling together under a small umbrella as they struggled along.

The heavy rain that had swollen the river further up the valley must have ceased. When the river level fell, and stopped overflowing, the floodwater gradually drained away from the streets. 1 took off my shoes and made my way along the 70 metres or so of cold liquid mud to our house in Heap Street It was a desolate and depressing sight.

Dad had been called from work when the floods had started, and by the time he arrived home the depth of water was higher than on any previous occasion of which we had known. Mother had earlier lilted some small pieces of furniture and other items and taken them upstairs, or piled them on the table or in other places where the)7 had been sale in previous floods,

When she noticed the front door had burst open she waded across, intending to close it. In doing so she fell and became totally immersed in the cold, muddy water. And it was not just water; all kinds of chemicals and waste products

found their way into the Irwell Dad arrived to find her upstairs, soaked and shivering, and my three-year--old brother was with her, cold and frightened. Dad helped them to settle down in bed to keep warm. What caused most concern though was the fact that mother was pregnant, and the new arrival was almost imminent.
One of my sisters has since told me that, early in the afternoon, children in St Josephus School were told by then teachers about floods affecting Kenyon Street. They were also advised that if' they had relatives with homes nearby, and known not to be flooded, they could leave school early and go to stay with them. My three sisters and another brother were allowed to go to Grandma KAY's house in Bolton Street, where they stayed overnight. Aunts Anne and Kathleen came to help Dad clear up during the evening and on the following day.
Meanwhile, Dad had been doing his best to salvage things as the floodwater went down. Contents of drawers and cupboards were soaked, and some damaged beyond restoration. When the water had gone floor coverings were hung on the washing line in the large shared back yard, or thrown out if too badly damaged. Fortunately we had no expensive carpets, but the condition of the linoleum and coconut matting was a matter of concern. The biggest task was sweeping and swilling out the mud. It covered the floors, large parts of the walls, furniture and other things that had been left on the ground floor. A particular problem was the pantry which was a step lower than the kitchen, and led to a coal store under the stairs. The water had to be baled out and it took months for feat place to dry properly. A fire had been lit upstairs, and another was started in the living room when thee fireplace had been cleaned out. I asked Dad where he had got the wood to start thee fire. He said he had used shelves from the pantry/coal store, and had taken down a high shelf from the kitchen. The coal was soaked and muddy and hard to ignite. There was no other heating and it was add, damp and miserable.
My grandparents were unable to help us, because their house across the street was badly affected too. They had also lost most of the goods available for sale in their shop, and stored in low cupboards and drawers. There had been no time to move much upstairs. Also lost were cherished photographs and correspondence. Among these had been a bundle of highly decorated Christmas and birthday cards, sent from France by Granddad during the war, and of great sentimental value. The shop records, including the book in which details of customers' credit were kept, were destroyed. Grandma never had any doubts afterwards that everything outstanding was paid. Once mother had been settled down, Dad started a fire for the grandparents, and hastily helped them to deal with things needing urgent attention. When my aunts arrived to help in the early evening Dad and I went across again to clear out damaged foodstuffs and move some of the damaged furniture around. He then spent the rest of the night cleaning up our house, but it was still very wet as lower parts of the walls were

saturated. (In following years the high water marks were always visible in the houses, even after being wallpapered or painted several times.) I do not recall any help being given by the local council, but in the following days some assistance was given with the cleaning and drying of carpets, I think the articles had to be taken to the council depot for this to be done. Supplies of disinfectant were provided free at the depot Only later did we find out how widespread the flooding had been, and how much damage had been caused in Stubbins, Summerseat and along other stretches of the river. No temporary alternative accommodation was made available when houses were flooded in those days. The residents were left to make the best of it and continue living in the slowly drying homes. Not many had contents insurance. It was a serious and costly matter for all those affected. I mention this because of the contrast with what happened in south Yorkshire and other parts of the country during the floods of 2007, I was pleased that there was so much concern for those affected, and so much help given Of course, many fewer people had been victims of the 1936 floods .in Ramsbottom, and the water within a few hours. However, in most cases the effect on individual families was not much Houses had left just as wet, and took as long to dry out, perhaps longer because there is more and better drying equipment available nowadays, The fires had warmed the house up a little by the following morning, This was fortunate, mother went into labour and my youngest sister was born upstairs during the day. The district Nurse was in attendance as usual. Two weeks of high drama followed: excitement at having a new baby sister, concern about the poor domestic conditions caused by the flood and its aftermath, anxiety because Mother was not recovering as quickly as usual, alarm as she developed pneumonia and panic as pleurisy was also diagnosed. On 30th December the doctor had been called. He said she was not going to recover, and would not last very long. I was to run up to St Joseph's Presbytery and ask if Father McGUINNESS could come and see her as soon as possible, He soon after I got home, just in time to say a few prayers before she died. One reference to the 1936 flood in the last Heritage Society Magazine does mention a pregnant lady being brought from her home on a cart and taken to hospital, but this must have been some other lady. I can understand why Mother was not taken to hospital on the day of the flood. She had not then gone into labour, and when she did she was warm and comfortable in bed .and did not seem to be in any danger. But a few days later, when pneumonia and then pleurisy had been diagnosed, the nurse and the doctor had calling to see her. They knew the condition the house was in. Why had she not been taken to hospital then? There was no National Health Service at the time, and some medical facilities were rudimentary. It is only when looking back at incidents like this one realises what improvements have been made since then.

Norman KAY

SEVERE WEATHER 1936 and 1947

I have only a vague recollection of the floods in Ramsbottom in 1936, but one event is still very clear in my mind. At this time I attended St Paul's School, Crow Lane. I was in Miss WHITTAKER's class along with a little boy named Jackie — maybe he was a little younger than me. Some time during the day two men, who may have been policemen or firemen, came into the classroom with a little girl of about seven years old. She was very distressed and crying and was an older sister to Jackie. The two men had come to take the children to safety because their home in Kenyon Street had been flooded, To this day I can recall these two children clutching each other and crying. The winter of 1947 is still very clear in my mind. By this time I was a pupil at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School, Waterfoot and I travelled to school by tram. After a very heavy fall of snow which had drifted a lot, I struggled down to Ramsbottom station to catch the train to Waterfoot, However there were no trains running because they were all blocked in by snow somewhere or other. So I trudged up Bridge Street towards my father's shop, 22 Bolton Road West. This was on the western side of the road, so the fronts of the shops opposite, which faced west, had caught the drifting snow - they looked as though they had a white buttress right up to the roof. News came through from school that they had no fuel to heat the building, but exam pupils were requested to attend if possible. I was an exam pupil and after a couple of days we were able to get to school. Because It was so very cold and there was still no sign of fuel pupils and teachers were allowed to wear whatever we could to help to keep us warm. At the time we were still suffering from the effects of World War II and the three books we had to study for the School Certificate Examination were either out of print or difficult to obtain The Shakespeare book we did manage to get, *Nicholas Nickleb*y never arrived and the poetry book *Palgrave's Golden Treasure* was in very short supply. The school advertised all over the county asking people to please lend us their copy. Altogether we had about 40 copies for 160 pupils, so each form used the set of poetry books for a few days before it was passed on to the next form. As we were already one set book short we had to know thoroughly the other two books. Somehow or other we managed to get through. I don't remember when the heating was turned on. Like many exam pupils and their teachers, I was off sick with flu.

Jean POGSON

[Have you memories of life in Ramsbottom?

Do you have an anecdote about the 'bold days " or even the modern days?

Has your family or home got a story to tell?

Did you work for a local mill or earn your living from the land?

The magazine needs your stories. If you do not feel you can write an article, just get in touch with the Editors and use can get your story into print and share your memories. Editor.]

THE NUTTALL AREA - GOITS AND WATERCOURSES

Once the January 2008 flooding (and the level of the river) had subsided the arches of the East Lancashire Railway bridge which crosses the goit had been brought into full view. Reeds growing around the site had been flattened. A substantial stone wall lining the side of the goit which runs past the riverbank continues to form a sharp comer before carrying on straight again. In this corner was a large amount of debris, indicating that some of the floodwater from the usually dry goit had probably been flowing into a culvert opening which had appeared at the corner. Pressure from the floodwater flowing through the culvert also seemed to have broken through at its other end, partly reopening a long-blocked outflow from the culvert into the River Irwell because at this point in the riverbank there is now a hole about 21/2 feet across by 1 foot high. The hole has, across the top, a large stone lintel set in an L- shaped section of stone wall. At low water the footings of a small breakwater are revealed. This would have been built into the wall to stop the flow of river water disrupting the goit. The goit itself continues towards the site of Nuttall Mills where its water to power two waterwheels before re-entering the River Irwell. An extract from *Irwell Reservoir Scheme 1833 by Peter Ewart and T. Ashworth's Observations upon the Mills, Power and Waterfalls* (Bolton Archives) gives the following details: -

> *Nuttalls Cotton Mill - Grant and Brothers, Fall 27 feet 11 inches , one Water Wheel 15 feet wide and 28 feet 3 1/2 inches in diameter, their Manager affirms that in 7 years they have only lost 7 1/2 days from being short of water.*

Beyond these waterwheels at Nuttall the flow had to continue downstream to take away' the water. To keep the wheels turning the water could not be allowed to back up whenever the river level was high, Therefore, power could only have maintained with the tailrace built lower than the river. The Nuttall Mills tailrace may actually have flowed through quite a long tunnel which ran along the riverbank and crossed under the river before exiting into Gollinrod Gorge. Down there is a large breakwater and a nearby tunnel opening into the river. (Possibly associated with the building of the breakwater on the opposite bank of the river, is a site from which stone has quarried) A similar system with a tailrace flowing through a (smaller) tunnel exists at Burrs.

Ian SMITH

THE GRANTS AT THE BATTLE OF CULLODEN, 1746

And what of William GRANT before he farmed at West Elchies in Speyside? His father was William GRANT, born 1707. It is believed that this branch of the Clan GRANT came from Glen Cearneach at the foot of the Monadhlaith Mountains, There is even a suggestion that they may originally have lived in a castle - possibly Muckrach castle. And the Culloden connection? It appears to be common knowledge in Speyside, where the information was handed down orally though the family and is now recorded in at least two books that a number of sons of this family, along with others defied the chief of Clan GRANT's wishes and went to fight at Culloden in April 1746 on the side of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Three brothers Alexander, Daniel and William (the youngest and then only 13) survived but had to be protected from the pursuing Hanoverians and later from the taxmen who were ordered to give up the names of men who fought at Culloden. These were desperate and frightening times as the Hanoverians set out to destroy the Highlanders old way of life and virtually destroyed the sovereignty of the Clan Chief. Daniel and William found shelter within the lands of Patrick GRANT, Lord Elchies, who gave them a little croft on the Haugh of Elchies. As we know William farmed here and was a cattle drover before moving to Lancashire. His brother Daniel became a farmer at Ballintomb - again alongside the River Spey. Daniel's sons Daniel and William came to Ramsbottom. In 1841 Daniel was a manager living at Barwood Lea. (*this is highlighted as I haven 't confirmed which Daniel this was but it is noted in RHS's Grant family tree as brother to this William so should I quote it as true?*) William is on the 1851 census as manager (cotton), living in Higher Nuttall 'With wife Jessie and children William and Jane and on the 1861 census as an overlooker- cotton mill, living with his family in Winfield House, Higher Nuttall, He was therefore one of five William GRANTs to live in Ramsbottom, the others being William, senior; his son William of William GRANT & Bros; William, his grandson, son of John GRANT of Nuttall Hall, and of course William .his grandnephew son of his nephew the first mentioned William of Higher Nuttall). Alexander, the brother returning from Culloden, was sheltered b)' Alexander GRANT, the Laird of Ballindalloch. To protect his identity he used the name of Alexander Cearneach. His great grandson, another William GRANT, became the founder of' William GRANT & Sons Ltd - famously known for their Glenfiddich Malt Whisky.

Brenda Richards

Francis COLLINSON, The Life and Times of Wi1iam Grant (1979)

Censuses 1841/1851 R.G. 107-2212/1861 R.G 9-2837

Highlander Web Magazine- excerpts from the book Bloody Culloden.

Ian MACKINTOSH>,local historian from Elchies

Correspondence with Jim SHELTON and Richard STRACHAN, Speyside

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 state-of-the-art IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled-friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890 –1950 on film and microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local history of the Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets are also available.

Opening hours are: 9.30am to 7.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9.30am to 1pm on Saturday. (Closed on Wednesdays)

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY'S WALK PROGRAMME

2008 Season

The circular walks start at 2pm on the 4th Sunday in the month, beginning in April and running through until September. With distances between 3 to 4 miles, the walks are taken at a leisurely pace suitable for children and reasonably fit adults, dogs welcome.

We hope everyone will enjoy an afternoon out and benefit from the exercise and friendly company. Sensible footwear and waterproof clothing is recommended.

27th April	**The Cheesden Valley** (a local history look at *The Forgotten Valley*). Meet opposite Owd Betts public house. Guide - John.B.Taylor.
25th May	**Peel Tower – Dickfield – Kibboth Crew**. Meet Holcombe Stables, Moor Road, Holcombe. Leader - Brian Haynes.
22nd June	**Chatterton, Irwell Vale, Lumb, Stubbins**. This easy circuit includes part of the *Irwell Sculpture Trail*. Meet Chatterton playing field. Leader - Linda de Ruijter.
27th July	**The Musbury Valley**. Start Higher Mill Museum car park, Helmshore.
24th Aug	**Some Pubs and Clubs of Ramsbottom.** A repeat of last year's most popular walk – a potted history by that well-known drinker Andrew Todd! Meet at the Grant Arms.
28th Sept	**Gollinrod and Nangreaves Circular**. Start Nuttall Park car park. Leader - Joan Young.

For further details and if anyone is interested in leading a walk in the local area, contact Linda 01706 827602 or Joan 01706 827245.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 35 Autumn 2008 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom.

PROGRAMME

2008

November 19 Mr Jonathan Ali - *Ninety Years On* - WW1 legacy to Hawkshaw.

December 10 ***Members Night – Christmas Festivities*** - Social evening

2009

January 21 Mr P Watson - *Abandon Hope* - life in the Workhouse

February 18 Mr H McGovern – *The East Lancashire Railway* – illustrated

March 18 ***Photographic Competition***
Mr C Walsh - *The History of Barrowbridge* – illustrated

April 15 Catherine Smyth - *The History of Journalism*

May 20 ***Annual General Meeting and Members' Night***

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

Entry by donation, please.

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

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As our summer? activities recede into the distance and Autumn arrives, a time for both. reflection. and preparation. In early summer we learned of the success of the bid for funding to enable the renewal of the Society's Heritage Centre - a renewal not in quite the way we had anticipated, but, resulting from constraints on refurbishment brought about by the age of the original building, by the provision of accommodation within a re-developed Library building, realising a plan envisioned in 2003. We look forward to a new beginning. Our programme of indoor and outdoor meetings, Summer Rambles, and other outdoor activities is becoming increasingly successful, the latter despite occasional challenges from the weather. The commemoration in July of the 80th anniversary of the donation of Nuttall Park to the people of Ramsbottom, and re-enactment of the original ceremony, together styled the *Nuttall Extravaganza,* was very successful, and thanks are due to Linda de RUIJTER, Brenda RICHARDS, Janet SMITH and friends who were prominent in arranging the programme. This year, for the first time, and thanks principally to arrangements made by Linda, Janet and friends, the Society took part in Heritage Open weekend nationwide events in September. The weekend was preceded by an Open Day, held with help and support from staff, at Ramsbottom Library, at which Society activities and events in the town were featured, by display, talk, and film. Our Mayor, Cllr. Peter ASHWORTH, honoured us by his presence, and the day was again a great success. The week-end proper offered walking opportunities, *the Water Power Walk, as* depicted in the centre-fold of the Spring 2008 issue of the News Magazine, and a guided tour of Holcombe village and its principal features - the weather being

Surprisingly kind, both were very well attended. The success of the weekend will hopefully lead to regular participation in Heritage Open Weekend events. Looking forward, planning our Christmas Social Evening, and the programme of meetings and events for 2009-10, has now begun. Christmas will soon be upon us. Good wishes to everyone for a happy time, and a prosperous New Year

OBITUARIES

William Bennion 1933 - 2008

Bill BENNION sadly died on 12th June, after a long illness courageously borne. Bill was born, on 26th May 1933, at King Street, Ramsbottom, and schooled at St Joseph's, Ramsbottom and Thornleigh College, Bolton. Leaving Thornleigh at age l7, he joined the Library service at Bury Library, as a Junior Library Assistant, leaving in 1954 to join Burnley Library. Following a period of study and subsequent graduation, Bill returned to Bury Library as Senior Library Assistant, being appointed Director of Libraries and Arts in 1974 and retiring in 1989. During his time at Bury he established the Archive, which subsequently gave invaluable support to the Heritage Society, and was for a number of years the only holder in the greater Manchester area of the joint roles of Chief Librarian and Archivist. He had a lifelong interest in railways, was passionate about local history, lecturing extensively on such matters, being a founder member of Bury Local History Society [becoming successively Chairman and President], a member also of Ramsbottom and Tottington Probus Club, Ramsbottom Heritage Society and Ramsbottom Recorded Music Society. He was passionate also about St Joseph's Parish, in 1962 producing a history of it, being active in church affairs, as a Reader and Altar Server, and in school affairs, successively as a Governor, and Chair of Governors. Bill's funeral service took place at St Joseph's on 19th June 2008.

Tony Murphy

William Hanson 1928 - 2008

I feel very privileged to pay tribute to one of our most worthy citizens - William HANSON.

Billy was born in Ramsbottom and educated at Peel Brow Junior School and Bury Grammar School, he also spent all his working life in the town - a draughtsman at John Woods, then Turnbull and Stockdale's engineer and finally estate manager for Porritts.

His father, James Henry HANSON, was bandmaster with Stubbins Vale Band and also choirmaster at St Paul's Church. When Bill was sixteen years old he took on the mantle of organist there, succeeding Thomas WOLSTENHOLME whose father (also Thomas) was the Church's second organist; J HEYS being the first. St Paul's has had only four organists in. 158 years! Bill faithfully kept us singing there for 64 of those years - a worthwhile and much appreciated achievement. He played for many

pantomimes at St Paul's school, nurtured musical talents in many of his own pupils and was always willing to help at various churches in the town and further afield. Bury Football Club featured among his interests and his loyalty to them was legendary.
A true son of Ramsbottom, he will be missed by many people. We remember him with affection and gratitude. A life well lived - a job well done.
Doris HIBBERT

NOVEMBER 1936 THE FLOOD
"Floods in the Ramsbottom area" [News magazine 3 3, Autumn *2007] prompted.Mrs Irene Macaulay to send us a copy of the eye-witness account written for her in 1981 by her aunt, Mrs Florence SCHOLES [nee FULLARD]. Florence FULLARD 's name may be familiar to some of you for her books"By whose hand "; "The turbulent thirties " & "'Open* and see " *which can be read at Ramsbottom Library.*

November - a month that certainly lived up to its reputation this particular year. Cold, dark, grey days with the mist and fog hanging over everything and everybody. And of course the rain. It certainly came down with a vengeance.
From our village of Summerseat we had to travel to Ramsbottom. to earn. our living. "We" being myself, Father and my younger sister Edith. That meant we had to rise early in order to catch the bus at the end of the lane, taking us to Market Place, Ramsbottom. From then on, a walk down Bridge Street, over the railway crossing and down Kenyon Street. The times of working were 7am to 5.50pm, one hour for dinner 12noon, to 1 pm.
The day in question started like any other day, but the previous night had been very wet indeed. It rained steadily until, the early hours. During the morning it started to rain again but by then, we were all within the four walls of the mill. The looms were making the queer noise they always made - clickerty clack, clickerty clack -- and each weaver bent over the machines filling the shuttles and making sure the wheels kept on turning. It was the job of my sister and me to keep these weavers well supplied with weft and my father's job to keep the looms clean and well-oiled and greased so that they could run freely.
In those days the big engine that kept the wheels turning and the premises warm was fed by steam and very often there was a fault of some kind or another, which caused the wheels to stop. The big broad straps that pulled these wheels round used to frighten me .- they seemed so big and powerful.
On this day (of all days) the engine did stop but not due to any fault of the fire beater or his huge engine. Something far more serious and deadly had brought the stoppage about.
The street that our factory (along with others) stood in was very low lying, more so at the far end. On the opposite side stood rows of cottages with one or two shops. At the

back of the mills ran the River Irwell which, sad to recall, was very badly polluted. From its tiny source near Bacup, on its long journey to the sea, it was spoiled. The huge factories and workshops that stood along its banks did, and still do, their fair share of spoiling the river. Water was once the means of power to run these mills. It seems that the continuous rain of this bad month had caused the river to rise swiftly. It had broken through the stone walls near to the bottom of the street. Once through there was nothing to stop this great onslaught of water. Down the street it poured and. then, as if by a miracle, it turned swiftly round a bend in the road and back into the river again, but as regards the space between - it was one huge lake.

The water crept higher and higher, till it was halfway up the walls of the cottages. People were leaning out of their bedroom. swimming about in the ice-cold water. All the mills on our side of the street were flooded. In ours, the looms were covered and the precious cloth was floating in the water. At the top end of the street the ground was higher and it was here that the local townsfolk gathered, horrified at the sight of this torrent of water. It was over 5 feet in depth at the end and even the horse refused to pull the cart into the water to rescue us all. I myself was small in stature and if I had ventured into this water, I would have been drowned. It was well over my head. One of the warehousemen picked me up in his strong arms and carried me to safety. My sister and a lot more of the workers decided to walk through the water. My sister was a lot taller than me but even so, the water was up to her chin.. Then she had to carry on over the railway crossing, walk up Bridge Street, wait for the bus, walk down the lane to our house - she was wringing wet. Next day on returning to work, what a sight met our eyes! Everywhere was mud! Thick and black. It took the people in the cottages weeks and weeks to get their homes dry and fit to live in again.

It was a day I shall never forget.

The course of the river has since been altered and taken away from the top of this street. The heavy rains still cause the river to rise but never to the extent of that day.

Florence Fullard (Mrs Florence Scholes) April 1981

REMINISCENCES OF MR DENIS FREARSON AND MRS NANCY FREARSON, OF WORKING AT F D SIMS WIRE WORKS, REGENT STREET, RAMSBOTTOM

Having researched the history of F D SIMS Ltd of Regent Street, Pamela WOOSEY produced two articles which appeared in issues 30 and 31 of the magazine. In issue 30 we also published some of Jennie JOHNS' memories about working there at the Wireworks, as the factory was known. During the course of Pam's research former

sales director Tom BOOTHMAN had suggested that Persimmon Homes should be asked to name two streets on the wireworks site which they were developing after the wireworks' founders. The naming of SIMS Close and ENGEL Close took place and during April 2008 Mrs Nancy FREARSON and Councillor Barry THECKSTON paid a special visit to the development.

Pam has now transcribed for us the reminiscences of employee, Mr Denis FREARSON and his wife. Taped by Alan Seymour on 3rd February 2006, the year of their 70th Wedding Anniversary. [Alan actually did the plastering in the Engel's house in Westgate Avenue when it was built.]

I used to work at Concordia Electric Wire Company in Long Eaton, near Nottingham. where Kurt ENGEL was building the machines for them for enamelling wire. Nancy's mother was friendly with Mr and Mrs ENGEL and Nancy called him Uncle Kurt. I first met him as the office boy when I got 10/- a week. He had come over from Germany in 1926 and got a ten-year contract with Concordia to build the enamelling machines. After his ten years was up he obtained his British Citizenship and left Concordia, looking for somewhere else to start a new factory and a Lancashire development agency took him to start up F D SIMS in 1936. What became the wireworks had been a towel or slipper factory. I don't think Mr ENGEL wanted to use his name for the company because he was a German. He had all sorts of problems and people were funny. During the war they said he was signalling from his home at Manor House, Holcombe to the planes going over and it was awful. They used to think when the factory caught fire, we'd set it on fire to attract German bombers but the ones that knew him thought he was a wonderful man. Dr CLOHESSY, who lived opposite the top of Kay Brow, was a good friend. Mr *ENGEL* was called Kurt Oscar (knock out) - some of the lorry drivers used to say, *"'There's a Parcel here for knock out Engel."*

There was also Mr BARNES, who was the millionaire, and another investor Mr F D SIMS (Fred), who worked in the hosiery industry in Leicestershire. He was a director and he nominated his grandson, (Stuart) to take over when he was old enough., but unfortunately Stuart met with an accident whilst he was in the Air Force. As a result he was unable to take over until I think it was about 1948. He had calipers round his legs because otherwise he couldn't walk. (He had to unscrew his legs so he could sit down.) He was wonderful really and a wonderful man, a real comedian. He also got on well with the customers. When. he first started off he lived in Nottingham and he used to travel to Birmingham. His granddad bought him a sports car and I remember that he used to knock his pipe out on the floor when he was driving. Occasionally he'd pick me up and take me to Birmingham with him. In, the end Stuart took over Sims Salesmanship in the Gloucester and Bristol areas, the West Country and he also used to do Doncaster, Newcastle and Scotland. Occasionally Stuart used to ask me whether I would you like to meet various customers and he used to take me round and introduce me to them. Then we had another good representative in. London. Together

we took over the London office and he and I built up a wonderful relationship.
Going back to the early days, Nancy and I got married and we came to Ramsbottom on the 2nd January 1937. I had been transferred from Concordia in Nottingham to Birmingham when I was 21. 1 worked in the depot there and I wasn't getting on very well. 1heard that Mr ENGEL was starting up so that's how I came to move from Birmingham to the Manchester area. We'd no chance of getting a house as I wasn't earning enough. Mr ENGEL told us, "You can live with us to start with, and look for somewhere afterwards," and that's where we started, with them at Manor House in Holcombe - you know the big house on the bottom of the hill. Nancy used to look after the cat and keep the house for them. I started work on the 2nd January and I was there for 43 years until I left in 1978 when I was 65.
Other men also came up from Nottingham. George WIMBUSH came before me and then they had Ces SHARP and Gladys. He was the engineer and he ran the works, He knew every nut and bolt in that factory and eventually, when it was working day and night, if there were any problems George had the job of getting things going again and with his help and mine possibly, we got the place going. I had started off at SIMS doing anything as there was nothing there, only a bare factory. I used to clean the windows and for about six months I often asked Mr ENGEL to find me something to do. He told me that I wouldn't be asking once we began enamelling the wire - and I didn't. He said, "I'll make the wire and you sell it. As long as you don't do anything wrong I won't interfere." Mr ENGEL was responsible for production and he gave me the job of selling the wire for him because I had a job similar to that in Birmingham. From there we had two mechanics, a turner and then skilled workers who built the machines in the factory itself with the help of other local people. Fred MASON was one and he had the factory in Ramsbottom where they built all the exhaust pipes and things like that. Mr ENGEL was a wonderful man who got on very well with the local people. We started to get the local girls in to work the machines and several youngsters came from a factory which used to be down near the railway station. I think there were about five girls came from there when they closed down. At the time factories were closing down in Ramsbottom and this was a good thing for them when SIMS started.
It took about a couple of years to get things going. I think in the early years we were paying excess profits tax after the first three years. The first year we made a loss, the second year we broke even and the third year we made a small - profit. So divide that by 3 - I think we were paying 18/6d in the pound tax. Nevertheless SIMS prospered. We used to work 12 day shifts I think. During the war we were short of people so we had to work 12 hour shifts. SIMS was a good firm to work for but they didn't pay very good wages because we couldn't charge big prices for what we made. But the wages were regular and they were 12 hour shifts so people used to clamour for jobs there. At its height the Company had over 200 people working at Ramsbottom. Copper wire gauges go from 1 to 49. The wire went through the ovens six or seven

upstairs and down and round the big machines several times. It used to pass through, a dye first, pick up so much. enamel, then went through the oven. It went through five or six times according to the thickness of the enamel - two millimetres it was roughly. We saw the advent of synthetic enamels coming in from America and we started producing that. We also used to cover the wire with paper, wrap it round and round and round and that was enamelled to stove it all. We sold tons of emanelled wire all over the place to people like English Electric where it was then used in electric motors. Wire is used for all kinds of electric motor, televisions, washing machines, motor cars, railway engines, everything that moves - there's wire in them all.

Women took the job of winding the fine wire. After the wire had been enamelled it wound on to reels and later on we used to supply it in packs like tubs. We used to drop the wire in the bottom. For the fine wire, some of which was as fine as your hair, we used to enamel that horizontally. The wires went through ovens (that's where the smell came from) all operated by men not ladies. Ladies wound it on the bobbins. The labourers used to weigh it off and I used to be given the job of teaching them how to write decent labels. A lot of ladies worked there when the very fine wire came on to big bobbins and they were enamelled then they had to be rewound on to small bobbins. Nancy had to do some of this work during the war at Mrs ENGEL's place, down Kay Brow, Billy Eccles' place. During the war she had to go there or work away.

I saw the beginning of the television industry. 1 used to go round the big firms in London touting for business and while I was there (I think it was the end of 1937) I saw the first television at A C COSSOR which you may have heard of. One of the two ladies who used to be on television every day all that time ago was Sylvia PETERS. Then the war came unfortunately. Mr ENGEL wasn't enjoying very good health then and he was in and out of hospital. I had my medical and that was Al. but he made efforts to keep me at the works as there was nobody else knew the place as well. Fortunately I was able to stay behind. As I say, I saw the beginning of the television industry, there were big firms, like Philips, Cossor, Dynatron, E K Cole and Ferguson Radio and I was very fortunate being a young man I suppose and mixing with young people. George CANSDALE worked for Ferguson Radio and his immediate boss had made a mistake and they were having difficulty getting enamelled copper wire. I was the one that started delivering to them. We used to send the wire up to Spennymoor, seven tons a week in those days, and we were very fortunate to get business from people like Murphy Radio at Welwyn Garden. City, where we were the sole supplier. We got business from all over the place because I always tried to help. People that I supplied carried on buying from us after the war. The big suppliers of wire weren't so helpful - people like British Insulated Callender Cables and London Electric Wire Company - we were the little boys but we made a good reputation and were able to sell the wire without any problems after the war. In the end we were

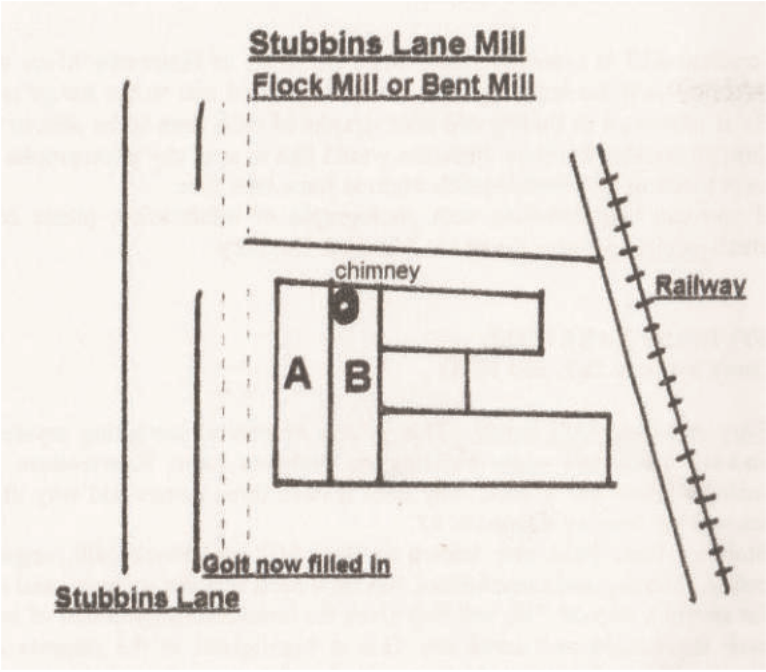
No.5 in thee industry and were probably the envy of the trade.
We used to have people come up from. London. The buyer from Cossor radio was once due to see me at 9 o'clock in the morning but when I got there to the office he was already there. He told me that when he came by train to Ramsbottom, he had looked for somewhere to stay. It was Thursday night when he arrived at the Grant Arms where was nobody in the bar at all. There was a roaring fire, and he'd had steak and chips and some soup. He had been given permission to help himself from the bar. Nobody else came in that night because in Ramsbottom on Thursday it was cleaning up night. All the ladies were busy cleaning up so the men had to help them so they couldn't get out to the pub on Thursday nights.
To transport the wire we used a firm in Tottington called Warburton Brothers, they used to deliver to Brook Motors in Barnsley and Huddersfield, English Electric at Bradford, English Electric at Preston, Stafford (English Electric became part of GEC afterwards, when GEC took them over.) They also used to do Liverpool, Manchester, Doncaster, Nottingham and London. They used to go to London twice a week. We used to say we could deliver it quicker from Ramsbottom than they can from London. In the end we started a depot in London and if a firm in London rang up before 5 o' clock we could sell from Ramsbottom, get it down to London overnight and distribute it the following morning. That was quicker than they could get from people like the London Electric Wire Company who were situated in Leyton, East London.. That's amazing to think it was in the days before motorways.
I was made Sales Director but can't just remember the exact date. (It's in the book *The first 25 years of FD Sims* now in Ramsbottom Heritage Society archives) We were taken over by a firm called Winterbottom Industries first of all because Mr ENGEL wanted to expand and the other directors, BARNES and SIMS weren't too happy so he looked round and Winterbottom Industries took us over. After that we had Venesta who took us over and later on than that GEC took Venesta over. Mr ENGEL appointed a Managing Director after he retired. They came to live in Westgate Avenue, just round the corner, where he died in about 1968 at the age of sixty eight approximately. Mrs ENGEL lived until she was ninety one. (I've beaten her as I'm ninety two now.) They didn't have a family.
Later on, in 1970 1 think it was, I was offered the job as Managing Director by GEC and for the next nine years I was there as Managing Director of FD Sims. I had a very happy life at Sims. Mr Engel was a wonderful boss and all the work people got on well with him. We had nice parties, we had gold watches after 25 years and I carried on supplying gold watches to people who'd done 25 years right up to me retiring. After I retired I don't know a lot about what happened to the firm - I'd done my job. In 2001 there was an Italian firm - Irce. They've moved over into Blackburn now and built a new factory which Nancy and I have seen - not far from the hospital but they are still calling it Sims.
Denis Frearson & Nancy Freason 2006

HOLCOMBE MOOR FARMS

Jonathan ALl is currently researching the farms of Holcombe Moor with particular reference to those buildings that have disappeared due to the Range and dereliction. He is interested in finding old photographs of each farm to be able to date each one through stylistic analysis. Jonathan would like to scan any photographs for an archive he is building for possible publication at some later date.
If you can help Jonathan with photographs or information, please contact him by email or c/o Elizabeth Duxbury.

STUBBINS LANE MILL
(Built between 1867 and 1871)

Why did Bent Mill bend? This is one of several intriguing mysteries about thee striking black and white building on Stubbins Lane, Ramsbottom. Others might include, when was it built, why does it have three names and why did *"Schhh, you know who"* have an interest in it?
Stubbins Lane Mill, also known as Bent Mill and Flock Mill, originally used for cotton spinning and manufacture, has now been a motor recovery and repair business for nearly a decade. The building gives the immediate impression of being extremely well maintained and cared for. This is highlighted in the summer months by 26 hanging flower baskets, which over the last few years, have led to many awards from the Bury in Bloom scheme.
The building itself has a rather unusual appearance from the road because the bottom of each the large lower windows is below ground level. An even more surprising feature can only be seen by standing at the corner of the building on the way to Reception and looking along the front wall. From here it is obvious that this wall is concave along it's length, (or curved towards the rear), and the top of the wall slopes backwards. In fact the whole of the front section of the building has shifted and leans back at an angle of several degrees. When and why it started to bend and lean is not known, but its shape has resulted in its local name of Bent Mill.
The part of the mill that fronts on to the road (section A), was built before 1888 and this is the only part of the building to have become `bent'. Presumably some fault with foundations or with the ground underneath has caused this thick walled stone structure to shift. The present owners suggest that it must have happened before the building was completed because the roof and the floors inside are horizontal and there is no visible evidence that they were corrected at a later date.



Section (B) which was built some 30 to 40 years later, may well have been be of use, both in extending the building and in preventing further slippage. The rear parts of the building which are built of more modern materials, were added considerably later. There are several other interesting features in the mill. The round brick chimney, which is now capped at the height of the roof ridges, can be seen as it emerges through the back part of the roof. Since the machinery was presumably steam powered, the chimney must have been built with the oldest part of the mill. The floorboards in the front part of the mill are thought to be original and are unusually narrow, being only about 3 inches wide. Interestingly hundreds of machine sewing needles were found between the floorboards on the first floor when Auto Rescue took over the building and the owners think these may have been used to sew sacks.

A ladder fastened to the back wall of the mill may be typical of it's day, since it is identical with one found in Ramsbottom Mill, but it is very different in style to a modern ladder. It consists of a single plank with stirrup shaped foot-holes cut into it and is fastened by brackets a few inches from the wall to allow room for the toes.

Although it no longer exists today, we know that the goit shown on the plan originally ran parallel to Stubbins Lane between the road and the mill, and that a bridge provided access to the mill itself and to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway beyond. This goit, which was built by Samuel and Thomas ASHTON of Ramsbottom Mill in 1802, was later maintained by the Ramsbottom Goit Company. However it was completely filled in around the 1960s or 1970s and the area used as a car park. This was just rough ground until it was concreted in 2002. Interestingly it would appear that fresh water oysters originally grew in the goit, as their shells can still be seen in the narrow gap between the car park and the building.

When was the mill built?

The earliest record of Stubbins Lane Mill comes from WORRALL's Trade Directory of 1871, which shows that there were then three cotton mills on Stubbins Lane. The other two were Victoria Mill, which stood where the Fire Station is today and was owned by Henry HEYS and another mill owned by William CLITHEROE.

Stubbins Lane Mill was at that time used for both cotton spinning and manufacture by Thomas HILL. We do not know it's exact date of build but it must have been after 1867 when all the properties of the ASHTONs, the previous landowners, were auctioned to pay their creditors.

Like most of the other Ashton properties, their land on Stubbins Lane eventually came into the hands of the wealthy GRANT family. In 1888, some twenty years after the mill was built, a 999-year lease was granted on Stubbins Lane Mill by Isabella LAWSON, daughter of William GRANT and heiress of the Grant (later GRANT LAWSON) Estate. The tenant at that time was Thomas HORROX, a cotton waste dealer, who paid 4d (less than 2p) copyhold or ground rent and a rent of £25 for the use of the mill. The deeds, which date from this time, show that the building then consisted of the front section (A) and the chimney, and was situated in a plot of land that was 1760 1/2 sq yds in size.

Strict conditions attached to the lease, meant that HORROX was forced to build dwelling houses or other buildings with suitable outbuildings and conveniences that would have the yearly letting value of £50. This work was to be completed within six months, to be done at his own expense, and to be of materials and standard of workmanship satisfactory to Isabella LAWSON. The extent of this construction is perhaps surprising, because it was to be worth twice the rent he was charged for the mill. As well as maintaining the pavement and road (Stubbins Lane) outside the mill, and half the roadway leading to the railway behind, he also had to pay a proportion of maintenance for party walls, sewers and drains.

Thomas HORROX moved on within four years and had become a paper mill manager in Hayfield, Derbyshire by 21 st May 1892 when he sold the Stubbins Lane Mill lease for £l00 pounds. The new owner, Edmund HILL from Shuttleworth, kept the mill for 30 years during which time the building more than doubled in size. Presumably the

fact that HILL, the new owner, was a blanket and flock merchant accounts for it's other colloquial name of Flock Mill.

It would be interesting to know if Edmund HILL was related to Thomas HILL the first known tenant in 1871 or if the name was just a coincidence. Further research would, no doubt, give us the answer to this question. Edmund HILL died in 1922 leaving three sons who agreed between them that the tenancy should be taken over by the youngest son Oswald and one of the older brothers. We know from a sworn declaration that Stubbins Lane Mill was bought by Thomas MANNING & Co Ltd in 1953, some 31 years later. Plans show that during his ownership, the buildings were extended to their current size and it was possibly during this time that the goit was eventually filled in. The mill must have finally ceased being used for the cotton industry, as around 1969 it was occupied by Natural Food Distributors, who sold whole grain and seeds.

After nearly twenty years with MANNING, the mill was bought by Cadbury Schweppes and although they owned it for around four years, nothing is really known about how they used it.

The building then changed its use again when, in 1976, it was bought by AB HARDMAN Engineering Services Ltd, for £25,000. After another twenty years this company went into liquidation and in March 1996 John PARROTT, the managing director of Aspull Engineering, bought the mill. Just one year later it was sold again, this time to the present owners, Alan and Mel GREEN of Auto Rescue, who modernised the inside of the building and concreted the car park. However, except for painting the building black and white and making slight changes to the windows, the front of the building has remained unchanged for around 140 years.

The name of the mill
As has been indicated the mill has had several names. It has been known locally as Bent Mill because of its shape, and Flock Mill because a flock manufacturer once owned it. However the deeds and in the Trade Directories of 1871 and 1883 show that its correct title, reflecting its location, is Stubbins Lane Mill.

Kate Slingsby, February2007

NUTTALL PARK AND THE PORRITT LEGACY TO RAMSBOTTOM

A review of our new booklet which was compiled in readiness for the Nuttall Park Extravaganza 8dh Anniversary Celebration.

What an interesting booklet from its up-to-date cover to the extensive information it reveals!

The opening ceremony in 1928 is described in detail. The important contribution made by Colonel PORRITT is highlighted by the clearly depicted events on that day -with speeches, band music, bouquets and refreshments all taking place in *'Nuttall park's beautiful setting between the hills and towers'.*

The inclusion of a first hand recollection from the day adds to the feeling of being there.

The history of the Park and Hall itself includes details going back to the century. In some instances; particularly 'The Farm Fire at Nuttall', clearer dates and location would be of assistance; one can only assume they are not available.

The 'new' Nuttall Hall, built c1817, must have been an impressive sight set in gardens and surrounded by woodland with 'natural and artificial cascades, rustic steps and other adjuncts'. It is such a pity that the Hall was demolished in 1952 — original photographs show this demolition in progress.

Whilst reading, a lot can be learned about the GRANT family who lived at Nuttall Hall. They were successful in business passing ownership of the Hall down through generations of the GRANT family. There is an interesting description of the servants working at the Hall and also reference to the part played by domestic servants in the 19th century.

There is a balanced mix of references from the 19th and 20th centuries with a fine section about the extra land, which became part of Nuttall Park and the shows and celebrations which have been held in the Park over the years.

The life and background of Colonel PORRITT makes most interesting reading. From his early school life, through the First World War and until his death, A.T. PORRITT led a varied life. He donated land to the people of Strongstry, Ramsbottom and Stubbins and became a benefactor for many worthy concerns in the area.

The author has included detail of the PORRITT family's connection with The Cliffe in Stubbins and other local concerns including memories recorded by Mr Harry HOYLE, the painting and decorating supervisor at The Cliffe for 30 years.

The memories from Stubbins Vale Mill give an excellent picture of life and occupation in the 1920s to 1940s. They are clearly written and keep the interest of the reader with their detail from a more recent section of local history.

The booklet concludes with more up-to-date information and photographs relating to the replica plaque and inscribed stone which now have pride of place in Nuttall Park. This is an interesting booklet where the author has used a good mix of text and photographs which I am sure young and old will enjoy.

Gwenda NEWTON, Secretary, Friends of Nuttall Park.

THE STORY OF THE PLAQUE AND STONE IN NUTTALL PARK

In May 2007 Amy LEACH, the Park Ranger, invited local groups including Ramsbottom Heritage Society to join the Friends of Nuttall Park in planning a celebration in July 2008 to mark 80 years of the park. A notice board was requested which would tell the story of Nuttall Hall and its occupiers as so many visitors asked ' What was here before it was a park?' (It was the

home of John, one of the famous GRANT brothers, who were still owners in Ramsbottom). Brenda RICHARDS, Kath HADDOCK and Kate SLINGSBY from the Heritage Society supplied the words and pictures. James BURBEDGE from Bury Council the graphics, and the board was finished by a grant from "Awards for All" - a branch of the National Lottery.

However it was not the GRANTs who donated the park to the public but Lt. Col. A. T. PORRITT of `The Cliffs' and Stubbins vale Mill so we suggested to the Friends that we should somehow commemorate his generous gift, The Heritage Society already had the original commemorative plaque that had been put up in Nuttall Hall in 1928. It had been given to them for safekeeping having sojourned in the cellars of the cemetery office after the Hall was pulled down in 1952. There was a problem though in reinstating it — where to put it and, as it was 27 inches wide and made or brass or bronze, would it be stolen? Putting it on the new ranger hut was suggested, but it wasn't thought it could be easily removed from there. Mike BENT, from Leisure Services,was the first to suggest it be set in stone.
The Heritage Society, still concerned that the original might get stolen, decided a replica plaque should be used. Heritage Society members Janet SMITH, her husband Ian, Linda DE RUIJTER and Brenda set to work to see how this could be done. Alan CLAYTON, a pattern maker in Paradise Street, was approached. He made a pattern of the original plaque and arranged for LUPTON SMALLSHAW Ltd, a foundry in Burnley, to cast a replica in iron. Mike BENT agreed to provide the funding so we were up and running. Later, to stop it rusting, Graham TWIDALE, also from the Heritage Society, finished the plaque with several coats of weather resistant paint. The centre was painted black with gold lettering and the wide wreath (which encircles it) in dark green with details picked out in gold. Linda contacted MARSHALLS' quarry to see if they would donate a stone and they agreed. We then had some fun time choosing the stone. Amy and Mike from Leisure Services, Marcia FLETCHER and Gwenda NEWTON from the Friends of Nuttall Park, and the Heritage Society members had two trips up to Scout Moor Quarry, ably assisted by Rob NICHOLSON who project managed it on behalf of MARSHALLS. We donned hard hats and yellow vests and trundled up in the Leisure Services' Range Rover, an exciting time as most of us had never visited a quarry before. The final choice was a lovely 5.5 tonne 'Upper Haslingden Flag' stone with swirls of pattern which we were told was formed when the rock was on the sea bed. MARSHALLS suggested there should be a smooth surface on which to mount the plaque and for the inscription that would accompany it but we were anxious that the stone look natural. Eventually it was agreed that a separate plinth would be cut for the sole inscription which would stand in front of the stone with the plaque on it. Brenda and Janet put pen to paper and after much debate came up with a short inscription.

Rob organised Cheetham Hill Construction Company to deliver the stone to the Park while Linda found a stone mason, Dave GREENHALGH, who would cut the stone so

the plaque could be countersunk and less easily removed. MARSHALLS kindly agreed to pay for the transportation and the stone mason's fee.

Finally in early July 2008 the stone arrived in the Park with Linda, Rob, and Mike there to supervise Barry COLLINS of Cheetham Hill Construction and Dave FISH and team, John, Scott, Keith and Patrick of Draxeda Construction. A few days later Amy and members of the Friends of Nuttall Park went along to help Dave GREENHALGH decide where to place the plaque on the stone. At last it was all done.

On 12th July 2008 Andrew TODD, President of the Heritage Society, said a few works of thanks to all and the stone was unveiled by Cllr Peter ASHWORTH, Mayor of Bury. This was followed by the opening of 'Nuttall Extravaganza', an afternoon of celebration in the Park.

Only one thing left to say - 'A good team effort' 'Well done team!'

Brenda Richards

MAJOR JOHN WILLIAM SUETON GRANT (1824-1913)

He was born in Morayshire, worked as an agent for William Grant & Brothers, had a pub and a street named after him in Ramsbottom, and Hume ELLIOTT gives a pen picture of his life in his first book about the GRANTs - but what else do we know of him? Was he a blood relative of the famous GRANT family? If not how did he come to live and work in Ramsbottom? And what happened to him after he left Ramsbottom?

This is what I have found out.

John GRANT certainly came from the same area of Scotland as William and Grace GRANT with their home at Elchies being about midway between John's grandfather's home, Nethy Bridge and his parent's home, Garmouth on the coast. However researching the family trees is not easy. As a Scottish historian told me 'This area is awash with GRANTs'...as 'it was common for people to adopt the name of the Clan Chief. Rev. Hume ELLIOTT, who visited the area, had equal difficulties because of 'defective and imperfectly kept registers' and the fact that it was 'perfect orthodox procedure ... for a GRANT to marry a GRANT'.

I have managed to trace Major GRANT's genealogy back a short way, but have not as yet found any family connection to William and Grace GRANT. His father was Alexander (Sandy) GRANT, who came from a farm near Cromdale. He was a timber agent for GRANT of Rothiemurcus and built a 'fine Georgian house Dellachaple'. His mother was Helen nee GRANT. She was the daughter of John GRANT and Christina nee GRANT. John GRANT was a man of some standing in the community, who 'did much to establish law and order and education'. Known as 'Parson John', he was chaplain to the 97th Regiment during the Napoleonic Wars and was minister of the Kirk in Abernethy, Nethy Bridge from 1765- 1820. (*The Kirk is the informal name*

for the national Presbyterian Church of Scotland- St Andrew 's Church, Ramsbottom was therefore originally a 'Kirk ' too).

There is an interesting little anecdote about 'Parson John' which, whilst not pertinent to this article, is quite amusing. At a time when news was sparse, he used to give updates on the French War from his pulpit, and once got things wrong and had to apologised the next week saying 'Oh my friends it is not true what I told you last Sunday. The scoundrel Buonoparte is alive yet, and doing much mischiefus ever'.

Parson John had four sons and one daughter. Peter was a Captain in the Hon. East India Company; James Augustus, Chief Secretary of the Government, Bombay and Senior Judge of the Court Circuit, Guzerat; and Sweton (a family name) a Student of Divinity who died young.

Helen, his daughter, knowing of the success of William GRANT & Brothers, brought John down to Ramsbottom in 1841 when he was just seventeen. Elisabeth ASHTON (daughter of James and niece to Daniel GRANT) in a letter to Rev. W. Hume ELLIOT, recalled Mrs GRANT and her son coming to Ramsbottom after his father's death. They met with Daniel GRANT who said 'something would be found for him and he could stay at Nuttall Hall until other arrangements could be made'. Elizabeth does not say they were relatives.

Afterwards, she says, he lived in 'the cottage, where my cousin James McLACHLAND lived, whilst being employed at Square Ramsbottom'. (James McLACHLAND was son of Catherine nee GRANT, g/son of James GRANT. He died in 1846). The cottage was near St Andrew's Church. At work he was initially called John Grant Dellachaple to distinguish him from John GRANT of Nuttall Hall. He became cashier and then agent for the Grant estates. He lived at Spring Cottage, Bolton Street, at least from 1861 to 1893, across the road from his offices at Rose Hill.

Again according to Mrs ASHTON, John GRANT 'became a bosom friend of William GRANT, junior' (son of John GRANT of Nuttall Hall). In fact he was named a trustee of William GRANT's will. Both were involved in the formation of the Volunteers in Ramsbottom around 1860, full details of which are given by Hume ELLIOTT. John GRANT rose through the ranks to become the Major, a position he held for 20 years. The armoury/ drill hall was at one time sited at 142/144, Bolton Street and the whole terrace between Spring Cottage and the Major pub was known as 'Band Row'. (note: around 1900 Rose Villa was built between Spring Cottage and 142).

Major GRANT shunned public office saying he was too busy with his work. He never married and was described by HAYHURST as a 'wittily dry old bachelor'.

He retired in 1893 and returned to live in Dellachaple, Garmouth. There he was involved in many charitable activities as well as pursuing his love for fishing for salmon in the River Spey. A local paper records a dinner given in his honour to mark his 81 st birthday. He died in October 1913 aged 89 in the presence of his niece Mary McDONALD. In his obituary the Scotsman said 'He was beloved and respected by all

who come into contact with his on account to his vigorous mind and manly spirit of a genial kindness and benevolence which showed that he was kin in more than blood to the Cheeryble Brothers'.

Maybe the Scotsman knows more than I about blood ties!! Brenda Richards 2008

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SCOUT MOOR QUARRY

Both of the stones for the Nuttall Park plaque come from MARSHALLS' Scout Moor Quarry, Edenfield and were pulled from the quarry using a CAT 385 excavator. After drilling the rock and splitting it with black powder the smaller stone was transported to MARSHALLS' Brookfoot works in Halifax where they were cut into shape. The stone on to which the plaque was to be mounted was left with the surfaces in a natural state. The smaller stone was cut smooth and the engraving was carried out and painted. They were transported back to Fletcher Bank ready for installation.

Scout Moor stone is a blue-green fine-grained sandstone from the carboniferous age. In their petrological description the stones are classed as Namurian Millstone Grit, a hard sedimentary rock which forms part of the Upper Haslingden Flagrock banding. There are swirling formations which show on the Nuttall Park rock's surface and remind us that its layers were laid down in water.

Upper Haslingden Flag, which is very durable, was used extensively in many towns and cities of the United Kingdom to make paving stones for pavements and floors. It formed the basis of the 19th century boom in the quarrying industry. Particularly in

wet weather, the swirling pattern can be seen locally on many old stone pavements. To make them suitable, rough flagstones were given a smooth surface at a rubbing mill. The stone also provided the paving for Albert Square, Manchester and Trafalgar Square.

In the Rossendale Valley the initial period of quarrying consisted of relatively small scale extraction. The people of Edenfield and district had the right to quarry stone to use for building their houses, barns and walls or to sell as they wished. Many farms had a small stone pit in the corner of a field for their own needs. Quarrying became an increasingly important way of making money at the end of the eighteenth century as nearby towns and villages began to grow, as mills were built and as new turnpike roads cut across the district.

On Scout Moor (scout was Norman for high rock) and Turf Moor (above Turn) the quarrying began to expand into substantial workings. During the mid to late L2Lb century there was mechanisation and other improved stone-working techniques and quarry workings began to eat further and further into hillsides. This period also saw the construction of the railway which made it possible to transport stone much further afield. In 1880 a tramway to Scout Moor quarry was completed. It climbed from a stone staithe on Rochdale Road up the Dearden Brook valley and then ran back on itself at a higher level into the quarry. Horses were probably used at first but later there were locomotives such as Excelsior. From the Rochdale Road staithe stone was carried away by road. In 1877 it is reported that one of the traction engines of Messrs WHITTAKER & Sons had been taking to Bury six wagons loaded with sett stones for paving weighing fifty tons.

At this time quarrying was an important employer in the Edenfield area. In 1871 James WHITTAKER had 47 men working for him at Scout Moor. Dust was a major health hazard for the quarrymen, and often resulted in silicosis. The corduroyed men laboured until early evening, stopping only to eat the food which they brought with them and which they might warm on the stove provided to boil water for their brew. Bad weather often stopped work in the winter months, and without work there was no pay.

Work became increasingly difficult at many quarries in the valley because of the amount of overburden that had to be removed to get at usable rock. At Scout Moor the problem was partly solved by mining the stone. Some quarries had tunnels driven into the hillside for some considerable distance to get at the best stone, leaving the upper surface undisturbed. The turn of the century was marked by a decline in the industry and there was a growth in the use of cheaper, lighter bricks. An 1896 report on Lancashire's mining industry gives a total of 304 underground workers and 333 surface workers, with James WHITTAKER employing six men underground and three on the surface at Scout Moor.

After 1919 the majority of the Rossendale quarries were closed, the decline having been aggravated by major strikes in that year by quarrymen, who refused to work in

the poor conditions and for such little pay. The WHITTAKER family bought Scout Moor quarry from Lord DERBY in the 1920s and continued to work it until the early 1950s. The quarry was then used for tipping trade refuse but re-opened in 1968 when there was a huge demand for stone for filling for the motorway building programme. Forty men worked round the clock to excavate 1200 tons of rock a day and it was used to build parts of the Ml, M62 and the Edenfield by-pass. In 1970 quarrying stopped but restarted in 1983 and has continued ever since. Among the impressive equipment now at the quarry is a seventy tonne Volvo excavator, new in 2007 when its main role was reported to be to rip up 400,000 tonnes of sandstone blocks for the quarry and also to handle top lift material for crushed aggregate construction. It seems that permission is in place for Marshalls Mono to continue quarrying until 2042.

Following a public enquiry held in 2004, planning consent was granted to Peel Holdings (ownership - John WHITTAKER) by the Secretary of State on 25th May 2005 for Scout Moor Wind Farm. A compound within the quarry became the construction base for the 26 turbines and associated infrastructure. The wind farm has recently been completed.

References:

A History of Edenfield and District by John Simpson 2003

Manchester Evening News 13.10.04

www.valleyofstone.org.uk

Janet Smith

CONSERVATION GROUP REPORT

Flowers and Gardens

Usually the conservation group concerns itself with buildings and streets and nothing as transitory as plants. However we are branching out into horticulture to enhance the appearance of the town!

The New Jerusalem Church interpretation board cannot be erected because the site needs renovation so we are trying to get the council to plant a garden, which Anne MORTIMER has designed on her computer.

Brenda RICHARDS has also secured 450 daffodil bulbs from the council for us to plant around Ramsbottom during the autumn.

Historical databases

We have been putting together databases for various aspects of the history of Ramsbottom and this now includes the date of build of many houses and other buildings in the town, and dates and basic details of churches and mills. If you have

any information about these topics, please could you contact Kath HADDOCK, Brenda or me, so that it can be added to the work already done.

Planning applications

Dave HADDOCK continues to bring planning application to the group for our consideration. We objected to the materials with which Aldi was planning to build their store and since the application was turned down on grounds of appearance we feel vindicated in this. They are appealing against the decision and in any case, might be accepted if they modified the exterior of the buildings.

In the centre of Ramsbottom many of the shops were converted from houses a long time ago and number 7, Square Street is one of the last remaining houses in these streets, to undergo this process. We objected to the visual impact a shop sign would have on this property and were subsequently asked for our opinions on three possible styles of signage.

It is gratifying that our opinions are valued.

Maintaining the traditional appearance of buildings.

Newspapers were contacted and have included an item congratulating Roger GREENLEES Jewellers, Bolton St, where the paint on the stonework of the shop's front wall has been removed.

At The Brook, on Bolton Road West the previously stark black and white building has been painted in a stone colour. We are also hoping to discourage strap pointing (where the pointing is prominent and highly visible) on the front face of stone work. English Heritage and the government are both advising against this practice, because of the visual effect and also because it may damage the stonework as it does not last very long before cracking.

We are also looking for other ways to encourage local shop and home owners to maintain the traditional appearance of their buildings. If you have any ideas as to how we can do this, please get in touch.

Membership of the Conservation Group.

The work of the Conservation group is a team effort and I would like to thank all the members of the conservation group for their hard work, for sharing their knowledge and giving their time. We have been really pleased that new Ramsbottom residents have come along to join both the Heritage Society and the Conservation Group. We always welcome new members who bring fresh ideas for ways to conserve the town, so please get in touch if you would like to be involved.

Kate SLINGSBY

The editors welcome any material for future issues of the News Magazine.

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 ODG tel: 0161 253 6782

Email: archiyes@burygov.uk Website: www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Opening Hours:

Tuesday Ipm -4prn 2nd Saturday of the month I0am - 4pm

Wednesday Ipm - 4pm Thursday loam - 4pm

Friday 10 am - 4pm

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

Our new searchroom features large reading tables, computer and intenet access, microfiche readers and access to Picture Memories. Paper catalogues are available in the search room 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 ODG — 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, BDIO OSE -- tel 01274 611087, email Ordinary membership is Æ12 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.lfhh$.org.uk.

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BLO 9AE tel 0161 253 5352 (IT -tel 0161 253 5354) email Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk

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

A new souvenir booklet from Ramsbottom Heritage Society

NUTTALL PARK

and the

Fernhill Legacy to Ramsbottom



48 pages – Price £3

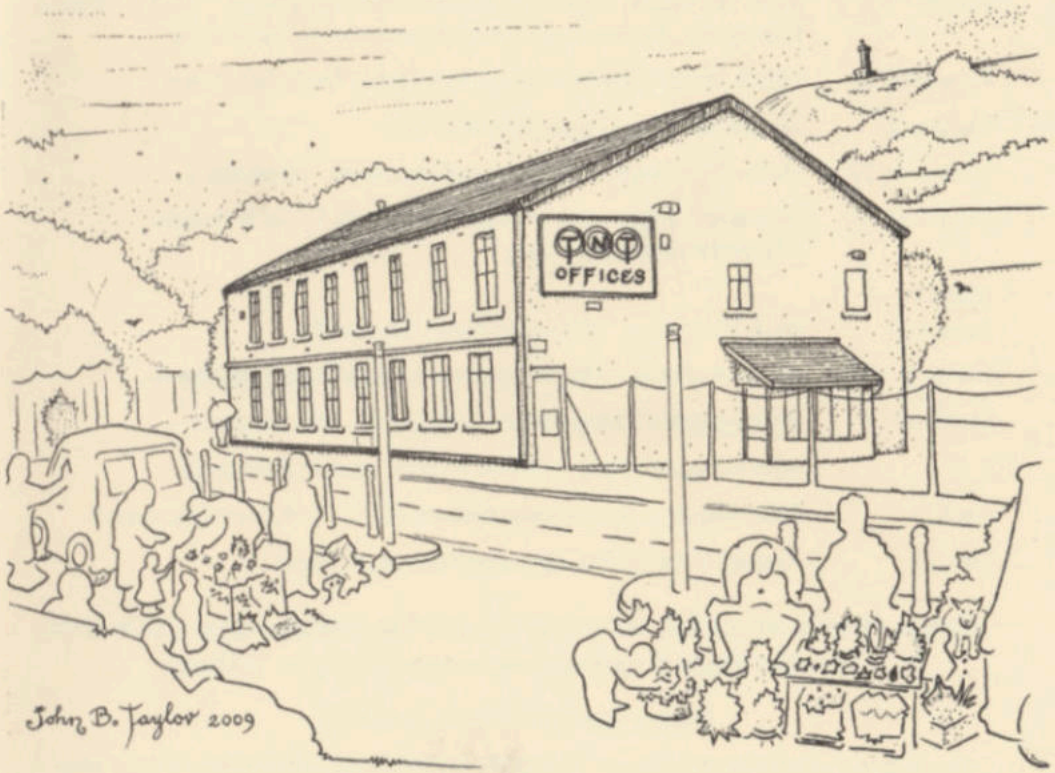
★ *Fully illustrated with colour and archive photographs*

History of the Park — Memories of Stubbins Vale Mill

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 36 Spring 2009 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom

PROGRAMME

2009:

June 17	Mr B. G. Ward – *Danger, Women at Work* – a humorous reminiscence of a working life with women in the workplace
July 15	Mr J. Ireland - Guided walk around the Scout Moor Wind Farm site. Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing
August 19	Mr C. R. Walsh - Guided walk around Barrow Bridge. Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing
September 16	Mrs S. Hogg - *South Pennine Pack Horse Trails* (illustrated)
October 21	Mr Jonathan Ali - *Roger Worthington*
November 18	Mr K. Warrender - *Underground Manchester* (illustrated)
December 10	**Members' Night** - Social evening, with talk by Mr R Bolton: *Christmas Past and Present*

2010:

January 20	Mr I. Molyneaux - *All about Bees* (illustrated)
February 17	Mr G. Atkinson - *Barton Bridge is Falling Down* (illustrated)
March 17	**Photographic Competition** – judge - Mr Alan Seymour
	Miss Margaret Curry - *Beatrix Potter – part 1* (illustrated)
April 21	Kate Slingsby - *Ramsbottom Market Place – 260 years* (illustrated)
May 19	**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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Cover picture:- Vacant Railway Street building which was occupied until recently by T.NT as offices (by John B TAYLOR)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The new year had hardly begun when proposed plans for the re-development of Ramsbottom Library were unveiled, revealing an outline of the Society's new Heritage Centre home. Accommodation to be shared with Adult Education is planned to provide for display and storage of photographs, documents, and artefacts, with access to computing equipment for research and presentation purposes. Completion of the project is planned for November 2009. A group of members is currently reviewing the Society's collections once housed in the now closed former Heritage Centre, and stored since our having vacated it in 2005, and plans will begin soon to develop displays and arrangements for public access. Whilst members are looking forward to a new beginning, they have been busily engaged in ensuring Society activities have continued. Recently, members were instrumental in arranging the return to Ramsbottom Pool of plaques commemorating its inauguration, which had been consigned to the scrapheap during a later refurbishment. Involvement with the town's Business Group continues, monitoring of inappropriate developments is being maintained, the programme of Summer Sunday Rambles is in place, and that of the monthly meetings and visits is being finalised. An invitation has been received from Ramsbottom Churches Together to take part in a Summer Fun Day to be held in Nuttall Park in June, mirroring perhaps the Extravaganza of last year, but, hopefully, with better weather, and we shall soon be considering how we might best take part in Heritage Open Week-end in autumn. In the meantime, the AGM is not far off, when

we can review the past year, determine what went well, or otherwise, and how we might most effectively focus our endeavours in the year ahead.

Tony Murphy

OBITUARY -- Ron DECENT

In February we learned of the death of Ron DECENT, a member from the early days of the Society, who left Ramsbottom in 2006 to live with his wife Brenda in residential care. Ron was born in London on 6th July 1928, living in early childhood in Purley, Surrey, with parents and brothers. A wartime bomb in 1940 destroyed not only the family London-based business, but also the family unity, he and his younger brother being sent to boarding school, firstly in Sussex, later Northampton. As a young man, Ron trained as an architect, and later as an actor at RADA, alongside a young Harold Pinter, touring in Rep theatre for a number of years prior to National Service. He later enlisted, serving with Military Intelligence in Malaya and Hong Kong, continuing his acting career, famously appearing in the Orson Wells film Ferry to Hong Kong, and developing a love of the Far East. In 1959 he left the army, crossed the Pacific to Vancouver, beginning a career in publishing, continuing to act in amateur theatre, eventually making his way to Toronto, where he met and married young English librarian Brenda Edwards. During this time in Canada, Ron and Brenda's children, Sarah, Emma, and Tom, were born. Returning to England in 1972 with his family, to live initially in Hitchin, when his health first began to deteriorate, moving to Ramsbottom in 1988, to be near to Brenda's family, Ron continued his careers, in publishing until retirement, and amateur theatre, appearing in several Summerseat Players productions, becoming also a member of the Heritage Society. During this period also, he and Brenda travelled extensively. Continuing deterioration in health persuaded them to seek residential care, latterly in Burnley, where Ron died on 17th February 2009. Tony Murphy

BOOK REVIEW -"The Fastest Man -- Steeple Jack's Adventures in Lancashire", by Chris Aspin Inspired by the writer having discovered the subject, James Duncan WRIGHT, once lived at Grant's Tower, this little book provides an explanation to anyone who may have wondered how the word steeplejack came to enter the English language, or indeed how one so named came to earn it in the first place. WRIGHT, born 1829, son of a weaver, hailed from Dundee and began working life as a seaman.

A young lad's liking for tree climbing honed his ability to scale heights, and, on his way to join a ship at Dunbar in 1845, a chance opportunity to scale a church steeple and replace a dangerous weather vane, earning him not only financial reward, but also the title "Steeple Jack", and a new and rewarding career, is recounted. The means of ascent of structures of great height are described in word and picture. Wright was not the innovator of the means, but the first to exploit them successfully for the purpose of repairing structures, the aplomb with which his exploits were conducted, and the style

and rapidity of his descent, earning him his title and reputation. His connection with Ramsbottom and Grant's Tower, which began in the early 1850's , when, hospitalised following an accident, he received a request from the owner of Ramsbottom Mill to repair the chimney, subsequent success, and meeting with the Grant brothers of "Cheeryble Brothers" fame, is detailed. Wright travelled the length and breadth of the land, both repairing structures and demonstrating and exhibiting his skills, and his exploits are well documented. He fathered several children whilst living in Ramsbottom, eventually moving to Bury, later in life returning to Scotland where he died in 1902, largely forgotten. Three of his sons became steeplejacks, two dying tragically young, a third living for many years in Bolton before dying in Edenfield in 1901. There may be descendants yet to be found. In relating the story of a larger than life character, the book is peppered with the names of individuals, events, and institutions, some well known to us, others less so, or forgotten, and provides fascinating images of times past. A modest yet worthwhile investment.

Tony Murphy

MEMORIES OF A BRIEF TIME AT SHEPHERDS

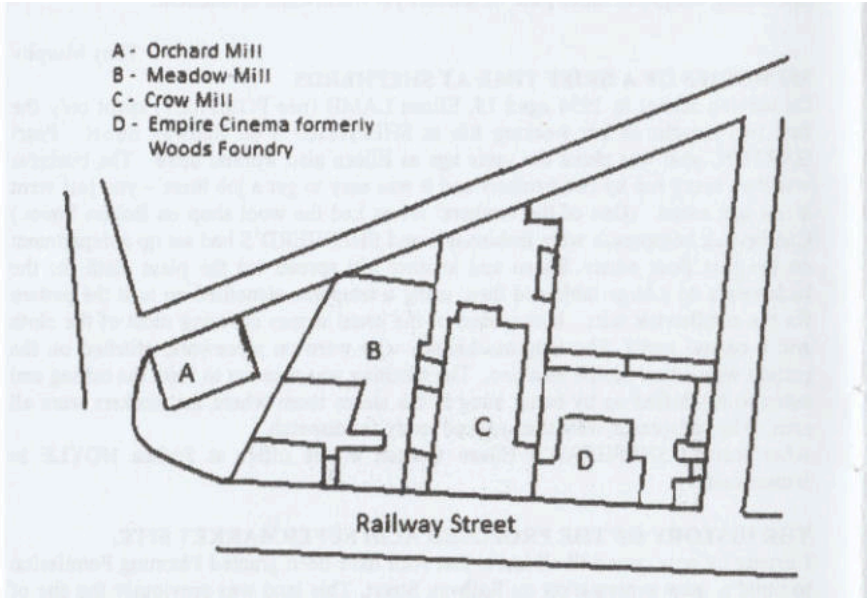
On leaving school in 1954 aged 15, Eileen LAMB (née POMFRET) spent only the first two months of her working life at SHEPHERD'S on Railway Street. Pearl BARTON, who was about the same age as Eileen also worked there. The business was then being run by two brothers and it was easy to get a job there -- you just went along and asked. (One of the brothers' wives had the wool shop on Bolton Street.) Candlewick bedspreads were fashionable and SHEPHERD'S had set up a department on the first floor where Eileen and another girl spread out the plain cloth for the bedspreads on a large table and then, using a template, stencilled on to it the pattern for the candlewick tufts. It consisted of the usual stripes covering most of the cloth and a central motif. The lady machinists, who were on piecework, stitched on the pattern with a five-needle machine. The stitching was then cut to form the tufting and taken to be fluffed up by being hung in the steam room where the workers were all men. The bedspreads were then packed ready for dispatch. After leaving SHEPHERD'S Eileen worked in the office at Joshua HOYLE in Summerseat.

THE HISTORY OF THE PROPOSED ALDI SUPERMARKET SITE.

I expect by now, you will all know that Aldi have been granted Planning Permission to build a new supermarket on Railway Street. This land was previously the site of various mills and I thought it would be interesting to write about the history of these mills. At the junction of Irwell Street and Railway Street, where Clarks Crafts is presently situated, there used to be Railway Foundry run by John WOOD. He moved to Garden Engineering Works in about 1899. After this it became The Empire Cinema and

Empire Motors is still there, tucked away at the back. The Aldi site comprises the rest of the land fronting Railway Street, to the corner of Kay Brow and then along Square

In 1842 most of this rough triangle of land was known as Great Meadow. Part of this land was owned by Samuel ASHTON & Brothers and part by Samuel ASHTON and Thomas ELTON and it was leased to a Richard SCHOFIELD. The 1842 Tithe map records it as just over ten acres of pasture land. Another small piece of this site, in the corner which joins Kay Brow and Square Street, was marked as a garden. This was owned by William GRANT & Brothers and was, in fact, John GRAY'S garden. This plot obviously formed part of the land which the GRANTS bought from PEEL & YATES, when they built their Square Mill. There is some evidence to suggest that some of the old PEEL & YATES mill buildings occupied this small corner of Great Meadow



Of course, the railway line and Railway Street itself weren't yet constructed and takes a great deal of imagination to envisage this meadow one hundred and seventy years ago. The railway was built in 1846 and during the next ten years most Ramsbottom must have looked like a building site as so many mills were built, during a relatively short period of time. Mills for spinning and weaving cotton were

primarily, functional buildings designed to accommodate a range of machinery as efficiently as possible. By the late century, the efficient distribution of machinery was one of the main concerns of mill architects and mills increasingly followed similar basic principles of internal layout. Spinning was usually sited in the upper storeys of the mill with the machines located transversely across the floor. Weaving was usually carried out in a separate mill — often a single storey shed although integrated mills with both spinning and weaving were common in the mid-19th century.

By 1861 two mills had been built along Railway Street. The smaller of these was Crow Mill although at that time it was known as Crow Works. The ground floor of this building was used for cotton manufacturing by two separate operators: George RAMSBOTTOM and also Messrs WARBURTON and WOLSTENHOLME. some local mills were run by the same family for many years but the cotton industry had more than its fair share of 'ups and downs' and most mills had many tenants come and go through the years. In 1888 Richard BARNES, who was a cotton spinner and manufacturer, produced honeycomb towels, twills and sheeting at Crow Works.

Next door to Crow was the appropriately named Meadow Mill, which was run for about fifty years by John and Edmund ROTHWELL. John ROTHWELL lived at Brandlesholme Old Hall and Edmund J. ROTHWELL lived in Ramsbottom. In 1887 they had 5,300 spindles and 125 looms at the mill, on which they produced waste twills, plains and waste wefts.

Crow Works and Meadow Mill were both owned by Gabriel LUND. He was a Master Machine Maker, born in Burnley about 1816 and married Grace WILKINSON in 1838 in Bury. In 1861 he lived with his wife and family in Bolton Street and on the census of that year he was listed as a machine maker (master) employing six men and two boys. In the upper rooms of Crow Works he and his employees made cotton waste breaking machines - known as 'devils'. Apparently Mr LUND had an enviable reputation all over Lancashire for the excellence of the machinery turned out at his works. By 1881 Gabriel had retired as an engineer and he died in 1882 age 65 years. Gabriel & Grace's daughter Mary Annie LUND, who was born at Ewood Bridge in 1840 married Edmund James ROTHWELL, one of the partners at Meadow Mill.

By 1900 SHEPHERDS Limited were operating at Crow and from this time onwards it became known as Crow Mill. SHEPHERDS was founded in 1899 by Joseph SHEPHERD, who was formerly in partnership with Joshua HITCHON at Springwood Mill. There they successfully adapted the condenser woollen system to cotton waste spinning, thereby making Ramsbottom the birthplace of condenser yarn. The characteristic of this yarn was its greater bulk for equal weight, than any other cotton yarn, making it very absorbent and giving it some of the features of woollen yarn. SHEPHERDS Limited spun condenser yarn for use on their own looms to produce turkish towels in a variety of colours and designs, sheeting, cotton blankets, jaspé, bedspreads, tablecloths and furnishings, the latter screen printed in their own works.

Besides being in big demand for the home market, these were also exported all over the world.

Honeycomb and huckaback towels and towelling made with coarse yarns in plain and twill weaves were in use before turkish/terry towels were introduced. It was not until between 1880 and 1890 that manufacturers began to install terry towel looms in their mills. Jaspé was randomly coloured fabric and twill was a fabric woven, with a surface of diagonal parallel ridges.

By 1910 J & E ROTHWELL had left Meadow Mill for Field Mill, Kenyon street and SHEPHERDS were then operating at both Crow and Meadow Mills.

A full page advertisement in the 1951 Handbook for the Ramsbottom Festival read:

> *Shepherds Limited - spinners of condenser yarns, in cop, hank, cheese and cone. Manufacturers of white and coloured towels, cotton blankets, sheetings, polishing cloths, woven and printed tablecloths, printed and embroidered bedspreads and woven and tufted bath mats. Crow and Meadow Mills, Ramsbottom. Telephone 3101.*

In the late 1950s they merged with John PATTISON & Company, which was a family firm. SHEPHERDS then began manufacturing tufted candlewick. They employed about one hundred and fifty people and were then known as John PATTISON & Co Ltd (incorporating SHEPHERDS Ltd). Unfortunately in about 1970 they ceased trading and the mills were closed. Most of the mill buildings were pulled down by TNT when they bought the site although the building which was SHEPHERD'S offices still presently stands. However the planning permission granted to Aldi in 2008 allows them to demolish this building. (I have been unable to find out what year

TNT demolished the mills on the site but I have come across some of the history of TNT which is interesting. In 1946, 33 year old Ken THOMAS established K.w. Transport in Australia with a single truck. In 1958 K.W. Transport changed its name to Thomas Nationwide Transport and TNT was born. TNT first entered the United Kingdom in 1978 with the purchase of the northern based carrier Inter-County Express.)

Orchard Mill was built in the corner of the prospective Aldi site and this was once John GRAY'S garden. In 1861 this mill was occupied by FARMER & SCHOFIELD who were cotton spinners and in 1871 BOOTH SCHOFIELD & co, also cotton spinners. By 1883 J & J STEAD operated their business of cotton spinning here and had 8,000 spindles. John Kellar Kirk STEAD was the son of Lawrence STEAD and his cousin James Millership STEAD was the son of Henry STEAD. When the STEADS left Orchard Mill it changed from being a spinning mill to premises owned by Charles LOMAX Ltd, builders and contractors. In Kelly's Trade Directory' of 1909 it is listed as Orchard Saw Mills. During the 1920s things changed again and it became a chemical works run by John William BRACEWELL and later a warehouse

used by Stubbins Paper Mill Company, also known as Wiggins Teape (Stubbins) Ltd. Orchard Mill was demolished in the mid 1960s.

Kath HADDOCK - March 2009.

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   Trade Directory Reprints 1818-1888for Ramsbottom, Edenfield, Holcombe, Tottington, Walmersley & Shuttleworth compiled by Andrew A Todd
3. Lancashire Directory 1924 — Kelly — Bury Reference Library TNT Web Site
4. Ramsbottom Volume 2 by Kenneth Beetson (Tower Press 1978)
5. The 1842 Tithe Map covering Tottington Lower End

spring 2009 CONSERVATION GROUP REPORT

As you will be aware, the Conservation Group reviews planning applications for the older buildings in Ramsbottom. Sometimes we have to consider further applications for the same building or contact the council because plans, which they passed are not being adhered to.

Summerseat Railway Warehouse

Some time ago we, along with others, successfully objected to plans to turn the Summerseat Railway Warehouse into housing, partly because it contained an original working wooden crane. Since this time it has become a Grade 2 listed building and the new owners have permission to turn it into an Indian restaurant, keeping the platform and crane as features. More recently the ELR have submitted plans to remove the crane and have it placed in one of their buildings in Bury. Again we have objected and we are still awaiting the result of this application.

Irwell Bridge Mill

Last year plans were agreed by the council, which involved keeping much of the original structure, but with addition of top floors. No progress has been made with this building, for which the current economic climate is no doubt responsible. We are concerned that the slates have been removed from the two storey part and the entire roof structure from the weaving shed. This has left it open to the elements and to deterioration, making it much less likely that the mill building will eventually survive.

Aldi's Supermarket

The Conservation Group has addressed several issues relating to the building and the site. Importantly we asked that there should be an archaeological report on the site, since it has contained two generations of mills, with the earliest mill dating back to the time of the Old Ground in the late 1700s. The council has agreed to this and also that the new building should have a more traditional appearance than in the original

application. Our objection to the illuminated signs, asking that they should be no larger or brighter than those allowed for Tesco and the Co-op, has not yet been decided.

Swimming Pool plaques

If you saw Doris HIBBERT's photograph in the Bury Times you will know that the plaques, which we arranged to be cleaned, have now been reinstated at the swimming pool. Since three generations of Doris's family were present at the original opening on 22nd July 1972, we felt she was the right person to represent us.

Conservation Area Management Plan.

You may have seen some of us wandering around the town in pairs, peering into every nook and cranny and making notes. We have a large Conservation Area, which includes virtually every stone building in Ramsbottom, although unfortunately excluding Ramsbottom and Stubbins Lane to the north, and Bolton Road West to the south, which may be included at some later date. It has therefore been a major undertaking to report on every street with its positive and negative features. In order the preserve the traditional appearance of our typical industrial housing we have recommended that some features might come under tighter regulation than at present. We are hoping that the roadways in some of the quieter streets in the centre of town might be re-setted and the nine original gas lamp standards in the Conservation Area might all have a traditional style of electric lantern. Our report, containing many other important features worth preserving or reinstating (or which need removing !), has been passed to Mick NIGHTINGALE the Conservation Officer, so that he can produce a detailed management plan for the town. If you would like further information about the report please get in touch.

Kate SLINGSBY

RAMSBOTTOM CIVIC HALL

As this News Magazine is being prepared, a major programme of improvement work is in progress at the hall as Bury Council carries out essential repairs, maintenance and refurbishment. The E400k budget is not enough to bring the upper floor back into use but the venue will be brought up to a high standard with better facilities for users to enjoy.

The editors are very grateful to Bryan FARLOW whose painstaking research informs all the early detail about the original site, the planning, design and building of the hall and its change of use from being a Conservative Club in the following account.

It was 1959 when Ramsbottom Urban District Council acquired the hall, which had been the Conservative Club. At the time negotiations with Lancashire County Council to lease the first floor as a central location for the Youth Club had been unsuccessful and instead the town's Masonic Lodge took it over and converted the first floor for their use. RUDC set up a management committee and the building was named the Civic Hall. (The sloping land between the Civic Hall and the old carriage drive to

Carr Bank House was given to RUDC by private donors, Messrs SMITH and HAWORTH in 1963.) It was resolved that hall charges be £l per hour for functions other than dances, lectures or meetings with special rates for eg The Old People's Welfare Association. The hall steward's wages of 4/9d per hour were inclusive of 8/9d per week for his duties as the RUDC Chairman's attendant and he received per hour extra for these. The masons had vacated the Civic Hall's first floor by about 1980, since which time it has remained vacant, despite certain marketing attempts.

The Conservative Club 1895-1959

There had been a rapid spread of working class Conservative Clubs in all the Lancashire towns after 1867. By 1887, for example, there were 31 such clubs in Bolton and this number was not unusual. In 1888 the Conservative Association was listed at Market Place, Ramsbottom with John K K STEAD and Samuel WILSON as joint honorary secretaries. (Edenfield's Conservative Club was at 71, Market Street in 1888.) The Ramsbottom Conservatives had decided to build a new club by 1893 and acquired the original site from Mr J GRANT LAWSON MP. The capital required for the new club in Market Place was reported in 1894 as being E2000, divided into £l shares. (Later reports estimate the cost at E3000.) Provisional directors are also listed: Thomas AITKEN JP, Richard Millen PORRITT, Henry HEYS JP, James DUCKWORTH, Samuel Hoyle ROTHWELL, Peter HAWORTH, George NUTTALL, George WHITTAKER and Thomas WARDLE.

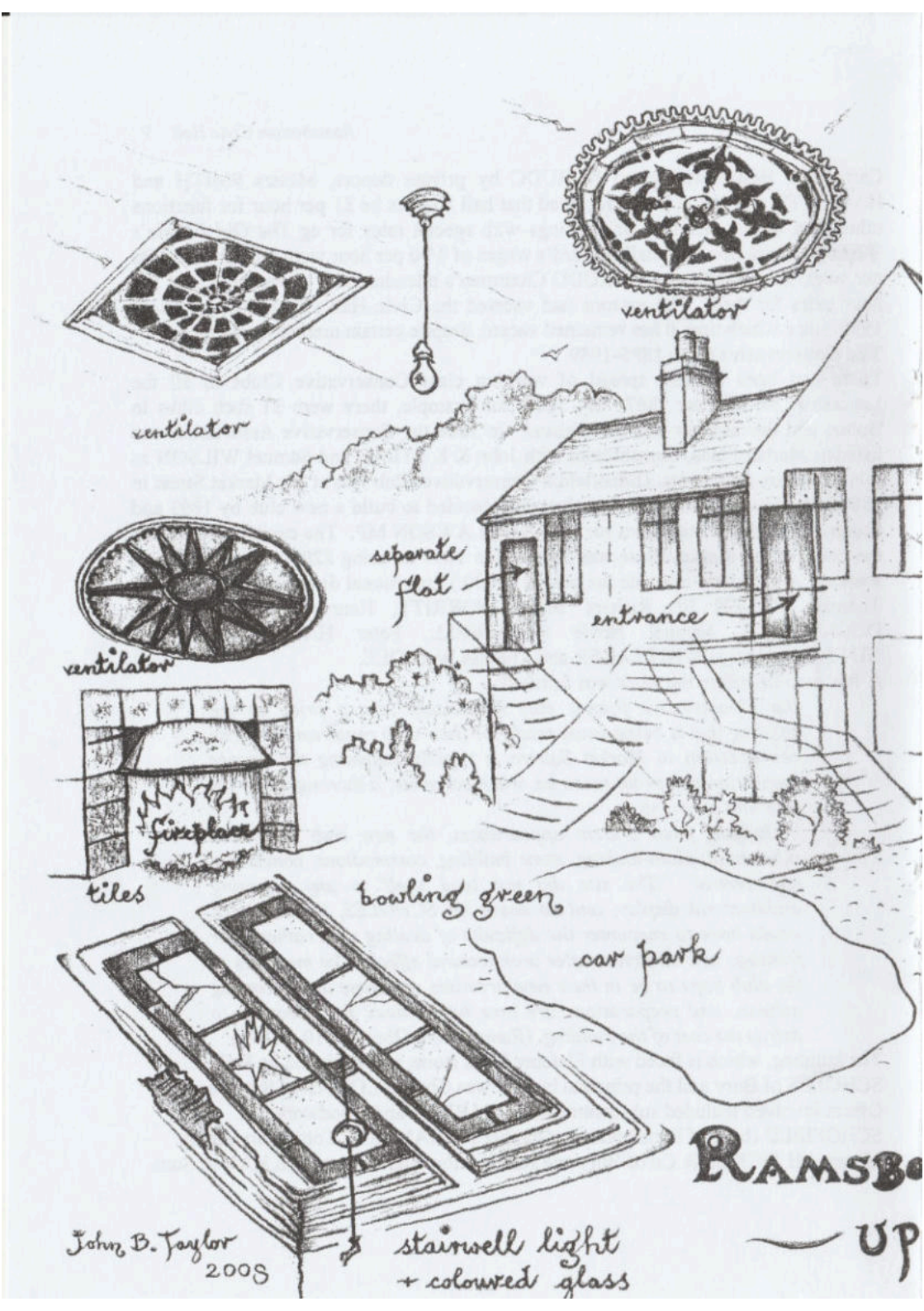
A few months before the work was finished:

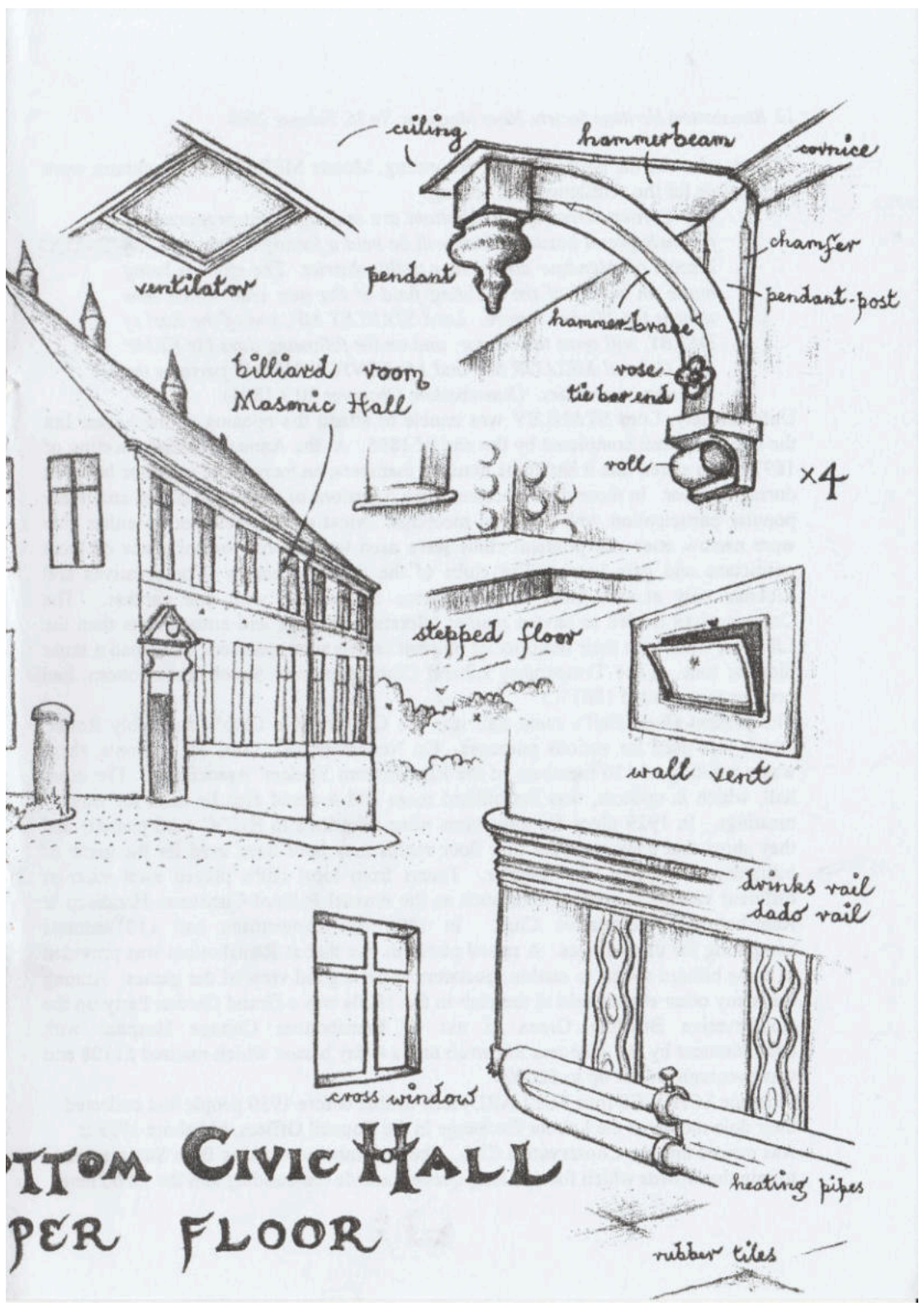
> *Our Conservative friends may reasonably take a pride in the building that is being made ready for their club requirements. The new erection in Market Square is rapidly assuming the proper proportion and promises to be, when complete, a thoroughly up-to date and easy club.*
>
> *Judging from present appearances, the new club will be a substantial, plain-looking, stone building, commodious, convenient and central. The site did not lend itself to any imposing architectural display, and no doubt Mr SCHOLES, the architect, would have to encounter the difficulty of dealing with rather poor frontage had he striven after architectural effect. The members of the club hope to be in their new premises sometime in the coming autumn, and preparations are now being made for a bazaar to defray the cost of the building. (Ramsbottom Observer 10.5.1895)*

The building, which is faced with Fletcher Bank stone, was designed by E H SCHOLES of Bury and the principal builder was Charles LOMAS of Summerseat.

Others involved included sub-contractor J DEARDEN and woodworker R SCHOFIELD (both of Ramsbottom), plumber Mr HAMER of Tottington, slaters

Messrs J H PICKUP & Co of Bury and Ramsbottom and Messrs John KAY & Sons


ventilator
ventilator
ventilator
separate flat
entrance
fireplace
tiles
bowling green
car park
John B. Taylor 2008
stairwell light + coloured glass
RAMSB
UP


ceiling
hammerbeam
cornice
chamfer
pendant-post
hammer-brace
rose
tie beam end
roll
×4
ventilator
pendant
billiard room
Masonic Hall
stepped floor
wall vent
drinks rail
dado rail
cross window
heating pipes
rubber tiles
TTOM CIVIC HALL
PER FLOOR

of Bury who did the plastering and decorating. Messrs MERCER of Blackburn were responsible for the ventilation and heating.

The Conservatives of Ramsbottom are making great preparations for their grand bazaar, which will be held a fortnight from now, on a scale of splendour almost new to this district. The effort is being made on behalf of the building fund of the new club which now adorns the Market Square Lord STANLEY MP, son of the Earl of DERBY, will open the bazaar, and on the following days Mr KEMP MP, Colonel MELLOR MP and Mr KENYON MP will perform the opening ceremonies. (Ramsbottom Observer 20.9.1895)

Unfortunately, Lord STANLEY was unable to attend the opening of the bazaar but the club had been completed by the end of 1895. At the Annual General Meeting of 1897 it was stated that it had three hundred members, an increase of over one hundred during the year. In those days elections were occasions of mass enthusiasm and lively popular participation with crowded meetings. Most of the victories on either side were narrow ones and political clubs were used to reinforce the influence of local politicians and gain votes. The clubs of the different parties (Conservatives and Liberals only at that time) were in fierce competition with one another. The Conservatives tended to have a readier toleration of drink and amusements than the Liberals, who, with their minority of militant temperance members, often had a more didactic tone. (The Temperance Liberal Club, Buchanan Street, Ramsbottom, had been opened around 1883/4.)

The present Civic Hall's main hall was the Conservative Club's Assembly Room, which was used for various purposes. On November IO 1896, for example, there was a meeting of 120 members of the Ramsbottom Traders' Association. The other hall, which is upstairs, was the billiard room and it could also be used for smaller meetings. In 1929 plans for alterations were submitted to RUDC (and passed) and they show that another of the first floor rooms may have been used for the game of billiards, which was very popular. Teams from local clubs played each other at different venues in competitions such as the Annual Billiard Christmas Handicap at Ramsbottom Conservative Club. In 1896 this competition had 110 entrants competing for thirty prizes. A raised platform like that at Ramsbottom was provided at some billiard rooms to enable spectators to get a good view of the games. Among the many other events held at the club in the 1920s was a Grand Garden Party on the Conservative Bowling Green in aid of Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital with entertainment by the Alabama Minstrels and a 4-day bazaar which realised £1,108 and was eventually made up to £2,000.

Florence SCHOLES (née FULLARD) tells us that before 1930 people had collected their dole money at the Labour Exchange in the Council Offices, but about 1933 it was moved into the Conservative Club. She remembered walking from Summerseat to join the crowds which formed long queues outside the building and the 12/6d that

women and girls received weekly. Ramsbottom was one of the sufferers of the nineteen thirties with its mills on short time. Men of Bury and surrounding districts who had drawn all the dole that they were entitled to (26 weeks) were sent up to the workhouse to do task work. They received no actual payment for this work, only their dinners. In between times they had to go looking for work or "tramping".

During the 1950s events such as the Chairman's Ball (RUDC) and the Police Ball were held at the venue. The usual weekly public dances during 1955 at the "Conservative Club Ballroom, Ramsbottom" were arranged by Harry HOLDEN with Brian Thompson and his Skyliners. On February 5th there was "Select Ballroom Dancing" from 7.30pm -- 11.30pm, admission three shillings, "Bop dancing only allowed during the interval and special dances". The following week a "Crazy Carnival Ball" featured the return of "Fanny Fannackerpan and her Old Maids' Orchestra" with hats, balloons, streamers and novelties. On February "for the first time in this area . . . American Style Non-stop Dancing" was introduced and at the end of the month "Modern Dancing — including Bop!" was the theme, and Eric DELANEY tickets were being given away free. Soon there was a jive contest with prizes for the best boy and girl and the best two girls.) Each week here was transport to Bury at 11.30pm. Harry HOLDEN was responsible for booking bands for other venues, including the Coop Hall, Radcliffe. Apparently, one of his small bands at the Conservative Ballroom, Ramsbottom, in the fifties was called Harry Gold and his Pieces of Eight. At that time most larger towns had a choice of dance venues, some operating through the week: the Palais de Danse (Bury), the Astoria Palais de Danse (Bolton), the Astoria Ballroom (Rawtenstall) and the Empress Ballroom (Burnley). Apparently there was also a strong demand for dancing classes for adults with adverts for tuition from Monday to Thursday at the Casino School of Dancing (over BURTON's, Bury) and classes at the Lupino School of Dancing (Atheneum Hall, Bury).

Examples of Other Users, Past and Present

The Ramsbottom and Tottington Blind Persons' Welfare Committee (1961-1994) booked the "Civic Hall Refreshment Room", Ramsbottom, for monthly social afternoons, with transport and afternoon tea provided, starting in October 1962 until 1970. The Christmas parties continued to be held there for some time after that and in 1973 turkey, ham, apple sauce and stuffing, cakes and mince pies were on the menu, with a concert by The Showtimers Ramsbottom Old People's Luncheon Club celebrated their 29 Anniversary at their Christmas Party in 2004. There was entertainment by pupils from Woodhey High School. The club met weekly and it actually ran from 1959, but with a break of about three or four years until it was restarted. Meals were cooked in the Civic Hall kitchen using fresh food which was bought from local outlets where possible. A "Big Hall Rehearsal" was held in 1965

Members of the revived Ramsbottom and District Silver Band, who are making a re-entry into competitive playing after a break of four years are holding a rehearsal session at Ramsbottom Civic Hall tomorrow. Next weekend the band is to take part in a contest at Haslingden, so officials decided to book the Civic Hall to give the less experienced members the opportunity of getting used to the acoustics of a big hall. (Bury Times Nov. 1965)

Around this time TURNBULL & STOCKDALE donated the new curtains for the hall.

In 1974, with Local Government reorganisation, the Civic Hall became the property of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council. In 1979 members of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee were told that work was badly needed to improve the hall. Councillor John FINNERTY suggested that the hall should become a community centre and Councillor Evelyn WAITE stated that she had long wanted the hall to be designated as such and would support the move. The committee agreed to a £34,000 facelift scheme for the venue but this was later cancelled and about E500 was allocated for maintenance to be shared with Whitefield Community Centre.

At present four local clubs/organisations use the hall for their monthly meetings and there is a monthly cinema for the public. The regular sport and fitness classes (aerobics, karate, line dancing, table tennis — twice a week or weekly) and the weekly tea dance cater for different age groups. Local charities and individuals hold fund raising events at Ramsbottom Civic Hall and it is used for functions such as annual dinners by several organisations. Recent public events at the venue include annual Wartime Weekend dances for the public organised by the East Lancashire Railway. Among other large-scale public events there have also been Heritage Days with talks and displays and a variety of activities during Ramsbottom Millennium Festival Week, including a Made in Ramsbottom Exhibition.

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The Diary of Richard Barlow, a Ramsbottom Postman - 8.12.1928

The Turbulent Thirties by Florence Fullard

Bury Times - 5.2.1955, 26.2.1955, November 1965, 6.3.1979, 10.8.1979

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine Number 32 — Spring 2007

Mr Albert LITTLE OBE (ex RUDC Chairman) - December 2008

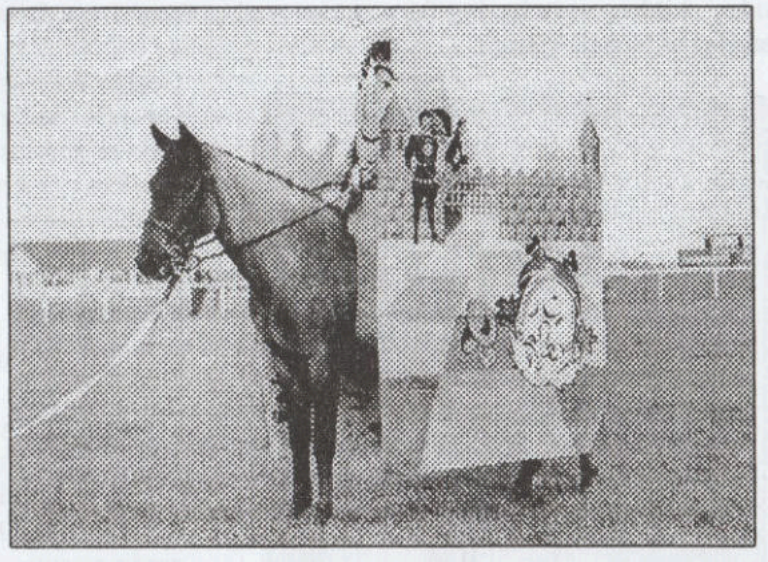
Trades Directory - Slater — 1888

A History of Edenfield and District — by John Simpson 2003

ITEMS FROM THE RHS ARCHIVE 1

As our chairman was sorting items from the RHS collection he discovered a rather curious photograph. By an amazing coincidence a neighbour, Mr C R ECCLES was

able to enlighten us. Having qualified at the Royal College of Art, London as a textile designer, I took over the running of the studio at Turnbull and Stockdale Ltd in 1954. Apart from designing for machine printing, block and screen printing and weaving, there were other projects and schemes executed during the firm's time. One of these projects took place annually during what Mr W and Mr J TURNBULL called the "crazy season" and an example is shown in the photograph. It depicts one of a series of nursery rhyme designs to be used in gymkhanas and other horse riding competitions taking place all over the country. Some of the designs were successful in winning first prize.



Another responsibility of the head of the studio was to escort visitors on tours of the works. This entailed explaining the function of each department and the machinery involved. After one such occasion a letter dated 18th October 1956 was sent to me from Mr Sydney SMITH, Sales Manager, on behalf of the company. The letterhead describes the company as "Cretonne and Textile Printers" and the letter includes the following sentences:

> *Mr CAIN has asked me to write to thank you on behalf of the Directors for your help in conducting our visitors from the Institute of Supplies Office on the occasion of their visit to the Works yesterday. Everyone seemed heartily delighted with their reception at Rosebank and particularly so with the intelligent and instructive way in which they were shown through the Works. May I please add my own personal appreciation for your co-operation.*

C R ECCLES ARCA Des RCA 2009

ITEMS FROM THE RHS ARCHIVE 2

George Frederick MARKLAND, the photographer responsible for this photograph was my great grandfather on my father's side of the family. (The portrait's subjects have not yet been identified.) George MARKLAND lived in Nuttall Village with his wife Alison and, from what I have been told, his family which totalled eleven children. Some of these children must have died in infancy as I cannot find evidence of that number. My grandmother Charlotte was the eldest child and she was born in 1878. She lived with my parents and myself until I was sixteen years old and I had a very close relationship with her until her death at ninety four years of age. When other children were having fairy stories read to them, I was being entertained by true stories of Nuttall Village.



George appears to have been a very versatile individual. He was a weaver and also, in the evenings, a magician. As my grandmother grew up she became his assistant. I know very little about his photography business. At times life was very hard for the family: once they survived on bread and treacle for two weeks. Charlotte, my grandmother, was a pupil at the New Jerusalem School but often had to miss school to help with the younger children and her mother Alison's confinements. Despite everything Charlotte had a very happy childhood and many wonderful memories of life in Nuttall Village, or "Nutter" as she used to call it. She spoke lovingly of Jacob's Ladder and Gollinrod and I loved her stories in which they seemed to be like magical places.

We used to visit Nuttall but sadly it was desecrated by the Ocean Chemical Works. Charlotte would be so happy to see the valley now, to see how the trees are back in full foliage and all so pretty again.

During the 1800s my grandmother's great aunt and a number of other relatives from Nuttall had emigrated to America. I regularly correspond with their descendants in America whose roots are in Nuttall Village.

Norma MILLS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF METCALFE BROS. (RAMSBOTTOM) LTD.

(1937-1991)

(From April 2009 Morrisons took over Ramsbottom 's Cooperative Superstore. We are very grateful to Mr J BARRETT who has, by coincidence, recently given the Society this article. It concerns previous occupants of the Coop site, METCALFE's, and mentions other businesses that had previously operated from their premises which were eventually demolished and replaced by the Coop supermarket. — Editor)

The company's Prince Street premises had been occupied as Prince's Foundry by Joseph STRANG, Ironfounders from the 1880s. Much later, a completion statement dated November 1941 has the heading "William STRANG & Others to METCALFE Bros (Ramsbottom) Limited" and lists the rents of C R METCALFE, Joseph WINTERBURN, and G B FENTON & co Ltd, the wholesale greengrocers. CUTHBERTSON Tripe Purveyors had also had a base there. The central room was forty two feet square and the position of the jib crane, which had been used by STRANG's to move their iron mouldings, could still be discerned in the middle of the roof structure. The western part of the Irwell Street location had been used by SHARPLES engineers while the eastern part was at one time a cotton mill.

COTTRILL's, the pork butchers who had a shop in Bridge Street and a bacon factory in Prince Street, was owned by Mr Christopher (Chris) Robert METCALFE. I gather that he came from Burnley and took over COTTRILL's on January 1 st 1912. He had two sons, Harold and Norman and by about 1937 Norman was in charge of COTTERILL's while Harold looked after METCALFE's. Harold, whom 1 never met, would seem to have been an astute businessman, for the company prospered. During the Second World War he gained a government contract for the supply of ammunition boxes and this enabled him to build the sawmill in Irwell Street. (Irwell Street Metal Company later rented this property from METCALFE's, thus becoming ISM.) Unfortunately, Harold developed cancer and died in the 1940s. His father, who lived at Riversdale, Bury New Road outlived him, dying aged 89 years in 1963.

Norman took over the running of the company and after the war diversified its wooden products. In the 1950s the board of directors consisted of Norman METCALFE (Managing Director), Dick HUGHES who was in charge of the sawmill and Bert CROSSLEY who was also the saw doctor. The managers were Oscar SLACK (General Manager) and Harold and Nellie COTTLE (who came from Manchester) were in charge of the packing case department and the box works respectively. Bert SCHOFIELD was the foreman machinist (ex Higgins furniture), Fred GASKELL looked after the firewood department, Jack CLARKE was the mechanic and Bob GARDNER was the joiner. Ben LEGGE was at that time a labourer but had previously looked after METCALFE Brothers' horse and cart. When I first started work there, METCALFE's sawmill in Irwell Street had one ofthe largest horizontal bandmills in the country. It had been brought from one of the southern dockyards, such as Portsmouth. The mill also had a purpose-built kiln (used

for the drying of timber), two circular feed benches and a band resaw. (The sawmill was finally demolished in 1995 by Ponden Mills Ltd.) The packing case department, a box works making boxes for beer and mineral water bottles etc and a department making wooden trays for the bakery and confectionery industries were in Prince Street. In King Street was a firewood department and above this there was eventually a works canteen. (This building was later used by Screenway Design.) At their peak, METCALFE's employed some seventy people.

Over the years the demand for the sawmilling, packing cases, firewood and wooden boxes diminished and their respective departments closed down. However, the wooden tray business boomed so an extension had to be built over Cooper Street. Bill HACKING, who had been the salesman, was appointed Sales Director and with improved production methods employed it was very profitable. Bill eventually became Chairman and Managing Director, Norman METCALFE retired with his wife Lucy (née HUTCHINSON) to Anglesey and I became Production Director.

Later on, when the demand for wooden trays subsided due to the advent of plastic, lots of other products were tried and tested but without much success, apart from one. This was a decorators' pasting table, basically consisting of two wooden trays hinged together and fitted with legs. Production was streamlined and these were made in volume. To gain more sales of this product, we took over a company called Decorbrite, which was basically our selling company, and we also started another company called Decorbrite International to look after our exports. Unfortunately, the mark-up on the product was very small so the "through-put" had to be very large (a thousand each and every day!) Due to various factors (lack of sales mostly) this could not be sustained with the inevitable result.

For eighteen months a company called Ableaim took over the premises to make the paste tables, but they too went into liquidation. W J CLOW, a Glaswegian company, bought most of the machines. Ponden Mill took over the premises, renaming it Peel Mill and retailing textile goods from there.

(After Ponden Mill closed the premises were demolished and the Coop was built Editor.) J BARRETT 1996

SUMMERSEAT RAILWAY WAREHOUSE UPDATE

In the Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine Number 30 (Spring 2006) we included a brief report on this railway goods shed on Rowlands Road, Summerseat. It had then been the subject of three planning applications rejected by Bury Council (who owned the building at the time) for its conversion into apartments. Permission has now been granted for it to be converted into a restaurant and further permission is being sought for the removal of the jib crane.

In compiling this account the editor has used extracts from the report on the Archaeological Building Survey. This was the work of the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit's Ivan HRADIL and Dr Michael NEVELL and we are very grateful to them.

At the end of 2007 the Summerseat Railway Warehouse was added to the list of buildings of special architectural or historical interest. The two inspectors from English Heritage who had carried out a full inspection of the building and reported in August 2007, gave the following principal reasons for the Grade Il listing:

- It is a survival from the expansionist second phase of railway development, dating to 1847.
- It is associated with the local cotton industry which it and the railway adjoining it were built to serve.
- It survives virtually intact and unaltered from its original structure, dimensions and floor plan.
- It demonstrates the original now of traffic transferring cotton goods from road to rail transport.
- It contains its original raised platform and a rare working hand-cranked jib crane dating to the mid-nineteenth century.

The inspectors also stated that the level of survival in the small goods shed mark it out as being of special interest. One of the sources which they used to inform their decision was a March 2006 report from the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit who had completed an archaeological building survey on the warehouse.

Little seems to be actually known about the origin of the railway goods shed. The UMAU suggests that it was most probably built in 1860 over the earlier 1846 goods platform, which they thought was then out in the open. Although they acknowledge that on the 1848 OS map, along with Summerseat Station which opened on 29 June 1846, there is a small rectangular structure shown on the warehouse's present site, also mentioned is that the Summerseat Station buildings were rebuilt by the resident railway engineer, Mr John PELLING in 1860. His architectural trademark for station buildings '*as semi-circular window heads and the use of quoins, as at Summerseat where the passenger station building had quoins in a grander moulded stone style than the warehouse. The little mystery that remains is why the part of the UMAU report which discusses the date of build does not mention the cast iron lintel of the shed's north entrance with the inscription MUSGRAVE, Son & HEATON, Bolton 1847. However the English Heritage report says that UMAU did not have sight of the cast iron lintel. The 1847 date is close to the opening of the line in 1846, and the inspectors state that 1847 appears to be the date of build, even though the present shed does not appear on the 1850-1 OS map. (It actually appears for the first time on a much later 1893 OS map.) There were modifications to the station in 1890, such as the raising of the platform level following a directive from the Board of Trade. This may have coincided with minor alterations to the railway warehouse. By this period structural problems were occurring caused by the pressure of the embankment upon its eastern elevation.

It is agreed that the shed (and the railway line itself) were designed to serve local cotton mills of which there were several, the nearest being Twist Mill. (From 1786

until they withdrew their operations from Ramsbottom in 1812, Twist Mill's owners were successful calico printers PEEL & YATES of Bury and Ramsbottom who also owned Robin Road Mill and three other Summerseat spinning mills which provided some of the yarn for thousands of domestic weavers.) The mills stood on the opposite side of the River Irwell from the railway line and would have originally used horse drawn wagons to transport goods along the road between the mill and the railway platform. Railway wagons may have been owned or leased by millowners. Twist Mill seems to have been in decline by the late nineteenth to early twentieth century and by 1939 it does not appear on the OS map. The Summerseat station goods warehouse had an unusual arrangement compared with others in our region. Within the little warehouse there is not enough turning room for either a single or a pair of horses to turn their wagon round. Horses do not like walking backwards so it would have been very difficult to reverse horse and wagon into the warehouse down the lane, along the curved cobbled track. The UMAU suggests a time-consuming operation whereby horses would be unhitched from the wagon on the roadway outside. The wagon could then have been manhandled, going with the gradient of the track, into the building. The horses would then be re-hitched. The goods transfer from rail to road would have been much simpler if the goods warehouse had been built to the western side of the railway track, then the road goods side would have been along Rowlands Road. It may be that this was not possible because of a coal yard owned by Benjamin F ASHWORTH which already existed on that site.

The English Heritage and the UMAU's reports contain some detailed descriptions of the building's features. They both emphasise the importance of the hoist system inside which is a "rare survival" and very rare in this region.

> *A post in the centre of the interior of the building, near the northern end of the platform which occupies the south east quadrant of the floor, forms the upright member of a pivoting hand-cranked jib crane. The post and arm of the crane are of squared timber with an angled brace, and are operated by a manual cog and ratchet winding mechanism with a cable drum leading to a cable wheel and pulley system, all in working order and dating to 1847, or possibly 1860. (English Heritage)*

(In their report the UMAU also tell us that in 2000 only twelve railway warehouses survived in Greater Manchester and that one of these is the Grade II listed, 1848 East Lancashire Railway Castlecroft Warehouse, which for many years served Bury with all the general supplies brought in by the ELR and helped the town prosper for a hundred years. It is now the home of Bury Transport Museum which has been closed Since 2003 because of the dangerous condition of its root The museum is within a conservation area and a E2.5m Castlecroft project will secure the conservation of the existing heritage assets. Work has recently started on the restoration of the 1848 railway goods warehouse for the East Lancashire Railway Bury Transport Museum.)

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

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2009

The guided circular walks start at 2pm on the 4th Sunday in the month, from April to September.

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

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

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

26th April — **The Grane Valley and its Three Reservoirs** 4 miles
Meet 1.30pm at the *Grant Arms,* Ramsbottom or 2pm at the *Holden Arms* car park, Helmshore. Anyone requiring a lift from Ramsbottom tel 01706 827602.
Leader - John.B.Taylor

24th May — **An Architect's Tour round Ramsbottom** with Douglas Newton. Start *Grant Arms* 2pm. 2 to 3 miles

28th June — **Exploring the Kirklees Valley** with Marjorie Knight.
Start *Greenmount Old School* 2pm.

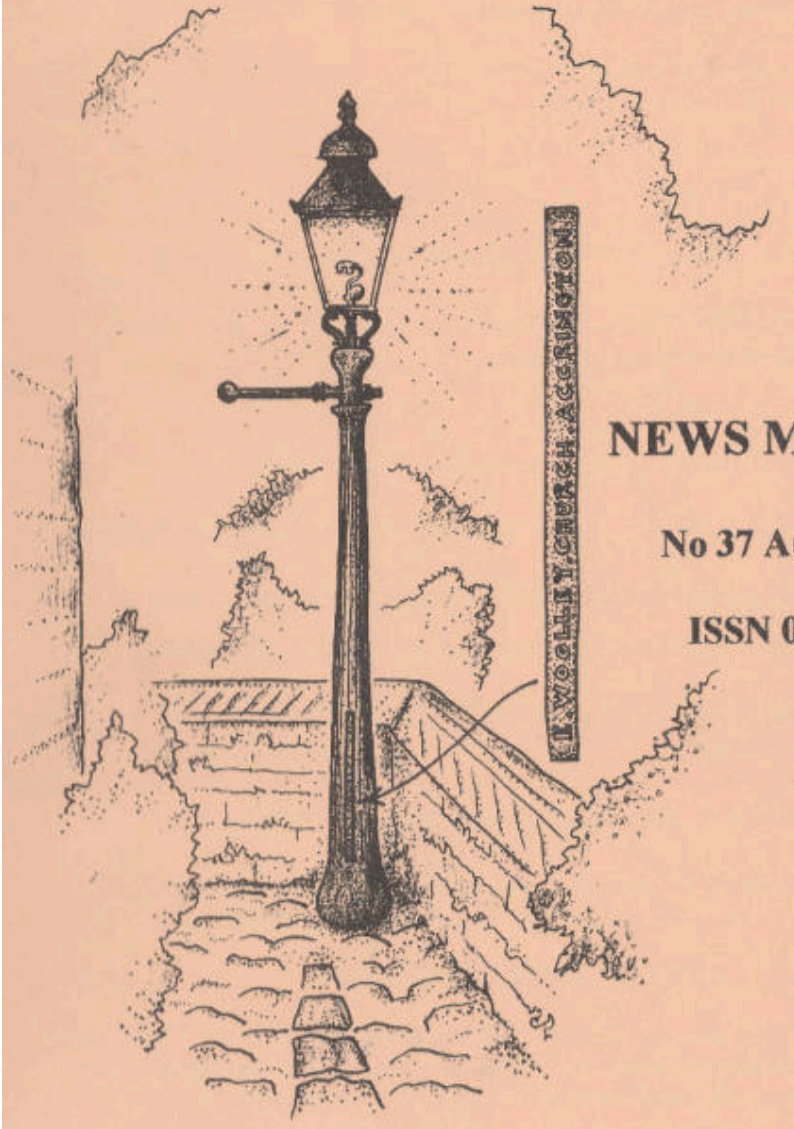
26th July — **Picture the Past** – a nostalgic look at Ramsbottom based on old postcards, led by Arthur Baldwin.
Meet *Grant Arms* 2pm

23rd Aug — **Pilgrims Cross & the Ghosts of Holcombe Moor**
Start *Shoulder of Mutton*, Holcombe 2pm. Hilly terrain.
Leader - John Ireland

27th Sept — **Ramsbottom Mill, the Largest in the Town**
Kate Slingsby reveals its history.
Meet Ramsbottom Station 2pm

For more details contact Linda 01706 827602 or Joan 01706 827245.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY



NEWS MAGAZINE

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

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom

PROGRAMME
2009:

November 18 — Mr K. Warrender - *Underground Manchester* (illustrated)

December 16 — **Members' Night** - Social evening, with talk by Mr R Bolton: *Christmas Past and Present*

2010:

January 20 — Mr I. Molyneaux - *All about Bees* (illustrated)

February 17 — Mr G. Atkinson - *Barton Bridge is Falling Down* (illustrated)

March 17 — **Photographic Competition** – judge - Mr Alan Seymour
Miss Margaret Curry - *Beatrix Potter – part 1* (illustrated)

April 21 — Kate Slingsby - *Ramsbottom Market Place – 260 years* (illustrated)

May 19 — **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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John B Taylor 2009

Centre pages *Two Towers Walk* John B Taylor 2009

Chairman's Report

Much of the Spring and Summer now past have been occupied by consideration of an invitation to partner Bury Archives Service in a bid for HLF funding to augment the planned Heritage Society accommodation at Ramsbottom Library with display equipment to allow the mounting of displays and exhibitions, together with the provision of assistance to a team of Society volunteers, by a qualified archivist, in the cataloguing and preservation of the existing Society archive, and the collection of new material. Concerns over risks to ownership of, and control over, collections having been raised and discussed at great length, and reassuringly addressed, I pay tribute to fellow team members Brenda RICHARDS, Kath and Dave HADDOCK, and Jack KENNEFORD, for their commitment and tenacity in ensuring the preservation of the interests of the Society. Satisfaction of other criteria necessary to support the bid having been fulfilled, submission to HLF has been made. We hope for a successful outcome. Work on re-developing the Library began early in September, with completion planned for February 2010.

Meanwhile, other regular Society activities have continued, and you will read about some of them elsewhere in this issue. Outdoor meetings and walks enjoyed fine weather, as did the Ramsbottom Churches Together Summer Fun Day held in Nuttall

Park in June, which was a great success for all who took part. Unfortunately, structural work at Ramsbottom Library prevented a repeat of last year's Open Day activities during Heritage Open Week-end in September. However, on 6th December we plan to have a sales table at the first of Ramsbottom's Christmas Street Markets, which return this year in their traditional form, and I hope we shall meet some of you then.
Good wishes to everyone for a happy Christmas and New Year.

Tony Murphy

Obituaries

Nancy MARTIN

In early summer we learned of the death of Nancy MARTIN, of Bolton Road West, a member from early days of the Society. Nancy was born in Accrington in 1939 and schooled at Peel Park Junior, and Accrington High, schools. She graduated from Bishop Lonsdale Teacher Training College, Derby, in 1960, returning to Accrington to teach; there she met her husband to be, Stuart, whom she married in 1971. Subsequently retiring from teaching in order to look after her family, Nancy came to live in Holcombe Brook in 1976.
Free from the disciplines of employment and with children at St Mary's school Hawkshaw, she was able to take part in local community affairs, serving on the board of Governors of St Mary's for many years, and pursue several interests. Developing a keen interest in family and local history, extensively researching her own family history, and working as a volunteer with local historical archives at Accrington Library, Nancy joined the Lancashire Family History Society and Ramsbottom Heritage Society; she also found time to serve for some years as a member of the committee of Tottington Horticultural Society. Worshipping at Holcombe Brook Methodist Church, Nancy was a valued member of the Choir and Worship Group; she also served as a Church Steward, being appointed Senior Steward during the final year of her life.

Tony Murphy

Elizabeth MORRIS

In early summer we learned also of the death of Elizabeth MORRIS, of Summerseat Lane, a member of some years standing, of whom, sadly, we do not have details of history.

Tony Murphy

Ernest GREAVES

Ernest, fondly known as Joss, was born in 1916 and sadly passed away last April. He lived all his life in Ramsbottom and as a boy attended Peel Brow and Bury Grammar Schools. During wakes weeks he serviced the machinery' in local mills and he went to night school to study for engineering qualification exams. He was one of the sons in the Ramsbottom firm Joshua GREAVES and Sons. Eventually, in 1935, his parents bought the works in Square Street, opposite Scotland Place - the very distinctive small, stone building with the ventilator and weather vane. The firm later moved to its present position on the site of the former Ramsbottom Mill, at the end of Garden Street. The works were Ernest's life.

During the War he enlisted for the Home Guard, patrolled all the moors, and played cards with the other men. He always knew what you'd got in your hand! He was a keen swimmer at Ramsbottom Baths, went regularly to the Summerseat Players and was made an honorary member at Ramsbottom Cricket Club. Loving his food, beer, wine and whisky, he went to local places such as Park Farm, Red Hall and the *Red Lion* at Hawkshaw.

He enjoyed reading about local history and joined the Ramsbottom Heritage Society many years ago. He was a very generous man, donating monies to charities, including the Heritage Society and as a bell ringer contributed to St. Paul's bell restoration. He rang in the bells for New Year in 2000. A real local lad.

[Editor - We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Ernest GREAVES, a longstanding member We are indebted to Diana JONES and Bill GREAVES, the daughter and son of Ernest, for this obituary and for their continuing support of the Heritage Society. /

Conservation Group Report - Autumn 2009

Shop Signs

This year shop signs seem to have been the main focus of our dealings with the Bury Planning Department. Morrisons currently have at least 40 signs on their land, although admittedly most of these are to do with parking and are necessary if we are to avoid being fined £50 for staying too long. We have objected to the brightness, size, colour and proliferation of signs both on the Morrison's site and Aldi's. Other problematic signs, which tend to appear around the town and for which planning permission is seldom sought, are the large promotional banners draped permanently over buildings.

Our representative for Planning Applications

Sadly, Dave HADDOCK feels he must give up his role in dealing with planning

applications. He has done a great job for the last couple of years and we are enormously grateful to him. We will miss his rather unusual expertise in the intensity of light, which may be emitted from totem and other signs!. Anne MORTIMER and John IRELAND have both kindly agreed to be involved with planning and again we are grateful to them.

Archaeological Survey

Because the Aldi store is being built on the site of at least two mills in the centre of Rams bottom, we had asked that an archaeological survey be done before building work destroyed all evidence of them and Bury Council agreed to this. It was expected that the dig would take two weeks, but in fact archaeologists were on site for 5 1/2 weeks. We will get a copy of their report when it has been completed, but this may take some time.

Kibboth Crew

The report from the community archaeology dig at Kibboth Crew has now been published. Since the report was written more by myself than by the University of Manchester Archaeology' Unit, we have the copyright ourselves. A copy of the report will probably be given to the library but you are welcome to get in touch with me if you would like to read it.

Gas Lamps

We have several original gas lampposts in the district, but only one that is likely to be returned to use. Graham TWIDALE has dismantled and is renovating the lamp in Edith Street, Shuttleworth and we hope that it will again be lit by gas. It will of course have automatic ignition, Graham is not offering to go round with a pole to light it

Public Gardens in Ramsbottom

You will be aware that we have been trying to upgrade site of the New Jerusalem Church on the corner of Factory Street and Ramsbottom Lane, so that we can erect an interpretation board giving the history of the church. Brenda RICHARDS has been badgering the council about this for two years without success. However following a recent meeting with the local councillors and Neil LONG, Head of Leisure Services, more progress has been made. Whilst the council do not have extra funds for Ramsbottom, they are willing to support any local groups who would take over the management of gardens here. Brenda, Anne MORTIMER and others are working with the councillors to facilitate this. This will go far beyond the work of just our own society, but we hope that the New Jerusalem site will be upgraded soon, along with the site of St Andrew's (Dundee) on the corner of Bolton Street and

Kay Brow. There are also current discussions about a small area that could be looked after by the RHS.
Brenda and Anne would be very pleased if any member would like to help with this project.
They can be contacted by telephone 829819 or email brenrichards@tiscali.co.uk
If you have any news or comments about developments in the town, do please get in touch.

Thanks Kate Slingsby

Harden Moor

I have been exercising my dogs on the moors near or above MARSHALL'S quarry at Fletcher Bank, Ramsbottom for as many years as I can remember. I normally start at approximately 6am every weekday and go up Bury New Road, across to Whitelow Road, leading to Bury Old Road (now reduced to a track which diverts round the extended quarry and usable only by farm vehicles) and then on to open moorland.
My walk of two to three miles (measured with my pedometer) takes about an hour. On a clear winter morning when the frost is down and the air is still I might see the occasional fox going back to its den after being out all night. If there is snow, even when it is dark, the moor is a beautiful sight and it is very invigorating to walk in fresh clean snow with newly laid tracks of animals such as rabbits, foxes, badgers and cats which have been out searching for food. The beef stock are in the field most of the time and in snow or hard weather they keep close together for warmth and comfort. Sometimes there is the unexpected: couples in cars, and often burnt out or abandoned vehicles.
Once, in Springtime, 1 saw a fox killing a lamb but I was too far away to do anything about it. Around February and March the hares are on the move and I sometimes see them boxing as courtship begins. Other times they remain motionless, with the field as camouflage, hoping not to be spotted. Quite often in Spring or early Summer, the lambs and their mothers are out in the fields and I have pulled many a lamb or half grown sheep out of a wire sheep fence in which it has become untangled. If this is not done the fox will come and have its breakfast, dinner and tea.

On one occasion I came across a cow that was actually giving birth. As the calf was stuck I immediately notified the farmer who came to help with the birth, so mother and calf survived. Another time I found a yearling (young sheep) with a broken leg at the bottom of a disused quarry. Having carried the animal on my back and shoulders to the road, Ï telephoned the farmer who collected it. After having its leg in plaster, this animal also survived.
The horses in the field know me so most will come to the gate, wall or fence to be stroked and I usually manage some titbits for them. For most of the year, in one

particular spot, I see a lone heron, it lives among the deep marsh grass and my dogs usually disturb it, so I watch it fly gracefully away. Mallard, teal and other birds are generally moving in the morning and it is common to see a flight of early morning ducks passing over and occasionally I see a skein of geese as well. Over the year all kinds of flowers grow: snowdrops (only a small clump) bloom on one particular part, in Spring all the fields have daisies and buttercups and the moorland heather in Summer is deep purple, The whinberry grows along the edge of the moor, fruiting in July and later the amount of blackberries on the bushes is incredible.

The views from the trig point on top of Harden Moor are breathtaking, especially on a still clear morning. In different directions you can see as far as Derbyshire, the Welsh hills and to the Yorkshire Dales. Many a time, 1 stand beside Grants Tower looking over Ramsbottom and the surrounding area thinking how peaceful it is. From this position you can look down on to Ramsbottom or across to Holcombe and beyond to Winter Hill What a privilege to live in such a beautiful area. With mist in the valley, Peel Tower is clearly visible. At times the top of the mast on Winter Hill is clear while the base is hidden by fog or cloud. On a clear day 1 see on the mast the red lights, which warn incoming aircraft. In both winter and summer, I have been able to watch aircraft stacking ready to land at Manchester Airport and have counted between nine and twelve at different altitudes.

You can tell the time of year by the people and activities you see on the moor. For about a month, during and after Christmas, people come to walk off their Christmas pudding and some try to lose weight with more vigorous exercise such as cycling or jogging. Spring brings out more joggers, but again it lasts only a few weeks, liiere are, however, two ladies that 1 have met regularly in all kinds of weather over the years. In the early mornings, they speed-walk from Walmersley Road and Buckhurst and around Nangreaves and back on to Manchester Road. 1 hear them coming and wonder how they can talk while walking at that speed.

A sad reflection of the times we live in is the increase in fly tipping, the amount of rubbish on the moors and the feet that those responsible appear to give no thought to the danger it poses to the animals. Also, on numerous occasions, l have had to round up sheep, horses and cows after gates have been left open, or worse still when someone has decided to steal some stone walling, removed it and allowed animals to escape.

Some time ago, one very dark, cold morning when I was on a very quiet part of my walk, I heard unusually heavy footsteps approaching. Feeling apprehensive, 1 called in my dogs. Gradually the footsteps grew louder and louder until suddenly, out of the darkness, an enormous Shire horse appeared. With the dogs keeping close, I walked slowly past him to inform the farmer of the escape

.

(Since this piece was written the oldest dog, Max, has passed away at 16 years of age.

À truly super dog whose ashes ! have since scattered near the trig point, he had done his last driven shoot only three weeks before. He had been very slow but when the pheasant were flying and the guns firing, his head and tail were held up high.)

David C HILL June 2009

Memories of Peel Tower and Top o'th'Hill Farm

[On 6th September 2009,, visitors flocked once again to Ramsbottom's famous Peel Tower, this time to mark I50 years of the police force. An officer had dressed in traditional Peelers' uniform, the Tower was open and among the other attractions was a demonstration of old-fashioned policing equipment, including an original lead- filled truncheon. The festival was the latest of the many celebrations which have taken place at the monument over its lifetime. We are very grateful to Mrs VICKERS,the author of the following account, parts of which featured in the Bury Times in 1985 and we are delighted that she has let us borrow the original and reproduce it in full]

My parents, Mr and Mrs Percy NEESHAM VICKERS held the key to Peel Tower for many years prior to World War II, The then Ramsbottom Urban District Council gave us a thousand 3d tickets for adults and a thousand 2d tickets for children. My parents took the money they collected to the Council Chambers where they were issued with new rolls of tickets each time they were running out.

The Tower was a great asset to the catering trade that we had begun to establish at Top o'th'Hill Farm. Besides the many local people, there were also many foreign tourists. They could climb the Tower and then go to the farm for a home-made meal. Everything was our own produce: we even grew Royal Sovereign strawberries which were always topped with our own fresh cream. Good Friday was the greatest day of the year: an annual pilgrimage of thousands, young and old, climbed the hill that day.

What I must now relate is the preparations for reopening the Tower ready for Good Friday. Two weeks in advance father, my two brothers and I used to begin our work at the top of the Tower. Snow and rain blowing through the slot windows would have done a lot of damage. We sandpapered both handrails which were like 2 ½ inch drainpipes placed one above the other with the lower one for children. They spiralled around the meshed wire that ran through the centre of the Tower. It was very hard work but we removed every bit of rust. We wire-brushed the metal steps and swept all the rust and dust down to the bottom. As the basement of the Tower is very dark and the majority of first time visitors liked to have a ramble around, out came the extension ladders and the whole of the inside walls was whitewashed. We swept the wide stone steps, which led to the first floor balcony, and finally cleaned the white

marble plaque which almost every visitor would stop and read before they left. We did not receive any remuneration from the Tower's trustees for the work we carried out but we had a thriving catering trade. Mother Superior used to bring schoolchildren from Holly Mount several times in the summer and rambling and hiking clubs from all over Lancashire booked lunches. Foreign tourists also called for lunch or dinner and we would escort such parties and open up the Tower for them regardless of the day or time of the year.

I've spent many hours, days and even weeks selling tickets at the Tower, on a cold day wearing three heavy coats. If it was a quiet day I could keep a check on how many people were inside but if it was busy, when it became dusk, one of my brothers, David or Peter, would come and say, "You've got to close up now, Pat," so I locked the pair of heavy iron doors and climbed to the top to tell the people it was time to leave. I used to make the short trip to the right of the Tower entrance and have a final check by walking round the first floor balcony. I used to read the white marble plaque on the wall just inside the entrance over and over again. It features an extract from a 1846 speech made by Sir Robert PEEL in the House of Commons. I sometimes test my memory of the words now and l am willing to stand corrected. I now quote:

> **It may be that 1 shall leave a name sometimes remembered with expressions of goodwill in the abodes of those whose lot it is to labour, and to earn their daily bread with the sweat of their brow, when they shall recruit their exhausted strength with abundant and untaxed food, sweeter because it is no longer leavened with a sense of injustice.**
> *House of Commons January 27th 1846*

We used to pray for fine weather for Good Friday because mother used to order five hundred Hollands pies, a thousand muffins, a hundred loaves, a hundredweight sack of sugar, a hundred tins of Smiths crisps and boxes of chocolate bars by the hundred. Two hundred cases of minerals came up from Giles TAYLOR's Mineral Water Works in Ramsbottom. (We had no refuse collection and most of the bottles had the glass alley in the top so bottle collectors might like to take their spades to our tip which was about 200 yards from the farm gate.) Finally, we stocked four wooden cigarette machines which were about two feet six inches high by 18 inches wide and six inches deep. Ten or 12 of our dear ladies from the village came to help. Many of their sons and daughters, who still live locally, can probably remember their mothers at the Farm on Good Friday. Two of the ladies managed a stall at the back of the Farm which had a cigarette machine and also sold crisps, chocolate, pop and pies. There was a second stall outside the Farm gate with two more ladies 'on hot waters'

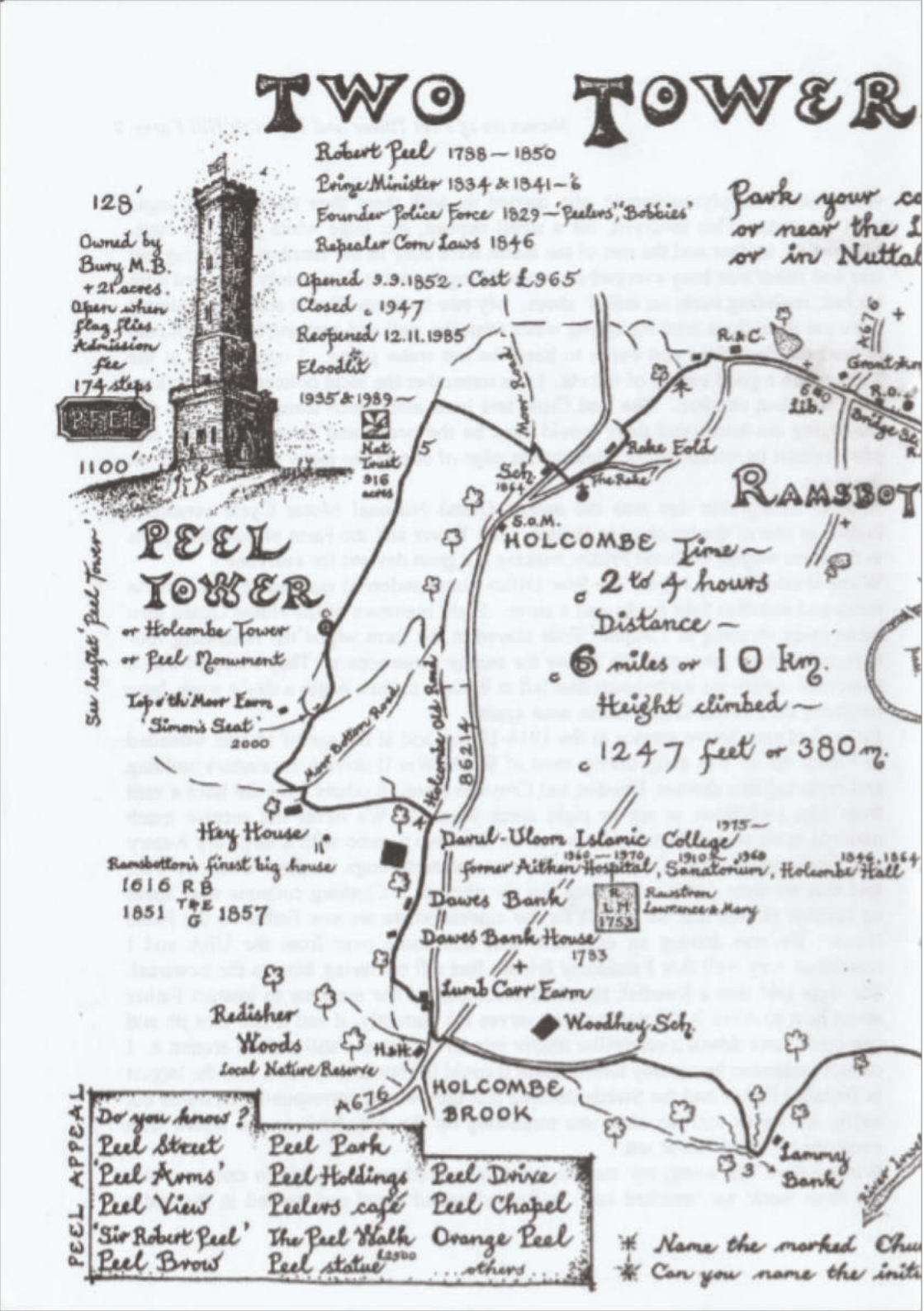
which meant supplying people who carried up with them their own tea and sugar with the water. This involved, for a small deposit, our huge white jugs and cups. Meanwhile, mother and the rest of the ladies were busy in the farmhouse serving full teas and father was busy everywhere replenishing the stalls, but mainly occupied with his last, replacing heels on ladies[5] shoes. My two brothers (David and Peter) almost wore out their clogs fetching spring water from the well and carrying buckets of coal to feed the farm fires and boiler to keep the hot water going. I myself was at the Tower with a good supply of tickets. *I* can remember the local policemen being kept busy with lost children. The Red Cross and local ambulance teams spent their day bandaging cut knees and there would even be the occasional fractured arm or leg, often caused by venturing too close to the edge of one of the many small quarries on the moor.

Another memorable day was the annual Grand National Motor Cycle scramble, known as one of the toughest in Britain. The Tower and the Farm played their parts in the same way as on Good Friday, making it a great day out for everyone.

When World War II began, the War Office commandeered our saddle and harness room and installed four bunks and a stove. Eight members of the Home Guard then came every evening at 7.30pm. Four stayed at the farm whilst the remaining four kept watch from the top of the Tower for enemy paratroopers. They changed watch sometime during the early hours and left at 8.00am to then begin a day's work, later resuming their Home Guard duties once again.

Father had seen active service in the 1914-18 war and at the age of 16 was wounded in France but he was away during most of World War II driving excavators building and repairing aerodromes, Hendon and Croydon amongst others. We did have a visit from him sometimes at six or eight week intervals. We never did receive much national news on our Pennine farm but we did have a radio with a large dry battery and two accumulators. One day, excitement spread through the farm when we were told that we were going to see Dad *"on the pictures* \ Clothing coupons were spent on suitable clothes and we all left for the cinema where we saw Father on the Pathé News. He was driving an excavator that had come over from the USA and I remember very well that I suddenly felt six feet tall on seeing him on the newsreel We were told that a Swedish man had accompanied the machine to instruct Father about how to drive it. [If my memory serves me correctly, it had a 120 foot jib and one could have driven a caterpillar tractor into its bucket and still walked around it. I cannot remember how many tons of earth it could lift but at the time it was the largest in Britain.] Father and the Swede decided that they would correspond afterwards but sadly, we learnt that his ship was torpedoed on the way back to the States with everyone on board lost at sea.

While Father was away, my mother, my young brothers and 1 had to carry on with the farm work: we 'mucked out', milked, chopped wood and carried in the water


TWO TOWER
Robert Peel 1788 – 1850
Prime Minister 1834 & 1841–6
Founder Police Force 1829 – 'Peelers', 'Bobbies'
Repealer Corn Laws 1846
Park your co
or near the L
or in Nuttal
128'
Owned by Bury M.B. + 21 acres. Open when flag flies Admission fee 174 steps
Opened 9.9.1852. Cost £965
Closed c. 1947
Reopened 12.11.1985
Floodlit 1935 & 1989 –
Nat. Trust 316 acres
1100'
PEEL TOWER
or Holcombe Tower
or Peel Monument
See leaflet 'Peel Tower'
Top o'th' Moor Farm
'Simon's Seat' 2000
Moor Bottom Road
Holcombe Old Road
B6214
Moor Road
Sch. 1844
The Rake
Rake Fold
R.&C.
Lib.
Bridge
RAMSBOT
S.o.M.
HOLCOMBE Time –
c. 2 to 4 hours
Distance –
c. 6 miles or 10 km.
Height climbed –
c. 1247 feet or 380 m.
Hey House
Ramsbottom's finest big house
1616 RB
1851 T&E G 1857
Darul-Uloom Islamic College 1975 –
former Aithen Hospital 1946 – 1970
1910 R. 1960 Sanatorium, Holcombe Hall 1844, 1864
Dawes Bank
R. L.M. 1753
Rawstron Lawrence & Mary
Dawes Bank House 1783
Lumb Carr Farm
Woodhey Sch.
Redisher Woods
Local Nature Reserve
Holt
A676
HOLCOMBE BROOK
Lammy Bank
PEEL APPEAL
Do you know?
Peel Street
Peel Park
'Peel Arms'
Peel Holdings
Peel Drive
Peel View
Peelers café
Peel Chapel
'Sir Robert Peel'
The Peel Walk
Orange Peel
Peel Brow
Peel statue £250
...others...
Name the marked Chu
Can you name the init

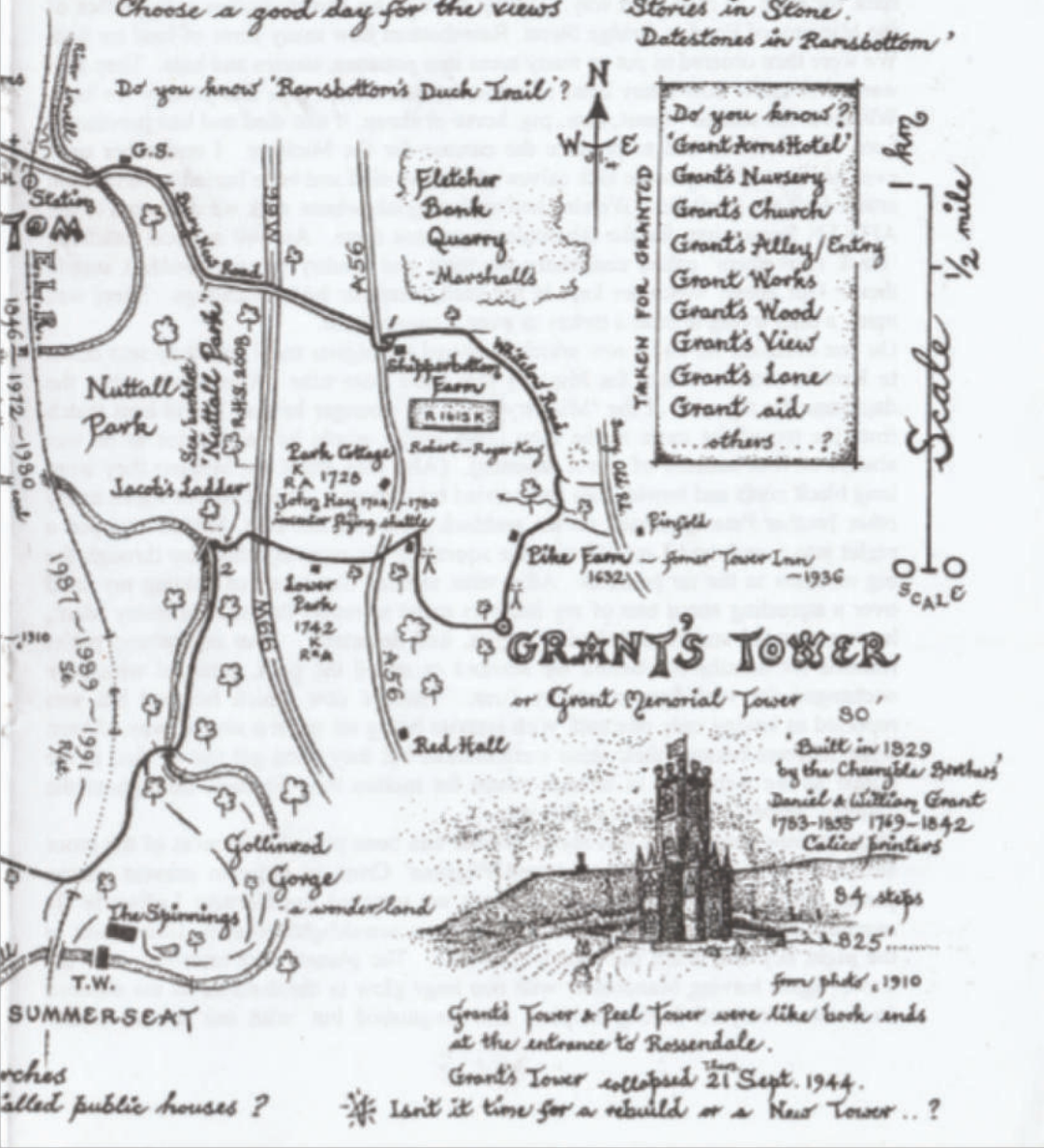
S TOUR

ar behind the Grant Arms
ibrary or near the Station
ll Park

Choose a good day for the views

John B. Taylor
'Stories in Stone.
Datestones in Ramsbottom'

Do you know 'Ramsbottom's Duck Trail'?



Grant's Tower & Peel Tower were like book ends at the entrance to Rossendale.

Grant's Tower collapsed 21st Sept. 1944.

Isn't it time for a rebuild or a New Tower..?

...arches
...alled public houses?

before we left for school carrying our gas masks. (The farm had no gas, electricity or mains water.) We were given until 9.30am to get to school because of the work we had to do beforehand but if we had rushed out, maybe cleaning off our clogs on the way, and forgotten our gas masks we were given the cane on both hands and sent back for them, % mile each way. During the war we had to declare at the office of the Ministry of Food in Bridge Street, Ramsbottom how many acres of land we had. We were then ordered to put so many acres into potatoes, turnips and kale. They also wanted to know how many head of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs and poultry we kept. Whatever the animal - beast, cow, pig, horse or sheep, if one died and had previously been recorded one had to produce the carcass for the Ministry. I remember once even having to dig up some sick calves which had died and been buried to have them crossed off the stock list. We also had various goats whose milk we delivered to the AITKEN Sanatorium for the tuberculosis patients there. As well as local butchers, 'black marketeers' called constantly for meat and poultry but we couldn't supply them. Our geese, which we kept in the yard, were our best watchdogs. There was many a thief trying to steal a turkey or even a young lamb.

On one occasion we had a sow which farrowed ten piglets and I was duly sent down to Ramsbottom to inform the Ministry that there were nine. Afterwards, when the day came for the visit of the 'Ministry Man[5] my younger brother David kept watch from the top of the moor to the farm. This visitor would be easy to see as he was always on foot because of petrol rationing. (Also they stood out because they wore long black coats and bowler hats and carried briefcases.) David was to signal to my other brother Peter stationed on the paddock wall. At the alert, Mother dumped a piglet into a sack and I set off with the squealing pig over my shoulder through the big meadow to the far pastures. After what seemed like hours of holding my hand over a squealing snout one of my brothers came to report that the 'Ministry Man[5], having counted and recorded nine piglets, had departed. Our contraband piglet reached six months old before we smoked or salted the pork, some of which we exchanged for veal from a nearby farm. There a cow which twinned but was reported as having only one calf, with sentries being set up in a similar way. Sheep were different because their skins were marked but they often got lost or died in the winter so we were able to arrange swaps for mutton too. Farmers throughout the country 'helped' one another in this way.

Huge stumps about eight feet above ground had been placed over most of the moor stretching from the Tower to beyond Pilgrims' Cross in order to prevent enemy planes from landing. On many evenings we watched the German Luftwaffe fly overhead and start to bomb Manchester. We saw searchlights weaving their beams in the night sky and heard the sound of *ackack.* The planes were returning over the Tower again leaving Manchester with one huge glow in the distance as we watched from the farmyard feeling helpless and anguished but with our Home Guard

constantly on the alert for parachutists from those same planes. On a number of occasions, we did see parachutes floating down beyond our pastures but they were our own RAF, practising drops in daylight. The War Office had asked for the use of our back pasture to carry out manoeuvres so once a week on average we received a letter from the War Office telling us a certain date and time to close indoors all our livestock. Tanks and bren-gun carriers would come rumbling up the side of the hill and past our farm to the pastures and then all hell broke loose! Closeted in the farmhouse with Mother, we sometimes wondered whether the Germans really had landed. Hours later, when we heard that familiar rumbling again, we used to go to the farm gate to see the cheery wave from 'our Tommies' and know that all was well. The war made a great difference in many other ways, of course. Many of the cottagers in Holcombe Village took in evacuees. They had never even heard of swedes, never mind eaten one but we soon 'broke them in'. I remember one day when Mother and 1 were milking in the shippon a group of evacuees had walked up the moor and called at the farm. They were amazed to see where we got our milk from.

The war over, bonfires were lit and we had fireworks instead of ammunition on the hill. We had saved enough money to have a telephone installed so the Germans we then saw on Holcombe Hill were the ones from Warth Prisoner of War Camp. Watched over by two Lancashire Fusiliers and supervised by men from the GPO they dug the holes and put in our telegraph poles from the A1TKEN Sanatorium to the farm. They had their own rations but we made them all a jug of cocoa from time to time. The bunkhouse became the saddle room again and, despite Britain still coping with food rationing, our catering trade gradually began to flourish once more. Eventually Father had to inform the RUDC that the Tower staircase was becoming unsafe. He had attached metal plating to many of the steps that had worn or rusted dangerously thin but during the war years our pride and joy had not received its annual spring clean. No agreement could be reached with the trustees about my Father taking responsibility for the Tower and they decided to close it down. Our family were very sad about the whole matter because we had strong feelings of belonging, or rather that the Tower belonged to us. We knew it didn't of course, but we had an affection for it as the basis of our livelihood. The inevitable happened and as the Good Friday pilgrims dwindled, so did our catering business and we had to close down too. It was never an easy task trying to make a living as a hillside farmer with sheep losses particularly heavy in a bad winter so we started a boarding kennels for dogs and cats. We found that the kennels was only busy during the Bury or Bolton Wakes weeks. All the time we were watching the Tower becoming more dilapidated and thinking she might suffer the same fete as Grants' Tower across the valley.

I was in Canada when, in November 1983, a friend sent me a cutting from the *Bury*

Times reporting that the Peel Tower Monument was to be restored. Most local people must have been delighted at this news and 1 know my joy that it has been repaired is shared with my remaining family.

Margaret P. VICKERS 1985 (revised 2009)

Dr Rhodes Boyson

David McKIE, who wrote to the Society while he was gathering information for a gazetteer, contacted us again with details about the recently published boot He also speaks of the possibility of Rams bottom's William and Daniel GRANT being the prototypes of characters in Charles DICKENS novel Nicholas Nickleby. Mr McKIE ends his message and adds an amusing anecdote:

Although I know this is impossible, 1 used to think that some of the aspects of Josiah Bounderby in the same author's *Hard Times* (though not of course his invented hard childhood) must have been modelled on the mutton-chopped former pedagogue and straight-out-of-the-catalogue right wing Tory MP Dr Rhodes BOY SON; and BOYSON, I discovered after my visit, has Ramsbottom connections too, having been a teacher in the town. In a rather wandering Commons debate in March 1994 he gave this rather wandering account of his time there:

Sir Rhodes BOYSON: Those pupils, some of whom are still my friends, were the most awkward characters that I had ever met, and their big concern was to get out of school The headmaster's job was similar to mine - to get them to a technical college three miles away, driving there in the morning, returning in the afternoon. I was allowed a full curriculum, anything that I wanted as long as those pupils did not return to school. They nearly drove me out of teaching. After my first two months I decided that 1 could not control one of them.

That year the first snow came in November to Ramsbottom, from where Albert came and was eaten by the lion. At that time, his was the only name on the honours board of that school. I had to teach the class in a laboratory and the gas and water taps added to the excitement, Ï blew the whistle for the class to come in but nobody appeared and when I went out the pupils were pointing not to the Archangel Gabriel, but to the second-floor roof on which was a boy whom I called 'C' and he was the most difficult boy in the class. They said, 'What are you going to do about him, sir?' Fortunately I had been trained in the navy and I climbed the drainpipe all the way. This is all public knowledge because I have written it up. I got hold of the boy and brought him down, kicking him as we came. There was no corporal punishment, of course. When we got to the bottom there was a great cheer and the class said, 'Good old sir. That was good, sir.' They ran in like a set of whippets and I had no more

trouble with them. One must pay attention to great philosophy, but one must also be sure that one can climb the rigging.

(Sir Rhodes BOYSON, born 1925, who was a Minister of State at the time of this speech, taught at Peel Brow Secondary Modern School during the early years of his career - Editor)

Shaw's Grocers (60 Bridge Street) before the Second World War
Memories of a local resident, who was born in 1923, from a taped interview by Kate SLINGSBY and transcribed by Kathy STOTT

I worked for SHAW's the grocers as a boy. If it was school holidays I worked all day on Mondays but usually I worked every Thursday evening. I used to take out orders to houses, which were nearly all up Victoria Street, Albert Street or Tanners Street. I got a shilling a week, which helped me to buy my bicycle (on hire purchase). Mr SHAW got really cross with me when it was the elections because Î had been recruited by the Conservative party to gather people's numbers at the polling station. This involved asking people for their numbers before they voted and the information was booked so party officials knew who'd been to vote. Voting was on a Thursday, so 1 got into trouble because I should have been delivering goods, but for the polling station job I got half a crown, which was big money then. I can always remember trying to find someone to pay the half crown afterwards which was always difficult because I knew who engaged me, but not who should pay. Eventually, I had to go all the way up to Dundee Lane to find the person who was responsible for the money, to get my half crown.

At SHAW's grocers the butter used to come in big chunks in a wooden box with paper inside. It was not British butter but came from Denmark or Northern Germany. Empire butter was looked down upon, as it was rather yellow. The most popular one was Danish which came in big squares that you used to cut up into whatever weight was wanted, such as half a pound, six ounces or four ounces. I remember that when Charles SHAW became annoyed or indignant he used to hit his butter and he used to say they can have it like the Maypole (a shop at the top of Bridge Street), because the Maypole used to pat the butter they sold with wooden butter pats that left a design on it.
Biscuits didn't then come pre-packed to the shop but in a 71b tin. All round the shop were tins, pound tins with their lids on so if you wanted assorted biscuits you took some out of each of a number of tins. You didn't use tongs, you used your fingers to do it and there was no sell-by date! You put the tins away at night on a shelf that ran

round the counter. A lot of confectioners sold eggs - they'd have a big bowlful in the window which I presume came from local farmers, but 1 never was a buyer. They definitely had the lion on them. In SHAW's we sold cheese and bacon so we had a bacon sheer.
Sugar and flour were brought up from the railway station in two hundredweight (cwt) sacks. They were terribly heavy (1 cwt = 8 stones) so 1 couldn't lift a 2cwt sack of sugar. That was one of the jobs I used to do on a Monday, weighing sugar out, and it was always put in a blue bag made from very stiff paper. Sugar, raisins and currants were all weighed out in 21b or lib bags. Tea arrived in big tea chests with the foil lining and was weighed out too. 1 can't remember how the coffee beans came. You didn't have a choice - different types of coffee such as Colombian, they were just coffee beans. Coffee had to be ground as there was no instant coffee of course so all the grocery shops had a coffee grinder. Assistants would grind it as you waited, and then put it in a bag, which I never could master. The bag had to be formed by rolling it up, so that it tapered and was conical. Sweets were sold like that, too, and when they had been filled the bags were twisted round and then the knot at the top end was twisted. Everything was manual.
We sold all the main groceries, the basics you see nowadays, but obviously we didn't have the range of a modern supermarket. Everything was sold from the counter and an assistant served you. Also people used to send a grocery list into the shop and, once their order had been 'put up', shop staff would deliver the groceries to their home. Their lists were nearly the same every week. It didn't vary much, because there wasn't a lot of variety.

The Civic Year of Ramsbottom Urban District Council 1972 – 73

In our archive we recently found a scrapbook of news cuttings, mainly captioned photographs, related to civic activities during the penultimate year of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council before reorganisation in 1974. We are grateful to the family of Mrs Mary[?] MILLS, the RUDC's Chairman's Lady who compiled the scrapbook, for giving us permission to use it to highlight a few of the civic events of 1972 - 3. We hope to bring back happy memories to some of our readers.

The 1972 - 3 civic year began when retiring Chairman of RUDC, Cllr Albert LITTLE, placed the chain of office on the shoulders of the new Chairman, Cllr Herbert MILLS. (*We are pleased to note that the present Mayor of Bury, Councillor Sheila MAGNALL wears this same RUDC chain when she is carrying out her duties in Ramsbottom. - Editor)* A civic service took place at Rowland's Chapel, Summerseat after which Ramsbottom UDC Chairman and his Lady, Cllr and Mrs Herbert MILLS, the vice-chairman and his wife, Cllr and Mrs Albert LITTLE, and

the Mayor and Mayoress of Bury, Cllr and Mrs D O DAVIES were photographed. Alderman and Mrs CONNELLY and the Town Clerk (Mr W B WOLFE) were also pictured with the Bishop at the entrance to the church. One of the first functions was the Chairman's party for housebound people, which was held at St Philip's Church, Stubbins.
Cllr MILLS attended many fundraising events, including the annual Spring Fair run by Shuttleworth Women's Institute at St John's Church, Shuttleworth. He was photographed at one of the busy stalls with his wife and Mrs B RAMSBOTTOM, Mrs J M DRAPER and Mrs R FRAIN. Entertainment was by the local Women's Institute choir and around £90 was raised for church funds. At a coffee evening in the Civic Hall, which was opened by local model and beauty queen Miss Elaine FARNWORTH, Ramsbottom Ladies' Lifeboat Guild chairman Mrs Marjorie ALFEROFF gave a brief outline of the 50 years that the Ramsbottom Branch had been in existence. There were stalls selling toys and Christmas gifts, a raffle, a bring and buy stall and a tombola. £140 was raised. At another function to fund raise for Holcombe Brook Methodist Church visitors to Ramsbottom library admired a painting by local artist Mrs Margaret BELL. The painting "was in an exhibition of local paintings by local artists ~ including Fred HOWARTH and Yates HEAP. Later on, Mrs Mary MILLS was the main guest at an American Tea organised by the Ladies' Fellowship of the same church. The event was opened by Mrs Edith HOLLAND and a total of £53 was raised for the Ladies Fellowship Fund. Also present were Mrs Sandra HOLT, Mrs Sarah JONES and Mrs Barbara ASHBURN. "All the works were donated," said the Methodist circuit minister, the Rev J PALMER. "They have been selling quite well. It's surprising how much talent is available when you need it." The exhibition had proved so popular that it was extended for a further week. The money raised was to go to the church's appeal for funds for an extension. This was already within £5,000 of the target figure of £22,000. A bring and buy sale at Summerseat Sunshine Club and a £66 Easter effort at Rowlands also get a mention in Mrs MILLS' scrapbook.

There was a *White Ensign and Social Dance* at the Civic Hail which was also the venue when about 250 people joined the Chairman and Lady of RUDC at the Ramsbottom Civic Ball. Among the guests were Rossendale's MP and his wife, Mr and Mrs Ronald BRAY, the Mayors and Mayoresses of Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Bacup, Radcliffe and Prestwich and the Chairmen and Ladies of Tottington, Whitefield, Turton and Farnworth. Music for dancing was provided by the Assembly Dance Band. There was a tombola stall and a supper. Later in the year, the Caledonian Society's St Andrew's Day Dance was also attended by Cllr and Mrs MILLS as was the Rotarians 19* Charter Dinner, when the club president was Mr Harrison M HADDOCK and their vice-president was Mr F BELLIS. At another function the Union of Soroptimists received a civic welcome.

A special day for 11 years old Susan NISBET was when she was crowned rose queen by Mrs MILLS at Rowlands Methodist Church, Summerseat. Susan's retinue included Julie and Sally Ann MOORES, Christine and Carol PEMBERTON, Sarah WALMSLEY and Simone BOARDMAN. Flowers were presented to the main guests by Kate NISBET, Alison and Karen McDONALD and Nicola WEBSTER. A vote of thanks was proposed by Timothy WALMSLEY. The church members organised stalls, and entertainment was provided by Mr K FLETCHER on the electric accordion. The pianist for the afternoon was Mr D MOORES.

A most important legacy to Ramsbottom from the year 1972 - 3 is the town's new swimming pool. On 22nd July 1972, the Council Chairman cut the tape at the official opening ceremony. The occasion was commemorated with a plaque. (One of the two plaques which Ramsbottom Heritage Society arranged to be cleaned and reinstated at the pool early this year. The other plaque, as it states, places on record the RUDC's sincere appreciation of the subscriptions, donations and efforts of: the Miss K L PORRITT Trust, the James ASHWORTH Trust, A H GODWIN Chairman's Swimming Bath Appeal Fund, the Ramsbottom and District Sports Advisory Council and the ratepayers and organisations of Ramsbottom. Editor).

There was also a sponsored swim which raised £150 for the hospital. Later in the year Cllr and Mrs Herbert MILLS joined civic heads at a festival ball at Whitworth Civic Hall following the opening of that town's £75,000 swimming pool.

Another highlight of the civic year was when the Fusiliers' Band performed in front of the Town Hall', now Council Chambers. The *Cemetery Hotel* was renamed *The Fusilier* as drummers stood at either side of pub doorway with union flags in groups of three at first floor window-sill level. Afterwards other band members mingled with the crowd.

Eight teenagers of Ramsbottom Secondary School including Jeremy CHEW and ten youngsters of Stubbins Primary School received cycling proficiency certificates from Cllr MILLS when he handed out the awards at the two schools. At Stubbins he gave a road safety talk as well. During his year of office he also presented cycling proficiency certificates at Rowlands School, Holcombe Brook Primary School and St Joseph's. Road safety organiser Mr J RILEY had set up Ramsbottom's first Tufty Club to cater for around twelve children between ages of three and seven and this was the reason for a visit to the Summerseat School for Delicate Children (Headmaster Mr G SIDERY), The town's cycle rally, with seventy competitors that year, was also part of Mrs MILLS' programme of events.

Under the heading *Golden Wedding of a Great-Gran* there is a photograph showing Cllr MILLS visiting friends. Mr and Mrs Charles ISHERWOOD with some of their cards and gifts on their Golden Wedding Day. Cllr MILLS, an Independent, eventually joined the Liberal party and one of the last cutting in the scrapbook shows him standing with Alderman Cyril SMITH.

Memories of life on Gollinrod Farm during World War 2

My father rented Gollinrod Farm in 1939. About 20 to 30 families lived in the little hamlet close by. There was a 'toffee' shop which opened at weekends and holidays and did a roaring trade selling sweets and ice-cream to people walking up to Grant's Tower. Mr DAKIN, the tenant at Hoof Farm, also ran amusements like swings and roundabouts at the Tower.

Ours was one of the oldest farms in the Ramsbottom area. It was a beautiful house with mull ion windows. It had been extended and the kitchen was divided by steps leading from the old to the new part. The cooking was done on the open range in the living room. This also heated the water. We used fresh spring water from the hills near Grant's Tower but as it came through lead pipes to our house we had to run the water for sometime before we could drink it. We did not have electricity so used gas mantles for lighting in four rooms and hurricane lamps and candles upstairs.

The house was very cold and I remember the upstairs windows were always a bit open as my dad believed in fresh air. 1 slept in a room with my two brothers, sharing a bed with one while the other, the tallest, slept in a bed near the window. We had to go through our parents' room to get to ours. My sisters had a bedroom on the north side of the house. On cold nights the girls used to creep out of their beds, pass through our parent's room without waking them, and get into bed with us. Our mother was always surprised to find us all cuddled up together for warmth.

I went to Peel Brow School. One thing that was a source of amusement amongst the classmates was that all the boys and girls had to learn to knit. We knitted little squares of 30 stitches of plain knitting by 30 lines. The teacher then with the help of some of the girls stitched them together to make blankets to send out to the soldiers. We had a few sheep, pigs and chickens but it was mainly a dairy farm and the milk was sold to the Co-op in Bury. We took the chums to be collected from top road but the snow was so deep in the winter of 1940 that we had to use a horse and wooden sledge to take the milk as far as Robinson Kay Home. We found a baker's van there and took all the bread he could spare back to Gollinrod in an empty chum. We left home at 10 a.m. and did not get back till 5 p.m. We distributed the bread around Gollinrod hamlet that evening lighting our way with lanterns.

We used a horse and cart to deliver the milk in Shuttleworth and part of Ramsbottom. I used to help out at the weekends. Our dairy herd, and hence our supply of milk, was reduced during World War 2 as the Ministry of Agriculture made us grow vegetables and cereals on 20 acres of the land. Many customers were unhappy, particularly a lady in Crow Lane who said she was not getting enough milk to make the rice pudding on a Sunday because she lived the furthest away from the farm.

We sold the vegetables locally but some also went off to Manchester and other places. Growing vegetables as well as milking cows made life very hard for my

parents and they were offered prisoners of war to help with harvesting of crop, both Italian and German. The army did not bother to guard the Italians as they did not expect them to try to escape but the Germans had to be accompanied by guards with guns.

My father was a bit concerned about having armed guards around us children so instead opted to have British soldiers who were recuperating in Bury' from injury, disease or shell shock after Dunkirk.

The soldiers were billeted in homes nearby and worked on the farm during the day. We were assigned four men for one week but they ended up staying for 10 weeks. The army told my father to pay the soldiers sixpence or I bottle of beer per day but my father did not think that was enough and gave them a shilling and 2 bottles of beer per day. They used to store up their beer allowance for the Friday night festivities at the farm when there was a get together with the locals and my mother played the piano.

All four soldiers returned to the front and only one, Taffy, survived the war. He came back to see us afterwards.

We used to cut the grass on part of Nuttall Parie - where football fields are now- for hay for the cattle. The area was very polluted by the railway and the mills and all of us as well as the hay were covered in soot.

I remember seeing train loads of evacuees passing through Ramsbottom on the way up the line to Colne. There were 16 stops between Manchester and Colne and the children were dropped off at various places on route. We had evacuees ourselves. 1 remember one girl from London was placed with us whilst her brothers were at nearby Red Hall Farm. The poor girl was terrified of the country life and had to be resettled in a house in Shuttleworth.

We also had land girls and I remember looking across to the field next to our ferm and seeing the most beautiful 18 year old girl dressed in a green jumper, jodhpurs and khaki overcoat. Aged 9, Ï thought I would never see such a vision of loveliness again. She is now in a nursing home and still teases me about it when I visit her.

We also had the help of a man and a tractor who went from farm to farm helping with the ploughing. He allowed me to ride with him one year. I loved the tractor more than the land girl.

Bryan WALSH talking with Brenda RICHARDS 2009

[Gollinrod Farm was demolished to make way for the M66 motorway in 1970s. Editor]

The editors welcome any contributions about life in the Ramsbottom area, from single paragraphs to life histories.

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

Bury Museum and Archive, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG tel: 0161 253 6782
Email: archives@bury.gov.uk Website: www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Opening Hours:

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

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

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

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

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

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE
tel 0161 253 5352 (IT -tel 0161 253 5354) email Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk
The library boasts a state-of-the-art IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the last Thursday of every month (except December) from 3pm to 7pm.

A new souvenir booklet from Ramsbottom Heritage Society

NUTTALL PARK

and the

Porritt Legacy to Ramsbottom



John B. Taylor 2008

48 pages ~ Price £3

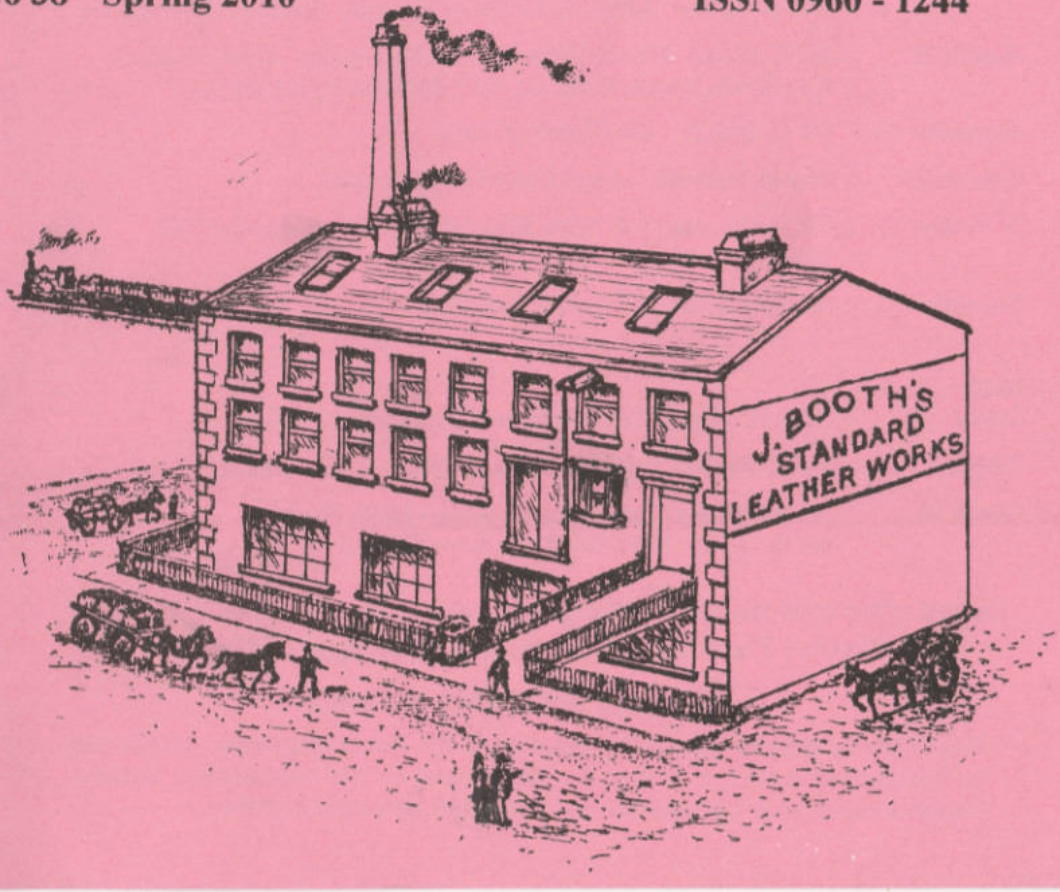
★ ***Fully illustrated with colour and archive photographs***

History of the Park ***Memories of Stubbins Vale Mill***

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 38 Spring 2010 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom

PROGRAMME

2010:

June 16	Mrs A. Butterworth – *Memories of Life on Stage and Screen*
July 21	Mrs J. Murphy - Guided walk around Entwistle Reservoir. Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing
August 18	Mr R. Frost – Visit to Queen Street Mill, Burnley. Meet 6.30pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing
September 15	Mr R. Bolton – *The Clatter of Clogs*
October 20	Mrs K. Fishwick – *Early Churches* (illustrated)
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)

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 - Joseph Booth & Sons, Factory Street, Ramsbottom in 1920s.

Centre pages - Lampposts by John B Taylor

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

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

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

Tony Murphy

OBITUARIES Alan H1BBERT 3.8.24-2.5.2009

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

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

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

Waiter MILLS

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

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

Norma Mills with Tony Murphy

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2009 WINNERS

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

Thanks to all who sent in photographs for the competition and congratulations to all the above winners and especially the overall winner, Kate Slingsby.
Photographs should be on display at the new Museum within Ramsbottom Library.

Music Review:

SINGING FOR RAMSBOTTOM -
recorded and produced on CD by Barry Aldous

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

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

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

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

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

KIBBOTH CREW - A **LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kate Slingsby

RECOLLECTIONS OF MRS MARY NEWBORNE nee SKELTON

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

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

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

the deserted stables and he and all his village pals used to meet there, light a fire and sit and chat and plan mischief! Great fun for me and my pals!
1 went to Hazlehurst school and was in the 'baby class' when Miss SMITH was the teacher. 1 was terrified of her and wet my pants on the first day! Miss WHITTAKER in the next class was lovely, as was Mrs MOORHOUSE in the Seniors. Mr BURTON, the headmaster was a really kind man and an excellent teacher. He managed to get us all through our exams, even dopes like myself!
I went to Bury Grammar School and, at 17 years old, to the Manchester Royal Infirmary to train for physiotherapy. In 1947, as a fully trained physiotherapist, I went to work at Bury Infirmary. I was there for a year and then went to Leicester, and subsequently to the Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford from there I married and did not return north. I now live in the Chilterns about four miles from Marlow on Thames.

Mary NEWBORNE (nee SKELTON)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

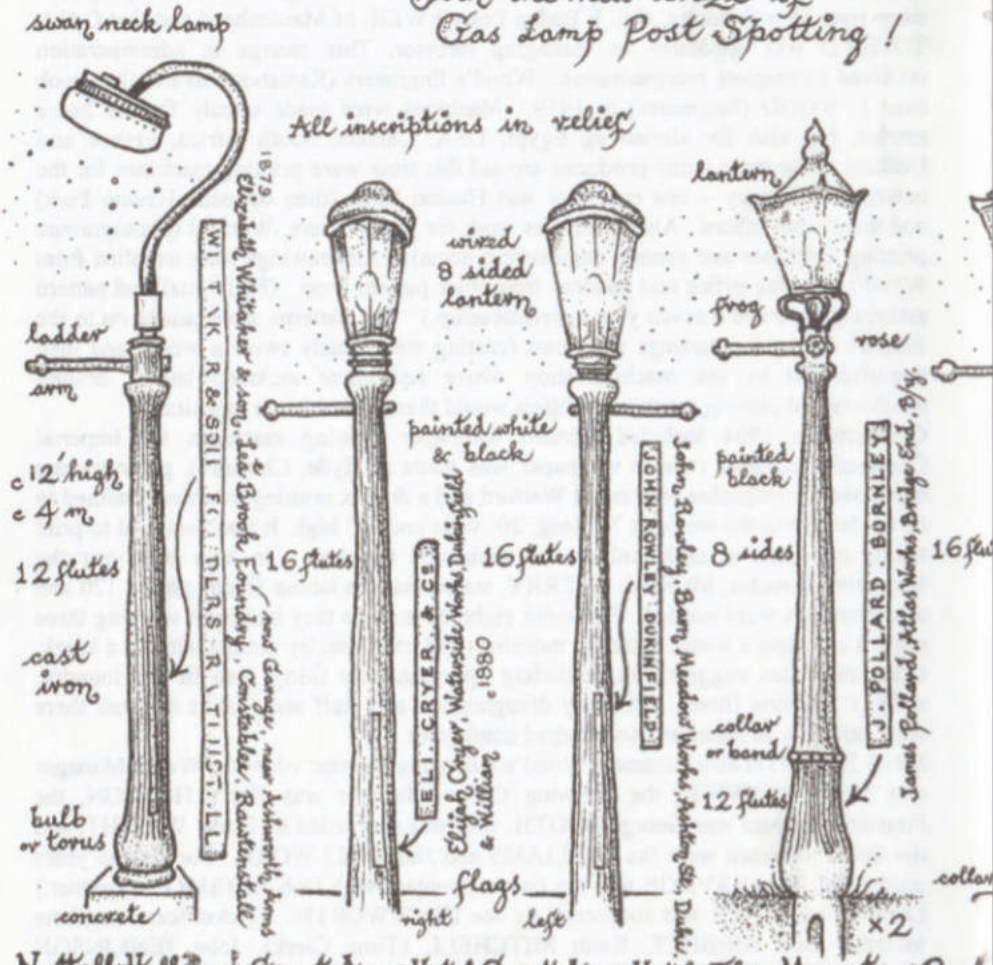
trepanning. In the obituary of Mr J WARMSTRONG, it is mentioned that a brother and he (Johnny) had been the owners of John Wood, Engineers, Ltd until it had changed hands on his retirement about four years earlier. Great changes in the administration of the company had then taken place. During 1954 the company was taken over by a financier, Col. F Baden Powell WEIL of Maidenhead and Col C C L TOFIELD was appointed as managing director. This change in administration involved a complete reorganisation. Wood's Engineers (Ramsbottom) Ltd then took over J. WOOD (Engineers) in 1959. Machines were made mostly for the home market, but also for abroad e.g. Egypt, USA, Canada, South Africa, France and Holland. The main items produced around this time were printing machines for the newspaper industry ~ one customer was Heaton Mills (then opposite Heaton. Park.) and there were others. Also there was work for Sun Printers, Watford (photogravure printing machines and general engineering items). All drawings were supplied from Wood's drawing office and patterns from their pattern shop. (Fully qualified pattern makers still served a seven year apprenticeship.) The patterns were passed on to the foundry where the castings were cast (casting was usually twice a week) and then manufactured by the machine shop where equipment included lathes, drilling machines and planing machines. Fitters would then assemble the machines.
Contracts in 1964 included thirteen wallpaper printing machines for Imperial Chemical Industries (whose wallpaper was made at Hyde, Cheshire), photogravure machines for magazine printing at Watford and a duplex printing machine, claimed to be the largest in the world at 75' long, 20’ wide and 26' high. It was designed to print textile materials in eight colours on each side (duplex). In May that year the Managing Director, Mr Keith CHERRY, slated that the labour force totalled. 120 and more workers were needed.. For about eighteen months they had been working three night's overtime a week, Saturday mornings and each Sunday almost without a break. Other estimates suggest 130, including approximately thirty men in the foundry, seventy machine fitters, and thirty draughtsmen and staff and that at its peak there were probably as many as two hundred employees.

Mr. A.K. SMITH also became a Wood’s managing director when the Works Manager was Harry BESWICK, the Drawing Office Manager was Harry HUTTON, the Foundry Manager was George BOOTH, who was succeeded by Harry WRIGHT, and the fitters’ foremen were Ike WILLIAMS and Jim WALLWORK. For sixteen years until 1969, Tom SAVAGE was the cost accountant with Bob HIBBERT as cashier.) Leemin FLETCHER was succeeded by Joe DUCKWORTH. Cricket team members included Bob HIBBERT, Keith MITCHELL (Time Clerk), John JENKINSON (Draughtsman), D. BELL (Clerk) and Tom SAVAGE. The team used to play friendly matches in the Rawtenstall area.
HINCIILlFFE’s provided transport for many of Wood’s deliveries. At one time, possibly in the mid 1950s, a HINCHLIFFE dropside lorry was driven to Blackpool about once a month to bring back a load of about eight tons of sand for the foundry.

Some Named Lamp Posts

There are probably other named lamp standards just wait

Join the new craze of
Gas Lamp Post Spotting!



Nuttall Hall Road (near former coach house)

Grant Arms Hotel

Grant Arms Hotel

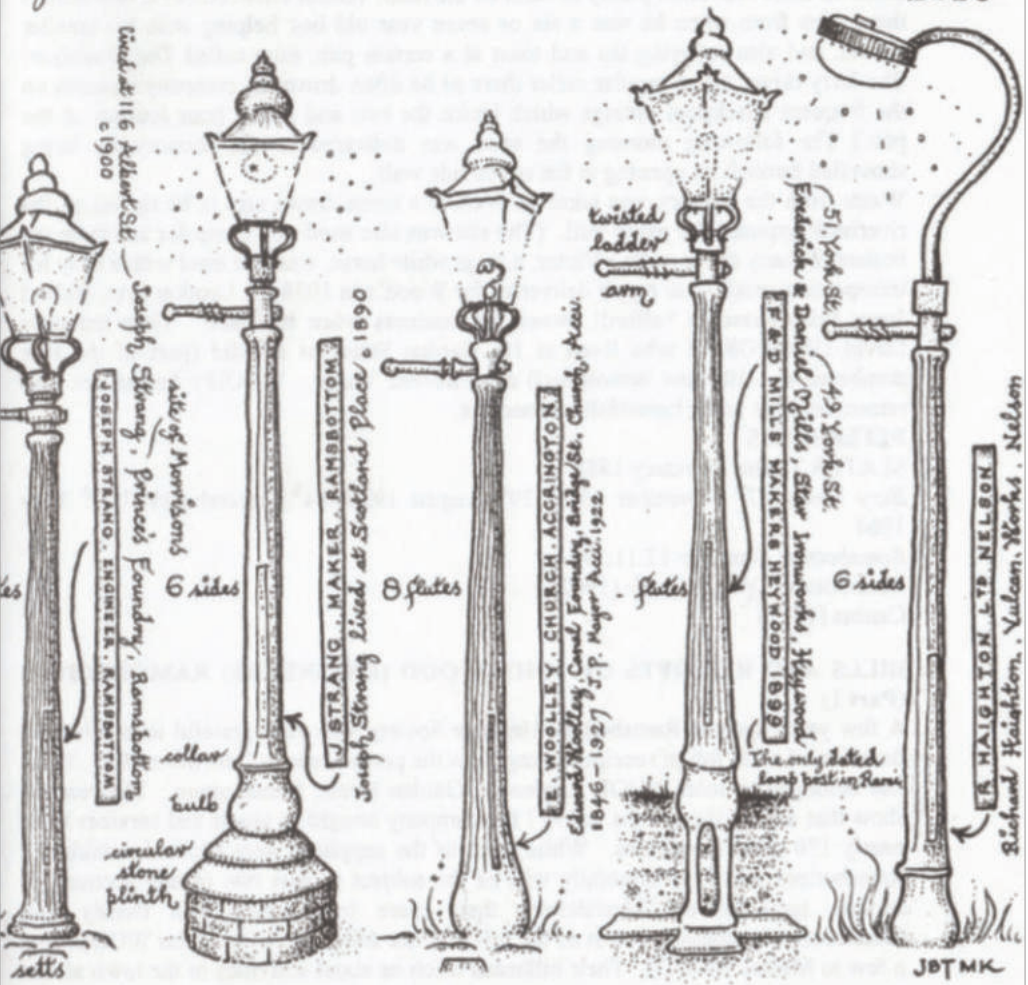
The Mount (up Plunge Edenfield from Bank St, Rawtenstall)

1 Rak
2 Milt
3 Cliff
4 Near
5 Cross
(near

AROUND RAMSBOTTOM

ing to be recorded

John B. Taylor 2010



e Fold
n Street
Mount
lay Brow Lodge
lane, Holc.
Plant House

Central Street
near the steps
near the Vets

Edith Street
(off Millhouse St.
Shuttleworth

22 Hazel Hall Lane
(near Footballers' Arms
Summerseat

Eccles Street
Mount Street
up Tanners

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

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

REFERENCES

SLATER Trades Directory' 1888

Bury Times 17 h November 1927, 29Ih August 1936, 14.!' December1957, 9th May 1964

Rams bottom Observer 12.11.1954 Rams bottom Official Guide (1962)

Census (1911)

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

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

The headings on the invoices of John O HAWORTH (Proprietor: T WARBURTON), ‘‘Wholesale and Retail Mill and Furnishing Ironmonger’ of 15, Bolton Street (now *Dine at Home* and *Midas Business Services)* mentions his warehouse on Smithy Street. We see that he could supply india rubber, belting, asbestos, red and white leads and that he dealt “in every class of oils, paints and

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

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

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

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

Atlas Steam Tin Copper & Iron Works.
RAMSBOTTOM

Mr. J. WOOD.

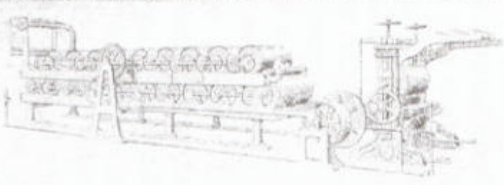
Fred Mason

COPPERSM

IRON & TIN PLATE WOR

Steam Cylinders, Copper Colour Pans, Rollers

and all kinds of Tin & Copp



MANGLE & DRYING MACHINE



JACKSON & MASON'S PATENT PORCUPINE PAN

FOR PRINTERS, BLEACHE
ENGINEERS, MILL OWN

to stop the steam escaping. They also made brake straps for WOOD'S. Rollers were fitted with a cast iron wheel over which was a leather belt with a hook for hanging weights on. The heavier the weights the greater the braking force on the wheel.
There were frequent deliveries to satisfy WOOD'S timber and joinery needs from J H HAWORTH *&* Co Ltd, Irwell Saw Mills, Kenyon Street, Ramsbottom (Directors J WILSON, W STUART, A HAWORTH). The company is listed in Trades Directories of 1883, 1888 and 1913 as Joseph Hill HAWORTH. On each of their monthly accounts (with totals up to £74 per account and usually about twenty different items) are the notes in red ink. Three of the invoices include materials for Park Cottage (36ft lath 2"x 10ft sash cord and nails, 23ft planed board 6 x 1, 9ft ditto 5!4xl, 22ft planed board 7x1, 11ft ditto 6x1 11ft prime pitch pine 5x%) and work for Park Cottage: a joiner preparing timber at shop and hours of work at Park Cottage but together the cost is less than £10. In 1927 Park Cottage, Bury New Road, which was originally the manse to Park Chapel, was the home of John ARMSTRONG, nephew of John WOOD. (The brothers John and Peter ARMSTRONG, ran the business after John WOOD retired.) David ROSTRON, "Plumber, Glazier, Gas Fitter and dealer in Iron and Brass Fittings for Gas Steam and Water and also Iron Pipes" used to be at 23, Bolton Street (which is now the shop called *The Hidden Jem).* He mentions on his billhead that "Pumps, Baths and Water Closets" are "fixed and repaired on the most improved principle" but each of his bills to WOOD'S has totals only up to a maximum £6 2s 6d and is just for materials. Another plumbers and glaziers (who were also decorators) called STARKEY & RAMSBOTTOM (Spring Street) sent WOOD'S only one bill which was for some copper tube.
Understandably, Ramsbottom's textile companies do not seem to have been of much importance to John WOOD'S business. TURNBULL & STOCKDALE, Calico Printers, Bleachers and Dyers of Rosebank Printworks did supply an 8s carboy of vitriol (carboy to be returned) and later 561bs of white cloth at 2s per yard. Britannia Rope & Twine Co Ltd, Manufacturers of Ropes, Cords, Twines & Lines, of Edenfield, (established 1886) invoiced WOOD'S for 50ft of $^{3}/4$ inch manilla rope, some *Va* inch square cotton rope and two bundles of cotton twine on three separate bills. Also, SHEPHERDS Ltd, Cotton Waste Spinners and Manufacturers at Crow and Railway Mills provided 2 gallons of transmission oil and eight loads of what seems to be firewood for 9s and £6 9s respectively. Two invoices show that more oil was obtained from W H BIRTWISTLE & Co Ltd, established 1874, "Refiners and Pressers of Oil and Tallow. Motor & Lubricating Oils, All kinds of Sizing Materials". They had a telegraphic address of PORRITT, Refiner. (This company's premises, Carr Oil and Tallow Works, has now been transformed into the *Old Mill Hotel.)* Predecessors of the present-day soap manufacturers KAYs (Ramsbottom) Ltd were James KAY *&* Sons Ltd, *Britannia Works*, Soap and Oil Manufacturers at the same premises on Kenyon Street. In 1927 a bill shows Wood's had purchased from them one parcel of soap at a cost of 14s 5V4d. Another surviving business is *Station*

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

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

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

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

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Below is a follow up to an item by* Mr C R ECCLES which was published in our Spring 2009 News Magazine (Number 36). We do apologise for the poor quality of the copy of the RHS archive photograph which accompanied Mr ECCLES[3] piece. The unusual photo depicted Humpty Dumpty falling down - from the back of a horse. Among other interesting information, Mr ECCLES, who took over the running of TURNBULL & STOCKDALE's design studio in 1954, told us that the Humpty Dumpty design had been one of their 1950s nursery rhyme series meant for use at events such as gymkhanas. The series had been described by Mr W and Mr J TURNBULL as being one of the annual \crazy season[3] projects.*

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

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

C R Eccles ARC A. Des RCA

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

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

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

were introduced on London's Pall Mall. At their peak of operation it was estimated that there were about 60,000 gas lamps in the Capital each having to be lit and extinguished every day by a veritable army of Lamplighters.
By 1823 numerous towns and cities were lit by gas. It was estimated that gaslight cost up to 75% less than oil lamps or candles. By 1859 gas lighting was to be found all over Britain and about 1000 gas works had sprung up to meet demand for the new fuel. Gas lighting in homes, however, didn't really take off until the last quarter of the 19th Century
The next chapter of the gas lighting revolution was in 1887 when the gas mantle was invented by Austrian chemist, Carl Auer von WELSBACH (to name but a few!) an employee at Bunsen's laboratory in Heidelberg. He discovered by accident that asbestos soaked in "rare earth" compounds gave an intense glow when heated by a gas flame. The early gas mantles were not very efficient and were extremely fragile. They cost around *5/-* (25p) each and the whole burner had to be sent back to the manufacturer if a new mantle was needed. The quality of gas mantles improved over the years however and they were used in street lighting in London for the first time in 1895.
Electric street lighting had. by the beginning of the 20th Century, begun to take over from gas though it took several decades to virtually eradicate gas street lighting. Today the largest street gas lighting network in the world is probably in Berlin with about 44,000 lamps. Street gas lighting gave way to low pressure Sodium and high pressure Mercury lighting in the 1930's and the development of electric lighting at the turn of the 19th Century replaced gas lighting in homes.

By the late 1920's and early 1930's the age of the Lamplighter had almost disappeared. An automatic switch on and off system had been introduced by the Newbridge and Horstman Gear Co Ltd, of Bath. This was basically a 14 day wind up clock which could be set to light and extinguish the lamp at pre-set times. This worked remarkably well and only required the services of a 'Lamplighter' to make fortnightly visits to each lamp to wind up the clock, adjust the time switches, clean the glass and replace the mantles when necessary. This system lasted until the almost fading away of the street gas lamp in the late 1960s to mid 1970s.
An interesting point at this stage is the fact that I grew' up and lived for the most part of my life in Blackpool. When gas lighting finished in the town in 1964 I, like many other people at that time, bought a redundant lamp standard and lantern with the intention of displaying it in the garden. The standard cost £3 and the lantern £2! 1 was offered £1,000 for it by an American some years ago! It has moved addresses with me on six occasions now and is currently awaiting erection in my garden in Ramsbottom. It was a working gas lamp (never electrified - 1 can't stand falseness) for some of the time in Blackpool and hopefully one day the same will happen in its new location getting it connected up to the main gas supply is a problem.
Of course one of the major users of gas lighting throughout its lengthy history- were

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

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

1853. He served his apprenticeship as a mechanic with a Mr. LUND at his foundry, the Palatine Iron Works on Railway Street/Irwell Street situated somewhere near where the Empire Cinema used to be. He started his own business together with John WOOD cl878 and later branched out on his own at the Princes Foundry, on Prince Street, a site now occupied by Morrisons supermarket and car park. The foundry datestone survived thanks to the intervention of Ken BEETSON and the Heritage Society' and is now displayed at the south end of the car park. He lived variously at Albert Street, Bolton Street and Cross Street and went to live in retirement in Lytham, around I[1]) 17, where he died in August 1928 aged 75. His business continued as a Limited Company by his sons. If you should spot any of these original gas lamp standards on your travels around Ramsbottom, many have the names of the makers shown in the casting - some even have been highlighted in gold! However, there is one notable exception. I am fairly new' to the area and one day when on a walk round the town, i.e. up Peel Brow, along Whalley road and back through Stubbins, it was with some amazement that I spotted what appeared to be an original gas lamp standard but even more surprisingly complete with original lantern together with all its internal workings - burner, clock, mantle fitment etc still in situ inside the lantern. On closer inspection this proved to be correct. The lamp itself is in Edith Street, Shuttleworth and is well known to the residents of that Street. It would not have been lit for many, many years and has survived mainly because some residents resisted its removal wanting to keep it as a heritage reminder time past. It had been replaced by a concrete electric lamp some yards away. Cutting a long story short, enquiries were made with the Lighting Department of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council who were not interested as the lamp was not considered to be on the public highway. A visit to the location will explain why this is. Mick NIGHTINGALE, the Council Conservation Officer, has taken a keen interest in the lamp and has been very' supportive.

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

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

Graham Twidale 2010

(With thanks for additional information to Brenda Richards)

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

Bury Museum and Archive, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG tel: 0161 253 6782
Email: archives@bury.gov.uk Website: www.bury.gov.uk/archives

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

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

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

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

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

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE
tel 0161 253 5352 (IT -tel 0161 253 5354) email Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk
The library boasts a state-of-the-art IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the last Thursday of every month (except December) from 3pm to 7pm.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2010

Guided circular walks

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

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

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

Sunday 25th April **Redisher Wood and Roger Worthington's Grave**
Meet at 2pm at the *Hare and Hounds,* Holcombe Brook for a walk of about 4 miles
Leader - John.B.Taylor

Sunday 23rd May **Chatterton – Irwell Vale – Lumb - Stubbins**
Meet at 2pm at the *Grant Arms.*
Leader – Linda de Ruijter

Sunday 27th June **NO WALK**

Sunday 25th July ***Nuttall – the Village that Vanished***
Meet at 2pm at Ramsbottom Station
Leader – Kate Slingsby

Sunday 22nd Aug ***Round Holcombe Tower***
Meet at 2pm at the *Grant Arms.*
Leader – Joan Young

Sunday 26th Sept ***Exploring Holcombe Village***
Meet at 2pm at the *Shoulder of Mutton*
Leader – John Ireland

For more details contact Linda 01706 827602 or Joan 01706 827245.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

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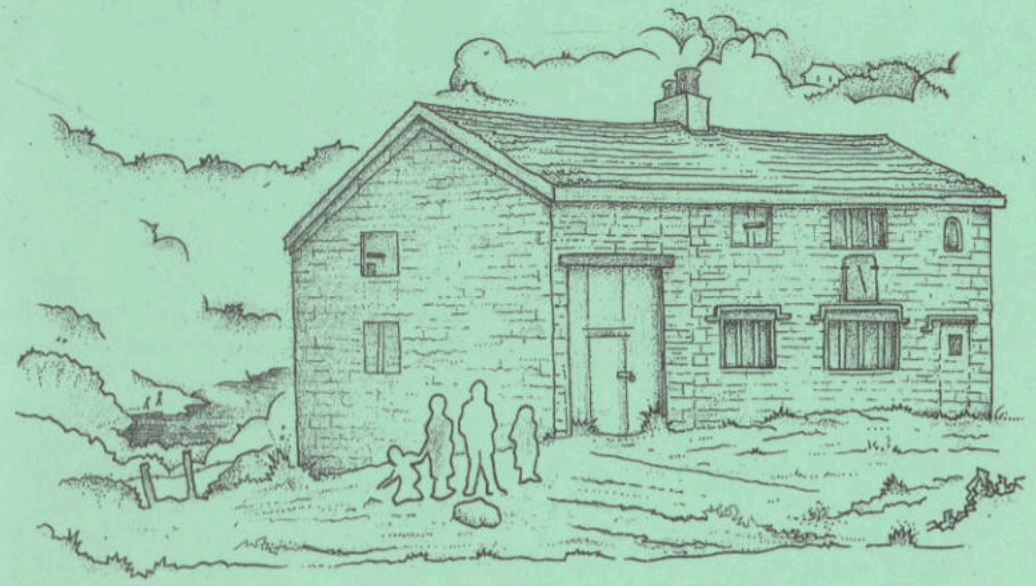

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 82 7245

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom

PROGRAMME

2010:

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 activity[1]. 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 restistivity 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 1SAD (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 modem 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 comer 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 modem 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 WH1TELOW 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.


HOLCOMBE MOOR & ENVIRONS
N
W
E
SCALE
0
100 yards
100 metres
500 metres
1000 metres
1 kilometre
Scale 1:10,000
½ mile
Bull Hill
Holcombe Moor
Black Moss
Pilgrims' Cross
White Hill
Longshaw Head
Quarlton Heights
Stanley Rake
Lark Hill
Holcombe Head
Nook
Harcles Hill
Higher Tops
Whirlwind Hall
Higher Red Lees
Broadwood Edge
Buckden Wood
Gibbon Green
Chatterton Close
Rossendale B.C.
Ramsbottom
Bury M.B.
Holcombe Brook
Hamlets West Mont
Taylors
Peel Monument
HOLCOMBE
Holcombe Rifle Range
Higher Ridge
Clarke's Tenement
Bank Top
Hey House
Simons
Range House
Higher House
Einnay Cote
New Hoyle's
Dandy Hall
Higher Redisher
Redisher
Redisher Wood
Hollingrove
Daniel Ulcoy
HOLCOMBE BROOK
Tongue Fold
Waggon & Horses
Bolton Road
A676
A676 Bolton Road
HAWKSHAW
B6215
B6214
To Bury
To Ramsbottom
Red Lion
Redearth
Holcombe Hey Fold
Boardman's
Parks
Withins
Higher Ash
Hawkshaw Hall
Calf Hill
Boomley Fold
Hill End
Lumb Carr Road

The finds at Whitelow 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 Whitelow 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 Whitelow 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 Whitelow 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 Whitelow 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 Whitelow '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, Bur}' 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 8*14.* 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.

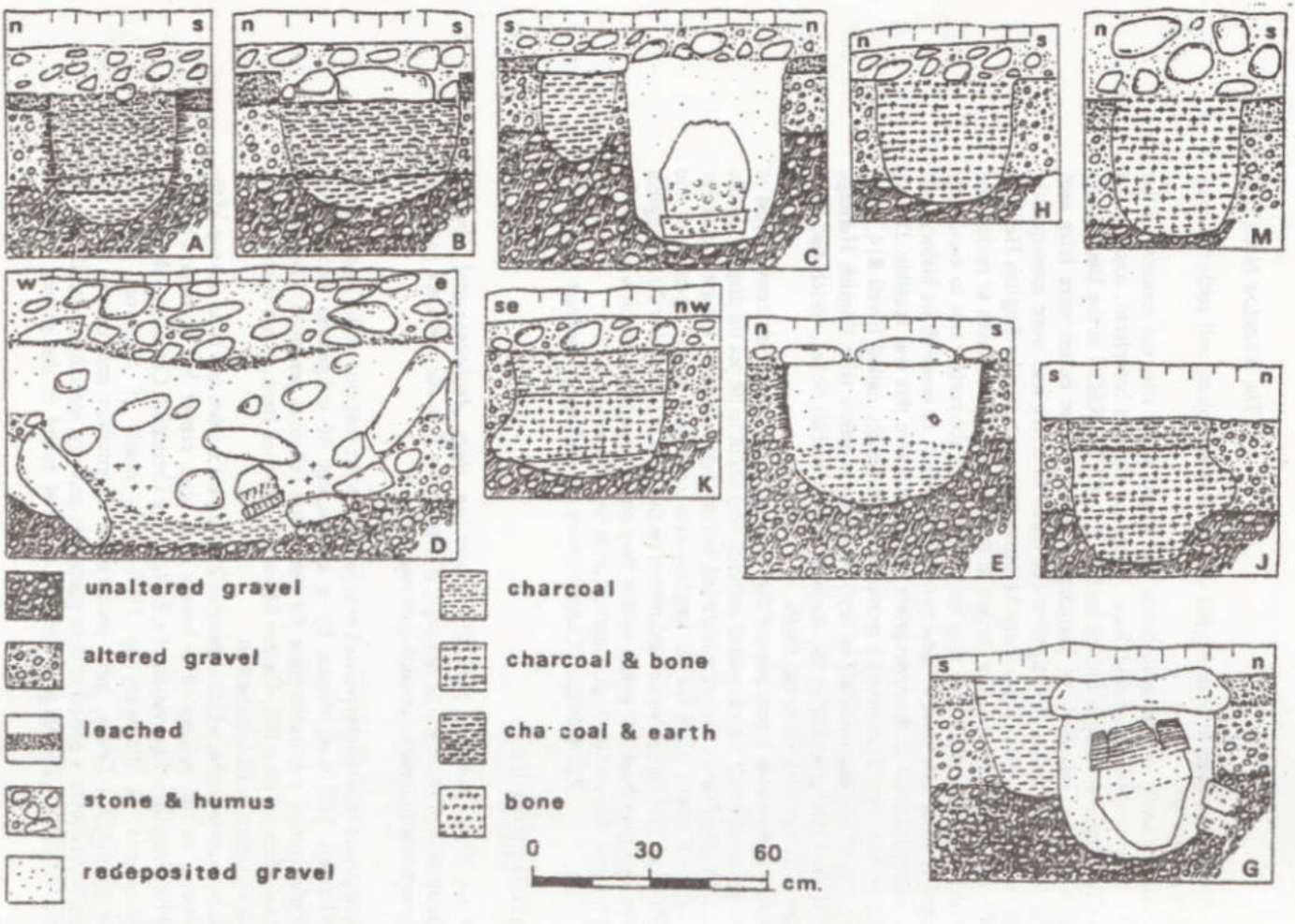
Richard Burns Curator Bury Art Gallery, Museum + Archives

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 discover)' in I960 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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unaltered gravel
altered gravel
leached
stone & humus
redeposited gravel
charcoal
charcoal & bone
charcoal & earth
bone
0
30
60
cm.

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 Anther 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 4h 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'dent 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 12th 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 [*.sic]* 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

Joshua Hoyle cousin 24 cotton manufacturer employer		Bacup LAN
Jane Thompson servant 42 cook		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

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 *2na* 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 - Fearns 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 £ 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"



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

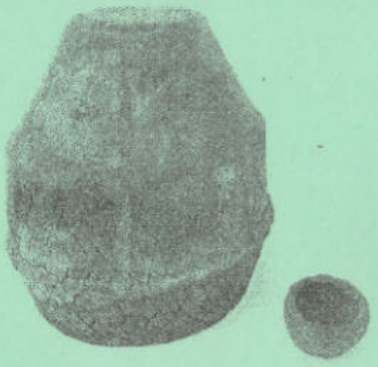
A new home for Ramsbottom Heritage Society at Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre

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

heritage lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED

Bury COUNCIL

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

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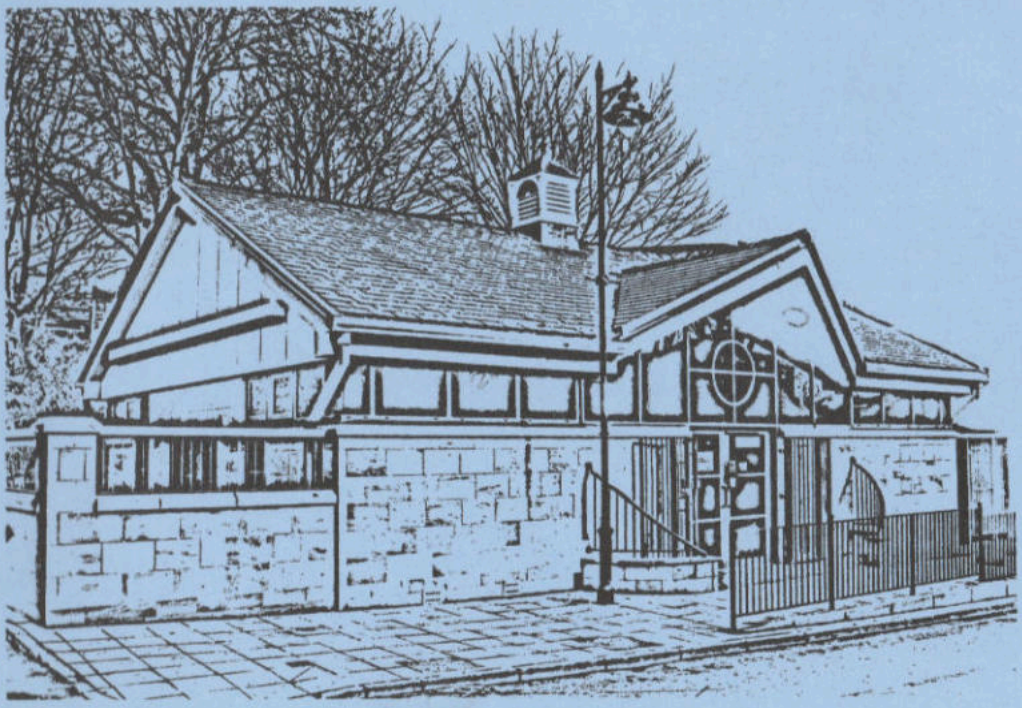

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 82 7245

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council.

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom

PROGRAMME

2011:

May 18	**Annual General Meeting and Members' Night**
June 15	Ms Fiona Jenkin - *Turton Tower* (illustrated)
July 20	Ms Fiona Jenkin – Visit to Turton Tower: meet 6.30pm, Carr Street car park, Ramsbottom. Transport by car sharing.
August 17	Sarah Kerrison – Visit to Bury Transport Museum: meet 6.30pm, Carr Street car park, Ramsbottom. Transport by car sharing.
September 21	Mrs S Addy – *Village Signs* (illustrated)
October 19	Mr T Haslam Jones – *Our Baptist Heritage* (illustrated)
November 16	Dr P Hindle – *Travel in Medieval England* - Part 2 (illustrated)
December 14	**Social Evening** – Christmas Festivities

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

Entry by donation, please.

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

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Cover - We are very grateful to Mr B Wilson for his illustration of the new Ramsbottom Children 's Centre, Chit Street, Ramsbottom which was completed in 2011 on the site of the old Heritage Centre.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After the success of late summer Gallery' opening, and progress with cataloguing the document collections continuing satisfactorily, the wintry weather of autumn provided the backdrop to a period of mixed fortune for the Society, with sudden deterioration in my own health early in November, followed almost immediately by the death of Jack KENNEFORD, a friend and mentor , stalwart of many years standing, and man of many involvements; among them the offices of vice-Chairman, Membership Officer, and latterly Press Officer. To add to the bleakness of November, we learned also of the death of Norene FRENCH, a very active member in earlier days. Their obituaries appear elsewhere in this issue. Despite the chill, the Christmas social evening, and our attendance at Ramsbottom's Christmas Market, were very successful. Early in January', my wife Joan MURPHY, Assistant Secretary from the founding year, and Programme Secretary from a year or two later, suffered a fall, which resulted in hospitalisation, and a period of convalescence, which continues. Despite these setbacks, business has carried on in as normal a manner as possible, and 1 offer sincere thanks to all who have been supportive in allowing this to happen. The Meetings programme for 2011-12 is being prepared, and the Display Team, with Kate SLINGSBY substituting for Jack KENNEFORD, is working on the next Gallery Display, which has Textile Printing as its theme, and will open on I^{s}* July. More immediately, we will have a presence at Tottington High School's Spring Extravaganza in April, and will soon be beginning preparation for our AGM, which this year will require a significant number of replacing officers. 1 will be standing down, on health grounds, acceding finally to the to the advice of my GP, and the roles of vice-Chairman, Membership Officer, Assistant Secretary, and Programme Secretary, will also need to be filled if the Society is to continue in its present

form. Jack and we retiring members have worked hard over the years to ensure the Society flourishes, and I do earnestly hope there will be volunteers to come forward and ensure continuance. Finally, as this is my last report, 1 offer sincere and grateful thanks to all who have supported me during the last seven years and helped to enhance the scope of Society activities, and its profile within the community. The Society's 25th birthday comes along next year, and I sincerely hope it will still be around for its 50th.

Tony Murphy

OBITUARIES NORENE FRENCH

In late November we learned of the death of Norene FRENCH, who had been an active member of the Society in its earliest days, but who would not have been known to more recently joining members. Norene was born on the outskirts of Garstang, and came to Ramsbottom on marriage. Living initially on Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook, and later moving to Stanley Street, Ramsbottom, Norene worshipped at St Joseph's Church, Ramsbottom, was a lover of plants and gardens, for many years having an allotment at Eliza Street , and excelled at needlework, making the curtains which adorned the windows of the Heritage Centre throughout its life. She was also for a time a Governor of Holcombe Emmanuel Primary School. Her activities were curtailed in the mid 1990's by a stroke which left her severely disabled and necessitated a move to Taylor House, Brandlesholme, where she lived until her death. She is survived by her son Peter, who lives with his family at Frodsham.

Tony Murphy

JACK KENNEFORD

The Society was deeply saddened at the death of Jack Kenneford, on November 11th 2010 at the age of 81. One of our stalwart members from the early 1990s onwards, he became Vice-chairman in the middle of the decade. His helpfulness in emergencies, such as the flood in the old Heritage Centre, and estimable support, sound advice and contribution to all the Society's events and activities over the years cannot be overstated. Heritage Society members were among the many people paying their respects to a fine gentleman at his funeral in St Anne's Church, Tottington.

Jack was born at Huncoat, near Accrington, and as a young man he trained to be a draughtsman. From 1959 until 1976, however, he farmed at Hollingrove near Hawkshaw before giving up due to ill-health. (Following recent visits to a farmer friend who had moved to France, he mentioned how he had enjoyed "a bit of tractor driving".) Later he became head storeman at Bury Council's vehicle and parts division, Bradley Fold, until his retirement.

Always willing to shoulder both responsibilities and day-to-day tasks, Jack played an important part in many aspects of Tottington and Ramsbottom life. After his daughters Pat and Anne joined Tottington High School as pupils, he became a governor. Eventually becoming chairman in 2005, he always maintained a close contact with pupils and staff.

In recognition of his contribution to the school, a community learning centre at the school was named in his honour.
Having worked in the sector for many years, Jack was widely respected and admired for his devotion to numerous voluntary and community groups. His wide range of contacts and activities was of great benefit to the Society. Locally, he also had links with Edenfield Local History Society and the Holcombe Moor Heritage Group. He shared a lifelong interest in music with his wife Sheila at both the Ramsbottom and the Bury Recorded Music societies. He was a long-serving member of Ramsbottom and Tottington Probus Club and recently joined the committee of the Friends of Ramsbottom Civic Hall.
Jack enjoyed a long association with Tottington Civic Society and had been chairman. An enthusiastic member of Bury Lions, and involved in hospital broadcasting for fourteen years, he became chairman of Roch Valley Radio in 2006. In that year, he received the Lions movement's highest honour, the Melvin Jones Fellowship. His extensive voluntary work also benefited Speakeasy and Bury Shopmobility. He won the title of Bury' Man of the Year in 2004.
Jack is already greatly missed by so many in the community'. His quiet, affable and positive manner endeared him to many and we will remember him with great affection. Apparently, in a hospital radio interview, he once said that his life's motto was, "Don't worry.[1]'

AN APPEAL 26 March 2011

The recent death of Jack KENNEFORD and the continuing ill health of Tony and Joan MURPHY have led to a crisis which we at the Society have been trying hard to resolve. Our only way on is to interest more people in taking on small working roles so that we don't become as dependent on as few Stakhanovites as we have been. Any help, however modest, adds to the overall total. I've been fortunate enough to have been involved with 'The Heritage' for 24 years and as a result must have made a hundred friends and acquaintances in Ramsbottom in that time. Being involved is always good fun and helps everyone get to know each other. Our Society has always been a close group with links to so many other organizations and people, and working together we can continue to help make our town the sort of community that has disappeared in most of Britain.
If you want to help make a difference, approach any active member of the Society.

Andrew Todd, President

THOSE WHO WILL, MAY WIN

At our 2010 Christmas Social Evening, the guest speaker was Barry ALDOUS who, along with his wife Isobel, had recently completed extensive research on Ramsbottom born William KIRKMAN. KIRKMAN emigrated to the USA in 1853 at the age of 19 and became a very successful businessman, having been inspired by the GRANT brothers for whom he had worked in Nuttall. He died in 1893 upon returning to America following a visit with family members to his parents at Rose Hill, Ramsbottom. The



WILLIAM KIRKMAN

K1RKMAN home in Walla Walla, Washington State, USA is now the Kirkman House Museum.

Barry's presentation included his most engaging twenty minute audio visual presentation entitled *Those Who Will, May* Win* featuring the fascinating KIRKMAN story. This new production uses a skilful mix of images taken in and around Walla Walla and Ramsbottom, graphics and old photographs. A valuable record woven into a story so well told, it really brought a family's history to life for our very privileged audience. It has also been very well received at the Kirkman House Museum.

After the presentation, the whole of Barry and IsobePs collection of research documents were handed over to the Society. These included copies of correspondence between KIRKMAN and his family along with digital archive material. A more comprehensive review- of the KIRKMAN story[r] and details of when and how research documents can be accessed will soon be made available.

See picture (opposite) of William Kirkman

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2010

The year's entry of photos taken in Ramsbottom and surrounding area during 2010 comprised 86 photographs from 9 entrants in 4 categories.

The competition was judged by Roy Turner of Bury' Local History Society'.

OVERALL WINNER OF THE DICKENSIAN TROPHY:

Brian Clarke HPC-10TC-014 *The Cobbled Road Leading to Peel Tower*

CATEGORY WINNERS:

Town and Country'

Winner

Brian Clarke HPC-10TC-014 *The Cobbled Road Leading To Peel Tower*

Highly Commended

Mary Kruger HPC-10TC-002 *Walking on Helmshore Road, Holcombe*

Mary Kruger HPC-10TC-007 *Looking down Carr Street and Bridge Street*

Events and Daily Life

Winner

Ian Summers HPC-10EV-012 *Tour of Britain Cycle race goes through Edenfield*

Highly Commended

Alan Seymour HPC-10EV-017 *The Farmers ' Market*

Ian Smith HPC-10EV-021 *Tornado - 1st new steam train for 50 years*

Buildings

Winner

Alan Seymour HPC-10BU-009 *Irwell Works Brewery, before conversion*

Highly Commended

Ian Summers HPC-10BU-007 *Nuttall's West Barn, Edenfield*

Themes
Winner
Joyce Sellers HPC-10TH-02 *War Weekend - Bank Holiday Monday - 30th May*
Highly Commended
Brian Clarke HPC-10TH-05 *Snow in Holcombe*
Tony Murphy HPC-10TH-03 *Tiddlywinks Nursery School*
The winning photos can be viewed at www.*ramsbottomheritage.org uk* and all photos are on the photo archive database on the website. The deadline for photos being taken for entry into the 2011 competition is January 31st 2012.
John Leyland

BLOCK PRINTING
We are delighted to publish below an article which is an excellent introduction to the RHS's forthcoming new display on fabric printing at the Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library. The author, Mr J E RAYNERD, was a blockprinter at TURNBULL & STOCKDALE Ltd of Rosebank Printworks, Stubbins and the article was written during the time he worked there. The company received many highly prized diplomas, medals and accolades internationally for their outstanding work and samples of their fabrics will be included in the display. (In a note at the end of his article, Mr RAYNERD also stated there were not many more than 100 - 130 block printers in the country. His granddaughter, RHS member Miss Helen RAYNERD. who passed the article on to us, estimates that there may now be only two or three.)
It is said that blockprinting goes back many thousands of years. According to some schools of thought, the Chinese were printing by hand two thousand years B.C. Whether this is correct or not we can be certain there were no printing machines in those days and, if printing had to be done, it was obviously done by hand. An important advantage of printing by hand is that it can cater for all requirements: length of design, any number of colours. Also, although a printing width of 52" to 53" is regarded as a limit, it has been demonstrated that upwards of that width can be managed. The final product, in the opinion of the connoisseur, should be judged as the well-informed critic looks at an oil painting. There he will discover that with 'fall-on' (one colour on the top of another) or superimposing, a three dimensional result can be obtained. No other method of printing can make the objects 'stand out' as 'live' as does blockprinting.
Perhaps to understand fully and appreciate the craft - and it is indeed a craft in every sense of the word - it has to be seen in progress to be believed. The technicalities are many, and of course they are closely guarded by the craftsman. One could say that it is a craft of individualism, as the artist differs from one to another so there differences from one printer to the next, as each attains a very high degree of quality. Not only are there differences from one printer to another, but also from block to block (which means that the printing of one flower is repeated by printing the same flower in the following

repeat). Just consider it as two flowers being taken from the same plant or bunch and studied closely. It would be seen that although they could be the same in colour, there would be little differences between them; in other words, each would have its own characteristics. This, of course applies to leaves, trees, birds etc or anything belonging to nature - as no two things are alike in character. So you see, the human hand can bring out that living part of nature, far better than a machine. If a pattern is selected from our range, TURNBULL AND STOCKDALE can print it in any way it may be required. Through the media, one learns of well-informed art dealers referring to 'Old Masters'. As far as it is known there have been no reproductions of famous paintings on hand block prints. But the works of William MORRIS was, besides being a designer, a poet. I believe he worked poetry into his designs and hand work brought them to life. It can truly be said that there are many 'Old Masters' in this old craft.
Look upon a block print, you see an oil painting. Look upon a machine or screen print, you see a water colour.
J E Raynerd

JOHN GRAY 1801 - 1872

Since the setting up of www.ramsbottomheritage. org.uk questions have been submitted to the Society about aspects of Ramsbottom and its past inhabitants. Although our members are unable to spend time researching, queries have been placed on the website and answers have been provided when possible. Also we have been very pleased with feedback from some of the people who have received help. One of the requests that came in during 2009 was from Martin GRAY asking for information about his great great great grandparents John and Elizabeth GRAY of Scotch Row or Scotland Place, Ramsbottom. The following item has been taken from Martin GRAY's account of all the research he carried out during the three or four years up to July 2010. He acknowledges the help of Brenda RICHARDS of the RHS and also that of some of John GRAY's other descendants: Serena PARKER Nicholas ENTWISTLE, Peter and Helen KAY and Peter GRAY CHRISTIE

John GRAY was born in 1801 in Portsoy in the parish of Fordyce, Banffshire, north east Scotland and baptised in Fordyce Kirk. He was the sixth of nine known children of his writer father, also John GRAY, and Ann STRACHAN who married in 1788. At that time Portsoy was a prosperous fishing village enjoying the revenue from a flourishing herring trade. The harbour saw a regular fleet of some 57 fishing boats come and go. At some time in the early 1820s John GRAY travelled south to Lancashire to seek employment in the rapidly expanding cotton industry. He may well have done so because his elder sister Jean/Jane GRAY and her husband Alexander SMITH had moved to Ramsbottom cl817/18. Their first child was a boy born on the 15th. May 1818 and baptized with the names William Grant at Dundee Presbyterian Chapel, Ramsbottom two days later. In 1827 John must have returned to Banffshire because an entry in the Fordyce parish records show that there, on 1st September, a John GRAY from Lancashire was married to Elizabeth BRODIE. His new wife, the daughter of a weaver, had been born in Portsoy in 1799. Apparently, the newly weds then walked back to Ramsbottom arriving quite soon

after their marriage. Their first child, a son again to be named John after his father and grandfather, was born ten months after the wedding, in June 1828. The baptism was at Emmanuel Church, Holcombe and between 1828 and 1836 five more of John and Elizabeth's children (Mary Ann, Elizabeth, William, Jean Smith and Alexander) were baptised at Holcombe. Sadly their son William died aged 19 months in 1835. During that time John GRAY was employed as a warehouseman. Following the births of Peter Brodie, Isabella, Jessie, Daniel Grant and Waiter, by 1845 they had brought a total of eleven children into the world. It is highly probable that John GRAY worked for William and Daniel GRANT at one of their mills. Certainly he knew of the GRANT brothers and probably knew them personally. He must have had cause to respect them as he named one of his sons specifically after Daniel GRANT.

Census records show John and Elizabeth GRAY living in Scotch Row, Ramsbottom from 1841 to 1871. The name refers to the row of four terraced cottages which still exist as Scotland Place on the right going down Cross Street. The back of the houses are on Cross Street and the front of the houses are now accessed from a narrow footpath. They have front gardens, back yards and outhouses. In 1842 all four occupants were Scots. The cottages had been developed from an older building which is shown on the 1806 ALBLNSON plan of PEEL & YATES' premises as 'Old Dry House*. Used for their calico printing business, it was part of their Old Ground complex which covered the town centre from 1783 to 1821/2. John and Elizabeth GRAY lived at this location in Ramsbottom for the rest of their lives.

The terraced houses overlooked a large reservoir originally created on a green field by the GRANTS to supply water to power the waterwheels at several mills, including their Square Works at the bottom of Square Street (on the site now occupied by the TNT depot). The lodge appears to have been owned and occupied by the GRANTS themselves although it became known as John GRAY's Lodge. This may be because, as the schedule to the Tottington Lower End Tithe Map of 1842 shows, John GRAY occupied three pieces of land belonging to William GRANT & Brothers: *Little Meadow* which was the land around the lodge, *Callender Field* which was then pasture and later developed as Callender and Rothwell Streets, and a triangular 'garden' opposite the entrance to Square Mill. . (The lodge was drained and filled in the 1970s and Kay Brow flats were built on the reclaimed land. The location is bounded on one side by Lodge Street which reminds us John GRAY's Lodge was once there.) Over the years there seem to have been changes in the numbering of the Scotland Place houses which may have led to confusion about which one(?s) was inhabited by the GRAY family. Martin GRAY mentions being told about a visit to Ramsbottom by Peter GRAY CHRISTIE and his mother after the lodge was filled in. Apparently she became a little upset to see the end house, number 16, as John GRAY's Cottage and claimed that the real John GRAY's cottage was the second house.

By 1850 John GRAY had become a bookkeeper. The 1851 census shows him as a cooper, a trade he could have learned in the herring or distilling industries which were

important in the part of Scotland where he was born. In the 1861 census he is a cooper, wheelwright and slater and in 1871 a former cooper. The 1871 record also states that he is a paralytic and his death certificate states that paralysis was the cause of his death in 1872.

After John's death his wife Elizabeth continued to live in Scotland Place until her death in 1887 along with their daughter Jessie. Renting a pew from 1877 to 1897, they were regular attendees at St Andrew's (Dundee) Presbyterian Church. Standing on the promontory' at the comer of Kay Brow and Bolton Street, this church - the largest in the town - was probably visible from their house. It was demolished in 1927. Elizabeth by all accounts was quite a character. In *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers*, Rev. William HUME ELLIOT says, 'To deep warm motherliness she united great force and decision to her character'. He talks of her heroics in saving a number of children who could have drowned in the lodge and gives detailed accounts of two such rescues, parts of which are reproduced below. His book provides a picture of her on page 374.

Daughter Jessie GRAY left Scotland Place after 1891 and is shown at Stubbins Lane in the 1901 census. She died in 1917. There is a commemorative gravestone in the graveyard of St Andrew's Anglican Church, bearing John GRAY's name and also those of his wife Elizabeth and four of their children, William, Isabella, Elizabeth and Jessie.

ELIZABETH GRAY (1799-1887),
ONE OF THE "VENERABLE MOTHERS" OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

"The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers" by Rev William Hume Elliot was published in 1893. The following extract recounts two of Mrs Gray's heroic rescues, when she saved the lives of children who had fallen in John Gray's Lodge. (It was drained and filled in the 1970s and Kay Brow flats were built on the reclaimed land. The location is bounded on one side by Lodge Street.)

Mrs Gray lived for nearly sixty years in the house facing what is still familiarly known, from her husband's name, as "John Gray's Lodge". To deep warm motherliness she united great force and decision of character. She never thought of herself when she saw another in danger; but, as the first note of alarm found her, rushed straight to the rescue. On such occasions about the lodge, the cry was always for "Mrs Gray!" And it was no uncommon thing for children to get into the lodge in those days, for the present protecting wall had not then been erected.

A few years before her death a grandson of her own had drowned in another lodge. He had slipped down the abrupt embankment, and was found standing with soldier-like erectness at its base, with the little pitcher he had been carrying still held in his hand at his side. It was about this time that, one day, we heard all unexpectedly from her own lips a memorable description of one of her rescues. Reference had been made to a group of young men, who, on that occasion, had stood on the bank looking on while she rescued a drowning child. One of her daughters remarked - "Ye *were hard* on these men though, mother!" The wrinkled eyelids went apart, and something of the old indignation glinted

in her eyes, as in the forcible vernacular, and with an unconscious reference to one of the farming operations of her early home, after an absence of more than fifty years - she said- *"Hard* on them? *How* could I help?" ....
Another rescue, related to the writer by one who, as a boy, witnessed it forty years ago, was effected thus:- A child had fallen in just at the inlet, and was being quickly carried into the deeper part of the lodge by the stream, which was in vigorous flow. The mother, who was on the bank, screamed frantically, but seemed limp and helpless with terror. Presently Mrs Gray was seen rushing from her house, and making straight as an arrow, and as noiselessly, towards the drowning child. Two of her daughters, who fortunately were at hand, and divined her purpose in a moment, followed in her wake. The elder seized the skirt of her mother's dress and plunged in after her, holding on at arm's length, and the younger followed, holding similarly by the skirt of her sister. The little one was already beyond Mrs Gray's depth, and she could not swim. But the eager play of her outstretched hands and the buoyancy of her dress sustained her, until happily she seized the child as it rose to the surface, and it was saved. The child is now a man in middle life, and recently he visited the place of the memorable rescue of his childhood, but, by that time, the old arm-chair was empty in the home across whose threshold the brave and motherly woman had sped, so long ago, to snatch him from a watery grave.

Reverend Wm Hume Elliot, Woodhill, Ramsbottom 1893

ON SALE FROM 28th MAY 2011
and at the
EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY WARTIME WEEKEND

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

Our second issue, published by the Society using information from 1940 editions of *The Ramsbottom Observer* and our archives.

CAPTAIN RICHARD WHITAKER PORRITT (4 SEPTEMBER 1910 - 26 MAY 1940)
FIRST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT TO BE KILLED IN ACTION DURING WORLD WAR 2

Richard Porritt was the only child of Lieutenant Colonel Austin Townsend Porritt, TD, DL, JP and of Annie Louise Porritt (née Law-Schofield), of The Cliffe, Stubbins and Yewbarrow Lodge, Grange-over-Sands.

He was educated at Marlborough College where he was in the Officer Training Corps and was an Arts Honours Graduate of Cambridge University. During his young life he enjoyed shooting, tennis and riding to hounds with the Holcombe Hunt. To celebrate his 21st birthday the Stubbins Vale Silver Prize Band played outside 'The Cliffe' He travelled extensively, particularly in the Balkan States, Canada and Norway. His father, Lt. Col. Porritt, had raised the 2/5th East Lancashire Regiment and taken it to France in the WW1. He later encouraged his son and workforce to join the Territorial Army. Richard Porritt was commissioned in the Lancashire Fusiliers Regiment in 1931.

Richard wanted a political career and in 1935, at the age of 24, he was elected to Parliament for the Hey wood and Radcliffe seat, which included Ramsbottom. One of the youngest MPs in the House of Commons, he was, by all account, interested in his constituents and a conscientious parliamentarian. He also wrote weekly articles for the local papers. He joined the family firm of Porritt & Spencer Ltd around 1937 and later became a director. He was a churchwarden at St Philip's Church, Stubbins.

During World War II Richard Porritt (Army no. 52841) served with the 1 /5th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. Just after his promotion to Captain and Second-in-Command of D Company he was killed in action, aged 29. It happened on 26th May 1940 one day after the order to evacuate the Allied Forces from France. His constituency party had just heard of his promotion and had sent a letter of 'good wishes' and 'safe return' when they learnt of his death. He died in Seclin. near Lille as it was being heavily bornbed by German planes during the retreat to Dunkirk. At the time the British army were trying to establish a defensive line behind which the evacuation could progress.

Tom Swindlehurst, who served with Captain Porritt, recalls:

> *We sailed from Southampton to Cherbourg on one of the Isle oj Man boats (I think it was The Viking) on the 13th April 1940. We moved to different parts of France during the following weeks, and then on 10th May the Blitzkreig started. The Germans invaded France, Belgium and Holland[moving quickly through France so we were moved back towards the coast. We stayed in a town called Seclin, and it was here that Captain Richard Porritt was killed. On this warm day we were in some ditches just outside the town when Captain Porritt came to me and told me to get another man, and go with him to by and find some bread for the lads. / shouted Bert Read, and toured Seclin with the Captain but couldn't find any. We came back and he told me and Bert to return to our positions. We had just got into the ditch when overhead appeared 12 dive bomber stukas, with screamers on the wings which made a horrible din. Captain Porritt was walking back up the road to the officers' quarters when the first one peeled off in a screaming dive. I was flat out in the ditch and I saw a bomb coming down. It caught Captain Porritt in the middle of the road and blew him up against a house wall - he must have died instantly. The last / saw of him he was being carried away on a stretcher.'*

He was buried in a nearby garden by members of his Regiment. Subsequent bombings disturbed the shallow grave. Local boys, including Louis Carpentier, then aged 16,

repaired the grave, erected a stone wall and placed a wooden cross with the name of Captain Porritt on it. The grave remained there for a year until the body was re-interred in Grave 1, Seciin (De Bergault) Communal Cemetery on the outskirts of Seclin.

In a letter accompanying an obituary' in the Ramsbottom Observer, Joseph Nuttall, Chairman and J. Smith Hargreaves and Albert Ogden, Treasurers of the Heywood and Radcliffe Division of the Conservative and Unionist Association wrote:

> *'He was always ready and willing to consider and give help to those who sought his advice and he took a very keen interest in industry. Captain Porritt was untiring in his duties. His zeal and interest in the welfare of the people was ever uppermost in his mind and his keen interest and ability opened out for him a brilliant future which also has been cut short. He was kindly in manner and unassuming, which endeared him to all who came in contact with him, and his sterling worth shone through the mantle of modesty. '*

His memorial service was held at St. Philip's Church, Stubbins on 16th June 1940. Later, in 1943 his father gave 436 acres of the Stubbins Estate to the National Trust in memory of his son. His name is on War Memorial at the entrance to Stubbins Vale Mill and the War Memorial at Grange over Sands. As the first MP to be killed in the Second World War, he is remembered in the House of Commons by a shield to the right of the Speaker's Chair. Later, in 1990, a plaque and portrait of the Captain was unveiled at the Royal British Legion Club, Ramsbottom.

In the early 1980s a campaign began to place a memorial in Seclin. This was led by Harry Wroe, an ex-Lancashire Fusilier who ran 'The Fusilier' pub on Bolton Road West. He was also the secretary of the Fusiliers' Association and member of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association's Ramsbottom branch. Initially their efforts were rebuffed by communist Mayor Jean Demailly, as a protest at the death of Bobby Sands, the IRA hunger striker, but on 4th September 1983 the town of Seclin named a square 'Square du Captaine R.W. Porritt'. Mrs. Thatcher's private secretary sent Mr. Wroe a letter congratulating all on their efforts. On 31st August 1985, an engraved copper plaque was attached to a pillar in the square by Harry Wroe and colleagues. It gave details of the bombing raid in which Capt. Porritt, 12 British soldiers and 25 people of Seclin died. Monsieur Demailly was also present. Mr. Wroe said, 'All has been forgotten. We are the best of friends now.'

Brenda Richards 2010

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RHS Magazine no 10 - Clyde Tweedale 'Profit from Porritt'
1994/5 Newspaper cutting about the plaque and portrait donated to
British Legion Photograph: Richard Porritt, his father and the

Stubbins Vale Silver Brass Band Nuttall Park and the Legacy of the
Porritts in Ramsbottom - RHS 2008 Ramsbottom Observer: June 1940
Multimania.co.uk: War Memorial, Grange over Sands by Frank Brookes Wikipedia
Hansard 10 June 2010: Jake Berry (MP for Rossendale and Darwen): maiden speech

GROWING UP IN RAMSBOTTOM IN THE 1920s AND 30s

In a place named Leaches Road between Shuttleworth and Stubbins was a little farm consisting of a bam with three cottages adjoining to make a fold. At number 20 lived Mr and Mrs H B POOLE and their four children, Harold, Hilda, Marion and Freda. This place was next to Sheephey Farm.

(Hilda 's article continues ... .Editor)

Our home was very well built of stone from the Quarry which is now part of the M66 motorway. Stone floors, living room with fireplace oven, boiler for hot water, kitchen with sett boiler in the comer ready for Monday washing days. A small room to the side was used for storing coal and lamp oil - the only sources of heat and light. As children we played in the coal house but when coal was delivered from John HEATON's, ten bags every month, our task was to put nuts in one stack, cobbles in another and slack was piled in the comer. Candles were used in the kitchen, kelly lamps in the bedrooms.

Handloom Weaving

One day in our task of cleaning up we decided to dig a bit deeper and level the bump in the ground. To our amazement we started to pull up what appeared to us to be long pieces of string. (In later years these "strings" were to become part of my life as a weaver as they were healds for weaving.) We had discovered an old handloom weaving place, which explained all the big hooks in the ceiling. We used the hooks to support an indoor swing but their original purpose was for hanging up the healds. On further digging we found yam and beams for weaving. By now we were below ground level and Mum and Dad said, "No more digging or the walls will come down." That was the end of that adventure!

Well Water, Washday and Bath Night

When my brother was six years old and I was four Dad decided that we should learn to carry water from the well. Dad purchased two buckets from John NUTTALL'S. Taking the pair of us with him we walked from Leaches, by Waterside, and Kenyon Street and to make sure the buckets were the right size we then had to walk back home carrying them. When we arrived home Dad painted our names on the buckets. This was because all water for use in the house came from wells. Drinking water was kept in a big, brown earthenware mug (Dad dealt with that well). We had a stone porch to the front door of the house with two stone slabs where buckets were kept. This water was for use in the house boiler in the kitchen. On Mondays the fire was lit at breakfast time ready for washday. On schooldays we didn't see much of it but in the holidays we had to help by pegging out clothes. It was a good drying place as we got all the winds. No washing machines in those days, just tubs and possers and a mangle with wooden rollers. Friday night was bath

night. With no bathroom it was a big tin bath in front of a roaring fire - Harold first and then me. After the bath it was a mug of Rowntree's cocoa and off to bed.

Pocket Money

Saturday was our morning for bringing papers and bread for Auntie Anne who Jived at number 24. She liked her bread from Jimmy COLLINGE's. We received a penny each for this errand which we put in money buckets Dad had made for us with our names on. Into these also went all our pocket money which we received from the farm. In a good week such as haymaking, lambing time or chicken hatching we could make three shillings each.

The Garden

Until 1927 there was only my older brother Harold and me and the two of us were inseparable, One day Dad made Harold a truck out of an orange box from George SMITH'S, greengrocers - the big box just fitted me in it! We did a trial run over to Sheephey Farm, to see what Mr and Mrs ECCLES could find for us to do now we had a truck. Nothing to do there so we came back. On the way we saw a pile of stones which had been there for years so we decided we would have them. We put newspapers in the truck to keep it clean and loaded up the stones and moved them to the front of the bam. Having got them placed Mum and Dad appeared and enquired what we were doing. As we had not yet decided we didn't know what to say so I said, "I think we will make a garden." Dad said it was a good idea so we set to work. A man he worked with gave us some bushes which we carefully planted. The next day they were gone - we hadn't thought about sheep roaming at night. We went over to the farm and complained that their sheep had eaten our plants. "Never mind," they said, "we will find you some wood and wire and you can make a fence." We had that garden from 1927 until 1937 when we left to move to Stubbins.

Picnics

As we grew older we were taken on picnics to Grants Tower and to Holcombe on Good Friday. Dad had relatives who lived in Holcombe Village so we saw the family. They were older than us so they took my brother and me up to the tower. Afterwards we walked all the way home to Leaches.

Winter

Winter was our worst time. If the wind blew from Bury way we were blocked in by snow. Many a morning Dad had to dig his way home from work and said, "No school today, too deep for you to get out." In those days we wore clogs to school (shoes only for Sunday). Dad would put pieces of leather between the iron shods to stop snow caking on the bottom. When the snow started to move, Mum would make our dinners and we would take it with us to school and have it warmed. No school dinners in those days. If we didn't take it with us either Dad or Mum would bring it, freshly made, at dinnertime. We were very lucky they looked after us so well.

New Neighbours

In 1.928 new tenants arrived at the farm, Mr and Mrs G KNOWLES, Mather (Mattie), Stanley and Grandad BRIDGE. Before they moved in a lot of new building work was done to the bam, shippons, daily, wash house and provin store. It was a lovely house with a modern bathroom but water still had to be pumped up the field. The old house was now used to store farming tools. At first we were very reluctant to visit the farm, but that soon changed. We were made welcome and Grandad BRIDGE became our friend. He was a real old farmer with a beard that went all round his face. He used to walk over to Leaches to see us every day and we would go on walks with him, sometimes up to the Delph where we collected frogspawn. (This is now the M66).

A School Trip to London

In 1935 our school decided to organise a trip to London by train for the 21st June, costing 12/6d each. Harold and I were both hoping we could go so Dad unsealed the buckets to see whether we had enough money. Not quite enough but there was still time to save more before the 21st June. What could we do to earn this money? Over to the farm we went with our story. Grandad BRIDGE was most helpful and found lots of jobs we could do like cleaning out the bins in the cattle food store and piling the sacks ready to go back on the wagon, washing the milk float. Would this be enough? The school decided we could pay each Monday for the trip, cards were made out and by the end of May we had saved our 12/6d for the fare. Now we had to save our spending money. This was Silver Jubilee year so in addition to all our extra jobs to earn money for London we had to practise hymn singing at school for the ceremony in Nuttall Park. Never a dull moment! Our school's piece was *""Land of Hope and Glory".*

The long awaited day arrived and we were up early and off to Stubbins station for the train. We arrived in London at 12 noon for visits to the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's and Buckingham Palace. What a day! We left London at 6.30 pm. Dad met us at the station for the walk home to Leaches, both of us half asleep. Back home, a welcome cup of cocoa and bed.

The Lamb with a Broken Leg

One time during lambing one Iamb was found to have a broken leg. Harold and I were very distressed about this and asked Grandad what we could do for it. He said, "Make a pen for it in the shippon with bales of hay" We now needed to feed it milk so a large bottle was found and a teat fixed and feeding the lamb became our daily task. We loved it and could not get home from school quick enough to feed it. We fed the lamb until it grew quite big. One day when we came home from school it wasn't there. It had become too big to stand on its broken leg so it had gone to ROBTNSON's butchers for lamb chops!

Making a Tent

A few years later Harry LONSDALE'S Scout Troop came to camp on Delph Meadow. We had never seen a tent before so after they had gone the two of us decided that we would have a tent. What could we make it from? Old sacks from the farm were not big

enough so we set about looking for any pieces of wrapping. Our first port of call was the Croft at TURNBULL'S Bleach Works and sure enough there were some pieces of no use to them. "What do you want it for?" we were asked. We told them we were going to make a tent so they gave us quite a few pieces. Our next task was to make the tent. To sew it together we got Mum's rug needle and used some string. The next problem was making it stand up, a brush steel was not tall enough so it was over to the farm where Grandad BRIDGE found us a piece of wood just the right size for a tent pole.

Whit Friday

Whit Friday was the day the Church walked round the Parish. Weeks beforehand Mum would be busy making my dress. She had taught herself to sew and bought a treadle sewing machine. She cut the dress from a pattern and did a lot of practice to make sure she got it straight. Dad made my basket of flowers. New black patent leather shoes and white socks completed the outfit.

On the day Dad was up early as he was very keen on brass bands and on Whit Friday morning as many as ten bands would arrive at Ramsbottom station. He would walk to Ramsbottom via Kenyon Street to see all the bands march up Bridge Street and then come back to Stubbins to see us walk. Our route was from the Mission Hall, up Bolton Road North to Captain TURNBULL'S where, on our way back, we were given an orange. We then continued down Old Lane, Strongstry to *Greenmount,* home of Mrs PORRITT and her daughters, up to *The Cliff* through rose arches and back down between Stubbins Vale Mills. There the band really let it go and the sound echoed all around. On to *Stubbins Vale House* and finally back to the Mission. We then had all day in the field where there were races and games for the children and the band played. Our band came from Wigan so at about six o'clock they left to go home. In later years, as I grew older, I was chosen to hold a banner string and then, later still, I was one of the Rose Queen's attendants.

New Babies

In 1927 my sister Marion was born. Harold and I wondered how we were going to make her fit in. There was less time to play as we had to help with feeding her and push the pram to get her to sleep, but once she was asleep we were off to the farm In April 1929 my youngest sister Freda was born. 1 was now 5 years old and had been at school since I was three because my brother said he would not go to school while I stayed at home playing out all day. So off to school I went.

Hay Making

Hay time was our greatest adventure. It was a very busy time on the farm and from 8am to 8pm we were in the fields or at the farm. We used to open the gates and bring the cows into the shippons ready for milking, put feed in the troughs, then go into the dairy to get the kits (milk chums) and cooler ready for the milk. About two hours later when all this was finished we took the cows back to the field and helped clean the dairy. We were allowed to drink as much milk as we liked. At this time extra labourers were required, mostly Irishmen, who came every year. They were a grand lot and we used to go to

Stubbins to bring them cigarettes and tobacco. In the field they used to drink bottles of dandelion and burdock which they shared with us whilst we were raking up the hay. When the hay was ready it was brought into the barn by great horses and cans and we were allowed to ride on the carts. In the barn the hay was forked up in to the big loft. By this time it would be about 8.30pm and, tired out, we would go home to a good wash, a big mug of hot milk and bed - ready for the next day.

A Barn Fire

One day, whilst we were amusing ourselves in the play room, I looked out of the window towards the farm and saw smoke coming out of the top of the barn. Running as fast as we could and shouting at the top of our voices we alerted Mum and Dad. What an adventure! This was the first time we had ever seen a fire engine. There was no water at the farm so hoses had to be put down to the lodges at Rose Bank. Unfortunately it was not possible to save the barn and all our hard work haymaking had gone up in flames. The barn was soon declared unsafe and as four children were involved it had to come down. Trouble started when a gale blew the roof in and the job had to be done quickly. The barn was down in a week and a wall built in its place. Then the horses and cows started to keep us awake at night stamping so had to be fenced off. This was great as it meant we now had our own playground. They had left the flag floor. We dug up sods and cleaned it up. We had a football pitch and a place for skipping or whip and top. On the wall we put jam jars with fish and tadpoles. The four of us had a merry time.

TURNBULL and STOCKDALE's Golf Course and Football Pitch

Around this time TURNBULL & STOCKDALE bought the land that had been Lord DERBY'S. This covered a good few acres. We wondered what would happen but it all turned out better than we had hoped. They decided to make the field between the farm and Whalley Road, Edenwood into a golf course. A large clubhouse was built and they had a man to mow all the greens. The players asked him to look out for lost balls as he was mowing but he decided this would be a big task and asked if we would help. Of course we would! We collected a sack from the farm. Grandad BRIDGE wanted to know' what we were up to but when we explained that we were collecting lost golf balls before the man mowed the greens he was pleased that he would know where we were and out of mischief. By dinnertime we had done half the course and, as instructed, took the sack to the clubhouse. We then went home for dinner then to the course again until milking time when we left to get the cows in. Come Saturday, after our bread run, it was off to the golf course where the groundsman told us the golf players wanted to see us that afternoon, as they had something for us. We walked over to the clubhouse wondering what it could be. When we arrived we were told that the two of us had done a good job. Although some of the balls we had found were not much use, many could be used again. They gave us five shillings and let us keep all the bad balls. This was great! We soon found a use for the balls which had split. Inside was elastic and inside again was a white runny liquid, like paint, which we used to paint some wickets and goal posts on our

playground and squares for hopscotch. We then went off to see if we could find any more bad balls.
Later on the golfers asked Mum if she would do them a favour and make them a brew to have with their sandwiches. They would get a big jug and some cups and milk from the farm. So from Easter until September Mum made a bit of money.
(Eventually, when Harold had started at Peel Brow School, TURNBULL 's decided to turn another field into a football pitch and asked Mum and Dad to do the teas at half time. That meant that from Easter to August every Saturday and Sunday we were helping with teas. It all worked out quite well because the footballers had theirs first and we could wash up ready for the golfers at four.)

A Trip To Blackpool

Come September Dad decided we should all have a treat, a day out at Blackpool to see the lights. We added our golf ball money to Mum's tea money and booked a day excursion by train. The six of us nearly filled a compartment. What a day that was! We had never seen Blackpool before, although we had been to Filey and Scarborough because Mum came from there. We arrived in Blackpool at 12 o'clock. Mum had put sandwiches and cake in a case so we found a shelter and she went to get a big jug of tea. We ate our lunch watching the tide come in. Auntie Annie and Uncle Bob had given Mum some money so we had a visit to the Tower. Reginald DIXON was playing the organ and people were dancing. We had never seen anything like it before. Then it was the children's ballet "*Carolina Moon".* Down came a moon and a dancer got out. Marion, my sister, decided she would like a ride in the moon so off she ran but just as she got there it rose up again. She came back complaining that it was not fair - they could have given her a ride. The train home did not leave until 8.30pm so there was still plenty of time to enjoy ourselves. Dad decided we would go to the zoo. Freda, my youngest sister, did not like the animals in cages so our stay at the zoo was quite short.
After ice creams it was time to board the tram to see the lights. We were lucky as the tram inspector took very kindly to us and got us on a double decker, upstairs at the front. He told us to stay on the tram and it would bring us back so we would be just across from Central Station. We went up to Bispham, down to South Shore and back. By this time we were all tired so Mum and Dad decided to head for the train home. On the way we passed a fish and chip shop so Dad counted the money we had left and bought fish and chips. The lady and man in the shop said, "Bring the children inside," as it was not very- busy. We ate out of the paper whilst almost falling asleep. At the station the train was already in and the driver and guard were on the platform. They remembered us from the morning and let us on the train (front end for Stubbins). We climbed in, took off our coats and made up a pillow. The driver told us to pull the blinds down and the next thing we knew was Mum and Dad telling us to wake up - at Ramsbottom station, next stop home. We got off the train and set off walking up to Leaches Road, all four hand in hand between Mum and Dad. What a long day!

When we woke up next morning it all seemed like a dream. We were allowed to miss church, but NOT Sunday School. - back to normal. Afterwards we went over to the farm and then to the golf club. Mrs KNOWLES had done the teas on Saturday and was doing them on Sunday too, but gave Mum the money to save for another treat. She was glad we had had a good day out and that we were very well behaved children. Then Grandad BRIDGE came and asked us to tell him all about Blackpool. Had we paddled in the sea? We told him we had not as the tide was in but we told him all about Marion and the moon. He said we had seen something he had never seen - the Blackpool Tower.

New School

Eventually Harold had to leave Stubbins School and go to Peel Brow. He had to wait for the bus in the morning at Croft End but came home for his dinner, walking both ways - up the playing fields, down Spring Street, along the path down into shoddy, then through fields into Leaches. He had to be quick to make it back in time. After school he came home by bus. Harold's longer school day also meant I now had to recruit Marion and Freda to help open the gates and bring in the cows.

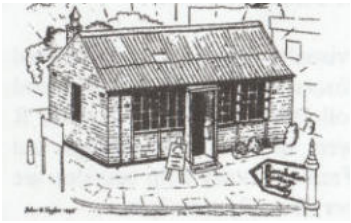
Our Family Moves To Stubbins

By 1937 we were all getting bigger and the time had come to move to a bigger house. The question was where would we go? Eventually we were found a house in Stubbins, number 249, Bolton Road North. This was a three-bedroomed house with one bedroom in the attic which the three girls had to share. It had a front door, a back door, gas light, running water, and a tippler toilet which gave us a fright the first time it emptied.

From the day we first moved there we felt hemmed in - no view, no fields, traffic, hot, no air. But this was our home now and there we remained until World War 2 when a German land mine made it uninhabitable- but that is another story

Hilda Barrett (née Poole) 1997

Hilda was a regular weekend helper at our old Heritage Centre, where her wealth of local knowledge was much appreciated by visitors. Readers may remember the article she wrote for RHS News Magazine 7 (Summer 1993) about her first day as a mill girl. The above reminiscences include recent additions by her sister, Mrs Marion Beech,whose own article in newsletter 29 her story of when Stubbins was hit by landmines.There are back issues of RHS newsletters in the reference section at Ramsbottom Library.



RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE CENTRE
(1990-2004)
(from a 1995 drawing by John B Taylor)

This building was recently demolished and in 2011 the new Ramsbottom Children's Centre was completed on its Carr Street site, opposite Ramsbottom Library.

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 ODG tel: 0161 253 6782
Email: archives@bury.gov.uk Website: www.bury.gov.uk/archives Opening Hours:

Tuesday	l pm -4pm	Wednesday	1pm -4pm
Thursday	10am - 4pm	Friday	10am-4pm

2nd Saturday of the month 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 ODG - 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.

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

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary David Burgess, 10, St Andrew's Drive, Alwoodley, Leeds, LSI 7 7TR - tel 01132695512, email . 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.

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BLO 9AE tel 0161 253 5352 (IT -tel 0161 253 5354) email

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

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2011

Guided circular walks

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

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

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

Sunday 22nd May — **Nangreaves and Gollinrod**
Meet at 2pm in Nuttall Park car park.
Be prepared for some uphill sections.
Leader – Joan Young

Sunday 26th June — **JOHN B TAYLOR MEMORIAL WALK:**
A Datestone Perambulation - looking at datestones in Ramsbottom and Holcombe.
Meet at 2pm at the *Grant Arms*, Ramsbottom.
Leader – Linda de Ruijter

Sunday 31st July — ***Please note change of date - 5th Sunday**
The Porritt Legacy
Meet at 2pm at Stubbins Vale Road
Leader – Marjorie Knight

Sunday 28th Aug — ***An Historical Saunter Round Ramsbottom Town Centre***
Meet at 2pm at the *Grant Arms*, Ramsbottom.
Leader – Andrew Todd

Sunday 25th Sept — ***Scout Moor Windfarm Walk***
Meet at 2pm at the car park opposite *Owd Betts*
Leader – John Ireland

For more details contact Linda 01706 827602

Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

A NEW exhibition in the Gallery at Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre

Opens to the public on Saturday 2nd July 2011

Ramsbottom's Hidden History:

Textile Printing

Featuring:

- **The first known (early 19th century) painting of Ramsbottom centre**
- **Striking and beautiful examples of locally produced handblock, roller and screen-printed fabrics**
- **Present day screen manufacture and fabric design in Ramsbottom**

Location:

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

Opening Times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm
Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm

(check press and website for further details)

Ramsbottom Heritage Society:

www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

heritage lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bury COUNCIL

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

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RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 82 1998

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

2011:

November 16 Dr P Hindle – *Travel in Medieval England* - Part 2 (illustrated)

December 14 **Social Evening** – Christmas Festivities

2012:

January 18 Miss M. Curry - *Rivers and Reivers* (illustrated)

February 15 Mr M. Clark - *Canals in the North West* (illustrated)

March 21 ***Photographic Competition*** - Judge: Mr B. Aldous

April 18 Mrs K. Fishwick - *Non-Conformist Churches* (illustrated)

May 16 ***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:- Aerial view of New Jerusalem Church, Ramsbottom cl907 by John B Taylor 2007. [Plantation House is shown on the corner of Heys Street on James Terrace.]

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - October 2011

At the outset of my first report I would like to acknowledge the achievements and hard work of Tony MURPHY, who has been such an exemplary chairman and will be a hard act to follow. During the last year of his tenure he succeeded in getting the Heritage Gallery up and running, which was a very fine achievement.

I must also mention the commitment and enthusiasm of all the members of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society, both past and present. 1 am so lucky to have taken over chairmanship of such a flourishing society. When reviewing our activities, Ï was amazed to find that around thirty of you (from octogenarians to our poster designer, Emily, who is still at school) currently undertake a variety of important tasks. Are there any other societies who have claim such an amazing membership? I shouldn't think so and I am certainly grateful to you all.

As you will be aware, long hours have recently been spent at Bury Archives recataloguing and storing all the society's documents, photographs, maps, artefacts and paintings. This activity was, of course, built on nearly 25 years of work by the previous RHS members, who collected items of interest to the town.

The Gallery with its exhibition '*Fabric Printing - Ramsbottom's Hidden History'* has opened up opportunities. Thursday September 8th during the Heritage Weekend, was probably the first occasion in recent times when we were able to display various aspects of our collection. We have recently had requests for a visit to the Gallery' from groups such as the cubs from St Andrew's, the local history' society from Prestwich and the new WI from Brookshottom and Summerseat. The work of cataloguing our collection is also paying dividends throughout the year. There is always a steady trickle of people who see the on-line catalogue on the Council and

RHS web-sites and who contact the society asking for documents, photographs and information. As well as the usual monthly meetings and summer walks, the gallery is often open twice a month. The regular date is on Ramsbottom Farmers' Market day, the second Sunday of the month and again 1 am grateful to the teams of people who make this possible. Each group staffs the Gallery three times a year, and has the fun of working as a team, whilst showcasing the RHS to the public. Coordinator Joan YOUNG will, of course, be more than happy for any further offers of help. Next May is the Society's 25* Anniversary. How would you like to celebrate it? We will consider this further at the Christmas meeting, but in the meantime, do get in touch if you have any ideas. Best wishes. Kate Slingsby

OBITUARIES

In June we learned of the death of **Frank WOODS,** who had been an active member of the Society from its earliest days, and we are grateful to his niece Hazel for the following details.

Frank was born on 23rd August 1923; he was the youngest of five children of Thomas and Martha WOODS. At this time his father was the local policeman in Edenfield, and they resided in a house on Market Street, where they had a holding cell for prisoners. Frank attended Edenfield Church of England School Upon leaving he was employed in the local mill, Turnbull & Stockdale, in Stubbins. Following the death of his mother, on 21st October 1948, Frank and his father moved to live in Stubbins. His father remarried in 1953/4 to a lady named Jennie, whom Frank fondly referred to as his second MOVVER. His father died in 1964, and Frank continued to live with his mother, helping and supporting each other. Frank is now retired, and following the death of his mother he moved into 15 William Street, Stubbins, where he lived an independent life with the help of Ernest Topper and Tom his neighbour. They were local characters, often seen walking, and were known as LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE. Frank had a fall social calendar. He was a member of Edenfield Local History Society, of Ramsbottom Heritage Society, and attended the monthly Jazz Night's at the Grant Arms, Ramsbottom. He was a sidesman at St Phillip's Church, Chatterton, and when he moved to Ash Cottage, Edenfield, in 2007, he started attending Edenfield Parish Church and was a sidesman there. He enjoyed catching a 'bus to various towns, Bolton, Rochdale, Bury. It was one of these outings when Frank missed the last connection from Rawtenstall to Stubbins; but Frank sorted himself out. He went to the Inspector's office, and they kindly offered him a lift home. A bus was arranged especially for him, with a driver to take him home. Needless to say, he made the headlines in the Rossendale Free Press. My grandfather, Frank's dad, instilled strong values and standards, and, if he were alive today, would have been extremely proud of him. Frank became a little celebrity in his own right. He always wore his Sunday suit and trilby for church, a sports jacket and flat cap for Saturday. Frank loved being part of the community activities and social events, as he

loved meeting people, and in turn everybody who knew Frank loved him. FRANK WAS A REAL GENTLEMAN.

Note: Frank was a very active man; when living in Stubbins, he could often be seen strolling into Ramsbottom for a walk-ab out, and, when living at Ash Cottage, striding along Market Street, Edenfield; he was also, as Hazel has intimated, a joiner-in; in addition to the jazz nights mentioned, he seldom missed the meetings and events of both Ramsbottom Heritage Society and Edenfield Local History Society; the records of attendance at the Heritage Centre show Frank to have been most regular, and when, for a year after its closure, the Society was allowed to use the north aisle in St Paul's church for displays, he continued attending, very often staying on for Evensong; later in life Frank relied on lifts to and from meetings; getting him out of the car at Stubbins and safely across the road to William Street was sometimes a challenge, especially when, having descended into the foot well, he had to be hauled out again, an activity always conducted with the greatest of good humour; I last saw him at Edenfield Fete in early June, where we shared a table, tea and cakes; I will miss him greatly. Tony Murphy

Joyce Turnbull 14th January 1924 - 5th April 2011. Joyce was the youngest of the three daughters of Benjamin and Maggie Turnbull. Her father was a son of William Turnbull, co- founder of Turnbull and Stockdale Ltd, which had a weaving mill at Chatterton. He died when Joyce was only six years old. For 49 years, Joyce lived at "Crosmoor" in Stubbins, moving up to Edenfield after the death of her mother. She attended St Philip's Church at Stubbins throughout her life; she was present at the consecration of the Church in 1927, and sat in the same pew at the 80th anniversary. She was involved with the Guide Movement; Edenfield & District Horticultural Society; Edenfield Community Centre; the WRVS; Ramsbottom Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society; local Sunshine Clubs, Ramsbottom Old Peoples' Welfare Committee and much more. Joyce is survived by her sister Alice, and her nephews Andrew, Peter and Philip.

[A longer obituary, from which much information for this short article was taken, may be seen in ' Team Times, the Ramsbottom & Edenfield Team Ministry - October/November 2011.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Margaret Tweedale, wife of Clyde Tweedale, former Chairman of Edenfield Local History Society. Margaret was well-known to many families in Edenfield as a "dinner lady" at Stubbins School.

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA - NEWS ITEMS

Ramsbottom - As Seen on TV - when BBC Television's *Antiques Road Trip* visited *Memories Antiques and Collectors Centre*, Bridge Street, two of *Memories* staff appeared on the programme: John Arthur ROBERTS and shop owner Gina BALL, who was shown selling two items to the *Road Trip* presenters. Apparently the programme (part of which was also filmed in *The Old Mill Hotel,* Springwood Street, Ramsbottom) has been excellent publicity. Passers by may have spotted the red Triumph Herald car, which the presenters were driving.

"No taste like home" on ITV1 - Tommy Topping, local butcher, cooked a traditional steak and cowheel pie at Nutters Restaurant with chef Gino Diacampo. Ramsbottom had also provided film locations for *The Exile,* a compelling three-part BBC TV drama. There were several filming sessions which involved very impressive lighting equipment (on the scale of football ground lighting) which had to be set up in different areas of Ramsbottom town centre including Railway Street, the Grant Arms and Bridge Street. It starred well-known actors Jim BROADBENT and John SIMM (who seemed to expend a lot of energy walking up and down the street while the director tried to perfect his scene). *The Exile* received very favourable reviews when it was screened in April.

The Irwell Works Brewery in the former Bentex building on Square Street, Ramsbottom opened its first floor bar on 5th August 2011. The building, which dates from 1888, has been sympathetically restored. The microbrewery on the ground floor has been in production since Autumn 2010. There are encouraging signs that the brewery RAMSBOTTOM is becoming an important attraction in the town and not to be missed. Your editorial team promises to carry out further research and report back.

The Ramsbottom Festival provided music, interest and excitement on the weekend of 16th, 17th and 18th September. The outdoor venue was at Ramsbottom Cricket Club's pitch at Acre Bottom with the possibility of camping at *The Fisherman's Retreat*, Shuttleworth and park-and-ride facilities at Woodhey High School. Organised by a partnership led by David AGNEW, director of *Bury Met* and the Ramsbottom-based *Don't Panic Events* and *Ramsbottom Online* the event was a family 'extravaganza'. It featured performances by popular local bands and also big names such as *The Guillemots*, *The Waterboys* and *The Animals and Friends*. Ringing round the valley on the first night was the stirring and nostalgic *House of the Rising Sun* (first released as a 7" single on the Columbia label in 1964), which must have brought back many wonderful memories. Before 11pm all was quiet. The town was busy throughout the weekend but without disruption to local people. We congratulate the organisers and look forward to the second Ramsbottom 'boutique' festival next year.

Holcombe Moor Training Camp

On Sunday 25 September the new £5m Army Cadet Training Camp was officially opened by one of the UK's most senior soldiers, General Sir Nick PARKER, Commander-in-Chief Land Forces. The camp has accommodation for 202 cadets

who will now be able to stay on site while using the adventure training facilities. It is also the headquarters of the Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force, which has relocated from Manchester. The camp will be known as the *Colonel Mary CREAGH County Headquarters and Cadet Training Centre.* (Colonel Mary Creagh OBE, JP DL was High Sheriff of Merseyside from 1987 - 8.)

Holcombe Moor Heritage Group - a plea to all local people:

The group is keen to find any old photographs (preferably before the mid-1980s) of the buildings on the moor. Photographs of these farms still standing will help their research tremendously. They can be loaned/donated via the Ramsbottom Heritage Society who are members of the HMHG. However, we do recommend the group's website www.holcombemoor.org which is regularly updated with information about the history of the moor and the group's activities. Using their website the HMHG can be contacted directly.

Emmanuel Holcombe Church of England Primary School -Building Project

Work to extend the school began in earnest in January 2011 with the official opening date in October 2011.

St Paul's Church, Bridge Street, has launched a *Save our Spire* appeal. Soon, the top four metres of the 227 foot spire [sorry, mixed measurements!] and the golden cockerel at St Paul's will be removed and further work will follow on the next six metres before the whole structure is restored to its former glory. To ensure the church remains a well-loved focal point for local people and a dominant feature visible from all the surrounding hills, this fundraising drive needs to raise over £10,000.

Ramsbottom. What a great place to live! (from an article in the *Bury Times* 29.9.2011) *Family Investments*' first *Family Friendly Hotspots Report* has ranked our town the sixteenth best place to live for young families, out of 2400 postcodes in England and Wales. The company's research took account of statistics about the quality of education and childcare, crime, affordable housing and amenities including access to green spaces and parks, libraries, leisure centres, museums and theatres. We are proud of our town and delighted to end this news section on such a positive note.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

The rationale for and early progress regarding the re-cataloguing and repackaging of the Society's archive collection was set out in Newsletter Issue No 39 (Autumn/ Winter 2010). This second article aims to record the progress made by the Archive Group from September 2010 to the point in May 2011 when the exercise was completed and the catalogue 'launched' at the Society's Annual General Meeting. In addition, some of the other issues that the Group has had to resolve will be explained so that members now and in the future will have a point of reference for the procedures undertaken.

CATALOGUING AND REPACKAGING - In September 2010, the Group started to catalogue the collection which, by then had been sorted into the new subject 'hierarchy'. The CALM Archive software purchased with the Heritage Lottery Fund

money had been loaded onto the laptop computer by Bury Archives Service. Unfortunately, apart from there being only one copy of this software available to the four members of the group, Bury Archives had also started to use CALM for additional, confidential purposes of their own. Because the laptop had to remain in Bury, a practical alternative had to be found to enable the group to catalogue the collection. Each member of the Group already had their own home computer with Microsoft Excel available and so Karen SAYERS, our dedicated archivist, devised a system whereby the Group members could individually record data onto Excel spreadsheets, which she would then be able to transfer onto CALM.

The spreadsheet which the Group had to complete was arranged into sections or 'fields'. Some of these were essential and contained information such as 'AltRefNo' which is the previous Heritage Society catalogue number, an essential aid for cross-referencing. In every case, the ownership of Ramsbottom Heritage Society is clearly stated. Non-essential fields were completed only when considered necessary. These might include the measurements of the item if it was too large to fit into a standard box, or issues such as Data Protection, fragility or confidentiality that might govern the accessibility of the item to the general public.

Each member of the Archive group indicated the part of the hierarchy in which they had a particular interest or knowledge. Supplies of packaging material together with boxes of individual series were then taken home and the cataloguing and packaging process commenced. A separate spreadsheet was opened for each series, and for each series, the first task was to decide how many sub-series and files would need to be created. Once the items had been sorted into these, the inputting of data could commence. Every item was examined, numbered and a described in the appropriate fields. In cases of doubt reference to the Society's earlier catalogues helped to identify items more precisely than mere inspection would allow. Each item was numbered in soft 2B pencil and depending on their bulk, up to ten items were placed in each acid-free folder, on which the range of item numbers included was also written. Small items were placed in acid-free envelopes in the folders. After securing these filled folders with unbleached tape, they were placed in Archive boxes, on the outside of which the range of item numbers had to be recorded, and returned to Bury Archives for storage. The completed spreadsheets were e-mailed to Karen SAYERS who transferred the data onto the CALM system. Thus, the whole document collection was catalogued and repackaged, and by the end of January 2011, the exercise was completed on schedule. This is a very flexible system of cataloguing documents as descriptions can easily be amended and more series, sub-series and files can be created as additional documents become available in the future.

PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION - Unbeknown to the Archive Group, the Heritage Lottery Fund bid included the need to catalogue the Society's collection of photographs that was held at Bury Archives. When the implications of this became clear towards the end of 2010, additional volunteers were sought from within the Society and from other Groups whom we would train to undertake the cataloguing

process in the New Year with the aim of completing it by May 2011. A small number of members came forward, but none from elsewhere. In January 2011 however matters took on a new urgency as the Group was rocked by Karen SAYERS' resignation to take up a permanent post elsewhere. As if this was not enough, at around the same time, Bury Archives announced a modernisation programme that would restrict the Group's ability to use their facilities until April 2011 when the new Local and Family History' and Archives centre would re-open in the museum.

So in order to overcome these unforeseen problems, a decision was taken to catalogue the photographs in a different way to the rest of the collection. Photographs are different to documents because unlike with the latter whose content is usually self-evident, a cataloguer needs some basic knowledge of the subject in order to describe a photograph: e.g. place; occasion; date, Thankfully, there already existed a comprehensive description of the photograph collection with categories that corresponded closely to the new catalogue hierarchy, so it was a relatively straightforward, albeit time-consuming, task to reconcile the photographs by number, resort them into subjects and then retype the description onto the new spreadsheets. The photographs have been placed in numbered transparent archival-quality polyester sleeves.

POLICIES - The process of cataloguing all the documents and photographs was successfully completed by around the end of Februar)' 2011. By this time, also, two new deposit agreement forms had been designed to replace the one already in use. These reflect the different circumstances between items that are donated and those that are loaned to the society' and the greater detail requested will facilitate the accurate recording of the provenance of future acquisitions. These forms are now available at the Heritage Gallery. Furthermore, the original Statement of Understanding for the Partnership with Bury Archives Service required the Society to produce a formal Collection Policy, This needed to show what the Society's Collection priorities would be, the processes involved, and the way in which the Society would co-operate with other organisations including Bury Archives. Although we have to acknowledge that constraints on space do limit what we can accept, the policy is drawn in the widest possible terms with the views of the depositor regarding where the item is stored being paramount. The Group prepared a formal Collection Policy, which has now been approved by the Society's Management Committee.

FUTURE CATALOGUING - The Group now has ample stocks of acid free folders and envelopes, tape and paper clips, and storage boxes. There is also a variety of sizes of polyester sleeves for photographs together with labels and tissue paper. These supplies ought to be enough to cover the Society's requirements for several years to come and there is an understanding between the Society and Bury Archives regarding future additions to the Collection. The Society will be able to deposit one small Archive Box per year, which ought to be sufficient for its normal requirements. Bury Archives have agreed that if, in any one year, this proves inadequate to accommodate additional important documents, then a request to deposit such additional items will be given sympathetic consideration.

Mention has been made previously of a laptop which was purchased with Heritage Lottery Funds at the start of the project. Once it became apparent that the Group would not be able to use this, either for the cataloguing process, or for future use by the Society in the Heritage Gallery, Joanne FITTON. the Project Manager suggested that an additional laptop could be purchased. Pressures on Archive space will be alleviated by the Society adopting the Project Manager's suggestion that rather than deposit photocopies of documents, where possible, such items will be scanned onto the laptop with a copy stored in Bury Archives on MAM 700MB Archive Hub Gold Recordable Compact Discs. This of course necessitated the purchase of a scanner, justifiable on the grounds that not only would it be of benefit to the future sustainability of the cataloguing process but along with the computer, it could also be used to involve Heritage Gallery visitors with the Collection.

The purchase of these items was delayed due to the resignation of Joanne FITTON who left Bury Archives in mid-April 2011. This was another blow' to the Group as a number of other outstanding issues were about to be drawn together. However, a Samsung laptop computer and Canon multi-function printer/scanner/copier have now been provided for the Society's sole use.

OTHER MATTERS - In accordance with the bid schedule, during the cataloguing process, a small number of items were identified as requiring special conservation due to their importance or fragility. These items were appraised by Cyril FORMBY and agreement reached regarding the conservation measures to be taken. All the items have now been returned to Bury Archives after completion of the work and the Group is particularly pleased with what has been done.

Four printed copies of the entire catalogue as at May 2011 have been professionally-bound. One copy is available in Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery, one copy has been given to Ramsbottom Library for their local collection, one copy has been catalogued and placed in the Ramsbottom Heritage Society Collection at Bury' Archives and the fourth copy is for Bury Archive's use. The volume extends to some 595 pages and includes details of all of the catalogued items as at May 2011.

The Society has within its Collection many publications such as magazines, brochures and pamphlets. During the cataloguing process, it became apparent that the Collection does not contain a copy of all publications produced by the Society and so it is hoped that eventually, a copy of every one of these will be traced and catalogued as appropriate. The process of cataloguing also enabled the Group to make a start on a detailed list of the Society's book collection and this work also is ongoing.

CONCLUSION - Following the formal launch of the Archive Collection at the Society's recent Annual general meeting, it is perhaps appropriate just to summarise what the Group has achieved during the last two years.

There is now an easily accessible fully detailed catalogue of the Society's collection of documents and photographs. This is available to all via the internet through the link to Bury Archives on the Society's website or in paper format at the Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library and Bury Local and Family History Centre.

The opportunity has been taken to bring into the Collection numerous items that had been held by individuals and elsewhere while uncertainty' regarding the Society's future home prevailed. The Collection has been packaged in archival-quality materials in a secure and controlled environment at Bury Archives where it is accessible to all. The Society has enough packaging material to cover its anticipated future needs. Agreement has been reached with Bury Archives relating to the future deposit of items in the Collection. Some important items that were at risk of deteriorating have been conserved. The Society now has the necessary computer equipment to facilitate future cataloguing of paper records, to digitise others and to make it easier for additional volunteers to help in the process.

So, although at times somewhat frustrating, this has undoubtedly been a worthwhile and successful exercise from which both the Society and Bury Archives have benefitted greatly. Thanks must be given to the Heritage Lottery Fund whose finance paid for the dedicated Archivist, materials and equipment and without which this would not have been possible. The Society's contribution has been the persistence, dedication and time of a small group of volunteers who have catalogued and repackaged over 6000 documents and 2000 photographs in a process which has cumulatively taken over 1000 hours. There is now, once again, a sound basis upon which to move forward.

Dave Haddock *August 2011*

NEWS OF KIBBOTH CREW

OPEN GARDEN EVENT AT KIBBOTH CREW - John and Gill WILD, owners of Kibboth Crew, held an Open Garden event from 5th to 10th June 2011 with all proceeds to go towards this summer's Bury Hospice Art Week. In previous years the garden has been passed twice for the National Garden Scheme but there have always been worries about the traffic and the road access. Obviously, the emphasis for visitors was on the garden's development, layout and planting but those who expressed interest in the history of the site were directed to display panels featuring historical information which had been researched by Ramsbottom Heritage Society members. Having worked on the display, we have now collected some of the information together for publication in this issue. Photographs, documents and other material from the Society's 2007 archaeological dig were also on view at the event.

(In June 1990 News Magazine Number 1, Clyde TWEEDALE's article 'The Historical Seeds of the Local Horticultural Societies " was published. We have had no contributions about this popular pastime since, even though many interesting gardening events have been taking place. Our next issue will appear after the growing season is under way so we hope to publish a 'gardening' item. We would welcome information from local groups about their activities and events. Editor)

FULLING AT KIBBOTH CREW - When fulling (the final processes of changing raw wool into cloth) was being moved from farms to mills with the introduction of water-powered machinery the Kibboth Crew site was ideal. It had the necessary good flowing water and also south facing land where the cloth could be stretched out to dry

(tentering). The earliest documented evidence of fulling there, so far found, was in 1627 when a mill and other buildings were let by Edward ROTHWELL to Samuel SCHOFIELD, a woollen dealer. He probably sublet the mill to an independent fuller. In 1764, the site was acquired by John ROSTRON of Holcombe. By 1778 an additional perching mill had been built for the hanging and inspection of the cloth and it was leased to Thomas WALLWORK and family. Both mills had their own waterwheel. It is uncertain which of the two mills was the earlier - the one closer to the road or the one on the site of the 2007 archaeological dig.

During the early 1800s the mills fell into disrepair and in 1837 they were acquired by William GRANT *&* Bros, when they were described as 'in a very ruinous and dilapidated state altogether unfit for occupation'. The GRANTS let the mills to Joseph PORRITT & Sons who, by 1848, had rebuilt them and introduced engine power. Both mills continued with fulling and its associated processes. The PORRITTs also leased the nearby Springwood Mill. The end of over 250 years of 'woollen fulling' at Kibboth Crew came around 1870 when the PORRITTs moved their business. Some of the buildings continued to be used for other purposes e.g. by a chemist, a shuttle maker, a machine broker, but the site was always subject to flooding. Cottages below the bottom mill existed into the 20th century.

On 9 July 1881 the force of storm water running down the hillside caused severe damage at Kibboth Crew's Topwood Mill and badly affected many houses and businesses in Ramsbottom. (Details of the event appear in the *Accrington Times.)* Personal accounts published in the *Ramsbottom Observer* on Friday 23rd March 1894 describe the tragic death of Mary HILL in another notable flood:

THE BURSTING OF A LODGE IN RAMSBOTTOM - The inquest was held on Saturday noon, 17th March 1894 at The Grants Arms Hotel by Mr BARLOW, Deputy Coroner. Death of a Woman - 1st Witness, William TAYLOR, Master Mechanic of Kibboth Crew. "She was my housekeeper for the past 18 years and a distant relative. She died at the house of Mr WARBURTON, Top Wood Farm. She was ailing from heart disease and consumption for about the past three years. She had a stroke about seven weeks ago and was in Manchester Infirmary until three weeks ago. She was in a weakened condition but better of her stroke."

He awoke about quarter past five on Friday morning and all was right. Shortly afterwards, as he was making a fire in the bedroom, he heard a loud noise such as the falling of a building followed by a rushing of water. He concluded the lodge had burst and he told the deceased, who was in the same room, to follow him downstairs. They found downstairs flooded. As they were going out the front door, the back door gave way and the water closed the front door onto his fingers and he could not free himself. He held the deceased by his other hand and was like this for about quarter of an hour. When the water subsided he let go of her, to rescue his fingers. No sooner had he let go of her then the door panels burst and she was washed away into a mechanic's shop which joined up to the front door of the house,

the door of which had also burst open. He got free shortly afterwards with the assistance of John STACEY and he went to look for her and found her in the mechanic's shop, laid on the floor. They carried her to the house of Mr WARBURTON, Top Wood Farm. There they enveloped her in warm blankets - she being cold from being lying in water. She seemed to be quite conscious and spoke to them. They called for the Doctor to come and Dr LAWRELL came. She did not seem to mend any and died about 8.30 a.m. as the doctor said from 'shock to the system'.

2nd Witness - John STACEY, labourer of Kibboth Crew. He was awakened about 5.20 a.m. by Mr TAYLOR shouting for help. He saw Mr TAYLOR and Mrs HILL out of his bedroom window. He ran downstairs but there was about four feet of water there, so he went back upstairs and out of the window. Mr TAYLOR and Mrs HILL were gone. He found her in the mechanics shop with her head under a lathe. He helped to take her to Top Wood Farm. Mr TAYLOR told him to go to Mr GRANT'S agent and on his return she was dead.

The bottom lodge, which is behind their houses, was not capable of holding the additional water, which was caused by the bursting of the middle lodge. The size of the lodge behind the houses is about 15 yards by 25 yards. The bank surface of this lodge stands about 13 feet above Mr TAYLOR's doorstep. Further up there is another lodge and a building stands between the two lodges. The middle lodge is called Top Wood lodge and is 20 yards by 12 yards. He saw the place on Friday after the flood and found that the building, which stood between the two bottom lodges had fallen and that the middle lodge bank had given way and so released water into the bottom lodge which overflowed and flooded the houses. The owner of the lodge was Mr GRANT. Witness had never expected anything of this kind but had given the agent of Mr GRANT notice of the water coming through the wall of the backyard.

A verdict of misadventure was recorded. The Jury decided to call the attention of the Local Board and the landowners to the situation with a view to render impossible a second such catastrophe.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF 18th CENTURY WATER-POWERED TEXTILE MILLS

Early, upland, water-powered textile mills such as High Walk Mill at Kibboth Crew, Ramsbottom form an important but under-studied part of the textile industry of north-west England. Though less numerous than the better known and better studied steam-powered textile mills of the 19th Century, the impact of the hundreds of cotton and woollen water-powered factories established in the upland valleys of the region, particularly to the north and east of Manchester during the 18th and early 19th centuries, was no less dramatic. Streams were dammed, reservoirs and weirs built, leats were cut or dug, and multi-storey factories erected in wild and remote country' that in many cases had not seen any industry before the 18-h Century, and often had not witnessed such intensive human activity since the hunter-gatherers of the Mesolithic age roamed the Pennine uplands 6,000 years earlier.

Particularly after 1769 much capital was spent by the emerging textile tenantry in a flurry' of factory building that is reflected in the archaeological record today. Tracing the location and development of these mill sites is not straight forward (Palmer & Neaverson 1998). Often these mills are dominated by the standing remains relating to the final phases of the textile site's activity, as at the Calprina Print Works at Carrbrook in Stalybridge, which completely mask the earliest industrial phases of such sites. Sometimes archaeological investigation of the standing remains of a mill, such as Albion Mill in Hollingworth and Dry' Mill in Mottram, or excavation of a long demolished site as at Carr Mill at Carrbrook or Moss Mill in Broadbottom can reveal the true 18th Century origins of such textile sites. Hence the importance of investigations on a water-powered textile site such as that Kibboth Crew. Since 1992, when the book on the cotton spinning mills of Greater Manchester was published (Williams with Farnie 1992) there has been an upsurge in the number of archaeological surveys of mill buildings, 54 by the end of 2006, and in the excavation of mill sites, 24 by the end of 2006, in Greater Manchester, a significant number of which, 20 sites, have now been shown to have an 18th Century origin.

Such fieldwork is labour-intensive and time-consuming and often documentary evidence in the form of land tax returns, estate rentals, insurance records, newspaper adverts, and more rarely deeds, combined with map evidence and landscape analysis, can be used to show an 18th Century water-powered origin for what at first may appear to be an early 20th Century steam-powered mill site.

In the past, attempts to quantify the numbers of textile mills built in the market centres and uplands of south-east Lancashire and north-east Cheshire have been confined to the identification of the Arkwright mill type-site both as a water-powered cotton spinning mill from 1771 and as a water-powered wool spinning mill from 1785 onwards. Analysis by John Chapman of a contemporary census of Arkwright patented mills from 1788 suggested 44 textile mill sites for Lancashire and 15 for Cheshire of which four were located in the Greater Manchester area (Chapman 1982) whilst a recently published study of Arkwright-type mills in the North West, which also included an analysis of other contemporary documentary material such as newspaper adverts and deeds, suggested 36 such mills were built in and around Manchester. However, when this documentary' approach is extended to all textile mill sites built in the 18"' Century the numbers rise considerably. Through such analysis at least 387 water and steam powered textile mills have been identified as operating in Greater Manchester (the old areas of south-east Lancashire and north-east Cheshire) between 1700 and 1800. These figures are themselves a substantial increase from the figure of 154 textile sites for Greater Manchester published in 2003 and reflect the growing archaeological and historical research in this area in recent years.

Consequently, there is now a sufficiently large database to characterise the physical remains of the first generation of textile mills in the valleys around Manchester. The

387 18th Century textile sites identified in south-east Lancashire and north-east Cheshire (now known as Greater Manchester) can be divided into five types of mill structure (wool fulling, wool scribbling, silk, cotton spinning, and finishing), two of which can be found at the Kibboth Crew site.

Fulling Mills - The earliest water-powered textile mills in the Manchester region were for the fulling of woollen cloth. Woollen production was of particular importance in the Oldham, Rochdale, Saddleworth, and Tameside areas. By the 16th Century Lancashire already had a well-established textile industry whose two main staples were linens and woollens. In the later 17th Century these older branches were largely replaced by the introduction and spread of cotton, at this period in the form of fustians. By 1700 woollen production was almost entirely confined to the eastern border of the county and in the Rochdale and Saddleworth districts woollen manufacturers retained a monopoly as late as the early 19th Century. Bury was also a strong wool producing area in the 18th Century and the earliest mills at Kibboth were for fulling.

Fulling was the first process within the textile industry to which water power was applied. It had two purposes; to remove natural oil and grease from woven woollen cloth, a necessary step before dyeing could be carried out, and to tighten and thicken the fabric. In the fulling mill this was achieved by pounding the cloth with water-powered hammers, or stocks, while soaking it in water mixed with a cleaning agent (for which fuller's earth and stale urine were used). Before the application of water power to the process, fulling was carried out by treading, or walking, the cloth, which led to fulling mills also being known as walk mills. In the 18^{h} Century a separate part of this process was the perching, that is the examination and rectification of finished cloth after the fulling process, in order to check for imperfections and to remove any knots or lumps. Sometimes this process, which involved pulling the cloth over two rollers spaced parallel to each other, was done in a separate mill structure and this appears to be the case at Kibboth Crew.

Of the 36 fulling mills recorded in Greater Manchester during the 18th Century, 31 were built between 1750 and 1800, mostly after 1780. These new fulling mills were concentrated in Littleborough, Rochdale, and Saddleworth, though the Mossley area of Tameside had three such mills by 1800 and Bury several more. The upsurge in the pattern of site development and change of use was common for many 18th Century mills around Manchester and is one of the reasons why so little standing fabric from 18th Century textile mills survives. The two fulling mills at Kibboth Crew, however, appear to have retained their primary function until they closed in 1870s.

This was built as a fulling mill in 1761, but rebuilt as a cotton spinning mill around 1829 and further altered in 1886 by which date it had returned to wool production although it was spinning wool rather than fulling. Such a construction of fulling mills in the later 18th Century probably reflects the increasing demand for all forms of textiles during this period. Few of these 18th Century fulling mills survive and

none is complete, one of the best examples being the five storey, stone-built, Crimble Mill at Bamford in Rochdale.

Dr Michael Nevell (University of Manchester Archaeological Unit)

FABRIC PRINTING

Visitors to the exhibition now on show at Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery may well have been inspired by the display of beautiful examples of locally produced fabrics and other textile printing artefacts and want to seek more information. Extensive research by RHS members on two Ramsbottom fabric printing companies whose factories were built in the 19th and 20th centuries is recorded in a number of past issues of our magazines (see below). The majority of townspeople are unaware that textile printing businesses are still operating here - at Turnbull Prints Ltd (UK) and JSH Laser Ltd. Society members wish to credit and acknowledge the contributions of the two companies who were very kind in helping Society members to play a key part in mounting the exhibition. We are also very grateful to Helen RAYNERD, granddaughter of Turnbull and Stockdale block printer J E RAYNERD and to Mr C R ECCLES who was their chief designer. Reference copies of Ramsbottom Heritage Society news magazines can be accessed by request at Ramsbottom Library.

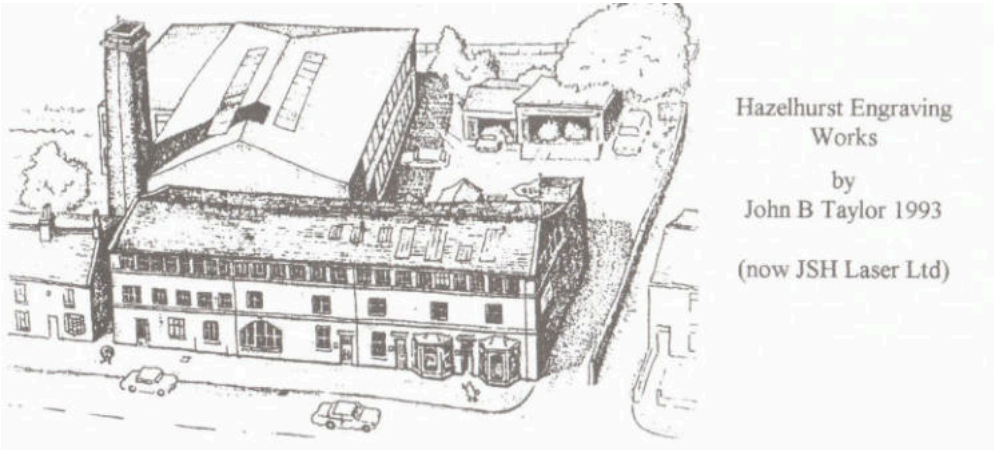
Andrew TODD, John Spencer's Hazelhurst Engineering Works (News Magazine number 3 Summer 1991)

Barbara PALMER, The Spencers of Hazelhurst (News Magazine number 5 Summer 1992)

Clyde TWEED A LE, The Stockdale Saga (News Magazine number 5 Summer 1992)

Clyde TWEEDALE, The Turnbull Tale (News Magazine number 7 Summer 1993)

*W J SMITH, Hazelhurst Engineering Works, 258 - 264, Bolton Road West - A Survey (News Magazine number 7 Summer 1993) **



Hazelhurst Engraving Works

by

John B Taylor 1993

(now JSH Laser Ltd)

THE HISTORY OF THE NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH IN RAMSBOTTOM

(For the past three years the RHS has wanted to put up an interpretation board to mark the site of the Church on the corner of Ramsbottom Lane and Factory Street. This has been delayed as we felt the site needed upgrading, but despite the good will of the Council and our Society we still have not managed to raise the necessary monies. We have decided to compromise for the moment and plan to just put up interpretation board and repaint our bench at the back of the site.)

From the late 1700s there was considerable interest in the interpretation of Christianity by Emanuel SWEDENBORG (1688-1772). A noted scientist, philosopher and theologian, 'he is best known for his later writings, in which he presents ideas both Christian and ecumenical, for a new spiritual era or 'new church' to be known as the 'New Jerusalem'. He did not launch a new religious movement himself, but in 1787 a Society of the New Church was established in England.

From 1806 onwards Ramsbottom people listened to these teachings at the New Church on Stand Lane, Radcliffe. They were so impressed that in 1812 a local Society was formed and meetings held on the third floor of Ramsbottom Mill at the end of Crow Lane. After 3 years the Ramsbottom group united with others from Cannrow, Tottington to meet in Holcombe Brook. Here support was so great that in 1816 when a missionary Rev. Joseph PROUD came, the chapel's 500 seats were quickly filled and a simultaneous meeting for a further 300 people had to be held at a local inn.

In 1819 they returned to Ramsbottom, meeting in an upper room of a cottage on Ramsbottom Lane. The congregation grew in number despite strong opposition around 1824 from Rev. PARTINGTON, the minister at Park Congregational Chapel. This was countered by a robust and effective defence of the Swedenborgians' beliefs given by one of the New Church's national leaders, the Rev. Robert HINDMARSH. He delivered his speech standing on a wagon in a factory' yard because no building was big enough to accommodate the crowd that gathered to hear him.

Although a large number of their followers emigrated to America in the depression year of 1826, the New Jerusalem still had sufficient members to build a small place of worship. It was built in 1831 in Ramsbottom Lane on land given by Samuel ASHTON, co-owner of Ramsbottom Mill, and cost £273.

Such was the strength of religious rivalries in those days that antagonism to the New Jerusalem continued. A few years later it was fuelled by the arrival of the first Anglicans in the centre of Ramsbottom. The curate of St. Paul's, the Rev George GIBBON, is even said to have 'threatened to annihilate them'. The curate was encouraged in his opposition by the 'owners of one of the largest mills in the district'. The owners' name is not stated but it is known that the second generation of the ASHTON family changed their religious allegiance to Anglicanism. Also we know a considerable number of New Jerusalem members who were employed in Ramsbottom Mill left the church for fear of losing their jobs. A few, however, including Thomas BERRY, the mill manager, remained steadfast and 'suffered much through long years'. Despite all, the church prospered under the care of the leader Charles

COFFEY and later Rev. Samuel PILKINGTON. In 1864 the Church opened the first government-funded school in Ramsbottom, which was attended by children from around Ramsbottom including Nuttall Village. A new larger church was erected beside their older building in 1874-6, with a hall beneath accessed from Factory Street. In 1905 the church was damaged by subsidence caused by 'the process of sand and water purification which was carried on nearby'. For the next 27 years the well-attended anniversary services had to be held in local non-conformist churches.

At its reopening in 1932 Rev. Charles NEWALL described the church as a 'pleasant sight, with its primrose walls, its varnished oak beams in the roof, and the varnished pews. The illuminated texts at either side of the choir gallery are a splash of colour in uniformly tinted surrounds'. They had also built new steps to the main entrance.

The Church was well attended and the Church Hall regularly used. Many Ramsbottom people still remember events held there like socials, dances, pantomimes badminton and table tennis. We are also told soldiers were billeted at the church during World War II. The church was demolished in 1971 because it had dry rot.

(There is still a New Church College on Radcliffe New Road Radcliffe but most of their Churches around Lancashire have now closed)

See front cover drawing of New Jerusalem Church.

Brenda Richards

PLANTATION HOUSE, 61, RAMSBOTTOM LANE

James Terrace and the neighbouring Carleton Terrace were built by a well respected millowner called Henry HEYS. Plantation House, 61, Stubbins Lane was his home and the 1881 census for 61 and 59 James Terrace lists Henry HEYS, his wife Sophia Lord HEYS and domestic servant Fanny HULBERT who had been born in Wales. Henry HEYS' mother, Betty HEYS, lived next door at 63, Stubbins Lane. He is also listed in 1871 in Worrall's Trades Directory' as a cotton spinner and manufacturer at Victoria Mill, Stubbins Lane. (Fire gutted Victoria Mill after World War IT. It stood on the site of the fire station.) Henry HEYS' initials are on the 1881 Carleton Place datestone at 51, Ramsbottom Lane.

From 1884-5 Henry HEYS was Chairman of Ramsbottom Local Board and around 1890 he was a magistrate. On 14th August 1890, a Ramsbottom woman, Catherine MARSDEN of Return Street, which was very close to James Terrace, had been summoned to appear before the magistrates 'for using obscene language'. Apparently the MARSDEN family attended Bury Police Court on a regular basis. On this occasion there was a choice of 14 days or a five shilling fine plus costs. She paid up with half a sovereign with the extra to go to 'our Jim's fine'. Under the title 'A Curse to the Place' in the court report in the *Ramsbottom Observer* Henry HEYS, who might have experienced Mrs MARSDEN's strong language near his home, is quoted

> *I tell you what, Mrs MARSDEN, I wish you and your husband would go out of Ramsbottom for really you are a curse to the place. I would give something towards your going.*

Henry HEYS also held office at St. Paul's Church for 49 years (churchwarden for 32 years from 1874 to 1906) and the alabaster reredos in the church was erected by subscription in 1909 in his memory. There are memorial windows in the church to Sarah HEYS, William Randle HEYS and James HEYS, organist from 1850 until his death aged 22 years in 1862. Also within St Paul's are communion rails and panelling in the chancel which were provided by Mr H. Randle HEYS who was churchwarden from 1941- 1945. The Heys family vault is in the churchyard.

The illustration on our front cover shows Plantation House (which has no house name on it). It is the end house of James Terrace and stands at the comer of Ramsbottom Lane and Heatherside Road which is a road of mainly modem houses leading to an estate. On the 1908 OS map the very short street called Heys Street is shown, renamed and extended to become Heatherside Road when the modem houses were built.

The front of James Terrace, is made of pitch faced stone and there an 1862 datestone on 65, Ramsbottom Lane. The terrace stands high above Ramsbottom Lane and apart from Plantation House where the front door is accessed by a short path up from near the comer of Heatherside Road, the rest of the terrace has its own front path running right along it parallel to the street pavement but at a higher level. The back of all the houses is of rough stone. Unlike all the other houses in James Terrace, Plantation House is double-fronted. On either side of the front door it has a window. One of these is an impressive bay window with a first floor bay window above it. On the side wall (on Heatherside Road) is a long, narrow arched window which appears to retain its original stained glass. At the back the layout of the openings is the same as the other James Terrace houses but Plantation House has two back doors, one of which has been blocked up, so that it looks like two houses from that side.

The Society has not yet been able to confirm that in the early 1900s Plantation House was occupied by the YOUNG family about whom James YOUNG has provided us with family history information. Later, we believe that at some time before 1940, Derek and Norah ROSTRON had lived there. *(We are always interested in extra information about any of the material we cover and would be pleased to hear from our readers - Editor.)*

In about August 1940 John William and Eleanor CHAMBERS moved from Newchurch to live at Plantation House. Mr CHAMBERS had worked at Cloughfold Gas Works and had been transferred to Stubbins Gas Works (though he was soon transferred back to Cloughfold but he travelled there daily). Mr and Mrs CHAMBERS collected the ground rents for the terrace and that these were paid to Randle HEYS. Mrs Lorna McINTOSH (their daughter) remembers;

> *We used the bay-windowed room at the front of the house only on special occasions in summer and in winter, because it was a warmer room and not as draughty as the other front room (which we called the dining room). There were wooden floors in both front rooms and stone flag floors in the back rooms. All the rooms have high ceilings and the*

front downstairs rooms had picture rails. (Nowhere was there any decorative plasterwork.) There was an impressive white marble fireplace with blue tiles in the bay-windowed room and a wooden fireplace in the dining room. The front bedrooms, of the same plan as the rooms below, had fireplaces directly above. The hall staircase had a left turn in it towards the top and under it a flight of steps led to the cellar which was beneath the bay windowed room. The cellar was used for coal which was put in there via the access under the bay window. The 'big kitchen ' had a black-leaded kitchen range with an open fire and oven(s).

In 1940 number 61 was the only house in James Terrace with an indoor toilet which was in the large upstairs bathroom (above the whole of the kitchen) where I remember a bath with feet and the tall arched stained glass window. In the back bedroom (right along the party wall to 63, Ramsbottom Lane) ran a passageway which was the width of a doorway and was reached only through a door from the front bedroom. My father and I used this area as a darkroom but never knew its original purpose.

Outside the back door across the communal path which accessed the back doors of all the James Terrace houses was a dilapidated outhouse. 1 was told that it had been the wash house for all the houses in the terrace. I remember the front gate to have been right next to the wall comer of Ramsbottom Lane and Keys Street (which has been renamed Heatherside Road).

Plantation House was my family's home until about until about 1968 and until this year had only one more occupier. Recently (2010-11) it was completely refurbished. While we were there five large trees were removed from the front garden and the conservatory, with doors to the street and to the interior of the house was demolished because it was in a dangerous state. The railings and gate were removed, possibly for the War effort. Inside, the flags in the 'big kitchen' were replaced by terracotta tiles. Picture rails were taken down from the downstairs front rooms and layers of dark wallpaper were removed. The marble and tile fireplace in the bay- windowed room was replaced by a modem tiled fireplace and the old mantelpiece was reused at the house on the opposite side of Heys Street. Also a new' bathroom suite was installed. The outhouse was rebuilt as a garage.

MEMORIES OF A LAND ARMY GIRL IN SHUTTLEWORTH

As the prospect of War became increasingly likely the government wanted to increase food production within Britain. Help was needed on Britain's farms so in 1939 the Women's Land Army was set up under the governance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food At first it was staffed by volunteers and later supplemented by conscription. The majority of Land Girls already lived in the countryside but more than a third came from London and northern industrial cities. By 1944 there were over 80,000 members. It was officially disbanded in 1950.

In 2010 Land Girl Ruby Smith received her Land Army Medal and in 2011 she received a 'thank you' letter signed by the Prime Minister for her war work on the

land. Ruby and her family came on a nostalgic visit to Ramsbottom at the end of May 20JO. By chance it coincided with the ELR War Weekend and they met members of the Society who were selling our Ramsbottom War News. Ruby's son George offered to give us information for inclusion in a future issue. He has now passed on to the Society the following memories of his mother's life as a Land Army girl and has kindly given us permission to publish it in this news magazine.

A local recruiting drive had prompted Mam to apply to the Women's Land Army and shortly afterwards she was behind a tractor steering wheel at a WLA training centre at Preston. The farm where Mam worked during the war was near to the village of Shuttleworth, on land now just a couple of miles from the M66 - although isolated from the rest of the world by steep hills and gushing mountain streams. There had been two land girls recruited to work the farm initially, both sharing a tiny timber beamed cottage nearby, but two weeks after they arrived the other girl left, citing Mam's moans in her sleep as the reason for going. Mam was not built for heavy farm work: she weighed less than seven stone and is just under five feet one. When Farmer S saw her coming up the lane, lost in her baggy brown dungarees and Land Army issue brown felt hat, he reputedly said to his wife, "My God, look what they've sent me."

For the next four years Farmer S and Mam were locked in battle. Since she had no previous experience of farm work the early mornings and heavy labour took some adjusting to. Nevertheless she not only coped but grew to love the work and in particular the dairy cows. She also grew to love the farmer's wife and her three small children but never grew to love the farmer. He had the habit of withholding her weekly allowance until she made to leave - and she was always 'going to leave' though the nearest she got was an abortive moonlight flit, late one winter's night, when she knotted together sheets and lowered the improvised rope from her bedroom window. When she emerged backwards from the window, she suddenly heard a voice from below, saying, "Ruby, if you want to leave, feel free to use the front door." Farmer S had only been watching the 'great escape' the whole time from the yard.

By today's standards Green Hill Farm was very small. There were fifteen or so dairy cows and little else in the way of livestock. Mam's main responsibility therefore was to milk the cows and then deliver the milk using the farmer's horse and cart. Mam recalled that the cows always knew their own way back to the milking parlour when called - each having their own stall they wouldn't allow the others to use. She enjoyed milking but she hated washing out the stalls; the cows, according to Mam, seemed to take pleasure in relieving themselves just as she finished cleaning the byres. Mam's response was to hit the errant cow on the backside whenever it raised its tail, provoking a worse outcome than if she had left well alone.

The barn that housed the dairy has now been converted into another home but the milking shed still remains as a lean-to on the side of the house. Inside the former barn, on one of the original oak beams, is a crude image of a German bomber made by

the family's eldest son, Trevor, carved while he watched the nightly procession over the roof of the farm towards the flickering fires at Manchester.
Trevor, although in his 70s, still farms two of the fields in the valley below and arranged to meet Mam again recently when she visited Green Hill Farm. He told us that, following the end of the war, German POWs helped out at the farm and it was a POW who saved Mam's life. She was leading cows in from the field for milking when she slipped in front of one. Startled by her sudden appearance, it attacked her and continued butting and goring her until the POW, who had been working nearby, ran over to rescue her. That was the end of Mam's Land Army Career. Following convalescence at a rest hospital in Edinburgh she handed in her uniform, went back to the North East, met my Dad, and the rest is history (well my history at least).
Before we left the area we visited nearby Ramsbottom where, fittingly, a Second World War re-enactment weekend was in progress. We stood on the station platform surrounded by men and women in old service uniforms. In the jostle around us there were army, navy and air force representatives from both sides of the war - but no Land Army girls.

George Smith 2010

THE MANGO ORCHARD: TRAVELLING BACK TO THE SECRET HEART OF MEXICO

An extract from this book by Robin Bayley:

> **"Something I've always wanted to know: How do you pronounce our surname?"**
> **Not only had they been abandoned, they'd been abandoned with a surname they couldn't even say properly. Then again, the name "Greenhalgh" would probably be unpronounceable to anyone outside Lancashire, let alone a people in whose language the letter H is always silent and the TH sound doesn't exist. "Greenjalce" - was as close as grandson Enrigne would ever get...**

The Mango Orchard is Robin BAYLEY's account of his eventful and fascinating journey around Latin America in the footsteps of his great grandfather, Arthur GREENHALGH. Arthur was born in Ramsbottom and brought up in Tottington. In Mexico he became known as Arturo GREENHAL. Mr BAYLEY's own journey began in the early 1990s. It was inspired by the fabulous stories about her father's adventures which had been told to him by his grandmother. Dedicated to her, the book, with its strange and surprising ending, is now available in paperback and a Radcliffe Library lending copy can be ordered at Ramsbottom.
(RHS members are asked for information about Waterside Mill, Ramsbottom. We have been given copies of documents which show that Arthur GREENHALGH's father Henry was in business there, prior to 1885, as a manufacturer in partnership with Mr T LONSDALE and Mr S HARRISON)

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

Bury Museum and Archive, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG tel: 0161 253 6782
Email: archives@bury.gov.uk Website: www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Opening Hours:

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

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

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

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

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary David Burgess, 10, St Andrew's Drive, Alwoodley. Leeds, LS17 7TR –tel 01132695512, email membership@lfhhs.org.uk. Ordinary membership is £12 per year (concessions £9.50) and this entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and 14 monthly meetings 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 exhibition in the Gallery at Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre

Open to the public until July 2012

Ramsbottom's Hidden History:

Textile Printing

Featuring:

- **The first known (early 19th century) painting of Ramsbottom centre**
- **Striking and beautiful examples of locally produced handblock, roller and screen-printed fabrics**
- **Present day screen manufacture and fabric design in Ramsbottom**

Location:

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

Opening Times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm
Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm

(check press and website for further details)

Ramsbottom Heritage Society:

www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bury COUNCIL

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

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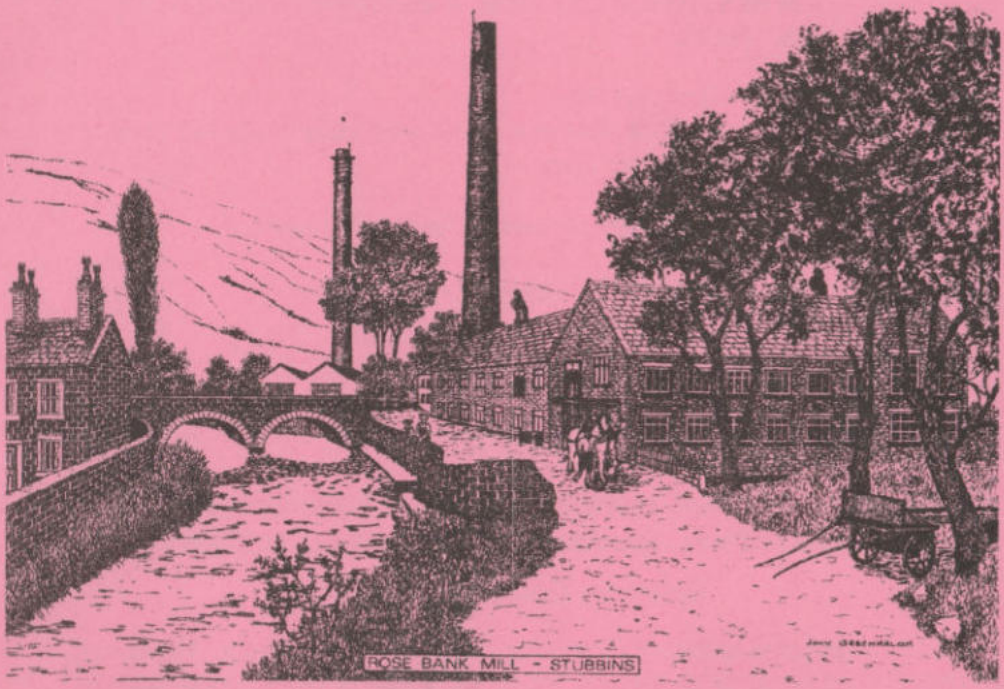

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 82 1998

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom

PROGRAMME **2012:**

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

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

Entry by donation, please.

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

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			Peter Bowker
			Norman Kav
			Geoffrey Asten

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kate Slingsby (Chair)

LOCAL GARDENING NEWS 2010 - 2012
Open Gardens In Stubbins And Edenfield

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

In 2010 I was invited to join the local scheme run by Edenfield Horticultural Society and 1 opened my own garden for a day. 1 was a bit nervous about it as my garden is not top of my priority' list of things to do, though Ï love it dearly. I am a fair weather gardener and am not to be found weeding and pruning on wet and windy days. My garden has to take its place amongst my many other interests. It is not a manicured haven but it is full of plants and it is a surprising garden because it is low down at the end of the terrace where Ï live, set between the houses and the River Irwell.

When I first came to live in the house, the 'garden' -was just a piece of wasteland with a derelict wooden garage on it and chest high weeds, including Himalayan Balsam, which I believe was brought in by Victorian plant hunters as a pretty addition to gardens. What a mistake that was! As I was battling with the weeds and the litter that passers-by so obligingly toss over the wall, neighbours used to walk through the garden to throw rubbish over the wall into the river. (For some people rivers are an extension of the council refuse system so much more handy than, the wheelie bins. Needless to say 1 remonstrated with the litter louts and eventually it stopped.)

Over the years with help and advice from a friend who is a very keen and knowledgeable gardener. 1 have gradually cleared away many of the weeds and acquired a good selection of perennials, not to mention a vigorous ivy which has to be severely cut back every year but which provides a home for several birds and lots of insects. People who are keen on wildlife always exhort gardeners not to be too tidy, well there is no danger of that in my garden. There is a tiny pond which has disproportionately large plants in it but it hosts a community of newts. 1 can't get frogs to take up residence though and I don't know why. The garden has stone walls around it so it is a paradise for slugs and snails. If they had some commercial value and I could harvest them, I would be a wealthy woman!

The garden is low down and not obvious to people walking by so it was called *Patricia's Secret Garden* for the purposes of the trail. When 1 told two dear friends who live in North Yorkshire that I was opening my garden to the public, they insisted on coming to stay and were the best possible help. While 1 was swanning around the garden talking plants with enthusiastic gardeners, Maureen and Charles were acting as my butler and housekeeper supplying visitors with plenty of tea and cakes which we had baked beforehand. 1 had also stitched bookmarks which were on sale and with donations for the refreshments we raised £117 for the Alzheimers Society, a cause dear to my heart. The first visitor was on the doorstep at 10am and the last didn't leave

until long after closing time, Tt was lovely to spend time with people who enjoy gardens and the variety of gardens locally is amazing. Up the hill from me in Stubbins are gardens which open as part of the prestigious National Gardens Scheme, way out of my league, and another garden in the village boasts a healthy banana palm and other tropical features. From the tiniest backyard to the grandest garden complete with waterfalls like mini Niagaras, mature trees and parkland, there is so much to enjoy on an open garden trail. Edenfield Horticultural Society organises a garden trail every two years and the next one is on 15th July 2012, so this is your chance to come and see some very charming and interesting gardens where you can chat with other enthusiasts and enjoy homemade cake. 1 can promise you a most enjoyable day and some real surprises in the gardens you will visit.
Patricia Barrett - January 2012

Treasured Gardens in Bury: Ramsbottom Civic Hail
The weekend after John and Gill WILD's opening to the public of the garden at Kibboth Crew, Ramsbottom, (reported in RHS Newsletter number 41, Autumn 2011) there was a unique garden visit opportunity at a *Treasured Gardens in Bury* charity event. On Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th June 2011 several superb gardens were on view including the new garden outside Ramsbottom Civic Hall. This specimen alpine garden was built for the enjoyment of the local community by the Alpine Garden Society working with Bury Council. The Society, which had been approached by the *Friends of Rams bottom Civic Hall* has held its monthly meetings at the Hall for twenty five years.
The project at Ramsbottom Civic Hall (on the raised bed running alongside the back of the building) was recognised at the Alpine Garden Society as a Society project under the leadership of John DOWER, Chair of the East Lancashire Alpine Garden Society. John DOWER and Eddie JONES were responsible for the briefing and supervision of the team of Alpine Garden Society members helping at the garden. The designation of the garden as an AGS project will support members in helping on future occasions.
The group visited Marshalls quarry where samples of local stone were made available. The company then supplied thirty to forty' pieces of stone to an agreed specification. Bury Council transported the stone to the site, repaired the hard landscaping and prepared the garden beds.
Bury Council gardener Terry TREEN and John DOWER took responsibility for the final selection and ordering of the plants whiles! the railings and commemorative gate for the short flight of steps, matching the ironwork of the

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

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

The Frank Woods Cup

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

Glimpses into local gardening History

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

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

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

SHOW DATES 2012

Ramsbottom Horticultural Society: Sunday 8th April, Monday 27th August and Sunday 7th October at Ramsbottom Cricket Club

Edenfield and District Horticultural Society: *Saturday 11th August, Saturday 22na September at St Philip's Hall, Chatterton*

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

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

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

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

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

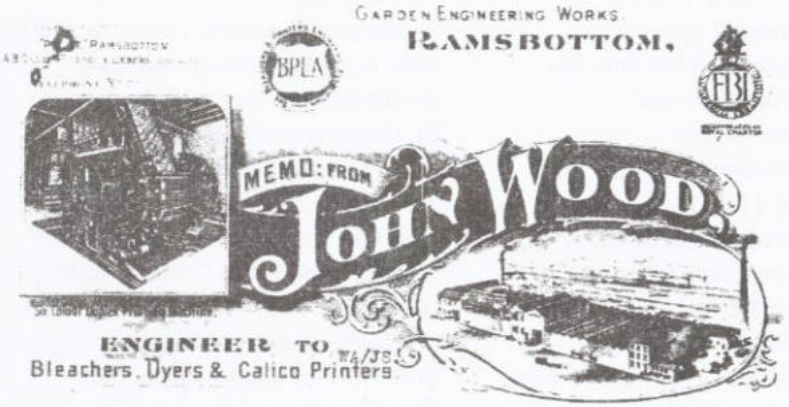
The names of international businesses surviving from 1927 feature in the collection. It is likely that the **Carborundum Co Ltd,** Trafford Park (in 1927 making abrasive and refractory materials and supplying Woods with 18s 6d worth of goods) was a founder company of the present Carborundum GB Ltd with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

Companies which we believe are still trading from their 1927 sites include felt and anti-corrosive paint manufacturers **D Anderson & Son Ltd** of Park Road Works, Stretford. They supplied WOODs with three one-hundredweight drums of paint at 67s each in 1927. The firm seem to be trading still as Anderson Waterproofing Limited. The similarly named W R Anderton & Co. Railway Iron Works. Manchester Road, Castleton who were engineers and millwrights in 1927 (with a Woods order costing £20). is now part of a

group of businesses. Nowadays the advertising for their work at Castleton mentions engineering and laser cutting machinery. Engineers' merchants **F R Smith** *&* Co, Daisy Bank Mill, Newton Heath, Manchester who supplied WOODs with a single order for two hundredweights of cleaning paste also seems to be still trading from their 1927 address. **William Pinder *&* Sons,** was listed at 7, Fenwick Street, Hulme, Manchester at the time when they supplied Woods with "scotch sandstones' and 'blue stones' to the value of £4 11s 4d. This address may have been the Manchester office of a firm of exactly the same name and line of business existing in Sheffield. William Pinder & Sons on the Sharston Industrial Estate, Manchester still supply doctor blades, files and engravers' accessories. A 'Lancaster Steam Trap' (1501bs superheated), ordered by Woods and costing £8 11s 6d, was supplied direct to F W Grafton & Co Ltd, Broad Oak Print Works, Accrington by Pendleton company **Lancaster *&* Tonge Ltd.** They were engineers, iron and brass founders. The company name is still in use by an Oldham business but websites give no details of present activities.

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

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



9th. October, 1930.

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

Dear Mr. Jack,

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

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

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

Hoping to see you before long.

Yours faithfully,

Company Name	Address
Barlow and Chidlaw Ltd	Pendleton Gear Works, Manchester
Wm Oxley & Co Ltd	Park Gate Steel Works, Rotherham
Samuel Robinson	St George's Chambers, 2 Rook St, M/cr
Joseph Webb & Sons Ltd	Irwell Forge and Rolling Mills, Bury
F Ford-Smith Ltd	Ordsall Hall Iron Works, Salford
John Heaton	54, Corporation Street, Manchester
Armstrong Stevens & Son	Whittall Street, Birmingham
R & J Dick Ltd	77, Bridge Street, Deansgate, M/cr
Muntz's Metal Company Ltd	Selly Oak Works, Birmingham
Fenton Bros & Tarpey	Market Street, Bury + Croston Works
Holt & Bury Ltd	Ormerod Street, Rawtenstall
William Pinder	7, Fenwick Street, Hulme, M/cr
Thomas Goldsworthy & Son	Britannia Emery Mills, Hulme, M/cr
Jackson Bros	Technical Works, Armley, Leeds
J Casartelli & Sons Ltd	18, Brown Street, Market Street, M/cr
S S Stott & Co	Laneside Foundry, Haslingden
R M Walker	16, Palmes Street, Moss Side, M/cr
Schofields Foundry Company	Littleborough
C C Dunkerley & Co Ltd	Store Street Warehouses, M/cr
Thomas Oldham	Wellington Boiler Works, Stockport
John Bibby, Sons & Co Garston Lt	Garston Copper Works, Garston, Liverpool
James Hargreaves	Pippin Bank Mill, Bacup
W H Bailey & Co Ltd	Albion Works, Oldfield Road, Salford
William Allen (Manchester) Ltd	Union Brass & Iron Works, Gt Ancoats St
William Park & Co	Wigan
Hardman & Co Ltd	The Baum, Yorkshire Street, Rochdale
Walter Phillips	Eureka Brush Works, Accrington
David Moseley & Sons Ltd	Chapel Field Works, Ardwick, M/cr
Whittaker Hall & Co Ltd	Black Lane Engineering Works, Radcliffe
Sanderson Bros & Newbould, Ltd	Attercliffe Steelworks, Sheffield
John Wolstenholme & Son Ltd	Albert Iron & Brass Works, Radcliffe
John Tinline Ltd	Heywood Street & Parker Street, Bury
T M Birkett & Sons Ltd	Hanley, Staffordshire
James Robertshaw & Sons Ltd	Climax Works, Church St, Rochdale Rd
J Eric Fearnley & Co	Dorset Street, Bolton

Type of work carried out by company	No of invoices	Total paid ou
ngineers - machine cut gearing specialists estab 1846	29	£150
anufacturers of steel files and rasps, steel hammers etc	8	£12
eneral factor - tools, bolts, engineers' stores	7	£4
on & steel manufacturers and merchants estab 1846	7	£40
stab 1872	6	£60
oal contractor	5	£97
ounded 1835	4	£4
akers of driving belts	4	£5
anufacturers of brass + copper tubes, yellow metal etc	4	£64
rysalters, manufacturers paint, oils, varnishes, grease	4	£20
rinters, account book makers, stationers	3	£4
e makers, engravers, accessories, steel merchants	3	£5
anufacturers of emery & glass cloths, agents for glues	3	£5
athematical instruments, drawing office requisites	3	£10
pticians and scientific instrument makers estab 1790	3	£14
ngineers, makers of stationary engines	3	£15
ngineers' tools	3	£16
akers of cast iron and malleable iron castings	3	£21
on and steel stockholders	3	£24
oiler and gasometer maker	2	£111
anufacturers of copper, yellow metal, naval brass	2	£126
otton waste, rags, engine cleaning waste estab c1820	2	£7
umps, compressors, valves, testers, recorders, gauges	2	£7
ngineers, brass and iron founders	2	£8
on and steel merchants, forgemasters, spades, shovels	2	£8
holesale electrical factors	2	£9
holesale brush manufacturers estab 1863	2	£24
dia rubber manufacturers	1	£2
ngineers	1	£7
ucible cast steel, files estab 1776	1	£5
ydraulic, mechanical and electrical engineers	1	£83
one sawing, moulding mills, timber yards, saw mills	1	£8
eam and water fittings, boiler mountings estab 1882	1	£8
ases, crates, bundles, parcels, packages	1	£11
achinery and metal merchant	1	£26

total of £107. Stewarts & Lloyds moved to Corby, Northamptonshire in 1932. F it* company's end came with the second steel industry[7] nationalisation in !%7 and they were then part of British Steel. The Corby site closed in 1980. The **Broughton Copper Co Ltd**, Broughton Copper Works, Manchester were copper smelters and manufacturers from whom WOODs bought nearly £M>0 worth of goods in 1927. In 1934 the works went to ICI Metals but were closed in 3954/5 after ICI chose Kirby, Liverpool as their new copper tube plant. There is an invoice (with no company address) for 12s 6d to WOODs from **Metrovick Supplies Ltd.**

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

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STUBBINS PRINTWORKS/ STUBBINS PAPER MILL

Early in 2011 the Heritage Society was contacted by a member of staff from the Georgia Pacific Corporation at Stubbins. They were celebrating a centenary of papermaking at the mill and requested help from the Society regarding its history. This article is based on the research 1 carried out in the summer of 2011.

The present mill stands on the old Stubbing Estate. After the Norman Conquest the land became part of the Honor of Clitheroe, which was a big feudal estate belonging to the de LACY family, Earls of Lincoln. The name of Stubbins originates from the old English word meaning 'land covered in tree stumps'.
In 1540 the sixteen acre estate was bought by Thomas WARBURTON from Richard RAMSBOTTOM and it contained several farms. Most farmers of that period supplemented their income by textile manufacture. They would spin and weave the wool in the farmhouse and sell the finished cloth. During the eighteenth century many of the farmers abandoned the land and relied solely on textile making for their livelihood.
The estate changed hands a few times until the end of the 18th century when, in about 1781, it was purchased by the Reverend DEAN and enlarged to 28 acres. In 1785 Charles LEIGH leased part of the Stubbins estate and built a calico print works on the site. He used water from the stream, which ran down from the hills above, for the printing process. Unfortunately he became bankrupt after three years and the works was empty until 1795 when Samuel MILNER from Manchester and Thomas SANDIFORD from Blackburn, also calico printers, rented the site. They were responsible for constructing the weir across the stream at Buckden Clough and the lodges and reservoirs behind the printworks. The SANDIFORD family ran the printworks until the 1840s. In 1851 another calico printer, David GREENHALGH, who had previously lived and worked in Barcelona, took over the printworks and together with his partner, Thomas KENYON, employed about forty people. Later, when KENYON left, GREENHALGH was joined in a partnership by William RUMNEY and by 1861 the workforce had grown to almost 275 people. This partnership was dissolved during the 1860s and William RUMNEY acquired the business and estate. Like GREEN HALGH, RUMNEY and his family lived at Stubbins House. David GREENHALGH died in 1871. Under RUMNEY the business expanded rapidly and he also operated at mills in Shuttleworth, Ramsbottom and Bury. RUMNEY built houses for his workers in Stubbins Street and Stubbins Fold. RUMNEY died in 1882 but the company remained in business. In 1899 they joined the Calico Printers Association but shortly afterwards the works was closed for 're-modelling'. Unfortunately it never re-opened. About three hundred people lost their jobs and were forced to move from the area to find work elsewhere. The works remained empty for a number of years and many of the buildings were demolished. In 1906 Richard and Austin PORRITT bought the remaining

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

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

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

Times of Saturday 23rd August 1969 reported that papermaking was to re-start at Stubbins. It went on to say [1]during the past 12 months part of the mill interior has been almost completely rebuilt to house new machinery which will produce facial and toilet tissues and towelling Filters and engineers
from Walmsleys (Bury) Ltd are busy installing a Walmsley tissue machine which they have supplied and which is fitted with a huge 'Yankee ' drying cylinder weighing 75 tons which took one hour to transport by road from Bury to Stubbins recently disrupting traffic as il made its snail-like progress to the mill.' The site became known as 'Sterling Stubbins'.
The company continued to expand and in 1971 they bought the converting operation of Mansell Hunt & Catty at Horwich and became known as Sterling Mansell. À twin wire tissue machine was added in 1976 when the milks output was around 35.000 tonnes. In the early 1980s, the paper mill, in an effort to reduce costs, experimented with recycling waste paper and developed a de-inking plant and pulp processing plant, to enable it to produce tissue products from waste paper by using recycling technology. At this time the Fort Howard Corporation, a large American based recycled tissue operation, expressed an interest in Sterling Stubbins and Sterling Mansell and bought a share of the business in 1982, acquiring total ownership in 1984. The two companies then became known as Fort Sterling Limited. After more investment and upgrades to the machinery' output was increased to in excess of 50,000 tonnes. In 1993 Fort Sterling's £70 million two-year expansion programme at Stubbins Paper Mill was successfully completed on schedule and there was an official opening of the new plant during the summer of that year. In 1997 Fort Howard merged with James River, an American company and created 'Fort James'. Three paper making machines were operational, producing 100,000 tonnes of tissue per annum.
In the year 2000 the Georgia Pacific Corporation acquired Fort James and they still manufacture tissue paper at Stubbins Paper Mill today.

Kath Haddock

Sources:
RHS Collection held at Bury Archives.
John SIMPSON, *A History of Edenfield and District* (Edenfield Local History Society 2003)
Bury Times, 3rd November 1962, 15th April 1967, 23rd August 1969 and 19th February 1993
Rams bottom Observer 17th March 1911 and 30th December 1932

OBITUARIES
DOROTHY MOSS

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

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

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

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

As a beginner-chairman of our new' society, I had a lot to learn. Dorothy would ease me in the right direction at committee meetings with a discreet 'Mr Chairman, 1 wonder whether '. . She was a stickler for due protocol, quickly offering the vote of thanks that I omitted when the Rev RR CARMYLL1E, at Dorothy's invitation, addressed our first public meeting! And when 1 wrote to the *Bury Times* as chairman castigating Thwaites

Brewery for ripping out the town's last Victorian bar room at the *Clarence Hotel,* she gently explained in committee how I had to speak for the Society, not for Andrew TODD! Perhaps we represented different strands of the heritage movement: 1 saw that tourism would bring increased property values and therefore pressure to 'develop' the town, whereas Dorothy foresaw the potential divisiveness of conservation, pitting those who owned from those who wanted to preserve.

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

I watched the Armistice celebration at 11 am in the Memorial Gardens that Friday, 11th 'November 2011; then an hour later, those black horses and that traditional glass-sided hearse. Suddenly it struck me things had fallen just right - she was centre stage for once! Well done, Dorothy, Ramsbottom's funeral of the century so far, and on a once-in-100-year day -11th day, llth month, 11th year! An hour later, Dorothy was buried at the town's cemetery. This is a magical place, a different type of community'. Here, the living often chat casually across the grave plots they are visiting, brought together by their connections with community that went before. And 1 was delighted to see Dorothy's grave just a few steps from my mother's. So, I can have the odd word with her too. on mv visits.

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

Andrew Todd

JENNIFER MARY BEECH 1948 -201 2

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

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

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

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

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

She will be missed.

Jean Spencer, friend and neighbour

PETER BOWKER

ln November we learned of the death of Peter BOWKER, then living in Bamford, who had been a member for a number of years, with an interest particularly in family history. We are indebted to Peter's widow June for details of his life. Peter was born in Heywood on 29th August 1937, was schooled at Bullough Moor School, and Heywood Grammar, where he became head boy, taking a keen interest in sports and theatricals, joining the Scouts, gaining his Queen's Scout Badge, rising to become Senior Scout Leader, and earning a Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Medallion in the swimming pool. Peter's National Service was spent in the Military Police Force, largely in Gibraltar, where he played water polo for the army, and also had his meticulously polished boots inadvertently stepped upon by the Duke of Edinburgh as Peter held open a car door for him. He was later to meet Princess Alexandra, on presentation of his MA in Systems Management, and Princess Anne, at Marlborough House, where she hosted a BESO Garden Party. In his 20's he joined Round Table, serving for a period as Chairman. His later working life, 35 years, was spent with 1CÏ, at Blackley where he rose to be Head of Work Study Department, later moving to Management Services Department at the Hexagon House Headquarters. During his life Peter ensured his children led as active a life as possible, taking part in sporting activities, and he also found time to engage in family history[7] research, with ancestry locally in Ramsbottom, Holcombe Brook, Hawkshaw and Tottington.

Tony Murphy

NORMAN KAY

In October 2011 we learned of the death of Norman KAY, then living in Sheffield, a member of the Society from its earliest days. He may not now have been known personally by many local people but he would have been familiar to all by name from contributions to Society publications including his introduction to the world of work *(Ramsbottom Reminiscences* vol 1 1992,). RHS news magazines have also featured articles by Norman: early 1930[5]s achievements of the football team of St Joseph's School, Ramsbottom (Summer 1993), parish activities at St: Joseph's between the wars (Spring/Summer 2004) and a moving piece about the impact on the Kenyon Street area and the Kay family, of the River Irwell flood of 1936 (Spring 2008).

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

GEOFFREY ASTEN (31st March 1939 - 1st December 2011)

Geoff ASTEN was very active member of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society for many years, eventually joining both the committee and the audio-taping team. He was always willing to volunteer and was meticulous in presenting his well-planned ideas to the committee. He also made a very notable contribution to the current exhibition in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery, with his specialist knowledge of dyes for printing fabric. Geoff, and son Kevin, also took part in the archaeological dig at Kibboth Crew.
Bom in Rochdale, he was the elder of twin brothers and from being a boy he sang in the choir in Rochdale Parish Church. Having gained a degree in chemistry at Manchester University he worked in the laboratories of firms in Rochdale, Widnes and Bury, until after redundancy at the age of forty five, Geoff trained to be a teacher. Geoff loved family life and was a keen walker. He married Pat in 1966 and they had three children Yvonne, Kevin and the youngest Paul who now' who lives in Australia. Geoff was also very close to Hannah, his granddaughter. It was when he was visiting Paul that Geoff had his first heart attack in 2009, but after heart surgery he was fit and regularly did his exercises with Middleton Heartline. It was therefore a great shock when Geoff sadly collapsed and died.
We will miss his friendship and his contribution to many activities in the RHS very greatly indeed.

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

Bury Museum and Archive, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG tel: 0161 253 6782
Email: archives@bury.gov.uk Website: www.bury.gov.uk/archives
Opening Hours:

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

We ask that people get in touch to make an appointment in advance of any visit to the archives as these opening hours could be restricted at short notice due to staffing levels.
Our new searchroom features large reading tables, computer and internet access, microfiche readers and access to Picture Memories. Paper catalogues are available in the searchroom and in Reference and Information Services, Bury Library. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time, and we hold details of researchers in the area who offer fee based services. The building has lift and ramp access, lockers and public toilets. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan.

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

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

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE
tel 0161 253 5352 (IT -tel 0161 253 5354) email: Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk
The library boasts a state-of-the-art IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the last Thursday of every month (except December) from 3pm to 7pm.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2012

Guided circular walks

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

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

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

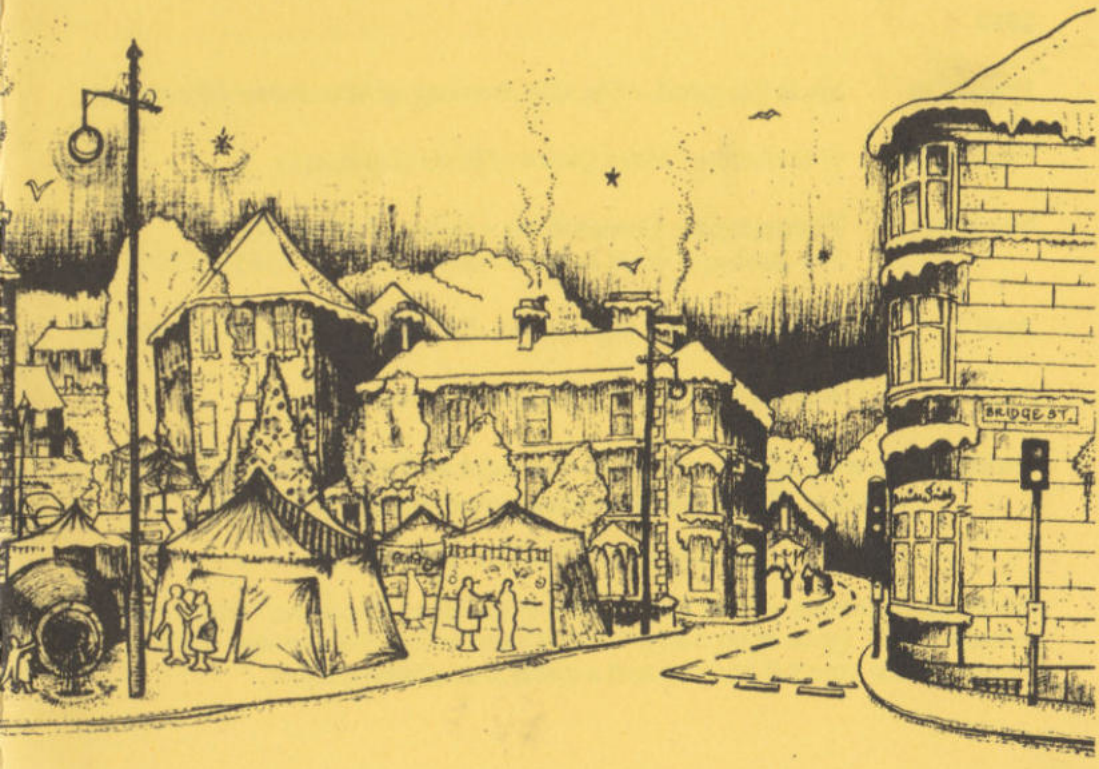
Sunday 27th May	***The Industry of the Kirklees Valley*** 4 to 5 mile circular walk. Mostly level with some uneven pathways. Meet at Greenmount Old School at 2pm. Leader – Marjorie Knight
Sunday 24th June	***To Burrs and Back*** 4 mile circular walk. Meet at the rear of Summerseat School & Church at 2pm. Leader – Linda de Ruijter
July	**No walk**
Sunday 26th Aug	***Some Pubs & Clubs of Ramsbottom*** Learn about the changing face of the drinking scene. Meet at 2pm at the *Grant Arms*, Ramsbottom. Leader – Andrew Todd
Sunday 23rd Sept	***Upper Redisher Wood: Was this the Original Holcombe?*** 2 to 3 mile circular walk. Partly gradual hilly climb. Meet at 2pm at the *Shoulder of Mutton* car park. Leader – John Ireland

For more details contact Linda 01706 827602

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 43 Autumn/Winter 2012 ISSN 0960 - 1244



RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 28 1998

The objects of the society shall be:-

a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).

b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.

c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom

PROGRAMME:

2012

November 21 Mrs Jean Seymour – *The Larks of Dean*

December 12 **Social Evening** – Christmas Festivities

2013

January 16 Mr H Campbell – *The IRA Bombing of Manchester* (illustrated)

February 20 G Eccleston – *Mary Queen of Scots* (illustrated)

March 20 **Photographic Competition** – judge – Andrew Todd
The Railway Comes to Ramsbottom – Twice - 1846 & 1987

April 17 Dr Paul Hindle – *Manchester, Bury & Bolton Canal* (Illustrated)

May 15 **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.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine 43 Autumn/Winter 2012

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Cover – Market Place, Ramsbottom by the late John B Taylor

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's been a great year for the *Feel-good Factor.* We have had The Queen's Jubilee, the Olympics and Paralympics and, admittedly not quite on the same scale, we held the Ramsbottom Heritage Society 25th Anniversary Extravaganza on May 12th, perhaps our major success so far this year. We even had a queue at the doors when it opened at 12 noon. Nearly forty of you helped, including several very new members and your support shows just how involved we all feel in die society and how much it means to us. This time last year we asked how you would like to celebrate our Anniversary Year and at the Christmas Festivities you came up with lots of suggestions. Well, most of these have been done as requested. However there is still the Christmas celebration and I know we are in for a good time.

The new exhibition in the Heritage Gallery is *Shop Local Shop Ramsbottom - A 200 Year History* and again we have both longstanding and newer members preparing it and subsequently opening the Gallery to the public on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The system of having teams to staff the Gallery has been in operation for eighteen months now. It helps us make new friends who become ambassadors for the Heritage Society. Bridge Street shopkeepers have really welcomed posters we have produced to accompany the gallery exhibition and have placed them in their shop windows. The posters show the history of each individual building. Whilst delivering them to the shops we received the loan of a laminator to make the posters more durable, a £10 donation, a framed photograph, offers to view several sets of deeds and a tour round all four floors of 9c and 9d, Bridge Street.

Some of our activities require considerable fortitude. Producing the magazine and finding Wednesday night speakers is a continual task. The Jubilee Signs Project described elsewhere in this magazine still requires extensive work and we do not know yet if we will get Heritage Lottery Funding. This autumn it's also been back to work after a well-earned break for the archiving group and we have new volunteers to look after the artefacts and paintings. The Ramsbottom War News sold well over twelve hundred copies again this year and the team producing it started researching 1942 a couple of months ago.

Whilst our guided summer walks are not due to start again until well into 2013, we would be grateful if someone would offer to organise these. We are grateful to Linda de Ruijter who has retired from the task after many years.

All our varied activities promote the work of the Heritage Society, by researching the history of the town and bringing this new knowledge to the public. Whilst it does require commitment and a quite lot of hard work, it is good fun and is a great way for us to get to know each other The feet that we often receive appreciative comments and enquiries, and we have had a lot of new members this year, makes it all worthwhile So, yet again, I have the pleasure of thanking all for your involvement and for making the society the success it is.

Kate Slingsby

EMILY BADGER - AN APPRECIATION

Members living locally will be aware that the Society's monthly open meetings are publicised in advance by several means - not only by the 'What's on in Bury' quarterly programme of events of Bury Council, or by Society press release, but also by A4 sized posters strategically placed at several retail and commercial outlets around the town.

In the Society's early days the posters were hand drawn on coloured paper by David Moss, but more recently they have been computer-produced in a mix of colour and black and white by near neighbour young Emily Badger.

Emily has also devoted time to other Society activities, helping to mail Notices of AGM, and, notably, selling raffle tickets at Christmas social evenings - who could resist the appeal of a charming young lady!

Well, Emily has now left us and gone off to university to read chemistry. We thank her sincerely for her endeavours and wish her well in her studies and future career.

Joan and Tony Murphy

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY EXTRAVAGANZA - 12th MAY 2012

Held to celebrate the Society's 25th Anniversary, this event was a brilliant day out for the people of Ramsbottom and everyone else who is interested in local history', archaeology and conservation. It was held at Ramsbottom Civic Hall and there were plenty of interesting things to see and do for all age groups, including local artefacts, pictures of *Ramsbottom Then and Now,* historical photos brought to life in 3D, children's activities and demonstrations of book restoration. New issues of the Society's news magazine and the *Ramsbottom War News* were among the publications on sale at the bookstall and greetings cards specially designed for the Society by the late John B Taylor were available for the first time. Members of The Dickens Society also added to the interest and there were local history films and audio-taped memories. The talk and slide show on the origin of the railway in Ramsbottom by Andrew Todd was excellent - in fact we sat through it twice! We don't think the people of the town realise how the railway played a part in the everyday life of a small place like Ramsbottom, from the moving of coal and many other goods to the fact that it linked most of the towns in the Lancashire cricket league with most supporters travelling by train to league matches. Does anyone remember travelling in the guards' van with prams and young children?

We took some of our own old photographs of Ramsbottom to the event. These included ones of our father's shop on the comer of Nuttall Lane in the early 1900s when it had belonged to our grandfather. Others showed the floats at Ramsbottom Carnival: Carr Butchers with sheep on the back of the float (where was Health and Safety?), the BDA (Bradford Dyers Association) with all the colourful lining materials on it and also Edison's Plant Hire of Dundee Lane. How many people remember them causing havoc on Dundee Lane with the low loaders forty or so years

ago? Those were the days. John Leyland scanned most of our photos so maybe some of you will see them. They caused a lot of interest and later as we sat having a coffee, other visitors were asking to have a look. Later, we found Holcombe resident, John Ireland, sitting in a comer with the photos. He was absolutely fascinated with them, especially the ones of Holcombe Church before the lych-gate was built.

And so we came to the end of our visit and a very enjoyable day for both of us but it didn't quite finish there. One big question of the day had been, "Where is Kiln Street?" Brenda Richards had a photo of it on her stand but no one had seemed to know. We certainly didn't and although most people thought they had seen it they didn't know either. Andrew Todd even got old reference books out but still hadn't pinpointed it. When we got in the car, out came the trusty A to Z and, sure enough, there was Kiln Street. It is a side street between Dundee Lane and Garnett Street, across from Dundee United Reform Church. Not to be outdone, off we went to see it and to take a couple of photos. We also noticed that the street sign is attached to 38, Dundee Lane which is called Kiln Cottage. (We have lived on Bolton Road West all our lives and just five minutes walk away is a street we never noticed before.) Now the question is, "Why are they called Kiln Street and Kiln Cottage?" We have asked quite a few local people since and got one or two ideas but if anyone thinks they may know, please contact the Heritage Society. As the saying goes, you can learn something every day.

We thank everyone involved with the event for all the hard work they did to make it so interesting. We love our little town, which is nestled in the Rossendale Valley and, judging by our day at the Extravaganza, so do a lot more people. Well done to the Heritage Society for making everyone so welcome. Another question is, "When is their next celebration?"

Betty Chapman (nee Barcroft) and Ian Chapman (mother and son)

As part of the May 12th Extravaganza visitors were invited to choose their three favourite photographs from a selection of 50 winning entries from 25 years of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society Photographic Competition. The results were close:

1st	*Peel Tower illuminated* by Robin Sharpies	1992
2nd	*Cross Lane, Holcombe* by Brian Clarke	2010
3rd	*Holcombe Moor* by John O'Connor	2008
4th	*Ramsbottom Wharf* by Alice O'Brien	2007

NEWS FROM THE WEBSITE

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's website has now been active for more than twelve years, having been set up to publicise the Millennium Festival, which the Society helped to organise in 2000. During the twelve years we know that many members have been exploring its contents and that it has also been popular with a

much wider public. Since our last *News from the Website* in News Magazine number 32 (Spring 2007) an impressive amount of extra material has been added and the number of links has been increased so that it contains lots more interesting information. The site is often updated so it is well worth visiting it on a regular basis. Since 2000, the website has been expanded to include many sections: There is a calendar and news section, which publicises the latest events, a monthly meetings page with details of the upcoming meetings, a section featuring the latest exhibition at the Heritage Gallery, and a shop page, which promotes the publications for sale, and has resulted in several sales over the years, some from overseas. We have also had membership enquiries via the website from overseas, the latest from Australia.
There is also research material, including the Crow Lane project, the Kibboth Crew Dig, and research into the connection between Dickens and the Cheeryble Brothers, which was featured at the 25th Anniversary Extravaganza held in May 2012. The public are also invited to submit questions, and also to answer previous questions raised. To date, over sixty questions have been asked, with several receiving answers, for which the questioners have been grateful. Have a look sometime, to see if you can answer any of the questions.
A major project in the last few years has been the addition of the first twenty five RHS news magazines which have all been scanned in. They are all available for reading and downloading. Another major project has been the scanning of over 4,000 photographs, both from the archives and the Society's annual photographic competition. These are also available on the website, searchable by the description of the photograph. There is also a link to the work performed by the archiving team, in cataloguing all the documents and artefacts, and which is held on the Bury Archives database. The website is constantly evolving, so if you have any ideas for any items that could be displayed, use the contact page or see John Leyland. The address is *www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk.*

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY 2011 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION
Judge - Barry Aldous

Events and Daily Life
Winner: Ian Summers *Mothering Sunday* *HPC-11EV-002*
Buildings
Winner: Ian Summers *Rear of Horse & Jockey* *HPC-11BU-003*
Highly Commended: Joyce Sellers *Taken from the Bridge* *HPC-11BU-013*
Town and Country Landscapes
Winner: Alan Seymour *The Old Mondi Paper Mill HPC-11TC-003*
Highly Commended: Kathy Stott *Flower Beds* *HPC-11TC-013*
Themes
Winner: Joyce Sellers *Chocolate Festival Weekend* HPC-11TH-071 to 075 (5 photos)

Highly Commended: Brenda Richards Producing and Selling the War News
HPC-11TH-09! to 095 (5 photos)
Ian Smith Launch of the St Paul's 'Save Our Spire Campaign '
HPC-11TH-041 to 045 (5 photos)
Dickensian Trophy
Brian Clarke Image 5 from the *Peel Tower* theme HPC-11TH-085

References are to the Photographic Competition database. All the entries from the 25 years of the competition and 2000 older photos at Bury Archives are available on the RHS website: *www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk*
The deadline for entries to the 2012 competition is January 31st 2013. Entry forms are available on the website. You can also collect an entry form from the Heritage Gallery when members are in attendance (see page 20 for details) or at monthly meetings.

CONSERVATION REPORT
Signs To The Past: Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Jubilee Project
The coincidence of the Society's silver jubilee this year with a certain diamond event prompted a number of us to consider ways in which we could commemorate these milestones with something tangible and of value. These sentiments coincided with a nagging concern of many Ramsbottom people that there are many unsigned footpaths, streets, alleyways and locations which do not figure on modem maps.
We all have our favourite examples - those of us involved with the archaeological dig at Kibboth Crew (and the ongoing attempt to publish our findings about this 400 year old site) are aware of the quaintly named trackway. Gutter, aka **Gutter Lane,** which runs to Kibboth Crew from Carr Street, just below the *Rose and Crown.* We now realise that this was the arterial routeway along which packhorses, and possibly carts, brought woollen cloth to and from the secluded fulling mill at Kibboth Crew. Yet no written source of recent years names this ancient thoroughfare, and there is no sign anywhere on its route. **Grant's Entry,** which runs from Bolton Street up to 'Tory Town' (Albert and Victoria Streets) is now a name known to a diminishing number of local people - we believe it took its name from Major J S W Grant, who lived at the adjacent *Spring Cottage.* Then there is **Draba Brow,** which connects Silver Street with Prince Street.
A number of buildings are fast becoming a lost memory - like **St Andrew's Presbyterian Church,** once at the top of Kay Brow, and the nearby **Primitive Methodist Chapel** at Rose Hill, opposite that historical play area, **The Green** (the Major Hotel's car park). Several churches in the town have disappeared or been converted to secular uses. The existence of the **apprentice house** at the foot of Crow Lane has perhaps understandably been banished from collective memory for over a century. Now three terraced cottages, at right angles to Crow Lane, this fascinating

building accommodated the pauper apprentices at **Ramsbottom Mill** from **1**802 to the 1830s.

Localities such as **Kibboth Crew** and **Carr Fold,** both to the north of Carr Street, and now little-known, whilst the mediaeval **Gollinrod** has become subsumed in the newcomer name Red Hall, following the loss of its road signs during the construction of the M66 in the late 1970s.

To see how much popular support there might be for the erection of signs and information boards to counter this local dementia, Brenda Richards produced and distributed a survey. Around 130 returned by individuals, groups and retailers. There was a unanimous endorsement for the idea of heritage signs for old thoroughfares, and only one voice dissented from the proposal to erect information boards at the sites of historic buildings which are either disappeared or lost their original use. Many sites that we had not considered were proposed in the returns. The total number is now so large the town would be festooned with signs and boards if some pruning the list were not undertaken.

To create a shortlist and check feasibility, Brenda, Kate Slingsby and myself have visited virtually all the sites, have photographed the most promising and are currently awaiting costings. We intend to submit an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Our remit will be to preserve names and history for residents and visitors through a series of high-quality, vandal-resistant signs and boards. Ultimately, we hope to design some town trails to draw these sites together, into their historical context.

Andrew Todd

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT TURNBULL PRINTS LTD

At the Ramsbottom Heritage Society's April meeting members were invited to join a group visit to Turnbull Prints and see the exciting developments at their site in Stubbins. The company has established a 'state of the art' high-speed digital unit at Croftend Mill to complement their specialist printing operations in Thailand.

On display were traditional Turnbull fabric designs which were being prepared for an exhibition in Italy and are highly regarded by an international client base. The design development department combines traditional techniques with computer aided design (CAD) workstations. Work is also carried out to produce commissions of non- Turnbull designs. At one station samples which had been printed were being matched to the original design by checking for the correct shade and intensity of the colours. Natural fibres and those with a small percentage of man-made fibre content, e.g. 6%, can be printed on the new digital printing machine. Linen, cotton and silk have already been tried successfully. Fabric to be printed has to be carefully checked beforehand as even small faults can damage die print heads. It is then run over an applicator which gives it a coating of adhesive. This also opens up the 'pores' in the cloth to allow more dye to be absorbed. Next, the fabric runs between a roller and a belt made of silicone rubber (a material which withstands high temperatures).

Pressure is applied to the roller which causes the fabric to adhere to the belt. The belt and the fabric then pass together under the print heads which are moved across them from side to side while applying the ink. The machine's print system software interprets the data supplied by a digital file. The digital image has the data to control the output of the micro-sized droplets of ink so that image quality and colour control can be achieved. This process takes place with sixty four print heads firing the droplets of colour in a fine, carefully controlled mist. The heads move quickly, enabling production speeds of several hundred metres per hour.
The newly printed fabric is lifted off the silicone rubber belt and passes through a dryer, after which it feels stiff. The process replaces the old engraved roller and screen-printing methods. (Turnbull's beautiful hand block printing is now carried out in Thailand where labour costs make this type of production viable.)
After printing the fabric is roiled up and taken to a second machine where it goes through a steam heating process to fasten the colours. A third machine contains tanks of water in which the adhesive and a small amount of excess ink are washed out before the fabric is dried over heated rollers. Having shrunk in width during washing, the fabric is then returned to the correct proportions during a 'stentering' process. Finally, an important inspection process follows, after which the goods are cut into smaller roll sizes of fifty metres prior to packing and despatch.

We are very grateful to Turnbull Prints for arranging the Society's visit and for their considerable contribution to the 2011-12 textile printing exhibition in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery. We wish the company every success with the new digital printing unit.
(Turnbull Prints has its origins in the local giant that was Turnbull & Stockdale. The present company, its staff and ex-employees of both companies are justifiably proud

of their work of over 130 years in textile manufacturing and the fabrics they have produced at their Stubbins premises. A small selection from their designs was featured in the Heritage Gallery display. Turnbull & Stockdale has been the subject of two RHS news magazine articles by Clyde Tweedale: The Stockdale Saga - Issue 5 Summer 1992 and The Turnbull Tale - Issue 7 Summer 1993, and they published a 'Jubilee Brochure' in 1931 tracing and celebrating fifty years in the textile industry. Articles in recent magazines include 'Block Printing' by Mr J E Reynerd in issue number 40 and 'Items from the Archive' and 'Design and Technology' in numbers 36 and 38 respectively which feature Mr C R Eccles information from the T&S design studio.)

ROYAL MEMORIES
My earliest memory of the Royal Family is from George VI and Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1937 - not that we saw anything of the actual event but soon afterwards we visited London. I can remember the elaborate decorations at the Selfridges store

and I have been a royalist ever since. Later, whilst at school at Haslingden, I did see the King and Queen when they came to Lancashire.
In 1947, because she had a cousin living in London, my mother was able to see the procession for the Queen's wedding to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten but I was only able to watch it on the newsreels.
At last, in 1953, my sister Edna and I travelled down to London ourselves for the Queen's coronation. We left Ramsbottom by train around midnight, reaching Euston at about 8.30am on Coronation Day itself. We were too late to get a place on The Mall so we went on to Birdcage Walk where we listened to the commentary and cheered the road sweepers, the soldiers and anything that passed! In spite of the rain we had a marvellous time and cheered as loudly as we could when we eventually saw the Queen wearing her crown as she returned from the Abbey. The Queen of Tonga was a star: riding in an open carriage, oblivious of the pouring rain - no umbrella, such a happy lady. Lots of people in the crowd had periscopes so we could see what was happening. In the evening we were down at Buckingham Palace when the Royal Family came on to the balcony.
In the 1970s I went to watch the Trooping of the Colour, a magical spectacle. 1977 saw Prince Charles visiting Bury. I 'waited on' for him at a dinner at Bury Town Hall, the royal gravy pourer - and this the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee! Later in 1977 Edna and I visited London for the Silver Jubilee and once again there were huge crowds everywhere. I remember clearly that the Queen was dressed in pink and wearing a little hat decorated with bells, a tiny figure way ahead of us on the palace balcony. For her Golden Jubilee celebrations, on a beautiful day in June 2002, my husband Alan and 1 were in The Mall for the finale. An exciting spectacle for us was the Royal Air Force fly past with over 20 aircraft and the BA Concorde in formation with the Red Arrows display team. Then we were down The Mall to see the balcony appearance.
This year, for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee I ventured to Accrington on a really cold day to see her with the Duke of Edinburgh on the Jubilee tour. I waited for four and a half hours but it was well worth it because we were on the front row of the crowd and had such a good view of them both. "Are you feeling better, Sir? 1 asked the Duke. "Better than I was," he replied.
All the memories are very special but how fortunate we now are that such occasions can be watched on television as they actually take place.
God save the Queen.

Doris Hibbert

THE CENTENARY OF HOLME MILL, RAMSBOTTOM (1912 - 2012)

The mill is now owned by Cormar Carpets who, over the years, have added large extensions on to the original building. The company also trade from their other manufacturing plant at Brookhouse Mill, Greenmount.



Cards drawn by the
and kindly donated to Ramsbottom

Packs containing all 4 cards now o





late John B. Taylor

Heritage Society for their sole use.

n sale from the Society at £3.50.



The History Of The Holme Mill Site.

When it was first built in 1912, Holme Mill was named after the 'holm' as the land where it stands was known. It is situated in a loop of the River Irwell which originally was water meadow. Following prolonged heavy rain, the level of the river rises dramatically and the area has been subject to some spectacular flash flooding over the years. Modem flood defences seem to have prevented water from entering the mill as it used to do in the past.

In 1849 it is reported that the moorland extending smith from Ramsbottom to Bolton, Bury and Rochdale was principally grazed by sheep with small dairy farms at lower levels, there being a demand for milk and butter. Down in the Irwell valley the land was suitable only for growing grass or turnips. John Grant (1775-1855) was the owner of Nuttall Hall which, until it was demolished inl952, stood across the park from Holme Mill. He was said to run a 'most progressive' farm. This probably means he had increased his livestock, but he seems to have had a rough-and ready way of dealing with certain matters. Reverend Hume Elliot in his book *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* which was written in 1893 but looks back to the heyday of the Grant family business at Square Mill. He mentions the holm (part of which eventually became the site of Holme Mill) and tells us:

> *In those days a foot-bridge over the Irwell, on the south side of the Square, connected the works with the path across the holm to Nuttall Hall One year that part of the holm opposite this foot-bridge was growing turnips, and Mr. John Grant one morning caught a young man carrying one of the tempting esculents into the works. By' way of punishment, he ordered the offender to eat it on the spot. He began, but by-and-by the wheels drove very heavily, and once and again he wished to be excused. But no, the master was inexorable. He stood over him with his walking-stick until root, bulb, tops, and all had been consumed. Then, with an admonition, he sent him to his work It was a somewhat drastic chastisement, and never forgotten. For years after, even the sight of a turnip was, if possible, avoided.*

After John Grant died his son William, often referred to as William Grant the nephew (1826-73) inherited the Grant estates and lived at Nuttall Hall with his wife Jane. After William's death the estates passed to his sister Isabella. She married Andrew Sherlock Lawson of Aldborough Manor, Yorkshire. When she died in 1890 the Grant Lawson estate passed to the second son Sir John Grant Lawson and then to her grandson Sir Peter Grant Lawson in 1919.

Holme Mill 1912 - 1973_Staff at Cormar Carpets, Ramsbottom Library and Bury Archive have been very helpful but we do not have enough material to construct a proper history of the mill before 1973. The Society's aim is to preserve and research the heritage of Ramsbottom, so we would welcome any documentary or photographic records which would fill the large gaps in the information below.

1912-13 The original part of Holme Mill was built, mainly in red brick on its

present site in a loop in the River Irwell. Its northern light roof is a good example of a weaving shed; looms were much heavier and created more vibration than spinning frames and weaving needed a good light, so single storey sheds were favoured. Set into its walls are two iron girders each cast with the mill's name and the date 1912 (In 1846 the railway line had divided up the land in the river's loop into two parts: the site where Holme Mill was eventually built and the area in front of Nuttall Hall which became Nuttall Park in 1928.)

1916 Holme Mill's lease sold to Messrs T H & F G Holden

1924 Holme Mill Manufacturing Company - a notice of resolution at Bury Archives (reference GRI/11/30) to appoint a liquidator and the document showing the appointment of E Wood to that position (ref GRI/11/31)

1925-59? The Rose Manufacturing Company (Ramsbottom) Ltd made a variety of cloths at Holme Mill, including winceyette, pure shirtings, cambrics, hair cords and cloths for bandages and dyeing.

1933-7 Holme Mill Manufacturing Co Ltd - receipts for their deeds (Bury Archive GRI/11/32)

1956- 66? Bury Felt Manufacturing Company. They merged with Mitchell, Ashworth & Stansfield to form Bury & Masco Industries.

1973 Holme Mill occupied by Holmbury Carpets. An earlier Holmbury advert states, "A carpet in the bedroom feels as good as a raise in wages" followed by "Holmbury Carpets - Inexpensive luxury for bedrooms". On 1st June 1973 Cormar Carpets purchased Holmbury' Carpets, production and offices from Bury and Masco Industries.

Cormar Carpets (Holme Mill) 1973 This period of Holme Mill's history was recorded in Issue 31 of the RHS News Magazine in Autumn 2006 when Cormar celebrated the company's Golden Jubilee.

RAMSBOTTOM PAPER MILL

J B Ingham & Son started to make paper here in 1857. Another paper mill was at Shuttleworth as early as 1849, registered in the names of Samuel Broadbent Ingham and James Broadbent Ingham. Their new mill at Ramsbottom was given the Excise Number 73. The company made casings and wrappings here from old bagging, jute and manila ropes. In 1872 the Inghams, trading as S B Ingham & Bros, agreed to sell their mill at Ramsbottom for £12,000 to a new public limited company which was formed to acquire it. Early that year subscriptions were invited to purchase shares in The Ramsbottom Paper Mill Co. Ltd. Prominent in the flotation were William Olive of Bury and Captain Edward Partington of Glossop, who were together involved in the substantial papermaking business of Olive & Partington at Glossop. (This business continued under that name until closure in 1950s.)

At this time wood pulp began to be used at Ramsbottom, as well as esparto straw and new rags, for making better class paper. The new company did well and before the end of the first year, machinery extensions were already under way.

Among the early shareholders were several notable local people - William Rumney of Stubbins, John Austin Porritt, James Porritt and Richard Millett Porritt, all felt cloth manufacturers of Stubbins Vale. Profits rose steadily to a level of £6,600 in 1876. Robert Skelton joined the company at its beginning when he was only 18, having worked at the nearby railway station. He became a prominent figure in the years following and a director in 1893.

Very little is known about the fate of the company in the following 20 years and in particular during the difficult period of 1883-86, but it certainly continued whilst others around it foiled. In 1885 a brand new 90inch paper machine built by Smith & Law of Bury was installed. This machine continued to run for 89 years, closing for the last time in 1974. In his book *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers,* the Reverend Hume Elliot makes reference to 'the greatly extended and improved premises' of The Ramsbottom Paper Mill Co., Ltd. He goes on to say that 'their works employ 250 people and now constitute an important factor in the material wellbeing of the town'. The mill had its own railway sidings, signal box and turntable to take goods into the mill yard.

In 1895, 230 electric lights were switched on at the mill, this being the first appearance in Ramsbottom of one of the most important 20th Century inventions. The lights had taken four months to install and ranged from 16 candle power to 50 candle power (on the outside of the building) with 2 arc lights in the colour mixing department which, according to the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 26th January 1895 'gave illumination almost equal to daylight'.

Due to capital reconstruction, in 1896 it was decided to put the company into voluntary liquidation and to form a new company with exactly the same name. Edward Partington was appointed Chairman, Thomas Aitken, Deputy Chairman and Robert Skelton, Secretary. William Olive was no longer involved. Early in 1896 the Irwell & Mersey Joint Committee gave notice to the mill that pollution must be abated within two months. This situation recurred over a few years and eventually the mill had to give up the cooking of raw straw and esparto and any other material that required boiling. Expensive plant had to be put down for the pumping of the effluent. Apparently the colour of the River Irwell had varied according to the colour of paper being produced at the mill!

By 1914 Edward Partington had been knighted and shortly before his death was elevated to the peerage, taking the title 'Lord Doverdale'. Robert Skelton retired in 1919 and died in 1929. In 1921 the company reported a loss - the pulp and paper market had collapsed. The mill had mixed fortunes over the following years -- the General Strike and Coal Dispute of 1926 caused the mill to run intermittently because of irregular supplies of coal and during the 1930s there were adverse conditions with a

shortage of orders and unsatisfactory selling prices. During the years following World War II the Ramsbottom company was able to share in the better times that generally blessed the paper industry up to the signing of the European Free Trade Agreement in 1959 which opened the British market to the full force of Scandinavian competition. An advertisement for Ramsbottom Paper Mill Company Limited appears in the 1948 *Ramsbottom Official Guide* - this states they were 'manufacturers of all types of coloured papers with plain, embossed or mottled finishes'.

In 1964 tiie mill was sold to the Liverpool Daily Post *&* Echo Ltd. during the next three years, the mill traded under the name of Holcombe Paper Mill Co. Ltd and then in 1968 became part of Trinity Paper Mills Ltd. According to an advertisement in the 1971 *Ramsbottom Official Guide,* Trinity Paper Mills Ltd, Peel Bridge, Ramsbottom (Head Office - Churchgate House, Bolton) manufactured 'all grades of paper for the corrugated carton industry'. In 1992 Danisco, a Danish Paper Packing company, took over from Trinity Paper Mills Ltd., and ten years later, in 2002, it was acquired by Mondi Packaging - an international paper and packaging group with key interests in Western Europe, Russia and South Africa.

The headlines on the front of the *Bury Times* (Ramsbottom & Tottington Edition) of 25th September 2008 was 'Paper Mill Jobs Blow'. The article went on to say that 'a historic Ramsbottom mill is facing closure which would cause the loss of 90 jobs. Crippling energy costs and other operational difficulties were blamed for the closure'. Unfortunately, during recent months, a lot of the paper mill buildings have been demolished and we can only await news of the fete of the site, the chimney and the very attractive 19th Century stone offices which have been a landmark in Ramsbottom for more than 150 years. The office building, near the chimney bears the date '1859' with a date and initials '1875 - R.P.M.' on the old engine house.

Kath Haddock

Sources:
John B. Taylor, Stories in Stone - Datestones in Rams bottom 1991
Denis Lyddon and Peter Marshal, *Paper in Bolton* 1975
Ramsbottom Heritage Collection held at Bury Archives
Reverend Hume Elliot, The Country & Church of the Cheeryble Brothers 1893

RAMSBOTTOM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (Part 2)

Tributes have been paid this year to Mr Albert Little OBE who died aged 96 on 2nd May 2012. He was elected to RUDC in 1967 and became chairman in 1971. After the demise of the RUDC in 1974 Mr Little became the first leader of the new Bury Council in that year, holding office until 1983 and again from 1984 to 1986. He was Mayor of Bury in 1983-4 and was awarded the OBE in 1984. He was a headteacher in Bury and later in Middleton and a school governor for many years. He had served in the Royal Navy and was the President of Ramsbottom Royal British Legion. In

June 2010 he was made an honorary freeman of the borough at a ceremony in Bury Town Hall. This article is drawn from a scrapbook of news cuttings, mainly captioned photographs, found in the old Heritage Centre. It has previously provided material for an account entitled 'The Civic Year of Ramsbottom Urban District Council 1972-3' (R H S News Magazine number 37 Autumn 2009). We are again grateful to the family of Mrs Mary Mills, an RUDC's Chairman 's Lady who compiled the scrapbook, for giving us permission to use it once more to research Council events just before Council reorganisation in 1974.

Cllr Ernest Barnes was the last person to wear the chain of office as Chairman of Ramsbottom Council before the 1974 council reorganisation. The chain, with the Ramsbottom crest, has recently been repaired and is often worn by the Mayor of Bury on mayoral visits to Ramsbottom. The RUDC commemorative stone, also with the Ramsbottom crest, stands in Ramsbottom Market Place. To mark the winding up of Ramsbottom Council in 1974 a number of commemorative events took place and townspeople made sure that the UDC ended on a happy note.

Although there were functions which mainly involved people who had been part of the Council, events were organised for the whole town. The town's old folk were invited to a party at the Civic Hall. Tea was provided and entertainers were pianist Mrs H Bowker and Mrs E McSherry, vocalist. The Council Chairman and his lady greeted everyone and the chairman's chaplain the Rev Charles David Douglas, Vicar of Edenfield was also present. It was possibly for this same event that Miss Edith Hardman, former teacher of Holcombe Brook, is reported as having had a thank you surprise from the Council when she was given an invitation to the Civic Hall but not told why. She was shown in a newspaper photograph cutting a 70th birthday cake, surrounded by members of organisations to which she belonged. During the afternoon the Council Chamber was thrown open to the public. There was also a mammoth bonfire in Nuttall Park to usher RUDC out in a blaze of glory.

In another photograph Cllr Barnes is presenting a medallion to Mrs K B M Johnson, Chairman's lady for 1969-70 and other former chairmen's ladies formed an historic line-up to receive their medallions: Mrs A Gaskill, Mrs V C Randall, Mrs J A Parkinson, Mrs B Godwin, Mrs E Crowther, Mrs F Pollard, Mrs F Isherwood, Mrs E A Beswick, Mrs J Hayhurst, Mrs C Fellows, Mrs Pomfret, Mrs K Johnson, Mrs M Little, Mrs M Mills and Mrs F Barnes. Mr Jim Pomfret who was his wife's consort received a medal too. Ramsbottom Council members also attended a last buffet dance at the Civic Hall. Guests included Mr and Mrs S Barber (he had recently retired as Ramsbottom parks superintendent), Cllr E Barnes and Mrs Barnes, Cllr and Mrs Mills (Mr Mills was council vice-chairman) and Mr J Alcock (Clerk to the Council).

The last civic event of all was on a Sunday when Cllr and Mrs Barnes attended then- last function as Chairman and Lady of Ramsbottom UDC, an interdenominational service held at Edenfield Parish Church. The Chairman's Chaplain, the Rev Charles David Douglas, the Rev R R Carmyllie of St Andrew's, the Rev Father G Wearden of

St Joseph's R C Church, the Rev J Palmer of Ramsbottom Methodist churches and Mr H Kellett reader of Edenfield Parish Church all took part in the service. A significant moment during the service came when Cllr and Mrs Barnes removed their chains of office for the last time and handed them to the vice-chairman Cllr H Mills. It is expected the chains will be on display at Bury Town Hall. Cllr Mills then presented Cllr Barnes with a past chairman's medallion. When the new local government came into effect, members of the old Ramsbottom Council, Cllr H Mills, Cllr A Little and Cllr Mrs E Waite served on the new Bury Metropolitan Council. Cllr Barnes and Cllr D Johnson served on the new Rossendale Council

OBITUARY - W D McCLELLAND

In April we learned of the death of Mr W.D. McClelland, of Mill Hill, London, who had been a member of the Society from its earliest days, and we are grateful to his widow Gene for the following details- W.D. McClelland was born in Edinburgh on June 17th 1913. He said he could remember the Armistice celebrations in his home town of Macduff. His father died when he was 18 months old; his mother died when he was 16. Consequently he came to London to live with an uncle. After war service in WW2 he became a departmental General Manager in what was reputed to be the largest newspaper publishing firm in the world. His career ended after becoming a consultant to the Book Publishing Council. In 1946 he married Gene Crawshaw in the Wesleyan Chapel in Ramsbottom. She was the daughter of Irving Crawshaw the Chemist and sub-postmaster in Bolton Road West, and Sarah Booth, schoolteacher, daughter of James Booth. Her great grandfather was instrumental in building the chapel and the Booth family was always very prominent in its activities.

THE FOUNDING AND EARLIEST DAYS OF THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

As I read the letters in the *Bury Times* of early February 1987,1 took particular notice of one written by Dorothy Moss.

She expressed her concern about the lack of a local history society and mentioned a previous one, which had been chaired by Reverend Roy Carmyllie, then vicar of St Andrew's Church.

Several years earlier I had developed an interest in the history of Ramsbottom and, with the points Dorothy had made in mind, I telephoned her. After an interesting chat, I mentioned that I had written and published a booklet entitled *Ramsbottom, a History in Stone.* I also told her about my large collection of old Ramsbottom postcards, booklets, books and artefacts. The collection included old bottles which bore the town's name: one from the *Grant Arms* and another from *Giles Taylor's Mineral Works* which was once located in Regent Street, Hazlehurst. Dorothy and her husband David expressed a wish to view these items and I was invited to their home.

The following week I was at the door of the Moss's cottage. Hesitantly, I rang the bell and after what seemed like an eternity the door opened and I was greeted by David. He took me into a huge kitchen area and introduced me to Dorothy. As David made us all a cup of tea, I felt welcome and at ease with this lovely couple. They were fascinated by what 1 had brought to show them. After a while, the possibility of forming a new local history society was mentioned by Dorothy and instantly, I agreed to be part of this. Dorothy said she would find a suitable venue for a public meeting and happily volunteered to pay all the costs of advertising, renting the venue and refreshments. She also asked me whether I knew any like-minded people to help to form a society. When the time eventually came to leave David, insisting on dropping off my paperwork and artefacts, took me for a few pints in the Grants - the start of a wonderful friendship!

The advert for the meeting was placed in the *Bury Times* with St Paul's School, Crow Lane as the venue. I soon found that Dorothy and David had been thorough and had ensured that everything would be done in a professional manner. In the meantime I contacted Andrew Todd, a long-standing friend with a passion for local history and genealogy who was teaching at the time. Andrew got the interest of another of our friends, Derek Rowley who worked for a high street bank. Everything was beginning to fall into place, rather like a jigsaw.

The meeting, on 25th February 1987, was a great success with about seventy people attending. They were told about the idea of a new local history society and asked for their views about what its activities should involve. The replies were all written down: walks, tours of interesting buildings, research groups, meetings with speakers. A steering committee was set up that night with Andrew Todd (Chairman), Dorothy Moss (Secretary), Derek Rowley (Treasurer) and myself (Vice Chairman).

Dorothy managed to release a small amount of money which was left after the old Ramsbottom Local History Society had been wound up. After much debate (and many cups of tea) a title was chosen and the Ramsbottom Heritage Society was born. The first meeting was at Ramsbottom Civic Hall on 8th April 1987. It attracted many local people from all walks of life. A vote took place and a full committee of the steering group with several other members was agreed.

Ramsbottom at this time was going through some exciting changes. On 25th July of the same year the ELR re-opened as a heritage railway, areas were designated for conservation and what was an ordinary but remarkable mill town, steeped in history and indeed heritage, was upgraded.

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society is now a thriving affair with nearly two hundred members. A grand achievement!

Bob Howarth 2012

OBITUARY - DAVID MOSS

Sadly, we report the death of David Moss on March 29th 2012, aged 83, four months after his wife Dorothy. Bom in Camberwell David joined the Royal Navy and was stationed in Malta. During his time in the Navy Dorothy became his pen pal. Love blossomed and they married in 1951. Coming north in 1966 they lived first at Greenmount and then moved to Carr Bank in 1969. After leaving the Navy David developed a very successful career in sales and marketing, progressing from door-to -door selling with the Encyclopaedia Britannica to cosmetics and automotive products to the Sales Director of a succession of firms. Two employers worthy of mention are Tetrosyl at Walmersley, a large manufacturer and supplier of car care products, and AP (Automotive Products) which became the UK's leading manufacturer and supplier of clutches and braking systems and was dominant in the market until the 1970s.

Writing in 1994 for *Rams bottom Reminiscences Vol. 2,* published in 1996, Dorothy talked about the North/South Divide and how they preferred the life in Ramsbottom, being charmed by the warmth and kindness of the locals. They loved the style of life that this northern town offered them, enjoying to the full the beautiful countryside, the excellent beer, the quality food and in fact everything which adds up to a good standard of life. Taking pleasure in the simple things like walking or listening to classical music or jazz, they also enjoyed travelling which led to their involvement in the Bury Town Twinning Association. Their lifelong interest in food was demonstrated by their membership of the *Lord Raglan* dining club at Nangreaves and more recently as his illness took hold in take away fish and chips and visits to an Italian restaurant in Bury .

Dorothy and David had been members of Ramsbottom Local History Society which had met upstairs in the *Grant Arms.* After the group's demise about 1980, Dorothy soon rallied the local press suggesting that a successor be found. They were both of the opinion that there should be somewhere to find out about the history of the town. Working tirelessly with a small group of like minded people Dorothy was instrumental in setting up the new Ramsbottom Heritage Society and in 1987 the former chairman and minister of St Andrew's Church the Rev Roy Carmyllie was speaker at the inaugural meeting.

David suffered from Parkinson's Disease and during his final years he still found pleasure in watching the badgers in late evening coming to feed in the garden. Dorothy often took him on outings up to the Trough of Bowland for lunch, all to break the monotony of his invalid life. He showed great courage in the face of severe disability, totally supported by his wife Dorothy.

20

Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

A NEW exhibition in the Gallery at
Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre
Open to the public until September 2013

Shop Local, Shop Ramsbottom

A 200 Year History

Featuring:

- 19th & 20th century items sold at the time
- 1888 map of local streets and shops
- historic photographs
- shop descriptions and people's memories
  (Tell us your memories and stories about local shops on our website or phone 01706 28 1998)
- *Spot the Shop* quiz

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

Opening Times:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm
Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm
2nd Sunday in the month 12 noon - 3pm (side entrance)

Ramsbottom Heritage Society:
www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bury COUNCIL

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 (please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm):

Tuesday	10am - 5pm	2nd Saturday of the month 10am –
Wednesday	10am - 5pm	4.30pm
Thursday	10am - 5pm	
Friday	10am - 5pm	

Visitors need to make an appointment in advance of any visit to the archives to avoid disappointment. A County Archive Research Network (CARN) readers' ticket or other identification with your name, address and signature is needed to access records.
The searchroom features large reading tables, computer and internet access, microfiche readers and access to . Paper catalogues are available in the searchroom and in Reference and Information Services, Bury Library. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time, and we hold details of researchers in the area who offer fee based services. The building has lift and ramp access, lockers and public toilets. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan.

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

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

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE
tel 0161 253 5352 (IT -tel 0161 253 5354) email: Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk
The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Please phone for details of regular family history help sessions.

Ramsbottom War News

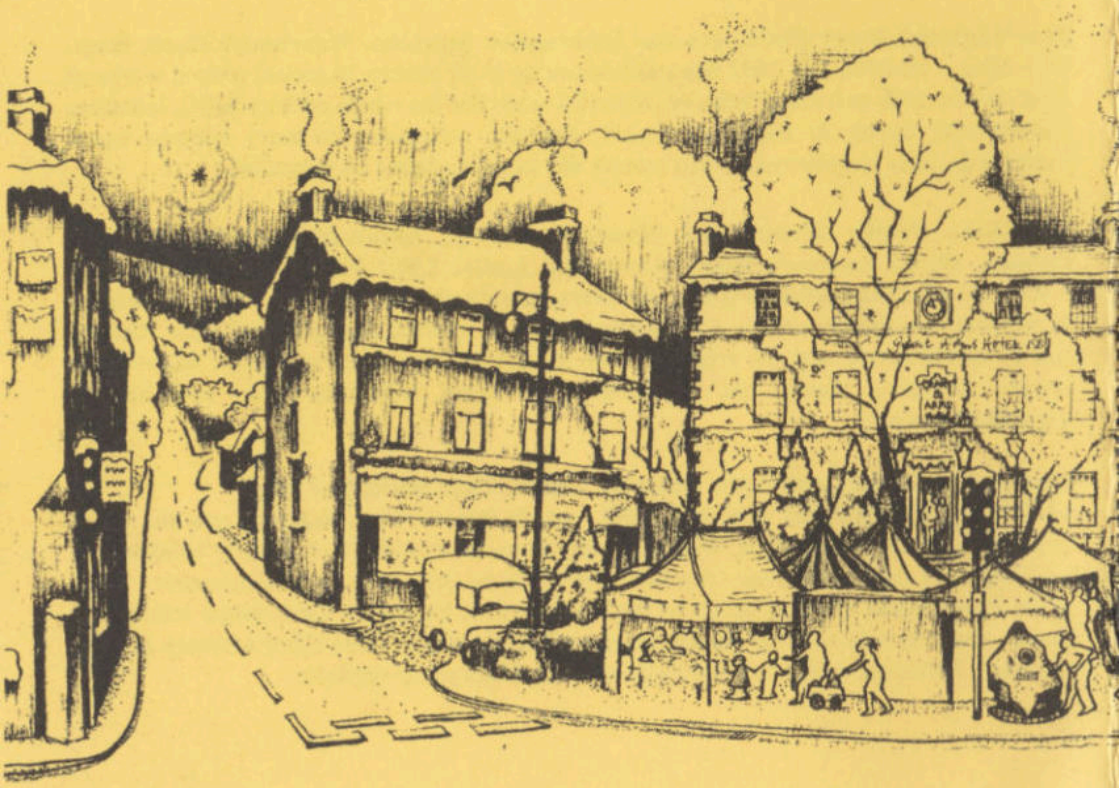
Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

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

ISSUE 4 ~ 1942

ON SALE FROM MAY 2013 ~STILL ONLY £1

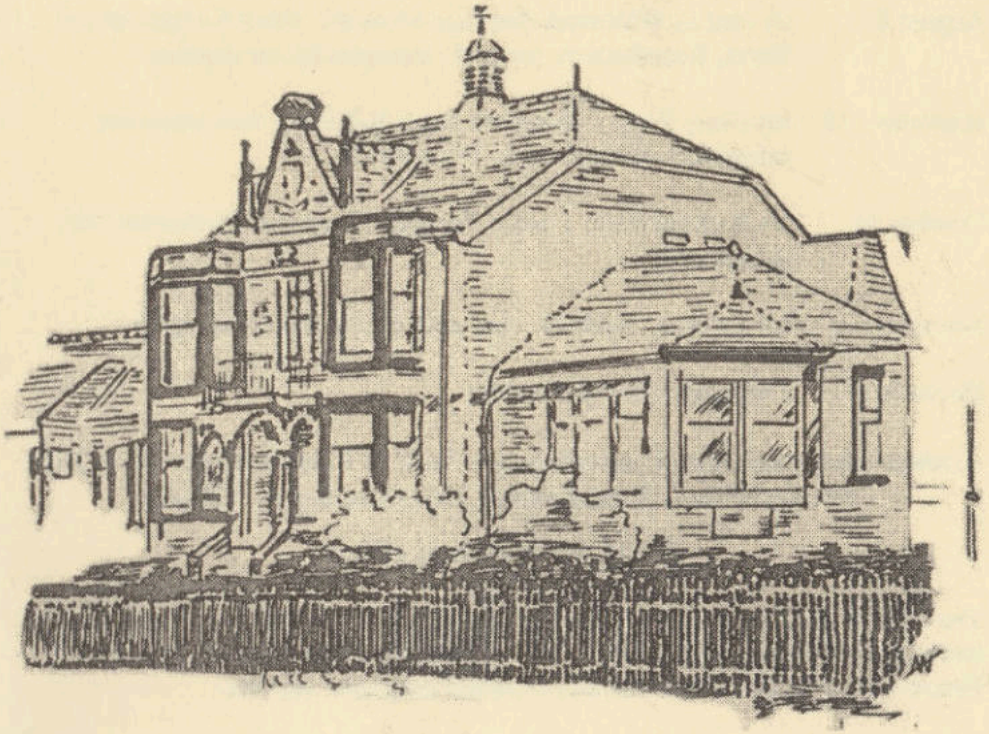
War News issues 1, 2 and 3, published in 2010, 2011 and 2012, have been our most popular publications ever. Copies are still available.



THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 44 Spring 2013 ISSN 0960 - 1244



RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 82 1998

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 2013:

June 19	Mr Glen Atkinson – *The Manchester Ship Canal* (illustrated)
July 17	Mr Peter Bone – A walk along the Rochdale Canal towpath from Littleborough to the hamlet of Durn. Meet 6.15pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing.
August 21	A visit to Whitworth Heritage Museum. Meet 6.15pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing.
September 18	Mr Chris Terry – *Domestic Stone Buildings*, with particular reference to Ramsbottom. (illustrated)
October 16	Mr Richard Hall - *I was a Teenage Weaver at Chatterton Mill* (illustrated)
November 20	Mr Anthony Hodbod – *Imperial Policemen* (illustrated)
December 11	**Christmas Social Evening**

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.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 44

Spring 2013

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Front cover - Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital by Andrew Todd

Website - www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Email via website

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The period since the last magazine has been quite eventful and surprising.
In the last magazine we sadly reported the death of Jenny Beech, and since then we learnt that she had left the Society a most generous bequest. The money will be added to our project fund which has been raised by our *War News* publications. This is a big opportunity and a big responsibility so we must discuss ideas for using this money at the AGM in May.
Recently Norma Mills has retired from the role of Society secretary while Dave and Kath Haddock, who headed up the Society's archiving team, doing a wonderful job re-cataloguing our collection and making it available online, have also stood down from their task. We express our gratitude to them all and are glad they are still staying on as members. We are also very grateful to Barbara and Jon Williams for taking over as organisers of the guided summer walks.

The new exhibition in the Heritage Gallery, which will open on June 2nd (the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation) is appropriately entitled *Regal Ramsbottom, Nine Monarchs and Seven Coronations*. Viewing the display of coronation memorabilia of the current and previous sovereigns and learning about the events in Ramsbottom which coincided with coronation of each monarch since George III, will make clear the meaning of this cryptic title.
One great disappointment recently has been the failure to save *Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital* from the bulldozer. We had hoped that the very attractive 1898 part of the building would be adapted into two dwellings and incorporated into the planned housing development. Despite our submissions to the Bury Planning Control Committee and speaking out at the planning meeting itself, the idea was rejected. The Heritage Society now has the responsibility of finding homes for various fascinating features of the building, including the weather vane, stained glass windows and foundation stone, with a time capsule beneath it.
We fight on to preserve the heritage of Ramsbottom and will report back again in the next magazine. In the meantime, I thank you all for your support for the Society, which enables us to have so many great successes.

Very best wishes Kate Slingsby

NORMA MILLS – AN APPRECIATION

At the turn of the year Society Honorary Secretary Norma Mills stood down from her duties, after almost 14 years in the role. Born in Walshaw, coming to Ramsbottom at age 18, Norma had lived for many years at Bradshaw, Bolton, but had recently moved to the Sharples area of the town, from which she had found travelling difficult. She reminisced about her period in office, having been inspired to become a Society member by husband Walter after a meeting at Ramsbottom

Civic Hall on 20th January 1999 at which Kate Mulholland gave a talk about the Pendle Witches entitled A Cry of Innocence. (Apparently Norma had a 'thing' about witches, and had at one time lived at Higher Tops Farm, Holcombe, which, as many people who know the area will agree, is a pretty scary sort of place, where one might encounter a witch, especially after dark.) At the meeting Dorothy Moss, then acting Chairman and Hon. Sec., announced she was looking for an assistant. Norma offered, was accepted with open arms and very quickly – Dorothy being very supportive - became embroiled in Society affairs. Looking back at milestone events during her tenure Norma's first recollections were of the Millennium Celebration Event, when she and daughter Alison, then an undergraduate, worked closely with Linda de Ruijter in finalising arrangements, and recalling also the torchlight procession to the Peel Monument, Holcombe Hill. There soon followed arrangements for the Lancashire Local History Federation 'At Home' event 2002, hosted by the Society, when she, husband Walter, Dorothy, and LLHF officers worked closely to ensure its success. Her fondest memories however were of working with Walter at the Heritage Centre, on displays featuring the former Peel Brow School, which Walter had attended, Hope Mill, and Higher Tops Farm; also, afternoon visits to the Centre by schoolchildren, and Brownie groups, when Walter would give out sweets – that would be frowned upon these days – decorating the Centre at Christmas, carol singing, and Tom Barrett's mince pies. More recently there have been the more businesslike 20th and 25th anniversary celebrations, and the trauma of Walter's last illness. Throughout, Norma has remained good-humoured, and unstintingly supportive of three successive chairpersons, with their differing ways of working, bringing to meetings and events always a greeting and cheery smile. We wish Norma well in her retirement.

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY 2012 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Judge – Andrew Todd

Events and Daily Life

Winner:	Joyce Sellers	*Edenfield Cricket Match*
Highly Commended:	Alan Seymour	*Remembrance Sunday*

Buildings

Winner:	Joyce Sellers	*Stubbins Paper Mill*
Highly Commended:	Ian Chapman	*Back Yard, 12, Bolton Road West*

Town and Country Landscapes

Winner:	Ian Chapman	*Looking Up Bolton Street*

Themes

Winner:	Alan Seymour	*Five Signs*
Highly Commended:	Ian Smith	*Reinstating the Lamppost Outside the Civic Hall*
Dickensian Trophy	Joyce Sellers	*Stubbins Paper Mill*

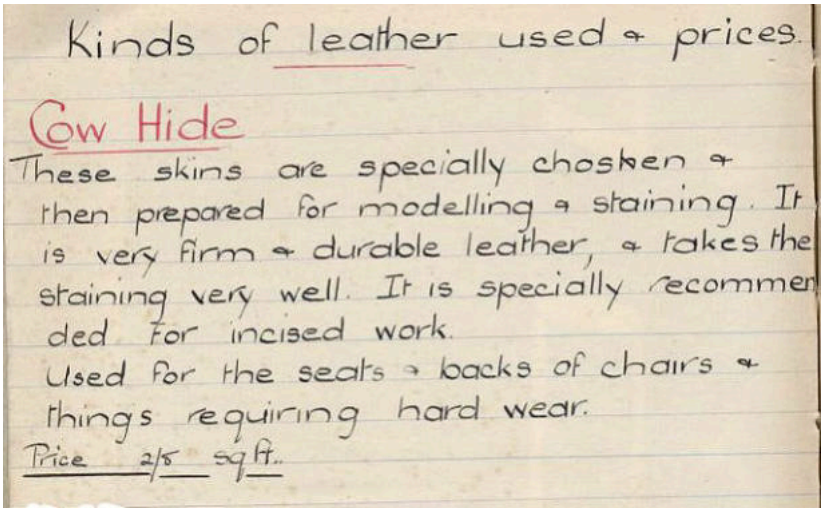
All the entries from the 25 years of the competition and 2000 older photos at Bury Archives are available on the RHS website: www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk The deadline for entries to the 2013 competition is January 31st 2014. Entry forms are available on the website. You can also collect an entry form from the Heritage Gallery when members are in attendance (2nd Sunday 12 noon – 3pm) or at monthly meetings.

The Dickensian Trophy winner - Joyce Sellers - Stubbins Paper Mill



MISS MINNIE HASSALL

Miss Hassall was my first teacher in the 'baby class' at St Paul's School when I started there at three years old. I understand that she had been trained as a pupil teacher, ie at school under the supervision of a trained teacher. My friend Joan Barcroft (younger than I) recalls the Reverend Tom Martin telling us of this. Joan and an older friend of mine remember that the little ones had a nap, on folding cots, in the afternoon. One little girl whose mother worked in the mill, therefore having to get up very early, was always allowed by Miss Hassall to sleep the longest and was probably wakened by the noise of classmates. Miss Hassall's classroom was a wooden structure adjoining the small hall at St Paul's. In it were the usual little desks, a lovely old rocking horse, a sandpit (which always had a peculiar smell about it), toys and books. She always wore a long-sleeved floral overall, as did all the infant teachers. She was kind, gentle but firm and dearly loved by all the children. Shown here is an example of her handwriting photocopied from her exercise book – maybe done during her'teacher training'. How neat and tidy it is – I applaud her.



Kinds of leather used & prices.

Cow Hide

These skins are specially chosken & then prepared for modelling & staining. It is very firm & durable leather, & takes the staining very well. It is specially recommended for incised work.

Used for the seats & backs of chairs & things requiring hard wear.

Price 2/6 sq ft.

(On the first page of the exercise book is the title "Leatherwork" and her address 51, Queen Street, Ramsbottom. Inside the exercise book was a magazine clipping dated 1923 with instructions for upholstering a fireside stool.) I have many happy memories of my time at St Paul's. Four generations of my family attended and I was devastated at its closure in 2003 due to falling numbers.

Doris Hibbert

AN INTRODUCTION TO LAVENDER HILLS (PREVIOUSLY THE CLIFFE) AND SOME OF ITS PEOPLE



Its magnificent location is why 160 years ago Samuel Porritt had *The Cliffe* built there in the first place...close to the family mill in the valley below and only a few hundred yards from the homes of his brothers, James and Joseph. Their mansions, *Stubbins Vale House* and *Green Mount* were within easy distance of each other. They were built from millstone grit quarried nearby on their estate and were close to their various mills making felt, cotton and woollen products for a demanding and growing market. *The Cliffe* was a grand family home as befitted a prominent industrialist. A visitor described her experience of a garden party at *The Cliffe* in 1900:

"A charming country estate .... an orchard in the dell to the left and the circular lawn bedded over with a thousand plants and bordered by blue lobelia and standard roses. The approach along the sweep of the gravel drive is avenued by copper beeches and silver birches in rare profusion."

So much for the fine impression but it seems that the famous stage and screen actor Dirk Bogarde was not so thrilled when he was billeted at the nearby *Green Mount* at the start of World War Two. He wrote about the area in his autobiography: **"I was billeted in a cotton millowner's abandoned mansion on a hillside in a suburb of Bury called Ramsbottom, locally known as Tups Arse because it was the end of everything. From the terrace of the house, grimed with soot and wind, one looked down into a grey, fogged landscape of endless slated**

roofed back-to-backs and soaring mills throbbing with trundling looms, glittering with acres of lighted windows and huge chimneys belching smoke endlessly into the curdled air which loitered over the spoiled valley until eventually it was dispersed across the distant moor. It was sad, cobbled, drab and poor."

Now we have clean air, no mill chimneys, no cobbles, few trundling looms and, despite the recession, a much better standard of living. We do have wind turbines of course...what would Dirk Bogarde have said about them?

The Porritt family were philanthropic industrialists with a conscience about the environment long before such thoughts were fashionable. It was said of them that they had not desecrated the landscape as had so many industrialists. Their mills and houses were unobtrusive and well built. They planted trees along the Irwell Valley and helped maintain the predominately rural atmosphere. Industry obviously needs labour and in the 19th century the Porritts built terrace houses and cottages for their workers. This benevolence had a practical side. If the workers lived close by they had less excuse for being late at the looms but the houses were neat and well liked by the tenants. It is interesting to note that *The Cliffe* was the cheapest of the Porritt brothers three houses. It was built at a cost of £1750 in the early 1850s which can be compared with the £1500 it cost to build 14 workers' cottages and a shop in nearby North Street to appreciate it was and is a very fine house indeed. Incidentally, James Porritt who lived at Stubbins Vale House was also the architect for Stubbins Vale Mill and used to stand on the roof to check on what was going on.

For more than 100 years the family were also generous benefactors. They recognised their responsibility to the community and not just to those who worked in their mills. They were also highly regarded for their many kindnesses to their work force in sickness and, over the period of two World Wars, in bereavement. The Porritt family was quite a dynasty. Twelve sons had taken over the work and industrial legacy of James, Joseph and Samuel Porritt. One of them, a grandson of James was Austin Townsend Porritt, later Colonel A.T. Porritt who came to live at *The Cliffe* with his wife Annie. Their only child, Richard Porritt became one of the youngest MP's to be elected to Parliament when was elected the member for Radcliffe and Heywood in 1935. In those days the constituency included Ramsbottom. He was just 24.

But tragedy struck when Richard was killed in the British retreat to the Normandy beaches in 1940. He was 30 years old and the first MP to be killed in World War 2. There is a stone memorial to him and all the Porritt employees who died in both World Wars near the remaining parts of *Stubbins Vale Mill* below *The Cliffe* and there is also a shield of remembrance to the right of the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons which bears his name. By way of tribute, *The Ramsbottom Observer* (there was such a newspaper in those days) described a brilliant future cut short and

said, "his sterling worth shone through a mantle of modesty". On Richard's death, Colonel Porritt gave the 436 acres of moorland and farmland to the National Trust. He had already donated the land for Nuttall Park and Chatterton playing fields as well as building St Phillips Church and the Village Hall. Colonel Porritt's grieving wife died in 1943 and by that time the Colonel, for health reasons, lived in Grange-over-Sands. He never returned to *The Cliffe* and the house became the directors' residence. It was a demonstration of the respect and gratitude felt for Colonel Porritt that while his funeral service was held at St Paul's Church Grange, simultaneously, to the very minute, an identical service with the same hymns and prayers was held here in Stubbins.

The mansions *Stubbins Vale* and *Greenmount* are no more but thankfully *The Cliffe* has been preserved and is now restored. Memories remain. A lady of my age I spoke to remembers the main hallway when she visited as a girl more than 60 years ago. She told me the hall floor was beautiful terracotta tiling in blue, white and black. (Is it still under the carpet now?). In the Ramsbottom Heritage Society's collection of papers in the Bury Archive there is a flyer and auction catalogue for the sale of the house together with two acres of land in 1981.Also included at the auction were 350 lots of furniture, pictures, porcelain and silver. The name remained after the sale and it became a care home as *The Cliffe*. The present owners renamed it the *Lavender Hills Care Home* and carried out the extensive restoration.

Martin Henfield

Having read in Col Porritt's letter (see article "Colonel Porritt's Support of a Soldier and his Family") that in 1919 he had some of James Hargreaves Morton's drawings, we checked our archive. The 1981 auction catalogue that Martin mentions lists the lots for sale, describing The Cliffe and its contents. Unsurprisingly, after the passing of over sixty years between the two records (Col Porritt's 1919 letter about the drawings and the 1981 auction catalogue), of over twenty five pictures listed in the catalogue, none was Morton's. The household goods in the sale may not even have belonged to Col Porritt as he died in 1956 having lived elsewhere for many years. The Cliffe itself was also to be sold in the auction which was taking place on the instructions of Scapa Porritt Ltd. The description of the house (comprising twenty rooms) mentions a hall, back hall, dining room, lounge, morning room, kitchen, sitting room, butler's pantry, butler's flat, basement and a telephone room with a four foot wide oak table.
(In 1919, The Cliffe's telephone number, shown on Col Porritt's stationery, was simply RAMSBOTTOM 57.)

COLONEL PORRITT'S SUPPORT OF A SOLDIER AND HIS FAMILY

Lt Col. Austin Townsend Porritt is remembered with great affection in the Ramsbottom area. He will also be remembered in Darwen for a kindly gesture to a soldier from the town and a moving letter which he wrote to the lad's sisters after his death.

Col. Porritt was an influential Territorial officer whose family had been textile manufacturers for many years. He raised the 2/5th East Lancashire Regiment and took it to France early in 1917. The History of the East Lancashire Regiment was warm in its praise: "He had the none too light responsibility of working utterly inexperienced civilian material into a military organisation. … It was his reward that he was permitted to accompany his command as a unit to France." It was unfortunate that he wasn't able to stay long with his men as he was invalided home later the same year. However, he kept in touch with his old comrades and was able to assist his successor, Col. Hector Fraser Whitehead, who had asked him to send out crayons and drawing paper for a Sergeant James Morton who had been posted to his Regiment. Whitehead said he had discovered Morton to be "a capital artist".

He certainly was! Morton had spent five years at the Royal College of Art in London and was becoming recognised as a post-Impressionist painter when he went off to war. He was killed just north of Pont-sur-Sambre as the Germans fought desperately to slow the rapid advance of the Allied forces. His death came just five days before the end of hostilities. He was thirty seven. Before he joined the Army in 1916, confident of his return he asked his four sisters to look after his collection of more than 450 paintings, pastels and sketches. And that they did – until the last sister, Alice, died in 1967. Four years later the whole collection was sold piecemeal at King George's Hall, Blackburn. The sale raised more than £10,000.

"Col. Whitehead obviously thought a great deal of Morton and considered that he could easily have made a name for himself as an artist," wrote Col. Porritt in a kindly letter written in February 1919 to John Yates, the Blackburn solicitor who had been a long-standing friend of James Morton.Col. Porritt, of *The Cliffe*, Stubbins Vale, told Yates that he had received some of Morton's drawings in return for the crayons and paper and would forward them to Mr Yates for him to show to the sisters with whom, he said, he had "the greatest sympathy." He asked Mr Yates to pass on his "heart-felt regrets at their brother's untimely death." And he asked them to select two or three drawings from the handful he would be sending and return the others.Several of those drawings of the area around Cayeux-sur-Mer on the Somme estuary were discovered at the Queen's Lancashire Regiment Museum in Preston. Curator Jane Davies, who found them, said: "One of the beauties of this job is that you sometimes come across things that have been overlooked or filed in the 'wrong' place. I recognised them straight away." They are dated 1918 and one is dated



Colonel Porritt

summer 1918. They were drawn towards the end of Morton's time with the 2/5th and before he was transferred to the 1/5th Battalion.
Col. Porritt's letter concluded, rather sadly, "My dear old Battn is now extinct and the N.C.Os and the men are scattered amongst the other Battns of the East Lancashire Regiment." The 2/5th had suffered horrendous casualties and the lads who were left were merged into the 1/5th. Col Porritt didn't know Morton personally, but he did know Yates through their interest in archery and they often competed against each other between the wars.A former High Sheriff of Lancashire, Col. Porritt died in 1956. His son, Richard, one of the youngest MPs in the House of Commons, was killed during the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940.
Col. Whitehead went on to command the 1/4th Royal Berks Regiment. The Royal Berks had fought right through the trenches of the Great War and was moved to Italy late in 1917. He returned home with the Royal Berks in 1919. A history of the Royal Berks describes him thus: "He was a brave man, but of a narrow and unsympathetic school, staled *(made stale)* by continuous service throughout the war." It is difficult now to imagine the heavy burden of responsibility which officers carried with them, day after day, although in his request for crayons and paper for one of his sergeants he showed that he had managed to keep an interest in a life far removed from all the death and destruction around him. The History of the East Lancashire Regiment refers to his "devoted persistence and tireless effort." It added: "His it was to inculcate the spirit of offensiveness in attack and doggedness in defence" – a task he was "obliged to accomplish under difficult conditions in a short space of time." Col. Whitehead was well known in the Burnley area and he often attended Regimental reunions. Curiously, he was Secretary of the Cairn Terrier Club and an authority and early pioneer of the breed.His great niece Mairi Macdonald recalled: "Uncle Hector was a 'character' of strong views and my memories of him as a child are of a tall whirlwind descending on us each February when he came to judge at Cruft's Dog Show. We spent some of our summer holidays with him and Aunt Elsie (they had no children) in Edinburgh, and it was always a highlight." He was killed, aged 89, in a car accident near Perth in 1968.

Harold Heys 2013

The story of artist James Hargreaves Morton's life and times is being told in a new book to be published in April 2013 by the Friends of Darwen Library where several of Morton's painting and pastels are on display. It includes the story of the two colonels and the support they gave to Morton amid the wholesale slaughter of the Great War trenches. Harold Heys, who is editing the book on James Morton, says,: "Looking back, it's rather touching to find that in the middle of all that industrial carnage two officers could take a bit of time out for a kindly gesture to an artist who was hardly cut out for the horror of war but who was bravely doing his best."

RAMSBOTTOM COTTAGE HOSPITAL

Lord James of Hereford, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, performed the official opening ceremony of The *Aitken Memorial And Jubilee Cottage Hospital,* Ramsbottom on 18th April 1900**,** paying tribute to the public spirit and generosity of the donors Mr and Mrs Thomas Aitken. The whole district had been given a public holiday and tickets had been sold for a public luncheon at 1pm.Afterwards, at 2.30pm, Lord James opened the four-day Grand Bazaar which was held in St Paul's Schools to raise funds towards an endowment fund for the new hospital.The first day's bazaar Chairman was Mr Thomas Aitken, local millowner and philanthropist. *(His wife's unstinting work and most generous donations were crucial to the provision of the new hospital. Her work is described later in this article - Editor).* Other important guests would perform opening ceremonies at 3pm on each of the remaining days, the 19th, 20th and 21st April.

A commemorative bazaar programme had been printed listing about a hundred participants (names included many well-known local people), their stalls and their contributions to the entertainment. Each stall had its own secretary, treasurer and team of assistants, mainly ladies, and a designated colour scheme (Mrs Aitken's was heliotrope and the crockery stall's was butcher blue).The entertainment committee alone was ten strong and included a Mr M Birtwistle, Mr W Turnbull Jnr and Mr R Turnbull. The *Cheeryble Quartet* was conducted by Mr J Wolstenholme (Jnr) and Mr Joshua Knowles conducted the pierrots.There was palmistry by Madame Celeste, a Grand Scenic Shooting Jungle and a Café Chantant (originally an outdoor café where small groups performed lighthearted music and popular at the time). There was singing and music by local musicians and pupils of distinguished music colleges. In the evenings the bazaar was open until 10pm.

The *Ladies' Sunlight Soap Washing Competition* was in three rounds spread over the days. It promised "a novel, healthy, instructive and exciting form of amusement". Competitors paid a 3d entrance fee with a view to be obtained on payment of 1d. Mr S Lord provided each competitor with a pail, two pegs, a tea cloth, a small tablet of Sunlight soap and a chair. First prize of a set of teaspoons (value £1 1s) and second prize of a large case of different soaps were offered by Messrs Lever Bros Ltd of Port Sunlight, Cheshire and were to be awarded for speed and correctness of detail by efficient judges of known repute.On the word, "Go", all washed the cloths and first prize went to the competitor who showed the cleanest cloth in three minutes, the same being correctly pegged on the line.Points would be deducted for irregularities.




AITKEN MEMORIAL & COTTAGE HOSPITAL, RAMSBOTTOM

Origins Of Health Services In Bury And Ramsbottom

Back in the 18th century medical care in the area had been provided only by visits to the doctor's surgery or by home visits by him to more serious cases.Even major operations had to be performed in the home, although these were rare, and of course all care had to be paid for. Between 1750 and 1790 a complex of hospitals developed in Piccadilly, Manchester: the infirmary for in-patients and out-patients, a lunatic hospital, a lying-in hospital, an isolation hospital and latterly a dispensary to deal with out-patients and home visits. The origins of a health service in Bury and Ramsbottom date back to the first half of the 19th century:

"A dispensary to deal with outpatients and home visits recently established at Bury, by public subscription, has commenced its operations in a building rented for the purpose (in the Hope and Anchor on the corner of Bury Lane and Bolton Street). It is hoped, however, that funds for the institution will shortly be sufficient to defray the expense of erecting a suitable building for that purpose. Several munificent donations have recently been made for this purpose: amongst which was one of £100 from W. Grant Esq." (Manchester Mercury, 1st August 1829)

Along with William Grant, The Earl of Derby, Sir Robert Peel, The Rt Hon R Peel MP and Edmund Yates Esq were responsible for over 70% of the entire cost of the Bury Dispensary Hospital. By the end of the 19th century it had become a worthy institution and money was forthcoming for extensions in later years.Ramsbottom doctor, Dr Benjamin Crawshaw of 179, Bolton Street, Barwood Mount was an Honorary Surgeon there. He would have been familiar with the importance of the work of the District Nurse employed by the Bury Dispensary.However, it was Mrs May Aitken of Holcombe Hall (President of the Nursing Association, and wife of Mr Thomas Aitken) who made an appeal to the people of Ramsbottom for contributions towards the cost of employing Ramsbottom's first nurse.It is clear that she had the support of local medical men when she wrote the following letter to the *Ramsbottom Observer* but there is no evidence of particular pressure from Dr Crawshaw.

I should like to explain, for the benefit of those people in Ramsbottom who are wishful to understand the duties of the nurse we aim to have for the town, what those duties are. The object of having a qualified woman is that she will be able to nurse people at their own homes. Visiting from house to house, she will urge upon the members of the family the necessity of cleanliness, advise them in the importance of sanitary arrangements, and instruct them as to the requirements of the patient and the observance of due precautions during her

own absence, at the same time impressing upon them the importance of strict obedience to the doctor's orders.

She will be expected to devote her whole energy and skill to the work entrusted to her …. the relief of suffering and the promotion of recovery from sickness … and to treat all patients with equal assiduity, without distinction of religious persuasion, only giving, as is natural, her first attention to the more serious and pressing cases. She will not attend fever or smallpox cases.She will not cease to visit a patient assigned to her, until the superintendent takes the case off the register. NO PAYMENT IS NECESSARY FOR THE NURSE'S SERVICES, but I think that when the Ramsbottom people understand the good a nurse would do, and learn that the doctors are anxious we should have one, they will come forward, one and all, and give what they can towards her salary. I should like everybody to help ….however little.

Contributions should be given to a Minister of the Church the contributor attends, or paid into either of the Banks.

Yours very truly, MAYAITKEN, President, September 1894

The appeal was obviously successful as two months later Nurse Waring was appointed. Her first year was, according to her supervisor's report, a remarkable success in terms of the 3349 visits she paid to her 237 patients who were "appreciative and grateful". Mrs Aitken gave 44lbs of beef and mutton, tea, Bengers Food and Chicken jelly to supplement the diets of the weak and ill. She also provided materials for dressings. The work was so successful that the need for a small hospital was constantly urged on the visiting committee. This seemed to be an impossible dream, but three people offered most generous help.A house was secured in Dundee Lane by Mr Thomas Aitken and furnished by Mrs Aitken and Miss Horsefield, a London trained nurse, offered her services free for one year.T h e subscribers' list was headed by Mr Thomas Aitken, Grant Lawson MP, G Kemp MP, Mr and Mrs Porritt, Mrs Gray and Mr L McCarthur and included many well- known local residents.

Ramsbottom's First Hospital 1896

Just over a year after the inception of Ramsbottom's nursing service, an announcement appeared in the *Ramsbottom Observer*:

The house in Dundee Lane which has been taken by the Ladies of the District Nursing Committee as a Cottage Hospital is now being prepared for the reception of patients. Most of the rooms have been furnished and Nurse Waring, the District Nurse, and Nurse Horsefield, the Cottage Nurse, have taken up residence there. The female ward is on the ground floor and contains

two beds and a child's cot. The men's ward which is upstairs has beds for two patients…..There is a room which will probably be used in cases where a surgical operation is required …..

Cottage hospitals had begun to appear from about 1820 and in 1896 Ramsbottom's first hospital fulfilled exactly the title and definition - a small rural hospital having several beds. By 1897, when there were about three hundred cottage hospitals nationwide, the little hospital had become very successful, already proving itself to be too small. There were obviously many patients whose ailments required a better medical environment than their crowded homes could provide. Limited funds had not allowed for a larger project until, prompted by the recovery of her husband from a serious illness, the ever-generous Mrs Aitken decided to build and furnish a new hospital in Nuttall Lane.

The Aitken Memorial and Jubilee Cottage Hospital, Nuttall Lane, Ramsbottom
At 10.30am on 5th May 1898, Mrs May Aitken laid the foundation stone. Underneath was a cavity containing a silver penny, a sixpence and a threepenny piece to represent the current coinage of the realm and a copy of the *Ramsbottom Observer* dated 19th November 1897 with an account of the cutting of the first sod for the hospital. Mrs Aitken was presented with a silver trowel to mark the occasion. The architect was Mr Charles Spencer Haywood (1878 – 1927) of the firm Haywood and Harrison, Accrington. Specialists in the construction of hospitals and workhouses, their work had included Accrington Victoria Hospital (1894) and from 1903-7 they designed and carried out on the Fylde a workhouse complex on a pavilion plan with all amenities and accommodation for 300 persons. The Ramsbottom hospital was to be built to a double-fronted symmetrical plan with its bay windows extending to above the eaves line in Edgar Wood fashion and was, in common with many other cottage hospitals, reminiscent of a house.The front elevation was enhanced by the use of Accrington brick and Yorkshire stone dressing and had a timber porch entrance. One of the stylistic additions was a gable in the Jacobean style with strapwork finials after Hans Vredeman de Vries.The many decorative architectural features included several stained glass windows, one of which incorporated the Aitken crest, and an internal glass panel featured a portrait of Queen Victoria. According to the newspaper report of the laying of the foundation stone, it was to have male and female wards, nine beds each to the right and left of the front entrance, and a centre ward for isolation cases.The floors of the wards were to be of polished oak and also the kitchen, sculleries and operating room. In the operating room walls were to be painted up to 6ft high and the walls of the wards to 6ft 6". Internal corners were all to be rounded to prevent the accumulation of impure matter. The staircase hall would be built with ample

windows and ventilation with warming of the building via a system of coils and radiators. On the first floor would be rooms for the matron, nurse and servants and also bathroom, box and linen rooms etc. A scullery, pantry, stores and would be on the ground floor with a tradesmen's entrance.

Commemorating in its name Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of 1897, the *Aitken Memorial And Jubilee Cottage Hospital* first opened its doors to patients on 13th November 1899 as a voluntary institution designed to relieve the suffering of the working population. At the time, it had seven beds and one in a private ward. It was staffed by the Matron, Miss Horsefield and the District Nurse, Nurse Dight (salaries £35 per annum), a probationer nurse, a cook and a housemaid all of whom lived in. They were helped by a manservant and a washerwoman.The hospital's object, stated in its Constitution and Regulations, was to be used "at the discretion of the Committee of Management for the reception and treatment of such persons resident within Ramsbottom and District suffering from accident or illness as cannot be efficiently treated at their own homes provided no case of incurable, chronic infectious, or contagious disease, or of maternity or insanity shall be admitted." These restrictions applied in most charitable hospitals, not just in Ramsbottom. Separate developments were occurring in these specialities, mainly in rooms set aside in the workhouse at Jericho, Bury (the origin of Fairfield Hospital).

Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital's first annual meeting placed on record that the very successful Grand Bazaar had raised £1640 2s 5d for the endowment fund augmenting a legacy of £1000 from the estate of Mr Harling of Manchester. Also recorded was the generous donation from the Ramsbottom Cycle Club, who had contributed over £110 to the maintenance fund from their Cycle Parade of 30th June 1900. (The Cycle Club continued to be active in raising money for the hospital by organising an annual Rose Queen Festival with parades of people from Sunday and day schools and local industry with floats – no cycles!) Thanks were expressed to local people who had supported the hospital: the Saturday and Sunday Funds Sub-committee, formed after a meeting of the representatives of various local mills, workshops and places of worship (£71 had been raised in 1900 by this sub-committee in the places of worship alone), the Ladies Visiting Committee for their work collecting subscriptions, the subscribers and donors themselves including the congregations of various places of worship. People who paid £10 became life governors, individuals who paid 10 shillings or more became annual subscribers and clubs or congregations paid £2 or more. (*We are told that the Hospital Saturday Fund was still paying for operations at the hospital for its members and their families in 1948, just before it became part of the NHS – Editor*.)

During World War I, with Miss E Hand as matron, convalescing soldiers were received at the hospital. For eleven years Mr Aitken had held the presidency and after his death in 1911, he had been succeeded by Mrs Aitken until she died in 1915. Unlike some of the other local hospitals, Ramsbottom's was very fortunate in the

interest and generosity shown to it by succeeding presidents including Miss Gray whose appointment followed the Aitkens. The hospital saw none of the controversies faced by some of the other hospital charities. This was due to the dedication and generosity of a succession of benefactors.In 1937 the facilities were expanded with.a new operating theatre, children's ward and sun lounge being provided by Lt Col and Mrs A T Porritt, who also provided an endowment.
(The photographs on page 13 show the hospital before and after this extension was built - Editor) The hospital was brought up to modern standards to serve more as a general hospital than a cottage hospital. With more patients being admitted money to help with the running of the hospital also continued to come from regular appeals, charity events and donations.

The National Health Service 1948

Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital was handed over to the Bury and Rossendale Hospital Management Committee and is reported by them as being in an excellent state of repair, undoubtedly the best in the group (out of eight hospitals).The hospital was designated as a General Practitioner unit at first. It had seventeen beds for acute medical and surgical cases and possessed a small casualty department. This system of medical staffing did not work out in practice so eventually it was decided to restrict the number of beds available for GPs and use the remainder for special purposes. For two years it was used to treat ophthalmic cases (children) who required minor surgery. It was then given over to medical cases.In 1964 the hospital group had its own full-time orthopaedic surgeon who started a self-contained orthopaedic unit at Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital.The building was upgraded, including rewiring, removal of old fireplaces, improvements to the heating system and the theatre. It was completely redecorated with the provision of new furnishings. All the group's minor routine orthopaedic work was carried out at Ramsbottom (over five hundred cases annually).

In 1974 hospital services were reorganised nationally so it was the last year of the Bury and Rossendale Hospital Management Committee.By that time an orthopaedic unit had been set up at Fairfield General Hospital, Bury and the Cottage Hospital's role had changed. In 1991 it was a geriatric hospital for up to sixteen persons. It closed in 2008.

(*Since the inception of the NHS there had been an organised role for volunteers and much voluntary work was carried out for the patients of Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital. At present we have not been able to gather sufficient information to do justice to the hospital's dedicated volunteers so we would be very grateful to receive material for a future article about their activities. The following details may jog a few memories. – Editor)*

Mrs Evelyn Waite was instrumental in setting up Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital League of Friends and for some years, including 1986, was their Chairman/President. On receiving Honorary Life Membership of Ramsbottom Heritage Society on 10th June 2003, Mrs Waite emphasised the importance of the part others had played in her work for the people of Ramsbottom and Edenfield. She used as her example what she described as the wonderful help from Bert Hinchliffe (J & H Hinchliffe Ltd, local coach travel operators 1950 - 75) when the elderly residents of Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital were taken on outings. One of the things he did was to remove some of the seats of his coach so that wheelchair users could go on the trips. Mrs Waite was still visiting as Secretary of the Ramsbottom Aid in Sickness Fund in 2001 and remained in that office until her death on 16th December 2003.

A presentation to Mrs Lucy Butterworth, a founder member of Ramsbottom Hospitals Voluntary Services Committee, to mark her 20 years as Chairman took place in 1976.

After the 1981 Whit Walk procession and hymn singing led by the Band of the Lancashire Fusiliers, walkers from St Andrew's Church went to the Cottage Hospital where traditionally they sang hymns.

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Origins of The Health Service in Bury and Ramsbottom Part 1– Faith Hope and Medicine in the 18th and 19th Centuries by Barbara Palmer for the Ramsbottom Heritage Society published in 1989 pages 3, 6, 7, 21-3 and 25-27

Bury and Rossendale Hospital Group – a 1974 report marking the 25th anniversary of Bury and Rossendale Management Committee and the last year of its existence

Ramsbottom Observer September 1894, 17th January 1896, 6th May 1898

Accrington Observer 14th May 1927

Bury Times 12th June 1981

Stories in Stone - Datestones in Ramsbottom by John B Taylor pub1991 p 38

Ramsbottom Heritage Society news magazines No 18 Spring 1999, No 25 Autumn/Winter 2003 and No 26 Spring/Summer 2004

OBITUARIES

In early autumn we learned of the death of Peter Morries, of Summerseat Lane, Holcombe Brook, a member of the Society from its early days; we are grateful to his widow Joan and son Geoff for the following details.

Peter Morries and his wife Joan, came to live in Ramsbottom in 1986, and joined the Society soon afterwards. Born in north Staffordshire in 1925, Peter was educated at Hanley High School for Boys, and Birmingham University where he read Chemistry. His professional career as an analytical chemist included a period as Public Analyst for Bolton, before moving to North West Water (now United Utilities), where he was responsible for laboratories throughout the North West. Colleagues remember him as an inspiring leader and a good friend. Outside work, he had exceptionally wide interests including music, literature and theatre, religion and politics, freshwater biology and wildlife conservation, and the history of science and industry. Peter was Chairman of the Croal-Irwell Group of the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the Summerseat Nature Reserve (formerly a sewage works!), for which he received an Award for Voluntary Service to the Community from Bury Council in 1999. He was particularly interested and knowledgeable about the history of railways and engineering, and of the chemical industries in the region. As a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Peter's memorial is at Colthouse Quaker Burial Ground (Hawkshead).

As the Autumn 2012 issue was in print we learned of the death of Clyde TWEEDALE, of Edenfield, who had been a member of the Society from its beginning. He contributed a number of well-researched articles to our news magazines and gave several talks to the Society. We are grateful to his son Mark for the following details.

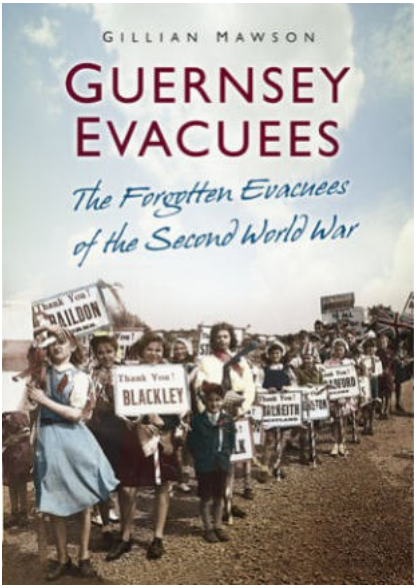
My father had many interests in the local community and was heavily involved with the Edenfield Local History Society and Ramsbottom Heritage Society. He was also a keen gardener and was a committee member in various roles in the Edenfield Horticultural Society. My father was born on 27th October 1933 in Rochdale and attended Rochdale Grammar School. After completing his A levels, he then studied English at King's College, London, and obtained his degree there. National Service followed with the East Lancashire Regiment where he also went through officer training at Eaton Hall College. He subsequently spent a year or so teaching at the Marion Military Institute in Alabama, USA. Back in the UK, he gained employment as an English teacher at a school in Lichfield, Staffs and then after meeting my mother at a dance in Bolton gained employment at Edge End School in Nelson as

an English teacher – later becoming head of department. My mother and father were married in 1970 at Edenfield Parish Church and spent 3 or 4 years living in Brierfield near Nelson. My parents then came to live in Edenfield where they settled for good. As well as the gardening, my father was also a keen rugby fan and supporter of Rochdale Hornets who he often went to see. In his earlier days he also played rugby for Littleborough Rugby Union Football Club and the Old Rochdalians. My father's military service also generated an interest in the history and exploits of the East Lancashire Regiment and as a member of the Friends of the East Lancs Regiment Association he made several trips to some of the war sites in Europe.

The new year brought with it news of the death of Jean Greenhalgh, a member who had lived for a number of years at Matthew Haygarth House, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom, before moving to Lavender Hills; we are grateful to her daughter Lynn Gilmartin for the following details.

My mum (Jean) was born Jean Kirkpatrick on 22nd January 1927. Her mother, Amy Taylor, was a Landlady and she was brought up in the "Seven Stars" Public House in Bury; she had two brothers, Sam and Donald. The war was still going when she was called up at 17 ½ years for Nursing in Liverpool; she stayed there for 18 months until the war was over. My mum married my dad, William Gant, known as Bill, when she was 20. (I was her 21st birthday present). She went on to have four more children, losing the last one shortly after birth. My parents had a corner shop in Hardman Street, before moving to Holcombe Brook; during that time she worked at Aitken Sanatorium, and as a Dinner Lady at Hazelhurst School. Jean was widowed at 47 years, but found happiness again years later with Fred Greenhalgh. Mum had lots of interests, including being a member of Bury Operatic Society; both she and her brother Donald sang in many of the shows at the 'Art Theatre' in Bury; she had a lovely voice, and at a young age won the Carol Levis award. Her other interests included Art classes, Reading, and travelling. Mum retired early from being a Care Home Warden at Peel Brow. She loved living in Ramsbottom, and her flat on Bolton Street; she had lots of friends, and was enjoyable company; she was a very independent woman, going out and about most days. The last 12 months her health started to deteriorate, and she was also diagnosed with vascular dementia. Jean went into care at Lavender Hills Care Home in June 2012, where she died on January 7th 2013, surrounded by her loved ones.

Guernsey Evacuees: The Forgotten Evacuees of the Second World War by Gillian Mawson



For four years, the author of this book interviewed two hundred surviving evacuees about their experiences during the war when the Germans invaded France and the Channel Islands. Whilst the emergency decision to evacuate was being made the Guernsey inhabitants could even hear the explosions from Cherbourg and see the city in flames at night. Altogether, about 20,000 of Guernsey's population of nearly 44,000 left and most of them were transported to towns in northern England. In October 2010, as part of a three-month project undertaken with Bury Archives, an Open Day was held by author Gillian Mawson in the Heritage Gallery at Ramsbottom Library. Ramsbottom Heritage Society's visitors to the Open Day included Mrs Patricia Locus, who was accompanied by her two sisters. They remembered the Guernsey evacuees as neighbours in the then newly-built houses on the Chesham Fold (Dicky Bird) estate in Bury. One of the ladies even recognised herself in a photograph on display. She told us that the Guernsey families were good neighbours and often helped others with gardening. This 192 page book, which was published in November 2012 by The History Press, is available online through Amazon.co.uk or you can buy a signed copy directly from Gillian for £15 which includes postage and packing and recorded delivery within the UK. Cheques should be made payable to M and G Mawson and sent to her at 28b, Hill Drive, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, SK23 7BH. If the book is a gift, please let Gillian know if you wish to have a specific message written next to the signature. A lending copy is also available at Ramsbottom Library.

(Taping by the RHS Oral History Group recorded the reminiscences of Elizabeth/Betty Haworth, a long-serving Society committee member who, as an eleven year old, had been evacuated from Guernsey just before the German invasion. She came to Ramsbottom and, having obtained her mother's permission, stayed on after the war. Sadly, Betty died in 2005 and so she does not feature in the book but an extract from her reminiscences was published in RHS news magazine No 29, Autumn 2005. It is available on request at Ramsbottom Library – Editor.)

A small part of Ramsbottom's past brought back to life:

In December 2012, the Civic Hall's original cast iron lamppost was reinstated around the back of the building. The post had been removed from its previous position during Hall improvement work in 2009. It was in excellent condition but without its lantern and had no maker's name on it. Although it is old, it is thought that it was never powered by gas and probably dates from the early 20th century.



Now completely restored and fully functioning with a new Victorian-style lantern, the lamppost is a focal point in the Civic Hall's garden/courtyard area, a new facility for hall-users. The Mayor of Bury, Cllr Joan Grimshaw unveiled the lamppost when she attended a function at the Hall on 7th December.

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

ISSUE 4 1942: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

TWENTY A4 PAGES ~ STILL ONLY £1

On sale from the 2013 ELR War Weekend
May 25th, 26th and 27th

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

***War News* issues 1, 2 and 3 published 2010-12, have been our most popular publications ever.**

DON'T MISS YOUR COPY OF THE LATEST ISSUE.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2013

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

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

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

Sunday 19th May ***Nuttall – The Village That Vanished***

3-4 mile circular walk, via St Andrew's Church, Nuttall village and Nuttall Park
Meet at Ramsbottom Station 2pm. Leader - Kate Slingsby 01706 281998

Sunday 16th June ***A Summerseat Stroll - Through Time***

looking at the industrial history, housing, railway and pubs. Meet at entrance to Waterside Inn car park, Waterside Road, Summerseat.
Leaders - Barbara and Jon Williams - 01706 559074

(July - No walk)

Sunday 18th Aug ***An• Historical Saunter Around Ramsbottom Town Centre***

Meet by the Grant Arms at 2pm.• Leader – Andrew Todd – 01706 822730

Sunday 15th Sept ***The History of the Greenmount Trail***

Meet at Greenmount Old School opposite The Bull's Head at 2pm.

Leader – Christine Taylor

For more details contact Barbara Williams or Kate Slingsby
(Contact numbers as above).

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG
email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel: **0161 253 6782**
Opening Hours

Tuesday to Friday	10am - 5pm
2nd Saturday of the month	10am – 4.30pm

Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):
Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents. Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Our catalogues are online at http;//archives.bury.gov.uk as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The Archive photograph collection can be browsed on the Bury Image Bank website at www.buryimagebank.org.uk. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR:
email **information@bury.gov.uk or 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at http://library.bury.gov.uk - follow 'Bury Libraries Catalogue (Local Studies)'. Free access to the *Ancestry* and *Find my Past* databases is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society;
membership secretary David Burgess, 10, St Andrew's Drive, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7TR – Tel **01132695512,** email: **membership@lfhhs.org.uk.**
Membership 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 an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

A NEW exhibition in the Gallery, upstairs at Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre.

Open to the public from June 2nd 2013, the 60th anniversary of our Queen's coronation

Regal Ramsbottom

Nine Monarchs and Seven Coronations

Including:

- An amazing collection of Coronation memorabilia and photographs going back to Queen Victoria's reign
- A map of Ramsbottom Market Place, dating buildings erected in the reigns of kings George III and George IV and Queen Victoria
- If you have memories of Coronation celebrations in Ramsbottom, come to the Gallery and tell us about them or phone 01706 28 1998.

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

Opening Times:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm
Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm
2nd Sunday in the month 12 noon - 3pm (side entrance)

Ramsbottom Heritage Society:
www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bury COUNCIL

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 45 Autumn/Winter 2013 **ISSN 0960 - 1244**



RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 28 1998

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:

2013

November 20	Tony Hodbod - *Imperial Policeman – the Colonial Career of the East Lancashire Regiment 1881 – 1958* (Illustrated)
December 11	**Christmas Social Evening**

2014

January 15	Alan McEwen - *Powering the Pennines – Waterwheel Powered Industries* (Illustrated)
February 19	George Eccleston – *Mary Queen of Scots part 2 – from Luxury to Disaster* (Illustrated)
March 19	**Photographic Competition** Bernard Wilson - *Ramsbottom's•Digital•Magic* (Illustrated)
April 16	Dr Paul Hindle – *Off the Beaten Track – Unusual Types of Roads in Britain* (Illustrated)
May 21	**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.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 45

Autumn 2013

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Front cover - St Andrew's Church, Ramsbottom. We thank the Church for giving us permission to use this drawing from their Festival of Flowers programme 1986

Website - www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Email via website

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA – NEWS ITEMS

Let's move to Ramsbottom, Lancashire – it's artsy but not hoity-toity

Thanks to Society member Mrs Mary Newborne we have a copy of a full-page newspaper article with this title. She found it in *The Guardian Weekend* (1st June 2013). As well as dispensing basic information and advice about Ramsbottom properties, the journalist apparently intended to start a debate about the merits of living in Ramsbottom. He devotes 4½ column inches to Ramsbottom's good points: festivals, good local theatre, Black Pudding World Championships, *Elbow* (the band who played their first gig at Stubbins), the beautiful cricket ground and our town as a "foodie destination". He also mentions its "solid souls who wouldn't want to live anywhere else" and the "appealing battiness about the place" (at Easter with the townspeople climbing Holcombe Hill to roll eggs).
His case against – only sixteen words about the rain!

Wanted: evacuee stories from Lancashire

Gillian Mawson, whose new book *The Forgotten Evacuees of the Second World War* was introduced in our News Magazine no 44, is starting work on another book about British evacuation during World War II. She is looking for evacuee stories from Lancashire and would like to hear from people who were either evacuees themselves or whose families took in evacuees. If you can help you can let her know on gillianmawson@btinternet.com or contact the Society.

The Holcombe Moor Heritage Group report an important and exciting find. In July the County Archaeologist visited the site to inspect the group's recent discovery of a 'smelting hearth', a remnant of iron making. His opinion is that it is indeed a medieval smelting hearth dating from the 15th or more probably the 14th century. To read more, you can visit their website on
www.holcombemoor.org .

St Andrew's Church, Bolton Street, was extensively damaged during a thunderstorm shortly after 7am on 23rd July 2013, the incident being widely reported in the media. One of the four large pinnacles on the tower was destroyed by a bolt of lightning and large lumps of stone plummeted through the main roof with debris crashing down, spreading through the interior of the building and even reaching the adjacent school playground. No one was hurt and scaffolding and sheeting is now in place over the huge hole in the roof. Originally built by William Grant in 1834 and the oldest in Ramsbottom, the Grade II listed St Andrew's Church is now closed for the foreseeable future. The Society's best wishes go to the church people as they work on the many ensuing problems.

Church Field (next to St Andrew's Church, Bolton Street)

Please use the enclosed questionnaire to help the Society to protect Church Field from any future development. There is still time before the public enquiry early in 2014. (More information on pages 10 and 11.) If you've completed a questionnaire already we'd like you to pass it on to be filled in by someone else. Finished questionnaires may be sent to the Society's address or left with local shopkeepers, including Stuart Rothwell at The Vineyard, Square Street, Ramsbottom. Thank you.

The Society's website www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk has recently been updated again. As described in our last issue, it contains an impressive amount of interesting local material, including photographs, as well as news about Society activities. Our readers are encouraged to have a regular browse.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

You all seem to have been very busy since the last magazine and between you have been carrying forward the work of Ramsbottom Heritage Society..

The very sad death of Tony Murphy at the beginning of August, left many gaps as, even after his retirement as Chair, he continued to fulfil four or five roles. I owe him a personal debt of gratitude, as I would have found my first two years as Chair very difficult without him. Several members of the Society have kindly stepped forward to help, although we have not yet found anyone to look after the bookstall permanently. We would really grateful if an individual or a couple would consider taking on. However all the activities of the Society have continued this year without a hitch.

The *Ramsbottom War News* was again a great success, selling well over 1,000 copies. This year however, the team producing the paper suggested that the proceeds should go to the War Memorial Wall to be built by the British Legion outside St Paul's Church. Unlike the existing memorial, the wall will have the names of all those local servicemen who died serving their country.

The good weather back in the summer, helped the success of the guided walks which are now under new leadership, although, unfortunately in September it was a complete washout for the final walk and it had to be cancelled.

The Conservation group continues to try to protect our heritage. Along with other residents, we objected to very unsuitable plans to develop the bowling green at the back of the Civic Hall. Whilst the owner has been prosecuted for cutting down protected trees without permission, the fate of this space is still unknown. At the time of writing no plans have been submitted for the site of the Paper Mill by

the Irwell bridge, but it is understood that the council wishes to retain the chimney and other Victorian buildings as part as our heritage.
A new venture for the society this autumn has been a series of four Local HistoryResearch Workshops, to enable people study the history of Ramsbottom and its people. Seventeen people enrolled, including eleven who were entirely new to the society. The sessions, which were very interesting and worthwhile, were run by seven members of the society, along with current and previous members of Ramsbottom Library staff and the North West Sound Archive team. We are expecting that various projects will arise out of the workshops, although these are not finalised at the time of writing. I am looking forward to telling you about them in next Spring's magazine.

Until then, may I thank you again for all you do for the Society

Very best wishes Kate Slingsby

THE BRIDGE FAMILY

The following article is based on family information supplied by Hilary Peace from Ramsbottom - a great, great, great granddaughter of the John Bridge who was born in 1791, son of Henry and Mary B ridge. Details about these members of the Bridge family are included in the article and we strongly recommend the website of the Holcombe Moor Heritage Group as a source of historical and archaeological information about the farming area around the homes of the families mentioned and others.

The Bridges, the Holts and the Kays, local families whose ancestors have lived in Lancashire for hundreds of years, may originally have been related and of Flemish origin, arriving in England during the 1370s. There was already a long tradition at that time of Flemish people migrating to Britain. In 1106 large tracts of Flanders had been flooded and numbers of its people formed various colonies across Britain. Groups of Flemings were pretty well spread out through England, Wales and Scotland by the end of the thirteenth century and from then onwards they continued to settle. After the Middle Ages, when the Flemish towns had built up very successful industries and commerce, there had been a gradual infiltration by the French. The French kings continued to exert feudal power over the Count of Flanders and the people until the 16th century and there were French invasions. The Flemish towns' ruling classes became increasingly proud and exclusive in their direction of urban affairs until the mass of weavers, fullers, dyers and all the other skilled craftsmen who paid urban taxes had no say in how they were spent. In the

second half of the 13th century there were conflicts in Bruges, Ypres, Douai and Tournai.

The struggle against the control of the King of France led to his annexing Flanders and this was followed by the Battle of the Golden Spurs. It took place near Courtrai (Kortrijk) on 17th May 1302, when the French knights were vanquished by Flemish peasants and urban militias, but the fight for economic independence continued. When the Bridges, Holts and Kays arrived here in the 14th century their Flemish homeland was in turmoil: from 1305 after Kortrijk the peace terms imposed by France included crushing fines and stricter controls, towns struggled between themselves for predominance and the numerous Flemish weavers strove to gain political power - often extremely violently. Whenever a recession affected their earnings, exasperated bands of weavers had a nasty habit of roaming about the countryside, breaking up the looms which they thought had caused it.

Around 1337 Flemish weavers are recorded as arriving in Bolton to work in the textile industry (based at that time on farmers working on handlooms in their homes), and they also helped to develop the cottage woollen industry around Blackburn. Records show that Geoffrey del Brygge was a tenant/freeholder in the Alden area in the 1440s. At that time Alden was part of Tottington Higher End within the Salford hundred, although it became part of Blackburnshire hundred at one point with the creation of local hunting forests for the local nobility. Presumably, the Bridge (Brygge, Brigge, Bryg) family who were yeoman farmers, spread within the Tottington Higher End area, moving southwards towards the Bury area over time.

Many members of the local Bridge family later lived in the Hawkshaw area in the early 1600s at Spenleach Farm, Croichhey and other farmsteads. (The present Croich Hey was built in 1904 by Fred Whowell, taking its name from the much older house on the hillside.) Until industry came to the area the whole of the present Tottington, Greenmount area was little more than a collection of farms and hamlets scattered around the hillsides and valley bottoms. The will of yeoman Richard Bridge (d1620) was made in 1619 and we know that he had married Margaret Bannister. His son Henry (b 1603), another yeoman, lived at Spenleach Farm and the family lived there until 1792.

Henry Bridge's son Thomas (1630 – 81) was the husband of Ann Wood and their son Richard (b 1664) married Sarah Smith. Richard and his wife Sarah were Presbyterians. Their son, another Henry, was the father of John (1721 – 1784) who married Mary Hamer. John and Mary's son was also christened Henry (b 1753). During this Henry's lifetime he married Mary Fell and they became innkeepers, breaking for the first time the family chain of yeomen (i.e. men holding

and cultivating small landed estates). Their descendants were corndealers and veterinary practitioners, indeed Henry and Mary's grandson John (b 1819) became a veterinary surgeon and lived at Walshaw Hall and later at Brandlesholme Hall. John's brother Roger (b 1826) was also a vet and bought Philip's Park Hall where he lived for five years. Since their time, the family have been scattered to the four winds.

OTHER SOURCES

Patricia Carson , *The Fair Face of Flanders*, 1969
An article by Jan Barnes *A Lancashire Family, the Bridges of Hawkshaw Lane* can be found in *Hawkshaw Gala Review Ninety (1990)*. It includes a family tree from the early 1700s and illustrations by John B Taylor and can be read at Ramsbottom Library.

RAMSBOTTOM COTTAGE HOSPITAL PART 2

The Stained Glass Windows

At the Bury Council planning committee meeting in the Spring of 2013, when permission was granted for the demolition of the hospital, it was agreed that the window panels over the staircase and another small stained glass window would eventually be donated to the Society along with the hospital's weather vane and foundation stone.

We are grateful to Society member Pam Woosey for the photographs which show the stained glass windows about a year before the hospital's 2008 closure. The Aitken crest in the centre of the six panel window above the staircase commemorates the local mill owning family who founded the hospital. On either side are panels with the year AD1898 when its foundation stone was laid by Mrs May Aitken.

The hospital also had an internal window featuring an image of Queen Victoria to represent her Diamond Jubilee, which had also been commemorated in the original name, *The Aitken Memorial and Jubilee Cottage Hospital.* This window seems to have been removed by the time Society members visited the building soon after it closed. Another internal window matching the size and position of the Queen Victoria window had been noticed by members around 2004-5. It had a scene of Holcombe Hill and the Peel Monument but unfortunately, it was not in place when Pam took her pictures so there is no photographic record of it.

Irwell Vale's Connection with Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital

Irwell Vale dates back to the 1830s when it was a completely new village with two rows of workers' houses next to Irwell Vale Mill, which was also new at that time.



Eventually the people of Ramsbottom and the surrounding area were to benefit greatly from the wealth created during the long association between the mill and the Aitkens when they founded Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital.

In 1837 Thomas Aitken from Chatterton had taken over the mill following the bankruptcy of the mill's first tenant, Henry Kilshaw. In 1875 control of the business (Thomas Aitken & Son) passed to Thomas Aitken's son, also Thomas. It was after he had recovered from a serious illness that his wife, Mrs May Aitken*, decided to build and furnish the hospital. In 1905 Thomas Aitken bought not only Irwell Vale Mill but also most of the village.

Thomas Aitken died in 1911 and, following Mrs Aitken's death in 1915, the business passed to her cousin Margaret Gray. Miss Gray was already a wealthy woman . As well as spending money on improving the conditions of the workers, she gave large sums to their local cottage hospital at Ramsbottom and succeeded the Aitkens as its president.

A fete marking the 180th birthday of the village of Irwell Vale was held on Saturday 7th September 2013. As well as a variety of stalls, face-painting and a barbecue, the event featured scarecrow and dog agility contests and a history corner. It was reported that most of the community came out to help and enjoy the fun and that £1500 was raised for "our little tourist spot".



References:

Clyde Tweedale: The Aitken Family: Millowners and Philanthropists Ramsbottom Heritage Society Magazine, Number 15, Autumn 1997

John Simpson , *A History of Edenfield and District* published by the Edenfield Local History Society in 2009 pages 92 – 94

Rossendale Free Press 13th September 2013

(***** *Details of the dedication and generosity of Mrs Aitken and her husband Mr Thomas Aitken were included in an article on Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital's history in News Magazine number 44, still on sale at Ramsbottom Library.)*

Opposite: A recent donation to the Society included copies of Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital's Annual Reports. We have reproduced a• table• from one of the reports•which reveals figures about•cases treated from 1900 to 1947.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF HOSPITAL WORK.

Year	HOSPITAL. In-Patients	Operations	Out-Patients	Visits	DISTRICT. Cases	Visits	X-Ray	Pathological
1900	57	16	nil	nil	160	2819		
1901	71	10	,,	,,	146	3115		
1902	87	17	,,	,,	138	2903		
1903	79	16	16	*	119	3216		
1904	124	48	27	299	122	3322		
1905	120	57	32	302	145	3480		
1906	122	54	31	332	120	2922		
1907	133	62	35	427	106	3301		
1908	145	73	36	757	144	4197		
1909	115	59	30	446	154	3954		
1910	135	79	28	541	150	3870		
1911	145	74	33	474	120	3472		
1912	194	120	36	757	135	4128		
1913	191	121	31	718	122	2927		
1914	174	114	51	847	133	3149		
1915	151	82	81	1642	72	2486		
1916	130	82	152	2432	83	3650		
1917	146	*	137	2057	89	3119		
1918	134	94	142	2111	95	2400		
1919	152	110	187	2897	114	2660		
1920	114	54	266	4218	110	2960		
1921	112	67	247	3647	84	2768		
1922	107	57	296	3578	136	3054‖		
1923	108	45	313	3528	149	3106		
1924	127	74	395	4729	181	3929		
1925	167	100	490	6864	176	2659		
1926	197	119	336	6050	196	3446		
1927	200	146	575	7588	156	3420		
1928	239	187	689	5680	155	3529		
1929	214	159	693	5285	169	3035		
1930	198	127	546	4150	154	3099		
1931	177	104	568	5570	155	2341		
1932	149	91	756	5289	182	2802	100	29
1933	189	115	733	4825	160	2655	153	31
1934	190	120	753	4207	135	2703	153	50
1935	195	129	824	3034	196	3075	188	55
1936	184	114	725	3481	162	2636	151	61
1937	62	44	652	3524	139	3002	102	49
1938	213	127	730	3044	161	3364	156	69
1939	202	122	765	3474	155	2862	162	55
1940	174	104	664	2678	165	2562	157	28
1941	189	119	732	2783	141	2475	157	32
1942	199	137	774	2492	141	2179	144	44
1943	200	151	678	2579	158	1815	123	34
1944	254	154	716	2429	134	1612	168	44
1945	207	137	714	2719	152	1964	163	74
1946	219	155	970	3163	155	1759	209	72
1947	197	157	1035	3650	166	2017	233	31

* Not recorded. ‖ Northern District included, 1922.

Church Fields Evidence Questionnaire, 1991-2011

Public enquiry

Ramsbottom Heritage Society has applied for the part of Church Fields nearest Bolton St to become a Town/Village Green under the 2006 Commons Act. This was on the legal grounds that the people of Ramsbottom had enjoyed unrestricted access *for at least 20 years* to the Site prior to the fencing off in April 2011.

The owners Peel Holdings have objected. The issue will now go to a public enquiry. Peel object on the grounds that on this Application Site between 1991 and 2011:

- People have used only the 2 paths, and *not* the field itself.
- The steepness and overgrown state of the land would make leisure pursuits 'unlikely'.
- From 1991 to 2004, and back to 1977, every March to October, the field was grazed by as many as 12 horses and ponies at a time, and roped off in sections for this purpose.
- Signs, walls and fencing have been in place from 1977 to 2004. So, to gain access, 'force has been used by some users'.
- The 'locality or neighbourhood' using the field is not a recognisable, cohesive area.
- Our original 26 questionnaires do not represent 'a significant number of inhabitants'.
- 'It has always been Peel's intention to make an application for planning permission . . . for suitable development at the appropriate time' on Church Fields.

Do *you* have a view? Have you lived in Ramsbottom?

At the public enquiry, we need to present as many written responses as possible from locals who have used the Site:

- for any leisure or recreation
- for walking **regularly** along either of the two paths (one paved, the other unpaved)
- **and particularly in *any* of the years from 1991 to 2011**.

Please answer the accompanying questionnaire honestly and independently, sign and return it to any of the Collection Points in the town (notices in shop windows).

Use an extra sheet if you need to, but number your additions - eg 'Qn1 continued'. Please sign and date any extra sheet.



Remains of the boundar
Church Fields above Bar

late 2013/2014 - *your* written evidence is crucial. Takes 5 mins!



Two views of the Application Site (Church Fields) from the same spot



y wall between Bolton St and wood Lodge House, July 2013

Do you have friends, relatives (including children) or neighbours in Ramsbottom who could fill one in?

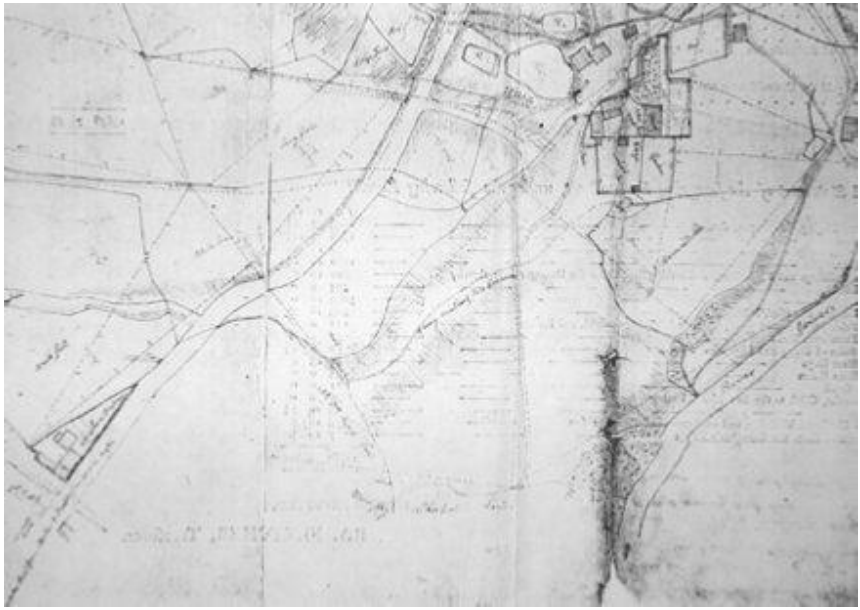
Take a few! But *please* pass them on.

Extra questionnaires can be downloaded from **www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk /churchfields.html**

This may be Ramsbottom's last chance to save this field for future generations.

Historical evidence of the Commons status of Church Fields, 1806

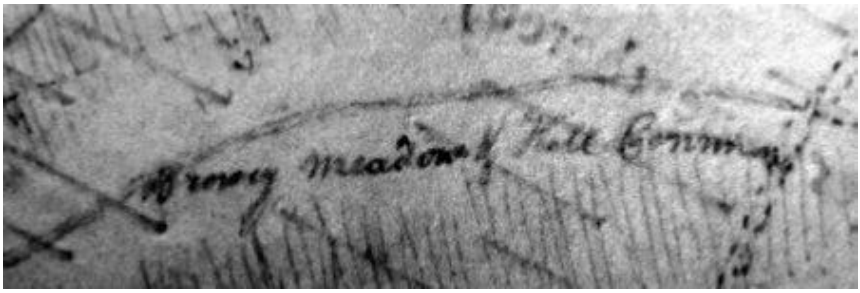
The earliest known plan of Ramsbottom is in the Bolton Archives, within the Albinson Collection. Catalogued as 'Rough Plan of Higher Ramsbottom Estate, the Property of Sir Robert Peel & Co dated 14 September 1806' (ZAL94), the survey was clearly completed in connection with the sale to William Grant of what is now Ramsbottom town centre and the land lying to the south west. It famously shows the layout of the Old Ground, and seems to have been used as the basis of the plan which appears on pages 111-2 of Hume Elliot's *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (1893). Below is the portion of the plan which centres on Church Fields, north at the top.



Bottom left is the crossroads of Bolton Street/Nuttall Lane/Bolton Road West/Dundee Lane. The building within the triangle of ground is the *Old Dun Horse*.

The line of Bolton Street, to be straightened by the Turnpike Trust in the 1810s, runs from there to the top of this extract from the 1806 plan. Branching off to the right is what is now Kay Brow with the lodge to the south. Barwood House is on Grants Lane, a little to the east. Note the River Irwell across the bottom right of the extract, with the trees of a much smaller Lumber Carr Wood on its western bank..

But of particular interest to us is the slanting line of writing right at the centre of this extract (see below). It reads 'Browey Meadow & Hall Common' and seems to be directly under the line of trackway which was to be paved in the early 1950s.



The name 'Browey' could be some local corruption of Barwood. (By 1842, when a much more detailed map was surveyed in connection with the Tithe Award, the whole of Church Fields, running down as far as what is now the railway, was called Barwood Meadow.) Alternatively, 'Browey' could be a vernacular reference to the hilly lie of the land at this point. Whilst there is no clear boundary to these two pieces of open ground, the name 'Hall Common' must allude to Nuttall Old Hall, which stood a few hundred yards to the south-east until the 1960s. This is the earliest indication we have that at least part of this land has been considered to be of Commons status.

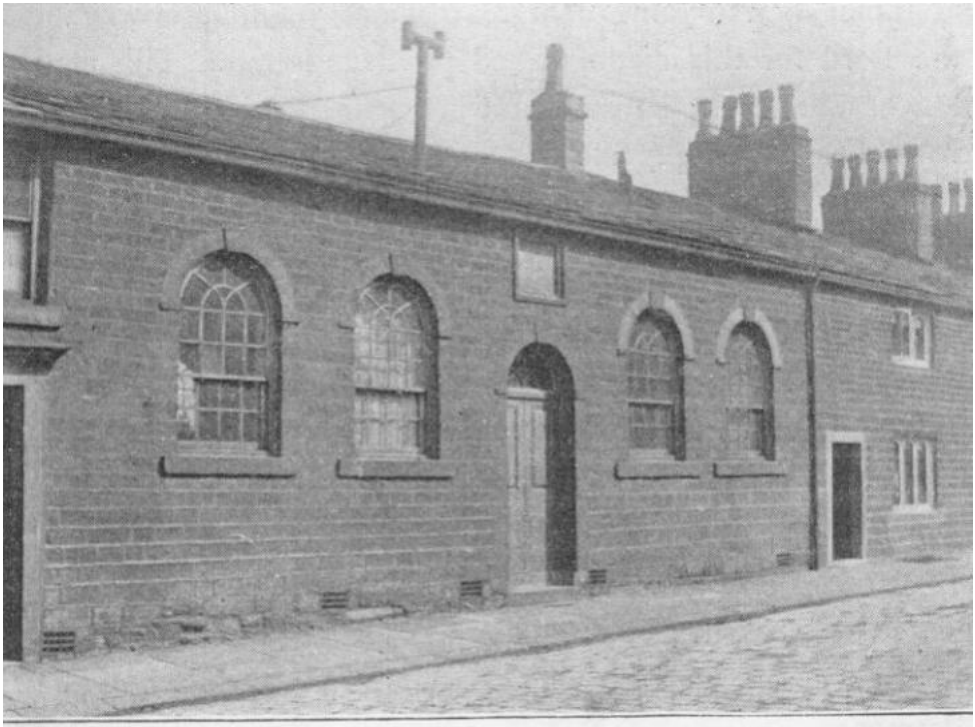
Andrew Todd

REVEREND RICHARD CHEW AND HIS RAMSBOTTOM ROOTS

The pictures are reproduced from the *Memoir of Rev Richard Chew* by the Reverend Edward Boaden, published in 1896 and they show the local buildings which featured in Richard Chew's life in Ramsbottom. Born locally, probably in a cottage in the hamlet of Sheep Hey (Stubbins) on 2nd February 1827, Richard Chew was the third of five sons and there were also three daughters. His father was a block printer in Stubbins and Richard's first job was at a rope walk, working for an uncle. After his parents removed to Twelve Row, Stubbins Lane, Ramsbottom he worked at Ramsbottom Mill and later Rose Bank Printworks, Stubbins. Later in life, as Reverend Richard Chew, he rose to the eminent position of President of the United Methodist Free Churches. (Methodism, a non-conformist church community, had been divided for over a hundred years before 1932 when the Primitive Methodist

Church, the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church - which had already incorporated the United Methodist Free Churches in 1907 - came together). As a child Richard Chew was sent to be taught at the Sunday School in the old New Jerusalem Swedenborgian Church on Ramsbottom Lane.

(*In 1874-6 a new New Jerusalem Church was erected on the corner of Factory Street and Ramsbottom Lane, beside the original one. There are more details in Brenda Richards' article, "The History of the New Jerusalem Church in Ramsbottom" in News Magazine No 41 Autumn 2011. Fundraising to replace this second Church building began in 1913 but ceased during World War 1 and after the war costs seemed to have increased so much that the rebuilding was abandoned.*



THE OLD NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH, RAMSBOTTOM.
(Mr. Chew's first Sunday School.)

In 1930s under Rev A Stones £4000 was raised and much repair work was done. In WW2 the building was used by the military. Later ministers included Rev W Allsopp, Rev Bryan Trobridge and Rev John O Booth. When their Church closed in 1970 some of the members joined the Haslingden Congregation. The Ramsbottom NJ church building was demolished in 1971/2. Although a "Swedenborgian Memorial Ground" was planned for the site, just a stone memorial at the top of Factory Street now marks its position.)

Around the time that Richard Chew was attending the Sunday School, Ramsbottom had three or four Sunday Schools where reading, writing and arithmetic formed part of the teaching, one or two dame schools open during weekdays and some night schools. Richard also attended evening classes at the old Wesleyan Chapel, Market Place, Ramsbottom.

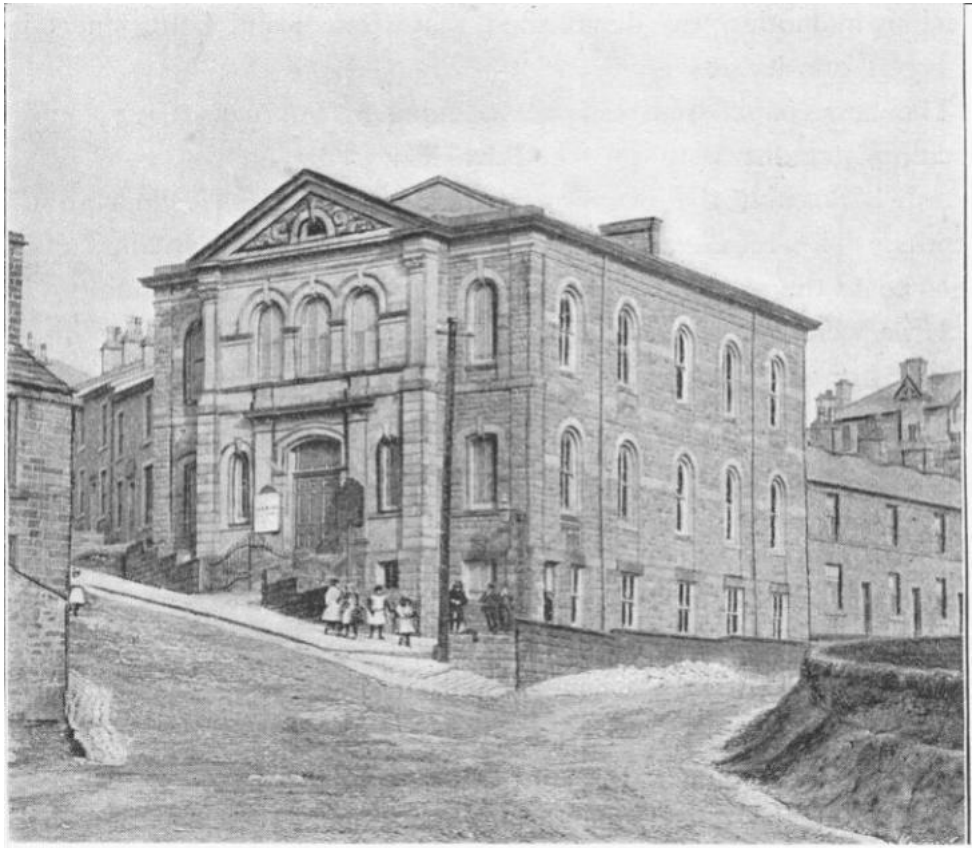
When he moved with his parents to Twelve Row he was first connected with the Wesleyan Chapel. Disagreements, expulsions and withdrawals within the Methodist



TWELVE ROW, RAMSBOTTOM.

Church were the order of the day and although he was not directly involved, he began his association with Patmos United Methodist Free Church which had been founded in 1836. It was situated on the corner of Bury New Road and Peel Brow.

As an active Christian, Richard Chew began his service teaching in the Sunday School. As well as conducting services in their chapel, the Patmos Christians held cottage meetings at which Richard Chew assisted, Lower Park Cottages being one of the first places at which he preached.
By 1846, he was popular and effective as a preacher in pulpits around the Bury circuit and much further afield. The old Patmos Chapel, associated with Richard Chew's childhood and youth was demolished to be replaced with a new building in 1874. Richard Chew preached the sermons at the first service there.



* Ramsbottom's original Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, which had been built in 1825, was the town's first Nonconformist chapel. The present building replaced the 1825 Chapel on the same site in 1874. It eventually became Christ Church



LOWER PARK COTTAGES, RAMSBOTTOM.
(One of the first places in which Mr. Chew preached.)

Methodist/Baptist Church in 1972 after Ramsbottom Baptist Chapel, Bolton Street, which had been erected in 1861, was forced to close because of serious problems with the roof. The Baptist Chapel has been converted into flats.

Meanwhile in the 1950s, dry rot and problems with the foundations at Patmos meant that a great amount would need to be spent for worship there to continue. A new Patmos Methodist Church was planned for Fir Street, Ramsbottom, but found to be beyond the means of the congregation. Patmos and Market Place Methodist Churches decided to work more closely together. Sunday worship was held at Market Place and at least for some time, Patmos was used for Sunday School and youth work. A service to celebrate the official union of the two congregations was

held at Market Place Methodist Church on 17th May 1958. A transcription of the Patmos baptism registers March 1870 to January 1956 (with index) is available at Ramsbottom Library (Local Collection – reference only) and Bury RIF Library.

In its turn, with dry rot in its roof beams extending into the walls, Christ Church Methodist/Baptist Church, Market Place, Ramsbottom closed in 1996 and was converted into the Adderstone Mansions apartments. A new Christ Church on Great Eaves Road, off Stubbins Lane was officially opened at a service on 8th January 2000.

Sources - Bury Times 3 May 1958, 1 Nov 1958; 12 Sept 1970; 27 Feb1971
Rossendale Free Press 27 Feb 1971

Ramsbottom War News

NEWS

This year's proceeds totalling £1075 have been donated to RAMSBOTTOM'S WAR MEMORIAL WALL PROJECT

More information on www.ramsbottommemorialwallproject.co.uk

War News issues 1 to 4 have been published every May from 2010-13 by the Society, using information from editions of *The Ramsbottom Observer* and our archives.

They have been our most popular publications ever.

COPIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE ~ STILL ONLY £1
ISSUE 5 ON SALE FROM MAY 2014

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Photograph Competition

The annual photographic competition is now open until the 31st January 2014. Entries must have been taken in 2013 in the Ramsbottom area, and are retained by the Society as a record of the year. Therefore, photographs of buildings that are changing, or unique events, are of particular interest. There are 4 categories, Town and Country, Buildings, Events and Daily Life, and Themes. The photographs will be stored on the photograph database on the website, which has 2400 photographs from the 26 years that the competition has been running, and also has 1700 older photographs from our collection which is held at Bury Archives.

This year, digital entries only can be accepted. They can either be emailed to john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk, submitted via an online Photograph Competition Form or handed in on a memory stick or CD at one of the monthly meetings.
All the details are on the Society's website**,**
www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk .

The winner, who will hold the Dickensian Trophy for a year, will be announced at the meeting on Wednesday March 19th 2014.

TONY MURPHY by Linda de Ruijter

My recollections of Tony are mainly personal. When our Chairman, Dorothy Moss said she was going to retire at the AGM 2004 I thought long and hard about who could succeed her. Not an easy task for anyone to follow in Dorothy's footsteps. Even though Tony was a member of the Society he hadn't taken any real active role. I can't imagine what went though his mind when I first suggested to him that he would be the ideal candidate to take over from Dorothy!
Perhaps it was due to my special powers of persuasion …. Those of you around at the time may remember that a group of us enjoyed holidays and outings together when we became very close friends. Tony was fun to be with. He and Joan loved life. Saying they were "Game for anything" maybe creates the wrong impression. But they gave much of themselves to whoever they were with. Their caravan was their hideaway, a place where they could relax and enjoy the Cockermouth area that they both loved so much. Back to the leadership issue. I kept up the pressure on Tony and finally he relented and became Chairman. Tony's years in charge saw many changes ….. the closure of our old and dear Heritage Centre, the search for a new base was exhausting and protracted. Tony's commitment to the Society was boundless. He coped admirably with each challenge.
He was a loyal and steadfast friend. Courageous to the end.

OBITUARY - TONY MURPHY

Tony was born in Miles Platting, Manchester and as a child he attended Our Lady of Grace R.C. Primary School, Prestwich. His career in engineering began with an apprenticeship in the fitting shop at the Gorton Locomotive Works of Beyer Peacock & Co Ltd. One day in 1954 the apprentices helped to pull out from the sheds a thirty four ton 1909 Tasmanian Government Railways K1 locomotive which had been shipped back to Gorton in 1947. The apprentices cleaned it and made it ready for the 100th anniversary celebrations of the company. A lifelong passion for trains followed his time at the Works with Tony travelling all over the country by rail and, incidentally, being pleased to note the progress of the K1 as it was sold to the Ffestiniog Railway in 1966, cosmetically restored at the National Railway Museum for exhibition and returned in 1995 to the Ffestiniog who eventually brought it back into service on the Welsh Highland Railway. During his National Service Tony had been sent to Bahrain. Later he worked for various shipping companies in Manchester and gained a degree in shipping. His career's transport theme continued with British Aerospace at Salmesbury, Lancashire. Tony married Joan in 1973 at Prestwich and they moved to Ramsbottom in 1986. In November this year they would have been married for forty years and, struggling bravely with illness recently, he suggested to Joan that the celebration should be brought forward.. A regular and committed member of St Joseph's Parish Church he was always willing to help. He became the Church's representative for the overseas aid agency CAFOD, promoting fundraising at Lent and harvest time and also assisted with clerical work every Wednesday at CAFOD's office in Salford. He was a Reader at Mass and was proud to become an 'Altar Boy' aged sixty nine! That he was well loved and respected was made apparent by the full church of mourners at his Requiem Mass. As well as serving with distinction the Ramsbottom Heritage Society, Tony was a valued member of Edenfield Local History Society and held office, including that of chairman, on their committee. Jackie MacDonald paid this tribute

Tony was a long standing member of Edenfield History Society and was chairman from 2004 to 2008. In 2008 he took on the position of programme secretary, organising varied meetings and outside visits and sending very informative reports to the local press. He was so dedicated that despite serious illness he continued to make arrangements for the 2013/14 programme. He particularly enjoyed a good slice of cake (or two) at our committee meetings and contributed enthusiastically to our Christmas parties with his humorous readings. We will miss him very much.

(NB News Magazine No 27, dated Winter 2004 (available to read at Ramsbottom Library) features an introduction to Tony who had just become the third Ramsbottom Heritage Society Chairman. The article, by Andrew Todd, is in the form of a fascinating and detailed "Society Sketch" .)

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):

Tuesday	10am - 5pm	2nd Saturday of the month 10am – 4.30pm
Wednesday	10am - 5pm	
Thursday	10am - 5pm	
Friday	10am - 5pm	

Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents.
Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Our catalogues are online at **http;//archives.bury.gov.uk** as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The Archive photograph collection can be browsed on the Bury Image Bank website at **www.buryimagebank.org.uk**. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR: **information@bury.gov.uk** or 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at **http://library.bury.gov.uk** - follow 'Bury Libraries Catalogue (Local Studies)'. Free access to the *Ancestry* and *Find my Past* databases is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Stephen Benson, 32, Slater Lane, Leyland, PR25 1TN, email: **membership@lfhhs.org.uk.** Membership entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. Also one branch in London. 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 an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

Our exhibition in the Gallery, upstairs at Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre.

Open to the public until May 2014:

Regal Ramsbottom

Nine Monarchs and Seven Coronations

Including:

- An amazing collection of Coronation memorabilia and photographs going back to Queen Victoria's reign
- A map of Ramsbottom Market Place, dating buildings erected in the reigns of kings George III and George IV and Queen Victoria
- If you have memories of Coronation celebrations in Ramsbottom, come to the Gallery and tell us about them or phone 01706 28 1998.

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

Opening Times:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm
Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm
2nd Sunday in the month 12 noon - 3pm (side entrance)

Ramsbottom Heritage Society:
www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bury COUNCIL

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

No 46 Spring 2014 ISSN 0960 -1244



NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM IN WORLD WAR I

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 82 1998

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 2014:

June 18	John Alker – *Manchester's Formidable Women*
July 16	Barbara and Jon Williams – A visit to Mount Pleasant factory village. Meet 6.15pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing.
August 20	Harry Sidebottom (English Heritage custodian) - A visit to Goodshaw Chapel. Meet 6.15pm at Carr Street, Ramsbottom, car park; transport by car sharing.
September 17	Diane Taylor – *The History of the Leeds, Settle and Carlisle Railway Line* (illustrated)
October 15	Mike Turpin – *Roman Aldborough: Victorian Antiquarian Research and Links with Ramsbottom* (illustrated)
November 19	Lizzie Jones – *Rogues and Vagabonds*
December 10	**Christmas Social Evening**

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.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 46
Spring 2014

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Front Cover – A drawing by Mike Spencer of Emmanuel Holcombe Church of England Primary School – the 1894 original building with a recent new build which was completed in 2011

Website - www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Email via website

Chairman's report

In this last six months we have had very successful meetings in the Civic Hall and the Gallery continues to be opened on the second Sunday of every months from twelve till three. However this year seems to have been dominated by the attempt to allocate Church Fields as a town green for public use. After collecting evidence from local residents, Andrew Todd did a magnificent job as our advocate at the public inquiry and was thanked by the Inspector who said, "You have done your community proud,"- a sentiment we would echo. My last report mentioned the fact that the trees had been cut down around the former bowling green at the back of the Civic Hall. Since then an application has been resubmitted for a large building on the site and this is causing us great concern. At the time of writing, the outcome of these two applications is not yet known

Last autumn we successfully ran Local History Research Workshops and two projects grew out of these, which have been running ever since. One group is cataloguing and scanning our entire collection of maps, so that they can be made available on line and on disc. The second group, the exhibition team, has been researching and collecting objects and photographs for "*Ramsbottom's Response – A World War 1 exhibition*". They have found many interesting stories about soldiers who went to war, Belgian refugees who came here, women and children who engaged in the war effort at home and a Zeppelin which came to bomb us. You will be fascinated by the displays when you visit the Heritage Gallery in Ramsbottom Library.

We are extremely grateful to the many people who have worked for the RHS this year. Over 10 members have had some level of input into the exhibition and many, many others support the RHS in different ways. So it must seem surprising that we are still looking for volunteers. However we really need help with the archiving team and for the collection of objects and artworks. The bookstall may close altogether if no one can be found to take it over, which would be a pity as it gives us a public face at local events including the Christmas Markets, and a forum for selling our own publications. If you feel you could help, you will get plenty of help and advice from previous holders of the post and the rest of the team. It is a great way to feel involved in the RHS and to get to know people better.

Over the summer months we have arranged visits and guided walks. Please take a look at our programme for details and come along. So, when you are not away on your summer holidays there are plenty of interesting things to do with the RHS.

Very best wishes
Kate Slingsby

RAMSBOTTOM MISCELLANEA – NEWS ITEMS

Church Fields Update

In News Magazine 45 we published information about the fencing off of Church Fields and about Ramsbottom Heritage Society's bid to secure town/village green status for the land. The Society soon received widespread and enthusiastic support from the public in the form of completed questionnaires and written statements. A peaceful protest against the closure of the land took place on 22nd February when a human chain stretched for about a distance of a hundred yards on the public footpath which runs through Church Fields. The Society's town/village green application was considered at a public inquiry at Ramsbottom Civic Hall on 4th, 5th and 6th March. Inspector Alan Evans presided at the hearing and on 31st March RHS final submissions were made to him in public at Bury Town Hall. After his report has been received by Bury Council they will make the final decision.

Mr Evans presided over the inquiry into the Walmersley village green application in November. His report ran to 90 pages and took over four months to prepare. So we should not expect Bury's decision before the summer.

BBC Radio Lancashire's

Sally Naden was at *The Chocolate Café,* Market Place, Ramsbottom on Wednesday 2nd April for a live broadcast. The group that took part in the programme included several Society members.

Sally began by saying that 2014 is the fortieth anniversary of the Local Government Act and hence local government reorganisation. Even though the Government of the day assured everyone the changes were for administrative purposes and that for cultural, sporting and ceremonial purposes the old counties would continue to be used, county boundaries were transformed. Sally asked what difference it had made to local people. Richard Hall explained that in 1974 Ramsbottom people had a strong feeling of belonging to Lancashire and that those who were put into Greater Manchester felt cut off by the boundary changes. (The old RUDC had been cut in half.) It was agreed that, following a very difficult period (in the 1970s the town's industries were also in decline), Ramsbottom has adapted to its new status. Being on the fringe of Manchester but with the advantage of excellent transport links to the city was seen as playing an important part in the renaissance that Ramsbottom had worked hard to achieve.

The following links that Ramsbottom still has with the County Palatine were highlighted:

Its Chairman pointed out that Ramsbottom Cricket Club, which was established in the town in 1845, continues to be part of the Lancashire League.

Postal addresses are Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire

Ramsbottom's local food shops, cafés and restaurants are supplied from Lancashire.

It emerged during the discussion that some members of the group had roots elsewhere but, encouraged to admit that the town's loyalties were now to Manchester, the group unanimously denied this was the case. All showed strong support for Ramsbottom as part of Lancashire because of the feeling among the community that it is a part of Lancashire.

Barbara Palmer

Sadly, we note the passing of Mrs Barbara Palmer, a founder member of the Society, who died during 2013.

Correction

On page 17 of News Magazine 45, we stated that Ramsbottom's original Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (built in 1825) was the town's first Non-conformist chapel. We have been reminded that Dundee Presbyterian Chapel, Dundee Lane (demolished 1978) opened in 1712 and we apologise for the mistake.

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

ISSUE 5 1943: THE TIDE TURNS

TWENTY A4 PAGES ~ STILL ONLY £1

On sale during the 2014 ELR 1940s Weekend
May 24th, 25th and 26th

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

***War News* issues 1 - 4 published 2010-13, have been our most popular publications ever and are still available.**

DON'T MISS YOUR COPY OF THE LATEST ISSUE.

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2013

The competition entries, which were taken in Ramsbottom and surrounding area during 2013, were judged by Bernard Wilson. All of the photographs are available for viewing on the Ramsbottom Heritage Society website in the Photo Database section, which has 2500 photographs since the competition started in 1987, and also 1500 photographs scanned in from Bury Archive

OVERALL WINNER OF THE DICKENSIAN TROPHY:

Joyce Sellers HPC-13TH-031 The War Weekend

EVENTS & DAILY LIFE:

Winner: Joan Platt HPC-13EV-018 Santa Special at Ramsbottom

Highly Commended:

Ian Summers HPC-13EV-012 School Christmas Presentation

BUILDINGS:

Winner: Joan Platt HPC-13BU-038 Peel Tower

Highly Commended:

Ian Chapman HPC-13BU-019
St Andrew's Tower, minus pinnacle

TOWN & COUNTRY LANDSCAPES:

Winner: Dennis Salmon HPC-13TC- 030 View over the Rake

Highly Commended:

Joyce Sellers HPC-13TC- 025 A view across the River Irwell
Ian Chapman HPC-13TC-005 Holcombe Village in the snow

THEMES:

Winner: Ian Smith HPC-13TH-091/095 War Weekend

Highly Commended:

Ian Summers HPC-13TH-021/25
Redevelopment of Edenfield Co-op
Joyce Sellers HPC-13TH-031/35 War Weekend parade

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM,

RAMSBOTTOM HEROES OF WORLD WAR ONE

Elizabeth Duxbury has collected many of the names of the men and women of the Ramsbottom area who served in the Armed Forces in World War One. She tells us:
"I have searched War Memorials, Rolls of Honour, gravestones, the Ramsbottom Observer, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, some histories of our local churches and books by Jonathan Ali and Duncan Francis.
I hope the completed booklet, containing over 2,000 references to those who served in WWl, will be available in Ramsbottom Library by the summer.
For the following item I have selected one surname to illustrate the many sources that can help to build up a picture of the events that affected one family, and would have affected so many in Ramsbottom".

Ramsbottom Observer 8th January 1915

FATHER AND FOUR SONS IN ARMY

RAMSBOTTOM FAMILY'S PROUD DISTINCTION.

Mrs Turner, 152 Bolton Street has a husband and four sons in the Army. Private Richard Turner, the husband enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers when a young man. Ten of the twelve years in the Army on that occasion were spent in India and Turner finished his term with the rank of Corporal. Afterwards he served in the Volunteer Force and about two years ago joined the National Reserve. A few weeks ago he again enlisted for active service, this time in the 6th Manchester Regiment;
Second son, Charles Thomas Turner who is now 22 years old, has been in the Sherwood Foresters Territorial Battalion for the past four years, whilst William Turner, the third son has joined the 5th (Reserve) Battalion East Lancashire Regiment and is now billeted in Southport. The youngest son, named Fred is in the Royal Field Artillery, for the present he is stationed at Preston.
On Wednesday morning Mrs Turner received a letter from her eldest son, Richard who is married and resides at Birch Vale, Derbyshire, that he had enlisted and was proceeding to Cornwall.
It might interest our readers to know that Richard Turner the father was on the "Euphrates" when that vessel was wrecked on the Pearl Rock off the coast of Spain. There were 2,000 troops on the ship and Turner was one of the men

told off to stay on board to help at the pumps whilst the others were being taken in boats to Malta. The vessel, it will be recalled, was on the rocks for a fortnight before being towed to Malta for repairs.

Ramsbottom Observer 12th February 1915

A RALLY TO THE FLAG -
PATRIOTIC RAMSBOTTOM FAMILY.
FATHER AND FOUR SONS IN THE ARMY.

The record of patriotism in Ramsbottom contains no finer example than that displayed by the Turner family of 152 Bolton Street; the father of the household along with his four sons have responded to the call of duty. . .[as R O 8th January] .. On Wednesday of last week he was drafted along with the other members of the Ramsbottom Company of the National Reserve to Cardiff to take charge of prisoners of war in that locality.

The eldest son, Richard Turner who is married and resides at Birch Dale .. has joined the Notts and Derby Battalion of Kitchener's Army; the second son, Charles Thomas Turner, who is now 22 years of age, has been in the Sherwood Foresters Territorial Battalion four the past four years; while the third son has joined the 5th (Reserve) Battalion East Lancashire Regiment. The fourth son, Fred is in the Royal Field Artillery at present stationed at Fulwood Barracks, Preston.

The youngest son of this patriotic family is Prince Edward Turner and had he not been too young he would doubtless have followed the example of the other members of his family. In fact we believe parental intervention only kept him back. He is a member of the Church Lads' Brigade ……

Ramsbottom Observer 18th June 1915

Ramsbottom's Roll of Honour. Official list serving –

C Turner, 152 Bolton Street, Sherwood Foresters;
F Turner, 152 Bolton Street, RFA ;
Corporal R Turner, 152 Bolton Street, Manchester Regiment;
T Turner, 37 Bolton Street, ASC;
W Turner, 152 Bolton Street, ELR

Ramsbottom Observer 29th October 1915

Local enlistment in Bolton Artillery. during the past fortnight
F Turner 152 Bolton Street Ramsbottom

Ramsbottom Observer 9th June 1916

Ramsbottom soldiers wounded, Corporal R Turner [142?] Bolton Street received news that his son Private Richard Turner, Sherwood Foresters, was wounded in Egypt;

Ramsbottom Observer 2nd August 1918

MILITARY FUNERAL – INTERMENT OF A RETIRED SOLDIER

The interment of the late Mr Richard Turner, aged 51 years, a retired soldier of 13, Coulthurst Street Ramsbottom, took place at Holcombe Parish Church on Saturday afternoon. Eight soldiers acted as bearers, a firing party from Bury Barracks attended and Bugler Taberer sounded The Last Post.

…[as R O 8th January] .. **"There are four sons of the deceased serving in the Army and one has been discharged."**

Holcombe Emmanuel gravestone

[Manchester Coat of Arms] **623 Corporal R Turner Manchester Regiment 24th July 1918.**

Holcombe Emmanuel burial register

Albert Turner, 4 Bales Yard Taylor Street Bury, buried 26th June 1931, 14months

Annie Turner, Birch Hill Ho Wardle buried 6th February 1942, 74yrs

Lily Turner, 47 Jermyn Street Rochdale, buried 26th February 1927 3yrs

Richard Turner, 15 Coulthurst Street, buried 27th July 1918, 51yrs

William Turner 7 Flannel Street Wardleworth, buried 27th February 1931, 35yrs
[All the above, were buried in grave K19]
Richard Turner, the father, 1865 – 1918.
Annie, his wife, about 1867 – 1942.
William Turner, their son, about 1896 – 1931.
Albert, probably a grandson, 1930 – 1931.
Lily, probably a granddaughter, 1924 – 1927.

Holcombe Emmanuel, Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Turner, R, Corporal, Manchester Regiment, 24/7/1918.

Holcombe Emmanuel [Sacrifice Remembered, Duncan Francis]
Richard Turner [photo] 152 Bolton Street Ramsbottom, Corporal 623, Manchester Regiment, died 24th July 1918 aged 51 years, of natural causes. His five sons all served in Great War.

Elizabeth Duxbury, 2014

OUR BOYS -

THE GREAT WAR IN A LANCASHIRE VILLAGE

by Jonathan Ali

"Our Boys" was the term used by the Hawkshaw headmaster, Thomas Beckett, when writing to his former pupils as they served at the front. Jonathan Ali's interest in the First World War started when, as a youngster, he read the names on the three memorials (placed in the church and chapels of Hawkshaw) to the forty dead and 127 survivors. The stories in the book, about the men from Jonathan's home village who fell and those who returned, could have come from anywhere in Lancashire. He has kindly allowed us to publish the following extracts which include paragraphs referring to Andrew Bridge, an only son and a descendant of one of the oldest families in the area.

DOING OUR BIT

(The first men, former professional soldiers and Territorials, left Hawkshaw for war service in 1914 - Editor)

January 1915 saw more men joining up to do their "bit". The *Ramsbottom Observer* in its recruitment column noted that Andrew Bridge, a twister from Hawkshaw and Robert Stanton Young, a weaver from Hawkshaw had both enlisted at Ramsbottom in the East Lancashire Regiment. They must have stood in line together as good friends, because they have consecutive army numbers. They had grown up, played football together, gone to school and chapel together, so felt it was right to go to war together.

THIS IS NO GARDEN PARTY – IT'S BLOODY HELL

One of the many gatherings during the course of the summer months at Croich Hey, the residence of Mr Fred Whowell, at Hawkshaw, which stand out

prominently in the calendar is that which brings together annually the old folk of the district. No fewer than 240 invitations were sent for Saturday July 1st last week.
The day broke full of climactic forebodings, and rain descended early in the afternoon. Heavy banks of clouds passed over, and the outlook at the time of the reception was ominous, but the day turned out to be delightful.

> **There were competitions that included finding the Babes in the Woods, Smashing the Kaiser and bombarding the Germans, as well as the beauty show. (*Ramsbottom Observer*, Friday July 7th 1916)**

This was the scene at the festivities at Croich Hay in Hawkshaw on the *'First Day of the Somme'*. Those present could not have known that it was the worst day for the British army, the day when it suffered its heaviest casualties in a single day. The strategy behind it was a pulverising bombardment of the German lines, destroying men and barbed wire. It would then be followed by a walk over *'No Man's Land'* by the massed British armies. But the Germans were not crushed. In many places on the line they simply came out from their deep dug outs, mounted their machine guns and took aim as the slow moving mass of infantry walked toward them up the gentle slopes of the French countryside. It was in one such attack that Andrew Bridge was killed. His battalion, the 1st East Lancashires, went over the top close to Serre to find the barbed wire had not been cut sufficiently by the shelling. Andrew and nearly 500 other men were killed or posted missing. A letter was received by his parents from his platoon commander Sgt Robert Jepson who wrote,

It is with deep sympathy and regret that I am writing this letter to let you know that your son Andrew was killed in action on 1st July. I am sure you will be pleased and comforted a little to know he was a very brave lad. He was also one of my best men – always willing and hard working. He did everything so cheerfully that I feel his loss on my staff very much. I hope you will bear up well in your bereavement and be proud to think how much and how well he did his duty for his king and country. (*Ramsbottom Observer* Friday July 21st 1916)

Sgt Robert Young, who had seen his mate, 20 year old Andrew Bridge, killed on the first day of the Somme and had himself been wounded in the head at the Somme, died at Passchendaele in 1917.

Copies of *Our Boys – The Great War in a Lancashire Village* by Jonathan Ali (2007) are still on sale at the *Fusiliers Museum*, Bury.

The Lost Generation - 1914 by Duncan Francis

A fascinating, meticulously researched book.

The Lost Generation - 1914 is the start of a series; as Duncan is writing a separate book for each year of the First World War. He has spent years researching each of the soldiers from Ramsbottom who were killed in the Great War, giving details of their families and lives here at home and the tragic circumstances of their deaths. His work gives a valuable insight into the ordinary men and women in Ramsbottom before and during the war and how these men went on to experience the horrifying and fatal consequences of fighting.

As Duncan says to the readers of his first book, "These pages ……are my attempt to breathe life into the stories of Ramsbottom's fallen heroes. This is their story, their legacy and our heritage."

The books may be a first for the RHS as we expect to publish them in both hard back and as e-books. Since e-books are rapidly spreading in their popularity and use, people from all over the world, will be able to download Duncan's books. The lives of the soldiers from Ramsbottom can then be accessed at the click of a button.

When Duncan approached the RHS about producing his series of books he was not looking to make a profit for himself, but very generously offered the proceeds to be divided equally between ourselves and *Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary*.

Duncan has also been very generous in allowing the RHS to use his research findings and photographs to enhance *Ramsbottom's Response, A World War 1 Exhibition* which will open in the Heritage Gallery in June. It is because of his work that there will be displays for two soldiers, Ernest Hamer and Harold Monks, as well as the fascinating story of Leonie Ashworth. Leonie is the subject of an article in this magazine written by Kathleen Husband and Anne Shortt, using Duncan's work and other information from their own research.

More details about the sale of Duncan's books can be obtained by looking on the website www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk or phoning 01706 281998

Leonie Ashworth - A Remarkable Woman

Leonie Ashworth was born Octavie Leonie Henriette Neutkens in Brussels on the 26th.September 1883. She was one of nine children of whom only four survived into adulthood - John, Jeanne, Leonie and Edouard, who died young from tuberculosis. The children were raised by their aunt, Marie Neutkens who was a dentist in Ostend. Leonie came to England in 1901 to teach and settled in Derbyshire. She married Edmund Ashworth in Holy Innocents Church, Fallowfield in 1907. Edmund was a director of Messrs Adam Ashworth and Sons, felt hat manufacturers based in Fernhill, Bury. He was also a Captain in the

6

CASES TREATED IN THE HOSPITAL
DURING 1914.

Number of Cases (Medical and Surgical) - 174.

SURGICAL.

	No. of Cases	Died
Abscess of body	1 ...	2
„ upper extremity	12 ...	0
„ lower extremity	2 ...	0
Adenitis	4 ...	0
Arthritis (Tubercular)	2 ...	2
Appendicitis	1 ...	0
Bed sores	1 ...	1
Burns and Scalds	5 ...	0
Carcinoma	2 ...	0
Cysts	2 ...	0
Carbuncle	1 ...	0
Dislocation	1 ...	0
Empyema	1 ...	0
Endometritis	1 ...	0
Fistula	2 ...	0
Fracture—upper extremity	4 ...	0
„ lower extremity	12 ...	0
„ pelvis	1 ...	0
Hæmorrhoids	3 ...	0
Injury—head and neck	10 ...	1
„ upper extremity	13 ...	1
„ lower extremity	2 ...	0
Phimosis	23 ...	0
Tonsils and Adenoids (enlarged)	30 ...	0
Spinal Caries	1 ...	0
Ulcer of leg	1 ...	0
Vaginitis	2 ...	0
Minor Cases	8 ...	0

MEDICAL.

Ascites	1 ...	0
Carcinoma (Liver)	1 ...	1
Cardiac disease	4 ...	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1 ...	0
Colitis	2 ...	1
Chorea	1 ...	0
Dyspepsia	1 ...	0
Diabetes	1 ...	0
Gastritis	1 ...	0

Gastric Ulcer	2	1
Neuritis	1	0
Nephritis	1	1
Osteoarthritis	1	0
Paraplegia	1	1
Pelvic Congestion	1	0
Pneumonia	4	2
Rheumatism (acute)	1	0
Uterine Displacement	1	0

OPERATIONS.

Amputations—digits	4	0
arm	1	1
Circumcision	23	0
Curetting Uterus	1	0
Excision of Tumours	4	0
„ Glands	4	0
Incision of Abscesses	10	0
Operation for Empyema	2	0
„ Fistula	1	0
„ Hæmorrhoids	3	0
Paracentesis	1	0
Removal of Tonsils and Adenoids	30	0
Wiring Fracture	1	0
Minor Cases (Suturing Wounds, etc.)	29	0

DISTRICT CASES.

Ascites	1
Abscess	8
Appendicitis	5
Arthritis	2
Burns and Scalds	2
Bronchitis	6
Carcinoma	5
Cardiac Disease	6
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	9
Diarrhæa	9
Enteric Fever	1
Fistula	1
Fractures	2
Gastric Ulcer	2
Jaundice	1
Meningitis	3
Nephritis	4
Paraplegia	1
Peritonitis	1
Phlebitis	1
Phthisis	4
Pleurisy	2
Pneumonia	29
Rheumatism	3
Senile Decay	4
Spinal Caries	1
Thrombosis	1
Ulcers	3
Vaginitis	1
Wounds	3
Minor Cases	12
Total	133



Territorial Force of the Lancashire Fusiliers. The couple eventually settled in Plant House, Holcombe, where Leonie was involved in the Ramsbottom Girl Guide movement. On December 1914 at Holcombe Emmanuel Church, Leonie gave a presentation with a lantern show conveying the plight of The Belgian Nation. A large congregation witnessed her impassioned plea. With the start of war, Leonie volunteered as an interpreter for the Belgians who fled to Bury. The Relief Fund helped house and support refugees in Ramsbottom. Captain Ashworth, a member of the 1/5th. Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers Territorial Force since 1908, was sent to Egypt and from there to Gallipoli. Leonie courageously made her own way to Egypt where she volunteered to help nurse the troops evacuated from Gallipoli and began work at San Stefano Military Hospital, Alexandria. When the Lancashire Fusiliers were sent to the Dardanelles, Leonie helped Mrs Douglas (wife of Major General Douglas) set up a convalescent hospital for their wounded. An indication of the kind of person she was is revealed in a letter she wrote to her sister-in-law, Sally, on 16th. May 1915 where she states how wretched she is at seeing the conditions of the wounded soldiers and how, so short of nurses were they that she - with only first aid and sick nursing certificates - was in charge of a ward of eighty soldiers. She was so overwhelmed the first night she was on duty by the sight and sound of the badly wounded men - some delirious - that she thought she might run away but true to character, she wrote, “I put myself together and overcame the feeling and now I feel almost a seasoned nurse. I really must do all I can and then it eases my troubled mind besides were Edmund wounded I feel sure they would transfer me





to his hospital." Her love for her husband is also illustrated," I hope and pray that all the other officers are still alright especially my boy. How I love him and how I wish I could have spared him the horrors and privations of the battlefield." In her letters home she would enquire about the Belgian people she knew in the area. She was highly regarded by the Belgian refugees she had come to know and help. In their tribute, published in *The Lancashire Fusiliers Annual 1914-1915*, Leonie was described as "A NOBLE WOMAN." The article states, "From the day of their (the refugees) arrival till she left for Egypt she devoted herself to them; speaking Flemish and French she quickly gained their hearts and they all felt for her genuine love and devotion. Never was love more deservedly bestowed; she not only gave time and labour freely, but she helped them with a tact and delicacy that made them idolise her. To see her flitting from cottage to cottage with bright eager eyes, observant of everything, her arms laden with numerous packages was a joy to the beholder." The concluding comment from the refugees was, "We do so miss her because she was always laughing."

Sadly, while working with Mrs Douglas, Leonie contracted typhoid, which was rife among the troops, and died on July 23rd. 1915 in the Deaconess' Hospital where she was being treated. *The Manchester Evening News* published her obituary on July 26th.1915. *The Bury Times* published an obituary in its 28th July 1915 edition and a memorial service was held at Holcombe Emmanuel Church on October 3rd. Her name is inscribed on the lych gate at the Church. Sally called her daughter Margaret Leonie. Captain Ashworth survived the war and married Beatrice Gardner (a war



widow with two children) in 1916. Beatrice's husband Robert had been killed at Ypres, Belgium in May 1915. Edmund died in Windermere in 1944

Kathleen Husband and Anne Shortt 2014.

THE ZEPPELIN RAID ON THE ROSSENDALE VALLEY AND BOLTON 1916

Most of the following account of the zeppelin attack on our area relies so heavily on the book "Zeppelins Over Lancashire" that we decided to contact its author, Peter J C Smith about using an extract from his book. He kindly agreed, subject to it being made clear that the account was written in 1991 and that therefore references to residual damage resulting from the raid and to people then alive may now be out of date.

The first of the zeppelin raids on England had taken place a few days after they had been sanctioned by the Kaiser, apparently after some hesitation. These airships had already been represented in the British press as huge and menacing with blurred photographs and imaginative artists' impressions. They could carry a significant bomb load and to begin with they could fly at a higher altitude than could be reached by defending aircraft or anti-aircraft fire. However, flying conditions (weather and darkness) made bombing accuracy difficult and bombs could be dropped miles off target. Pin-point accuracy to hit military targets was impossible and civilian casualties made the zeppelins objects of hatred. In Lancashire rumours of local night

flights by zeppelins were being widely circulated before Monday 25th September 1916 when one of a raiding force of seven zeppelins dropped incendiary and explosive bombs in the Rossendale Valley. Luftschiffe 21(L21) commanded by Oberleutenant Kurt Frankenburg was 179 metres long and 18.9 metres in diameter with a maximum speed of 58mph. It appeared at 11.55pm over Bacup where it hovered with its engines idling before heading down the valley. Just after passing over Seat Naze at Height Side House, Newchurch the first bomb was dropped. It was an incendiary but it did not ignite and a special constable carried it to Cloughfold. Then, after travelling with it by tram, he carried it into the hands of the police at Rawtenstall. (The actual incendiary can be seen on exhibition at Rossendale Museum.) By 12.05am the zeppelin had passed over Rawtenstall, Irwell Vale, Ewood Bridge and Lumb and a dozen more bombs had been dropped. Most were explosive bombs and a few caused large craters. On the East Lancashire Railway a section of rail was blown out. There was also damage to windows and doors of six cottages above the level crossing at Hardsough Lane.

Extract from *Zeppelins in Lancashire*:

Next it was the turn of Holcombe, which lay in the path of the airship, and here five explosive bombs fell in quick succession. Two fell in a field beside the village school; one of these toppled the wall beside a footpath opposite the northern gable end and a hole was knocked right through the six-inch stone wall of the school. Pitting marks caused by bomb splinters and flying debris may still be traced. Amongst the relics held by the school is a stuffed thrush in a glass case. This once had a caption which read, "The only casualty of the air raid in Holcombe". The truth is not quite so simple, for a poultry run was obliterated when another bomb exploded in a sloping field above the school (between it and Moor Road), while a further missile cratered the roadway between what is now the Shoulder of Mutton pub car park and the building opposite, on which many pitting marks can still be seen. In 1916 this building was the village post office, and according to the Manchester Evening News for 25th September 1954, "When zeppelin bombs fell on the village of Holcombe in 1916 and damaged the post office Mrs Elizabeth Hoyle, the post- mistress, carried on business in a nearby cottage" (in Cross Lane). Mrs Hoyle suffered a cut from flying glass. Mrs Bessie Hall, aged 95, who still lives in the village, was one of the residents of the Shoulder of Mutton, then a farm and country inn known as the Lower House. Such was the concussion that she remembers being "blown" out of bed and recalls the damage done to the property. Its shippon and a barn stood on the present car park site and these were substantially damaged. Fortunately, however, the twelve cows normally kept there were out in a lower field but naturally very disturbed. The inn suffered the loss of twenty

windows shattered and its heavy front door was broken in half. Frightened villagers took cover in the pub's cellars - perhaps a little stimulant for the shock was not considered out of place! Three of the bombs exploded within a short distance of Holcombe Church, the clock of which was stopped and some of the windows were broken by blast. The exact position of the fifth explosive bomb remains untraced. Mr R Hayhurst, although only a child of nine at the time, remembers that the school was moved to Dundee Congregational Church, ten or fifteen minutes walk away, pending repairs to the building, for something over six months . He recalls earning a few coppers for going down the hill to David Ross & Co, plumbers, in Ramsbottom to buy gas mantles to replace those broken in some of the damaged cottages. He also well remembers the occupier of Higher Barn Farm, Mr Jack Trippier, offering the local boys some payment for helping to fill in the craters on his land, the meadow beside the school. However, this was never paid and, with a chuckle, Mr Hayhurst adds that it "is not likely to be paid now since Jack Trippier died forty years ago". He said that the story went around the village that "the zepps always returned the next night," which kept a few folks awake! Local reports say that Frankenburg circled in the Holcombe-Ramsbottom area and the Borough Surveyor recorded in his diary that the raid lasted from 12.05 to 12.35am. He ordered his men to fill up the "hole made by the bomb dropped at the junction of Helmshore Road and the road leading to Holcombe Church" (the one opposite the pub car- park), "which hole was about 12 feet wide and 7 feet deep". He advised the postal engineer at Bury of wires down in Holcombe village. Further evidence that L21 circled during this time is the positioning of the next two explosive bombs which fell in Ramsbottom. One of them fell on Giles Taylor's mineral water works in Regent Street, where it damaged machinery and wrecked the firm's two motor lorries. A timber roof joist was torn from the building and hurled for 35 yards, landing upright in a field. The other bomb blew a crater in a meadow between Victoria Street and Tanners Street. Adjoining cottages had windows broken, doors burst in and slates blown off, but luckily nobody was hurt.

One consequence of this raid was a resolution passed by the Streets and Buildings Committee of Ramsbottom Urban District Council on 26th October 1916: "That owing to the stringent restrictions due to the Lighting Regulations, instructions be given that the corners, kerbs and posts, where considered advisable, be whitened as a guide to the public". Lighting Restrictions enforcement was obviously a matter of priority following the bombing. Proceeding to Holcombe Brook and Greenmount, Frankenburg dropped two incendiary bombs at 12.45. One of these was ineffective but the other fell through the roof of a cottage in Holcombe Road, Greenmount, near to the Greenmount Congregational Church, the home of the Brooks family. It

missed by a couple of feet the bed in which two little girls were lying, one of them six, the other three years old, and set the cottage on fire, fortunately without causing casualties. Willing helpers quickly extinguished the flames and the cottage was saved.

Peter J C Smith 1991

By far the worst attack of the whole raid was on Bolton. The zeppelin had headed off towards the town causing damage to buildings and terror among residents nearby as it dropped more bombs on the way. The attack on Bolton itself began with two incendiaries which set fire to stables at the Corporation's Wellington Yard depot and the downstairs room of a house where the Fire Brigade, acting quickly, saved a woman and two children. Then five explosive bombs destroyed six terrace houses and damaged surrounding property. Thirteen people died, including two young children, and nine more people were seriously injured. Nineteen families were homeless and a horse in a stable nearby was killed by another bomb. There was one more fire and also an unexploded bomb in Queen's Park before the airship left Bolton at 1.05am, dropping its last bomb at Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire. It eventually left our shores just north of Whitby. By the time of this raid on Lancashire improved defensive measures were becoming effective against airships. (Nevertheless, in 1916 twenty three raids dropped 125 tons of bombs, killing 293 and injuring 691 people.)

On 28th November 1916, Kurt Frankenburg and his L21 were shot down in flames off Lowestoft following another raid. On his way back to Germany he had escaped from two defending aircraft but was then successfully attacked by Royal Naval Air Service pilots.

MEMORIES OF THE ZEPPELIN ATTACK ON HOLCOMBE AND RAMSBOTTOM

In 2003, Mrs Alice O'Donnell (nee Hall) wrote:

> **I attended Hazlehurst School from the age of three (in 1912) and have many happy memories. My brothers Jack and Charlie and my sister Edna (all older than I am) attended Hazlehurst too but my oldest brother Dick went to Holcombe School as Hazlehurst wasn't built then. …..**

During World War I we knitted scarves for the soldiers. I remember walking round the playground at break, knitting as we went. Later, I could knit socks, but Mother had to turn the heel. The zeppelins bombed Tagg Wood and we all hoped the school had been a target so we wouldn't have to go. During that night we were all together downstairs in our nightwear with blankets round us. When daylight

came we realised we were all covered in soot – the zeppelins must have swept our chimney!

George Ashworth writes:
I was just turned fourteen years of age and living at 95, Callender Street. I slept in the back room along with my brother John who was two years older than myself. In daylight the view we had included the front and back of Rostron Road and also the front part of Albert Street and the gable end of Victoria Street. A familiar noise awakened us early that morning – so we imagined. The noise we thought we heard was known as the 'night soil cart': a cart fitted with an iron box and drawn by a big Shire horse accompanied by two men. (They used to go round at night time to empty the 'nasty' bins from the privvies. They made an awful row on the stone setts. (No man would do that sort of job these days.) John and I were certain that it was this noise that had wakened us until my father came from the front bedroom. He said that the, " BOOM .. BOOM.. BOOM," we had heard must have been bombs.

It was a bright, clear night with the stars shining. My father took John and myself outdoors where there were many other people. The form of the zeppelin could be clearly seen. Nothing of this kind had been expected.

There was no panic. The rumours went about that the 'zepp' was trying to get to Manchester, and that it had been following a train that went into the tunnel under the Pennines and had remained there out of sight. It then became known that one of the earlier bombs had fallen near Regent Street and had hit the mineral water works of Giles Taylor. Many people went to look and found that some of the 'machinery' had been damaged and two lorries had been smashed with broken bottles and glass scattered all around. House windows etc were broken with slates off the roofs. However, no one at all had been hurt. In the Tanners area bombs had been dropped in several places, but only on the pastures. (For many, many years I noticed that a large pole was left there as a sort of marker.) ……. Several bombs had been dropped in Holcombe Village and there was a large hole in the middle of the road near the present Shoulder of Mutton car park. The Post Office was in the building opposite and appeared to be severely damaged: windows and frames gone, slates off the roof and the face of the stone wall very much marked but the house was quickly repaired and in use again. It must have been the same bomb that damaged Holcombe Church clock and some of the church windows. Another bomb fell near the gable end of Holcombe Day School with many windows smashed and the walls marked. Tales about other problems soon spread: damage to a hen pen and walls knocked down ….



Holcombe Post Office 1916



Holcombe School 1916

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM THE HOLCOMBE SCHOOL LOG BOOK 1914 - 1917

1914 Oct 23rd
Holcombe School opened 1864
Jubilee 1864 – 1914
The Reunion of Old Scholars has been postponed owing to the war.

Oct 27 A list of Old Scholars on HMS

Roll of Honour

The following Old Scholars are serving their country:

Tom Barlow, Harry Smith, Ernest Hamer, James Livesey, Wm Metcalfe, Wm Unsworth, Joseph Brown, Harold Crawshaw, Fred Peters, Thomas Clayton, Saml Lawton, Thomas Schofield, Harold Diggle, Ralph Fleming, Harry Coalby, Thomas Burton, Wm Cookson, Harry Lodge, Thos Haworth, Thomas Platt, William Jones, Frank Duckworth, Joseph Platt, Alec Brown, Thos Loughlin, Jack Ramsbottom, Harold Duckworth, Walter Brooks, Ernest Collinge, George Howarth, Herbert Stansfield, Richd Hargreaves, Allan Ashworth, Jack Schofield, Malcolm Stead, Richard Raynerd, Garnett Booth, Thomas Coalby

1915 Christmas presents have been sent to those whose names are on the *Roll of Honour* subscribed for by the scholars and villagers.

1916 Feb 15th The temperature of the school for some time has been much below the normal. It is said to be the low heating power of the coke due to war purposes.

May 15th Mr H Foster, Headmaster, June 25th 1877, passed away May 13th 1916

Sept 4th School reopened after midsummer holidays. 77 children present.
Admitted 3 children. Staff: M Lowe 1st class – Stds !V – VII
F Birtwistle 2nd class – Stds I – III G Waite 3rd class – Infants

Sept 8th Children went on the moor this afternoon for organised games – football & rounders – upper dept, singing & ring game - Infants

Sept 26th During the night, Enemy Aircraft dropped three bombs in the neighbourhood of the school, making a hole in the north gable end, and breaking nearly all the window frames. The pictures were not damaged, and the clock was still going; but it was impossible to work in the school. All the staff and over 50 children were present at 9am; and the scholars were dismissed until further orders. Much damage has been done to the windows in the district, but only one woman has been slightly injured.

Sept 27-29th School closed

Oct 2nd School closed for the usual weekend holiday.

Oct 3rd Teachers and children assembled at Holcombe School at 8.50am, collected necessary apparatus, and, after prayers proceeded to Dundee Congregational School, which has been kindly lent by the Trustees for use as temporary premises until Holcombe School has been repaired. 63 children present am 73 present pm Several children absent, away from home, munitions workers' holiday

Oct 4th Dr Brook and Nurse Dickenson came to school to see if any of the children were suffering from shock to nerves. Have not noticed any, though some children naturally are excited in fresh rooms in unusual conditions. Miss Hewitt, HMI, Mr Broome, HMI and the Rector came in school, to inspect the premises; they considered them quit satisfactory.

Oct 6th The Rector spoke to the children about the National Mission, 9 – 9.30am

Oct 10th Closed school this afternoon for the rest of the week, as the premises are required by the Dundee Congregation for a "Café".

Oct 16th Re-opened school, 8.50am. All the staff present.

1917 Jan 8th Re-opened school after the Christmas Holidays:- all the staff present. Miss Birtwistle returned today after an absence of three weeks, owing to illness.

Jan 10th The Revd H Dowsett, Rector of Holcombe & Correspondent of this school 1872 – 14 died at Southport today.

Jan 12th A very poor attendance this week. Heavy fall of snow makes walking difficult.

Jan 19th Nine children have been absent during the last fortnight, - suffering from chickenpox.

Jan 29th Two more cases of chickenpox have developed over the weekend.

Jan 31st Miss Waite absent this morning, - ill. Miss Waite came to school this afternoon after half-a-day's absence

Feb 5th A heavy fall of snow during the weekend has made walking very difficult, & as many children are suffering from colds, the attendance is very poor:- 40 present out of 63 in the mixed dept., 7 in the Infants' Dept: out of 27
The Registers were not marked.
Drill takes place frequently;- temp: 9.30am 45° in each room, 10am 50°

Feb 8th
Miss Birtwistle absent this morning owing to sickness: Miss Waite took Stds II & III & monitresses in charge of Std I and Infants; - some changes in Timetable in consequence.

Jan 8th Omission Holcombe School has had new windows put in;- the lowest pane opens, - ?hopper & the top one also: the school has been whitewashed, & some painting has been done, but the pointing is not completed: all other repairs necessitated by the visit of the Zeppelins have been completed.

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**
Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):

Tuesday	10am - 5pm	Wednesday	10am - 5pm
Thursday	10am - 5pm	Friday	10am - 5pm

Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents. **Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Our catalogues are online at http;//archives.bury.gov.uk as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The Archive photograph collection can be browsed on the Bury Image Bank website at www.buryimagebank.org.uk. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.**

***Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR**: **information@bury.gov.uk** or 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at **http://library.bury.gov.uk** - follow 'Bury Libraries Catalogue (Local Studies)'. Free access to the Ancestry and Find my Past databases is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.*

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Stephen Benson, 32, Slater Lane, Leyland, PR25 1TN, email: **membership@lfhhs.org.uk.** Membership entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. Also one branch in London. 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 an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and 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 news cuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2014

Guided walks

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

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

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

Sunday 15th June ***A Stroll Through the History of Stubbins***
Meet at the junction of Stubbins Street and Stubbins Vale Road at 2pm.
Leader – Barbara and Jon Williams

Sunday 20th July ***The Pubs of Central Ramsbottom***
An historical, non-alcoholic amble. Meet at 2pm at the *Grant Arms*, Ramsbottom. Leader – Andrew Todd

Sunday 17th Aug ***Ramsbottom Mill, the Largest Mill in the Irwell Valley***
Meet at Ramsbottom Station at 2pm. Leader – Kate Slingsby

Sunday 21st Sept ***The History of Greenmount***
Meet at Greenmount Old School opposite The Bull's Head at 2pm
Leader – Christine Taylor

Sunday 19th Oct ***Holcombe Down the Ages***
Meet at The Shoulder of Mutton car park at 2pm. Leader – John Ireland

More details on www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

or contact Kate on 01706 281998

Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

A NEW exhibition in the Gallery,

Open to the public from 8th June 2014

RAMSBOTTOM'S



RESPONSE

WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION

Location: *upstairs at Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, BLO 9AE. Tel: 0161 253 5352*

Gallery opening Times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm

Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm

2nd Sunday in the month 12 noon - 3pm (side entrance only)
with extra displays and
Ramsbottom Heritage Society bookstall

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bury COUNCIL

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 47 Autumn/Winter 2014 ISSN 0960 - 1244



RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 82 1998

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 2014:

November 19 Lizzie Jones – *Rogues and Vagabonds* – the theatre and actors in Elizabethan times

December 10 **Christmas Social Evening**

2015:

January 21 Tony Hodbod – *Imperial Policeman –the Colonial Career of the East Lancashire Regiment 1881-1958* (Illustrated)

February 18 John Sagar – *The History of Birtle*

March 18 **Photographic Competition –** judge Barry Aldous, who will present a digital show of competition entries and an illustrated talk

April 15 Veronica Walker – *Nelly, Dickens's Mystery Woman* – the writer and his times

May 20 **Annual General Meeting and Members' Night**

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

Members £1.50, non-members £2 to include refreshments

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.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 47
Autumn/Winter 2014

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Programme 2014 / 2015 inside front cover

Front Cover – We are grateful to Mr Donald Fenton for his 2014 drawing of Market Chambers (formerly Ramsbottom Urban District Council Chambers). The building is very important as part of the central Ramsbottom group of Grade II listed buildings.

Website - www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Email via website

Chairman's report

We are coming to the end of 2014, the hundredth anniversary of the start of World War 1. There has been huge interest in the Great War on television and in commemorative events around the country, and as you know Ramsbottom Heritage Society has played its part. This summer the British Legion asked the Society to take part in two commemorative events and we felt privileged to do so. The ceremonies took place at the War Memorial outside St Paul's Church: on 6th June the names of those who were killed during the D Day Landings in 1944 were read out and on 4th August the Ramsbottom men who served and died in World War 1 were remembered in the same way. It was moving to hear the names of those who died, in both wars, but many WW1 casualties have become familiar through our exhibition. Many of your will have seen our fascinating exhibition, *Ramsbottom's Response - World War I* upstairs in Ramsbottom Library, recalling not only those who died, but also those who supported the war work here at home. The exhibition booklet, also called *Ramsbottom's Response,* has been very popular, as has part one of *Ramsbottom's Lost Generation* written by Duncan Francis. The 1914-15 edition was on sale at the opening of our exhibition and 1916 is nearly ready for publication. Work is also underway for 1917 and 1918, which will be published separately.

The exhibition will remain open until 2016, which has given us time to continue an ongoing project, which started seven years ago with the re-cataloguing of our collection of documents and photographs and with making them available to the public. We are trying to complete this work with our maps, objects, paintings, framed photographs and recordings. Together the entire collection totals around an amazing 7,000 items, the bulk of which have been in our possession for many years. However, all the time new donations are arriving and we are happy to receive or copy any items, which you feel belong to Ramsbottom. You will remember from the Spring magazine that a group has been working on the map collection. These have all been scanned and will be made available online. Whilst we do not currently have anyone who wishes to take on reviewing our oral history tapes, our new recordings are also being put online. Another task, which started in October, is the safe storage and re-cataloguing of our art collection. Advice is being sought from Bury Council's art curator and two early 19th century paintings acquired this autumn will need some renovation. It is hoped that photographs of all our artworks will go online during 2015. As with the rest of our collection, our artwork is very important historically and we are lucky to own it. As always your Society owes you all a debt of gratitude for your support and for all the hard work so many of you are undertaking.

During the six months since the last news magazine we have had some fascinating and informative talks on Wednesday nights and with the guided walks and visits over the summer months these attracted many non-members to the Heritage Society. We were also pleased to receive invitations to events at Tottington High School and Ramsbottom Community Fire Station. We were able to attend both, helping the

Society to keep in touch with local people, and one of our members even took along a Series 1 Land Rover fire engine as part of the display.

This magazine goes out to 143 members, many of whom live many miles from Ramsbottom, including one in each of Northern Ireland, New Zealand, British Columbia and South Australia. We hope that the news magazines and the website between them keep you up to date with all that is going on. Please let us know if there is anything more we can do to keep you informed or if you have any suggestions which would further the work of the Society.
Very best wishes to you all.

Kate Slingsby

Ramsbottom Community Fire Station Open Day 10th August 2014



The Land Rover, displayed at the Open Day by a member of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society was manufactured in 1955 and dispatched to the Army Research and Development Establishment, Shoeburyness, Essex. It served on Potton Island until it was disposed of in 1973. In November 1977 it was bought by Johnson Matthey Colours, Stoke-on-Trent who used it as a fire engine and also for watering the gardens and lawns around the factory. The present owner purchased it in May 1993.

News from the Archives

This year we will be adding:-

1. 50 documents
2. 150+ old photographs, including
   - 17 photographs for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's visit to Ramsbottom in March 1945.
   - 18 photographs of Ramsbottom Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society shows. Scenes from their 1955-57 productions of 'Lilac Domino'. 'Oklahoma' and 'Zip'.

Accessing the Archives

Our Archives are kept in Bury Archives.
The Archive can be accessed on line either via the Ramsbottom Heritage website by entering:http://www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk/ then clicking on Bury Archives.
or by going directly to the Bury Archives website by entering:
http://archives.bury.gov.uk/
You can then search for a particular document or photograph by entering a keyword or browse the entire catalogue by selecting **Browse Catalogue.**
To just look at the RHS part of the Archive, select **Browse Catalogue**, scroll down to **RHS** then click on **RHS.**

Bury Archives are open Tuesday to Friday, and Saturdays once a month. It is kept in the basement of Bury Museum on Moss Street, Bury Telephone number 0161 253 6782.

The Gallery Collection

We also have a number of duplicate items which are kept in the Gallery of Ramsbottom Library. They can be viewed on the second Sunday of the month from 12-3pm. Please ask the RHS volunteer to show you the catalogue and to find the item you require.

Donations are always welcome.

Please contact members of the Society or
Brenda Richards 01706 829819/ mail@brenrichards.plus.com

News and Updates

Church Activities

Along with many other local groups, organisations and individuals, the Society contributed to St Paul's Church Flower Festival in June. The wonderful arrangements and displays of flowers really brought in the crowds and were captured on a video which is now on sale in aid of Church funds. We have been asked to mention that the Church is very grateful for all the hard work and support and that most pleasing was the feeling that the wider Ramsbottom community had truly come together for this event. Another successful event, *The Ramsbottom Jigsaw Festival* organised by Edenfield Parish Church and St Paul's Church in September, was also the focus for community involvement.

St Andrew's Church Fields

Sadly, the Society's campaign to have the field registered as a village green was unsuccessful. As we write this update mechanical diggers are working on the land. Press reports quote the spokesman for owners Peel Holdings as saying, "The works taking place are routine drainage maintenance."

St Andrew's Church - Good news about the Church Fields' neighbouring Grade II listed building which was extensively damaged by a lightning strike in 2013. Repairs to the main roof and the tower's large pinnacle are complete and the church is nearing its reopening. Work continues on the interior, rebuilding the balcony and creating a new kitchen and toilets which will result in a much improved building.

Incredible Edible Ramsbottom In Bloom July 2014

We congratulate Incredible Edible Ramsbottom on their work in improving the horticultural and environmental quality of Ramsbottom, thereby winning a fantastic silver gilt award in the Royal Horticultural Society's North West in Bloom competition. Displays on view for the judges included the ones at Ramsbottom Station, Memorial Gardens, Market Place and the Civic Hall. Plots at The Eagle and Child, The Hearth of the Ram, Nuttall Park and Ramsbottom Fire Station were also judged.

"A Monster Calls"

Over the weekend 25-26th October, film crews headed to Ramsbottom centre to film car chase scenes. Floodlights and diversions were put in place for the action to be filmed through the night in Bridge Street and along the railway and level crossing where a special train moved back and forth. The fantasy film, based on a novel by Patrick Ness, stars Liam Neeson and Sigourney Weaver. Unfortunately, neither of the stars seem to have been spotted by anybody in the crowds that gathered. (report - *Manchester Evening News)*

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Photograph Competition

The annual photographic competition is now open until the 31st January 2015. Entries must have been taken in 2014 in the Ramsbottom area, and are retained by the Society as a record of the year. Therefore, photographs of buildings that are changing, or unique events, are of particular interest. There are 4 categories, Town and Country, Buildings, Events and Daily Life, and Themes. The photographs will be stored on the photograph database on the website, which has 2500 photographs from the 27 years that the competition has been running, and also has 1700 older photographs from our collection which is held at Bury Archives.

This year, digital entries only can be accepted. They can either be emailed to john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk, submitted via an online Photograph Competition Form or handed in on a memory stick or CD at one of the monthly meetings.
All the details are on the website, www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk .

The winner, who will hold the Dickensian Trophy for a year, will be announced at the meeting on Wednesday March 18h 2015

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

ISSUE 5 : 1943 THE TIDE TURNS

TWENTY A4 PAGES ~ STILL ONLY £1

On sale at Ramsbottom Library
and available via email (for details see the Society website)
Published by the Society using information from
The Ramsbottom Observer and our archives.

***War News* issues 1-4 published 2010-13, have been our most popular publications ever and are still available.**

DON'T MISS YOUR COPY OF THE NEXT ISSUE
Date of publication May 2015, ready for the 1940s Weekend

THE BELGIAN CONNECTION

This is a story of uncanny coincidences, devotion, perseverance but most of all of people whose lives were touched by the First World War. We are indebted to Doris Hibbert for sharing this fascinating historical link between Ramsbottom and Belgium.

This search was set in motion when Jack Holden died in Canada and his nephew discovered a letter among his belongings which had been written in 1921 to Jack's mother, Pollie. It was from Pollie's niece, Doris Alice Holden (née Hall). In June 2001, eighty years after its composition, Ramsbottom resident Doris Hibbert received this letter from the family in Canada. They sent it to her because it had been written by her mother and they knew she would treasure it. It vividly described a holiday enjoyed by Doris Holden and her husband Richard in London and Belgium. This letter is particularly important and poignant to Doris Hibbert as, sadly, her mother died giving birth to her and her twin Richard.



In the letter – dated June 21st. 1921 – Doris Hibbert's mother (Doris Holden) enthusiastically described the first week of her holiday spent visiting the sights of London. In the second week, she and her husband travelled by ferry and train to Bruges where she was met by Madame, who treated them to tea and the cinema and was delighted to see them. The next day, at the insistence of Madame, they motored around – lunch at Ostend, tea at Ypres and back to Bruges. Doris cried at the devastation of the Belgium countryside caused by the war and described it as, "just

a wilderness". She described Madame's home as, "the loveliest home I have ever seen. She has every little detail of the very best". Doris was impressed by the richness of the home and the maid, but most of all by the kindness and hospitality of Madame when she only called to bring kind regards from Ramsbottom!

Doris Hibbert began a quest to discover more about "Madame". When she was informed by elderly relatives that she was Madame Sebrechts, being of an enquiring mind, she wanted to know more. She began by appealing for information in the *Bury Times* and Belgian newspapers. Then, with the help of Mrs Marcia Fletcher, Doris traced one of the children in an old Belgian telephone directory owned by the Fletchers who had coincidentally spent time from 1964 until 1976 in Belgium due to Mr Fletcher's work. Madame Sebrechts' daughter- in- law replied to her enquiries – giving much information and put her in contact with Thérèse, the youngest and only surviving child of Madame and Dr. Sebrechts. Thérèse Marelle (née Sebrechts), now living in France, exchanged information and photographs with Doris.





Many Belgians fled to the UK at the outbreak of WW1, many came to the Bury area and some to Ramsbottom. Several families were sent to Holly Mount in Tottington. The Sebrechts family, the mother, Jeanne, and three children, Maurice- born1912, Frans– born 1913 and Joseph - born 1914, were sent by their father Joseph, a doctor, to England for safety. Jeanne's mother accompanied them. Because he was a medical doctor, Dr Sebrechts had to stay in Belgium. The family received support from local churches, St. Paul's Church "Belgium Home Fund," schools and the local community. Considering the position of people at this time, affected by the war, with husbands and sons fighting overseas and many organisations such as "The Overseas Club" and other groups supporting soldiers,

hospitals and homeless French and Belgians, this was very generous. They lived at 91 Bolton Street, Ramsbottom, now the home of the Fletcher family.

Ater the war, Doctor Sebrechts became a renowned surgeon, professor and principal of the Royal Flemish Academy for Medicine in Bruges. A street and a park (incorporating what had formally been the garden of their home) in Bruges are named after him. The couple had another five children, the first one they called Paul, perhaps in memory of St. Paul's Church Ramsbottom which played a significant part in supporting them during their time of need. Their youngest child Thérèse, born when Jeanne was forty five, took care of her mother after her father's death in 1948 until Madame Sebrechts' death in1961.

Another Belgian family, Van Elyken, father, mother and 4 children aged 6 to 13, from San-u-liet near Antwerp also came here and lived in 3 Rock Street, Nuttall Village. More Belgians were housed in Stubbins.

Anne Shortt and Kathleen Husband 2014

RAMSBOTTOM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ENTERS THE 20TH CENTURY (1914 – 18)

Ramsbottom Market Chambers (see front cover drawing) in Market Place used to house the Ramsbottom Urban District Council offices and Council Chambers. The RUDC was created in 1894 and we are looking at evidence that the Council may have acquired the building in 1912. Because it played an important part in Ramsbottom's history, we are anxious to gather more information and hoping that people will get in touch. The RUDC was abolished by the Local Government Act of 1974, forty years ago. In the following article we have extracted a few snippets from RUDC minutes about Council activities in earlier times.

On 23rd April 1914 the various committees were set up at the Annual Meeting for RUDC's three wards, Central, North and East. The Finance and General Purpose committees were each constituted of the whole of the members of the Council. The Streets and Buildings, Health, Lighting and Fire Brigade, Traction, Higher Education committees each had its own chairman and there were also three sub-committees: Small Holding and Allotments, Horse and Byelaws. Additional RUDC sub-committees, Recruiting, After Care and Hospital Charges were announced at the April 1916 Annual Meeting.

In addition there was a County Council Scheme with RUDC representatives on various elementary education committees and representatives were also nominated to be eligible to attend the Annual Meeting and Conference of Urban District Councils at Westminster.

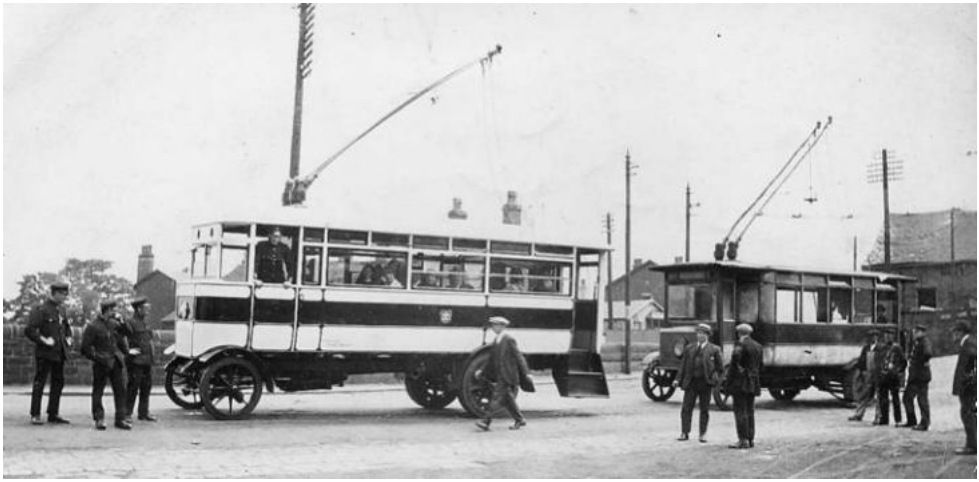
Barwood Bridge

In September 1914 it was reported to the Council that the old Barwood Bridge over the River Irwell had been demolished and a new steel bridge structure with a width of 12 feet was being built by Sir John Grant Lawson in conjunction with the owners of Holme Mill. *(The mill was built in 1910 and presumably needed better access. It is now Cormar Carpets.)* The abutment walls were sufficiently advanced for the girders (nearly 65 feet long) to be on site in readiness for erection.

The Lighting and Fire Brigade Department of the RUDC was making arrangements during 1914 for the Lancashire Electric Power Company to install street lighting. They approved a plan showing the positioning of lights on the new "Railless Traction Route" where the first public service had run on 8th August 1913. (*The route ran between Holcombe Brook and Edenfield via Ramsbottom and between Ramsbottom Market Place and Ramsbottom railway station.*) The Ramsbottom Gas Company would supply these lamps until the Lancashire Electric Power Co were ready to light them by electricity. In July the Council was notified that the Lancashire Electric Power Company intended to open up road and footpath surfaces in Bolton Road West at Holcombe Brook for the purpose of laying cables and boxes in order to supply electricity in that portion of the district. (*Sounds familiar?*) By the end of November 378 lamps, including all those on the main roads were "on the incandescent system". However, tenders were invited from local tailors to supply lamplighters' jackets as hundred of lamps were still gas lit. During the course of the year, four lamps had been knocked down by lurries, three of which had been detected and damage paid for by lurry owners.

By October1916 more stringent regulations were in place to restrict street lighting so the Council gave instructions for corners, kerbs and posts, where considered advisable, to be whitened.

The Traction Committee ordered two new trolleybuses, known as trackless trams, in 1914 from R E T Construction Co Ltd, of Leeds to add to the fleet of five which they had bought from them in 1913. There had been no local public transport on Ramsbottom's roads before that date and the new trams with their vermilion and cream livery picked out in gold were very popular. Transfers were being obtained for the recently designed coat of arms.



(*The photograph is an early shot of two buses outside the Hare and Hounds. The rear antique may be one of the August 1913 couple. Note the Great War uniforms.)*

A private telephone connection was made in 1914 between the Council Offices and the Tramway Depot (also known as the Tram Shed, on Stubbins Lane - where the petrol station now stands), and a letterbox was installed.

Unfortunately, some of the experimental equipment on the vehicles made them unreliable. The Transport Manager and Councillors, including on one occasion the Chairman himself, made numerous visits to Leeds and the tramcars were regularly discussed at Council Meetings. By 1914 R E T needed to carry out maintenance on four of the original five vehicles, with the council paying £60 per car as part of the cost. The work included replacing bodies, springs and wheels. Problems had also arisen with the solid rubber tyres so using "Plascom" or another method of improving the surface of the main road along the traction route was being considered for, as the *Ramsbottom Observer* said, "the setted roads were not in any sense to be compared to a billiard table". Referring to the earliest Ramsbottom trolleybuses, one man remembered, sixty years on, "You used to step off them and you'd be shaking!"

All the men who had "joined the colours" were allowed to travel free on the tramcars. In 1916 it was also agreed that tramway staff going to or from work, policemen in uniform, wounded soldiers would also be carried without payment.

On his promotion from Manager to Depot Foreman Mr Sydney Parsons' wage was 7d per hour. In 1916 an application was made to the Local Tribunal for exemptions from Military Service for S. Parsons, Depot Foreman and J Holt, Driver. In 1918 Mr Parsons was working a sixty hour week for £2 5s plus a war bonus of 25/- per week. From 1920 he was General Manager, remaining in post until 1951.

Horse Sub- committee

A Public Health Act of 1875 made it compulsory for every household to put the weekly waste in "movable receptacles" for disposal and made councils responsible for servicing these containers. The kitchen fire was seen as the safest way of destroying waste so ash made up almost all the rubbish to be collected. Overall responsibility for its removal then rested with the Health Committee and their "scavenging department".

Early dustcarts were open-bodied and pulled by horses. For the financial year ending 31st March 1914 the RUDC scavenging department lists expenditure totalling nearly £1500. Expenses included provender and bedding, shoeing and vet's fees, wages, repairs to carts, gears etc, insurance of horses, new carts and new horses (£55).

In May 1914 an application was to be made by the RUDC Finance Department to the Local Government Board to sanction a loan of £250 to purchase from Messrs Platt & Castle premises off Stubbins Lane for use as the Council's new stables. Later, a tender from Mr George E Warner for slating and repairs to main roof of the stables was accepted and other repairs were being arranged. The stables would have needed stores for tack, fodder and bedding straw.

A tender from Ramsbottom Industrial & Provident Society for the supply of provender - best English oats and best broad bran - for three months had been accepted but later, in March 1915, Messrs Haslam Ltd took over the contract. Mr E H Greenwood provided a supply of meadow hay at £3 16s 8d per ton. In 1918 a record appears of arrangements that were made with Mr Miles Eccles of Nuttall Hall Farm for pasturage for the Council's horses during his tenancy of the farm.

Messrs James Whittaker & Son's tender for removing manure weekly at the new stables for twelve months commencing 1st January 1915 was accepted. (Even though the RUDC and some of the larger businesses had their own horses and wagons, there were opportunities for local people to make a living as carriers. In 1885 Whittakers, one of the most successful carrier locally, had "upwards of a hundred of the finest draught horses in England".) At one point later on in the war in 1918 the manure was made available to the Ramsbottom and District Allotments Association once the Council's requirements were satisfied.

There are few references in RUDC minutes between 1914 and 1918 to the Health Committee buying or selling Council-owned horses. On 29th October 1914 the sale of horse 'Poll' for £8 10s is mentioned. By April 1916 another of the Council's horses had been sold to the Military Authorities. (In 1900 there were about a million working horses in Britain but by 1914 the number had fallen. World War 1 had a

devastating effect on the horse population as thousands were drafted for the war effort.) Later in 1916 a dark bay shire mare called Kitty had been bought from Mr George Nuttall for £78. A few weeks later the Sanitary Inspector reported that Kitty had become lame in her off hind leg. Five working days were lost but the veterinary surgeon had been called and Kitty was soon quite well and working satisfactorily. In July 1918, subject to the granting of a licence, the Horse sub-committee was to be allowed to purchase a brown shire gelding for £105 from Messrs Terry Bros of Sheep Hey Farm. One brief mention of an accident to old horse Duke in the Edenfield district gives no more details.

Work at the RUDC stables would probably have involved long hours caring for the horses. The wages of the carters were increased to 50/- per week in 1918, including a war bonus of 25/-.

References:

Ramsbottom Urban District Council minutes 1914-15, 1916-17 and 1918-19
Ramsbottom Heritage Society, *Around Ramsbottom* (Chalford 1995)
Douglas Hartley, *A Short History of Ramsbottom's Buses 1913-1969*
(Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 26 Spring/Summer 2004)
John Simpson, A History of Edenfield and District

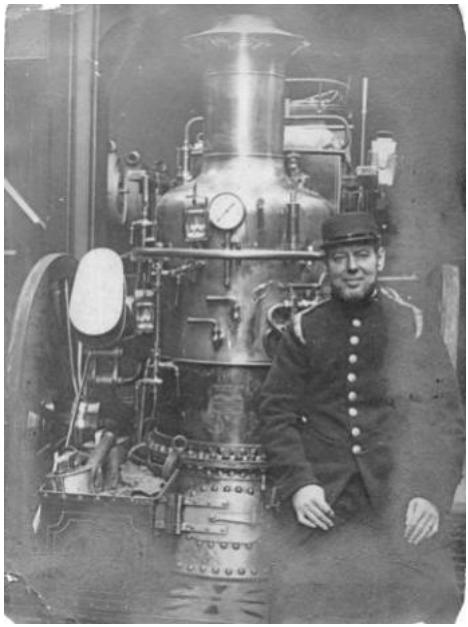
THE EARLY YEARS OF THE LOCAL FIRE BRIGADE



Thanks to the Kenneth Beetson collection for allowing the use of the photograph

Taken outside their Central Street Headquarters the photograph shows Ramsbottom's Fire Brigade on what was obviously deemed an important occasion. It features smartly turned out firemen and a beautifully polished fire engine with its brass boiler and funnel. The brigade, possibly photographed to celebrate the arrival of their new fire engine, are LW Preston, George Starkey, Sam Westwell, George Brooks, Jacob Lord, Robert Stansfield, Jack Hamer, William Ramsbottom, Arthur Coulson, Jack Pycroft, George Smethurst, Jack Tattersall and James Taylor. They all had jobs with Ramsbottom companies and their various skills came in handy in running and maintaining the engine and other equipment. The immaculately turned out horses are reminiscent of the "vanner" type - tough, sturdy, hard-working animals, usually bred with some pony and some heavy horse blood. Apparently they were kept at Central Street and also available for the horse drawn ambulance.

On display at the Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum in Rochdale is an engine with all the characteristics of Ramsbottom Fire Brigade's appliance. Information we have received suggests that they are probably the same make. With the museum's kind permission we reproduce their modern photograph, a photograph to show a fire pump boiler and the description on display there:



1910 Shand, Mason Steam Fire Engine 'George V'

This light, horse-drawn steam fire engine was built by Shand, Mason & Co of London for the Skelmersdale Fire Brigade. The boiler is designed for the quick raising of steam and could be got fully to work in minutes, supplying 300 gallons/minute (1360 litres/minute) through two deliveries. To help achieve this, some stations kept the boilers warm by means of a gas ring before lighting the fire, whilst the movement of the engine at speed would help to create a good draught.

After passing to the National Fire Service in 1941, the museum's appliance was owned by Manchester Fire Brigade until 1974. It is in full working condition and has appeared in several television productions including *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* and *Smokescreen*.



Photograph reproduced with the kind permission of
The Greater Manchester Fire Service Musuem collection

Ramsbottom Local Board had formed the town's first fire brigade in 1887 before the days of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council (RUDC). In those days, although the earliest steam fire engine in Greater Manchester was supplied to Bolton Fire Brigade in 1868, some fire pumps in common use were hand-powered and belonged to local mills and factories. Most brigades, except for the smallest, acquired steamers and they became the mainstay of fire fighting fleets in towns and cities.

Ramsbottom's own brigade was eventually disbanded and in 1919 the RUDC (which had been set up in 1894) came to an agreement with the Rawtenstall Fire Brigade regarding fire-fighting services in the Ramsbottom District.

Fire At Stubbins School And A Fireman's Fatal Collapse, May 1915

The *Bury Times* reported the details of this incident saying that Ramsbottom Fire Brigade was out on a practice run when a telephone call was put through to the Fire Station at about 7.30pm. One of the members of the brigade was William Proctor, aged 55 years, of 25, St Paul's Street, Ramsbottom, a plumber by trade and employed by the Railway Company at Ramsbottom. Apparently, he had recently been ill. As the brigade responded to the call from Mr Robert Holden at Stubbins Council School, William Proctor took his place on the back of the horse-drawn steam engine. After about half a mile, when the brigade was along Stubbins Lane, he spoke to a fellow fireman, "I shall have to get off. I'm jiggered." He dropped off the engine and went to Albert Jefferson, a night watchman at Stubbins Paper Mill and asked for a drink of water. Jefferson got him a drink of water and brandy but Proctor became worse. Dr Crawshaw was summoned at 8.40pm, and Proctor died a few minutes later. He left a widow, two sons and two daughters.

William Proctor's position at the back of the steam engine was just behind the boiler. Underneath it, and according to normal practice, the fuel in the firebox would have been lit at Central Street ready to provide the urgently needed steampower for the engine's water pump. Perhaps William Proctor, following his illness, was affected by fumes from the firebox. His name appears on the Roll of Honour at Ramsbottom Fire Station, Stubbins Lane.

The Stubbins Council School fire had started in the cellar part of the building at about 7.15pm. The caretaker, Leonard Grange, gave the alarm and started to throw buckets of water on the smouldering beams above. With assistance the caretaker continued his efforts to put out the fire but it was well alight before the brigade arrived. Water then had to be pumped from Rose Bank and Edenwood mill lodges because the water main from Scout Moor had been turned off for the night. About two hours later the fire was well under control but the brigade had to continue spraying water until about 1.30am next day.

Stubbins Council School was in the care of Lancashire Education Committee from 1902. It had opened in 1868 as Stubbins Congregational Day School and shared the Sunday School building. The cost was largely borne by Messrs Porritt and it was often referred to as Porritt's School. Before passing to Lancashire it was taken over in 1883 by the newly-formed Tottington Higher End School Board. In 1914 plans to rebuild the school came to nothing but almost became necessary after

the fire. It destroyed most of one wing of the building but the County Council had insurance and, following repairs, it continued to house the school for more than fifty years. Work on Stubbins County Primary School on the adjoining site began in 1967 and the old building closed in 1970.

References:
Ramsbottom Volume 2 by Kenneth Beetson 1978
Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum, Maclure Road, Rochdale, OL11 1DN
Bury Times 19th May 1915
A History of Edenfield and District by John Simpson, pub 2003 by *Edenfield Local History Society*

PRIVATE HAROLD MONKS (1897 –1915)

Harold was born in Ramsbottom on 4th August 1897. He was the eldest child of Abraham Monks and Mary Annie Mallery who had married the year before at St John's in Shuttleworth. His sister Edith was born just over a year later on 11th August 1898. Harold started at St Paul's School on 27th August 1900 aged just three, followed by Edith on 15th January 1901.

In the 1901 census taken on Sunday 31st March, Harold was living with his parents and Edith at 7, Wallis Street, Ramsbottom. Both his parents worked at a paper mill. His father was a callender man whose job it was to look after the mill's big rollers which were used to flatten the paper fibres. Mary Annie worked as a rag sorter.

Abraham Monks	Head	M	33	Paper Mill Callender Man	Worker	Lancs Ramsbottom
Mary A.····· "	Wife	M	27	·Paper Mil Rag Sorter	Worker	Lancs Bury
Harold····· "	Son	S	3			Lancs Ramsbottom
Edith····· "	Daur	S	2			Lancs Ramsbottom

In 1902 Harold's brother, Robert, was born followed sometime later in October 1908 by twins, Edwin and Jennie. His family was now complete, but unfortunately not for long, as little Jennie died the following year before her first birthday.

By the 1911 census, Harold and his family were living at 11, Wallis Street (perhaps this was a slightly larger house or perhaps the street had been renumbered). He was thirteen and already working as a weaver. His father still had the same job at the paper mill, but his mother no longer had an occupation listed. This is perhaps not surprising, as Edwin, the surviving twin, had died aged two years shortly before the census was taken. It must have been excruciatingly painful for Mary Annie who filled in and signed the census form to complete the columns about the number of children born alive in the marriage and the total number surviving at that date. I hope at least that at this sad time she had the support of her mother and two of her sisters who lived close by in Derby Street.

An old photograph of Ramsbottom shows Patmos Church on Peel Brow where the twins were christened and where Harold worshipped and attended Sunday School as a child. The last two houses of Wallis Street, since demolished, can just be seen jutting out on the left. So, Harold certainly did not have a long walk to church!



In 1913, Ramsbottom Urban District Council started running a trolley bus service. Harold left his job as a weaver and got a job as a conductor on the new buses. This was a wonderful opportunity for a young man. As a learner conductor, he earned 18s 0d per week in 1913 and there were opportunities for promotion. In his new role, he would become a familiar, friendly face to many local people.

On 31st August 1914 Harold enlisted in the machine gun section of the 7th Battalion of the East Lance Regiment. After eleven months of training, his battalion was sent to France on 17th July 1915. Harold was involved in a number of engagements against the enemy, but ironically his death on 16th October was a result of injuries sustained when a rifle grenade burst near him when he was standing at arms. A comrade confirmed to his parents that he did not suffer, as the blast immediately rendered him unconscious and he died without regaining consciousness. He was just eighteen years old. His parents had to console themselves with the fact that "his death came whilst doing his country's work as a soldier of the King".

Harold was awarded two medals – the Victory Medal and the Star – for his service. His grave is in Le Touret Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. I do not know whether his parents or any of his family ever visited his actual grave, but he was also commemorated locally on the Patmos Sunday School Roll of Honour and on his

parents' gravestone at Park United Reform Church, Ramsbottom. Sadly, in this year of remembrance, nobody seems to know the whereabouts of the Patmos memorial and his parents' gravestone has either been removed or turned over in the graveyard.

Six months after Harold's death, his sister Edith married Private William Howarth at Park United Reform Church on 8th April 1916. Their daughter, Mary, was born shortly afterwards. William survived the war and he and Edith went on to have at least three other children. They named their third child Harold and I like to think that this was in memory of a much-missed brother.

Cathy Armstrong-Bell, September 2014

THE DIAGONAL ENGINE BY JOHN WOOD OF RAMSBOTTOM

The Society's research on John Wood continues. With the kind permission of staff at the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester, we reproduce the following article from their Collections and Information Department. Interestingly, in the Heritage Society's collection is a photograph showing a similar engine which has been loaded on to a trailer. The two horses yoked to the trailer are presumably ready to be taken on a delivery by the workers standing beside them.

The double diagonal steam engine displayed in the Museum's Power Hall was made from their 1890 design by John Wood of Ramsbottom, a well-known maker of textile finishing machines. The working exhibit was made in 1910 and operated by Frankenstein Rubber Generators of Newton Heath, Manchester, which used it to drive a calico printing machine. It was presented to the Museum in 1970 when it was decommissioned by the company.

The diagonal engine was first patented in 1823 by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. It consists of either one steam-driven piston cylinder or a pair of cylinders inclined upwards at 45° driving a flywheel. The double diagonal engine was very popular for driving textile-finishing and rubber-callendering machines, where fine speed variation was needed. The position of the cylinders at 90°, with the connecting rods driving a common crank, meant that one piston was always ready to work with steam at full pressure.

The diagonal engine is a very neat and compact design, showing how much technology had advanced since the large beam engines of previous years. Diagonal engines tended to be small, up to 25 horsepower, and used almost exclusively in the

textile industry. They reached their peak, however, in paddle-boat production when huge engines of 11,000 hp were used.

Although the double diagonal engine has two cylinders it works on the same principles as most other steam engines. Steam from a boiler is admitted to each cylinder via a slide valve which is inside the box-like structure attached to the side of each cylinder. The slide valve, which is driven by an eccentric from the main shaft, ensures that steam is alternately admitted and exhausted from either end of the cylinder in turn. This drives the piston both forwards and backwards. The reciprocal motion of the pistons is converted to the rotary motion of the flywheel by a crank.

To control the speed of the engine, there is a small centrifugal governor, which varies the amount of steam that is admitted to the piston cylinders from the boiler. If the engine rotates too fast, the spheres of the governor are thrown outwards by centrifugal action closing the steam valve and cutting off steam from the boiler, hence slowing the engine down.



Your King & Country Need You!

Warning To Slackers.

Dr. Macnamara, Parlirmentary Secretary to the Admiralty, says—

"IT IS NO GOOD MINCING THE MATTER. THERE STILL REMAIN MANY THOUSANDS OF YOUNG FELLOWS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WHO HAVE NOT ANSWERED THE CALL. THE SOONER THEY MAKE UP THEIR MINDS TO ANSWER IT THE BETTER.

IF THEY THINK THEY ARE GOING TO ENJOY LIFE AND FREEDOM UNDER THE BRITISH FLAG AT SOME OTHER FELLOWS EXPENSE—IF THAT IS TO BE THEIR LINE—THEY WON'T ENJOY IT VERY LONG.

"I SAY THIS IN A MOST DELIBERATE MANNER: THAT THE MAN WHO IS PREPARED TO ENJOY LIFE UNDER THE BRITISH FLAG, WITHOUT HAVING THE GRIM DETERMINATION THAT HE WILL HAND ON THAT FLAG AS FREE AS HE FOUND IT IS NOT WORTHY THE NAME OF BRITISH CITIZEN."

ROSSENDALE MEN Should Apply To The Recruiting Offices,

CONSERVATIVE CLUB, HASLINGDEN.
LIBERAL CLUB, RAWTENSTALL.
MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, BACUP.
CONSERVATIVE CLUB, RAMSBOTTOM.

Advert from the Ramsbottom Observer 22nd January 1915

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):

Tuesday	10am - 5pm	2nd Saturday of the month 10 a.m - 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday	10am - 5pm	
Thursday	10am - 5pm	
Friday	10am - 5pm	

Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents. Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Our catalogues are online at http;//archives.bury.gov.uk as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The Archive photograph collection can be browsed on the Bury Image Bank website at www.buryimagebank.org.uk. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR: information@bury.gov.uk *or 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at* ***http://library.bury.gov.uk*** *- follow 'Bury Libraries Catalogue (Local Studies)'. Free access to the Ancestry and Find my Past databases is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.*

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Steven Benson, 32, Slater Lane, Leyland, PR25 1TN, email: **membership@lfhhs.org.uk.** Membership entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. Also one branch in London. 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 an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

RAMSBOTTOM'S



RESPONSE

WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION

Location: upstairs at *Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre,* Carr Street, Ramsbottom, BL 9AE. Tel: 0161 253 5352

Gallery opening Times:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm
Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm

2nd Sunday in the month 12 noon - 3pm (side entrance only) with extra displays and the Society's bookstall

More copies of the very popular exhibition booklet, also called 'Ramsbottom's Response', are now on sale

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bury COUNCIL

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 48 Spring 2015 ISSN 0960 - 1244



RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 281998

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 2015:

June 17	Dr Roy Parker – *Forgotten Lancashire* – the experiences of rural communities in East Lancashire at the end of the 18th century and into the first half of the 19th century (illustrated)
July 15	Guided afternoon visit to *Whalley Abbey*. Tour lasts for 1 hour and costs £3. Refreshments available in Whalley. Meet outside Ramsbottom Civic Hall at 1.45pm for car sharing.
August 19	Visit to *Bacup Wall of History* and *Bacup Natural History Museum* (free entrance). Refreshments available. Meet at Carr Street library car park at 6.15pm for car sharing.
September 16	Barry Aldous – *3D Photography Past and Present* – a brief history of stereoscopic (3D) imaging, supported by shows of local and general interest, covering a period of over 100 years.
October 21	Wendy Watters (historian from Bacup Natural History Society) - *Fernhill WW1 Military Hospital, Stacksteads (*illustrated)
November 18	Dr Mike Nevell (Head of Archaeology, University of Salford and co-editor of *Industrial Archaeology Review)* presentation on his recent excavations at Radcliffe Tower
December 9	**Christmas Social Evening**

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at Ramsbottom Civic Hall Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30pm.
Members £1.50, non-members £2 to include refreshments

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.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 48
Spring 2015

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Cover – The Ramsbottom Lane elevation of Market Chambers, Ramsbottom, kindly drawn for us by Mr Donald Fenton

Website - www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Email via website

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This spring the RHS has been involved in the conservation and preservation of Ramsbottom in two very different ways. Firstly we have been given a wide variety of objects needing permanent homes and secondly we have again sought to influence contentious planning applications. When planning permission was granted for the demolition of *Ramsbottom Cottage Hospita*l it was agreed that the Heritage Society should find permanent homes for various features of the hospital. These include the ventilator and weathervane, and the foundation stone with its time capsule containing the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 1897 and three coins. We expect that the beautiful stained glass windows will be put up in Ramsbottom Library with a light box behind them, where they should look really spectacular. The carved stone pediment will be re-erected by the roadside on Nuttall Lane and will be sold to the RHS for the princely sum of £1. The planning applications, which worried us most have been ones for the bowling green behind the Civic Hall and the chimney which belonged to Mondi (Ramsbottom) Paper Mill. We are endeavouring to have the former bowling green designated as a community asset and to ensure that the chimney stays complete or at least loses no more than the top 15 metres. St Andrew's Church and Schools banner has been given to us, and although it is in very poor condition, it has already been on display during the RHS Wednesday evening meeting in March. A painting of Ramsbottom (c1810), which appears in Hume Elliot's book *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers,* belongs to Bury Art Gallery. However the RHS has agreed to pay for its renovation so that it can be hung in Ramsbottom Library. We are looking forward to the publication of the 1916 edition of *Ramsbottom's Lost Generation* later this year, as the sale of the first edition, 1914-5, has been a success. The *Ramsbottom War News 1944* with its human stories will be available for the ELR *1940s Weekend* and fascinating snippets on a variety of subjects will be appearing in *The Espresso News*, a free weekly newssheet which can be picked up at many popular locations in Ramsbottom. It is also available online at www.espressonews.co.uk. The Society's own magazine is as interesting and as important to us as ever. Several extra members are now helping with the bookstall, gallery, conservation group, archive and the art and objects stores. We are enormously grateful to them and to the many others of you who have, for so long given your time and expertise to the RHS. We would not be such a vibrant and successful society without you. The guided summer walks and outings will be full of interest so do come along. I hope you all have a good summer, ready for the exciting programme we have next autumn.

Very best wishes Kate

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2014

There were 90 competition entries from 13 entrants, including 6 people who entered after an appeal on Facebook, The competition, which has now been running for 28 years, only accepts photographs which were taken in Ramsbottom and surrounding area during 2014, and this year, the judge was Barry Aldous. All of the photographs are available for viewing on the Ramsbottom Heritage Society website in the Photo Database section, which has 2600 photographs since the competition started in 1987, and also 1600 photographs scanned in from Bury Archive, and 300 donated to the society. Recurring themes this year were the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital and the erection of the new pinnacle at St Andrew's church. There are 4 categories, with a winner and up to 2 Highly Commended certificates.

The winner of the Dickensian Trophy was Shaun Ogden with his view of Holcombe Hill. His photograph also won the Town and Country category

Winners of each category were

Town and Country

Winner	Shaun Ogden Up above the clouds! Holcombe Hill
	Gary Taylor - Brick Houses in Summerseat

Buildings

Winner	Ian Chapman - St Andrew's Church Tower with new pinnacle in place

Themes

Winner	Ian Chapman (5 photographs of St Andrew's pinnacle)
Highly Commended	Ian Summers - 4 photos of Edenfield Garden Trail

Events and Daily Life

Winner Gary Taylor - A misty day on Bridge Street

Highly Commended Ian Summers - Senior Citizens Concert

John Tomlinson - Playtime in Nuttall Park

Dickensian Trophy and Town and Country Winner



Shaun Ogden

Buildings and Themes Winner



Ian Chapman

Events and Daily Life Winner



Gary Taylor

RECENT WEBSITE ACTIVITY

We are grateful to one of our members, Mrs Margaret Carr who has been viewing some of our thousands of archive photographs via the website and has been able to help us with identification. Among the photos she found was a wedding picture of her parents, Stanley Webster and Edith Heys, taken on 31st March 1926. They were married at Patmos Methodist Church, Ramsbottom. They had two shops on Bridge Street, Ramsbottom: number 28 sold baby linen (now *Ramsbottom Sweet Shop*) and number 36 which was then a gents outfitters (now *Pizza Nova*, described on their website as a sandwich and takeaway shop). As a boy her father, Stanley Webster, lived at 284, Bolton Road North, Stubbins where his parents, Brown and Mary (known as Dolly) ran a sweet shop. On a Wednesday, Stanley used to play cricket for "the tradesmen" and his brother Novello was also part of the cricket community. Mrs Carr also mentions reading with interest (in issues 46 and 47 of our magazine about World War I. She and her daughter have been researching family history, including her father's World War I service record. (Stanley Webster's birth, April 1897, was registered in Bury while his family were living at 172, Stubbins Lane.) In 1914, he volunteered for army service at the age of seventeen but saying he was eighteen. At the time he was living at the sweet shop with his parents. There are three medals, one being the Mons Star, but the family cannot access them at the moment. Unfortunately, even after much searching they cannot find out anything more about Stanley Webster's army career and they have been told that 60% of the records were destroyed in bombing raids. Mrs Carr says, "Of course there will be no one left who might have joined up at the same time as my father." However, she suggests that his name may have appeared in the *Ramsbottom Observer* among lists of 1914 army volunteers. She would be really grateful for the help of a local person as she now lives in Staffordshire. If you think you could help her, possibly having already searched issues of the newspaper (which are on microfilm at Ramsbottom Library), or with any other relevant information, you can contact the Society via the website www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk or by telephone on 01706 281998.

Brenda Decent

We are sorry to report the sad news that Mrs Brenda Decent, one of the founder members of the Society, died on 11th January 2015 after a long illness.

THE CHURCH FIELDS INQUIRY - A RESPONSE

As we reported in News Magazine 47, the Society's town/village green application for St Andrew's Church Fields was unsuccessful. After owners Peel Holdings objected, part of the following article by Mr Walsh, establishing his longstanding commitment to Ramsbottom and with his memories of Church Fields, was received by the Society. It was among the abundant evidence the Society presented when the matter went to a public enquiry.

The author has added/included his response to Peel Holdings' claim/Inspector Alan Evans' report which, in refusing the application, suggested that the requirement to identify a qualifying neighbourhood for the proposed village green had not been satisfied.

I was born at Bury in 1949 and lived there until 1969. As a teenager I spent a great deal of time in Ramsbottom which was regarded as a very tight knit, if slightly outdated, community. During the 1960s the town still had its Teddy Boys when "Psychedelia and Flower Power" reigned elsewhere! Within my understanding and experience there has always been a core population, as distinct from the town as a whole and this seems broadly congruent with the proposed Town Centre Qualifying Neighbourhood. I now live in Paradise Street in the former Model Lodging House. Apart from its historical significance, this building was itself constructed as a community resource in the 1880s. Ramsbottom had suffered periods of major depression from the nineteenth century onwards and this created a culture of necessity that meant people generally shopped locally and spread a limited income among their own business and amenity resources. Residents were regarded as somewhat tough and self-reliant by neighbouring townships, self-focused but also welcoming to incomers who joined with them. I became a permanent resident in 1974, first of all living in Stubbins at 151, Bolton Road North (beyond the Railway Bridge). Due to Local Government Re-organisation that year, Stubbins Village was now in Lancashire - not a popular decision locally as Stubbins regarded itself as a part of Ramsbottom. Beyond this and historically, Ramsbottom residents overall had tended to regard their town as a separate entity from both Bury and Lancashire! Much of this attitude still persists up to and including the present day and was reflected in the village green application. By 1976 I had moved to 36, Kay Brow adjacent to Church Fields. One reason for this was to be more within the core community of the town and also closer to the public houses (which amounted to the same thing really). I was a very frequent user of the nearby open space, along with everyone else. One of my friends moved into a cottage near St Andrew's Church

in 1975 and is still there so I've regularly used the path in St Andrew's Fields over the years but I was never entirely confined to it until recently after the field was fenced. During my time on Kay Brow, I lived at the front of a block of modern housing. There was a very big Jubilee Street party in the Close behind my house during 1977 and I have the photos. It was not actually on St Andrew's Fields but many games took place there - a lot of excited children were present and needed to run off their energy. In 1978 I was occupying a much larger property at 41, Bury New Road. Finally I moved to *The Model* in Paradise Street in 1989. With the exception of the first one, all my homes in Ramsbottom have been close to St Andrew's Church and within the proposed qualifying town centre neighbourhood. This means it has always been a short walk to the Lodge and the fields around St Andrew's. I stayed nearby because I wished to remain within the area that I regarded as the primary population centre of the town. It was my opinion, from the earliest days, that other Ramsbottom districts e.g. Shuttleworth or Summerseat were not quite the same thing, although it was sometimes difficult to define why! Geographically the "cross" formed by Bridge Street running north through the traffic lights and the roads running east-west created a focus, lacking in say a more linear settlement, that had a western bias towards Nuttall Lane and beyond.

During 1979 my widowed mother moved into 4, Old Ground Street, also very close to Kay Brow and St Andrew's. Until she became infirm herself, she was very much involved with elderly neighbours and others around, acting as an unofficial "home help" or carer often in conjunction with Local Authority staff. She was a user of Kay Brow Duck Pond and St Andrew's Fields in the sense that she would regularly take grandchildren there! It was safer for them to run about on the fields themselves and it was always common practice for the field to be used in this way. During snowy winters the entire district would converge on the St Andrew's slope for tobogganing. My sons all participated in this eagerly and I still have the remains of one sledge. I recall this activity first of all from 1976, during the eighties and particularly alongside the very heavy snows circa 1993 when conditions were so poor that the ELR Steam Trains were brought into use mid-week as road travel was very difficult. Waiting at Ramsbottom Station in the evening, in the snow and seeing people arrive on the emergency transport felt very much like a community experience that was particularly appropriate to this town. My brother also lived in Ramsbottom for three years in the late eighties. His sons would use Nuttall Park and Church fields for ball games. There was never any restriction on this at St Andrew's. At one point my brother and I would gather waste wood from the lower

part of Church Fields for his wood burner and my open fire. There was never any thought that this area was not open to common usage. I had a dog for a number of years and enjoyed free access to exercise him on the fields. Although she was a pupil at St Paul's, my young daughter joined an after school Brownies group based at St Andrew's School and they accessed the fields regularly for their activities.

David J A Walsh

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



On Sunday 25th January 2015 the Bishop of Bolton, the Rev Chris Edmondson, rededicated St Andrew's Church. The special service marked the return of church members to the building after a devastating lightning strike on 23rd July 2013. We congratulate the Church on what has been achieved. Having seized the opportunity to improve the building's facilities, extra cash has been raised for the larger kitchen, the meeting room and improved toilet facilities. A handwritten letter, which is kept in a frame in St Andrew's Church, was transcribed (as it was originally written) in 2015 by Brenda Richards. We include her transcription below.

NB *The Lodge of Commerce* was formed in Manchester in 1796 and moved to Haslingden in 1830. Starkie Lodge, a "daughter" Lodge of Commerce Lodge, was formed in Ramsbottom in 1876, meeting first at the Railway Hotel, and then moving into the Grant Lodge in 1882. It later met in an upstairs room of the Civic Hall before moving to Bury.

Laying of the Corner stone of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 1832

Masonic proceedings minuted by the Worshipful Master of Commerce Lodge.

July 31
Haslingden 1832

Gentlemen and Brethren

I have to apologise for not transmitting you an earlier account of the Proceedings of the Masonic Procession at Ramsbottom Lancs. by assuring you that a presence of Business of another nature has prevented me.
The Brethren from the neighbouring Lodges in number about 120 assembled in Masonic clothing on the day appointed at the Grants Arms Inn Ramsbottom. After the Lodge was opened in proper form and the Brethren arranged, the Procession commenced about 12 o'clock and proceeded though M/rs Grants extensive Print Works to Nuttall Hall the Residence of John Grant Esq.. There the Brethren was joined by Wm Grant Esq. and his Brothers. Mr. McLane the Minister of the intended Church and several other gentlemen. On reaching the site of the New Church the Clergymen above named offered up a prayer suitable for the occasion after which the corner stone was laid in Masonic Form by Mr. Wm Grant Esqr. the generous founder of the structure assisted by Bro. Lynch of M/cr and other Provincial Officers. Two Bottels containing the current coins of the Realm and two or 3 newspapers of Recent date were then deposited in a cavity of the Stone over which was placed a Brass Plate inscribed with the name of its Founder his parentage country, (Scotland) &C and the day of the month and year in which the Stone was laid.
Mr Wm Grant then addressed the Brethren and the assembled multitude in a very telling and impressive manner stating that it had been his intention for some time to build a House to the Lord for the many favours and blessings that he and his family had received at his hands and he declared this to be the happiest day of his life and thanked God for thus enabling him to raise a structure which he hoped would be a benefit not only to the present but to generations to come.
Bro. Lynch also delivered a suitable address and after the Sunday School Children had sung a Hymn God save the King as sung by Bro. Thos. Wilding and accompanied by the Brethren. The Procession returned to the Inn where the Lodge was closed in form and with Solemn Prayer. The Brethren and several gentlemen afterwards sat down to an excellent dinner provided by Messr. Grants and the rest of the day was spent in Harmony Order and Friendship.

Yours fraternally
(signed) Thomas Lord W.M. of the Lodge of Commerce

RAMSBOTTOM MARKET PLACE'S GROUP OF LISTED BUILDINGS

The following article is based in part on English Heritage listing information. More details from English Heritage and the Ramsbottom Heritage Society about Market Place's listed buildings' architectural features are available at Ramsbottom Library

Market Chambers



Mr Donald Fenton's drawing of the old Ramsbottom Urban District Council Offices (Council Chambers) was used on the front cover of RHS News Magazine number 47. The front of this issue features the building from a different viewpoint with only the Ramsbottom Lane elevation. As we mentioned in issue 47, Council Chambers housed the offices of Ramsbottom Urban District Council until the formation of the Metropolitan Borough of Bury in 1974. Now Market Chambers, it was built between 1842 and 1847 and is one of the group of buildings in Ramsbottom Market Place which are English Heritage Grade II listed. The Civic Hall, built in 1895 and linked to the rear of Market Chambers), is not part of the listing, although it is within the Ramsbottom Town Centre Conservation Area along with the former Grant Arms Bowling Green* behind it and the whole of the adjoining car park. On 14th September 1911 an agreement with Mrs E A Wild for the purchase of Council Offices and adjoining buildings was passed at a Council Meeting[1]. An application to the Local Government Board to sanction the borrowing of the required money was accompanied by the RUDC surveyor's plans for improvements. In October 1912 Ramsbottom Urban District Council bought the whole building, then known as 21, Market Place. It cost £1474 9s 1d to which was added £630 for renovation. The money was borrowed from Blackpool Corporation at rate of 3¾% after a ministry inquiry had been held under the Public Health Act[2].

The Burial Board had already been granted the use of a room in Council Chambers for meetings at a cost of £1pa. There is a vault with a three inch steel door on the ground floor inside the northern section of the building and cellars under the southern section. Outside, the arched wooden doors facing Ramsbottom Lane lead into a small, enclosed yard with outbuildings. The outbuildings have as roofs three enormous stone flagstones which have been measured recently for the Society by one of our members. One of the slabs measures nearly 10ft by just over 7ft and is 5 inches thick and the other two each measure 7ft x 8ft x 4 inches. Apparently, the size of these flagstones is not unusual in the Rossendale Valley. Years ago a confident report appeared claiming that Colne possessed Lancashire's largest flagstone. When a number of people undertook their own fieldwork they found that its dimensions were trifling when compared with other giant monoliths in the valley. The largest flagstone was discovered, not on the ground, but forming the roof of an old summer house at Horncliffe, a former woollen manufacturer's mansion beside the Rawtenstall to Edenfield Road. It measured 11ft by 10ft and, like two of the Market Chambers examples, is 4 inches thick. Part was hidden by the walls built round the top to make an observation platform. The stone was thought to have come from Horncliffe Quarry soon after the mansion was built in the middle of the nineteenth century. It is said to have cracked many years ago and then been bound with iron staples[3]. The three Market Chambers outbuilding slabs are intact. A smaller but still impressive flagstone has been spotted in the pavement at the corner outside Market Chambers. In 1924 Richard W Wood, accountant, was listed at Central Chambers, Market Place and by 1955-6 accountants Yates & Senior were at Central Chambers. (*Editor - Please contact the Society if you can have any further information about Market Chambers or its yard.*)

Later, in 1970, Ramsbottom Urban District Council had earmarked £12,050 among items of capital expenditure on projects for the Council Office alterations. Part of the money was to be spent on a newly constructed Council Chamber and committee rooms on the upper floor of numbers 2 – 4, Bolton Street, which at that time was the Council Office annexe. The Collectors' and Housing Departments were already in the annexe. At the meeting of the council in July 1970 Councillor Alan Godwin, Chairman of the Council, declared the new chamber and committee rooms at the corner of Bolton Street and Carr Street officially open. He told councillors and Ramsbottom residents who attended the meeting that the building was once two local pubs. They later became one pub (*The Commercial*) and a dentist's surgery. They had been bought by the Council in about 1965[4].

The telephone kiosk

In 1987, the type K6 kiosk was also Grade II listed because this type of kiosk was designed in 1935 by the architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. It was made in cast iron by various contractors. Several people have told us their concerns about the poor condition of our Market Place call box and, hopefully, we have been able to report the problems to the right BT department. In the past the company has been very conscientious about maintaining the kiosk once they have received the information, which has to include the number of the phone shown inside it (01706 823219).

(Incidentally, the large square clock fixed to the wall of Market Chambers above the kiosk was donated to the town by Miss Spears who, in the 1920s, was the Secretary at John Wood's Engineers, Garden Street.)

7 and 9, Market Place

Forming the west side of Market Place this three storey terrace was built between 1842 and 1847. No 7 Market Place was a boarding school in the 1850s and 60s, later becoming the Waterworks Office in the early 20th century. It is now a chemist. Number 9 was a shop, selling earthenware in the 1850s and 60s, later becoming the office of the Ramsbottom Observer. Until recently it was a newsagents and is now Mrs P's Luxury Ice Cream Shop.



2 Market Place (with 59 Bridge Street) and 4 to 8, Market Place

For a period including 1850 to 1871, the terrace included a grocer's shop owned by Eliza and Samuel Wilson who were close acquaintances of the Rev Hume Elliott and were referred to frequently in his book *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers*. Much later, Number 2 was Lancashire County Council's

library before the service was relocated in 1951 to the old Heritage Centre on Carr Street.



Numbers 10, 12, 14 and 16, Market Place

comprise what is an 1829 terrace originally known as *Ballantyne Terrace*. The individual properties were originally dwellings with the exception of No 14 which was Ramsbottom's first Post Office. The cellars were once cellar dwellings and were accessed from inside the property above and from Killer Street to the rear. Owing to the slope of the land these rear entrances are at ground level. *Ballantyne Place* was built by John Killer, after whom Killer Street was named.



The Grant Arms, 11, Market Place

The historical significance of the building is in its relation to industrialists who developed Ramsbottom into a town. The original rear section which has a cellar with a vaulted brick ceiling, is dated c1780. It was then known as *Top o' th' Brow* and occupied by Henry Warren, a partner of Peel and Yates. It was later occupied by William and Grace Grant and re-named Grant *Lodge*. The next generation of the Grant family added the central and front sections in 1828 and changed its use from a home to the hotel, naming it *The Grant Arms Hotel*. The two storey central section has a cellar beneath with vaulted stone ceiling. The front section is three

storey with no cellar. Owing the fall of land the ground floor of this part of the building is on the same level as the cellar of the central section behind it.
There is a large function room across the front section at first floor level with a "gallery" where the original mechanism for the clock, which is situated on the external face of the building, can be found in a cupboard.
An armorial window has three leaded stained glass windows inset in a timber partition: the left hand window has the arms of Starkie of Huntroyed (the same arms are displayed outside *The Starkie Arms*, Padiham. They are thought to have been retained from the previous house by the Grants as no connection to that family was found[5], but may refer to *Starkie Masonic Lodge*, which was based in Ramsbottom). The right hand window has the arms of former Ramsbottom Urban District Council and the central window is described as follows:

'Arms of Grant of that ILK. Gu.(*Red*) Three antique or eastern crowns Or (*Gold coloured)*. Crest- a burning hill ppr (*ie proper*). Motto - Stand fast'. Described in The General Armoury Burke's Peerage Ltd as:- 'The hill of the crest in Craigellachie (opposite Rothiemurcus), and the fire was lighted to call the whole clan together in Strathspey, the seat of the Grants of Morayshire. When drawn up in battle the motto of the chief was 'Stand Fast', and the inferior chieftains re-echoed it to their troops, as 'Stand firm', 'Stand sure'etc[6].

Adderstone Mansions

This former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was built in 1874 in a classical design by John Garnett. In 1972 it was renamed Christ Church when the local Baptists merged with the Methodist chapel. In 1999 the building was divided into flats and re-named Adderstone Mansion. The building is of value as peripheral item in the group of listed buildings in centre of Ramsbottom.

References:
1 RUDC Minutes 14.9.1911
2 *Rossendale Free Press* – July 1970
3 Chris Aspin *Surprising Lancashire* (Helmshore Local History Society 1988)
4 *Rossendale Free Press* – July 1970
5 Undated observations by *Lancashire Heraldry Group* (Ramsbottom Library ref 57.2
Grant family)
6 *Lancashire Heraldry Group* 57.2

GLIMPSES INTO THE MEMOIRS OF JAMES THOMAS ROTHWELL

James Thomas Rothwell, known to all as Jim who lived at Merlewood, Edenfield, started writing his story when he was nearly ninety years old. He was persuaded by his son-in-law, Tom Pound. The original title of the book, "A Long Week", comes from the fact that when he was born in Scotland on 31st August 1918, he was a very sickly child. There was very little hope that he would survive for more than a week. He died aged 92 on 26th December 2010.

His daughter, Mrs Jean Pound prepared her father's memoirs for printing, using his exact words, only adding a few photographs and explanations or notes of clarification. She says, "... Dad had a remarkable memory. It is a shame that his health let him down before he completed his memoirs. Nevertheless what he did write is a fascinating record of Dad's life and times and I hope you will enjoy reading his story." As editors of this magazine we are sure our readers will get pleasure from the following account even though we have had to omit much of the wonderful detail. We thank Mrs Pound for allowing us to publish our account which often relies heavily on Mr Rothwell's wording and also includes extracts from the book.

James Thomas's father, James Dugdale Rothwell (d 1942), who had been a CSM in the Royal Engineers, had been gassed and wounded in France and afterwards was employed as a shift chemist at the Nobel Explosive complex at Dornoch near Eastriggs, Dumfrieshire (1916 – 1919). He had married young James's mother Sarah Ellen Wright in 1916. Eventually, having worked for the Bradford Dyers Association in Prestwich, James Dugdale was moved to the BDA's Hope Street branch, Ramsbottom in about 1923. He was the company cashier and office manager.

It was in Ramsbottom that young James first started school at Hazlehurst County Primary School. Although he only attended Hazlehurst for a few months he remembers that the Headmaster was Mr Burton and the class teacher was Mrs Johnson. His next school was Miss Pape's Private School, Whalley Road, Shuttleworth. He remained at Miss Pape's until 1928 when, having passed the entrance examination, he started in the Lower Third Form at Bury Grammar School. He left BGS in 1934 to start working as a junior laboratory assistant at Transparent

Paper Ltd, Bridge Hall Mills, Bridge Hall Lane, Bury. He stayed with the company working in various roles in the laboratories until he was enlisted into the forces. During 1934 –35 he had attended evening classes at the Municipal Technical College, Bury to gain certificates in chemistry.

The Army Years 1939 – 1946

Prior to the Second World War James had joined the Royal Artillery voluntarily. In mid June 1939, came his first call "to the colours" and after a medical examination at Bolton he awaited instructions. These directed him to go to the Water Board Office, Market Place, Ramsbottom at 12 noon on 31st August 1939 (his 21st birthday) to join the army. Along with hundreds of other men he later reported to Victoria Station, Manchester where he met up with William (Billy) Hall who was later to be the husband of Mona Hall. She became well known in Ramsbottom as the Registrar. On the train to Oswestry Billy Hall took out his violin and entertained the men with his music and a bit of a sing song. On 30th December he received his posting to a service unit, 330 Field Battery, 83rd Field Regiment RA at Haverfordwest.

From March 1940 he served far and wide in Northern Ireland as part of a mobile column of Field Artillery which was for a short while positioned to guard Belfast Docks in case of an invasion attempt. By the time the regiment moved back to Stone, Staffordshire in April 1942 he had reached the rank of Sergeant and eventually became full Substantiated Sergeant. From Stone he took a twelve week intensive course at the School of Artillery, Larkhill on Salisbury Plain. While he was there a very heavy air raid was being mounted by the RAF using Lancaster Bombers. One of the planes came down quite near to Larkhill and burst into flames. The camp fire brigade had just arrived at the scene when the plane exploded, killing the NCO fire chief. After Stone 330 Battery moved to Herne Bay, Kent and he recalls battle training courses at Sennybridge, South Wales to practise live firing and anti tank firing using solid shot and also at Dane Park, Tonbridge. It was at Tonbridge that he became contaminated with mustard gas which caused a huge blister on his thigh. After a few days he was granted leave and visited Transparent Paper where the Personnel Officer put a new dressing about 10 inches square on his leg which then started to heal.

I went on my honeymoon with this whacking great dressing on my leg, as it was on this leave that I married Annie Burton (Nan to all her family and friends). We had known each other since we were about seven having met at the Baptist Sunday School, Ramsbottom. Originally we were just friends but as we grew older we both joined the Sunday School table tennis and badminton teams. We also took part in plays and concerts that were held in the Sunday School buildings. As they say we 'took a shine to each other' and love blossomed. We were married on 12th December 1942 at Ramsbottom Baptist Church. The ceremony was conducted by Reverend Maddocks. My brother Trevor was best man and Nan's two sisters, Edith and Mable were bridesmaids.

Nan was fifty minutes late and as I was waiting in the church my grandmother, who sat behind me to the right, was telling me, "She's gone off with another chap." Nan's grandmother, who sat behind me to my left, replied, "She would not do that to you." After all the waiting and banter, I had sat so long and got so warm that when Nan came through the door into the chapel I was stuck to the varnish on the seat and could not stand up! Trevor and James Butterworth, my groomsman, had to ease my pants out of the varnish and eventually everything went off OK.

It transpired that the wedding car chauffeur had, against advice, tried to turn round in a field entrance and had got stuck in the mud. Nothing could budge the car. In desperation the driver went to the nearest phone and asked his depot to send another car. He was told that none was available but if he ran up to the main road (about 500 yards) he could stop a funeral car that was returning to the depot. He managed to do this and changed the white ribbons from his car on to the funeral car. Nan was not too happy about this but no other car was available.

After the ceremony we went to Collinge's Dining Room in Stubbins for the wedding breakfast. From there we were to go to have our photographs taken in Haslingden. I phoned Mr Constantine, the photographer, and said, "So sorry we are late but the truck got stuck in some mud." Cry from the head of the table, "I'm not riding in a truck," – first clanger of my married life.

When the photographs had been taken and the meal finished, we went back to Nan's home (5, Park Avenue, Ramsbottom) to get changed. From there we went to Knowsley Street station in Bury to catch a train to Blackpool for a three day honeymoon. Nan and I went back home again to number 5 for two days and then I had to return to my unit.

By this time the unit had moved to Icklesham near the south Kent coast. After live anti tank training at Lydd there were spells of duty, probably at Bognor Regis, and at Herne Bay and Sutton Valence near Maidstone. It was in late May 1944 that Nan and Clara (Stan Crabtree's wife) visited Sutton Valence.

On 5th June orders came through for all wives to return home immediately, by the first train out of Maidstone on 6th June at the very latest. So off Nan and Clara went amidst all the rush and kerfuffle of the invasion of Europe. They had a hectic journey home as they were mixed up in all the troop movements that were taking place on that fateful day. They arrived home safely after a very long and tiring journey, having had to wait here and there so that troop trains could have priority.

On the night of 6th June we saw the first 'flying bomb' or 'doodlebug' as they were called. One was flying over the Battery area and was being hit by 'ack ack shrapnel' but continued to fly with flames coming from the propulsion unit trailing behind. A remark was made, "Well that plane's on fire – he won't last long now." Little did we know that it was a pilotless rocket propelled missile. The following day more came over but the RAF fighters were tackling them, sometimes successfully but sometimes getting too near and being blown out of the sky by the ton of high explosive. The RAF very quickly learned to fire from a different angle and to break off very quickly.

On 22nd June James's unit left Sutton Valence in a convoy for London. Having spent two nights sleeping in bunks erected on the terraces in the grandstands at West Ham football ground they proceeded to London Docks. On the afternoon of 24th June they set sail across the Channel in a Liberty Ship. The incredible sight of all the sunken ships and the Mulberry Harbour met them where they landed. James believed it was at Gold Beach.

The division fought its way through Normandy and took part in a decisive battle for the north of France at Villers-Bocage. A series of actions then led them to the Battle of the Falaise Gap which was conducted by the British, Canadians and Americans, inflicting terrible losses on the Germans.
330 Battery followed the retreating German Army through Belgium, Holland and Germany, taking part in battle after battle. They helped the retiring troops at Arnhem (September 1944) and on a bitterly cold Christmas Eve 1944 they were in the Ardennes with the Americans assisting in the Battle of the Bulge. Later the division advanced into Germany, taking the towns of Kleve, Xanten and Goch. It was from Goch that the ammunition bombadier was sent out for more ammunition for the guns. He had not returned when a fleet of Military Police drove through on motor cycles and jeeps followed by three Daimler saloon cars. In the first car was Sir Winston Churchill with Field Marshal Montgomery with other VIPs in the other cars. Behind the last car was a dusty three ton vehicle with the ammunition bombadier – wearing a silk top hat. He had not been allowed to overtake the VIP cavalcade - hence the delay in supplies!
One day, returning to the battery at Goch after a trip to collect replacement parts James passed a small concentration camp which was being attended to by the British Army Medical staff:

> **This was a really appalling sight. The inmates, now free to roam around, were just like skeletons. The smell was absolutely horrible – we could smell it for miles before and after passing.**

In 1945, the fighting over, 330 Battery advanced into Hamburg and remained in Germany forming part of the army of occupation.

Back in Blighty

James was demobbed in April 1946, returning to his first married home at 179, Manchester Road, Shuttleworth. He bought a single bus ticket from Bury to Shuttleworth costing 4d and kept it safely for the rest of his long life. Daughter Jean was born in1947 followed by Carol in 1949.

> **At the age of three months Jean caught whooping cough and was very poorly. The doctor was sent for and prescribed some medication. He came back a couple of days later and saw some improvement. He said that people who live in Ramsbottom had told him that the best cure for**

whooping cough was to take the child to the top of Holcombe Hill for about three quarters of an hour – to get some fresher, purer air. So the following Saturday afternoon we pushed the pram between us from Shuttleworth to the bottom of the Hill. Nan stayed at the bottom with the pram and I carried Jean to the top…. Old wives tales or not, from that day on Jean made a very quick recovery.

James had returned to work at Transparent Paper Ltd after he left the Army and spent the rest of his working life there until he retired in 1982. In early 1951 he was offered a management position which meant moving to Bury into one of the company's houses. In 1974, James and Nan moved to Edenfield. At the mill he was involved with the company's sports club and a keen member of the motor club.

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

ISSUE 6 : 1944 D DAY AND DOODLEBUGS

TWENTY A4 PAGES ~ STILL ONLY £1

On sale at Ramsbottom Library
and available via email (for details see the Society website)

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

War News **issues 1-5 published 2010-14, have been our most popular publications ever and are still available.**

DON'T MISS YOUR COPY

Published May 2015, in time for ELR's 40s Weekend

The Grant Arms Bowling Green





The photographs on the previous page are of the bowling green and bowlers before 2009, and have been kindly donated by the Grant Arms Bowling Club

This historic bowling green appears in the Tithe Award Schedule which acts as a key to the 1842 Tottington Lower End township tithe map. (At over 25 inches to the mile, this is the first large scale map and shows every habitation and close, or field, of a very different Ramsbottom, then a small industrial village in open farmland. The modern centre, with the Grant Arms Inn is recognisable on the map, across from "Outbuildings, yards, Roads, Piggaries (sic) & garden" where Market Chambers and the Civic Hall stand today.) The bowling green is also shown, clearly labelled, on the 1891 25 inch Ordnance Survey and more recent maps. It was also included in the Ramsbottom Town Centre Conservation Area when the area was first designated in 1977 as required by the 1971 Town and Country Planning Act. Bowls was last played there in 2009 before the Grant Arms Bowling Club were forced to leave the immaculately tended site.

The most famous story in lawn bowls is probably with Sir Francis Drake and his response to the approach of the Spanish Armada, "We still have time to finish the game and beat the Spaniards too." Whether this event took place has been heavily debated. However, records from 1299AD show that the oldest bowls green still played on is in Southampton and kings Henry VIII and James I were lawn bowlers. Apparently, it is believed that the patenting of the first lawn mower in 1830, in Britain, was the catalyst for the preparation of modern-style bowling greens and other sports grounds. Incidentally, the greens in the south of England are flat greens where the game involves bowling in lanes. The Grants is a crown green with a different game in which bowling takes place all over the green.

On 20th January 2015, the third application by the same developer to build twenty four flats for the elderly on the former Grant Arms Bowling Green was refused by Bury Council's Planning Committee. Two earlier applications had been withdrawn. (The proposed building would have been three storeys high and twice as long as the Civic Hall.)

Ramsbottom's Lost Generation *Part 1 1914 – 1915*
by Duncan Francis

A meticulously researched record of Ramsbottom's involvement in the Great War, told through the lives of those from the town who made the supreme sacrifice

(Published by Ramsbottom Heritage Society – only a few copies left)

This book with its 114 A4 size pages costs £10 and is on sale at Ramsbottom Library, including on the second Sunday of the month, in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery, or direct from Duncan.

Ramsbottom's Lost Generation Part 2 1916
THE SECOND BOOK IN THE SERIES – OUT SOON

For details, please go to www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):

Tuesday	10am - 5pm	Wednesday	10am - 5pm
Thursday	10am - 5pm	Friday	10am - 5pm
2nd Saturday of the month•••	10am - 4.30pm		

Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents.

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Our catalogues are online at

http;//archives.bury.gov.uk as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The Archive photograph collection can be browsed on the Bury Image Bank website at www.buryimagebank.org.uk. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR**: **information@bury.gov.uk** or 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at **http://library.bury.gov.uk** - follow 'Bury Libraries Catalogue (Local Studies)'. Free access to the Ancestry and Find my Past databases is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Stephen Benson, 32, Slater Lane, Leyland, PR25 1TN,
email: **membership@lfhhs.org.uk.**

Membership entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. Also one branch in London. 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 an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and 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 news cuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's

SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME 2015

Guided walks – June to September

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

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

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

Sunday 21st June	***A Historical Saunter Round Ramsbottom Town Centre*** Be entertained as you learn about the development and changing face of Ramsbottom. Meet outside Grant Arms, Market Place, Ramsbottom at 2pm Leader - Andrew Todd.
Sunday 19th July	***Holcombe to Park Farm*** (Village link route, featuring points of interest and historical sites.) Meet *Shoulder of Mutton* car park, Holcombe at 1.30pm. Transport will be provided back to the start. Stout shoes needed. Leaders Barbara and Jon Williams.
Sunday 16th Aug	***The Mills of Dearden Clough*** Residents of Dearden Clough near Edenfield, lived, wove and printed fabric and swam in this fascinating little valley. Meet Grant Arms/Civic Hall car park at 1.30pm. Shared transport to the start of the walk Stout shoes needed, some uphill walking. Leader - Kate Slingsby.
Sunday 19th Sept	***Holcombe to Hawkshaw*** (Village link route, featuring points of interest and historical sites.) Meet *Shoulder of Mutton* car park Holcombe at 1.30pm. Transport will be provided back to the start. Stout shoes needed. Leader - John Ireland

More details on www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

or contact Kate on 01706 281998

Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

RAMSBOTTOM'S



RESPONSE

WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION

Location: upstairs at *Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre*, Carr Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AE. Tel: 0161 253 5352

Gallery opening Times:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm
Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm

2nd Sunday in the month 12 noon - 3pm (side entrance only) with extra displays and the Society's bookstall

More copies of the very popular exhibition booklet, also called 'Ramsbottom's Response', are now on sale

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bury COUNCIL

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

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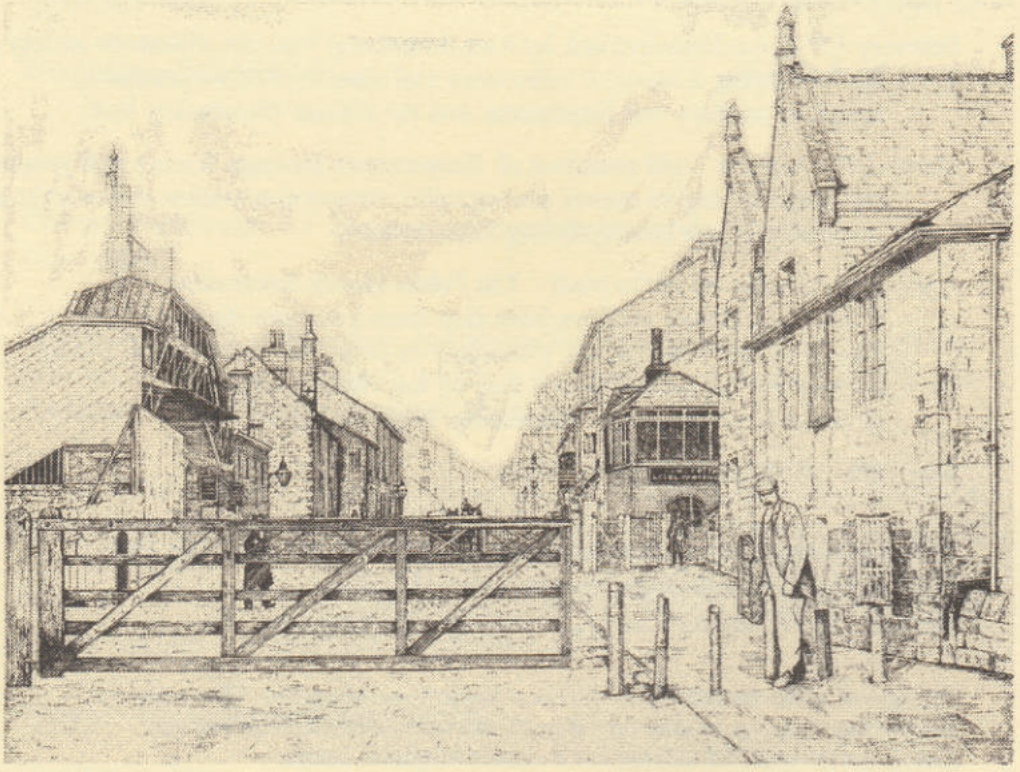

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 281998

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 2015/2016

December 9th - Christmas food and social get together for members

January 20th - An illustrated talk by David Pope from Ellenroad Steam Museum Society about the history of the cotton spinning mill at Newhey, Rochdale. The engine house is a National Historic Monument.

February 17th - An illustrated talk by John Armstrong from the Milestone society on the fascinating history of milestones and other historic waymarkers, boundary markers and fingerposts, and the various threats they face.

March 16th - Andrew Todd president of Ramsbottom Heritage Society will present and judge the digital annual photographic competition entries, followed by an illustrated talk on photographing Ramsbottom.

April 20th - 'Getting rid of the stink' - The Public Health Revolution.
Throughout history millions have died from infectious diseases. This illustrated talk looks at how a healthier environment was created, less by doctors and the medical world than by the 19th c engineers.
Dr Mike Hayes Professor University Wolverhampton,

May 18th - AGM and Members' Night

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at Ramsbottom Civic Hall Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30pm.
Members £1.50, non-members £2 to include refreshments

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.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 49
Autumn/Winter 2015

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Programme 2015/2016 inside front cover

Cover - Peel Bridge Toll Bar and Railway crossing, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, Circa 1900.

Almost out of sight in the picture, just beyond the signal box, is the row of buildings affected by a culvert collapse which is the subject of Barbara Park's item **RAMSBOTTOM'S "SINKHOLE" 1915-16**

A few prints of the original version of the drawing by Zena Middleton (approximately A3 size) are still available from the Society. The work was inspired by a photograph of the period which was taken when the gate was removed, tolls being charged for the last time in October 1900. Ken Beetson originally reproduced the photograph in his *Ramsbottom Volume 2* (1978).

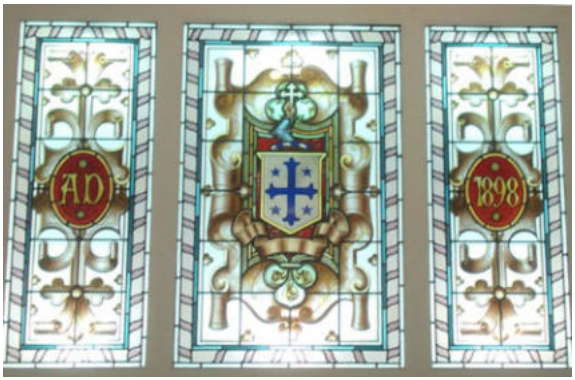
Website - www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Email via website

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Recent Ramsbottom Heritage Society Successes

We offer our services free to the public through our archive, website, guided walks and many other things we do. However it is certainly true that you cannot please all the people all of the time and the work of the Conservation Group may sometimes be more controversial.



It is therefore all the more pleasing that, this summer, we have made so many people happy by finding homes for various features from Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital. The main stained glass windows from the hospital staircase are now upstairs in Ramsbottom Library, with a light box behind them. They will soon be permanently lit, but so far only a few of the library staff and members of the Society's committee have been lucky enough to see them in their full glory.

The old mill building in Square Street, which is currently being altered into apartments, seemed the ideal site for the hospital's ventilator and weather vane. The developer was delighted to accept it and immediately asked his architect to include it in the plans. When he asked the council for permission, they too were pleased by the suggestion. Since the Society's apparent obsession with preserving Ramsbottom's heritage can sometimes cause the planning department a lot of work, it is good to know that we have met with their approval!



The carved stone pediment from above the front door of the hospital has been erected by the developer beside Nuttall Lane. The tiny site is to be sold to the Society for £1. At nearly 10 ft tall,



the pediment is an imposing sight and many local people have expressed their pleasure at seeing it. One of our members is designing an interpretation board telling people about the history of the hospital, which I'm sure the public will find interesting.

We have also met with approval in a quite a different, but equally gratifying, way. The *Ramsbottom War News* team asked that we gave one year's profits to the Ramsbottom War Memorial Project Fund. We have heard that because our donation was just over £1,000, we have been granted Gold Patron Status and this very generously entitles the society and its individual members to use the British Legion concert lounge free of charge. The original war memorial plans have been altered so that the names of those from Ramsbottom who died will be on the cross itself, rather than on a separate wall. This involves moving the old memorial from outside St Paul's to the cemetery and replacing it with a new one of similar design but with a base large enough to accommodate all the names. Disappointingly the application for a Heritage Lottery grant was not accepted, so that a major fundraising effort is now being undertaken and the building of the memorial has been further delayed. Duncan Francis's *Ramsbottom's Lost Generation 1914-15* sold all 100 copies and

so there has been another short run. By the time this magazine is published, the issue for *1916* should be on sale (details on our website).

It is exciting that evidence of our influence can be seen around Ramsbottom. On a much smaller scale, teamwork involving an initiative from the Society and, we suspect, Heritage England has resulted in the repair of Market Place's Grade II listed telephone kiosk. We do hope that our successes and news about our many activities encourage more local people to join the society.

Further afield, the Society was represented at a history fair on 6th September at the historic Victoria Baths, Manchester. (In 2003, with funding of over £3m at stake, the building won the highest number of votes in the BBC's *Restoration* series.*)* Armed with display panels and sales items, our volunteers had the opportunity to meet people from a wide variety of the Manchester area's history groups and also to tour the amazing partly-restored Grade II* listed building. The visit brought back fond memories for one of our team as he had been a regular swimmer at the baths when he lived in the area.

Very best wishes
Kate Slingsby

Ramsbottom's Lost Generation *Part 1 1914 – 1915*
by Duncan Francis

A meticulously researched record of Ramsbottom's involvement in the Great War, told through the lives of those from the town who made the supreme sacrifice

(Published by Ramsbottom Heritage Society – only a few copies left)

This book with its 114 A4 size pages costs £10 and is on sale at Ramsbottom Library, including on the second Sunday of the month, in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery, or direct from Duncan.

Ramsbottom's Lost Generation Part 2 1916
THE SECOND BOOK IN THE SERIES – OUT SOON
For details, please go to www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

RAMSBOTTOM'S "SINKHOLE" 1915-16

On Friday, 10 December 1915 the following item appeared in the Ramsbottom Observer:

SUBSIDENCE IN BRIDGE STREET

A subsidence occurred on Monday at the shop on Bridge Street tenanted by Mrs Bancroft, confectioner. Rumbling noises were heard on Sunday evening and on Monday the floor of the front part of the premises began to give way. A culvert passes under the block of buildings and the heavy rains during the week end have caused the foundations of the culvert to become undermined with the result that that the premises began to give way.

Thanks to the Ramsbottom Urban District Council Surveyor, Mr Thomas H Bell we now know that this was just the beginning of a problem that went on for many months. Mr Bell kept a daily log of his activities and from these diaries we have extracted some of the entries relating to this particular event. As far as possible, Mr Bell's exact wording has been used in the following account but words/passages printed in italics are by RHS magazine editors using information in his log.

The 1908 Ordnance Survey map is reproduced on the centrefold pages of this magazine. The Bridge Street subsidence was by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank between Garden Street and the railway. (The building is labelled "Bk" in tiny letters.) Later it was Martins Bank and then Barclays. Devil Hole Lodge, which became the focus of Mr Bell's work during March 1916, is on the corner of Springwood Street and Carr Street and shown as "Reservoir".

Monday, 6 December 1915 The occupier of Refreshment Rooms in Bridge Street adjoining the Bank Premises (Lancashire & Yorkshire Bank) noticed water in the cellared portion of the premises and also that the flags forming the floor of the shop were settling and that the walls both outside and in were cracking.

The occupier Mrs Bancroft sent one of her lady assistants up to Mrs J Forshaw the owner to report.

Mr J Smith, the Manager of the Lancs & Yorks Bank, also noticed that they had water in the underground Strong Room percolating through cracks in the concrete floor of the Strong Room



Martin's Bank taken in the 1950's
From the Ramsbottom Heritage Society publication "Around Ramsbottom"

Tuesday, 7 December 1915
In the morning soon after 9am I examined the Refreshment Rooms occupied by Mrs Bancroft and also the Lancs & Yorks Bank premises adjoining and found indications of settlement and damage of floors and walls on the lines indicated under Monday's entry. Arranged an interview over phone with Mr J Sadler the Manager of Messrs Hepburns the local branch of the Bleachers Association as I surmised that the damage was caused by water from the Culvert conveying the overflow from the Devil Hole Lodge.

At 10am met Mr David Sadler and Mr James Sadler from Messrs Hepburn's (Square Works) and we together examined Mrs Bancroft's premises and the Bank premises. In the cellar of the Refreshment Rooms there were signs showing mud deposit and that the water must have risen about 18 inches. I asked Mr David Sadler to get Mr Kenworthy the Chief Engineer of the Bleachers' Association to come out to Ramsbottom to inspect the damage and authorise what was to be done. Met Mr Kenworthy and the two Mr Sadlers at Messrs Hepburn's offices at 2.30pm. After a conversation at the offices we went down to site and examined the culvert *mouths* and the damaged premises. Mr Kenworthy, before leaving, authorized Mr Sadler to put men into the work of shoring and timbering Mrs Bancroft's shop and to proceed with the work of opening up the street to locate the trouble.

I advised Mrs Bancroft to remove the furniture and goods from the front shop and not to allow any person to sleep in the front rooms over the shop.

Mr David Sadler sent for Mr C Lomax and instructed him to get on with the work of propping the shop ceiling straight away. They worked up to after 9pm

Wednesday, December 8 1915 Two or three inspections of the work proceeding in the culvert at front of Mrs Bancroft's shop by Messrs C Lomax's men acting under the instructions of Mr Sadler (Manager, Messrs Hepburn's). A Clerk of Works employed by the Bleachers' Association was over and had interview with me re the probable cause of the damage. After conversation with me Mr James Sadler supported my strong opinion on the matter, advised Mrs Bancroft the tenant to store her furniture and goods in the back rooms and vacate the business for the time being. This was done during the day. On going up the culvert in front of the shop it was found that right in front of the shop window the flag bottom of the culvert had collapsed, which allowed a great portion of the water flow to divert out of its course, much of it running under the foundations of the front wall of the shop, thus causing the damage. This had taken place at the point of junction with the old culvert of a diversion made in 1896

Thursday, 9 December 1915 …Measurements taken by self and assistant in Bridge Street opposite the shop tenanted by Mrs Bancroft to show the condition of the defect and collapse of the culvert just in front of the shop.

Messrs C Lomax's men had got one shoring timber in position supporting the front wall of Mrs Bancroft's shop on to a *sole* plate placed at the kerb line in the street when the ground fell in where undermined by the action of the water. The side wall of the old rubble culvert nearest the kerb then fell over a length of about 6'0" and the portion of brick and concrete *inverted*. Culvert broke away for a length of about 5'0". The shoring timber of course fell in consequence. The front of the building was again supported with a strut or support with the plate carried further out into the paved street.

Lomax's men then further proceeded with the excavation and shoring of the defective portion of the culvert.

Friday, 10 December 1915 At 9.15am an increased volume of water was running down the culvert. A part of the water beyond the point of culvert collapse was backed up and was discharging down the culvert to its proper point of outlet opposite the Paper Mill. The bulk of the water was however escaping under pressure under the

shop tenanted by Mrs Bancroft and also appeared to be running away quickly in a vertical direction as though it had made an outlet into the lower culvert which supplies water from the goit to the mills down Railway Street. Messrs Lomax's men had temporary wooden *trough* in sections on the ground ready for fixing so that the water might be conveyed in its proper course over the point of collapse…

Saturday,**11 December 1915** Noted that now the flag flooring in Mrs Bancroft's shop is taken up - a large hole existed under the floor level - showing that the action of the water had washed away the earth from under the floor and foundations.
. The private door entrance to the Bank Manager's House would not lock owing to slight movement. A crack in the entrance behind the door was in worse condition than when I noticed it on Friday morning last.

Tuesday, 14 December 1915 Men engaged in taking up setts and preparing for placing in position temporary Traction Pole opposite Lancs and Yorks Bank in connection with culvert collapse repairs. Order for this pole given to Mr Wild by Mr Charles Lomax



Bridge Street and the level crossing in the 1950's. Taken from the Ramsbottom Heritage Society Publication "Around Ramsbottom"

Wednesday, 15 December 1915 The wooden cornice over window of L & Y Bank was slightly out of line. Affected apparently by settlement of wall nearest Mrs Bancroft's shop.

Thursday, 16 December 1915 Mr Lomax's men were fixing new wooden trough to divert water to one side. Gangway with hand rail fixed to give access to Mercer's shop.

Friday, 17 December 1915 Men still engaged in fixing temporary wooden trough to divert culvert water.

Saturday, 18 December 1915 Completion of plan showing point of collapse …(Hepburn & Co)

Monday, 20 December 1915 Wooden trough to divert the culvert water was completed on Saturday last. The water was this morning diverted to one side at the point where collapse had taken place. A photographer was taking photos of the scene on behalf of one of the interested parties. (Mr John Wood, *owner of Garden Engineering Works, Garden Street, Ramsbottom - Editor*)

BRIDGE STREET CULVERT REPAIR WORK SUDDENLY STOPS – FOR 7 MONTHS!

On 15th December more subsidence had been reported from Old Ground Mill, Square Street, as having taken place in Cross Street below Baptist Brow, near the Baptist Chapel. Upon inspection Mr Bell had found the subsidence to be over the line of the Council's sewer and that it was due to leakage of water from culvert feeding the lodge or reservoir abutting on Lodge Street. He had called Mr Sadler's attention to the matter.

By 20th December Messrs Lomax Ltd's work on Bridge Street had stopped pending further orders by Hepburn's Clerk of Works as per instructions from their Chief Engineer (Mr Kenworthy). On Tuesday, 21st December Mr Bell saw Lomax's men in Cross Street acting for Hepburn & Co trying to locate the leak there and also found nothing going on in Bridge Street.

BEHIND THE SCENES - THE BACKROOM WORK

The Bridge Street culvert repair work did not resume until Monday 24th July 1916. Meanwhile, Mr Bell struggled with the legal issues around who would take

responsibility for the repair costs. He also investigated the culvert system beyond the top of Bridge Street up in the area of Carr Street, Ramsbottom.

Having reported to a meeting of the RUDC General Purposes Committee and Finance and been interviewed by Mr Barlow and the RUDC Chairman on 10th February, he attended the Bridge Street Culvert Sub-Committee on 20th March about arrangements for proceeding with work of repair and re-instatement.

We are still hoping that some of Thomas Bell's 1916 drawings showing parts of Ramsbottom's culvert system will be found. In his daily log from January and February this survey work is mentioned as follows:

a copy of the plan of the point of collapse of the culvert for Mr Butcher
a sketch plan to show culverts in Bridge Street and Back Carr Street with surrounding properties *(see the Digitised Maps article for a possible plan)*
a preparation plan to show the position approximately of culverts in Bridge Street, Back Bridge Street and Railway Street
a. second trace copy of plan re Bridge Street culvert collapse at the request of Mr Butcher, solicitor
a plan of Bridge St, Market Place, etc showing information re culverts and sewers

Wednesday, 26 January 1916 Prepared plans and papers and arranged interview over phone to meet Mr F[?] S Butcher at his office in Bury in absence of Mr Barlow re Bridge St Culvert collapse.

Met Mr Butcher at his Bury office at 10.50am. Discussed with him matters appertaining to question of liabilities in respect to the Bridge Street Culvert. Also to have the work necessary carried out without further delay by the Bleachers Association Ltd without prejudice to any interests of any party concerned. The responsibility for cost to be allocated afterwards. The suggested agreement between the Bleachers' Association Ltd., the L & Y Bank and the Ramsbottom Council, standing at the Bank solicitor and Directors, who at present deny responsibility. Mr Butcher asked Mr S Woodcock (*solicitor)* to come over to his office and the meeting was continued with Mr S Woodcock present. Mr Woodcock stated that Mr Moxon and Mr Ramsbottom of the L & Y Bank were averse, when seen by him yesterday, to come in even without prejudice, as signatories to the proposed agreement to permit the work of repairs to at once proceed. Mr Woodcock said that when the culvert diversion was made by the Bank, that in an agreement made at the time, a culvert was mentioned of which it was said ownership rested with the Ramsbottom Mills. Left Mr Butcher to arrange in best way he could in respect of

the obstruction in Bridge Street now existing at the point where the Bleachers' Association. have had the street opened up.

Thursday, 27 January 1916 Re Bridge Street Culvert. To Devil Hole Lodge (in company of Mr J Sadler) inspected bywash and penstock for drawing off water. One penstock, which formerly supplied water from the lodge to a water wheel fixed at the top of Back Carr Street, has been done away with. The wheel race most probably discharged into the culvert down Back Carr Street, not certain on the point.

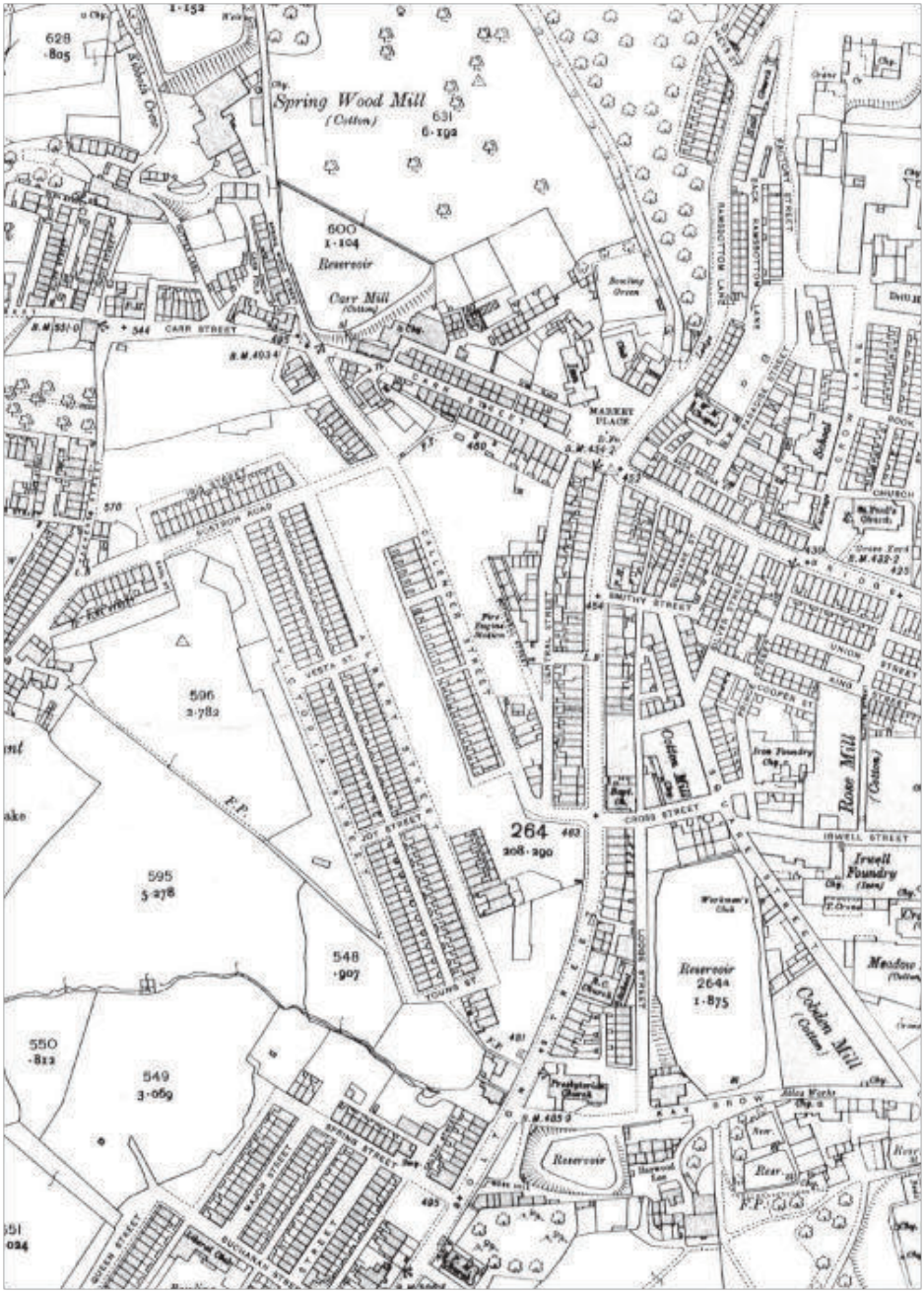
5 and 8 February 1916 Bridge Street culvert collapse – nothing further done – obstruction of path and road as before.

18 February 1916. Matters in Bridge Street still at a standstill. Watchman on duty day and night employed by C .Lomax, contractors.

24 February 1916 Bridge Street culvert. Mr J W Barlow reported that arrangements had now been made under which BDA Ltd would proceed with the work of repairs and the responsibility to be fixed later on.

THOMAS BELL'S INVESTIGATION EXTENDS INTO CARR STREET
From 16th March Carr Street was the focus of Thomas Bell's work. He took particulars of a culvert opened out opposite the bywash from Devil Hole Lodge and from trial holes opened out on a culvert near Carr Mill. A sketch plan with the results was prepared. More trial holes were sunk with the aim of establishing the position and sizes of all the culverts in Carr Street between Central Street and Springwood Street and near Devil Hole Lodge. The holes in Carr Street were completed and filled in on 29th March. Later, on 17th July, Thomas Bell was to visit Carr Street about re-instatement work by the Gas Company.

THE BRIDGE STREET CULVERT WORK – PROGRESS AT LAST!
On 27th April Thomas Bell was in touch with Mr C J Lomax , civil engineer, by phone asking him to "hasten as far as possible the setting into line of matters in order to make an early start on the work required". *He sent a letter to C J Lomax on 10th May.*


Spring Wood Mill
(Cotton)
631
6·192
600
1·104
Reservoir
Carr Mill
(Cotton)
CARR STREET
MARKET PLACE
SMITHY STREET
CROSS STREET
IRWELL STREET
Rose Mill
(Cotton)
Irwell Foundry
Cotton Mill
Reservoir
2644
1·875
Cobden Mill
(Cotton)
Reservoir
264
208·290
596
2·782
595
5·278
548
·907
550
·812
549
3·069
628
·805
Bowling Green
Iron Foundry
Workman's Club
Presbyterian Church
Meadow
F.P.


1908 ORDNANCE SURVEY
Scale: approx 15 inches to 1 mile
N
RAMSBOTTOM
Ramsbottom Mills (Cotton)
Cotton Mill
CUNLIFFE STREET
HARRISON ST.
Peel Bridge Mill (Cotton)
Waterside Mill (Cotton)
WATERSIDE ST.
Irwell Bridge Mills (Cotton)
STEAD ST.
Grove Mill (Cotton)
Garden Engineering Works
Railway Mill (Cotton)
Railway Foundry Iron
Goods Shed
Paper Mill
Filter Beds
Tennis Court
Cricket Ground
Pavilion
Square Reservoir Bridge
Square Works
River Irwell
Old Engine
Gate House
PEEL BROW
FERN ST.
DERBY STREET
ELIZA STREET
670
14·572
671
7·455
599
4·743
672
3·304
598
1·841
597
24·636
546
·980
544
5·071
545
3·097
543
·533
542 11·270
541
6·357
540
·202
539
5·398
538
·040
2·387
4·111
12·932



Joe Mercer's Station Temperance Bar, 7 Bridge Street, c 1900. Taken from the Ramsbottom Heritage Society Publication "Around Ramsbottom"

30 May 1916 Tenders discussed for restoration of Bridge Street culverts. Hillary Bros of Ramsbottom lowest. Agreed to accept provided work can commence at once.

31 May 1916 Interview with George Hillary re question of contract for Bridge Street culvert.

Saturday, 10 June 1916 Interview with Chairman of Council (S. Plunkett) re Bridge Street culvert and other matters.

20 July 1916 Bridge St Culvert. "Received this morning letter from Mr Chas C Lomax, Engineer, acting for Bleachers and Dyers Association stating that he had written to Hillary Bros requesting them to make preparations to commence work. Afterwards phoned C J Lomax and it was arranged that Hillary Bros were to

commence on Monday morning next and that they were to act under my instruction until Mr. Lomax could visit the site on Tuesday next.

Friday 21 July 1916 Messrs Hillary Bros commenced work of re-instatement today and removal of surplus earth and cinders from Bridge Street.

Saturday, 22 July 1916 Met James Byrom representing L & Y Bank and G Hillary contractor on site. Arranged that work will be commenced on Monday next by excavating down to solid ground and underpinning with a brick pillar the corner of the Bank of the Bridge St elevation. Then .... taking down of the front wall of the untenanted shop.

Monday 24 July 1916 Bridge Street Culvert – work commenced

28 Jul 1916 Corner of Bank completed today

29 July 1916 Underpinning of Bank completed

31 July 1916 Inspected 12 noon. *Assistant* of C J Lomax on site. Examined excavations and preparations for propping under old shop gable and Bank gable before further underpinning is proceeded with.

1 August 1916 ….called to inspect work
2 " " ...Two inspections: 12.05 noon and 3.40 pm
3 " " ... Inspected work in progress - underpinning
4 " " … Inspected work in progress - underpinning

7 August 1916 Underpinning and concreting to Bank gable completed. Sign taken down. Props for taking down front.

8 August 1916 Shop front being taken down. Crane on site.

10 August 1916 Shop front now down. Crane removed. Suggested to Lomax that advisable to open out culverts a little further in direction of Railway level crossing as it turns a little away from property and a better line can be obtained.

17 August 1916 Closing down of penstock near old Toll Bar House and consequent temporary stoppage of Sharples Ltd

1 September 1916 Pulling out old rubble wall

26 September 1916 Street opened – work completed

100 YEARS LATER……..
On October 6th 2015, United Utilities announced that repairs to a deep, gaping hole on Manchester's Mancunian Way would cost £4m. The sinkhole had appeared on 14th August and a second one had occurred while work was being carried out on the first. A temporary sewer has had to be fitted to keep toilets flushing in the large number of buildings in the area. The road is not expected to reopen until January 2016. By that time the work there will also have taken many months!

Researched by Barbara Park

.

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

ISSUE 6 : 1944 D DAY AND DOODLEBUGS

TWENTY A4 PAGES ~ STILL ONLY £1

On sale at Ramsbottom Library
and available via email (for details see the Society website)
Published by the Society using information from
The Ramsbottom Observer and our archives.

***War News* issues 1-5 published 2010-14, have been our most popular publications ever and are still available.**

DON'T MISS YOUR COPY OF THE LAST ISSUE
To be published May 2016, for sale at ELR's 40s Weekend

THE RAMSBOTTOM OBSERVER

In News Magazine 48 we mentioned a request from Mrs Margaret Carr who had viewed some of the Society's photographs online and had helped us with identification.

She now lives in Staffordshire and, having been told that her father's First World War records had been destroyed in bombing raids, she asked whether we knew of any references to him in lists of soldiers in the *Ramsbottom Observer*.

Back copies of this newspaper 1890-1950 are available on film at Ramsbottom Library*. With the help of Society members and staff at Bury Archives we have found two very brief references to an S Webster, as follows:

Ramsbottom Observer 18th June 1915

Listed under the heading "RAMSBOTTOM'S ROLL OF HONOUR" sub-heading OFFICIAL LIST, there is "**S. Webster, 16, Dale Street, R.A.M.C.**"

Ramsbottom Observer 14th January 1916

Under a title PARCELS TO RAMSBOTTOM SOLDIERS and sub-headings LETTERS OF THANKS and OTHER INTERESTING LETTERS, a couple of sentences are quoted:

"Parcel of 'smokes' received in good condition," wrote Pte. S. Webster, who is with the R.A.M.C. in France, "and I consider it very thoughtful of the people of Ramsbottom to send such a gift of this kind to the troops."

We cannot actually confirm that the S Webster referred to in the Ramsbottom Observer was Mrs Carr's father but she knows that, as a young man, he lived in Stubbins, albeit at another address.

Unfortunately, lists such as Rolls of Honour do not contain details of the soldiers' units in the case of the RAMC (Royal Army Medical Corps), which worked with other units alongside drivers of the Army Service Corps and the Royal Engineers. The RAMC was not a fighting force but its members endured the full horror of war e.g. in ambulance trains, field

ambulances and at casualty clearing stations. The Corps themselves lost nearly seven thousand men either killed in action or dying of their wounds. Throughout the conflict, RAMC personnel were repeatedly praised in dispatches.

Mrs Carr, in her letter of thanks to members of the Society, tells us that her father was a master tailor and cutter and suggests that possibly it was because he could stitch that he was put in the RAMC.

* Digital copies of the films of World War I issues of the Ramsbottom Observer are now being processed. The aim is that they will be ready for staff to view, initially at Bury Library. It is hoped that at some time in the future the technology will be available for them to be more widely used.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES 1878

During August 1878 the Bury Times carried a report which we reproduce below.(NB The Burnley Times reported the events happened at Higher Mill, Kibboth Crew – editor)

SUICIDE OF A MANUFACTURER

On Thursday an inquest was held before Mr. J.B. Edge, Coroner, at the Rose and Crown Inn, Carr Street on view of the body of John Thomas Blomeley, cotton waste spinner, Top Wood, who committed suicide on the previous Monday under circumstances detailed in the following evidence:-

Alice Blomeley, widow of deceased, said he was 43 years of age. She last saw him alive at half past six o'clock on the previous Sunday night. He was then at witness's sister's at Heywood, where witness had been from the preceding day. Deceased left her to go home by train on Sunday night, his son, William, a youth, going with him. Deceased was then under the influence of drink. There had been no quarrelling between them. They were quite friendly, and she had told him that she should return home on Tuesday morning. She left deceased on account of his excessive drinking, thinking that a day or two from home might do him some good. She was deceased's second wife, and had been married to him seven years.

'Had you observed anything unusual or strange in deceased's manner? Yes, he took to excessive drinking since we buried our little boy last Christmas.

– Did he seem to take that to heart a great deal? Yes, it very much upset him. He said he would like to go after the child, who was five years of age – Have you observed that his mind has been affected? No, only through drinking; he was quite alright when sober

– But when under the influence of drink have you noticed nothing curious about him? Yes, he has been quite wild.

- Has he ever had an attack of *delirium tremens*? Yes, three years ago he jumped in a lodge at Woodhey, and would have been drowned but for his friends. At that time he was suffering from *delirium tremens*

- Did you notice anything unusual with him when he left you on Sunday night? No, nothing beyond being a little excited with drink.

James Lobley, Springwood Street, said he was a rover and carder in the employ of the deceased. About three o'clock on Monday afternoon deceased was alone in the bottom room of the mill, in which there is an overshot water-wheel, and witness was in the room above. When witness left the deceased he was lying asleep on some bags, and in about a quarter of an hour afterwards he heard a scream. Witness immediately looked through a strap hole in the floor, and saw deceased in the act of going into the water wheel head first through the spokes. Witness immediately put the clow down, which caused the wheel to revolve at a slower rate until it gradually stopped in a minute or two. He gave an alarm to three men in the same room with him, and told them not to pull off the machinery so that the wheel might stop sooner. Witness then went into the room below and put a piece of wood in the spur wheel to stop it. Deceased was then coming up on the arms of the wheel, but when witness put in the check it threw him to the bottom of the wheel. Several men went to witness's assistance, and they got deceased out of the wheel, but he was quite dead. The wheel was going at full speed when deceased jumped into it. It made six revolutions in a minute. Deceased was very much bruised about the head; he was under the influence of drink, and had been asleep about a quarter of an hour. Witness did not notice anything unusually strange in his conduct, only that he was drunk.

He did not seem frightened or nervous? No.

– Have you noticed that he has taken to drink lately? Yes.

- For how long? About eight months.

– Was he frequently in the habit of taking drink? Yes

-Or having stirs, I suppose Yes.

- Were you with him when he had a fit of *delirium tremens* three years ago? Yes, but I did not see it. I heard that he jumped into a lodge.
By a juryman: I don't know whether he could have fallen into the wheel accidentally. When I left him he was lying about six yards from the wheel.

Mr Butterworth (a juryman) said the place was very dark and dangerous, and he thought it was possible a man in drink, and getting up after being asleep, might accidentally go into the wheel without being aware of it.
In reply to the Coroner, Lobley said that at the place where deceased went into the wheel there was some uneven pavement. When he saw deceased he appeared as if he were stepping into the wheel. Witness was very excited at the time.
Sergeant Steele said that deceased's son, a boy, told him that on Monday morning his father had a knife in his hand, and he (the boy) had to go for some assistance.
At the request of the Coroner the boy was set for, and in the interval the Coroner remarked that before deceased could be declared by the jury to have destroyed himself the evidence should be very clear that he had done so. If there were any doubt as to that, the most humane course was to give deceased the benefit of it. He thought it was quite desirable that they should have the evidence of the boy.
Mr Butterworth said he thought it was quite possible that a drunken man might fall into the wheel. He considered that place was dangerous and unfit for anyone to be in even when sober. He thought it was quite possible the deceased might have tumbled into the wheel accidentally. Another juryman sad he noticed that the centre of the wheel rested on an ashlar pedestal 18 ins. in height, and the other part of the wheel was entirely unprotected.
William Blomeley, 14 years of age, son of deceased, said he came from Heywood with his father on Sunday night. When they got to Bury deceased had some drink at the Knowsley Hotel. He afterwards called at a beerhouse and had some more drink before going home. They got home about ten o'clock, and deceased went to bed, and got up about half past seven on the following morning. After he got up he send a girl out of the mill for some whisky; he had no breakfast or anything to eat. He lay down on the floor in the house with a carving knife in his hand, but did not say what he was going to do with it. Witness went into the mill for Thomas Lobley, and when Lobley came into the house deceased put the knife on the table and went to bed. Deceased was drunk. Witness did not know what time deceased got up, as he went to Heywood to tell his stepmother. He got back from Heywood at about half past ten o'clock, and found deceased sitting in the mill. Witness asked him for the key of the house. Deceased would not give it to him, and witness took it from him. Witness afterwards

saw deceased several times in the mill. Deceased had a pint of whisky in the mill, and drank it all himself.
The Coroner, in summing up, said he thought that after the evidence there could be very little doubt on the minds of the jury- there was none on his that the deceased had committed suicide. The evidence given by the last witness clearly showed that deceased was contemplating suicide, and he thought there could be little doubt that he determinedly went into the wheel. If, however, the jury thought that he fell into the wheel accidentally they must give him the benefit of any doubt that might exist in their minds on that point. Considering deceased's past conduct, he thought the probability was that he, in a fit of *delirium tremens*, saw something in the wheel which caused him to jump into it. To his (the Coroner's) mind the evidence was very strong that deceased had committed suicide.
The majority of the jury coincided with the Coroner's views, and returned a verdict to the effect that 'Deceased committed suicide whilst in a state of temporary insanity'.

SHOP WINDOW COMPETITION 2015

Over thirty Ramsbottom businesses decked out their shop fronts for the second year of the best-dressed shop window competition. It was held as part of the town's contribution to the 1940s Weekend on 23rd to 25th May. Displayed in shop windows were unique collections of interesting items.

Many of the shopkeepers had ingeniously sourced items which were closely related to their own goods and services while still reflecting the 1940s theme. Included in Bolton Street's *Cake Craft* window display were a cookery book, wedding photographs, a camera and greeting cards, all of the period. Ramsbottom's charity shops did the town proud and four of the many other outstanding entries (the photographs do not do them justice) were as follows:

The tiny window of *My Treat* (the nail salon on Smithy Street), had an impressive selection of memorabilia with beauty products, a manicure set and a powder compact.

Cherry Picked, Bolton Street had a photoboard and a table set for afternoon tea among numerous other beautifully presented goods and artefacts.





W & D Scholes, the ladies fashion store on Bridge Street had chosen red, white and blue clothes for its window displays and added knitting patterns, *Women's Weekly* magazines and fashion posters from the 1940s. Sadly, the store was in its last few weeks of trading after many years as a family business in Ramsbottom. The always-attractive, professionally-dressed shop window displays are already much missed.

And finally the winner of the competition:
The Dressing Room, Bolton Street was presented with the trophy which had been engraved and donated by ABC Engraving. Their entry was memorable for the high standard of its display and also for the choice of items. Its tastefully decorated window featured a wireless, a lace tablecloth, a sewing basket, a 1940s-style dress, shoes and underwear. The corsets must have raised many a visitor's smile!



DIGITISED MAPS

The map on pages 12 and 13 is an extract of the 1908 Ordnance Survey map of Ramsbottom. It is one of over 100 maps and drawings that have been scanned from the Heritage Society archives by Jon Williams, John Ireland and Paul Donnelly and which are now available for public access on the Ramsbottom Heritage Society website which is maintained by John Leyland. The work took a few months and the maps were scanned commercially at Entwistle of Middleton. The archive also includes a sketch drawing from May 1917 of the culverts on Bridge Street and Carr Street which is mentioned in the Ramsbottom's "Sinkhole" 1915 - 1916 article. This drawing is the equivalent of 4 A4 pages side by side, so it is not possible to show it in this magazine, but the website has a high resolution image which shows the culvert in detail. The name of the map is RHS/20/2/2/9 and is on the Local Government drawings page of the website. As well as 1908, the website also has Ordnance Survey maps from 1851, 1927-1929, 1937-1939, 1962 - 1964 and 1983. The website includes a guide of how to use the maps. The maps use the numbering system of Bury Archives Service so the originals can be accessed easily. All numbers begin with RHS for Ramsbottom Heritage Society, followed by 20 for maps and plans.

RHS/20/1/1	15 maps before 1900 (mainly OS, some older ones)
RHS/20/1/2	57 maps after 1900 (mainly OS)
RHS/20/1/3	5 street maps
RHS/20/1/4	8 maps of wider geographical area
RHS/20/2/1	10 Estate plans, showing extent of local estates.
RHS/20/2/2	16 Local government and planning, plans produced for development or environmental purposes.

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):

Tuesday	10am - 5pm	Wednesday	10am - 5pm
Thursday	10am - 5pm	Friday	10am - 5pm

2nd Saturday of the month•••10am - 4.30pm

Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents.

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Our catalogues are online at http;//archives.bury.gov.uk as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The Archive photograph collection can be browsed on the Bury Image Bank website at www.buryimagebank.org.uk. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR**: **information@bury.gov.uk** or 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at **http://library.bury.gov.uk** - follow 'Bury Libraries Catalogue (Local Studies)'. Free access to the Ancestry and Find my Past databases is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Stephen Benson, 32, Slater Lane, Leyland, PR25 1TN,
email: **membership@lfhhs.org.uk.**
Membership entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. Also one branch in London. 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 an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and 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 news cuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

RAMSBOTTOM'S



RESPONSE

WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION

Location: upstairs at *Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre,* Carr Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AE. Tel: 0161 253 5352

Gallery opening Times:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm
Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm

2nd Sunday in the month 12 noon - 3pm (side entrance only) with extra displays and the Society's bookstall

More copies of the very popular exhibition booklet, also called 'Ramsbottom's Response', are now on sale

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bury COUNCIL

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

Number **50**

Spring 2016 **ISSN 0960 – 1224**

A SPECIAL ISSUE

to celebrate the Society's fifty news magazines published from **1990 - 2016**



RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 281998

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 2016

June 15	Peter Higginbottom – *Gruelling Experiences – Three Centuries of the Workhouse* focussing on Bury (illustrated)
July 20	Guided afternoon visit to the Weavers' Triangle, Burnley: short towpath walk, Oak Mount Mill engine house, visitor centre and tea and biscuits. Cost approx £5. Meet outside Ramsbottom Civic Hall at 1.15pm for car sharing (or at visitor centre 2pm).
August 17	Visit to Close Park, Radcliffe including ruins of historic Radcliffe Tower, medieval church and tithe barn. Meet at Carr Street library car park at 6.15pm for car sharing.
September 21	Barry Aldous – *3D Photography Past and Present* – a brief history of stereoscopic (3D) imaging, supported by shows of local and general interest, covering a period of over 100 years.
October 19	Liz Long – *The Ragged Schools of Manchester's Angel Meadow* with a link to the Grants of Ramsbottom!
November 16	Andrew Bibby – *All Our Own Work* – the co-operative pioneers of Hebden Bridge and their mill (illustrated)

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 50
Spring/Summer 2016

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Cover - An early view of Ramsbottom, artist unknown

Website - www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Email via website

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I really want to thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given me for the last five years since I took over from Tony Murphy. But by the time you read this report I will already have resigned as chair of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society. However I will still be looking after our object store, art works and exhibition team and will be a member of the Conservation Group, so I will still be around and will see you all regularly. It has been a real privilege to chair such an interesting and forward looking society where so many of the members are actively involved in such a wide variety of projects. Progress has been made on many fronts this year: Ramsbottom's War News 1945, which came out this year completes the set which began with 1939; and the 1916 edition of *Ramsbottom's Lost Generation* has also now been published. We are enormously grateful for the immense hard work that has gone into these publications.

The archiving of documents, photographs, art work and objects has continued and the bookstall is kept up to date. The website and photographic competition are ongoing, and we should make special mention of the magazine, which, with its new cover has reached its 50th edition. In addition the talks and walks and the Gallery opening continue.

What a amazing amount of hard work has been put in to keep this multifaceted society 'on the road'. We have some really important ongoing projects. The first is trying to obtain enforceable status to the Ramsbottom Conservation Area Management Plan 2011. Currently the policies it contains are only recommendations and there will be a lot of work before the council can require planning permission for all changes to the exterior of buildings in the town

We are also trying to get the lorries banned (or reduced) from Bridge St. We raised this at the Township forum and the council's joint Traffic Management Unit and the police have now been discussing it. It is a difficult problem as many of the massive 6-axle lorries belong to firms in the district and there is a lack of alternative routes.

Recently various objects from Stubbins Vale Mill (which used to belong to the Porritt family) have been handed to the Heritage Society. Unfortunately they were in the cellar when the Boxing Day floods struck the factory. Two documents and a beautiful painting of Col. Porritt himself are currently with conservators. Other restorations in Ramsbottom have included parts of the Cottage Hospital building, and both the RUDC badge and the interpretation board in the Market Place.

I firmly believe that it is all these projects that make the RHS so successful. Of course our monthly Wednesday night meetings are extremely interesting and important to us, but the wider range of a activities show that we are always progressing in many exciting ways. The various press releases that stem from these activities make sure that Ramsbottom residents know about us and are aware that we have such a lot to offer them. Once again, thank you for all your hard work and for all the support you have given me personally.
I know that together we will ensure that the Ramsbottom Heritage Society will continue going from strength to strength.

Kate Slingsby

KATE SLINGSBY: AN APPRECIATION

Kate has been chairman since May 2011, only the fourth person to hold this office. As the first, perhaps I'm in a good position to judge how she has discharged the role. At the risk of hubris, the job could be likened to that of Prime Minister! At one extreme, there was Sir Alec Douglas Home, who famously found time to tend the roses in the Downing Street garden; at the other are those incumbents who go to bed with their red boxes, and wake up with them! I think I tended towards gardening type, whilst Kate has always been a red box woman!
Kate is, by nature, not one to claim credit, but it is a fact that she has been actively involved for over a decade - some of you may remember the Crow Lane Project, which amassed a lot of information and access to original material through widespread community involvement. This was very much Kate's brainchild. Once chairman, the priority was to get a Gallery rota organised, until then a chronic headache! Kate has been very good at recruiting people! She organised a series of presentations/workshops on the town's history, and this brought in a number of new, active members. (They arranged to catalogue and digitally copy all the maps and plans in the Society's possession.) She has been scrupulous in keeping members informed about the Society's activities through the medium of a detailed chairman's report in the magazine. Needless to say, you have to read between the lines to recognise how extensively she has been involved in those activities!
Many Bridge Street shops still display the A4 laminated thumbnail sketch of their history, an offshoot of the Gallery's *Shop Local Shop Ramsbottom* exhibition of 2012, overseen by Kate. Similarly, she was the driving force behind the 2014 World War I centenary activities: the exhibition, and the very moving

readings by the war memorial of some 300 names of local men killed. The D Day dead were similarly commemorated that year.
Kate has maintained excellent contacts with the local authority, a big factor in the respect that councillors and officers have for us. Her particular love has been local artworks, and I remember her enthusiasm when those three local landscape paintings, executed around 1806, surfaced recently.
It's hard to believe now that the Society's original constitution specifically excluded any active role in conservation. The early constitutional change which turned us into a campaigning, conservation organisation, as well as one of record, occasioned a lot of internal argument. But we need only consider some of the achievements in recent years to see that change was wholly justified. Kate has been a very active member of our Conservation Group. They perform wonders, examining every planning application relating to Ramsbottom, and framing a response which reflects the society's objects. We don't always win, but we are always listened to: witness the surviving features of the Cottage Hospital, its stained-glass window in the library, its foundation stone on Nuttall Lane, and its content and whether the name shortly to be erected on the Cobden Mill apartment building project. Currently, our biggest challenge will be to obtain enforceable status to the Ramsbottom Conservation Area Management Plan of 2011.
'It is exciting that the evidence of our influence can be seen around Ramsbottom', Kate wrote recently. She is right, and this influence is a great tribute to her chairmanship.

Well done, Kate.

Andrew Todd, President

BOWLING GREEN APPLICATION REFUSED

<u>The proposal to build "24 (Cat C) flats for retirement housing for the elderly" on the former Grant Arms bowling green</u>

At Bury Council's planning committee meeting on 1st September 2015 RHS President Andrew Todd spoke against this proposal on behalf of *Ramsbottom Heritage Society*, *Friends of Ramsbottom Civic Hall* and *Friends of Nuttall Park*. Ramsbottom councillors also spoke against the application. The committee refused permission for the development.

The developer's appeal against the Council's refusal was dismissed by the Planning Inspector on 23rd February 2016. Matters considered by the Inspector included the many concerns expressed in the 89 individual letters from local people and three petitions, which altogether included the objections of nearly 150 people. We cannot thank everyone enough for the invaluable support.

We believe that there would have been long-term wide implications if building were to take place on this last town centre open green space. Although its future may not be with bowling, the site probably has a greater degree of protection from development than anywhere else in Ramsbottom:

- The green is in the Ramsbottom Town Centre Conservation Area (set up in 1977).
- It is close to a Grade II listed building. (The Grant Arms Hotel).
- In planning guidelines it is designated for recreational use and as a valuable open space..
- In June 2015, Bury Council placed on their list of Assets of Community Value (Localism Act 2011) after the Society's nomination, which was supported by other community groups.

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

ISSUE 7 : 1945 THE END OF THE WAR

TWENTY FOUR A4 PAGES ~ STILL ONLY £1!

On sale in shops and at the station during E.L.R's 1940s weekend - May 28-30 and afterwards at Ramsbottom Library and via the Heritage Society website.

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

***War News* issues 1-6 published 2010-15, have been our most popular publications ever and are still available.**

DON'T MISS YOUR COPY OF THE LAST ISSUE

JUBILEE GARDENS
TIME CAPSULE BURIAL CEREMONY

In 1898 when the foundation stone of *The Aitken Memorial and Jubilee Cottage Hospital*, as it was then known, was laid, a time capsule was placed underneath it. Four items had been placed in the capsule:- a silver penny, a sixpence, a threepenny bit and an edition of the Ramsbottom Observer from 1897 in which was described the ceremony when the first sod was cut. When the Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital was demolished in 2015 the time capsule was recovered and handed to Ramsbottom Heritage Society for safe custody.
Eccleston Homes, who have built the small housing development on the site, were intrigued with the idea of a time capsule to the extent that they decided to install their own and invite St. Andrew's Primary School to take part in the project. The site chosen for the installation of the time capsule was adjacent to the pediment which was removed from above the main entrance of the Cottage Hospital, and which is now situated on Nuttall Lane near to the access road to the development, Jubilee Gardens.

The date chosen for the ceremony was Thursday 11th February 2016. The proceedings commenced at 10:30am in St. Andrew's School with Kevin Marren, the founder of Eccleston Homes, and myself, judging the pupils' entries for the art competition associated with the occasion. The pupils had been asked to design their own family crest. This was a reference to the fact that the Cottage Hospital pediment was inscribed with the Aitken family crest. To make our task easier the school staff had whittled down the entries to a final thirteen. After some consideration we duly awarded the three prizes donated by Eccleston. Everyone then proceeded down Nuttall Lane to take part in the time capsule burial ceremony. Fortunately it was a fine, pleasant day for the main event, a welcome change from all the previous recent wet and windy weather. St. Andrew's pupils had been given the opportunity to provide their own objects to place in their time capsule which was considerably larger than the original one.

Those chosen were an edition each of the *Bury Times* and the *Rossendale Free Press*, a set of coins, a photo of St. Andrew's school and a souvenir of Rio 2016. Additionally, Eccleston included one of their brochures and a miniature teddy bear. Many photographs were taken, including ones of the pupils with their artefacts and of Kevin Marren placing the capsule in the small concrete chamber adjacent to the pediment. At the same time the original time capsule, which had inspired the



ceremony, was not forgotten and received its fair share of attention!

The pupils then returned to the school and the onlookers dispersed. However, I have since discovered, to my chagrin, that I missed out on the tea/coffee and biscuits which were then served in the show house!

The time capsule was not installed permanently on this occasion as Eccleston wished to also include some of the photographs taken during the ceremony. It was finally concreted into its final resting place on Thursday 3rd March, with the cap flush with the top of the chamber such that the inscription can be read by all. It reads:-



It is hoped the time capsule will remain in situ for many years to come, until such time that the site is cleared again, for whatever future purpose, and then it can be recovered to fascinate a future generation. And who knows, with successive generations living longer, some of the younger pupils present on this occasion may well still be around and able to recall the events that took place on Thursday 11th February 2016.

Tony Mosedale

Photographs by Ian Chapman

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVE

A collection of framed Porritt items *has been received by the Society. We are very grateful to Voith Fabrics for this donation and for looking after the collection at Stubbins Vale Mill for many years. Unfortunately, during last Winter, there was serious flooding at the mill so nearly everything has had to be removed from the frames to be properly dried out.*



List of the main items:

Portrait (oil on canvas) of Lt Col A T Porritt DL JP CC - badly flood damaged along lower edge but probably restorable so we are seeking expert advice. (Many Ramsbottom people will remember that Colonel Porritt, as he was known, gave Nuttall Park to our town in 1928. His legacy also included Chatterton playing field and 436 acres of the Stubbins Estate which was given to the National Trust in 1943.)

Two mounted illustrated scrolls – one granting of a Coat of Arms to Lt Col A T Porritt in 1926 and the other for his appointment as Deputy Lieutenant of the County Palatine of Lancaster on 10th February 1931. (Both are water damaged but a Society member has kindly undertaken, as a matter of urgency, to stabilise their condition.)

Porritt family tree, A1 format – recorded by Marie Lynskey in 1999. (water damaged)

Porritt and Spencer Ltd's wooden memorial with the inscription "ERECTED IN APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES RENDERED BY THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES OF THESE MILLS IN THE EUROPEAN WAR 1914 – 19" and over 50 names including A T Porritt's. (This memorial, nearly 5 ft high, is water damaged throughout and most of the elaborate mount along with a few of the letters has come adrift. It has already been photographed and it seems that restoration might be possible.)

Document – the mill's employees congratulating James Porritt Esq, JP of Stubbins Vale House on the celebration of "THE JUBILEE", dated 7th February 1879 – unaffected by flooding, in a modern frame and in excellent condition

ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT, ALDI SITE, RAILWAY STREET, RAMSBOTTOM

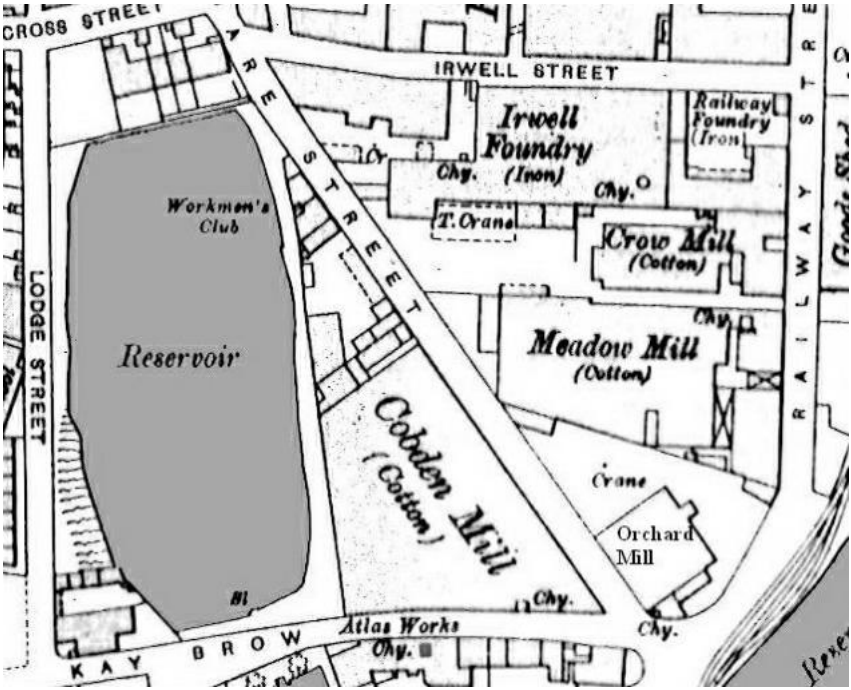
The following article is an abridged, edited version of a 2009 report by Oxford Archaeology North (O A North). Several Ordnance Survey maps were included in their study eg OS 6 inch to 1 mile of 1850 and OS 1:2500 of 1891 and also 19th century trades directories, the 1895 Valuation list and a building control plan of 1905. Research by RHS member, Kath Haddock was made available to the OA North team and more details can be found in her article "The History of the Aldi Supermarket Site" which was published in RHS News Magazine No 36, Spring 2009.

When Bury Council granted Aldi Stores (UK) Ltd planning permission for the Railway Street store the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, following a desk-based assessment and building survey, recommended that an archaeological evaluation of the site should be carried out in advance of any development. The evaluation was targeted on the remains of three small textile mills which stood on the site from the mid 19th Century: Meadow Mill (built between 1851 and 1855), Crow Mill (built between 1856 and 1858) and Orchard Mill (built between 1869 and 1871). This evaluation demonstrated that there were considerable buried remains of the three former mills surviving in-situ and led to OA North excavating eight targeted trenches of varying sizes and measuring a total length of 90m. The excavation provided a record of the buried remains to mitigate their loss resulting from Aldi's development. The results of the archaeological work carried out forms the basis for a full archive to professional standards in accordance with English Heritage guidelines.

The uppermost levels of each trench were excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The same machine was then used to define carefully the extent of any surviving walls, foundations and other remains after which all excavations were undertaken manually. Two areas were subject to detailed examination focusing on the mills' power systems. Considerable elements of the steam powered plants associated with the three mills were exposed and recorded, including a series of foundation beds for the steam engines, the steam raising plant and associated flues. Four clear phases in the development of the site were identified, including some palaeo-environmental evidence for activity pre-dating the erection of the mills.

Ramsbottom registered its maximum 'spindleage' in 1889 and retained in its 'waste trade' until 1988 with the last –self-acting mule' in Lancashire. In 1891 there were at least twelve cotton mills, two foundries and a paper mill active in Ramsbottom

but until the mid-nineteenth century the Aldi site was an undeveloped vacant area of land sandwiched between two roads, which eventually became known as Railway Street and Square Street. In 1850 it was crossed by an east/west field boundary and the southern part was wooded.



CROW MILL

Crow Mill (originally known as Crow Works) was built in the mid-19th century and was owned by Gabriel Lund. In the upper rooms, he made cotton waste breaking machines (known as 'devils'. Apparently, Mr Lund had a reputation all over Lancashire for the excellence of the machinery turned out at his works. Other parts of the mill were occupied by George Ramsbottom, a cotton manufacturer and also Warbuton and Wolstenhole, also cotton manufacturers. (Drake Directory 1861). After Gabriel Lund died in 1882, it was bought by Mr John Barnes and a Richard Barnes operated there from the mid-1880s until the early 1900s when Crow Mill became known as Shepherds Mill. Shepherds operated at both Crow and Meadow Mill. Joseph Shepherd, was formerly in partnership with Joshua Hitchon at Springwood Mill. There they successfully adapted the condenser

woollen system to cotton waste spinning to make Ramsbottom the birthplace of condenser yarn. The highest part of the mill was three storeys. Its 19th century walls were found as a single-course stone footprint along with the possible location of the mill's former boiler room as a brick foundation, which included part of its original hand made brick boundary wall and a putative flue. It is also possible that a large stone foundation along the sides of the boiler room represented part of a chimney base. Flagged floor surfaces were also exposed and the floor in the northern area may have been used as a scutching room as it retained evidence of scars and lead on its surface. A stone sett surface may have been used as a courtyard. During the early periods of the 20th century significant internal redevelopment was undertaken at Crow Mill, perhaps by Shepherds Ltd., often using Accrington-type brick. The ground floor of the building fronting Railway Street may have been used as a scutching room and as a devil hole. A concrete surface located within the ground floor of the three storeyed building was probably part of the weaving shed. Substantial evidence was also found to suggest that during this period the mill shared the same power plant as Meadow Mill.

n the latter half of the 20th century the configuration of the mill altered little, apart from the addition of several internal modifications. These effectively made the flue redundant suggesting a change that did not require the use of a chimney. A row of five brick partition walls set into a concrete floor may have represented the bases of small free standing boilers possibly suggesting an alternate source of steam for driving machinery.

MEADOW MILL

John and Edward Rothwell operated at this mill for about 50 years, specialising in the spinning and weaving of cotton waste. By 1910 Shepherds were also operating at Meadow Mill. By 1915 the mill may have been taken over by The Meadow Mill Spinning Co Ltd. One of the mill buildings was three storeys high. Remains of three stone walls, evidence of an unmapped 1898 building, stone foundations of a brick built chimney and several inter-connecting flues and a former courtyard were found. Near the position on maps of a boiler room there was possible structural evidence of an engine room. The original exact location of the boiler room was uncertain but it is likely that the later boiler room utilised its foundations. The mill continued to operate as a cotton mill with modifications undertaken in 1905 linking two of its buildings. One of these had been removed between 1908 and 1927. Another building of this period, probably Shepherds'

new boiler house, was found west of the chimney. The foundation of a small machine base perhaps represented a pumping engine to provide a constant supply of water for the boiler and steam engine for condensing purposes. These constructions may have been contemporary with the completion of the extension into Crow Mill, which undoubtedly increased the demands expected from the boiler. Other 20th century construction included the erection of a new engine room. A cluster of ceramic drains and iron pipes were located between the engine and boiler, representing further additions to the water management. The 1962 OS map and 1971 photograph show an additional weaving shed overlying the late 19th century building. Other remains included a spread of concrete floor overlying the boiler room and further spreads of concrete which may have been a warehouse floor.

ORCHARD MILL

Originally, Schofield, Booth and Co were the occupiers as cotton spinners. By 1879 the mill had passed to J & J Stead but between 1895 and 1898 it ceased to be a cotton mill and became a contractor's yard and sawmill. In 1924 it was the Orchard Chemical Works, still extant in 1962 but demolished by the time of a 1971 aerial photograph. A valuation list indicates the mill was four storeys high. Parts of the original 1869-1871 layout as a cotton mill were identified and it is probable that this layout continued to be used during the buildings' change of use to a sawmill and contractor's yard. A courtyard/road surface perhaps provided access into the mill from Square Street at this time. Structures pertaining to the earliest phase of the building include the alignment of a culvert which represented part of the mills' water sources connecting to a reservoir shown on the 1893 map. Later structures associated with an engine, power and fixed machinery mentioned in an 1895 valuation included part of a possible former machine bed sealed beneath the engine room floor. From this period were the former boiler room defined by walls of wire-cut bricks bonded with lime-based mortar. Many of the remains pertaining to the later phase of Orchard Mill may be associated with its later use as a sawmill and chemical works, although there was little evidence of these workings. An engine room and several machine bases had been laid above a concrete floor which retained several cast iron columns set on stone, suggesting an earlier construction to which the concrete floor was abutted. Other remains included the formation of the economiser with the introduction of a small reservoir and an in situ cast iron pipe. More pipes were observed between the engine bases which may have derived from an engine condenser. The chimney flue would have continued to function.

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2015

There were 255 competition entries from 8 entrants, including one non-member who saw the news item in the Bury Times, The competition, which has now been running for 29 years, only accepts photographs which were taken in Ramsbottom and surrounding area during 2015, and this year, the judge was Andrew Todd. All of the photographs are available for viewing on the Ramsbottom Heritage Society website in the Photo Database section, which has 2870 photographs since the competition started in 1987, and also 1600 photographs scanned in from Bury Archive, and 300 donated to the society. The photos this year were dominated by the Boxing Day floods and also the re-opening of St Andrew's church, which had been closed after it had been struck by lightening nearly 2 years earlier. There were also photographs of shops and buildings that opened and closed during the year, which Andrew particularly mentioned, as these serve as a record of the year.

The winner of the Dickensian Trophy was Ian Summers with one of the photos that he entered in the Themes category of Edenfield Post Office closing



HPC-15TH-023 (the filename can be used to search for the photograph on the database on the website)

The category results were **Buildings**

Winner

Ian Chapman

HPC-15BU-067

St Andrew's from Holcombe Hill



Highly Commended.

Ian Summers HPC-15BU-003 Lyons Stone Works, Bury Rd, Edenfield

John Leyland HPC-15BU-073 Demolition of Cobden Mill

Events and Daily Life

Winner

Daryll Spencer

HPC-15EV-024
Bridge by Summerseat station,
Irwell in flood



Highly Commended

Ian Smith HPC-15EV-060 W & D Scholes - the store's 1940s Weekend display during its last weeks of trading

Alan Seymour HPC-15EV-057 Turin Shroud exhibition at St Andrew's Church

Town and Country

Winner

Daryll Spencer

HPC-15TC-008
View from Holcombe Hill

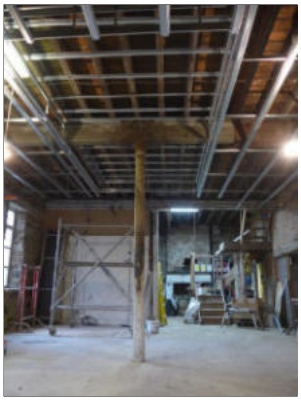


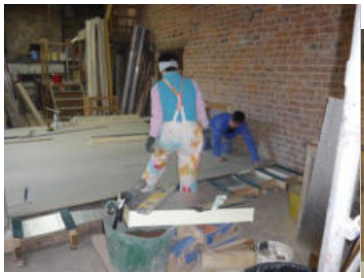
Highly Commended

Anne Shortt	HPC-15TC-025	Holcombe Hill and Winter Hill from the Lord Raglan May 2015
Joyce Sellers	HPC-15TC-029	River Irwell taken from the Wharf

Themes Winner

Ian Summers HPC-15TH-011 - 015 The Drop off Cafe (5 photos)











Highly Commended

John Leyland	HPC-15TH-121-125 (5)	Cleaning up Nuttall Park Base after the Boxing Day floods
Joyce Sellers	HPC-15TH-101-105 (5)	Ramsbottom versus Haslingden cricket match

STEPHEN PLUNKETT



Locked away in a filing cabinet at Ramsbottom library is a rich, yet largely untapped resource in regard to the town's history. Stored on microfilm is virtually every edition of the *Ramsbottom Observer* newspaper from 1891 - 1941, which offers a rare insight into the town's former resident's lives. During the research for my book, *Ramsbottom's lost Generation 1914 – 1918,* one name appeared repeatedly - Stephen Plunkett. Using the paper as a primary source, together with census returns, parish records, as well as correspondence with

his great granddaughter, Mrs. Maureen Martin, the story of this 'man of the people' can be told. Born on 29th August, 1859, at Wymondham, Norfolk, Stephen Fiddament Plunkett was the second of 11 children of Robert and Sarah Ann Plunkett (nee Fiddament). Robert was a master shoe maker by trade. At some point in the 1870's, financial hardship saw the family move to the Rossendale area which at that time was a major source of employment in the footwear industry. The 1881 census lists the family address as Taylor Street, Rawtenstall. Stephen was now 20, employed as a Mule Spinner. It is worth noting at this point that his brother, Jesse, was working as a baker and confectioner, an occupation that Stephen would shortly pursue. On 10th July, 1884, Stephen married Elizabeth Kemp at United Methodist Free Church, Rawtenstall. Within a year of marriage the couple moved to Ramsbottom and had four children. He was a deeply religious man, regularly attending Patmos United Methodist Church (situated at the bottom of Peel Brow). By 1888, Stephen was in business as a baker and confectioner in his own right. Slater's trade directory of that year lists the address as 54, Bridge Street. The premises were already known to be used as a bakery, once belonging to Mr. Ralph Vause, (Barrett Trade Directory, 1883). Stephen had a natural flair for business and the bakery thrived. However, tragedy struck on 3rd January, 1892, with the death of his wife Elizabeth. His faith was sorely tested again when his youngest child, Stephen, died on 2nd April, 1893, aged just 18 months. Over the next 15 years, Stephen Plunkett immersed himself in the business, eventually taking early retirement in 1908. With more time on his hands he decided to stand as a Liberal candidate for East Ward. In the 1910 Ramsbottom Urban District Council elections he comfortably beat his rival, John Robert Leonard of the Independent Labour Party, by 357 votes to 111. Once in office Stephen worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents. He served on several committees including the Elementary Education Committee at Rowland's, Summerseat, the Electricity Committee, and the Streets and Buildings Committee. In 1914, through his effort, Summerseat had electric street lighting for the first time.

At the outbreak of the Great War he had served in virtually every office of the council. It was at this time that he became Ramsbottom's 'Best known public man.' Described as 'kindly, stern, yet unbending', his sheer determination helped the town cope during its darkest hour. By 1916 he was Chairman of the Ramsbottom Urban District Council. Amongst his many duties, he served on the local Military Tribunal Panel, often exercising his right to grant a temporary exemption to military service for any man whose family would suffer unduly if

he was sent to the front. He was also Chairman of the Food Control and Profiteering Committee and in 1917, on his behest, commandeered the football pitches at Peel Brow and converted them into allotments in order to help the district's residents to grow their own food as shortages caused by the war began to take hold. [These allotments are still in use today.] Shortly after the war he took on a new role with the local Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen's Families' Association, where he helped injured men and widows obtain their pensions.

He continued his public duties until shortly before his death on 6th March 1922, at the age of 62. The *Ramsbottom Observer* described his funeral as 'Impressive' in his obituary on 10th March 1922:

An Impressive Funeral

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon at Ramsbottom Cemetery, amid manifestations of public sympathy. Practically every blind to the windows of the houses in the vicinity of the deceased gentleman's home was drawn, while many were lowered at shops and residences along the route to the cemetery.

Stephen Plunkett is buried with his wife and son at Ramsbottom Cemetery. His impressive tombstone bears the epitaph *'Faithful unto death'.*

Duncan Francis.

Ramsbottom's Lost Generation Part 2 1916
by Duncan Francis

A meticulously researched record of Ramsbottom's involvement in the Great War, told through the lives of those from the town who made the supreme sacrifice

NOW ON SALE

(Published by Ramsbottom Heritage Society)

This book costs £10 and is on sale at Ramsbottom Library, including on the second Sunday of the month, in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery, or direct from Duncan.

For details, please go to www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

THE PROVISION OF LOCAL BANKING SERVICES

As the content of this News Magazine was being finalised, a planning application for new signage for the business on the corner of Bridge Street and Crow Lane was noticed by a member of our Conservation Group. In this latest change among Ramsbottom's banks, it seems that the Royal Bank of Scotland is to undergo a rebrand and will be trading as Williams and Glyn with a refurbished frontage.

The 1871 Worrall Trades Directory has the Post Office Savings Bank with postmaster Thomas Hedley at 14, Market Place, Ramsbottom. By 1888 he was postmaster at 62, Bridge Street and post offices at Nuttall Lane, Edenfield, Shuttleworth, Stubbins and Summerseat were all providing banking services.

By 1883 bank manager Robert Topham was running the *Bury Banking Company Ltd*'s branch in Bridge Street, Ramsbottom. The company was originally founded in 1798 as *Grundys and Wood*, having evolved from the business of two woollen merchants John Grundy and Abraham Wood. In 1836 it had been their private bank and later converted into a joint stock bank as the *Bury Banking Company*. Two other banking companies also had branches in Ramsbottom in 1883: the *Lancashire and Yorkshire Banking Co Ltd* at 26, Bolton Street and the *Manchester and Liverpool District Bank* at 15, Market Place.

Originally, the *Lancashire & Yorkshire Banking Company* had evolved out of the *Alliance Bank of London and Liverpool* which had been established in 1862. Although the aim had been to expand into the provinces, in 1871 it was decided to close the branch at 73, King Street, Manchester. Instead the manager, John Mills drew up a scheme to form the Lancashire & Yorkshire as a new bank. Most of the directors were Manchester businessmen when it started, and capital stood at £1m within the year. A gradual extension of the business took place throughout Lancashire and Yorkshire and eventually some of the deposits were used to finance the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal (1894). In the process of expansion the *Lancashire &Yorkshire Banking Company* absorbed various other northern banks including the *Bury Banking Company* in 1888. There is evidence of an intention for the Bury company's branches at Heywood, Radcliffe and Ramsbottom to become full branches of the Lancashire & Yorkshire, while those at Whitefield and Tottington became sub-branches. However, Slater's trade directory of 1888 lists the *Lancashire & Yorkshire Bank Ltd* (drawing on the *Alliance Bank Limited*, London) at 26, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom as a sub-branch. Its manager at the time was Peter Graham Gow. By 1915, as reported in the account entitled

Ramsbottom's Sinkhole 1915-16 in our News Magazine No 49, *The Lancashire & Yorkshire Bank* was trading at premises near the bottom of Bridge Street (and suffering the consequences of the collapsed culvert). Ownership of the Ramsbottom branch changed again when the whole company, (*The Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank Ltd*) was bought by *The Bank of Liverpool and Martin's Limited* in 1928. The shorter title *Martins Bank Limited* (no apostrophe) then emerged at the insistence of the directors of the Lancashire and Yorkshire. *The Lancashire & Yorkshire Bank*'s former headquarters at 43, Spring Gardens, Manchester became Martins' Manchester district office. The Liverpool Head Office was at 7, Water Street but was replaced in 1932 by the Grade II* listed building at 4, Water Street which was designed by Herbert Rowse. Over the years Martins had expanded to some 560 branches.

Originally Martins Bank had been a London private bank, trading for much of its time under the sign of the grasshopper. Tradition has it that Thomas Gresham founded this bank in 1563 and he is believed to be the first to use the sign but there are differences of opinion. After John Martin purchased the freehold in 1741 successive generations of the Martin family, who were among the early London goldsmiths, ran the bank which was popularly referred to as *The Grasshopper* in its early days. After the panic that followed the collapse of Barings Bank in 1890, Martins became a limited company in 1891.

In 1918 Martins had been acquired by the *Bank of Liverpool* (founded 1831) who wanted Martins in order to give them a London presence and a seat on the London



Clearing House. The Martins name had valuable prestige and had been retained in the title of the enlarged bank (*The Bank of Liverpool and Martin's Limited)*. The Coat of Arms which was Martins' logo featured a grasshopper (Sir Thomas Gresham's crest) and a Liver Bird from the *Bank of Liverpool*. The combined coat of arms was registered by the College of Heralds with its heraldic description, "or, a Liver Bird (or cormorant) Sable, holding in the beak a branch of Laver (or Seaweed) Vert, on a Chief of the third a Grasshopper of the first."



Nearly all 700 branches of Martins Bank including Ramsbottom's became branches of Barclays when Martins was bought by Barclays Bank in 1969. We are grateful to Barclays PLC for supplying general information about Martins, photographs of the Ramsbottom branch during Martins occupancy and for permitting the use of their image of the Martins grasshopper logo. (*The photos were not dated so we would be delighted if one of our readers could enlighten us – Editor.)* Martins' logo was retained for part of the combined business until the early 1980s, with a small grasshopper appearing first on statements and cheque books and later on cheque books only. Barclays own Spread Eagle emblem which replaced it remains associated with the Barclay partnership. Barclays Bank, Ramsbottom closed early in 2015.



The Manchester and Liverpool District Bank (at 15, Market Place, Ramsbottom in 1883) became *The District Bank* in 1924 until 1st Jan 1970 when it was one of three merging banks which became the National Westminster Bank.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES 1878

In the years following 1850 many new factories were built. Often cotton manufacturers worked "room and power", leasing premises from millowners rather than building their own factory. This system enabled anyone with a minimum amount of capital to become a manufacturer. However, it also led to frequent bankruptcies. (During the later years of the century limited companies began to be formed to take over the mills. Local examples in 1883 (Barrett) include Ramsbottom Industrial Manufacturing Co Ltd at Cobden Mill, Ramsbottom Spinning and Manufacturing Co Ltd at Union Works, Stubbins Lane and Victoria Cotton Mill Co Ltd, Stubbins Lane. In 1888 in Slater's Trade Directory Joshua Hoyle & Sons Ltd is listed at Brooksbottoms Mill, Summerseat.) Throughout its history, Lancashire's cotton industry suffered from a "boom and bust" economy. When cotton was doing well, a weaver was well paid but when the industry was suffering one of its periodic slumps working hours were restricted, pay cuts were imposed and as a final measure workers were laid off and mills closed. In 1878 a region-wide pay cut of 10% had been agreed by the *Cotton Masters Association* and even though workers would have understood the state of the industry there were lengthy and widespread disputes in local mills *, including Ramsbottom. The *Bury Times* of 20th July 1878 reported that mills in Ramsbottom where wage reductions had been imposed were experiencing strikes. **A**t the Co-operative Mill, Stubbins the Ramsbottom Spinning and Manufacturing Company's 750 looms had been stopped with the weavers alleging that their list was below the Blackburn standard list. They had returned to work after the manager, Mr John Dale, had made changes "in one or two cases". Altogether about 350 Ramsbottom workers, who had no association and no funds to support them, were on strike from six other mills including "J. Warburton & Co.'s Crow Works (about 60 hands employed), weavers, spinners and cardroom hands; J. & S. Rothwell's Meadow Mill (ditto), 70 hands; Wm Ashworth's Railway Street Mill; H. Rostron & Son's Old Ground Mill; Jno. Peers & Co.'s (Ashton's Old Mill)". At Stubbins Lane Mill, Thomas Hill's men were on strike because of the wage cut and also complaining of being only partially supplied with work. **(**Although Mr Hill had promised that this would be rectified, a few months later he was forced to file a petition for liquidation, as reported below.) Below is a letter from the *Bury Times* report:

We have been requested to publish the following:-

"We, the cardroom and blowing room hands wish to make known to the public, through the means of your journal, that the reason of the strike at the Ramsbottom Spinning and Manufacturing Company is as follows: The manager of the works wanted to bring us 12½ per cent, below the other cardroom hands in the other mills in the district and of course we could not submit to that. We were and are willing to resume work at the prices we had previous to the strike, and at that it would leave us 2½ per cent less than hands at all the other mills. The manager said he would pay as much as any of the mills. That was a few days previous to the strike, but when it came to the point he would not do so, but said the 10% must come off. Of course the other cardroom hands had been reduced in wages, and then they had 2½ per cent more than we had; and if we had accepted the 10 per cent reduction in our wages, that would leave us 12½ per cent less than the others. We cannot submit to such tyranny." – It is signed by seven persons.

By the following Saturday the Bury Times was saying that Ramsbottom weavers out on strike had shown more determination than it was thought they would have done, but the strike was "expected to terminate on Monday". In the 3rd August issue of the newspaper Ramsbottom's strikes are not mentioned although there are reports of strikes continuing elsewhere, including ones in Tottington, Bury, Radcliffe, Heywood and various parts of Rossendale. A week later most of the cotton trade reports were about settlements which were beginning to take place on a mill by mill basis.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LOCAL PRESS - OCTOBER to NOVEMBER 1878

Petition for liquidation

A petition for liquidation was yesterday filed in the Bolton county court by Thomas Hill, of **Stubbins Lane Mill**, Ramsbottom. Mr. J.E. Bell of Union Street, Bury has been appointed receiver. Messrs. T.A.& J. Grundy & Co are the debtor's solicitors. The meeting is called for the 16th October next.
(*Bury Times* October12th 1878*)*

Sales by auction

Important to Cotton Spinners, Manufacturers, and others.
Mr. S. Jackson respectfully announces the receipt of instructions from Messrs W. Wild and Brothers to Catalogue and Sell by Auction at **Higher and Lower Mills, Shuttleworth**, near Ramsbottom, on Wednesday, Thursday and Monday October 16th 17th and 21st 1878 the whole of the valuable

MACHINERY FOR SPINNING AND MANUFACTURING COTTON

comprising

- Double-beater scrutcher, by Walker and Hacking
- Excellent double-beater finishing machine by Lord, with patent feed motion and lapper for 48in. cards
- 15 double 48 in. carding engines with 10 rollers,10 clearers, patent comb stocks, can and cooling(*or colling*?) motion to each.
- Grinding frame and emery rollers
- 4 traversing grinding machines (Horsefall's patent)
- Grinding strickles
- 4 drawing frames with 3 heads of 3 deliveries each
- 3 slubbing frames, with 60 spindles each, 9 in.uplift
- 5 intermediate frames, in all 342 spindles, 9 in. lift with Mason's and other long collars
- 13 roving machines, in all 1,540 spindles, 7in. lift, including a few with Mason's long collars
- 500 carding and drawing cans
- 1 pair of self acting mules, with 1,540 spindles, 1 and a half in. gauge, by Walker and Hacking
- 1 pair ditto, 1,500 spindles by ditto
- 1 pair ditto, 1,324 spindles ditto by ditto
- 1 pair ditto, 1,304 spindles ditto by ditto
- 1 pair ditto, 1,296 spindles ditto by ditto
- 43 throstle frames, in all 8,642 spindles (including a few with Ashworth's long collars
- 280 grosses of slubbing, intermediate, and roving spools
- 100 grosses of creel pegs, spare rollers and fitting for carding engine and frames
- 170 grosses of throstle bobbins, tin tubes, bobbin bins and boxes
- 1 new winding frame, with 240 spindles, 4 and a half lift by T.Holt of Rochdale
- 1 winding frame with 240 spindles 4 and a half lift
- 1 ditto with 180 spindles 4 and a half lift
- 3 beam warping mills, with creels, warping bobbins

- 1 slasher sizing machine, sizing mixing and boiling cisterns, with agitators
- 229 power looms, 40 and 44 in. reed spaces, by Bracewell and Bulcock, Willan and Mills, Dugdale, and Harrison in good condition
- Loom change wheels and other loom fittings
- 325 sets of healds and reeds
- 25 sets of new healds
- Quantity of reeds
- Sets of heald staves
- New buffalo pickers
- Piece plaiting machine
- Packing skips
- Buffalo boxes
- 66 dozen of weft tins, wrap reels, and rove wrap drums
- 2,200lbs of excellent strapping, oil cisterns, oil cans, oil, brushes ,ropes, a quantity of cotton, roving on spools, waste, sweepings, and tares
- Beam scales and weights, piece scales, platform weighing machines, sack trucks, roller-ending machine, roller coverer's press, muriate of zinc, antiseptic, cask of tallow, buckets, blocks, and ropes
- Three 10in. double geared lathes compound slide and other rests, chucks, upright drilling machine, circular saw bench and saw, bobbin drill, small horizontal steam engine, grindstone, stocks with taps, dies, catches, cramps, mandrels, several pairs of vices, nuts, bolts, wood benches, boxes, trestles sundry timber, steel spindles, fluted rollers, metal, &c
- Office furniture
- Excellent iron safe 30 in. by 30in.by 24in., by Chatwood.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock each day.
N.B. The contents of Higher Mill will be sold on Wednesday and Thursday, October 16th and 17th, and the contents of Lower Mill on Monday 21st.
Catalogues are now ready, and may be had from the Auctioneer, Bury
(Bury Times October 12th 1878*)*

Depression in the cotton trade

The cotton trade of this district is in a very depressed state, and the curtailment of production is rapidly taking place. Up to the present time the ordinary shares of mills manufacturing cotton cloths for bleaching and for the home and foreign have been well employed, but the fustian trade has long been very depressed.

Ramsbottom

Owner	Mill	Total looms	Total spindles
L. Stead Bro	Bridge and Orchard Mills	50	28000 abt. 4 days
L. Stead Bro	Garden St Mill	600	Full time
L. Stead Bro	Hope Mill	330	Full time
L. Stead Bro	Railway St Mill	212	Full time
Exors B. Wolstenholme	Irwell Street		17000 Closed
Ashton's	Ramsbottom Mill		13500 Closed
Co-operative Mill Company	Stubbins	745	32000 Full time
Mr. H. Heys	Victoria Mill		29000 Full time
Mr.Nuttall	Turn Mill	100	5670 Full time
Mr.A Barlow's	Twine Mill	330	4520 Full time
W.Ashworth & Co	Railway Street	50	Full time
Mr W. Bramley	Carr Mill	50	Full time
Mr. J. Boothman	Holcombe Brook	150	Full time
Mr. J. Butterworth	Railway Street	40	Full time
Edenwood Mill Co	Edenwood	300	Full time
C. Geldard & Co	Albert Mill	440	Full time
C. Geldard & Co	Palatine Mill		closed
Greenhalgh, Harrison & Co	Waterside Mill	764	Full time
Mr. T. Hill	Stubbins Lane		Full time
John Peers & Co	Factory Bottom	200	Closed
J. Rostron & Co	Old Ground	125	Full time
J & E Rothwell	Railway side	100	Full time
Mr. H. Warburton	Holcombe Brook	70	Full time
Cobden Mill Co	Cobden Mill	165	Full time

Wild Bros	Top Mill, Shuttleworth	230	Closed
Wild Bros	Middle Mill, "		Closed
Wild Bros	Bottom Mill "		Closed
Mr. William Stead	Nuttall	600	Closed
J. Ramsbottom & Sons	Lodge Mill	35	Full time
Mr. J. Hampson	Mill, Summerseat	270	Closed
Mr. Joshua Hoyle	Brooksbottoms	800	Short time

Out of a total of about 6,530 looms there are 1,100 stopped, and about 5,000 are running full time, the remaining few are running short time. There are in round numbers 130,000 spindles, and out of that number 30,500 are stopped and 28,000 are on short time. Bridge Mills, Edenfield are in course of re-erection. The figures are as complete as we have been able to get them.
(Bury Times November 2nd 1878*)*

Bankruptcy
William Bramley of 7, Springwood Street and of Carr Mill, cotton spinner and manufacturer.
(Bury Times November 2 1878*)*

* The Cotton Riots in Darwen and Blackburn, Spring 1878

Mill workers in Darwen, along with many in the area, had also decided to fight the 1878 wage cut of 10% by going out on strike. After weeks had passed with no resolution, the Cotton Riots began with starving Darwen weavers smashing windows at the *Bird i'th Hand* Pub whose landlord refused to dole out food. Soon the police station was besieged and an alarming number of policemen suffered severe head injuries after cobblestones were hurled through the windows. The rioting spread to Blackburn, focusing on mills belonging to members of the *Cotton Masters Association*. Finally the rioters headed to the home of the Chairman of the negotiators, Robert Raynsford Jackson. He just managed to save his family and a few personal possessions before the angry weavers battered down the front door, looted the house and burnt it to the ground. Jackson's carriage was then dragged from the coach house, set alight and paraded triumphantly through the town. Unfortunately, the violence only hardened their masters against the weavers: the ringleaders were arrested and within weeks the strike was broken, the weavers returning to work with the 10% pay cut.

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):

Tuesday	10am - 5pm	Wednesday	10am - 5pm
Thursday	10am - 5pm	Friday	10am - 5pm
2nd Saturday of the month	10am - 4.30pm		

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR**: **information@bury.gov.uk** or 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at **http://library.bury.gov.uk** - follow 'Bury Libraries Catalogue (Local Studies)'. Free access to the Ancestry and Find my Past databases is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary Stephen Benson, 32, Slater Lane, Leyland, PR25 1TN,
email: **membership@lfhhs.org.uk.**

Membership entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. Also one branch in London. 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 an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and 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 news cuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's

Guided walks – June to September

Led by volunteers with a particular interest in and knowledge of Ramsbottom and district. 2 – 3 hours in duration over distances between 3 to 5 miles. Taken at a leisurely pace, the walks are suitable for reasonably fit adults and children. Dogs on a lead are welcome.

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

Please consider volunteering to lead a walk in 2017 - help will be given

Sunday June 19th	2 p.m. - 4 p.m. An historic stroll around old Birtle Meet outside Pack Horse Inn, Elbut Lane, Birtle, Bury BL97TU John Sagar a expert local historian leads a guided walk around old Birtle focusing on the rich history of the area.
Sunday July 17th	No walk due to lack of volunteers to lead
Sunday August 21st	2 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Nuttall – the village that vanished Meet at Ramsbottom Station, Railway Street Kate Slingsby , knowledgeable local historian leads a walk around the once thriving village of Nuttall which had wool and cotton mills and chemical works. They closed and everyone left. Visit the remains and hear its remarkable story.
Sunday Sept. 18th	2 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Secrets of Irwell Vale and Lumb Meet at the waterfall (near Lavender Hills care home) Stubbins Vale Road Barbara and Jon Williams from RHS will explore the history of the villages, railway and station and look at new developments

DANGER, DEATH & DISEASE

in Ramsbottom's mills

.....

Textile mills could be dangerous places to work !

Exciting exhibition ~ Opens this summer

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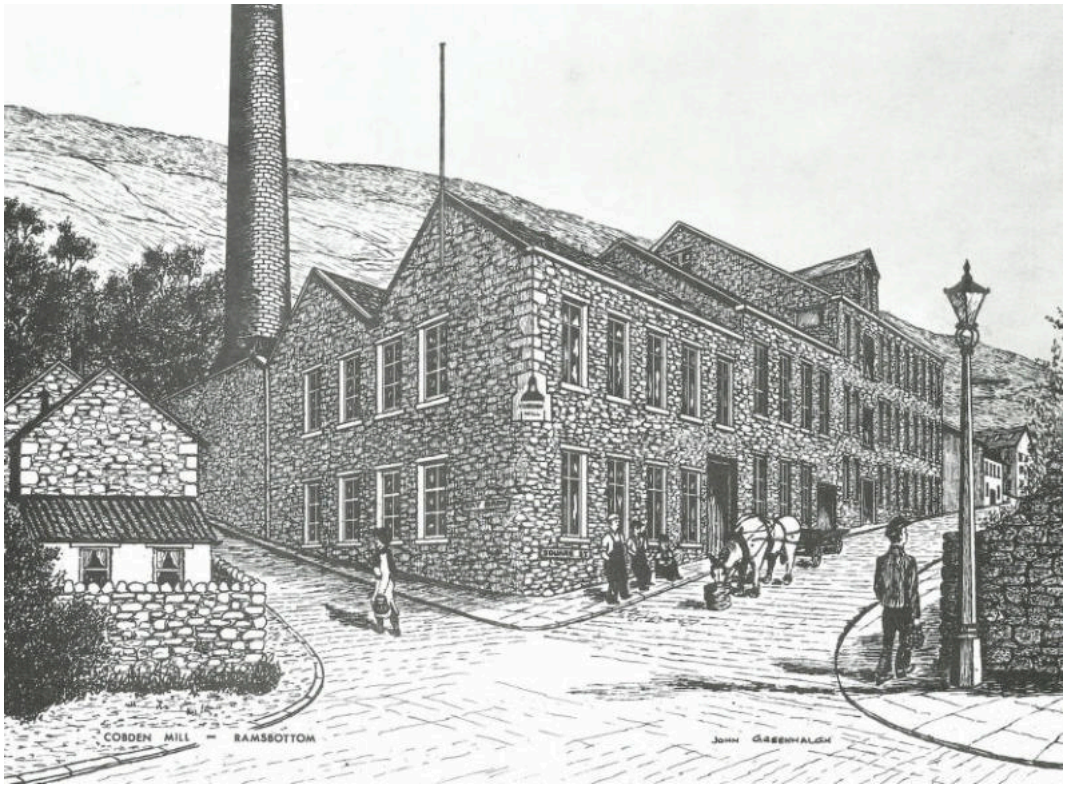
THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 51 Autumn/ Winter 2016 **ISSN 0960 - 1244**



RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253

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 2016-2017:

December 14	**Christmas Social Evening**
January 18	Ian Summers – *The History of Edenfield's Cooperative Buildings* (illustrated) From busy shops to slow decline before restoration into shops once more. Ramsbottom Coop also plays a part.
February 15	Rob Trueblood – Illustrated talk on the amateur naturalists who worked around Manchester from the early 1800s, focusing on Richard Buxton, John Horsefield and James Percival.
March 15	**30th Anniversary Photographic Competition** – results and presentations. Judge – Barry Aldous, who will also provide an entertaining presentation afterwards.
April 19	Marilyn Joyce (of the Jane Austen Society, on the bi-centenary of the author's death) – *Introducing Jane Austen* (illustrated).
May 13	**THE SOCIETY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT** 12 till 4 p.m.
May 17	**Annual General Meeting and Members' Night**
June 21	Martin Baggoley – *Murder in the Victorian Lancashire Family*

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at Ramsbottom Civic Hall Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30pm.
Members £1.50, non-members £2 to include refreshments

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.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 51

Autumn/ Winter 2016

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Programme 2016/2017	inside front cover
Local Research	inside back cover

Cover - Cobden Mill, Square Street, Ramsbottom by John Greenhalgh

Save the Date

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society celebrates its 30th Anniversary in 2017, and the Civic Hall has been booked on Saturday 13th May from 12 - 4 p.m. for an afternoon of celebrations promoting the Society's activities. If you would like to help with a display or an activity, please see a member of the committee.

Website - www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Email via website

SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the Annual General Meeting, Kate Slingsby stood down as Chairman, and no-one was nominated to take her place. It was thus decided to split the role, and Tony Mosedale was elected to lead the Wednesday public meetings at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, and the committee meetings would rotate the chairman from one of the committee members. I was elected as Secretary, a position that Kate previously undertook as well as chairman. There are currently vacancies for Chairman and Vice-Chairman, so if anyone is interested in either of these roles, please see any member of the committee. The current committee comprises

OFFICE	**CURRENT HOLDER**
Chairman	Vacant
Vice Chairman	Vacant
Secretary and Press Officer	John Leyland
Treasurer	Derek Rowley
Assistant Treasurer	Margaret Rogers
Acting Membership Secretary	Richard W Hall
Programme Secretary	Barbara Williams
Art, Artefacts & Exhibition	Kate Slingsby
3 Committee Members	Karen Kay, Tony Mosedale, Duncan Francis

There are also many other members of the society who work behind the scenes doing important roles. These include Brenda Richards, who leads the Archiving team, Janet Smith, who edits the News Magazine, Joan Young, who leads the Gallery team who open on the second Sunday afternoon of each month, and the tea room volunteers who provide refreshments at the Civic Hall meetings. John Ireland leads the Conservation group, which deals with planning applications, and both John and Andrew Todd are invaluable in answering any queries that are received via the website regarding the history of Ramsbottom.

Finally, in the absence of a chairman, any issues regarding the Society should be directed to me, and they will be discussed at a committee meeting, which are held on the 4th Wednesday in January, March, May, September and November, or if urgent, via email, telephone, or an additional meeting.

John Leyland

NEWS

Lt Col Porritt's portrait has now been fully restored and we are confident that our members and the wider community will be pleased with the result.Detailsabout how it will be made available for everyone to see will be out soon.

Lt Col Porritt's illustrated scrolls Thanks to the expertise of Formbys, local book conservators and restorers, the condition of the two documents, which were donated to the Society following the floods of 26th December 2015, is now stable. When we received them, two months after the floods, both scrolls were still wet and part of the writing was spoiled. One of them was even stuck to its frame's glass. We are very grateful to Society members Mr and Mrs Formby whose prompt action saved the scrolls. Further damage was avoided as the drying process took place over several months in the freezer at their premises.Formbys also kindly donated a special storage box labelled "Ramsbottom Heritage Society Historical Documents" in gold letters.

We are now planning to display these important documents at one of our monthly meetings and the general public will be able to view them in the near future. Their permanent home is the state-of-the-art storage at Bury Archives where they will always be available to the public on request by quoting reference numbers RHS/9/1/9/27 and RHS/9/1/9/28.

Former Grants Arms Bowling Green Update

As we mentioned in our last issue, in June 2015, Bury Council made the decision to place the green on their list of Assets of Community Value (ACV) after the Ramsbottom Heritage Society's nomination, which was supported by other community groups. The owner of the site requested a review of Bury Council's decision and this was carried out in November 2015 when the Council decided to maintain the status of the green as an ACV under the 2011 Localism Act.

The owners of the site then appealedagainst the listing to a First Tier Tribunal of the General Regulatory Chamber. When the Council and members of our Society presented the case to the Tribunal, it had even more detail supporting the ACV listing, and the documents ran to seventy six A4 pages!On 21st July 2016 the Tribunal's decision was taken to dismiss the appeal.

The effect of Asset of Community Value listing is that, generally speaking, an owner intending to sell the asset must give notice to the local authority.

A community interest group then has six weeks in which to ask to be treated as a potential bidder. If it does so, a sale cannot take place for six months. The intention is that this period, known as the "moratorium", will allow the community group to come up with an alternative proposal. However, at the end of the moratorium it remains up to the owner whether the asset is sold, to whom and at what price.

Fortunately, the ACV is not the green's only protection from development. As we have said previously, it became part of the Ramsbottom Town Centre Conservation Area in 1977. Also it had been designated for recreational use and as a valuable open space in the Council's planning guidelines.

Ramsbottom Civic Hall garden and courtyard, was officially opened on Friday 13th May 2016 by former Mayor of Bury, Cllr Stella Smith.Its transformation intoa light, bright area with a backdrop of shrubs and plants is the result of five years of hard work by local groups, individual volunteers and Bury Council staff.The event was attended by many of the people who had worked on the project and entertainment was provided by Bury Music Service.

Ladieswear shop, *Velvet,* having relocated from nearby Square Street, held the "Grand Opening" of their new premises on Thursday 3rd March 2016 at 56, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom. (In our Autumn/Winter 2015 issue we regretfully reported the closure of *W & D Scholes,* the ladies fashion store which had been trading there for many years.) For a while the future of this imposing building looked uncertain but thanks to its new occupants it has now regained its place as an important business in the town. Our best wishes to *Velvet* for a happy and successful future in Ramsbottom.

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

Available in seven separate parts featuring the years 1939 to 1945

ONLY £1 each or the complete set for £5

Published by the Society using information from
The Ramsbottom Observer and our archives

On sale at Ramsbottom Library
and via the Heritage Society website.

***War News* issues 1-7 have been our most popular publications ever.**

HANDY TIPS

(found in an old note book dated October 1900)

White paint when dirty should be washed with skimmed milk and the dirt will easily be removed.

Costive Persons

Half a teaspoon of buttermilk with a teaspoon of sulphur boiled. Drink on going to bed twice a week. This will cure any costiveness!!

Bronchitis is greatly relieved by drinking hot lemon tea sweetened with brown sugar and liquorice, or wear an old newspaper constantly over your undergarments.

Grey hairs A very simple remedy to dye grey hairs is cold tea in which several nails have been left to rust.

Betty Chapman

Ramsbottom's Lost Generation *Part 2 1916*

by Duncan Francis

A meticulously researched record of Ramsbottom's involvement in the Great War, told through the lives of those from the town who made the supreme sacrifice

NOW ON SALE

(Published by Ramsbottom Heritage Society)

This book costs £10 and is on sale at Ramsbottom Library, including on the second Sunday of the month, in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery, or direct from Duncan.

For details, please go to www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

WAR MEMORIALS

As we reported in our last issue, the Society have been given a damaged WW1 wa memorial from Porritt & Spencer's Stubbins Vale Mills. It is an oak plaqu measuring about 5ft by 3ft with a Roll of Honour listing all the mills' employees wh served in the war 1914 -19.

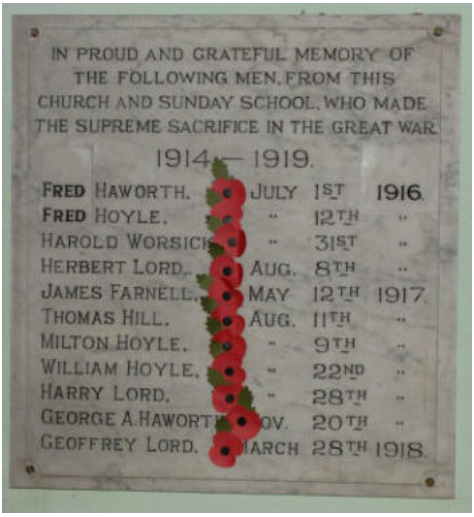
One of Porritt's mills at Stubbins Vale, the five-storeyed building, was demolishe between September 1978 and April 1979 when its giant chimney was the last part to g The present owners of the remaining mill, Voith Fabrics, were storing the plaque in th mill cellar when, on Boxing Day 2015, the cellar was flooded, to a depth of about six fe in places.

We are unsure of the plaque's condition before the flood.It has now dried out slowl but the surface finish has gone and many of its constituent pieces have separated. On th main board the raised lettering is intact except for the last nam This was fitted on a separate wooden strip which is now loose.Two curvedpieces frame from the top of the plaque are missing.

Ramsbottom British Legion are happy to display the plaque at their premises o Central Street and they have suggested obtaining a grant towards its restoration. A experienced local craftsman's report confirms that the wood is basically i good condition (no rot or other physical damage). For the purpose of the gra application he has submitted an estimate to include all time and materials for cleanin conservation and repair of the plaque including re-attachment of all loose and detache pieces, manufacturing and fitting of missing sections, hand-carving as necessary, an refinishing and restoring the surface as appropriate.

Meanwhile the Rossendale branch of the Lancashire Family History an Heraldry Society (LFHHS) have listed the Stubbins Vale WWI Roll of Honou and a photograph on their website at www.rossendale-fhhs.org.uk.Basic details about also appear on www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk.Both websites will be updated when th restoration work has been completed.

Also on the LFHHS website are three more photographs taken by a Society membe at Edenfield Methodist Church, Rochdale Road on 5th March 2016 whe it closed. The LFHHS's records show that two photos are of memorials to men connecte with each of the two Edenfield Methodist chapels of that time: the Wesleyan Methodi Chapel (11 names of men who died in WW1) and the Primitive Methodist Chapel (names). The third memorial is a Roll of Honour



(50 names) of all those connected to Edenfield Primitive Methodist Church who served in WW1.

Originally the Edenfield Methodist Church which has recently closed was Edenfield Primitive Methodist Chapel until the amalgamation with Edenfield Wesleyan Methodists. Their chapel, which stood just off Market Place near its junction with Rochdale Road, was demolished in 1960.





Reference: John Simpson, *A History of Edenfield and District* (Edenfield Local History Society 2003)

"WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE,

NOR ANY A DROP TO DRINK."

The following article was written by a founder member of the Society who began to take photographs and collect information about Ramsbottom's past to use in the displays in the small building that had been the town's library (on the site now occupied by a children's nursery). She chose a quote from "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" as her title because it describes in two short lines the situation in Ramsbottom: a village with springs, wells and a river that were often polluted. We have included some of her original drawings and also the 1908 map of the area. We would welcome feedback as to whether the pumps, wells and springs mentioned still exist.

Before 1838, when the Radcliffe and Bury Waterworks Company was established, the people of Ramsbottom relied for domestic water supplies on the River Irwell and the area's many springs and wells.

Even before 1702 in the hamlet of Tanners there was a tan yard where leather was tanned using the bark of oak, elder and ash. The discovery of the old tan pit in 1762 polluted Tanners well which was down a lane near the top of Tanners Street. In the late 18th century factories were built by the river and its tributaries for the manufacture and printing of cotton goods.These sites were chosen because of the need for water for processing and power. In 1812 the mill in Nuttall village was powered by a waterwheel that was said to be the largest in Europe. Waterpower remained important until the end of the 19th century. The river became polluted by discharge from print works, dye works and paper mills.Sewage, garbage and refuse also polluted the river, causing many cases of typhoid.Over a hundred years ago the river was described in a first hand account by a man who was shocked by the state of the river that had probably caused the deaths of people he knew.H is poem, which contains the following verse, was written in 1872 and published in the *Manchester Guardian*.

Ode to the Irwell
Thou inky, nauseous bed of death!
Unsightly, stagnant, seething main!
Thy odors take my very breath.
Thy colours but provoke disdain.

The river was no longer fit for domestic use. All water had to be obtained from springs and wells, although they were not always pure either.In the Turnv i l l a g e school log book it was recorded that pupils had died after drinking water from the village well. In 1886 it was recommended that all water taken from these sources for domestic purposes should be boiled, especially the water from springs fed from "fields recently manured".

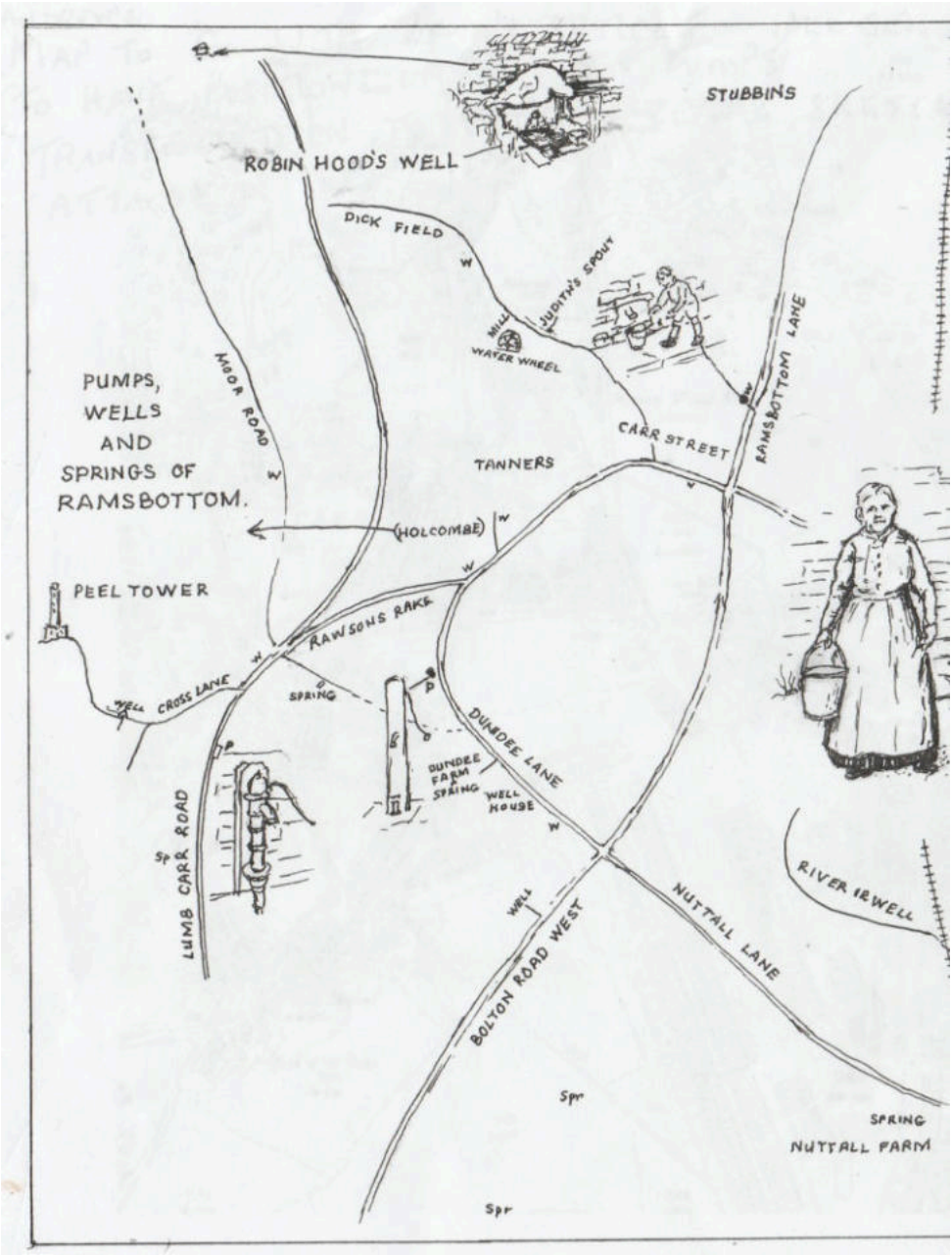
Wells, Springs And Water Pumps In Ramsbottom

On 26th April 1826, when rioters were at Chatterton protesting against the economic hardships being suffered by handloom weavers following the introduction of powerlooms, it is recorded that a troop of cavalrymen stopped to water their horses at a well behind 12, Bolton Road. (After the cavalry arriveda t Chatterton Mill to quell the riot and Major Grant had read the Riot Act the rioters refused to leave. Six people were shot and many were injured.)



On and around Dundee Lane wer springs, wells and a water pump. G o i n uphill, on the left hand side a narrow lane onc led to Dundee Farm, the home of Joh Hutchinson. A spring on his farm was still i daily use until the 1930s and he claimed th spring water was purer than tap water. Furthe up, again on the left stands th School House. It was built in 1864 incorporating stones from Holcombe Court House and the old Manchester Cathedral (the old Parish Church) and was also known as the Well House.The well that stood in front of it provided water for the families in a row of stone





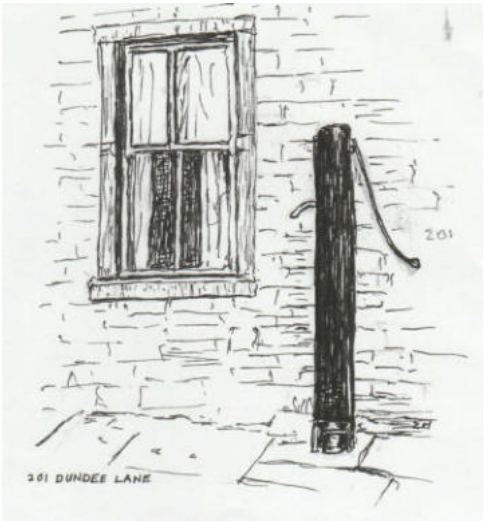
Extract of a drawing by Zena showing Pumps (P), Wells (W) and Springs (Spr) of Ramsbottom

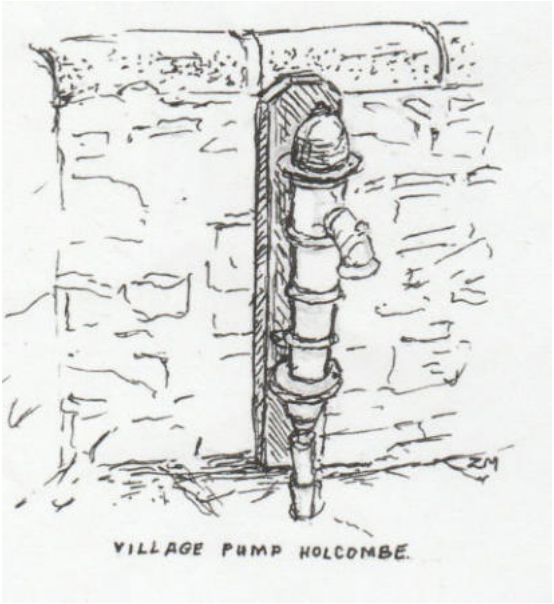


Extract of the 1908 Ordnance Survey map of Ramsbottom showing the same area as Zena's drawing.

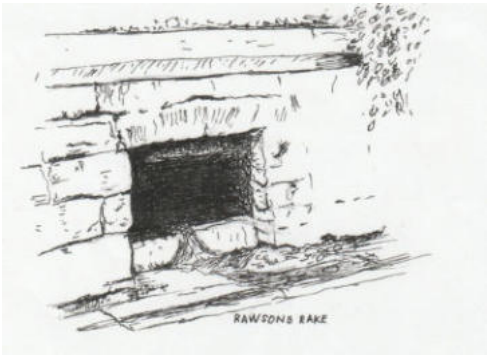
The full map is available at Ramsbottom Library or from the Heritage Society website

cottages opposite until the late 1940s. Two ladies who lived in one of the cottages used to take their bucket to this well when they arrived home from the mill and collect the water they needed that evening. After the 1940s the well was still used occasionally until it was taken out of use and the trough moved below the Well House. In 1888 number 201, Dundee Lane was the home of Tom Rostron Kay, soap manufacturer and later the Carr family lived there. They had their own water pump which stood in front of the house. Another well stood in the wall on the left near the top of the path which climbed from Dundee Lane to Holcombe village. There was also a well in the centre of the village and a pump on the left hand side of Lumb Carr Road opposite a row of cottages. At the end of Cross Lane, where a narrower road leads to Holcombe Hill is a well in the drystone wall. On the left at the









bottom of Rawson's Rake, which descends from Holcombe church past the old vicarage towards Ramsbottom town centre, there was a well in the wall. (Even up to the 1950s the Rake was still surfaced with small stones rather than tarmac.)There were many others in the town including wells on Rostron Road and a spring known as Judith's Spout near the Old Mill Hotel supplied water that was considered pure enough to be bottled and sold. Beyond the hotel, where the path turns right towards Dickfield there was a well on the left hand side and on Stubbins Lane a well provided water for families in nearby cottages. There was a spring at Tagg Wood, many more springs in Redisher Woods and farms on both







sides of the valley obtained their water from springs and wells on their land..

There are two very well-known wells in outlying districts: Waugh's Well on the moors above Edenfield was built in 1866 to commemorate the Lancashire dialect poet Edwin Waugh .whose poems describe everyday life. (His most famous poem is *Come Home to the Children an' Me)*.Robin Hood's Well at Helmshore lies beside the pilgrims' route to Whalley. Its name probably has a connection to May Day celebrations when people gathered on the first day of May to celebrate the coming of Spring with plays and games. Although the central figure of the celebrations was Robin Hood this happy event also had a religious connection to death and resurrection.

Zena Middleton

COBDEN MILL

Cobden Mill, on the corner of Kay Brow and Square Street, was built in the mid to late 19th century. In the Bury Times of 2nd November 1878, the Cobden Mill Company is listed as running 165 looms at Cobden Mill.The RamsbottomIndustrial Manufacturing Co Ltd were the occupiers as cotton manufacturers in 1883 with Edward Barnes as Manager and James Wm Cunliffe as Secretary [1]. By 1887 Stephen Dugdale and Co was at Cobden Mill running 659 looms and producing "printings, shirtings and jacconetts" and the company is also listed at 15, Dickenson Street, Manchester [2]. The Rate Assessment for Tottington Lower End 1892 lists the occupier of the mill's weaving shed as Star Mill – Ramsbottom Co-op and in 1893 there is a reference to the Star Mill Company, "for whom the extensive Cobden Mill premises have been enlarged, readjusted and fully equipped" [3]. In 1904 The Star Manufacturing Co Ltd/Star Mill Company operated at Union Mill which was one of the co-operative mills that belonged to the Ramsbottom Provident and Industrial Society so Cobden Mill may have been built

as a co-operative mill. (Star Mill Co Ltd is recorded in a 1910 valuation list as the occupiers and the Ramsbottom Co-operative Society the owners of a "Square Street weaving shed" and there is no mention of Cobden Mill in Kelly's Directories of 1913 and 1924.)

During World War II Cobden Mill was used by two businesses doing war work. On the ground floor was William Eccles towel weaving mill supplying towels for hospital and army use while on the top floor Kurt Engel had started the Temple Manufacturing Company producing covered wire, some of which was for the Admiralty [4.] William Eccles (Ramsbottom) Ltd was also at Cobden Mill in 1962 manufacturing "all classes of white and coloured towels and terry cloths" [5] and there is a 1967 reference to Globe Products Ltd (chemicals) there.

Parts of the mill were converted into apartments in 2002 and 2005. The weaving shed was demolished in 2005 leaving the wall along Kay Brow.The wall isnow gone and the weaving shed site is being redeveloped for housing.

Kath Haddock

References

1. Trade Directory by Barrett 1883
2. Trade Directory by Worrall 1887
3. The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers by Reverend William Hume Elliot 1893
4. Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 29 Autumn 2005: memories of Margaret Hammersley and Margaret Nolan,
5. Ramsbottom Official Guide 1962

In May 2015, Rosemary Gibb contacted RHS through the website's "Questions and Answers" page to ask about Cobden Mill. A family friend, George Altham who died in 1995 having lived at 5, Mayfield Road, Holcombe Brook had been the owner of Cobden Mill and Ms Gibb wonders what year he sold it.If youhave this information or if you can tell us anything else about the history of the mill, please let us know.

THE RAMSBOTTOM URBAN DISTRICT IN THE LATE 1960s

The following introduction, photographs and table with its list of Ramsbottom industries have been extracted from a college dissertation which was written well over forty years ago. We are very grateful to Mr Geoff Herbert for giving us permission to use his wife Nancy's work in this way and for allowing the Society to copy the dissertation in full. It can be accessed in our archive.

INTRODUCTION

The Urban District of Ramsbottom, which became part of Bury with council reorganisation in 1974, covered quite a large area with a total population of over 14,000. The urban area included the centre of Ramsbottom plus a number of surrounding villages mainly joined to the town centre by ribbon development along the main roads. These include such places as Edenfield, Shuttleworth and Holcombe which are all situated on the hillsides above Ramsbottom and others along the Irwell valley: Summerseat, Stubbins and Holcombe Brook.

Over two thirds of the primary industries of Ramsbottom at the time were connected with textiles. Many of these had been recently established or were extensions to existing establishments in the surrounding area.The majority oft h e industries were in the main urban centre of Ramsbottom although the fringe areas, especially along the valley, had mainly developed from the erection of a cotton mill which would then be followed by mill houses and a chapel. Such small industrial settlements could be found in many parts of the area.

The population of Ramsbottom had many of the characteristics of a small textile town in the Rossendale area, in that there was only a small turnover in employment in the town and the people seemed more content in their work than those in larger industrial areas. This point was referred to by a managing director of a paper mill with branches at Bolton and Little Lever. He said that they had less trouble with the mill at Ramsbottom concerning employees than at the other two branches of the firm. These characteristics seemed to be a continuation, especially with the older generation, of the early cotton industry when pride was taken in the work. This was probably due to the close knit community in the older part of Ramsbottom where everyone knew everyone else in a similar way to rural communities.

A major new stage in housing development began in the early 1960s so the population was continuing to expand with the growth of private housing estates. About eight private building firms had bought land from the area's farmers who found it more profitable to sell their land at £1,000 plus per acre for building rather than keeping pace with farming on a small scale. Agricultural land was only valued at about £100 per acre and they were also risking compulsory purchase with the land beingbought at a much lower sum than it would be if sold privately for development. The new housing estates were growing up on the edges of the urban district especially in the Holcombe Brook area where enough new homes were built to provide a shopping centre. A residential dormitorya r e a had grown up there and the majority of the inhabitants were involved with travelling out of Ramsbottom for their work.

Industries in Ramsbottom in the late 1960s- 5+ employed

Textiles

Weaving and Spinning

Spinning	Geo. Clegg (1920) Dearden Clough Mill, Edenfield.
Spinning	Edenfield Spinning Co. Hope Mill.
Spinning & Weaving	Field Mill Ltd. Kenyon Street.
Spinning & Weaving	Joshua Hoyle and Sons (Bac.) Brooksbottom Mill.



Rose Mill

Spinning	Westwill Ltd. Bolton Street Mill.
Weaving	Lawrence Stead and Bros. Irwell Bridge Mill
Spinning & Weaving	Porritt and Spencer Stubbins Vale Mill
Towels	Grove Towel Co. Waterside Mill, Kenyon Street.
Towels	Jas. Holden and Son Holcombe Brook.
Towel	Geo. Ramsbottom Rose Mill, Irwell Street.
Candlewick	Messrs Shepherds Crow Meadow Mill.
Jersey	Eden (Knitwear) Ltd. Buchanan Street.
Industrial textiles	Smith and Nephew (M/c) Stubbins Lane.
Needlefelt	Andrew Ashworth & Sons Ramsbottom Mill, Crow Lane.
Felt	Prefabricated Felts Bridge Mills, Edenfield.
Felt	Tunstead Needle Felt Co. Chatterton Mills.
Tufted Carpets	Holmbury Carpets, Holme Mill.
Finishing	Turnbull and Stockdale, Stubbins.

<u>Dyeing and Printing</u>	
(BDA)	T Robinson & Co. Hope Works, Bolton Road North.
	Summerseat Dyeing Company.
	Woodhey Dyeing Company Holcombe Brook.
Hand Block Printing	E. Turnbull and Co. Eden Wood Mill, Stubbins.



Square Works

Textile associates

Printing Machinery	Woods Engineering, Garden Street.
Textile & Wallpaper Machinery	John Spencer, Hazelhurst Engraving Works.
Soap	Kay Ltd. Soap Works, Kenyon Street.
Chemicals	Globe Products Ltd. Cobden Mill.
Chemicals	F. Haworth (ARC) Kenyon Street.
Industrial Mixers	Joshua Greaves and Sons Atlas Works, Square Street.
Wire Manufacture	F.D. Sims Hazelhurst Works.
Insulation	Hazelhurst Insulation, Woodhey Road, Holcombe Brook.
Silencers	Messrs Chadwick & Wright Redisher Works.
Metal	Fred Mason Garden Street.
Springs	R. Mather Crow Lane Spring Works.
Bed Headboards	Stockton Brothers Railway Street.
Wood Boxes	Metcalfe Brothers Prince Street.
Paper	Trinity Paper Mills Ltd. Peel Bridge.



Square Works

Builders and Contractors

J.H.Haworth and Co. Kenyon Street.
John Castle Longsight Saw Mill, Holcombe Brook.
Messrs Duckworth and Wilson Crow Lane Works

	Messrs T.L.Foster Peel Bridge.
	Hillary Bros. Ltd. Building Contractors, Stubbins Lane.
	E. Isherwood and Co. (Timber) Kay Brow Saw Mills
	H. Wolstenholme and Son, Guide Saw Mills, Edenfield.
Plant Hire	Eddison Plant Ltd. Dundee Lane.
	United Ground Scout Moor Quarry, Turn.
	United Ground Fletcher Bank Quarry.
Coach & Haulage	Messrs Haworth, Schofield Ltd. Gollinrod.
Haulage	F. Sheard 18 Brooklands Road Holcombe, Brook.
Haulage	F. Stringfellow (1954) The Garage, Whalley Road.
Wholesale Butcher	J.C. Greenwood Lower Fowl Cotes Farm, Holcombe Brook.
Caterers	Pinders of Ramsbottom, 20 Bridge Street.
	Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary, Shuttleworth.
	Army Western Command, Holcombe Ranges.
	Lancashire Constabulary, Crow Lane.
	Ramsbottom Urban District Council
	Manchester Education Dept. Summerseat Special School.
	Bury and Rossendale Hospital. Aitken Sanitorium.
	Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital.
Tailor	J. Novak, Market Place.
Supermarket	Henry Halstead (Grocer) Palatine Works, Union Street.
Chemist	Melvin Crawshaw, 1 Bolton Street.
Furniture	Isherwoods (Furnishers), 44 Bolton Street.
Bank	The Manager, Martins Bank, 9 Bridge Street.

Note from editor: The photographs of Square Works (built by the Grants in 1821-2) have been extracted from another part of Nancy's dissertation. They show that much of the building existed at the time of her research. The site is now occupied by TNT."

Nancy Herbert (née Sellers)

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):

Tuesday	10am - 5pm	Thursday	10am - 5pm
Wednesday	10am - 5pm	Friday	10am - 5pm
Saturday	10am – 4.30pm		

Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents. Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom.Our catalogues are online at **http://archives.bury.gov.uk** as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries we charge £15.00 hour. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR: **information@bury.gov.uk** or tel **0161 253 7047** 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held.Adirect link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at **http://library.bury.gov.uk** - follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'.

. Free access to the *Ancestry* databases is available in all Bury Council's libraries.P l e a s e phone for details of other family history advice services.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; Membership entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall.Also onebranch in London. More information is available on **www.lfhhs.org.uk.**

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE tel **0161 253 5352** email: **Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk**

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader.S o m e transcriptions of local church registers, census returns, several filing drawers of local news-cuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available.Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

DANGER,

DEATH &

DISEASE

in Ramsbottom mills

****

Textile Mills could be dangerous places to work

****

Exciting Exhibition

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Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library

During library opening hours & 2nd Sunday of the month 12-3pm

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

1987 - 2017

THE SOCIETY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 52 Spring/ Summer 2017 **ISSN 0960 - 1244**



RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY, CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253

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 2017:

May 17	**Annual General Meeting & Members' Night**
June 21	Martin Baggoley - *Murder in the Victorian Lancashire Family* with cases from around Greater Manchester in the context of changing social attitudes, 1830s new Poor Law reforms and introduction of Burial Clubs and insurance
July 19	Private guided tour of the Greater Manchester Police Museum, **2pm** at 57a, Newton St M1 1ET. (1½ - 2 hr, admission free). Allow time to travel: tram to Market St or Piccadilly Gdns or bus 135 (from Bury). Please contact us if possible for coordination and advice. Places in Northern Quarter for lunch or drink after.
August 16	**2pm** visit to Smithills Hall, Smithills Dean Rd, Bolton, BL1 7NP A Grade 1 listed building, full of history and drama, set in formal gardens next to the West Pennine Moors. Tea room available.
September 20	Steven Halliwell – *Moses Holden (1777 – 1864): Self-educated Genius*
October 18	Kate Slingsby – *Ramsbottom Market Place* (illustrated) - the many changes during over 120 years of its history
November 15	David Joy – *Liverpool Cow Keepers – A Family History* Pennine Dales farmers who relocated to Liverpool in the mid-1800s
December 13	**Christmas Social Evening in the Main Hall** (advance ticket)

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Holcombe Room at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Entry: visitors- £2, members - £1.50, includes refreshments.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 52

Spring/Summer 2017

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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.

Cover Caption "from a picture in the possession of Daniel Grant Esqre". The picture is described as a hand-coloured lithograph of Grants Tower painted and on stone by George Hayes c1850.

Website - www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Email via website

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As the Society celebrates 30 years, I decided not to review the activities over the years, as these were covered after 20 years (Issue 32 - Spring 2007),25 years (Issue 42 - Spring 2012), and in the news items in subsequent magazines. When taking over as secretary in May 2016, I was handed the minutes of all the meetings held since 1987, so I will review some of the early minutes. The inaugural meeting was on the 8th April 1987 when approximately 80 members were present. The public meetings were held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, switching to the 3rd Wednesday in 1989, where it has remained. The first speaker was Rev. Roy Carmyllie, who was introduced as the Chairman of Ramsbottom Local History Society until 1980 and a past vicar of St Andrew's Church. He advised the attendees to 'Don't sit and study, go and look and discover your heritage, but above all, enjoy what you do. The second speaker was Hugh Linney of the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society who talked about the upcoming return of steam to Ramsbottom, which was due on the 6th June 1987. The audience then split into 3 groups and talked about 'Photography as a record', 'Town Activities' and 'Historic Research'. As a result the Annual Photographic Competition started, there were plans for a stall to promote the Society's activities on the Market, and names of speakers were suggested for future meetings. The early public meetings were much more interactive, with monthly raffles to raise money, the audience splitting into groups to discuss topics, and much longer than the present meetings, often finishing after 10 p.m. In July 1987, Chris Johnson of the Village Restaurant spoke about the proposed Ramsbottom Trust (now Ramsbottom Business Group), and how they didn't want Ramsbottom to become a tourist town of cafes, take-aways, tatty souvenir shops, with litter ridden streets. He also reported that a group were interested in converting the old co-op building into a heritage centre, a space for local crafts-people to make and sell their goods and a theatre for hiring out. In the early days, the committee meetings were recorded on cassette tape, but were not kept as written minutes, whilst the public meetings minutes were kept. Today the public meetings minutes are not taken, but a summary of the talk is sent to the Bury Times and Rossendale Free Press, but the Committee Meetings are kept and are available for members to read. If a member would like a copy of the committee meeting minutes, just let me know

John Leyland - Secretary

NEWS

Lt Col A T Porritt's portrait In the last issue of the RHS magazine we reported the excellent news that the flood-damaged portrait had been fully restored and it has now been framed. The Society has arranged for it to be permanently displayed in Ramsbottom Library. Progress has also been made with our research. (see "Bunty Miller" article).

Ramsbottom Police Station, Bridge Street, has been demolished and the empty site is now looking neat and tidy. Permission has been granted for a building which will be in character with the surrounding area. The owner has retained the reproduction Victorian-style lantern which is to be displayed at the East Lancashire Railway museum.

THE SOCIETY'S INVOLVEMENT IN PROJECTS AROUND RAMSBOTTOM MARKET PLACE:

The Ramsbottom Urban District Council commemorative stone has had its faded RUDC emblem repainted. The stone was placed near the traffic lights in Market Place following local government reorganisation in 1974. The emblem is composed of a ram's head over Grants Tower, a weaving machine, a printing machine and a view over Ramsbottom of Holcombe Hill with Peel Tower – all enclosed by a blue circle.





Market Place's heritage board On 13th March local handyman Chris Mayfield installed a new Ramsbottom's Heritage information board in the Castle, Market Place. The original, provided by Bury MBC some years ago, had informed

visitors about the town's history, and illustrated with line drawings some of our more important buildings. Unfortunately, one of Ramsbottom's more modest life forms had cracked the board with its fist, and we have had to admire this damaged and graffiti-ridden survival for some years. Through the generosity of Jenny Beech, a longstanding member who left the Society a substantial legacy some years ago, we have been able to step in where a financially straitened Council could not. We have provided a rather more substantial board, with tiny amendments, and a very solid wooden frame on which to attach it.



The Society is grateful to Councillor Robert Hodkinson for kickstarting the municipal machine, Chris Wilkinson of Planning for navigating us through the complexities of amending the sign's content, and for Chris Mayfield for such a sterling job.

The telephone kiosk outside Market Chambers is not included on BT's list of call boxes for possible removal. In 2015 one of our members reported serious damage to the door and it was repaired. The Society's interest in the kiosk actually dates back to 1987 when the work done achieved its Grade I



The Society would welcome more information about Market Chambers, formerly Ramsbottom Urban District's Council Chambers from 1912 to 1970 (when a new Council Chamber was constructed at 2 – 4, Bolton Street). The building is one of Market Place's listed buildings. We published our research in Spring 2015 in RHS News Magazine 48. Briefly, it was built between 1842 and 1847 but so far we have nothing about its history until 1912 when RUDC bought it from Mrs E A Wild of Shuttleworth. We have been told that it was sometimes known as "Wilds' Buildings".

Ramsbottom's Lost Generation Part 2 1916
by Duncan Francis

A meticulously researched record of Ramsbottom's involvement in the Great War, told through the lives of those from the town who made the supreme sacrifice

NOW ON SALE

(Published by Ramsbottom Heritage Society)

This book costs £10 and is on sale at Ramsbottom Library, including on the second Sunday of the month, in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery, or direct from Duncan.

For details, please go to www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Ramsbottom War News
Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

Available in seven separate parts featuring the years 1939 to 1945
ONLY £1 each or the complete set for £5

Published by the Society using information from
The Ramsbottom Observer and our archives

On sale at Ramsbottom Library
and via the Heritage Society website.

***War News* issues 1-7 have been our most popular publications ever.**

BUNTY MILLER

In Spring 2016, a portrait by Bunty Miller of Lt Col A T Porritt was donated to Ramsbottom Heritage Society by Voith Fabrics, Stubbins Vale Mill, Ramsbottom. (It had been badly flood-damaged along the lower edge.)Because of the Colonel's important legacy to Ramsbottom, the Society has had the portrait restored and arranged for it to be permanently displayed in Ramsbottom Library.

Only part of a signature could still be seen on the portrait but Society members soon established that it was painted by Bunty Miller (1919-1989).Via the internet it was discovered that there was a biography of this artist and we were then able to contact her son, Colin, who is a sculptor. He has kindly contributed to the following article and given us permission to publish his mother's portrait.



Bunty Miller in 1949
"Portrait by Lenare"

Colin Miller was born in 1943 in Simla, the second child of his parents who were in India, where his father was in the Indian army fighting the Japanese in Burma. The family returned to England in 1947. He seemed very pleased to receive our message with a photograph of Colonel Porritt's portrait attached. Surprisingly, he actually recognised it from his childhood days. His best guess is that he saw it in his mother's studio when he came in from school to the family home at Hynings, near Kendal.Sometimes his mother stayed at the sitters' homes for a few days and the studio was where she would often work on the background to her portraits. From the age of seven Colin was at boarding school sixty miles from home which may mean that the

portrait dates from around 1950. He suggests that the sittings for the portrait could have taken place either at the studio at Hynings or possibly at the Grange Hotel, Grange-over-Sands about seven miles away. (Apparently, it was for health reasons that Colonel Porritt, as he was known in Ramsbottom, moved away to live at Yewbarrow Lodge in Grange but it was closed up after suffering terrible bomb damage during World War II. It is reported that when he died in 1956 he was resident at the Grange Hotel.)

When she was born at her grandparents' house in Rhanikhet, a hill station high in the Himalayas, Bunty was christened Suzanne. Her father was Captain Guy Pearson and his father was an army general, both serving in India.Like most children whose parents served in India, Bunty was sent to a boarding school in England along with her younger sister Pamela. In 1937, aged seventeen and a half she was a debutante being presented at court by her mother and later that year she attended a Royal garden party at Buckingham Palace. After that one glimpse of the London season she returned to India. Her biography describes a beautiful fun-loving young lady who enjoyed the privileged domestic life of the Raj with riding, swimming, tennis, parties, balls, shoots, amateur theatricals and vice-regal ceremonies during her first thirty years.

It was when she was at Mount Abu hill station ball with a party of young people that she first met James Miller who was on leave from his regiment on the North West Frontier. In 1940 their marriage took place in Jaipur and was attended by many distinguished military and diplomatic guests. The Maharajah of Jaipur lent them his lakeside lodge for their honeymoon and afterwards they drove to a shooting lodge kept for the use of the Viceroy of India.Their first year of married life started in Delhi in a home consisting of two large tents with smaller tents for their four Indian servants and they moved to other army tents or bungalows, wherever her husband was posted. A daughter, Undine, was then born so Bunty and the baby lived with her parents in Simla.

Bunty Miller had only decided to paint professionally when she was a thirty year old housewife and mother of two children. This was after her husband, as Major James Miller, had retired from the Indian Army in 1947, India's year of independence. So many soldiers were coming out of the army that it was not easy to find a job. Bunty arrived in 1948 to live in England to face domesticity and a dramatically lower standard of living than she had enjoyed as the daughter and wife of Indian Army officers in the last years of the Raj.

In 1950, having lived in a small flat near Liverpool, the family's lifestyle suddenly improved when James's company promoted him to represent Guinness in an area from Liverpool to Scotland. Their new home at Hynings was where, finally, Bunty resolved to become a professional artist.Colin remembered Hynings clearly as a big house standing next to a meadow which could be crossed to reach Levens village. Its large windows had views across to Morecambe Bay. There was a separate farmhouse which was not close. Later the family moved to Witherslack between Levens and Grange.

Encouraged by local art collector Robin Bagot, owner of Levens Hall where she enjoyed viewing a wealth of fine paintings, Bunty exhibited in Kendal Art Society's Annual Exhibition in the Town Hall in 1951. The *Lancashire Evening Post*'s critic chose her portrait *The Girl in the Green Scarf* as one of the finest paintings in the exhibition.

Bunty became a successful self-taught artist who was recognised for her wide-ranging talent: portraits, still life, fabric designs and book jackets.In the foreword to her biography, Sir Hugh Casson confirms that her favourite subjects were studies of still life and quotes her as saying, "A bowl of flowers doesn't chatter and has no relations saying 'It's lovely but there is something wrong with the jug handle.'" Her work was exhibited uninterruptedly for twenty nine years in the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition and as a non-academician her pictures always had to come before a selection committee to compete against some twelve thousand entries for less than two thousand places.

Other subjects of her portraits include the Earl Peel (a great grandson of Sir Robert Peel) painted in 1950 and Countess Peel (who wore a magnificent set of emeralds valued at over £40K. They were later stolen from a safe deposit in London, never to be seen again). For Bunty's eighty fifth birthday portrait of the Earl of Lonsdale, who lived in Lowther Castle, sittings took place after lunch. One afternoon, holding his cigar, he was soon fast asleep and she had to act quickly to save the day. It was around this time that she had a stream of commissions.

We are very lucky that Colonel Porritt commissioned such an excellent artist to paint his portrait.

References:

Jean Goodman, *With Love From Bunty* (Parke Sutton Publishing Limited 1992)
Ramsbottom Heritage Society, 2008 *Nuttall Park and the Porritt Legacy to Ramsbottom*

GRANTS TOWER AND AREA

(written anonymously around 1992)

When I was a child I lived at Hoof Farm below Grants Tower. The next door farm, only a path and a field away, was Top o' th' Hoof.I wonder if today anyone knows that the knoll on which Grants Tower stood and the small area surrounding it was the shape of a horse's hoof, hence the name of these two properties.

In my day Grants Tower was open to the public at weekends price 2d, 1d for children, to enter and go to the top of that beautiful tower.The key was kept at the Top o' th' Hoof and the Turners who lived there were in charge of it; one of the sons, Ernest, was interested in electricity and used one of the rooms at the foot of the stone steps as his den. We children were not allowed inside that room but I now presume he used batteries – then I wondered how he could make the marvellous bright light that shone in that room when all we had were oil lamps and candles.

At weekends lots of people came up to the Tower bringing their children on picnics, even though Mrs Bertha Turner did serve teas in a large wooden shed near to her home. Also there were swings and a see-saw outside the farm and, up at the Tower, lovely woodlands. My father used to tell that when he was a child in the 1800s no-one was allowed to go into the woods.Woodmen lived in the Tower and were employed to keep things in order.

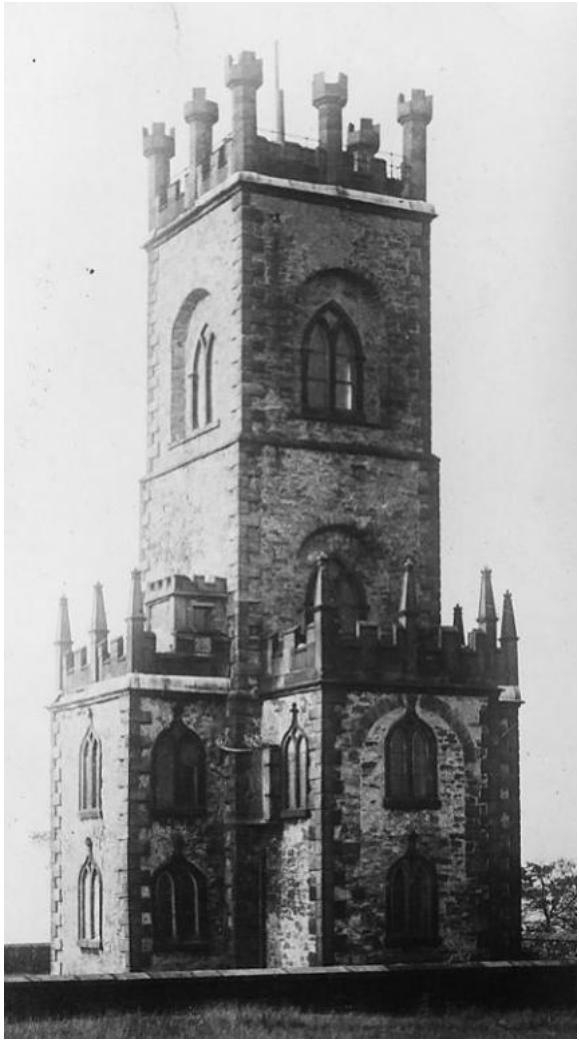
A friend of mine told me that her grandmother, who was called Nightingale, was the last child to be born in the Tower. One very stormy night when her father, who was the 'Woodman' was afraid that the Tower was unsafe, he took all his family down to Nuttall Farm, by way of Gollinrod, to his relatives who farmed there, and no-one ever lived in the Tower again.

On Good Fridays Grants Tower was open to the public and what a crowd would be there always, quite as popular as Holcombe is today. Of course people had to walk from the farms at Walmersley or up Jacob's Ladder or Bury New Road, or coming from Ramsbottom and surrounding areas. On this and other special days Mrs Turner had an old tramcar in the field above the swings and here sweets, pop and ice cream were sold. We as children were not allowed to go to the Turners on these special days as they were too busy serving teas etc.

Now I am sorry to say the lovely Tower is no more and even the footpaths and cartroads seem to have been closed by one means or another so to get to the Tower

2is not too easy.I last went up the Tower in 1940 and I think that was the last time it was considered safe for use by the public.

The demise of the woods was put down to the fumes from the then Chemical Works, certainly the beautiful woods that I knew are no more and the tower a heap of stones.



Ramsbottom Heritage Society's "Ramsbottom Reminiscences" competition was launched early in 1992 with a view to attracting memories of the town and its surroundings from the "more senior" inhabitants. The "Ramsbottom Reminiscences" booklet was published by the Society in December 1992 and was reprinted a year later. The "Grants Tower and Area"piece which we reproduce above was a competition entry, among thirteen featured in the booklet, which is unfortunately no longer available.

In 1996 there were more "Ramsbottom Reminiscences" in Volume 2. In the fore- word editor Andrew Todd invited future chroniclers to send in articles, however brief, to be included in our twice-yearly news magazines. Over the years we have been very grateful to our contributors and we are always keen to welcome items for the magazine.

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Annual Photographic competition has been running for 30 years, having been at the inaugural meeting on 8th April 1987, and this year 12 entrants entered a total of 502 photographs in 4 categories, one person entering one photograph, which won a prize, and one person entering 182. The judge was Barry Aldous who presented the awards on the evening. Barry started by describing how he had to sift the entries first into a shortlist of 10 for each category, and he had produced a slideshow of these entries which he showed to the audience. The competition winners were not necessarily the best quality photographs, but ones which reflected Ramsbottom in 2016, as all the photographs had to have been taken last year. There are now over 3,300 photographs on the Ramsbottom Heritage website which have been taken by 132 photographers.

The overall winner of the Dickensian Trophy is John Leyland for his photograph of Holcombe Hill taken on October 31st. This photo also won the Town and Country category.



The Town and Country category certificates went to Lynda Pedley for the Flying Scotsman in January in the snow and Alan Seymour for a view of the back of Holly Street and Beech Street.





Buildings winner is Ian Chapman for Nuttall Cottage – Highly Commended – Alan Seymour for a photo of scaffolding on a house in Holcombe Brook and Ian Summers for a Christmas lights shot of the old Co-op building in Edenfield.







The Events and Daily Life Highly Commended certificates went to Anne Shortt for a picture of the Flying Scotsman in January and Ian Chapman for the War Weekend. The winner is Daryll Spencer for the Flying Scotsman when it returned in October.







The Themes category (up to 5 photos on a theme). The winner is Ian Summers for 5 images of St Paul's Jigsaw Festival, with .Highly Commended certificates to Daryll Spencer for 5 photos of Grants Tower being restored and John Leyland for 4 photographs of Ramsbottom Festival. There is only enough space to show 2 photographs from each theme.













GRANTS TOWER – A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Grants Tower on the eastern hills above Manchester Road, Ramsbottom was built by Daniel and William Grant in 1829 but this fifty foot high structure has been reduced to a ruin for seventy two years.

Whilst it will not be returned to its full height as the cost and the removal of much of the stone make this impossible, we are indebted to the current owners, Gary and Fiona Buckley, for undertaking work to reveal and stabilise what is left of the tower. Gary has dug away a huge pile of earth and stones from in front of the tower and cleared out the main ground floor room, where original flag floors, a fireplace and a staircase up to the first floor were found. Amongst the stones lying around the building he found enough suitably carved stones to recreate the lancet window to the right of the front door. The intention was not to rebuild the tower as too many stones have been removed over the years and it would be far too expensive. However Gary has rebuilt small sections of wall, just to stabilise parts of the original that were in danger of further collapse. Gary, a roofing contractor, has chosen to put a transparent roof over the central room to protect it.

There had been previous plans to look after the tower during the last 100 years. In 1914, after its first 85 years, it was still standing but considerable deterioration had taken place and a restoration fund had been set up. Unfortunately, two world wars prevented any progress. In 1943 Ramsbottom Urban District Council approached owner Sir Peter Grant Lawson with a view to taking over the tower and restoring it. The matter was left to be settled after World War II ended. However this opportunity was lost because the tower suddenly collapsed the following year on 21st September 1944.

GRANTS TOWER (Manchester Guardian 22.9.44)
Famous Landmark Collapses

Grant's Tower, moorland landmark between Bury and Ramsbottom, which for the past two years had been closed to the public, collapsed yesterday afternoon.

The tower was erected in 1829 to commemorate the first visit to Ramsbottom of the Grant family, one of its industrial founders. The Grant Brothers, the originals of Dickens's Cheeryble Brothers in

"Nicholas Nickleby", were supposed to have halted on the site of the tower when they came to the district for the first time.

Mr William Rothwell, a Walmersley farmer, (*of Bent House Farm – Editor*) was resting a hundred yards away on his way home when he saw the tower topple and fall with a great crash. "The whole tower collapsed into the courtyard, and huge clouds of dust poured down the hillside into the valley," he said, "I was the only person around at the time and no one was injured."

In the early days of the war the Home Guard had a post in the tower, which was closed by Ramsbottom Council in September 1942, until repairs could be carried out.

In 2006 there was concern in Ramsbottom following the news that the then owner of Top o' th' Hoof Farm, which includes the tower was removing stone, from Grants Tower. Tony Murphy, then Chairman of Ramsbottom Heritage Society, approached the owner who promised not to take any more. The *Rossendale Free Press* carried the story on 10th February 2006:

Derelict tower 'part of heritage'
Ramsbottom councillors are hoping a derelict monument to one of the town's founding fathers will be turned into a heritage site similar to Peel Tower.

Grants Tower, which was built in the 19th century and is located behind Manchester Road, has been in a state of disrepair for decades.

In recent weeks, Bury Council has been investigating the site following a report that a significant amount of its stonework had been taken.

A letter was sent from the Council to the owner of the tower to inform him of the possibility that the tower was an historic monument and that the stones were being taken without permission.

The incident has prompted the council to apply to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and English Heritage for listed status for the tower…… Mr Murphy said,

"It's important as one of the town's original developments and the society would like to see it properly preserved, and ideally, rebuilt."

(More recently The Grants Tower Restoration Group – have started a petition to restore Grants Tower. On their web page they, say, "We believe that this important piece of Ramsbottom's history deserves to be restored to its former glory.")

Luckily, after buying Top O' Th' Hoof Farm, Gary and Fiona Buckley became intrigued by the ruin on their land and after investigating its history decided to do what they could to renovate it. It is thanks to them that Grants Tower will continue to commemorate the spot where in 1783, the Grant family first looked over the Irwell Valley after travelling from Scotland, and decided that one day they would return to Ramsbottom to create their textile empire.



2013



2017



C 1944

PORRITT & SPENCER'S WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Regular readers of our news magazines will remember that this memorial was erected in appreciation of those employees of Stubbins Vale Mills, known as "Porritt's", who served in World War I. In recent years the plaque was stored in the cellar of the remaining large mill building which now belongs to Voith Fabrics. It seems that it had been moved from its original position, believed to be on the wall inside the mills' gatehouse, which is on the other part of the site now occupied by TNT (Thomas Nationwide Transportation). The plaque was donated to the Society in 2016 and we are seeking funding to restore it so that it can be put on permanent display.

On the basis of information and photographs we submitted with our pre-application, the potential funder advised that our project to restore the wooden memorial might be eligible for a grant. Demand for grants is high but we are hoping our full application will be successful. The list of names on the plaque is a Roll of Honour, which means that we can hope that many of those on it survived the war, as did **A T Porritt** himself.

R S QUINLAN

Sadly, research by Duncan Francis for his books (see our advert *Ramsbottom's Lost Generation)* has established that **R S Quinlan,** who is named on the Roll of Honour, did not survive the war.

Slightly different versions of the man's name have also been found:

War records have Private **Richards Quinlan** who was killed in action on 19th July 1915. He was born and lived in Ramsbottom and served in the 2/5 Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

St Paul's Church memorial plaque, which is at the base of pulpit, bears the following inscription:

"This pulpit was erected in 1920 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of the men from St Paul's Church and Schools who laid down their lives in the Great War 1914 –19" and lists twenty four names including **Richard S Quinland.**

The 1911 Census has **Richard Smith Quinlan** aged 21, who had been born in Ramsbottom, was single man boarding at 10, Dale Street, Stubbins. His occupation is given as a presser in a cotton manufacturing warehouse.

B. WILD



PTE. BENJAMIN WILD,
5, The Park, Stubbins.

Lancashire Fusilier Private **Benjamin Wild** (reg no 30043) of 3, The Park, Chatterton, Stubbins joined up in May 1917. He went to France in September 1917 and was wounded in April 1918. A press report of 3rd May places him in hospital in France and states that he had been employed at Messrs Porritt Bros mill, Stubbins. Although it had been decided that his injuries were "not sufficiently serious to permit of his coming home", he died on 6th September aged 27 years. (*Ramsbottom Observer* 3/5/1918 and 4/10/1918)

The 1911 census has a **Benjamin Wild**, born in Ramsbottom, as a lodger with the Fraris family on Chatterton Lane.Earlier censuses suggest that he was staying in Ramsbottom itself: in 1891 Benjamin Wild aged 3 months was with his aunt's family at 83, Gutter and in 1901 he was with the same family but at 55 Back Ramsbottom Lane.

A. DUCKWORTH

"Official news from Berlin" reported the death of Private **Albert Duckworth**, Farm Cottage, Stubbins. He was employed as a warper at Stubbins Vale Mill before enlisting in the Lancashire Fusiliers in January 1917.Later he transferred to the Motor Trench Battalion and was wounded and taken prisoner between 21st and 29th March in the big push. On 2nd April he died of his wounds in a military hospital at Brieg which is on the Russian frontier about 600 miles away. (*Ramsbottom Observer* 6/9/1918)

INCOMPLETE RESEARCH

D GREENWOOD

"Pte David Greenwood, Lancashire Fusiliers, son of Mr and Mrs David Greenwood of 2, Peel Street, Ramsbottom, has been wounded and gassed.Pte Greenwood worked at Porritt & Spencer Ltd., Stubbins." (Ramsbottom Observer end 1917 eg November)

There are also War Records which need further investigation.They show a David Greenwood, Lancashire Fusiliers, Labour Corps Regiment Nos 14897 and 589763 was awarded the Victory Medal.

Also, in the Ramsbottom Observer (28/6/1918) is the following report:

"Bombardier J Lomas RFA, 8, Mint Street, Chatterton has been gassed and shell-poisoned and is in the 2nd Australian General Hospital, Boulogne, France. He was formerly employed at Porritt's." Again, more information is needed.

WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING PORRITT & SPENCER EMPLOYEES WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE PLAQUE.

J Ashton	J H Ashton	F Bentley	J Brennand
R Clegg	T Crabtree	T C Crawshaw	G Crook
J Day	E Diggle	A Duckworth	G A Duckworth
J W Duckworth	J Eland	J Facitt	C W Foote
D Greenwood	A Hargreaves	E Hargreaves	J Hawkins
R Hawkins	H Haworth	H Heyworth	J Holden
G H Horrocks	H Horrocks	J Horrocks	S Horrocks
S Howson	T Hoyle	A Hutchinson	J A Hutchinson
E Lomax	J Lomax	H Moore	G D Pearson
S Platt	A T Porritt	R S Quinlan	H Rushton
J Rushton	S Savage	T Savage	R Schofield
H E Scott	S Sergenson	A Smith	H Smith
W Smith	B Starkie	W Turner	J A Wade
A Warwick	F Westwell	B Wild	H Wolstenholme
Ellen Hartley			

MEMORIES OF RAMSBOTTOM'S PICTURE PALACES

George Ashworth (1902 – 1994) was a well-known local figure, working for the Ramsbottom Industrial and Provident Society from April 1916 and eventually becoming its secretary until he retired in 1967. He was one of our Society's earliest reminiscencers, committing his memories of our town to paper in a series of episodes. These were placed in various local history collections and we have recently uncovered the following item in the Society's own archive which is stored in state-of-the-art conditions at Bury.

At the time of writing, in 1989, Mr Ashworth had retired to Grange-over- Sands where he recalls some of the entertainment on offer about a century ago - the Ramsbottom 'scene'.

Listening to my taped version of the hymn "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord" by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir I was reminded of an event, many, many years ago when I was a young boy. (I shall just have to make a guess as to which year it was so I will say that it must have been between 1912 and 1915 when I was aged 10 to 13.) It was the very first time I saw "pictures" screened in a public hall. There was an admission fee but I cannot remember how much we had to pay, nor can I remember whether anyone else had gone along with me. The hymn was being projected, verse by verse on to a white screen in Ramsbottom Liberal Club. Many people attended the event which greatly impressed me and, I believe, the others in the audience. The hymn has always been a great favourite of mine since that time. I have no idea what kind of machine was used or what sort of power was used to light it.

Previously I had only seen the magic lantern, as it was called, in the Sunday School. Its slides were made of glass and the coloured ones must have been hand-painted. In the early days magic lanterns had oil lamps but later on the lights used were carbide (also known as acetylene and used for lights on cycles).

In 1910, the Blakeborough family built the Empire Picture Palace near to Ramsbottom railway station on Railway Street. I remember this building, known as the "pictures", being in use before the end of the First World War. In the early days the "films" consisted of stills and only black and white but before long they showed movement. Going to the pictures was very popular – people had nowhere else to go for this kind of entertainment. On Saturday afternoons there had to be special shows for a few coppers for children only. The great attraction was the

exciting music played by Charlie Heys to accompany the pictures on the screen. Many of the showings ended on a thrilling scene and "to be continued next week" and the story carried on week by week. The Empire was also the largest place for all kinds of meetings and was soon in great demand. It was used by Ramsbottom Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society for stage plays, Gilbert and Sullivan, opera and similar types of show. From 1928 I took part in many of these shows. The amount of room backstage was very limited and the stagewas narrow as the building was for showing films. Several years after the Empire was built a second picture palace was built just off Bolton Street in Smithy Street. Previously the site had been occupied by A B Duckworth's funeral services. (I remember Mr Duckworth had some very smart "turn-outs" with black horses with long black tails.) The family continued to own and run the Royal. As time passed the type and quality of the films greatly improved. Along came "talkies" and then the "all colour" films and a new breed of people "film stars" came into being. The shows were changed halfway through the week. These early cinemas were having a high time and were well-supported. We had some wonderful films like "The Sound of Music" but after colour television came into being audiences gradually dwindled. Eventually Ramsbottom lost both of its picture palaces, as did many other towns. Later there was a fire at the Empire and it became a pile of stones. The Royal still stands and it has been used for various purposes over the years including a snooker hall and a club.

More of George Ashworth's memories are available on www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk (Follow link to Magazines). The articles are:

My Operation for Appendicitis, 1919 Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 18, Spring 1999

Memories of Ramsbottom Central Co-op Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 21, Spring 2001

Mr Ashworth's article, *Memories of the Zeppelin Attack on Holcombe and Ramsbottom,* appears on page 20 of Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 42 Spring 2014. This issue has not yet been put online but a few copies are still on sale (12 noon to 3 p.m., 2nd Sunday in the month at the Heritage Gallery).

(Ramsbottom is rightly proud of its Theatre Royal, home of the Summerseat Players. Their theatre is the original Royal picture palace, now transformed and extended into a very superior venue for the Players' widely acclaimed live performances. – Editor)

REAL2REEL CINEMA AT THE "ROYAL"

About 2010 cinema returned to the (Theatre) Royal when the Summerseat Players began to host Real2Reel Cinema's monthly showings with six films a season. The R2R team's film choice was based on whether the films sounded interesting and were well made. Unfortunately the last ever Real 2 Reel showing took place on Wednesday 25th January 2017 when "friends, supporters and even those who'd never attended before" were invited to take advantage of free tickets for the send off.

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached: **Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG** email: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30 p.m. (weekdays):

Tuesday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Wednesday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Friday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

2nd Saturday of the month 10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents. Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Our catalogues are online at **http;//archives.bury.gov.uk** as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries we charge £15.00

hour. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR: **information@bury.gov.uk** or tel **0161 253 7047** 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers including the Bury Times from 1855 to date, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at **http://library.bury.gov.uk** - follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'.
Free access to the *Ancestry* databases is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; Membership entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. Also one branch in London. More information is available on **www.lfhhs.org.uk.**

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE tel **0161 253 5352**
email: **Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk**
The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and 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 news cuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available.Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and advice is available at other times by appointment.

DANGER,

DEATH &

DISEASE

in Ramsbottom mills

****

Textile Mills could be dangerous places to work

****

Exciting Exhibition

****

Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library

During library opening hours & 2nd Sunday of the month 12-3pm

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
WALKS PROGRAMME 2017

Guided circular walks held on the third Sunday of the month, see individual walks for the start times. The walks are led by volunteers with a particular interest in and knowledge of Ramsbottom and district, and are taken at a leisurely pace and are suitable for reasonably fit adults and children, dogs welcome. Sensible footwear and waterproof clothing is recommended. Please note that paths may be uneven. Be prepared for sun, rain or cold weather.

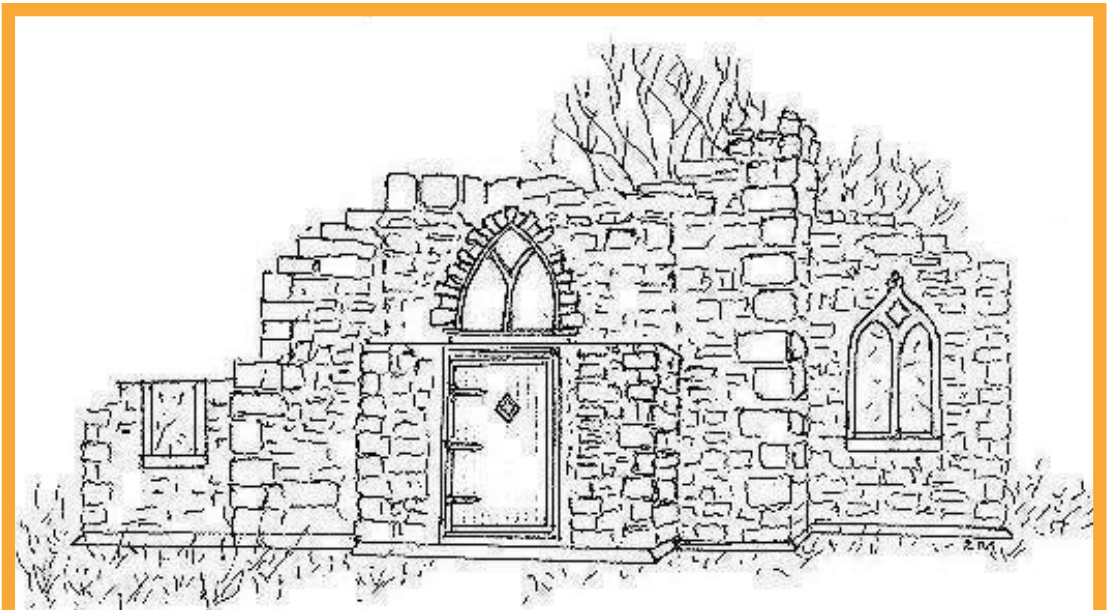
All walks start at 2 p.m. and will finish between 4 and 4.30 p.m.

Sunday May 21st	An Historical Saunter around the Centre o Ramsbottom. Learn about the development and changing face of Ramsbottom. Leader Andrew Todd, local historian. Very informative and entertaining. Meet outside the Grant Arms, Market Place, Ramsbottom.
Sunday June 18th	No walk due to lack of volunteers to lead
Sunday July 16th	Village link walk via Nangreaves and Grants Tower ruin. 2 mile walk via Mount Pleasant 'factory village' and remains of Grants Tower, ending at Park Farm. Lift back to start or circular walk. Leaders Barbara & Jon Williams . Meet at the Junction of Rowlands Road and Walmersley Road, Bury.
Sunday August 20th	Ramsbottom Mill, The largest in the Irwel Valley, Guided Walk by Kate Slingsby.An in depth historical walk looking at the history of the earliest mill in Ramsbottom built in 1802. Mee outside Ramsbottom Railway Station.
Sunday September 17th	2-3 miles Village link walk Greenmount to Walshaw. Country walk using part of Kirklees trail looking at the heritage of railway and mills. Lift back to start available . Leader Barbara & Jon Williams. Meet at Greenmount Old School, Brandlesholme Road, Greenmount.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

No 53 Autumn/ Winter 2017 ISSN 0960 - 1244

NEWS MAGAZINE



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

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 2018

Wednesday January 17th	**Dr Paul Hindle**, well known historical geographer returns to present an illustrated talk on Turnpikes and Maps in Lancashire.
Wednesday February 21st	**Alex Fisher** presents a fascinating talk on the social history of Clog Dance illustrated with performances and some memorabilia.
Wednesday March 21st	31st Annual Photographic competition followed by a presentation by **Andrew Todd**
Wednesday April 18th	**Veronica Walker** returns to give a talk on 'Dickens - Fallen Women?' The way Dickens deals with the subject in his novels and the part he played in setting up a house with the help of the heiress Angela Coutts to help such girls/women.
Wednesday May 16th	**AGM and Member's night**. Includes presentations by the various groups highlighting the actitivies within the Society in the last 12 months
Wednesday June 20th	**Dr. Clive Barrett**, presents an illustrated talk on Conscientious objectors in WWI. He is Chair of Trustees at the Peace Museum, Bradford.

meetings are held in the Holcombe Room at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Entry: visitors- £2, members - £1.50, includes refreshments.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 53

Autumn/Winter 2017

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Cover Caption – a 2017 drawing by Zena Middleton showing the owner's design for stabilising and improving Grants Tower. This work on the ruin is nearly complete.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last magazine was published, the committee have held 2 meetings, one in May and one in September. The meeting in May was held a week after the Annual General Meeting, and there was discussion about why the A.G.M. is the least attended meeting of the year. It was felt that the presentations of the various groups within the Heritage Society should continue (2 are reproduced in this magazine) and the last minute idea to play an extract of a recording from the Oral Taping project was good, and if it had been advertised, more people may have come. Perhaps if readers of this article could reply with ideas for how the May meeting could be made more attractive, contact me via the contact details on the inside cover. The committee also approved a request from the secretary to send out A.G.M. notices by email where the member has given their details. At present this is half of the membership, so if you are unsure whether you are on the list or you would like to receive communications by email rather than letter, contact me.

The September meeting included a review of the 2 summer visits to the Greater Manchester Police Museum and Smithill's Old Hall. On each occasion, only seven people visited, and again, we welcome your feedback on why members don't engage with these visits.

Barbara Williams, who has organised the talks and visits for the last 5 years has decided that she is standing down as the Programme Secretary, so we need a replacement to organise the monthly meetings as soon as possible, as the programme can take a year to organise. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please contact Barbara or any member of the committee. I would like to thank Barbara for organising the varied talks each year, and although some don't seem particularly appealing from the brief synopsis of the talk, all of the talks have had something of interest, and as the person who produces the monthly reports for the Bury Times and Rossendale Free Press, I often have to research on the internet the brief notes that I take to ensure I have the correct details, which enriches my knowledge of the subject. This year, I have particularly enjoyed "The Artisan Naturalists of Prestwich" and 'Moses Holden - self-taught genius', which introduced me to people I hadn't come across before.

John Leyland - Secretary

NEWS

The Ramsbottom War Memorial Project has now raised over £45K towards a target of £50K and the project team thank all who have supported the project so far. They are.now at the stage of inviting the public and schools for design suggestions for the new memorial. The closing date for the design suggestions is Monday 8th January 2018 and a design brief can be found on www.ramsbottomwarmemorialproject.co.uk along with more details about this local community project. The website also has information about the five hundred fallen personnel from World War I and World War II who lived in Ramsbottom and the surrounding villages. Their names will go on the new memorial and there will be space for any future names.

Lt Col A T Porritt's portrait is now on permanent display in the Heritage Gallery at Ramsbottom Library. He is shown wearing what we have been told is full dress uniform, dismounted (worn for ceremonies only). The style of this uniform did not really change from the Boer War until the 1960s.Even now some band members can wear this type of uniform on parade on special occasions.

The Natwest Bank, 15 & 17 Bridge Street, Ramsbottom closed on 2nd October 2017. Originally the premises was a grocer's shop run by Squire Haworth and his wife Ellen. In 1871 she is listed as a widow but still trading as a grocer until the early 1880s when John Castle was running the shop. By 1888 John Keenaghan, wine merchant, ran his business there. By 1900 the building was a branch of the Manchester & Liverpool District Banking Co. Ltd which merged with County Bank in 1935. After another



Photograph by Ian Smith (October 2017)

merger the following year it became a branch of the District Bank Ltd which then merged with Westminster Bank Ltd and National Provincial Bank Ltd on 1st January 1970. This business, in turn, was taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland in 1999 but still traded separately under the NatWest name.



"The Summerseat Players at the Theatre Royal" is the title of a brand new booklet published for the players' 50th anniversary in 2018 by the Summerseat Players Ltd (registered charity: 1000931).The booklet has been researched, written, edited, typed and designed by members of the players using a very wide range of source material. It describes the journey of their organisation from a discussion fifty years ago to the present day.A s players, they now have a reputation second to none and also do a great deal for the community. The booklet has ninety eight A 4 size pages, which are presented in a most professional and attractive format, and the cost is only £5. The theatre group hope that readers of the booklet get as much enjoyment from reading it as they have had from putting it together. We wish them all the best for the next fifty years.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

On Saturday 13th May at Ramsbottom Civic Hall the Society held an open day to celebrate its 30th anniversary. In the main hall the Society had put together various stalls and displays and numerous books and Ramsbottom memorabilia were on sale. People could join and take away details of its forthcoming monthly meetings, summer outings and walks. The Holcombe Moor Heritage Group and Edenfield Local History Society had been invited and their exhibitions focussed on the work they did in their areas.

In pride of place on the stage the general public were able to view for the very first time the Society's newly restored portrait of Lieutenant Colonel A T Porritt in his red military uniform. Visitors could learn about the portrait's artist and the Porritt legacy to Ramsbottom. The Colonel helped to found the Ramsbottom Branch of the Royal British Legion and alongside his portrait stood the



Ramsbottom War Memorial Project's display stand. The project is nearing the target of raising £50,000.(Readers can find out more in the news section of this magazine.) Hopefully, in 2018/19, the new memorial showing the names of Ramsbottom soldiers who lost their lives in both the 1st and 2nd World Wars will be erected in St Paul's Gardens. (The old memorial, with no names, has been there since 1947. It will be removed and placed at the entrance to Ramsbottom Cemetery.).



The Society's committee members had asked for help with a photographic exhibition and, after quite a lengthy phone call with John Leyland about the Society's collections, I managed to talk myself into doing a *Ramsbottom Now and Then* display featuring 1987 and recent photos. I trawled through thousands of my own photos and looked at my mother's collection and then we decided I would concentrate on the Bolton Road West and Dundee Lane area. It sits on the very edge of the town and is often forgotten by photographers. I was able to show how the area has been developed immensely over the last thirty years with the new build of the Whittingham Drive estate and the redevelopment of the BDA site (before the mill was demolished and now is the new Lansdowne Close housing estate).



I also chose photos of Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital, when it was still in use and whilst it was being demolished. I was lucky with the demolition photos as my uncle, Allan Chapman, lives directly across from the site and gave me copies of pictures he had taken. (He has since donated them to the Society's photo archive and they will be on the website.) There were also the ones I took when the new time capsule was being placed next to the hospital's pediment on Nuttall Lane.Part of the exhibition featured the Old Dunn Horse (now flats) as I remember many a good night there. Finally, there was another set of photos of the Bolton Road West/Nuttall Lane junction including Barcroft's butchers as the laundrette and the original houses which are still there.



OSBY Laundrette
opened May 1969
1 Bolton Road West





On the day, members arrived early to set up and the Holcombe Room, where there was a display of old maps with one showing details of the town's conservation area boundary, was made ready for the film show. To begin with Mum (Betty Chapman) had been asked to help with the tea and biscuits but well before the event she had been head hunted by Ramsbottom British Legion for their stall. I think she was the busiest person that day as her knowledge of Ramsbottom was in great demand by helpers and visitors alike.

People came from far and wide and the day was a great success. Visitors even included people from Australia and Canada who were fascinated by the history of our town and couldn't believe how much its Heritage Society has done. A



visitor's book would have made fascinating reading. At one stage there were eight of the Chapman family at the event, old and young, either helping or visiting. We met people who we hadn't seen for many a year so a lot of catching up was done. My mother even met a lady who knew her from the 1940s and they have since been in touch. There are too many to name individually but we would like to thank all the members and volunteers of Ramsbottom Heritage Society for all their hard work in making the day so very successful.We certainly enjoyed helping and taking part.

Ian and Betty Chapman (née Barcroft)

REPORT FROM THE ARCHIVE TEAM

After the problems last year thankfully Bury Archives' staffing improved and they were able to accept items again from us towards the end of 2016. Indeed we did manage to put a box of documents into the system last autumn but after that our year has been dominated by two things.

The archive catalogue at Bury could not be accessed by the public via the internet. People had to go to the Archives and ask the staff to do it for them. This meant we have been unable to look things up ourselves or find correct numbers for new items – so have had to stop our own archiving.

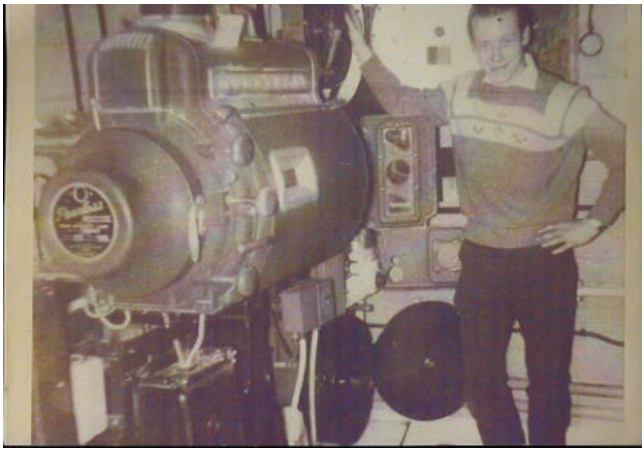
We did however manage to get one catalogue number so we could proceed with a very big job - Cataloguing all the receipts from Greenwood Butchers of Bridge Street for the years 1914 to 1918 approximately. There were nearly 1000 of them

– 962 to be precise. And not only were they numerous but very fragile and very very dirty. Andrew Todd had had them for some time – and wrote a couple of articles about them back in 1992. Andrew helped Brenda to get them vaguely into 13 categories and then it was left to Kathleen Husband, Anne Shortt and me to finish the job of describing them and putting them into order in envelopes and folders. It was an enormous project and took months BUT it was interesting to see the busy life of a butcher in those days. He bought cattle and pigs not only from cattle marts and farmers but also from local individuals who seem to rear one or two cattle or pigs each year. He then slaughtered them himself, and sold the meat in his shop and to schools etc. Notably no chicken were bought or sold in those days. He used horses and carts and the railway for transportation but also owned a car. He advertised his shop on a curtain in the local cinema- The 'Empire' on Railway Street. He was obviously a very successful man and meticulous in keeping receipts but unfortunately not in an orderly fashion.

For Kathleen and Anne who joined the team this year it has been a baptism of fire! And all credit to them for not resigning!! Hopefully next year will be easier. As ever we would welcome anyone who would like to join our group.

(Editors note: The articles mentioned about Greenwood Butchers appear in issues 5 and 6 of the News Magazine, which are available on the website)

These photos of a projector and charabanc are with the Archive Team who would welcome any information about them.







Brenda Richards

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONSERVATION GROUP'S ACTIVITIES 2016-17

Meetings were held monthly at the Shoulder of Mutton, Holcombe. The group checked out and discussed forty three planning applications covering a variety of proposals from a new illuminated sign outside Aldi to sixteen additional wind turbines for the Scout Moor Wind Farm (which would have made it the country's largest onshore wind farm). Our work with a coalition of different groups opposing the wind farm expansion included speaking at the public enquiry.

Again on the planning front, the bigger developments we commented on (not always negatively) were:

1. the proposal to build 22 new homes in Redisher Woods – our concern was that the existing footpaths and access should be maintained

2. the inappropriate design in the first application for a new house for Scotland Place, Ramsbottom

3. the demolition of the whole of Croft End Mill, Stubbins - as we were hoping to salvage the original mill as part of the overall development

4. the inappropriate plans to convert two outbuildings at Lower Dickfield into houses

5. the renovation of Higher House, Holcombe and the partial rebuilding of Grants Tower – each of which we supported

6. the preservation of the remaining part of the paper mill chimney

7. the development of nine new houses on green belt land at Eccles Street, Ramsbottom and an application to Rossendale Council for the demolition of Victoria Wood's childhood home (just over the Bury boundary overlooking Walmersley Golf Course) were both opposed

There were extensive discussions about Phase 1 of the Greater Manchester Spatial Plan especially after our opinions were sought. A response was submitted which reflected the group's support for the many provisions the plan makes and also the feeling that it should include other provisions for establishing and protecting conservation areas and for the protection of the existing bio-diversity of wildlife.

Our campaign to achieve protection orders for more of Ramsbottom's trees has now begun. Interesting information about the Council's existing tree protection orders is available on the Bury Council website www.bury.gov.uk . At the bottom of the website's home page there is "A to Z of services" where clicking T allows "Tree Protection" to be chosen. That page links to "View Tree Protection Orders on a Map". The map is interactive and can also be used for other searches eg green belt areas. Elsewhere on the site are detailed government guidelines about tree protection and advice on obtaining new tree protection orders.

The conservation group's campaign may take time but as someone famously said, "I can eat an elephant if I take small bites."

John Ireland

MYSTERIOUS MARKINGS AT MILLER STREET, SUMMERSEAT

In the 40 years that I have lived in Ramsbottom I have probably walked along Miller Street, Summerseat, 100 or more times. The beautifully maintained 1855 back-to-back stone terrace always holds the attention. Perhaps this is why I have only recently spotted the intriguing carvings on two of the gateposts that mark its boundaries.



Miller Street, Summerseat, with matching gateposts at its north end. Note loss of top from left-hand post

Numbers 1 to 29 of the Miller Street terrace face west,immediately adjacent to the East Lancashire Railway, and are clearly visible from its trains. These 15 houses have a continuous row of front gardens, with a raised footpath lying to the front.

This path is boundaried at the street line by a dry stone wall of indeterminate age

There are two matching gateposts of local sandstone standing at the north end of this wall, and identical matching gateposts at the south end, four in all. It seems certain that all four gateposts were quarried and carved at the same time, although their age suggests that they originally belonged at a different site. Three of the four retain matching tops of some quality, of the type seen only embellishing the property of the wealthy.

Carved into two faces of the south-western and into to the one of the south-eastern posts are crude representations of stone houses. At least one inhabitant that I spoke to is aware of the markings, but they have never been described in print to the best of my knowledge and I suspect that they are unknown to the majority of people living in the village.

They are very clearly of the early modern period, possibly dating back as far as the late 16th or early 17th Century. One of the four posts, the north-easterly one, has been damaged, its top being removed. The south-east post has had a wooden hinge post attached over its carving. Clearly the age and significance of these remarkable markings are not appreciated, so it is as well that the terrace has been included in the recently created Brooksbottom Conservation Area.



Matching gateposts at the south end of the Miller Street terrace, with crude carvings of houses facing the camera. Note how one has been obscured by the attachment of a wooden gate hinge post

The four gateposts are clearly several hundred years old, and represent a contemporary set. Two of them carry markings of houses executed in a fashion commonly used on 16th/18th Century surveys and maps, without proper perspective. They immediately reminded me of Lord Burghley's famous map of Lancashire, drawn up as a cartographic *aide memoir*e in Elizabeth I's surveillance of the county's Catholic gentry.







Carved representations of a house from the distant past. Above: the south and east faces of the south-westerly gatepost. Note the two chimneys, and therefore two hearths, of the house. Clearly this carving represents the home of a person of wealth and status

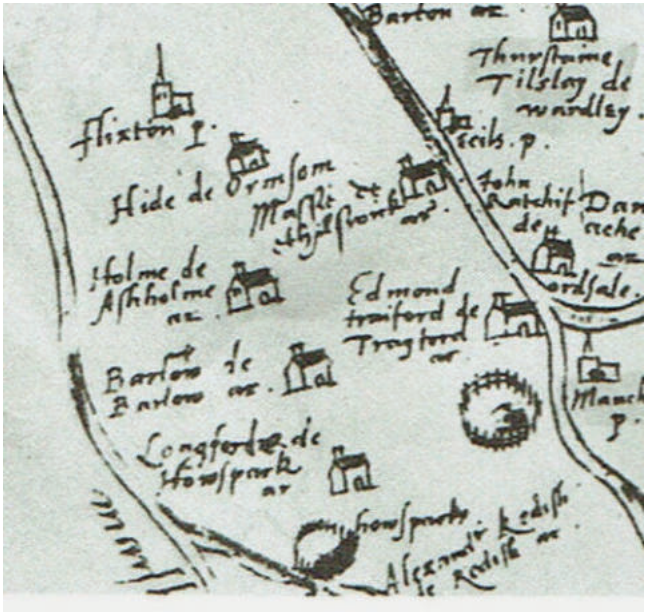
Left: damaged face of the south-easterly gatepost.

The significance of the markings is unclear. Ornate gateposts have historically been an advertisement for the status of the family living at the end of the entrance drive. They are also typically highly individualistic, which may explain why these carved examples are so unusual. The Miller Street posts have almost certainly been imported from some nearby, probably lost site. An auction of part of Lower Summerseat estate, advertised in the *Manchester Mercury* of 17th October 1786, and cited by Jean Price in her *Manufactory, Methodism and the Making of a Village Summerseat 1700-1988* (Neil Richardson, 1989) refers to 'substantial and genteel' buildings in the area, any one of which could have been the origin of the gateposts. Perhaps they demarcated an estate.

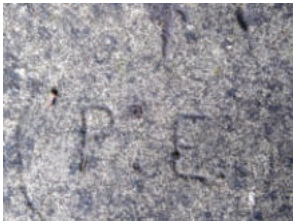


Markings on the top of the south-westerly post. Their similarity to those on the actual shaft strongly suggests that post and shaft have been together probably from the time of them being originally dressed after quarrying

The Manchester portion of Lord Burghley's Map of Lancashire, west upwards. Drawn up in the late 16th Century, The rough plan records the relative location of churches and the houses of the local gentry. The latter are marked with a coded indication of the religious inclinations of their owners. The original is in the British Library. The representations of the various houses and churches are in the same style as that used on the Miller Street gatepost



There are further markings, mostly letters, on the dry stone wall which runs in front of the 15 houses, between the street and the communal path. Whilst some may be contemporary with the house drawings, others are almost certainly later. Many are very faint and might repay careful attention.







Further Miller Street markings. Left to right: on the wall outside number 29; outside number 17; and opposite the fence between numbers 13 and 15



The initials LT are inscribed on the wall outside number 17. This is almost certainly a mason's marks, but its age is unknown

Sometimes I wonder if forces are at work beyond our comprehension. As I was preparing this item for publication, I heard a news item about ritual protective markings. Cannily timed to coincide with Hallowe'en, Historic England had issued a press release inviting householders to record and report witch marks on their property. Not to be confused with the body marks used by persecutors to identify their victims, these mysterious symbols were typically carved around windows, chimneys and doorways, through which evil spirits were popularly believed to enter buildings. From the mid-16th to the mid-18th Centuries, with a peak in the 17th, their patterns have included flower designs made with compasses and dividers

(hexafoils), pentangles, intertwined Vs and Ms for the Virgin Mary, and tangles of lines designed to confuse any spirits attempting to follow them.. spirits attempting to follow them. The vernacular architectural historian Timothy Easton has christened these obscure carvings 'apotropaic marks' from the Greek 'avoiding evil'. Is it possible that the Miller Street carvings are an as yet unrecognised variation on this folk theme?

A popular introduction to this topic can be found in Jennie Lee Cobban's book *The Lure of the Lancashire Witches* (Palatine books, 2011) notably in Chapter 3. Our County Palatine has been a cultural backwater until relatively recent times. Indeed, there is evidence even into the last century of the survival of beliefs in the potency of malignant supernatural forces. (An acquaintance of mine in his 90s told me recently of a parental stricture recounted to him by someone brought up in the early 1900s in Pendleton, in the Ribble Valley, that she should not play out on a particular morning because it was a 'Witch Saturday'.) Cobban relates how belief in the protective qualities of stone, in various guises, was widespread in the early modern period. A carving on a gatepost, the entry point to a property, could well have been seen as an effective guard against witchcraft.

Historic England, the successor since 2015 to English Heritage, is responsible for the protection and preservation of the historical environment of the country. Part of its remit is to register any building of historical interest as worthy of protection, a process called listing, and any member of the public can use its website- *https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list* - to recommend such a building, without the knowledge or consent of its owner. I succeeded in obtaining listed status for St Andrew's Church when I thought that a particularly ambitious modernisation scheme endangered some of the historic features. (The incumbent was not best pleased, but his annoyance was tempered by the fact that his church's new status exempted it from VAT on the alterations that he could get passed!) I have submitted an application for the listing of the Miller Street gateposts, and perhaps the wall will be included. It may be fanciful to assume that these carvings are displaced apotropaia, but if they are more prosaically examples of property demarcation, their uniqueness surely demands that they receive as much protection as can be afforded.

Andrew Todd, November 2016

Update on the application to Historic England for the listing of the gateposts on Miller Street

The application for the gateposts to be added to the National Heritage list has now been considered and Historic England's Listing Team North has responded saying,

"Unfortunately, the current circumstances of these gateposts do not fall into any of the three categories used by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to prioritise designation resources on those sites that are most in need of protection. Those categories are:

1. *Threat: any candidate for designation demonstrably under serious threat of demolition or major alteration*
2. *Strategic Priority: any candidate for designation of a type that is a strategic designation priority under the Historic England Action Plan, Historic England's programme of strategic work. You can find a list of this year's projects on our website.*
3. *Evident Significance: any building or site that possesses evident signif- icance that make it obviously worthy of inclusion on the National Her- itage List for England.*

We are sorry if this is a disappointing response."

THE LANCASHIRE LEAGUE LINKS WITH THE RHS

The Lancashire Cricket League is seeking grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a very extensive project to be called "The Lancashire League Experience: Celebrating 125 Years of the Lancashire Cricket League"

The League, which has existed since 1892, has approached the RHS for documents and photographs suitable to celebrate and preserve the League's heritage. The RHS is very willing indeed to use our extensive archive for this purpose. Other local heritage and related group are also being asked for support for this project.

However, the RHS may have a special role. There will be a major exhibition at a central location in 2019, which will then be split into more local areas in 2020. It is hoped and expected that the Heritage Gallery in Ramsbottom Library will be used to host one of these smaller exhibitions. Our purpose built gallery with its strengthened glass cabinets, security locks and ultraviolet light protection would be ideal. Since the number of staff at Bury Art Museum was cut a few years ago, the Ramsbottom Heritage Society has chosen the topics, researched and installed each of the exhibitions and would be delighted to have involvement with this project.

The Lancashire League has produced players such as England's all-time leading wicket taker James Anderson, Graeme Fowler and David Lloyd. The league has also forged global links with our local towns, through the many world-class professionals who have played here over the years. They include Shane Warne, Viv Richards, Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Dennis Lillee, Bobby Simpson, Michael Clarke, Ian Chappell, Wes Hall, Charlie Griffith, Everton Weekes, SF Barnes, Allan Donald, Clive Lloyd, Allan Border and Lord Learie Constantine who have all graced the league.

It is believed that this project would strengthen relationships between clubs and our communities, and leave legacies of increased resources, skills and knowledge. It would be a real privilege for the Heritage Gallery to be a participating venue and for the RHS to be involved.

Kate Slingsby

GRANTS TOWER 1829 –1944

This extract from Mr J C Watkins' recollections of the tower appeared in the Bury Times on 4th November 1977. Mr Watkins was born in this area and in the 1920s he lived near Grants Tower at the Tower Inn, Top o' th' Hoof.For twenty years he was the organist at the Church of St John in the Wilderness, Shuttleworth.
After some years of retirement at Lytham St Annes, he returned to Ramsbottom and lived in Crow Lane. He soon became an enthusiastic member of the Society.

News of the possible erection of a television mast at PikeFarm, Walmersley, prompted me to take a nostalgic walk to Top o' th' Hoof. Until the regrettable collapse of Grants Tower in 1944, this noble pike stood on the crest of the hill, commanding a breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside. As I recognised various pieces of stone, I remembered the building intact, and I felt rather sad to be standing at the graveside of an old friend.



I first became familiar with Grants Tower when my father retired from the police force in 1920 and took a small country pub, Tower Inn, and a smallholding in the grounds of which stood the memorial to the Grants.

The Tower Inn held its licence for some sixty years before it reverted again to being Pike Farm which, incidentally, was the home for several generations of the Kay family from 1750 onwards, the family being related to the famous John Kay, inventor of the flying shuttle during the Industrial Revolution.

Though by no means an architectural gem, Grants Tower was an imposing structure. By climbing several winding staircases up through the floor levels, one could reach the top – and a panoramic view made the ascent well worthwhile. Few were aware that two of the turrets at the top of the tower were actually chimneys from the fire ranges in the rooms below which at one time were used as living accommodation. In the 1880s they were occupied by a forester by the name of Nightingale, who worked for the Grants. Nightingale was the son of a former minister of Park Chapel. (He had broken away from Park to build his own chapel in Bank Lane, Whalley Road, Shuttleworth. Today his chapel is more recognisable as four dwelling houses known as Chapel Houses.)

The Grant family had travelled from their home in Scotland to Lancashire to seek their fortunes and their story has it that they surveyed the scene of their future successes from the Top o' th' Hoof where Grants Tower now stands. It is widely believed that Charles Dickens immortalised the Grant brothers, William and Daniel, as the Cheeryble brothers in Nicholas Nickleby. I made myself conversant with the book in order to answer the many visitors' questions when I took them for guided walks and visits to the tower.

On 21st February 2016, the Bury Times reported that St John in the Wilderness, Shuttleworth had unfortunately been closed amid ceiling safety fears. A survey by civil engineers found that the roof was extremely unsafe and consultations are underway on the future of the church (built in 1847).

SIR EDWARD HOPKINSON HOLDEN (1848 – 1919)

The following article is based on articles about Sir Edward which appeared in the press in 1919. Copies of the articles were made by Muriel and Chris Watkin and have recently been donated to the Society. Mr and Mrs Watkin became involved in Sir Edward's story years ago after their family was contacted by the archivist to the Midland Bank seeking more information about him as he was thought to be a family member.



Sir Edward, who is credited with a number of major achievements in the banking sector, was born in Greenmount and later lived in Summerseat. Most notable were his roles in the development of the Midland Bank, the creation of modern international banking practice and the negotiation of finance for the First World War.From 1906 to 1910 he was the Liberal politician for the Heywood Division. In 1908 he was considered for the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer but the office was given to David Lloyd George. Sir Edward did not contest the next general election in 1910

His parents were Henry Holden, a calico bleacher and Ann Hopkinson. He received his early education in the Brooksbottoms School, Summerseat, under the late Mr John Rogerson. For some time he was a scholar and teacher in the Wesleyan Methodist School at Summerseat, and for a time acted as secretary.

On the introduction of Mr John Robinson Kay of Walmersley House he entered the Manchester and County Bank at Bolton. (He had made good friends with the Robinson Kays who lived in the large house on Walmersley Road just at the top of Bass Lane.) After working at the Bolton branch for six or seven years he was transferred to the head office in Manchester. Being determined to extend his knowledge of banking on its theoretical side, he attended classes at Owens College, Manchester for many years, devoting special attention to banking law, logic, political economy and similar subjects.

In 1881 he became accountant in the Birmingham and Midland Bank, a promotion which brought about his removal to Birmingham. In 1883 he became inspector and secretary. He continued to be promoted and was involved in the bank's expansion as it absorbed a large number of banks in central and northern England. In 1898, having personally negotiated the merger with the London-based City Bank, he was the managing director of the London, City and Midland Bank. He held this position until his death and became chairman of directors of the renamed Midland Bank in 1908, continuing the policy of expansion and acquisition. By 1918 the bank ranked as the largest in the world and at the time, a year before he died, he spoke before the Associated Chambers of Commerce in defence of the policy of bank amalgamations.

He was receiving treatment for a recently developed heart weakness at Banff, Aberdeenshire when he sadly died there. His body was taken to his town house at 19, New Cavendish Street. Mourners, many from the world of banking, assembled in London and were taken, along with the coffin, in a special train to Manchester. (It had a special van attached to carry over one hundred and seventy floral tributes which came from more than one hundred branches of the Midland Bank, as well as directors and managers of other banks, including foreign houses.) Twenty five cars then took them from the station onward for the twelve mile journey to Summerseat.

Local arrangements were made by Mr C B Kelly, Mr W Beardsley and Mr J H Stennit and on Saturday 26th July, before reaching Rowlands Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Summerseat, the cortege passed through the grounds of the then Robinson Kay branch of the Home for the Incurables. The chapel's graveyard, "beautifully situated in leafy environment", was crowded with mourners from different parts of the country and from the local area. The local mourners included representatives from a wide variety of businesses, organisations and professions, and also friends. Some local people had been his pupils in the early days or had known him as schoolmates like Mr Joseph Barlow. Among the local mourners was the Rev W Hume Elliot formerly of Ramsbottom who had been a personal friend. The service was choral and the organist was Mr E Y Heys who played funeral marches by Chopin and Greig as well as the hymns. Rev F C Harrison gave the address. Sir Edward was then buried in the graveyard of the Chapel with the remains of his wife *. The grave is easily identified by the large white stone at the front as you

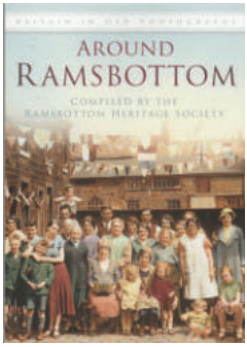
face the burial ground with the school on your right. Two days after his funeral, a memorial service for Sir Edward was held at St Michael's Church, Cornhill. Again, there was a large congregation which included representatives of his family.

* In 1877 he had married Annie, daughter of William Cassie, late of Aberdeen, and formerly of Edgworth, and they eventually made their home in Surrey. There were three children. Although his business was his hobby he also enjoyed his golf. Sir Edward was created 1st baronet "of *The Grange* in the County of Surrey" in 1909 and his eldest son, Sir Harry Cassie Holden, succeeded him to the title.

References:
Obituaries - in the *Bury Times* and *The Times* 26th July 1919
Research by Muriel and Chris Watkin

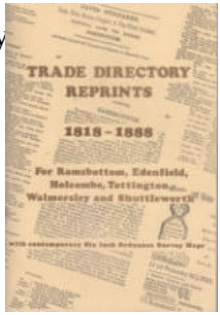
PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society sell a number of publications that tell the history of Ramsbottom. The books are sold in Ramsbottom Library, at the Heritage Gallery on the second Sunday of each month, via the website, and on ad-hoc occasions such as the monthly meetings and outside events.



One of the most popular books is Around Ramsbottom, which has recently been reprinted with a new cover. This was first published in 1995 and contains nearly 200 photographs from the archives with accompanying text.

Another book is the Trade Directory Reprints which is essential for researching family history as it reproduces directories from 1818 - 1888, both trade and personal.



We have also published Duncan Francis's series of Ramsbottom's Lost Generation, which is a meticulously researched record of Ramsbottom's involvement in the Great War. Part 1 covers those who sacrificed their lives in 1914-1915 and part 2 covers 1916. Both volumes are now available.

Note that Part 3 - 1917 is 75% finished. There is a vast amount of research owing to the huge amount of deaths in this year. Duncan is hoping to publish it in 2018.

Other popular books over the years have been:

'***19th Century Ramsbottom'***,

an extract from Reverend Hulme Elliot's book 'Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers" - a reference to the Dickens novel which featured two do-gooders allegedly based upon William and Daniel Grant.

'Nuttall Park and the Porritt Legacy to Ramsbottom'

A booklet published by the Ramsbottom Heritage Society to celebrate 80 years since Lieutenant Colonel Porritt had donated the park to the people of Ramsbottom. This event was celebrated at an Extravaganza held on the 12th July 2008, when this booklet first went on sale.

Also on sale are the 7 issues of **Ramsbottom War News** which were published annually as part of the 1940's weekend and told the story of the year through reproductions of news articles. Each issue costs £1. As a special offer, all 7 can be purchased for £5.

Issue I	1939 'Preparing for War'	- 12 pages of A4 paper
Issue 2	1940 'The Battle for Britain Begins'.	- 20 pages
Issue 3	1941 'The Realities of War Hit Home'	- 20 pages
Issue 4	1942 'The end of the beginning'	- 20 pages
Issue 5	1943 'The Tide Turns'	- 20 pages
Issue 6	1944 'D Day and Doodlebugs'	- 20 pages
Issue 7	1945 'The End of the War'	- 20 pages

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

PLEASE NOTE: because of the present libraries review by Bury Council, there will probably be many changes to the access arrangements for Bury Archives and Bury Local & Family History Service before the next issue of our news magazine in 2018.

STAFF ADVISE PHONING IN ADVANCE TO CHECK.

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):

Tuesday 10am - 5pm
Wednesday 10am - 5pm
Thursday 10am - 5pm
Friday 10am - 5pm
2nd Saturday of the month 10am – 4.30pm

Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents.Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Our catalogues are online at **http;//archives.bury.gov.uk** as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries we charge £15.00 hour. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR: **information@bury.gov.uk** or tel **0161 253 7047** 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held.A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at **http://library.bury.gov.uk** – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the *Ancestry* database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; Membership - email: membership@lfhhs.org.uk - entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. Also one branch in London. 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 an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader.Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available.F a m i l y history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

DANGER,

DEATH &

DISEASE

in Ramsbottom mills

****

Textile Mills could be dangerous places to work

****

Exciting Exhibition

****

Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library

During library opening hours & 2nd Sunday of the month 12-3pm

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

No 54 Spring / Summer 2018 ISSN 0960 - 1244

NEWS MAGAZINE



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

PROGRAMME 2018

Wednesday May 16th **AGM and Member's night**.
Includes presentations by the various groups highlighting the actitivies within the Society in the last 12 months

Wednesday June 20th **Dr. Clive Barrett**, presents an illustrated talk on Conscientious objectors in WWI. He is Chair of Trustees at the Peace Museum, Bradford.

TUESDAY July 17th outdoor visit to Hall i'th' Wood (only open Tuesday) (Green way off Crompton Way, Bolton) - spinning history housed in a Tudor Hall. A private guided tour (1.5 hours), meet 1p.m. Carr Street near library for car sharing, or 1.30 at the Hall cost - £2. (It is requested No High Heels to be worn)

August - no meeting

Wednesday September 19th **'The Pankhurst's, the Suffragettes and the campaign for Votes for Women'**
Janet Pickering from the Pankhurst centre will present an illustrated talk to celebrate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918 which was the start of female suffrage in Great Britain.

Wednesday October 17th **Coalmining In Lancashire**
Alan Davies will present the photographic record of the Lancashire coal industry from the arrival of photography to the latest explorations and opencast sites.

Wednesday November 21st **'Folk Magic'**
Peter Watson, local historian, investigates the fascinating and unusual topic of 'Folk Magic' with the aid of some interesting artefacts.

Wednesday December 12th (note 2nd Wednesday of the month)
Christmas Social (Quiz, raffle and general get together - seasonal food – pre-booked ticket required for the latter.

meetings are held in the Holcombe Room at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Entry: visitors- £2, members - £1.50, includes refreshments.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 54

Spring/Summer 2018

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

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Cover Picture – The winner of the Dickensian Trophy of the Annual Photographic Competition - see pages 9 - 15

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the time of writing, there is a vacancy on the committee for a programme secretary to organise the speakers at the Wednesday meetings. Barbara Williams took on this role in 2013, and after 5 years, feels it is the right time to step down. The role involves finding speakers via the Internet and other local history societies, and arranging dates to fill 7 of the annual meetings, the others being the photographic competition, the A.G.M., Summer visits and Christmas Social. Barbara has completed the programme for 2018, and there are a possible 4 speakers arranged for 2019, leaving just 3 for the new programme secretary. This is an important role within the Society, as without a speaker, it is unlikely that all the current members would come to the monthly meetings just for a chat. As Barbara said, whoever does the role is able to organise talks that they are interested in! If anyone feels that they can take on this role, please see Barbara or another member of the committee for further details. Barbara will have a list of previous speakers who can be contacted for future talks. Barbara is also standing down as a committee member, and I would like to thank her for her contributions, which has included being the meetings secretary as well as the programme secretary. There are currently vacancies on the committee, which hopefully will be filled at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16th May. I would encourage you to attend the A.G.M. and learn about the activities of the society in the second half of the evening. A lot of people do good work for the society, which often goes unnoticed, and this is the chance to hear about it

John Leyland - Secretary

WHAT NOW FOR THE GRANT ARMS?

An outline planning application by Astim Ltd to demolish the rear part of *the Grant Arms Hotel* and replace it with a new building for sheltered housing was refused by Bury Council officers on 8th March 2018. Ramsbottom Heritage Society had formally opposed the planning application and expressed dismay at yet another application by Astim. (The company's appeal against the Council's refusal of their plan to build a three-storey block of flats for the elderly on the former Grant Arms bowling green was rejected in 2016 by the Planning Inspector.)

Historic England (previously English Heritage) said in their letter to the Council responding to the application:

- The Grant Arms Hotel is a Grade II listed building of national interest, and prominent contributor to the character and appearance of the Ramsbottom Conservation Area.
- The rear part of the building could potentially be of notable significance for understanding the earlier history of both the building and the conservation area.

The Ancient Monuments Society (which actually defends historic buildings of all types and ages):

- The Grant Arms is a handsome and imposing stone building with a symmetrical, classical front, which stands in an elevated position over-looking Market Place; it is one of Ramsbottom's most attractive historic landmarks.

Most of our readers will know that the *Grant Arms Hotel* is in the Ramsbottom Town Centre Conservation Area and Grade II listed. The whole building, including the interior, is included in the listing. Because the oldest part, the rear portion of the hotel, was the home of William and Grace Grant from 1806 and known as Grant Lodge, it provides the town and its visitors with a direct link to the Grant family. Originally their two-storey house, dated c1780, had been known as *Top o' th' Brow* and was occupied by Henry Warren, a partner of Peel and Yates. As the local 'big house', it was in this central location to overlook their business premises, a calico printing works called the *Old Ground*, to ensure its supervision and security. Peel and Yates' *Old Ground* was a complex of workshops in the area now encircled by Bolton Street, Bridge Street, Silver Street and Smithy Street. It was the origin of industrial Ramsbottom, and so Top o' th' Brow was the focus of the enterprise, ultimately the seed of the modern town of Ramsbottom!

Behind the present public bar of the Grants, in the central section of the building (which is also two-storey), is a cellar with a vaulted brick ceiling. The present Georgian frontage was added in 1828 when the house became *The Grant Arms*.*

The clock installed on the front of the building in 1852 was an early example of community use when for many it was the one and only means they had to tell the time. Following a Heritage Society initiative, in 2007 a plaque was placed on the building to commemorate members of the Grant family.

The hotel's special significance

The impact of the Grant Arms, one of Ramsbottom Market Place's group of Grade II listed buildings and the focus of the Town Centre Conservation Area, is a particular matter of concern to the townspeople. A dominant structure at a busy crossroads, it has a positive physical role in the open space of Market Place.

By providing the town and its visitors with a direct link to the Grant family, the Grant Arms forms an important part of Ramsbottom's "story". Its historic significance is a matter of pride to local people, being included in historic letters, exhibitions, publications and walks on local history. The Grant Arms heritage and its importance to the town and its community have also been noted and well-documented down the years by the Council itself. All the evidence suggests that this special significance holds great value to future generations.

The Grant Arms value to the local community goes far beyond its architecture and history. Members of the Society spent several days compiling a list of just some of the people and organisations that have enjoyed its facilities down the years. The list was derived from social media, newspapers and members' own knowledge and illustrates the fantastic spread of activities and interests - from belly dancing, line dancing, yoga and karate to more seminal pursuits such as meditation classes and political hustings (as recently as the last election in 2017). There were jazz nights, folk clubs (the Houghton Weavers started here) prom nights, scouting events, auctions and talent nights. It was the headquarters of the Ramsbottom Bowling League and the Grant Arms Bowling Club and had been a venue for meetings of the swimming club, pigeon fanciers, Ramsbottom Rotary Club and the Freemasons Lodge. Down the years countless christening celebrations, funerals, 18th and 21st birthday parties and many of the town's wedding receptions took place at the Grants.

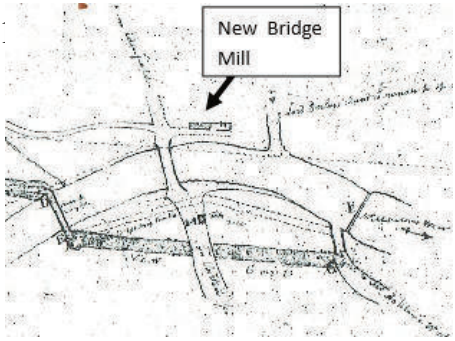
** RHS News Magazine No 23 (Spring 2002), which is available online on the Society's website, has an article about the pub's early days.*

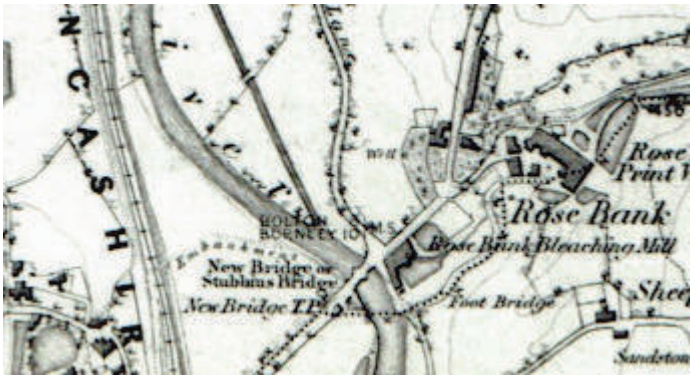
CROFT END, FORMERLY NEW BRIDGE MILL, STUBBINS BRIDGE

Before it was demolished at the end of 2017, the mill's layout comprised many stages of development, with the earliest, dating from around 1801. In 1833 it was New Bridge Bleaching Works owned by Jackson, Watson and Greig.Generally, within the urban context of the adjacent housing in the village of Stubbins which arose in parallel with the mill's growth, there was a unity in 19th Century building styles and locally quarried materials.

The mill originally took the name New Bridge Mill from its position alongside the turnpike bridge over the River Irwell. A 1817 survey of Stubbins Bridge and the Ashtons' Weir, conducted by Bolton surveyor John Albinson (Bolton Archives, ZAL188) has only the earliest stage of the site's construction while the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1847 clearly shows the L-shape of Croft End Mill, as part of the Rose Bank Printing and Bleaching complex.

A small portion of John Albinson's 18





6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1847



The west face of the mill had a very clear building break, (indicated by the arrow). The portion of the mill to the right of the break was built from a much better quality of stone, quite carefully dressed almost to ashlar standards, with good quality lintels and sills reflecting improvements in quarrying techniques achieved by the time that this section was erected. It probably postdated the 1847 Ordnance Survey map, perhaps comprising a later stage of development.

The stonework of what was almost certainly the original building which figures on John Albinson's 1817 survey consisted of fairly indiscriminately quarried, accessible sandstone, typical of late 18th and early 19th Century surface quarrying techniques.A pair of windows on this elevation had no jambs, characteristic of this period. Quality stone capable of providing the necessarily long and strong pieces was difficult to find in the Rossendale area without deeper quarrying. The other windows in this portion seemed to have received fresh lintels well beyond the original construction date. Historically integral to the mill's operation, and easily overlooked, was a setted cartway. It ran from Bolton Road North along the mill's west elevation and featured large reinforcing flagstones on the brook bridge. Part of this cartway is shown on the 1817 survey. This has not survived the 2017 demolition, despite attention being drawn to its significance.



Many of the site's various features had carried over into the industrial age from traditional local building practice, such as the watershot technique. It involved each successive course of stonework being tipped slightly outward by inserting small wedges and being set about half an inch behind the lower course. From 1740, very rare after 1840, watershot stonework was

designed to allow any rainwater entering the wall to drip out again. This was a particular feature of Pennine vernacular architecture but there are very few surviving mills in the area with watershot stonework.



Another feature, common on vernacular stone buildings situated on roads, or tracks which carried wheeled traffic, was a carefully carved curvature on the corner of the building. Later, mills often erected steel or iron guards and posts as more effective protection against destructive strikes from cart wheels

Fronting onto Bolton Road North, was the NW facing leg of the L-shape shown on the 1847 Ordnance Survey map. It may have dated from Thomas Greig of Styal's acquisition of the site in 1831. It had a taking-in entrance, which had been blocked in at a later date. This common feature of mills was inherited directly from the 'taking-in door' which allowed raw materials to be taken directly up to the upper weaving storey of woollen weavers' cottages.



A 2016 view from the NE again shows the likely 1831 stonebuilt portion of the mill. Its windows abutted directly under the eaves/guttering in the fashion characteristic of that time. The slate roof at that date was possibly not the original.



The Accrington brick portion of the building had the appearance of a later 19th Century extension, mimicking the original. The mill lodge satisfied the need of the bleaching and calico printing processes for large amounts of clean water. This was drawn from the adjacent Dearden Brook. After it became empty the lodge and its surroundings have been taken over by nature.

Prolonged efforts by the owners to keep the mill in industrial use failed and the whole site of 0.45 hectares (1.11 acres) is now being redeveloped for housing.

Andrew Todd

(Editor's comments : 2 sets of photographs showing the demolition of New Bridge Mill were selected by Andrew as winners in the Themes category of the Annual Photographic Competition)

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The competition has been running for 31 years, and this year 12 entrants entered a total of 282 photographs in 4 categories, some people entering less than 10 photographs, and one person entered 129. The judge was Andrew Todd who presented the awards on the evening. The competition winners were not necessarily the best quality photographs, but ones which reflected Ramsbottom in 2017, as all the photographs had to have been taken last year. There are now over 3,650 photographs on the Ramsbottom Heritage website taken in the last 31 years. The winners are each category were
Buildings – 2 Highly Commended certificates



Ian Smith for a photo of the Nat West bank before it closed in October

and Joyce Sellers for a picture of the derelict old Stockdale and Turnbull building in Edenfield.



The winner of the Buildings category was Ian Chapman for a view of Grant Arms from Central Street. Andrew commented that the picture showed how busy Ramsbottom is, such as a delivery to the chemists, as well as the mundane such as bins waiting to be emptied, and also included the view of the Grant Arms, which is currently closed.



The Themes category is for 3 to 5 photos on a themes and had the lowest number of entries, 13. The Highly Commended awards went to Anne Shortt and Alan Seymour, who both entered photos of Croft End Mills, Stubbins, as it was demolished, and is currently being redeveloped for new housing. The winner was Anne Shortt for views of Kay's Soap Works, including some interior shots, which Andrew hadn't seen before. As he pointed out, he judged the competition 2 years ago and chose the interior of the old Post Office in Edenfield as the overall winner.





2 of Anne's photos above and 2 of Alan's below





Winner - Anne Shortt - Kay Soap Works













The Society was recently donated a frame with 2 old photographs showing a panoramic view of Ramsbottom, date unknown. These are at the bottom of these 2 pages, with an enlargement on each page. The top of page 12 can be compared to Joyce Seller's winning photograph on the front cover







One of the Events and Daily Life Highly Commended certificates went to Daryll Spencer for a photograph of the Car Boot sale on Railway Street with a steam train in the background, which Andrew said reflected the everyday life in Ramsbottom, which people rarely photograph, but which are historically useful for future generations. The other went to Ian Williams for a band playing at Summerseat Fete, which Andrew said was a natural photograph which hadn't been posed.



The winner was Ian Chapman for a photograph of the War Weekend, which again Andrew said was a natural looking photograph, and held lots of interest.





The Town and Country category certificates went to Alan Seymour showing that there is still no road access by the Spinnings in Summerseat,

and Keith Burroughs for a view of the Old Baptist Church on Bolton Street with Scout Moor in the background, which shows the countryside around Ramsbottom.



This theme of the category was also the reason for Andrew choosing the winner of the Town and Country category, and also the overall winner of the Dickensian Trophy, who is Joyce Sellers, for a sweeping view of Ramsbottom, Marshalls' Quarry and Scout Moor, taken from Holcombe Hill. Andrew said that if you zoom in, there is an extraordinary amount of detail in the photograph, such as the allotments on Peel Brow and cars on Peel Brow estate, mixed farming with cattle and sheep in the same field above the quarry, and the wind turbines on Scout Moor. The winning photograph is on the cover of the magazine

LETTER FROM JOHN SPENCER

Just before Christmas 2017, the Society received the following letter from an overseas member.

Dear Secretary, PIKE FARM
I read with interest the article 'GRANTS TOWER 1829 – 1944' in Issue No 53 Autumn/Winter 2017 by J C Watkins in which Pike Farm was mentioned.
My Great-Great Grandmother, Betty Kay was born at Pike Farm on 27 April 1807, the daughter of John Kay born c.1760. She married Thomas Spencer on 1 May 1826 and lived at Lower Park in the bottom paddock of Park Farm – the birth place of John Kay, the inventor. Following the death of his father at a relatively early age from cholera, my Great-Grandfather (also Thomas) sailed from Plymouth aboard the 'The Henry Moore' on the 14th June 1857 for Adelaide, South Australia arriving on the 14th September.
Betty and Thomas are buried in the cemetery plot also occupied by Betty's father John at Park Chapel.
Thomas settled and married in Truro, South Australia, a township in the hilly area on the main road leading to the River Murray and Mallee scrub farming area, north east of Adelaide – a vastly different climate from his hometown of Ramsbottom.
Thank you for your informative publication which I greatly enjoy.
John Spencer
South Australia

An Internet search produced a webpage from 'The Ships List'. Compiled in Australia from a variety of sources, the site includes official passenger lists mainly of immigrants arriving under assisted passage schemes who travelled in steerage. 'The Ships List' report on the voyage of Mr Spencer's great grandfather has " 'The Henry Moore', the largest ship of the year, which brought us 382 statute adults (equal to 450 souls) at £16 per head". The ship's Surgeon

Superintendent reported eleven births on the voyage and also five deaths, one of which was the death of a new mother. (Births and deaths were normal on emigrant ships.)

The Caledonian Maritime Research Trust mentions that 'The Henry Moore' was built at Greenock and Liverpool was its first port of register in 1854. It weighed 1,223 tons and was 188.4 feet long.As an iron three masted sailing vessel, 'The Henry Moore' was safer than the older woodenships which were fire-prone.However, there is a report that in mid-May 1857 a fire had to be extinguished while 'The Henry Moore' was being converted for charter to the Emigrant Commissioners.The Trust says it made only one emigrant voyage and reports that in 1868 it was completely destroyed by fire off Cape St Vincent (Liverpool for Bombay, general cargo). The crew of 28 were rescued and taken to Gibraltar. (Editor)

LOCAL FAMILY HISTORY in the WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION at BURY ARCHIVES, MOSS STREET, BURY

Five generations of the Chapman family feature in the present Bury Archives exhibition, part of which focuses on our relative, Private Albert Carter 200603 of the 2/5th Lancashire Regiment. He was killed at Ypres, Belgium on Wednesday 28th June 1916, aged nineteen years.

My own involvement with the archives team's research for their exhibition began after my mother spotted an appeal on Facebook by the Archives team. They were looking for people whose relatives had been killed in World War I. Soon we were invited to a meeting on 11th September 2017 with archivist Adam Carter (no relation) and the Archives team, Wendy, Scott and Helen.We had no idea what to expect but we took all the research material we had on Private Carter, who was Mum's uncle. The Archives staff were very welcoming and were fascinated with all the information that our family had collected over the years and with the 2003 visit by Mum and Dad to the war graves at Arras where the inscription for Private Carter is on the Arras Memorial. It was arranged that we would return a week later for photographs to be taken of the family (my mother Betty Chapman, my daughter Holly, my three-year old granddaughter Amelia and myself) to be included in the display.

We had been warned that BBC Radio Manchester had been in touch about doing a quick interview during the photoshoot. As we awaited the arrival of local BBC journalist Jonathan Ali, who is akeen historian with a special interest in World War I*, we were briefed as to what would happen. The photoshoot began as Jonathan used his iPhone (no film crew or cameras!) to start his interview with Mum.He told us he was trying to get the item on the North West news that day, either at dinnertime or in the evening. The iPhone then appeared under my nose and I answered Jonathan's questions before he moved on to Helen.Interviews over, he thanked us all and left, promising to be in touch about what time the interviews would be aired. Eventually the Archives staff had taken dozens of photos of the family with Albert, his medals and his notebook and we were able to go off to the Fusiliers Museum across the road. There I received a notification that Jonathan had posted Mum's interview on the BBC North West's Facebook page and that the interviews would be broadcast at about 17.45 hrs that same day. Later, with interviews listened to, I soon discovered that the BBC North West Facebook page had gone viral and that a star was in the making - Betty Chapman had gone worldwide with 21,000 views of her interview about her Uncle Albert!

The Archives staff had made a short film of all the photographs and we were given a preview on 6th October. Also, the family was invited to the opening of the exhibition on Saturday 14th October when we were all made very welcome. There was a fantastic turnout of young and old and a good day was had by all.Photographs with Private Carter's notebook, medals and other memorabilia had been arranged in a display case and the film show was showing on the television monitor.

We all thought that would be the last time we would be involved with the Bury Archives World War I exhibition but we were very wrong. Mum's "journey" soon restarted with yet another post on Facebook. Jennifer McDonough, who works at a Ramsbottom charity shop, had posted a photograph of a soldier's picture on a brooch which she had found while sorting out some jewellery.When Mum saw the photograph she asked Jennifer to get in touch with Adam at Bury Archives. Messages from Adam soon started to arrive about what he had discovered when he investigated the brooch. The picture on it was Private John Nation 201989, 2/5th Lancashire Fusiliers, who died on Saturday 9th September 1916 aged twenty two years. His inscription is on the Thiepval Memorial. Mum soon realised that some of Adam's information on this soldier matched our research about her uncle. To everybody's amazement, it was then found that the Private John Nation on the brooch was the cousin of our Private Albert Carter.

I put on Facebook a post to Jennifer telling her Mum's thoughts about the matching information. Next day Mum was on her way to meet Jennifer at the charity shop so I contacted Jonathan Ali who was really interested. Having made arrangements to meet Mum later for an interview, he went to interview Jennifer. (Alarms had to be set for the crack of dawn to hear these interviews which were on an early morning show.) It was soon decided that the brooch would be displayed in the Bury Archives exhibition alongside the artefacts of Private Albert Carter.

Surely what must be the final surprise came when everybody who had been concerned with the display: Jennifer and her husband, four members of my family and Bury Archives staff came together and viewed the completed exhibition. A *Bury Times* journalist had turned up and the following Thursday's edition featured a half-page write up and a "Photo of the day" to go with it.

Ian Chapman

The editors have received enthusiastic reports from people who have been very impressed by the Bury Archives World War I exhibition. Obviously, it is well worth a visit. The Archives entrance is in Moss Street, Bury and offers disabled access.

*A few copies of *"Our Boys" The Great War in a Lancashire Village* by Jonathan Ali, published by Landy Publishing 2007, are still on sale at Ramsbottom Library.

The Bury Archives World War I exhibition is open until November 2018

Opening times are listed on this magazine's "Local Research" page,
along with details about the services Bury Archives provides to the public.

THE BELGIAN CONNECTION – PART 2

Some of you may remember the Heritage Society's own World War 1 Exhibition in the Gallery a few years ago. One of the topics, which Anne Shortt and I produced, was a board about the Sebrechts* - a mother, grandmother and three small children from Bruges, Belgium who had been evacuated to 91, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom. This house was owned by Society member Marcia Fletcher and her husband Roy at the time of the exhibition. They had lived in Bruges for a time, due to Roy's work, and had a phone book from there - and the name Sebrechts was listed. By

coincidence, Marcia's friend Doris Hibbert had quite unexpectedly, received a letter, kept by a cousin for many years, written by her mother to an aunt in Canada. The letter described a visit by Doris's parents to the Sebrechts' house in Belgium in 1921. Doris and Marcia discovered that Madame Sebrechts' husband, Joseph, was a renowned doctor and professor who was not allowed to leave Belgium with his family because his medical knowledge was of use to both the Belgians and the occupying forces. The whole story, with its amazing coincidences and Doris's mother's vivid description of the grand house and the devastation she saw there after the war - ravaged countryside, captured my imagination and stayed with me.

Last year my husband and I went to Bruges. One of the first streets we saw on our way from the hotel to the centre of Bruges was,"*Professor-Dr. J. Sebrechts- Straat*", a street named after Doctor Sebrechts! Just a little way further along, off to the left was the sign for the Sebrechts park. I knew the garden of the house had been made into a public park so I thought, if the house was still standing, it must be nearby.

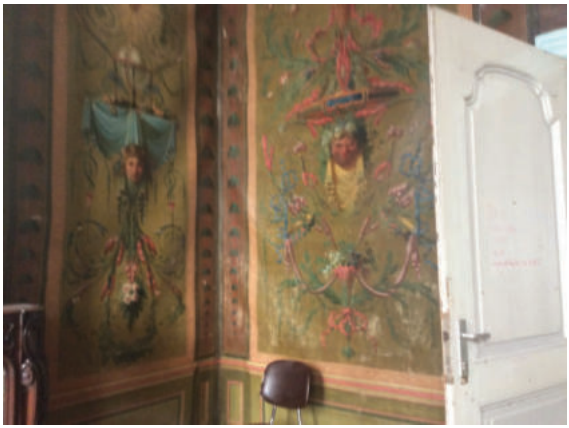


I had butterflies in my tummy when I saw the lovely archway in front of the drive leading up to the house and as I walked up I thought, "Madame Sebrechts walked both here and the streets of Ramsbottom so long ago. Doris's mother and father walked here and now I am walking here in their footsteps."



There were a few houses around the circumference of the park and we were not sure which one was the Sebrechts' house. We saw a lady in her garden and asked her if she knew. She did not speak English but had a bit of French so we communicated in school French.

We were actually right outside the house! Sadly, it was all boarded up. We explained why we were looking for the house. The neighbour said she had the keys (the coincidences continued)! I could not believe it. She said she would take us round the house!It was in a state of disrepair but using a bit of imagination we could see the splendour that must have existed when the family lived there and when Doris's mother and father visited. There were beautiful stained glass windows, carvings, hand-painted wallpaper (discovered behind a wall panel) and silk hand-painted wall hangings. The house is a listed building and owned by the local council. It is up for sale but no-one has shown any interest in buying it. If anyone has loads of money and would like to restore a beautiful house, in a lovely setting on the fringe of the city of Bruges - this is for you. We'll all come and visit!



We also went to Ypres for the last post ceremony. Doris's mother and father had gone there but it was just muddy fields on the way then, as Doris's mother described, not the beautiful but sad war cemeteries that are there now.

It was a wonderful experience and I will never forget the people who made this story possible -thanks to Doris Hibbert and Marcia Fletcher and especially Doris's mother for her vivid descriptions.

Kathleen Husband 2018

**To find out more you can go to Ramsbottom Library and ask to see Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine 47 Autumn/Winter 2014, which is in the reference section. It contains a fascinating and detailed account, "The Belgian Connection" by Kathleen and Anne based on information shared with them by Doris Hibbert.*

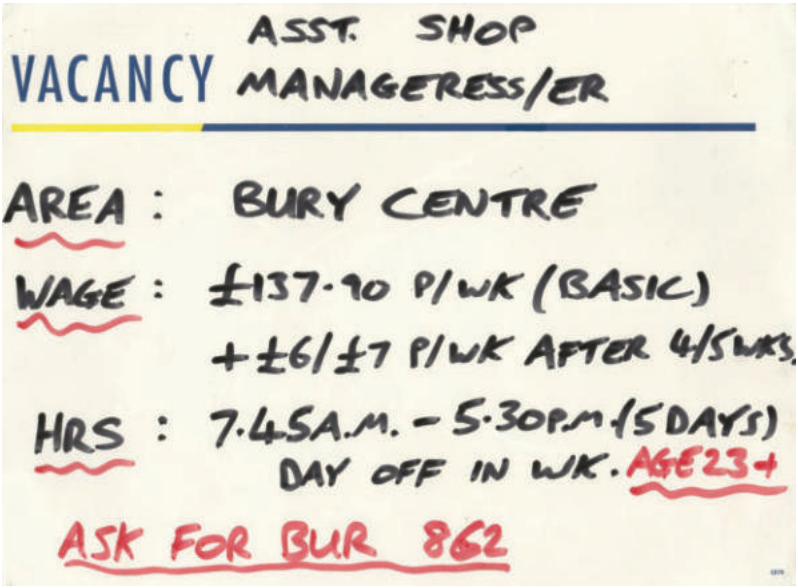
An earlier News Magazine article, "A Ramsbottom Couple's Visit to London and Belgium 1921" written by Doris herself, can be found in News Magazine 21 Spring 2001 which is on the Society's website. (Editor)

MY FINAL JOB

The Employment Service 1980 – 1990

During my working life I have had various clerical jobs, typist,telephonist, receptionist etc, but my last one was in the Employment Service.
When I was 50 years old I applied to the Civil Service and was offered a part-time clerical officer's vacancy in Bury Employment Office. Soon afterwards, a similar vacancy arose at the Ramsbottom Employment Office. Imagine my delight when I applied and was successful! Five mornings per week 8.30 – 12.30 – five minutes from home, I couldn't believe my luck.

The premises were situated at number 39 Bridge Street, now Memories Antique Emporium (but I remember it being the Co-op grocery during the war).It had a very large, open room with big windows looking onto Bridge Street. There was a substantial desk used by the UBO (Unemployment Benefit Office) and I had a smaller desk nearer the windows, it was a very pleasant office in which to work. Job vacancies were displayed on the windows and on boards in the office, which were updated every day.



There was a small seating area with a table where people could peruse vacancies, read newspapers, fill in application forms and apply by telephone.The UBO was staffed two mornings a week. Later the Employment Office changed its name to the Job Centre.

I could also rely on the DRO (Disabled Resettlement Officer) to help to find work for clients and I had contact with the PER (Professional Executive Recruitment) who could offer good advice. My manager called each week and when, later the UBO relocated to Bury I was the only member of staff – so a panic button was installed and connected to Ramsbottom Police Station farther down Bridge Street – I never had to use it, thank goodness! I did once get a half-eaten meat pie through the letter box and a very risqué phone call, which I ignored!

I got to know so many local people and they were always pleasant and polite –a few still remember me! Before I retired, the JC in Ramsbottom was closed; I knew it was on the cards, but imagine my surprise, on driving past returning from holiday, to find a large notice advising, JOB CENTRE NOW CLOSED, CONTACT THE BURY OFFICE! An interesting decade for me – I enjoyed every minute! Au revoir Ramsbottom JC

Doris Hibbert

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached: **Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG** email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

IMPORTANT: To avoid disappointment you are advised to check <u>before</u> your visit. An appointment is now essential if you wish to view any items that are stored in the archive.
<u>PLEASE NOTE THE NEW OPENING HOURS.</u>

Monday	Closed
Tuesday to Friday	10 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family

papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at **http;//archives.bury.gov.uk** as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'.T h e enquiry service offers 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries we charge £15.00 hour. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

The local studies section 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held.A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at http://library.bury.gov.uk – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

The Wordpress Blog (https://buryculture.wordpress.com/) offers lots of news, information, events and articles on all aspects of our service.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society Bury branch meetings date: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at The Kay Room, Church House, The Wylde, Bury BL0 0LA (behind St Mary's Church). Branch contact via email at bury@lfhhs.org.uk . Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details about branch resources and events.

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

NEW LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

Monday	Closed	Thursday	12.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Friday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Saturday	9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader.M u c h of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month 12.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

PUBS IN RAMSBOTTOM AND "THE ODIOUS AND LOATHSOME SIN OF DRUNKENNESS"

A new exhibition opening July 13th 2018 in the Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library

The pubs of Ramsbottom and the social consequences of extended drinking hours is the focus of this exhibition in the Heritage Gallery, upstairs in Ramsbottom Library.

Before beerhouses vanished and tapas bars opened, ale could be bought in many front rooms along the street. Drinking hours from 4am to 10pm meant that magistrates were kept busy. The drunken Marsden family were regulars, with the father alone appearing 31 times before the bench. The varied fate of some of the original pubs will be remembered by many of you. The oldest pub, *The Rose and Crown* (1794) still exists but *The Waterloo* has changed its name. Whilst *The Top Kicker* (later *The Old Dun Horse*) has been turned into flats, sadly many other pub buildings have long been demolished.

The exhibition is open during library hours and on the second Sunday of each month from 12 – 3pm from July 13th onwards.

The current exhibition closes at the end of June

DANGER, DEATH & DISEASE

in Ramsbottom mills

Summer Walks 2018

Guided circular walks held on the third Sunday of the month between June and September, all walks start at 1.30 p.m. and finish between 3 and 4 p.m. The walks are led by volunteers with a particular interest in and knowledge of Ramsbottom and district. Taken at a leisurely pace the walks are suitable for reasonably fit adults and children, dogs welcome. Sensible footwear and waterproof clothing is recommended as paths may be uneven and uphill on some of the walks. For further information on each walk, contact the relevant leader

Sunday June 17th 1.30 p.m. **The Mills of Dearden Clough**
led by Kate Slingsby 01706 822730

Meet outside Grants Arms - Shared transport from the meeting place to the start of the walk

The residents of Dearden Clough near Edenfield, lived, wove and printed fabric and swam in this fascinating little valley.

Sunday July 15th 1.30 p.m **The pubs and Clubs of Ramsbottom**
led by Andrew Todd 01706 822730

Meet outside Grants Arms

Much of the social life of Ramsbottom revolved around the pubs and clubs, and this walk opens a window on the activities and excesses of 200 years of history

Sunday August 19th 1.30 p.m. **A Stroll through Stubbins**
led by Barbara Williams 01706 559074

Meet at Junction of Stubbins Street and Stubbins Vale Road

An historical walk looking at the development of this industrial village, looking at mills, print works, tendering tower, railway and houses.

Sunday Sept 16th 1.30 p.m. **Holcombe Village, Ramsbottom**
led by John Ireland 01706 822730

Meet at Shoulder of Mutton car park

Holcombe is historic with a famed ,old and well kept hostelry. Renowned years ago for its sporting traditions of hunting, cock fighting and notorious ‘wakes’ which drew the countryside for miles around

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

No 55 Autumn/Winter 2018 **ISSN 0960 - 1244**

NEWS MAGAZINE



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

PROGRAMME 2019

Wednesday January 16th

WILD ABOUT BURY : Local wildlife expert PETER BARON

Wednesday February 20th

MIRACLE IN MANCHESTER : In an illustrated talk Cheshire historian GEOFFREY SCARGILL examines Barbirolli's vision of the future of the Hallé

Wednesday March 20th

The 32nd Annual Photographic Competition results. The judge is Wes Haydock, a local photographer, who will also give a short-illustrated talk on 'A JOURNEY THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY'.

Wednesday April 17th

A FORGOTTEN LANCASHIRE HISTORIAN : Dr. MIKE WINSTANLEY'S illustrated talk introduces us to the work of Edwin Butterworth of Oldham

Wednesday May 15th

Annual General Meeting & Members' Night

Wednesday June 19th

A REMARKABLE ARCHITECT : CHRISTINE GRIMES, secretary of the Edgar Wood Society tells us about the Arts and Crafts buildings designed by the Manchester architect Edgar Wood, centered mainly in Middleton. This will prepare us for the visit on Wednesday July 17th

meetings are held in the Holcombe Room at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Entry: visitors- £2, members - £1.50, includes refreshments.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society
News Magazine No 55
Autumn/Winter 2018

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

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Front Cover

The restored Porritt and Spencer World War 1 memorial plaque at the Royal British Legion

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the last magazine, I was appealing for a new programme secretary. I am pleased to report that Kate Howarth, who was elected as a new committee member at the AGM, has taken on this role, and has produced a varied and interesting programme for 2019. In April, we received the restored Porritt and Spencer War Memorial plaque from Eric Smith and it was installed on the ground floor of the Royal British Legion on Central Street. However, due to extended holidays by both members of the British Legion and the Heritage Society during the summer, we delayed the formal handover of the plaque until Friday 26th October. This was attended by over 30 members of both groups, with Colin Grundy, the branch chairman of the Royal British Legion, accepting the handover from Kate Slingsby. After Martin Wiggam of the Royal British Legion had given a short speech, a buffet was served.



Martin Wiggam and Colin Grundy from the Royal British Legion, Kate Slingsby and Ian Smith from the Heritage Society and Eric Smith



Before restoration



Colin and Kate

LATEST NEWS

Church Fields - Tree Preservation Order obtained

Local people may remember the Heritage Society's attempt in 2014 to obtain Commons status for the area known as Church Fields. This went to public enquiry but was rejected.
Since then, one of our members, Sheena Crombie, came up with the idea of suggesting the whole of Church Fields, as a natural extension of Crow Lumb Wood, for a single **Tree Preservation Order.** Bury Council has formally accepted this and further details will appear in our next issue.

Ramsbottom Heroes

RAMSBOTTOM HEROES Volumes 1 and 2 by Elizabeth Duxbury has recently been made available for the rest of 2018 at Ramsbottom Library. It is a compilation of names of men and women of Ramsbottom and the surrounding area who served their country or died as a result of enemy action.

Grant Arms Hotel Planning Applications 2018

On 24th September 2018 Bury Council received two planning applications for the Grant Arms Hotel:

> Change of use from hotel/public house (Class A4) to financial and professional services (Class A2); External alterations and formation of dedicated car park at rear (Application number 63308)
>
> Listed Building Consent for change of use from hotel/public house (Class A4) to financial and professional services (Class A2); Internal and external alterations and formation of dedicated car park at rear (Application number 63309).

Earlier this year the Council received two different applications which have already been decided.

> Outline application for erection of gated access and garage parking (secure) for 13 garages and a bin store. (Application number 62929, received 13th June 2018 was refused).
>
> Outline application for proposed demolition of part of building and erection of sheltered housing including change of use of public house to sheltered

housing (Application 61827, received 11th August 2018 was refused but an appeal has been lodged)

On the 1st October 2018, the Council received a notice of intention to make a relevant disposal of the Asset of Community Value of the Grant Arms. Any eligible community interest group had until the 12th November to express an interest in being treated as a potential bidder for the asset. If a bid is received, the owner may not enter into a disposal of the asset before the 1st April 2019. The owner is not required to accept any bid and may dispose of the asset after the 1st April

THE NAMES ON THE PORRITT & SPENCER WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Unfortunately, only the men's initials and surnames are listed on the plaque but I was born in 1923 and brought up at 2, South Terrace, which was one of the Porritt houses. Although the whole of my own working life was spent at Ramsbottom Paper Mill, seven of my nine sisters worked at Porritt's. My connections with any Porritt employees who served in World War I was through their children but I remember some of the men and their Christian names:

- Fred Bentley and Billy Starkie were two of the bosses at Porritt & Spencer.
- Tom Crawshaw lived in Stubbins then Pin Meadow. He was the brother of Dr Crawshaw who practised in Ramsbottom before 1939.
- Sam Savage's sons were John, who became spin bowler for Leicestershire, and Billy, who became timekeeper for Porritt's.
- Tom Savage's sons were called Tom and Norman.
- Harold Scott was our neighbour in Strongstry. His daughter and son were Joan and Arnold.
- Other names included Harold Haworth, Fred Westwell and Jim Facit.

William Davenport 2018

Ramsbottom Heritage Society are very grateful to the War Memorials Trust for the generous grant which enabled the Society to fund the plaque's restoration and to the Ramsbottom Royal British Legion for providing space for it to be displayed at their club in Central Street, Ramsbottom.

THE SOCIETY WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE PORRITT & SPENCER EMPLOYEES WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE PLAQUE

HORACE SMITH

At the unveiling of the plaque event on 26th October, we were reminded of the Ramsbottom War Memorial Project website which features the Ramsbottom and District Roll of Honour. It has information about a fourth Porritt employee, Horace Smith, a single man aged thirty who was killed in action in Italy on 29th March 1918 serving in 223 Employment Company Labour Corps. Formerly he had served in the 23rd Battalion Kings (Liverpool) Regiment. His grave is in Padua main cemetery and his name is on three local memorials, one of which stands in front of Stubbins Vale Mill, shown below. (The others are at Edenfield Parish Church and St Philip's, Chatterton.)



The 1911 census has Horace Smith as a twenty three year old woollen spinner. He was a single man, the son of Henry and Sarah Elizabeth Smith. There were two brothers Henry Haworth Smith aged twenty eight and nineteen year old Allan and also a sister, Thamar Smith, aged twenty five. The family lived at 6 Stubbins Street.

In RHS mag 52 pages 18 -20 there was information about three men, listed on the plaque, who also died in World War 1: R S Quinlan, B Wild and A Duckworth. Our research is still incomplete but we are confident that only four of the people on the Porritt & Spencer Roll of Honour died in the war. We continue to research the names on the plaque, including those of men who survived. In particular, we would like to find out more about Ellen Hartley whose name seems to have been a late addition. It is possible that her married name was Hawkins but this has not been confirmed.

RAMSBOTTOM CONNECTS WITH AN OVERSEAS VISITOR

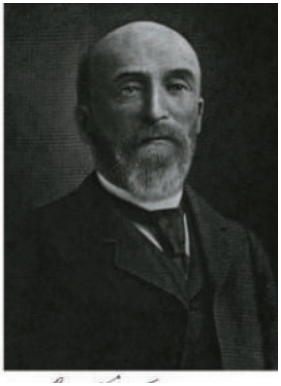
On the Friday 16th of August at Ramsbottom library, members of the Society welcomed an overseas visitor to our town, Susan Monahan, Vice President of the Kirkman House Museum situated in the town of Walla Walla, Washington, U.S.A. The significance of this visit is that the Kirkman House Museum was originally the home of Ramsbottom born William Kirkman, who built the house in 1880.

William Kirkman was born in 1831, the eldest son of James and Ann. The family lived in Nuttall village, working for the Grant Brothers. William emigrated to



the U.S.A. in 1851 at the age of 19. Here he made good in the textile industry, gold mining and ranching, before settling down with his family in Walla Walla. The purpose of Susan's visit was to research the places where the Kirkman family and friends lived and worked prior to his emigrating.

During her stay, Susan, an avid follower of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society's online presence, made her own discoveries around the town; she was also accompanied by Society members to the ruins of the Kirkman family home and workplaces in the Nuttall district.





Susan also visited the Helmshore Textile Museum, a fruitful visit that included a working demonstration of the looms. Searches for physical evidence of William Kirkman's friend referred to in his correspondence as 'Haslem' of 'Chapel Row', Tottington Lower End, were not as fruitful!

Following her visit to Ramsbottom, Susan was off to Ballybay, Ireland to visit the home of Isabella Kirkman, wife to William. The Kirkman House Museum staff and friends are to visit Ireland on a 'Grand Tour' during 2019. A similar tour is also being considered for the UK at a future date; we look forward to that!

The research files of the Kirkman legacy, documented by Barry and Isobel Aldous, are available at Bury Archives; a DVD of the Kirkman story "Those Who Will, May Win" produced by Barry Aldous, is available from the Society and more information about the Kirkman House Museum can be found online at www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org.



Susan with members of the Heritage Society at the Gallery

From left to right
Alan and Kate Slingsby
Brenda Richards
Susan Monahan
Tony Mosedale

Barry Aldous

THE SURVIVAL OF A HERITAGE LAMPPOST

circa 1920

This original Joseph Strang cast iron lamppost stood in Castle Grove, Holcombe Brook, Ramsbottom ever since the houses were built in 1928. Cast into the twelve flute column are the words "J. STRANG . MAKER . RAMSBOTTOM".



As far as we are aware, the old lamppost is the only known complete "swan's neck" lamp left in the borough catchment area and even has its ladder arm. Manufactured at Strang's Prince's Foundry, on Prince St, Ramsbottom over 90 years ago, the lamppost has recently been relocated in the grounds of Morrisons supermarket, Ramsbottom, the original site of the foundry. The lamppost had been scheduled for removal under plans for LED conversion. Paul Kinsey, a Society member and resident of Castle Grove, had already been trying to ensure its preservation and he was able to enlist the necessary support for it to be moved to an appropriate site. Due to the efforts of Bury MBC, Morrisons supermarket PLC, and Ramsbottom Heritage Society, it has been renovated in its original green livery. It now stands proudly incorporated into Morrisons Store refurbishment; hopefully for at least another 90 years!

In the later 19th century, several engineering works were established near the centre of Ramsbottom to be close to the railway, particularly in the area between Square Street and Railway Street. The metal workers and the town's many mill hands often lived in cramped conditions on or near the present Saturday market site. Joseph Strang, whose company manufactured the lamppost, was born in Nuttall in 1853. He served his apprenticeship as a mechanic with a Mr. Lund at his foundry, the Palatine Iron Works on Railway Street/Irwell Street. He started his own business together with John Wood c1878 and later branched out on his

own at the Princes Foundry. He appears in Barrett's Trade Directory of 1883 as a millwright and ironfounder at Prince's Foundry, Ramsbottom living at 116, Albert Street. Slater's 1888 directory lists him as a brass and ironfounder and machine maker living in Scotland Place. In retirement he lived in Lytham c1917 where he died in August 1928 aged 75. His business continued as a Limited Company by his sons.

A completion statement dated 27th November 1941 has the heading "William Strang & Others to Metcalfe Bros (Ramsbottom) Limited" and lists the rents of C R Metcalfe, Joseph Winterburn, and G B Fenton & Co Ltd, the wholesale greengrocers. Cuthbertson Tripe Purveyors had also had a base there. The central room was forty two feet square and the position of the jib crane, which had been used by Strang's to move their iron mouldings, could still be discerned in the middle of the roof structure."

On 25th November 1994, the old Strang foundry, which had most recently been Ableaim, successors to Metcalfe Bros, (manufacturers of wooden products: sawmilling, packing cases, wooden boxes, firewood from1937-1991) was opened by Ponden Mills Ltd as a retail outlet for textile goods and named Peel Mill.



By January 1999 the building had been cleared along with Metcalf Brothers' unsightly corrugated brown shed which stood at the corner of Prince St and King St. Luckily the Society had been reminded of the lintel over the foundry's internal doorway which featured the words "JOSEPH STRANG ENGINEER RAMSBOTTOM 1882" and it was saved. The demolition was carried out to prepare for the build of the North West Coop supermarket. The lintel was installed on a plinth near the Irwell Street access at the south end of the supermarket car park.

In April 2009 Morrisons took over the Coop store, thus becoming the occupants of the site where the Strang premises once stood. Morrisons present neighbour, the Irwell Works Brewery was originally part of the Strang Foundry and the old STRANG STREET sign, rescued by Bob Howarth from the corner house of the terrace on Silver Street upon demolition c1987, is fastened to the outside of the brewery building. The Society is delighted





that the heritage lamp has been relocated to the foundry site and near the brewery. We are looking at the possibility of installing an interpretation board nearby. It would include information about all three Strang artefacts: the lamppost, the lintel and the street sign.

References

RHS Mag No18 Spring 1999 – page 1 - Andrew Todd

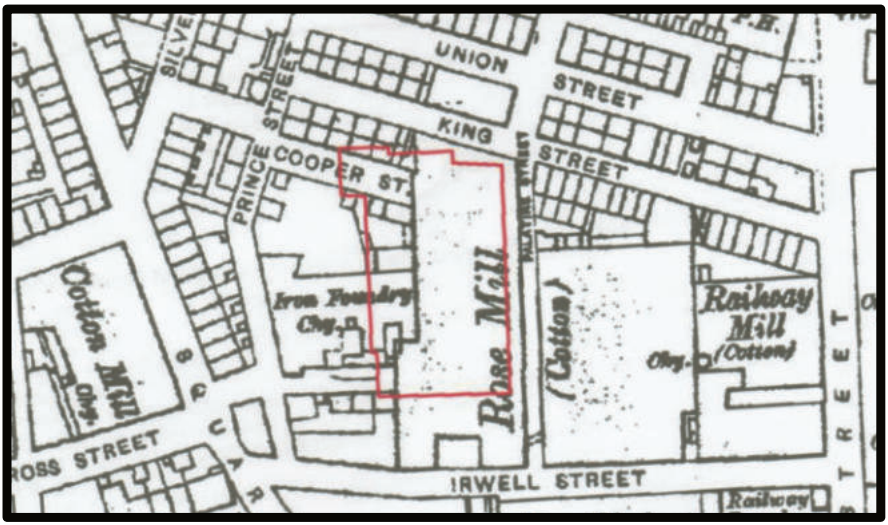
RHS Mag No 36 Spring 2009 A Brief History of Metcalf Brothers (Ramsbottom) Ltd by J Barrett

Around Ramsbottom – Ramsbottom Heritage Society 1995, reprinted 2002 and 2010



Photo: June 1987 – looking north along Prince Street. Strang's Iron Foundry, by then Metcalfe Bros Ltd, pallet makers, on right.

Morrisons outlined in red on the 1910 map



JOSEPH STRANG

Death of Mr. J. Strang

Founder of Ramsbottom Engineering Firm

The death occurred on Monday at his residence ‘Newlands’ Lytham of Mr. Joseph Strang, founder of the firm J. Strang, Ltd., engineers, of Princes Foundry, Ramsbottom.

The deceased gentleman, who was 75 years of age, had been in indifferent health for some time. Born in Nuttall, Mr Strang, we understand, served his apprenticeship as a mechanic at a foundry then run by Mr Lund and situate in the locality where the Empire Picture House now stands. Later he started in business as an engineer in partnership with Mr. John Wood, under the style of Wood and Strang. That was about fifty years ago. A few years later the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Strang starting in business on his own account at Princes Foundry, and the concern which is now in charge of his sons, became a limited company a few years ago.

During his residence in Ramsbottom – he went to live in Lytham about eleven years ago - Mr. Strang was associated with the Presbyterian Church. He was the senior member of the Starkie Lodge 1634 of Freemasons, Ramsbottom. Some five years ago he celebrated his golden wedding, but his wife died soon afterwards. He leaves three sons and five daughters, all married.

The funeral took place yesterday in the family grave at Stubbins Congregational Church when the last rites were performed by the Rev. W. Robinson, of Cleveleys, formerly of the Fairhaven Congregational Church, and who also conducted a short service at the late home of the deceased prior to the cortege leaving for Ramsbottom. Requiem music was played on the organ by Mr. T.Wolstenholme.

MOURNERS

The private mourners were Messrs William, Gordon, and Norman Strang, sons; Capt. C.W.Whittaker (Edinburgh), W.Bevan, J.H. Downes (Withington), and Percy Ashworth, sons-in-law; and Mr. Valantine (Lytham).

W Bro James Kay, W.M and other brethren of Starkie Lodge attended the funeral and the Masonic rites at the graveside were performed by the Rev. D. Lewtas.

Mr. J Gill represented the employees at Messrs J.Strang, and Mr. W. Walker represented Mr. J. Wood, Garden Engineering Works.

Floral tributes of remembrance were sent by Will, Martha, Jean and Joseph; Gordon Janie and Kathleen; Norman and Florence; Lizzie, Dick and Kenneth; Florrie and Bill; Maude and Jim; Paddy and Percy; Agnes and children; Elsie and Cecil; Mary and Lily; William Bevan, senr (Town Green); Mag (Lytham); Ada; Gertie (Trent Street); Val; Mr and Mrs Wm Almond (Ansdell); Frank (Chauffeur); Nurse; Mr Napp (Manchester); Brethren, Starkie Lodge of Freemasons; John Wood, Garden Engineering Works.

Ramsbottom Observer – 17 ?August 1928

Ramsbottom Market Place by Monarch

How Market Place developed from 1760 during the reign of various monarchs



George III 1760 - 1820

	Back part of Grant Arms, formerly Top o'the Brow then Grant Lodge

George IV 1820 - 1830

	1825 Altham's, Charles Louis - Mortgage Advisor, Chocolate Cafe
	1828 Front part of the Grant Arms
	1830 Treciccio restaurant - Pink Rhino

Queen Victoria 1837 - 1901

	1840 7 & 9 Market Place (Chemist , Mrs P's Ice Cream Parlour
	1850 Dentist - Bartisserie, Market Chambers, Cool Delight
	1874 Adderstone Mansions
	1896 Civic Hall

Queen Elizabeth II 1952

	c.1953 Market Place, re-landscaped

Kate Slingsby

Signs of the Times 1908:

RAMSBOTTOM'S OLDEST INHABITANT - FUNERAL

The funeral took place yesterday at Holcombe Churchyard (the Rev. G. L. Merchant officiating) of Mrs. Mary Lord of Peel Street, Ramsbottom, who died on Thursday night last aged 94 years.

Without doubt she was the oldest inhabitant in Ramsbottom and district. She was born on February 14th 1815, and thus saw the light prior to the final crushing of the power of Napoleon, and when fears of a Napoleonic invasion were still rife in England.

She could recall the times when Ramsbottom was the merest village; when cornfields and grassland flourished where now evidences of industry are supreme. Crow Lane, for instance, she remembered first as a cornfield and later as land devoted to the cultivation of vegetables and flowers. And she could recollect the time when the site of the Parish Church of St. Paul was occupied by an old farmstead.

The late Mrs. Lord was born and reared in times when child labour was exploited without much thought of the hardship it involved to youngsters, and so at the early age of seven, she had to leave her home in the Strongstry district and engage in labour associated with the textile industry, then just developing in the direction of the factory system. She had a vivid recollection of the often-described plug-drawing riots, and the scenes at Chatterton during that memorable period.

Almost the whole of her life she had resided in Ramsbottom, and though as a result of an accident she had been bedridden about eleven years, she retained her faculties to a remarkable degree. Death resulted from an attack of influenza.

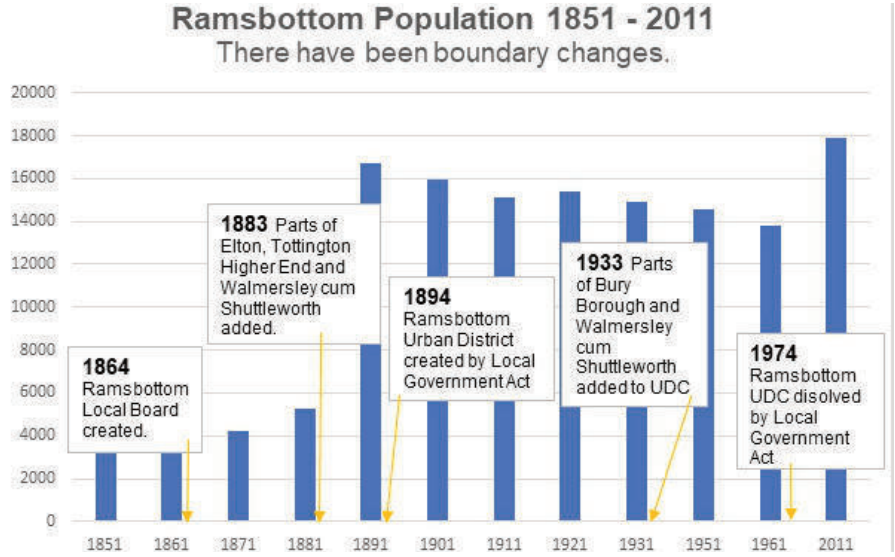
Bury Times, 8th December 1908



Peel Street occupied part of the present Grant Arms car park. It can be seen in the distance in this photograph

RAMSBOTTOM LANE IN 1851

The early 1800s must have been an exciting time in the development of Ramsbottom. Buildings were being knocked down and others built. Across the River Irwell a new bridge had been built opening up the eastern side of the valley. As a result of all this development a new church, St. Paul's was consecrated in 1850. Mills were being built, new houses built, roads improved and people moving into the area. Local government was rudimentary. The area was part of the Bury Poor Law Union that had been established in 1837 and in 1864 the Ramsbottom Local Board of Health was created. It was not until 1894 Local government Act that Ramsbottom Urban District Council came into existence.



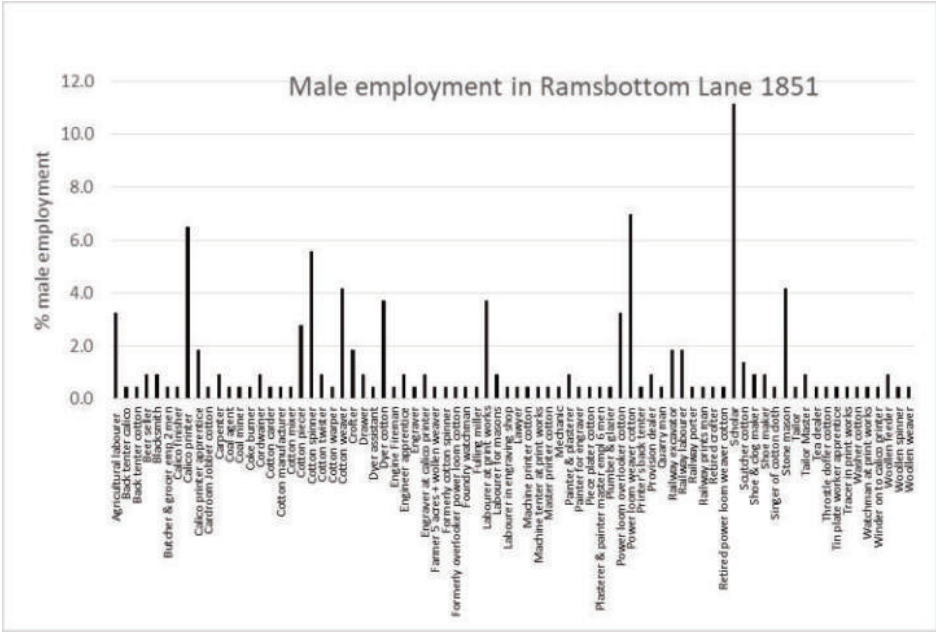


In 1841 the first census had been carried out and provided some limited information about the area. In 1851 a much fuller census was taken and provides a base line for the subsequent rapid growth of the town. In order to gain some idea about the area the 1851 Census was used to look at Ramsbottom Lane.

On the first edition OS map of the area Ramsbottom Lane was not named as such although it does appear in the 1851 Census. In fact, it was named Stubbins Street on the map. The road runs from Market Place

northwards towards Stubbins. Part way along it becomes Stubbins Lane. The New Jerusalem Church that dominated one end of the road had yet to be built but there was a considerable number of houses along the road. Some backing onto Paradise Street were of poor quality with outside toilets and on several levels and in some cases in multiple occupancy. These would be demolished as part of clearance programmes in the next century but in 1851 they provided housing for many families working in the area.

The graph below shows the occupations of males living in Ramsbottom Lane in 1851.



The high proportion of scholars shows that the area was occupied by young families. Over 20% of the street was aged under 10 years and 40% were under the age of 20 years. Many children would, of course, have been working in the mills although the banning of the children under 9 working in mills had been legislated for in 1833. The first effective law was passed in 1833. It was effective because for the first-time factory inspectors were appointed to make sure the law was being obeyed. The new law banned children under 9 years from working in textile factories. It said that children aged 9 to 13 must not work for more than 12 hours a day or 48 hours a week. Children aged 13 to 18 must not work for more than 69 hours a week. Furthermore, nobody under 18 was allowed to work

at night (from 8.30 pm to 5.30 am). Children aged 9 to 13 were to be given 2 hours education a day.

The Census shows many children were working in the textile mills; a boy of 9 years was described as a cotton piecer, an11-year-old boy was employed as a dyer's assistant and a 14-year old girl as a cotton weaver.

The Census makes clear that Ramsbottom was becoming established as a textile town. Over 45% of the male workers on Ramsbottom Lane were employed in textile and textile related industries. The development of calico printing earlier by the Peels and the Grants was being extended by the increase in the number of cotton spinning and weaving mills. Along Ramsbottom Lane the largest proportion of workers were described as power loom weavers cotton (7%) or calico printers (6.5%)

There is also evidence of the mining industry that was centred on Scout Moor and Hawkshaw with some of the coal miners living on Ramsbottom Lane.

The railway had arrived in Ramsbottom in 1846 and there were a number of men employed by the railways living on Ramsbottom Lane. They would have had a short walk to their work.

Almost 2% of the men described themselves as crofters. This may not relate to farming practices as bleaching crofts were set up to deal with bleaching the cotton cloth. In which case crofters here were still employed in the textile industry. Interestingly part of Shuttleworth was known as the Croft. John Greenhalgh wrote a book called 'Up the Croft'. This valley was significant in developing the bleaching trade.

However, if these occupations relate to the more traditional meaning of crofting this was the way that most people would have earned their living in the past. They would have had a small plot of land, kept a few cattle and added to their wages by weaving woollen cloth in their farm house. The very early origins of the textile industry in Lancashire started in this way. Interestingly there were also still some workers who described their occupation as woollen spinners and weavers although compared to the cotton workers these were already a small minority.

Reflecting the growth of the town and the rapid expansion of the industrial and residential areas 4.2 % of the men were stone masons. This must have been a good trade given the rows of terraced houses and the size of some of the mills that were being built. The quarries in the area provided a good supply of stone and the majority of buildings were stone built.

What is interesting is the mix of workers that the Census shows living side by side in this central area of the town. There were textile workers, miners, and engineers but also tailors, shoe makers, butchers, beer sellers and a tea dealer. One person described himself as a lawyer. The segregation of workers had

started in some parts of the town with the building of large villas along Bolton Road but here there was a good mixture of occupations living cheek by jowl.

As a reflection of the growing population there was considerable movement of people into the area. Only 24% of the occupants of Ramsbottom Lane were born in Ramsbottom. Another 25% came from other parts of Lancashire and there were even immigrants from Yorkshire with almost 6% being born in that area. My own maternal great grandfather hailed from South Wales and moved to Ramsbottom to work as a stone mason and my paternal grandmother moved from Suffolk with her family as her father worked in a Ramsbottom paper mill.

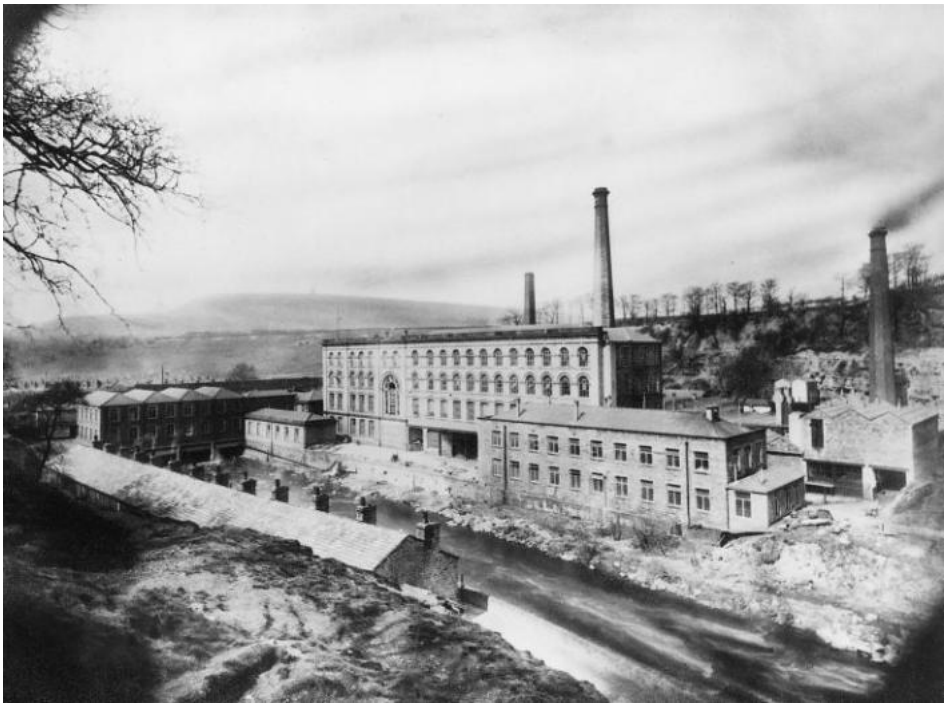
This article is a snapshot of the establishment of the town looking at only one street and in one year. The next forty years saw the town grow dramatically from just over 3,000 in 1851 to over 16,000 in 1891. The ten-year censuses add further to our knowledge of the town during this important period.

J. Tomlinson February 2018

Brooksbottoms (Kay Street) Bridge, Summerseat

In the winter of 2015 the River Irwell flooded at Brooksbottoms in Summerseat. It swept away part of the Waterside Restaurant that was positioned across the river abutting Kay Street bridge. (Originally the restaurant was a mill canteen for workers of Brooksbottom Mill. The mill closed in 1978 and was partly demolished with the riverside portion saved as The Spinnings, a conversion of studio apartments and flats which was completed in 1985.) After the flood the canteen/restaurant had to be demolished for safety reasons, leaving the bridge and its abutments in need of repair and restoration.

Industrial development in this part of the Irwell Valley began in the late eighteenth century with the arrival of the cotton industry and the first mill was built in around 1773, though records do not show by whom. The River Irwell and its tributaries provided a source of water and power and there were flat sites for building in the valley bottom. Steam began to replace water power in the 1840s, although some of the mills retained water power until the early twentieth century and Hoyles Mill at Brooksbottoms later used hydroelectricity as a supplement to steam. In 1787 Robert Peel and William Yates bought the lower part of the estate and an existing three-bay mill at Brooksbottoms. They were already successful calico printers and owners of spinning mills at Bury and Ramsbottom and employed hundreds of handloom weavers in surrounding villages and hamlets. Richard Hamer was employed as the factory supervisor.



Peel, Yates & Company began to develop Summerseat and Brooksbottoms and by 1803 they had five spinning mills: Brooksbottoms, Robin Road, Upper Mill, Lower Mill and Wood Road. The company built rows of terraced cottages for their workers, such as those on Robin Road and Hall Street.

Transport was a key factor in support of the Peel and Yates developments. At Bridge Street, Ramsbottom they supported the building of the existing two arched stone bridge across the Irwell. It is anticipated that they took similar action in Brooksbottom/Summerseat building/rebuilding the bridges at Brooksbottoms Mill and the bridge by Twist Mill/Wood Road, close by the current Summerseat ELR station. The first map found to show bridges in these positions was in 1818, later confirmed by the first OS map in 1850. The Ramsbottom bridge is dated 1789 and all three are broadly of the same design and appearance. It could be concluded that they are of broadly the same date.

Peel and Yates sold their mills in 1812 to a consortium of Edward Hamer, Richard Hamer, Thomas Norris and William Hardman and Hamer added to the site at Brooksbottoms. Norris and Hardman had been employed by Peel & Yates as supervisors of the other two Irwell Valley mills. The introduction of power looms to the Robin Road mill led to riots and the destruction of 38 looms. In

1824 Hamer bought out his partner's interests in the estate and became sole owner. The final phase of 19th century mill development was the building of the current Hoyles Mill (now partly remaining as The Spinnings) and its former canteen built over the river adjacent to the bridge.

The mill is a grade II listed building. The listing description is as follows:

'1876. On site of mills built by Peel and Yates in 1773, by Richard Hamer in 1812, and by Thomas Kay of Rawtenstall in 1825. Built from stone from Wilds Delph in Edenfield by Edward Hoyle. Rubble and coursed stone. Four storeys. Lshaped plan with two-storey extension spanning river. Round-arched windows with sill and impost bands. Corbelled dentilled cornice under hipped slate roof. Hexagonal mill chimney.'

Brooksbottoms bridge, which carried a single carriageway highway has remained closed to vehicles since the 2015 flood. Its owners, Bury Council, propose to repair the damaged bridge to include a parapet and also to widen it to include a separate footway but their plans involve a Compulsory purchase order (CPO) for land around the bridge.

KNOCKER UP

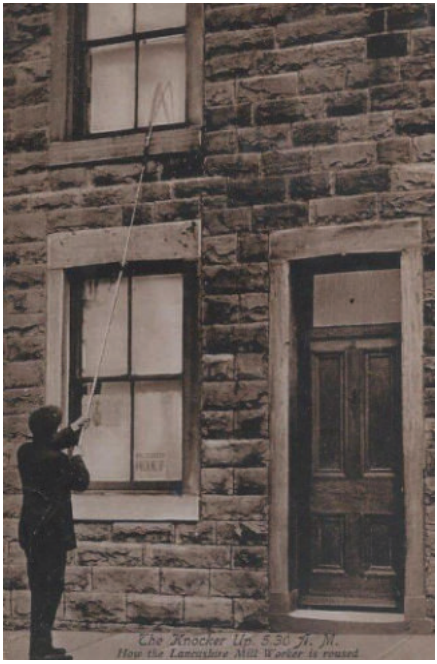


Photo on our website no. RHSBA-1403 - description under the photo

"The Knocker up 5.30 A.M. How the Lancashire Mill Worker is roused from his Slumbers"

And his name given on our website as J.M. Pearson

Found on the back of a duplicate photo

"Why he was late! Our knocker-up has a knocker-up to knock him up, and our knocker- up's knocker-up didn't knock our knocker-up up, so our knocker-up didn't come to knock us up"

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

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

email contact: archives@bury.gov.uk or tel: 0161 253 6782

IMPORTANT: To avoid disappointment you are advised to check before your visit. An appointment is now essential if you wish to view any items that are stored in the archive.

OPENING HOURS.

Monday Closed; Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.; Sat 10 - 1 p.m

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at http;//archives.bury.gov.uk as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The enquiry service offers 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries we charge £15.00 hour. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives. The local studies section 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at http://library.bury.gov.uk – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services. The Wordpress Blog (https://buryculture.wordpress.com/) offers lots of news, information, events and articles on all aspects of our service.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society Bury branch meetings date: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at The Kay Room, Church House, The Wylde, Bury BL0 0LA (behind St Mary's Church). Branch contact via email at bury@lfhhs.org.uk . Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details about branch resources and events.

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

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

Monday	Closed	Thursday	12.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Friday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Saturday	9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month 12.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Current Exhibition

July 2018 -

Ramsbottom Pubs

& "the Odious and Loathsome Sin of Drunkenness"

The exhibition focuses on pubs that existed in 1890 and what they look like now. There are panels of the history of 4 local pubs that still exist, Edenfield Brewery and the story of the Marsdens who were arrested over 30 times for drunkenness. The exhibition also has many examples of pub memorabilia, as well as a stag's head from the Shoulder Of Mutton

The exhibition is open during library hours and on the second Sunday of each month from 12 - 3 p.m.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NEWS MAGAZINE



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

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Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

PROGRAMME 2019

Wednesday May 15th Annual General Meeting & Members' Night

Wednesday June 19th A REMARKABLE ARCHITECT : CHRISTINE GRIMES, secretary of the Edgar Wood Society tells us about the Arts and Crafts buildings designed by the Manchester architect Edgar Wood, centered mainly in Middleton.

Wednesday July 17th Visit to view buildings designed by Edgar Wood, conducted by CHRISTINE GRIMES. Cost for the tour £5.00/person. Tour will begin at 11.30 am from outside the Old Boars Head, Long Street, Middleton,

Wednesday August 21st Visit to view the stunning interior of ROCHDALE TOWN HALL Tours begin at 14.15 and cost £4.50 for adults, £2.30 for children.

Wednesday September 18th PETERLOO : On the bicentenary of the massacre Blue Badge Guide ELIZABETH SIBBERLING will take us on an illustrated journey through the events which led to the tragedy and involved people from every town surrounding Manchester.

Wednesday October 16th THE LANCASHIRE LEAGUE is celebrating 125 glorious years of cricket. Ramsbottom has played a major part in the League, and IAN BELL's illustrated talk will present major events in the League and the Club's history, and their hopes for the future.

Wednesday November 20th THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION : In Remembrance Month PETER HOERTY'S illustrated talk will tell us about the history of the Royal British Legion, and what it still means today.

Wednesday December 11th - Christmas Social Evening

meetings are held in the Holcombe Room at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Entry: visitors- £2, members - £1.50, includes refreshments.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society
News Magazine No 56
Spring/Summer 2019

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Front Cover

Top o' th' Brow and the Old Ground Calico Print Works, Ramsbottom
(probably painted between 1806 and 1814, artist unknown - Bury Archives collection) The white house was originally called Top o' th' Brow. in 1806, renamed Grant Lodge, it became the home of the Grant family. The present front was added when it was converted into the **Grant Arms Hotel** in 1828.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last report, the committee have met only twice, both times with postponements due to clashes with another event in November, and also the weather in January. This caused 2 cancellations as although it has been a mild winter, the snow and ice lasted more than a week. At the December meeting, we discussed many of the items which are on the Latest News pages, and the committee approved the purchase of an interpretation board to go alongside the Strang lamppost on Morrison's car park. The Conservation group reported back that they opposed the application to convert the Grant Arms into offices, mainly on the grounds that the Heritage Society had only recently listed the Grant Arms as an Asset of Community Value as a hotel, and did not feel the owner had offered the building for sale as a hotel. The application was approved as mentioned in the Grant Arms Hotel 2019 article.

On the 6th February, the committee were informed that the Nuttall Park bandstand project had received a grant of £5,000 from Bury Council and the committee approved a donation of £1,000 from the Heritage Society Project fund to enable the band stand plinth to be repaired and have hard standing around it, connecting it to the nearby path. Kate Slingsby and Kate Howarth are also investigating grants for restoring some of our artwork, and Kate Slingsby is organising an exhibition of up to 90 paintings from our collection at the Ramsbottom Civic Hall (an advert is on page 15). Brenda Richards had asked for the committee's approval to apply for the Bury Council Pitch for £1500 for repairing the wall at the old St Andrew's Presbyterian Church site at the top of Kay Brow. There would be no financial obligation on behalf of the Heritage Society at this stage. The Pitch was unsuccessful, so the committee will have to decide the next step. The Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday May 20th and it would be good to see all members attend to learn about the activities of the society, and new members to the committee can be proposed and seconded at the meeting

LATEST NEWS

Church Fields - Tree Preservation Order obtained

Local people may remember the Heritage Society's attempt in 2014 to obtain Commons status for the area known as Church Fields. This went to public enquiry but was rejected. Since then we have applied for a single Tree Preservation Order to protect every tree within an area (marked in green on the accompanying map) which includes Church Fields. The trees are mainly ash, but with willow, oak, beech, hawthorn, silver birch and hazel well represented. Peel Holdings objected and paid for an arboriculture survey, but the Council put forward a very robust case to support TPO status, formally granting this as of August 1st 2018. Bury Council is keen for local people to identify individual trees, or groups of trees, which warrant protection. One of our members, an expert in these planning matters, had come up with the idea of suggesting the whole of Church Fields, as a natural extension of Crow Lumb Wood, and wrote the application. Ramsbottom owes her an immense debt of gratitude. With this protection, permission must be sought to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage, or wilfully destroy any tree on the protected site, whatever its size or species. Should you see any such activity taking place on Church Fields, please contact the Council's direct line for conservation issues - 0161 253 5432.
We believe that this order extends a whole new level of protection to Church Fields, and very difficult to overturn in any planning application for building.

1. If you want to see which trees in the borough already have Tree Preservation Orders, then: Google Online maps - Bury Council



2. Accept the terms and conditions

3. Top left click on What would you like to do

4. Select Tree Preservation Orders for a map overlay which shows the location of every order

The procedure for requesting Tree Preservation Orders is free. Google Tree protection – Bury Council.

Map of Tree Preservation Order (includes Church Fields)

Ramsbottom's Green Belt 2019

Local additions to the green belt have been suggested in the January 2019 Draft of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), Greater Manchester's Plan for Houses, Jobs and the Environment. The local sites which are being considered for designation as extra green belt are:

Crow Lumb Wood	(the whole of St Andrew's Church Fields is within this area).
North of Nuttall Park	(between Nuttall Hall Rd and the River Irwell)
Nuttall East	(a strip of land along the south end of the 'Nuts', which is local name for the setted path between Summerseat and Nuttall)

Nuttall West

Broad Hey Wood North

(Nuttall West & Broad Hey Wood North are the same area - between Hazel Hall Lane and the Whittingham Drive Estate)

Longsight Road	(a triangular area between Longsight Rd and Hazel Hall Lane)

The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework is the work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority*. It is available online and includes maps and diagrams. The document, which may well be subject to further revision, sets out how Greater Manchester should develop up until 2037 and runs to nearly 450 pages

*The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is made up of the ten Greater Manchester councils: Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan and the Mayor of Greater Manchester. They work with other local services, businesses, communities and other partners to improve the city-region.

Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital weathervane

When Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital, Nuttall Lane was demolished in 2015 it had been agreed that Ramsbottom Heritage Society should find permanent homes for some of its important features. The Society offered the hospital's louvred roof ventilator/weather vane to Greenmount Homes Ltd for their redevelopment of the former Cobden Mill, Square Street, Ramsbottom. Following discussions with both the Heritage Society and the Bury Planning department, a position on the mill roof was identified. The weathervane is already at Cobden Mill and Greenmount Homes have submitted a formal planning application which includes the addition of the weathervane to the mill's roof. This is an ideal position as it will continue to fulfil its original purpose.



Photograph by Joyce Sellers 2013

The Society is very grateful to the owners of Park Farm and Holly Mount Farm without whose help with transport and storage it would have been almost impossible to save the weathervane.

Just a reminder:
The other Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital artefacts which were donated to the Society by developers, Eccleston Homes, have already been found homes. (Reports in RHS Newsletters 49 and 50.) These artefacts are:

The carved stone pediment	re-erected by the roadside on Nuttall Lane
The foundation stone	by the roadside on Nuttall Lane
The original time capsule's contents	buried adjacent to the pediment in a new time capsule with additional

	items chosen by St Andrew's School pupils
The hospital's stained-glass windows	in Ramsbottom Library with a light box behind them.

The Joseph Strang Interpretation Board

The RHS is to provide an interpretation board at the side of Morrisons car park by the recently relocated lamppost. Our last issue included an article on how the lamppost came to be "brought home" (from Castle Grove, Holcombe Brook, where it had stood for about ninety years) to the exact site of the foundry in the centre of Ramsbottom where it was made.
Society members are gathering material for the interpretation board.

If you know anything about Joseph Strang and his Princes Foundry, Prince Street, Ramsbottom or have any photographs, please contact us.

NUTTALL PARK BANDSTAND'S 90th ANNIVERSARY RENAISSANCE

Back in 1928 Lt-Col A.T. Porritt, a well-known local mill owner, bought Nuttall Hall and its grounds and presented it to the people of Ramsbottom for recreational purposes. To celebrate the Park's 80th anniversary in 2008 The Heritage Society, with others, erected a stone and plaque in the park, to acknowledge his generous donation. Lt- Col Porritt added more amenities to the park in 1929 and this included a bandstand. Over the years it was the focus of much entertainment for the public but for some unknown reason the wrought iron upper structure was removed in the 1950s. Since then the stark stone plinth has been the only memory of its past glory. It is now part of the Irwell Sculpture Trail and has a plan of the River Irwell with square steel markers etched onto its surface. The idea is for you to walk on the map to explore it. This in no way detracts from its use as a bandstand. In 2018 the idea of bringing it to life again was buoyed up by the enthusiasm of a local bandsman, Martin Hankinson, who offered to arrange concerts. Both the Friends of Nuttall Park and the Ramsbottom Heritage Society were keen to see this happen. Last year the Heritage Society applied for a grant from Bury Council's Social Capital Fund to make the existing plinth safe and to create a path leading to it and extending

around the steps. Our Society also donated some of its own monies to the project. The bid was successful and on 11th January work started on repairing the stonework. The bandstand's two largest stone slabs, which had capped the short walls at the sides of the steps, were missing. Luckily, a few days after repair work began, these stones, which had been a prominent feature of the structure, were spotted in another part of the park. Each of them was well over a metre in length with edges carved to match the octagonal plinth and it would have been very costly to reproduce them. Although one of the stones had been cut into two pieces, their condition was good enough for them to be returned to their original position on the bandstand. This year is the bandstand's 90th anniversary so we are particularly pleased that the Society was able to play an important part in a complete restoration of the plinth with all its original stonework.The project team had struggled to get the best layout for the new hard surfacing in front of the bandstand steps and the short length of path. However, one sunny day, with Ramsbottom covered in a thick layer of snow and work on the bandstand halted, the Society had another stroke of luck. A drone was being launched from the bandstand plinth and was soon flying over the park. Its "pilot" kindly agreed to provide photographs, including one to show a plan view of the bandstand plinth, which made it easier to draw the outline of the surfacing. The next step is to build the upper structure - following the original design as much as possible.



Photograph by James Leyland

The responsibility for this has now passed to the Friends of Nuttall Park, but the Heritage Society will retain an interest as three people involved in this project, John Leyland, Brenda Richards and Janet Smith, are members of both groups. Raising money for the upper structure is daunting, but we think achievable and we hope for everyone's support. Members of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society and the Friends of Nuttall Park have already seen lots of enthusiasm for the bandstand to be brought back into use, not just for band concerts but for a variety



Photo by John Leyland

of public performances and displays, such as dance, drama and many genres of live music. At short notice, with everyone wanting to celebrate progress so far, Martin has arranged for public entertainment to take place this summer on the bandstand plinth. He has booked 2 local groups of musicians who are keen to perform and so help towards the next stage of the bandstand project – working towards providing an upper structure. .

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Martin is pleased we have Hazlehurst School Band for the first concert as he feels it is very appropriate to have children - the future of Ramsbottom - helping to restore the bandstand of the past.

12th May	Hazlehurst School Band	2 p.m. - 2.45 p.m.
14th July	Bury Music Centre Junior Brass Band	2 p.m. -4.p.m.

The Friends of Nuttall Park have also organised other events on the bandstand

9th June	Goodshaw Brass Band	2 p.m - 4 p.m
4th August	Tangle Dance Company	12, 2 and 4 p.m
25th August	To be confirmed	

Summer Walks Programme

Guided circular walks are usually held on the third Sunday of the month between June and September by volunteers with a particular interest in and knowledge of Ramsbottom and district. The walks are 2 – 3 hours in duration over distances between 3 to 5 miles, and are taken at a leisurely pace. The walks are suitable for reasonably fit adults and children, dogs welcome. We hope everyone will enjoy an afternoon out and benefit from the exercise and friendly company. Sensible footwear and waterproof clothing is recommended, as paths may be uneven. Be prepared for sun, rain or cold weather.

For further information on each walk, contact the relevant leader

Sunday 9th May

The Pubs and Clubs of Ramsbottom

Much of the social life of Ramsbottom revolved around the pubs and clubs and this walk opens a window on the activities and excesses of 200 years of history
Meeting place is outside the Grant Arms at 1.30
Leader is Andrew Todd 01706 822730

Sunday 16th June

Nuttall – the village that vanished

The once thriving village of Nuttall had wool and cotton mills and chemical works. They closed and everyone left. Visit the remains and hear its remarkable story. Paths may be uneven and stout shoes required.
Meeting at Ramsbottom Station. 2.00
Leader is Kate Slingsby, 01706 281998

Sunday July 21st and Sunday August 18th

To be arranged – Details will be on the website

Sunday Sept 15th

Holcombe Village,

Holcombe is historic, with a famous murder, public execution and a well-known hostelry. Renowned years ago for its sporting traditions of hunting, cock fighting and notorious ‘wakes’ which drew the countryside for miles around. Meeting Place at the Shoulder of Mutton Carpark at 1.20 p.m.
Leader John Ireland, 01706 822730

GRANT ARMS HOTEL 2019

On 18th December 2018 the application on behalf of Phillip Rose, of IFA Private Clients Limited, for change of use from hotel/public house (Class A4) to financial and professional services (Class A2) was approved with conditions by Bury Council's Planning Committee. Listed building consent for internal and external alterations was also granted. Five planning committee members voted in favour of both applications, which had been recommended for approval by planning officers, with three councillors voting against them. By the end of January 2019 more detailed plans were being submitted to the council so that work on any part of the building could be started.

The use for the back part (oldest) of the building was not established in the planning committee meeting even though it is a significant part of this Grade 2 listed building. (The back section consists of the old restaurant and some very small bedrooms, where some, at least, were ensuite.) Also, there are final decisions still to be made about the long horizontal sign on the front of the building and the rectangular sign below that.)

Four members of the RHS exhibition team were shown around the building on 26th January and found it in a sorry state. We were offered objects from the Grant Arms for our collection of artefacts and for our current exhibition. The objects we will be keeping include beer pumps and some menus from the hotel, a shield from the Grants bowls team, a picture representing the Cheeryble Brothers, and a large door mat. As they looked around the building, the Society's members were told that work had begun to strip out more recent fittings and walls belonging to the hotel. Whilst there are few older features in the front part of the building, the original walls will be retained and glass panels will be used so that the original layout can be seen. The hotel reception desk and the bars both downstairs and in the function room upstairs will be removed.

The Bury Times report has Mr Rose saying that the Grant's name will be retained, the building will be "sympathetically renovated" and that "the historic Grade II listed lady will be lovingly restored to give The Grant Arms a new lease of life, to stand proudly over the Market Place as a visual reminder of the area's cultural heritage once again." In addition, the clock on the façade of the building will be restored. Towards the end of January 2019, scaffolding was erected around the building and it seemed the major external work was soon to begin. We are hopeful that local people will be happy with the restoration of this iconic building.

COMMUNAL VALUE

The Grant Arms Hotel provided hospitality continuously to the people of Ramsbottom and its visitors from 1828 until it closed in September 2017. Many local residents remember it hosting a wide range of meetings and activities which were enjoyed by community groups, local organisations and individuals. It was used regularly by different age groups and was kept busy with live music events, sports and exercise classes, public meetings, charity events and family functions.

In 2008 English Heritage stated that:

"Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory".

As with every Conservation Area, the enjoyment of the historic built environment is a shared and collective experience. This relates not only to the visual enjoyment of the buildings within the Ramsbottom Town Centre, but also the collective memories of the township people who regularly visit and/or pass through.

In brief, the Grant Arms contributes to the overall communal value of the place and this value can be readily conserved through maintenance and upkeep of the building and the retention of its historic fabric. The long standing use of the building as a Public House through the majority of the C18th, the entire C19th and earliest part of the C20th clearly demonstrates the building would have enjoyed a high communal value being appreciated by locals and visitors alike.

The building has been used continuously as a centre for social/ community activity including weddings and other social functions. This building, undoubtedly therefore, has strong communal value.

THE "VISION"

Local people well know that while successful hotels have kept up with modern standards, the Grant Arms Hotel has suffered from decades of under-investment. It is also very unfortunate that the focus on the business's viability issues has been almost entirely on its continued use as a public house. With Ramsbottom having become a popular tourist destination, the loss of the Grants has created a shortage of hotel accommodation in the town centre. Transformed into a high-quality small hotel, with its excellent position and heritage, the Grants could

have brought great benefit to the future of the whole town: its residents and businesses as well as visitors.



Photograph by Ian Smith

Grant Arms Hotel: Evidence of Community Use

'I lived in Walmersley: it was the bar that everyone went to.' Unsolicited comment from former regular

This list, drawn up over a few days, from social media and members' knowledge, marks only a small tip of the uses that Ramsbottom's oldest, central and most prestigious public house has hosted in living memory. Two general points emerge:

1. The vast range of activities
2. The gradual withdrawal of all the groups, as the building has been allowed to deteriorate. The unsolicited comment made by the informant about Alf's Blackbelt Karate Club speaks volumes.

Use	**Approx dates**
Auctions	Most recent one c2008
Baby sensory classes	2000s, as recently as 2012/13
Belly dance classes	Early 2000s, up to 2016
Blues Festival – 'more bands at the Grants than any other of all the town pubs – 3 bands in the day, 3 in the evening'	
Ramsbottom **Bowls League**, HQ ; 3 bowling teams represented the *Grants*	'Up to the green closing' ie up to the teams being forced elsewhere by rent increase from £250 to £1,000 in four years, viz March 2009
Butchers Society - monthly meetings and starting point for day trips for their families	Up 1940s/50s
Christmas/New year lights across the frontage	Up to c2014?
'Community hub' after the Boxing Day floods	2015
Dances, 1940's, especially War Weekends in May	Moved to Civic Hall in recent years
Darts Teams	
Disco and local bands played upstairs	Up to 1990s
East Lancashire Railway have held public meetings and annual working members evening	Since 1987
Folk club - The Houghton Weavers (amongst others) regularly played and sang there	1970s and onwards, function room – 'the room was always packed' – as recently as 2012
Jazz Night	Monthly, until c2010
Alf's Blackbelt **Karate club**	2 nights a week – 'function room kept having leaks of raw sewage from the four bedrooms above and they had to change premises'

Use	Approx dates
GKR **Karate classes** - well attended by males and females of all ages (different to the karate club)	1990s-2000s , weekly
Meditation classes, weekly	
Ramsbottom **Millennium Festival**	A week of activities centred on the *Grants* in 2000
Mind body and spirit fairs	As late as 2016
Miss Ramsbottom finals	
'**Open Mic** and talent nights in the 'cave room'	'Until 2 or 3 years ago'
Peel Lions	Twice monthly, now meets at the British Legion
Pigeon Racing: '. When the birds arrived back to the loft, the racing ring on their leg showing their number had to be taken off and rushed to be clocked in at The *Grant Arms* at the Market Place.'	1920s/30s possibly later
Public Meetings	Eg Fort Sterling Extension, late 1980s; David Trippier, Environment Minister, 1990s; most recently David Nuttall MP, May 2017
Receptions - Christening, wedding, funeral, 18th and 21st birthday– many comments	
'**Rotary** used it weekly; and the bowling green for an annual function'	
School Leavers Proms	
Scouts - AGMs and other events, eg Venture Scout discos; bonfire in the car park	

Use	**Approx dates**
Sims Wireworks	children's xmas parties 1960s
Slimming World meetings	Up to c2015; then moved to Civic Hall
Ramsbottom **Swimming Club**	1970s-1980s
Ramsbottom Tradesmen's Association	monthly meetings and starting point for day trips for their families Up 1940s/50s
Prize giving after the **Tower Race** 1980s?	
Weight Watchers	(Different from Slimming World)

For your diary:

RAMSBOTTOM, 200 YEARS IN ART

This exhibition of Ramsbottom Heritage Society's artworks and framed photographs will take place at

Ramsbottom Civic Hall on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

The Society has a unique collection of 90 paintings and photographs of the town, dating back to the early 19th century. They show Ramsbottom as it developed into an industrialised and post-industrial town. Many items in the collection are irreplaceable. Changes are occurring so quickly now that most people will find scenes that they remember, but no which longer exist.

Annual Photographic Competition 2018

The competition has been running for 32 years, and this year 13 entrants entered a total of 479 photographs in 4 categories, five people entering less than 10 photographs, and one person entered 225. The judge was Wes Haydock who presented the awards on the evening. The competition winners were not necessarily the best quality photographs, but ones which reflected Ramsbottom in 2018, as all the photographs had to have been taken last year. There are now over 4,100 photographs on the Ramsbottom Heritage website taken in the last 32 years, searchable by filename or description, and they are an invaluable record of the many changes in the town. The winners in each category were

Events and Daily Life

The 2 Highly Commended certificates were awarded to :

Title	Photographer	Judge's comments
HPC-18EV-038	Ian Chapman	a lovely photo of a young girl at the Memorial Stone Unveiling. There's a feeling of optimism here.
HPC-18EV- 097	Ian Williams	Cricket Match at Brooksbottom, Summerseat with a well composed batsman



The winner was **Joan Platt**, Wes commented

"An unusual photo from the back of someone's head taken at the 1940s weekend."

HPC-18BU-064

Buildings

The 2 Highly Commended certificates were awarded to :

Title	Photographer	Judge's comments
HPC-18BU- 004	Ian Summers	New Peel Gardens ready for viewing - nicely composed photo
HPC-18BU-077	Ian Chapman	Grants Arms - I have included this one because we have no idea how much longer this building will remain or what will happen to it.

The winner is Alan Seymour, Wes said "The row of shop fronts sums up Ramsbottom well."



HPC-18BU-052

Town and Country

The 2 Highly Commended certificates were awarded to :

Title	Photographer	Judge's comments
HPC-18TC- 088	Fiona Daly	A well captured photo of a deer taken from Top O the Hoof farm
HPC-18BU-070	John Leyland	Peel Tower from Nuttall Park

The winner is Joan Platt, Wes said "A wonderful photo of a the Tornado on the East Lancs Railway just after leaving Summerseat Station. The picture is well composed, with a great depth of field."



HPC-TC18-068

The 2 Highly Commended certificates were awarded to

Title	Photographer	Judge's comments
HPC-18TH- 01 (4)	Ian Summers	4 images of the demolition of the Horse and Jockey Public House in Edenfield marking the end of a long standing building
HPC-18TH-24 (5)	Alan Seymour	5 images of interesting signs around Ramsbottom

The winner was Anne Shortt for 4 images of the 100 year Armistice Anniversary at Edenfield Parish Church. Wes commented that it was a lovely and well composed set of photos, mainly of poppies, with great use of different angles. 2 of the photos are printed here.

The overall winner of the Dickensian Trophy is Alan Seymour's photo Get in the Picture organised by Churches Together in Ramsbottom . Wes's comments: "I've chosen HPC-18TH-214. This is part of the Xmas Market theme. It shows Joseph and Mary and baby. The couple are very relaxed and the baby seems content. Its what Xmas is all about I suppose. It's a lovely image."





HPC-18TH-061 above and

HPC-18TH-064 on the right



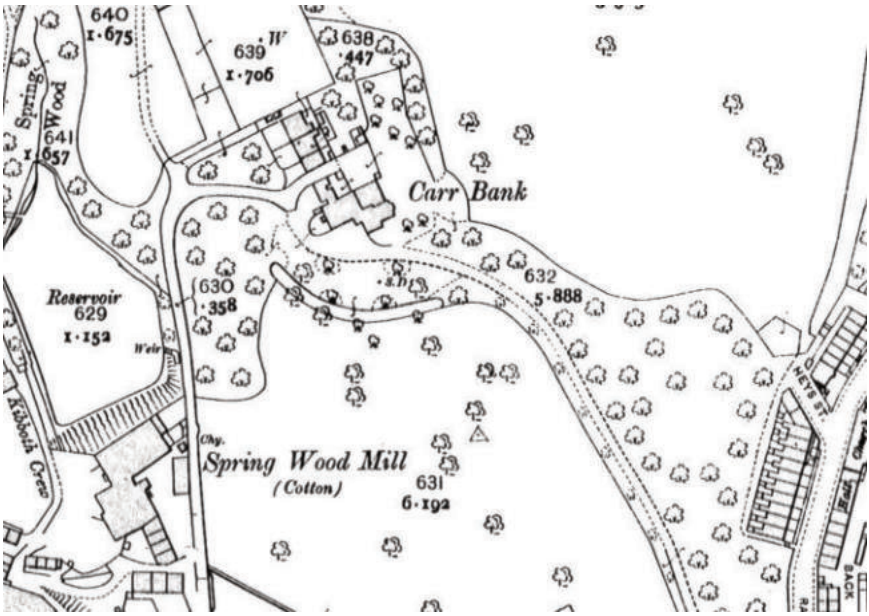
HPC-18TH-214

CARR BANK HOUSE

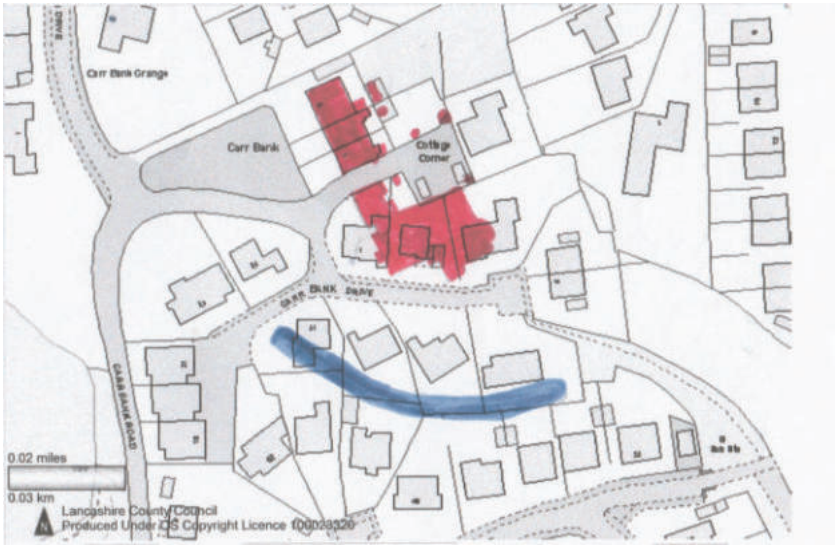


Reverend Hume Elliot in his book *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (1893) notes that the original name for the house was *Carr Barn*. He writes:

> **It is beautifully situated on the crest of one of the lower slopes of the Holcombe range, just where it begins to sweep gradually down to the south east to Carr and Grant Lodge. The present house, with which is preserved a portion of its predecessor, was built and its grounds admirably laid out and planted in 1850. It was prepared for Mr John Grant[1], the younger, of Nuttall Hall, who, however did not live to occupy it. It was occupied for a time by his brother the late William Grant and subsequently for some years by the late Mr William Stead[2]. Afterwards, till his death it was the residence of the late Mr Henry Stead, JP. The view from Carr Bank is very fine - whether up the valley or down towards the distant plain, or across to**



An extract of RHS/20/1/2/2, the Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1908 and published in 1910, and available on the Heritage Society website. The map shows Carr Bank House, the associated properties and the moat. These are highlighted on the current map below



Taken from MARIO (Maps and Related Information Online) in 2010 published by Lancashire County Council and reprinted under the terms on the website

the range of hills linking Top o' th' Hoof with Cribden, Whittle Pike occupying the mid distance in between.

Worrell's Trade Directory 1871 has Mr William Stead at *Carr Bank House* in 1871 and in the "Gentry, Clergy, and Private Residents" page of Slater's Trade Directory 1888, a Mr T Ashley Crook is listed at *Carr Bank*. At some time, probably early in the 20th century, Dr William Dean and Mrs Dean lived in the house, simply known as *Carr Bank*. *Carr Bank Lodge* (now 7, Ramsbottom Lane) was the gatehouse at the entrance to the front carriageway to *Carr Bank* and was Dr Dean's surgery. In 1906 Dr Crompton became his assistant and later partner. They both did their calls in pony and trap. When Dr Dean died *Carr Bank* was occupied by the Cunliffe family of the soap works on Kenyon Street. They were the last family to live in the big house.

The property had remained in the ownership of the Grant family, later the Grant-Lawson family. From 1947 to 1950 Ramsbottom Urban District Council considered buying the property for conversion into new Council offices. In 1949 they submitted a valuation report to the Ministry of Health for the sanction of a loan.- responding to an application from the Clerk of the RUDC who were proposing to acquire the Carr Bank Estate under the Local Government Act 1933 and the Public Health Act 1875 from Sir Peter Grant Lawson, "for the purpose of public offices and grounds, road improvements, public hall, car park, public open space and gardens, public walks and pleasure grounds …" An application was made to the Ministry of Health for their consent to the borrowing of a total of £14.500 for the land, buildings, legal costs etc and adaptations to *Carr Bank House* (for council offices).

In August 1950 the *Bury Times* reported that *Carr Bank House* was unlikely to be bought by Ramsbottom Council. The Ministry had not approved the RUDC's plans and recent estimates for repairs and alterations had been about four times the original estimates of 1947. On 18th December 1950 Sir Peter Grant Lawson's estate agent wrote to the Council asking permission to demolish *Carr Bank House.*

In 2007, in a planning application, *Carr Bank Lodge* was described as a small detached dwelling which had previously been a gatehouse. Bury Council's planning committee approved (with conditions) the application for change of use and for an extension. The Lodge then became an Indian restaurant (*Sanminis*). The property was vacant by 2017 and a new application was being made by *Cool Design Desserts,* who are "specialist manufacturers of ice cream and frozen products*",* to allow *Carr Bank Lodge* to be used for their offices. The planning committee approved the application, again with conditions which mainly related to the control of development within the Ramsbottom Town Centre Conservation Area.

RECOLLECTIONS OF CARR BANK

The Coronation Celebration of George IV July 19th 1821 (as told to Reverend Hume Elliot):

> **On that coronation day there was a great and memorable demonstration in Ramsbottom. The morning presented a very animated scene. From far and near, up the valley and down, from isolated homes and busy hamlets and villages that decked the sides of the neighbouring hills, were seen trooping the goodly company of hand-loom weavers employed by the Grants. They gathered, we are told, to the number of eighteen hundred at the appointed rendezvous in Ramsbottom, and were there joined by those employed in the works[3]. All were decked in their gayest attire – the girls in white dresses and pink sashes. At the appointed hour the great procession was formed ….**

Having marched to Bury where this impressive procession apparently "eclipsed all others on the great occasion" the processionists returned to Ramsbottom and were entertained at a grand banquet provided by the Grants.

> **The tables were placed across the field lying between Grant Lodge[4] and Carr Bank. A bullock and many sheep had been roasted inside the Square works, which were being built at the time. "There was such bringing and borrowing of knives and forks, and many dozens were bought. They were brewing for weeks and weeks before; and**

the puddings – what numbers! – great round 'uns in cloths, boiled in the boilers!"

Memories of Carr Bank - Miss M Sladin and Mrs G Robinson:

One of these ladies was born in Ramsbottom in 1910, and later lived in one of the Carr Bank cottages which was originally built as a brew house and servants' quarters for *Carr Bank House*. As a girl she was often at the house when the Cunliffe family lived there. Her mother knew Mrs Cunliffe, who used to invite children to come to play with her only child, Kathleen, born in 1913. They would play hide and seek and many other games in the grounds. She remembers clearly being in the front garden of *Carr Bank House*, which had extensive lawns and rhododendron bushes, and looking over the stone wall into the hay meadow to watch women in sunbonnets rake the hay.

The moat at Carr Bank was half-moon shaped and it had kingfishers darting for fish, (as had the "Top Lodge", the original *Springwood Lodge*, which had stately herons. The lower lodge, now often called "Springwood", is actually *Devil's Hole Lodge*). One very cold winter she skated on the moat which formed part of the Carr Bank garden.

St Paul's Church held their Whit Walks on Whit Friday and the procession would come up Carr Street, turn into Springwood Street and follow the back drive into *Carr Bank*, thence round the front of the house. There hymns were sung, after which everyone adjourned to the field below (now the modern Heatherside estate) where oranges were given out.

This back drive to *Carr Bank* (house) has become the present road to Carr Bank Avenue and onwards to Carr Bank Drive. It forked left to Carr Bank Farm and was indeed a country lane, now Uppingham Drive. Carr Bank Lodge still stands on Ramsbottom Lane at the bottom of the present footpath which leads to Carr Bank Drive. The footpath was the original front carriage driveway to Carr Bank. From the end of the driveway a path led past the stable yard through a door in the stone wall and into what was the kitchen garden, (now the site of The Paddock, a cul-de-sac of modern houses).

At no 1 Carr Bank Cottages was a large bell at the side door, which called the estate workers to meals. There was also a large clock higher up under the gable. It is still possible to see where it used to be. The cottage was originally a beer house. In the 1970s, while building an extension to the modern house opposite, workmen found beautifully made, stone-lined tunnels, which may well have been used to take beer to the big house.

Brief extracts from the memoirs of Ernest Hutchinson (1918-2016) :

Carr Bank Farm had a meadow above *Devil Hole Lodge* (the site of a housing estate today). It was a lovely meadow with a big round tree near its centre and one or two nicely shaped trees scattered about. At hay time I used to go helping to rake in the mown grass and turn it over in rows. The men working in the field, besides the farmer and his men were all Irish labourers who came over from Ireland every year.

Carr Bank House was the home of the local JP called Cunliffe, and my Step-mother Emily's father was the gardener, but at that time my father had not remarried. My pals and I used to go to try to pinch apples up there but the old chap used to chase us off. When my Father later married Emily he introduced Frank, Albert and me to her father. When it came to me he said "I know you"



St Paul's Whit Walk, c1910, in the grounds of Carr Bank House. St Paul's walkers sang outside the houses of important persons, according to Edna Ashworth nee Hall: 'Later we sang at Carr Bank (was it Dr Dean's?), Henry Heys at the end of Carlton Place and other local dignitaries . . .'. (Whit Friday Walking Day about 80 years ago, in Ramsbottom Reminiscences, Vol 1, *Ramsbottom Heritage Society, 1992, p28)*

and I thought "I know you too". There were no more raids on apple trees at *Carr Bank House* – I warned my pals off!

Back home, the special days I remember were 'The Whitsuntide Walks' and 'The May Queen Parades'. At the latter, parents would put their children in fancy dress to swell the parade. I was encased in Mickey Mouse (or was it Felix?) outfit, with a tail with a long spring in it so that it wagged about. I was told to dance about and act the fool. This was fine until someone trod on my tail and it came off leaving a hole for my shirt lap to poke through. The other kids did their best to pull it out further, so I had to leave the parade with my tail in my hand. These parades usually finished up in the field in front of the Cottage Hospital, with the official crowning of the May Queen. The Whitsuntide Walks were quite something in those days. All the churches walked with their banners and bands and St Paul's finished up in the meadow off Stubbins Lane where they had games; sack races; egg and spoon races and every youngster received an apple or orange.

NOTES

1. John Grant, whose family started their printing operations at Ramsbottom's Old Ground in 1807. Until the death of his brother, William in 1873, their influence on the life of the town was probably unchallenged.
2. At their peak, the Steads employed some 1,000 workers in the town, in six mills.
3. *Square Works*, a state-of-the-art calico printing works built in 1821-2 by the Grants, to which they moved their operations from the Old Ground.
4. *Grant Lodge*, the original Grant family home in Ramsbottom. It now forms the rear portion of the *Grant Arms*, having become part of the hotel in 1928 when the present frontage was added.

The above article is the result of a real team effort. We are particularly grateful to Ernest Hutchinson's family for giving us permission to publish paragraphs from his memoirs and we look forward to including further fascinating extracts in future RHS news magazines. We also acknowledge the valuable contribution by Rick Bowden. His research provided most of the background information about Carr Bank House.

MEMORIES OF ST PAUL'S

Mr Keith Hoyle will be 94 years old in June this year. His daughter, Ms Lynda Woodhams, has written to the Society with information from her father's personal biography which she is helping him to compile. She now lives in Hampshire. For when she next goes to visit him she has promised to take some of the information from his reminiscences and may talk with him again about Crow Lane and the surrounding area. We are invited to forward any specific questions that we would like her to ask him as he will be pleased to help if he can. She tells us that his memory is brilliant most of the time and she is using photos to prompt him.

My father, Keith Hoyle was born in Rawtenstall on June 23rd 1925 but moved to 19, St Paul's Street, Ramsbottom shortly before his youngest brother, Derek, was born on September 1st 1927. During his first year at school he contracted diphtheria and was admitted to the isolation hospital in Bury. When he was being admitted the doctor spoke to Sister Whitaker (she lived in a house which backed on to their house in St Paul's Street.) and said, "I think we are going to lose this one." He was well cared for and in the hospital for five weeks. The nurse who looked after him was called Nurse Brown who was only 18 years old, and she was lovely. She used to dance him round the ward in her arms to waltz music from a gramophone with wax discs. When his parents came to take him home he did not recognise them. He remembers that the Head of the Infants' Department was called Miss Whittaker. She told him that when his life was in danger her father, who was a minister, had stayed up and prayed for him all night. In the class photo, my father is on the back row, third from the right between two little girls, what a sweetie!



Keith Hoyle and his brother Derek at the back of their house in St Paul's Street probably about 1932/3



He was three years old. I think the teacher was Miss Shaw. That same year the family went on holiday to Soham, Cambridgeshire where his mother's paternal family came from. Another memory that he has is of cars on the main road being so rare that when he heard one he would run to the end of the street to see it. People mainly used horses and carts or bicycles. While living in St Paul's Street and attending the church he became a member of the church choir with his brother Clifford. The choir was taken on a day out to Blackpool in the summer and his mother Beatrice, neé Mantle, would go with them as she had a free pass on the railways because of her husband's job. He remembers that he loved reading and could get through a book in one sitting. He read his mother's magazines as well and she would tell him off when she could not find them. He would go to the local library and borrow books but sometimes he chose books which were from the adult section and the librarian would refuse to issue them. He then got his brother Clifford to take them out for him – until they were rumbled! In the photo of the two brothers, Dad is on the front row second right and his brother Clifford is on the back row on the right end. It was the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary, May 6th 1935, and Dad would have



been coming up to his tenth birthday. The houses behind are where they lived, St Paul's Street. We later lived there when I was born in 1948, moving to Manor Street off Carr Street when I was three. My cousins lived in Factory Street so the area is very familiar to me. The family moved in 1939 to Beechwood Avenue, off Peel Brow and he was then attending Peel Brow County Secondary School before starting his apprenticeship with Castle Brothers down Longsight Road.

Lynda Woodhams 2019

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

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

email contact: archives@bury.gov.uk or tel: 0161 253 6782

IMPORTANT: To avoid disappointment you are advised to check before your visit. An appointment is now essential if you wish to view any items that are stored in the archive.

OPENING HOURS.

Monday Closed; Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.; Sat 10 - 1 p.m

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at http;//archives.bury.gov.uk as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The enquiry service offers 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries we charge £15.00 hour. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives. The local studies section 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at http://library.bury.gov.uk – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services. The Wordpress Blog (https://buryculture.wordpress.com/) offers lots of news, information, events and articles on all aspects of our service.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society Bury branch meetings date: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at The Kay Room, Church House, The Wylde, Bury BL0 0LA (behind St Mary's Church). Branch contact via email at bury@lfhhs.org.uk . Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details about branch resources and events.

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

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

Monday	Closed	Thursday	12.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Friday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Saturday	9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month 12.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

2018-2020 Exhibition

At the Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library

Ramsbottom Pubs

"the Odious and Loathsome Sin of Drunkenness"

Normal library opening times and
also on the
2nd Sunday of the month at 12:00pm-3:00pm
via the upper outside entrance.



The exhibition focuses on pubs that existed in 1890 and what they look like now.

There are panels of the history of four local pubs that still exist, Edenfield Brewery and the story of the Marsdens who were arrested over 30 times for drunkenness. The exhibition also has many examples of pub memorabilia.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

No 57 Autumn/Winter 2019 **ISSN 0960 - 1244**

NEWS MAGAZINE



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

PROGRAMME January to June 2020

Wednesday January 15th : HORDES AND HOARDS - Paul Atherton will tell us about the Viking invasions of the North West, referencing his talk to the discovered Cuerdale Hoard in the Ribble Valley. Can we still hear Viking Voices?

Wednesday February 19th : BURY FOOTBALL CLUB, PAST, PRESENT .. .. AND FUTURE? - Dr. Peter Holme, Director Of Archives at the National Football Museum, will illustrate The Shakers' long and illustrious history, take us through the turbulent events of 2019, and present his hopes for the future of the Club.

Wednesday March 18th : 33rd Annual Photography Competition - Steve Gill of Photo-Consult will announce the judges' decisions, present trophies to the winners, and tell us about his own entertaining photographic adventures.

Wednesday April 15th : FLORENCE..... and the NHS? - It's 200 years since the birth of Florence Nightingale. How far did her life, career and values influence the future of medicine? FRANCES RAFTERY'S illustrated presentation will tell us more about Florence and her legacy.

Wednesday May 20th : Annual General Meeting & Members' Night

Wednesday June 17th : DISASTROUS DEMOLITIONS / FANTASTIC FUTURES - Dr Mike Nevell of Salford University will review what has happened to the many hundreds of textile mills which have disappeared from our region's towns and cities, and show us how the remaining buildings are being used or re-used.

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meetings are held in the Holcombe Room at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Entry: visitors- £2, members - £1.50, includes refreshments.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society
News Magazine No 57
Autumn/Winter 2019

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Front Cover

The painting produced on Sunday 6th October at the Art exhibition by Stuart Barkley and donated to the Heritage Society

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

LATEST NEWS

A little park on the corner of Bolton Street and Kay Brow is radiant again

Brenda Richards reports that the damaged wall around the central flower bed in the park has now been rebuilt and new planting has been carried out by volunteers. Once more the garden, which had been looking bedraggled and neglected, is a very pretty place to rest for a while or even for photographs to be taken after wedding ceremonies at St Joseph's Church nearby. In March this year, after the Heritage Society's application for a community grant to carry out the project was unsuccessful, it became an outstanding example of cooperation between the Council who found monies for the scheme, Ramsbottom Heritage Society and our hardworking volunteers.

The park was created on the site of another St Andrew's which was built in 1871 after it was demolished in 1926. This church was called St Andrew's (Dundee) Presbyterian Church and was associated with the Grants, and Rev. William Hume Elliot, our famous local historian, was minister there.

Many thanks to the funders, the volunteers who planted bushes, Park Farm who gave us advice on what to plant and all others who helped. It is important that we keep our town looking good and I would urge others in our society to follow our footsteps and get other sites around the town improved as in the present climate of financial restraints we can no longer rely on the Council being able to maintain them. It was not a difficult project – just go for it.



Nuttall Park Bandstand

Since the plinth was restored in the Spring, (funded by a grant from Bury Council's Social Capital Fund supported by a donation from the Society), from May to September the Friends of Nuttall Park have been hosting their very successful public events. The many users of the park have enjoyed band concerts by Hazlehurst School Band, Bury Music Centre and Goodshaw Brass Band and also live performances by Lee Grant and Matt Rynn and his Summer Session and the Tangle Dance Company. Members of our Society and the Friends group have been overwhelmed by people's enthusiasm and are really excited to be getting this kind of event back in our park.

Gwenda Newton, Chair of the Friends of Nuttall Park group, says, "We've finally got the stone base back looking ship-shape, so now we're looking to further fundraising to install a new upper structure in the style of the original 1929



ironwork and canopy. The really hard work has now begun to raise the cost of this project, which will be tens of thousands of pounds, so we urge everybody to look out for future Nuttall Park events."



MORE VISITORS FROM THE KIRKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM, WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON, USA

In News Magazine 55 (Autumn/Winter 2018) Barry Aldous reported on the visit to Ramsbottom of Susan Monahan, Vice President of the Kirkman House Museum. Our readers may remember that the house was built in 1880 by Ramsbottom born William Kirkman who had worked for the Grant Brothers. In 1851 he emigrated to the USA where he became a very successful businessman, making his fortune in America's Wild West.

In July this year, we were visited by Rick and Patti Tuttle, who are also associated with the Kirkman House Museum. Barry and Isobel Aldous helped to coordinate the visit and they wish to thank those who supported them with entertaining visitors from America.

At the Society's 2010 Christmas social evening a whole collection of documents and photographs from research which had been carried out by Barry and Isobel were handed over to the Society. These included copies of correspondence between Kirkman and his family along with digital archive material. At the event Barry also showed our very privileged audience his most engaging audio-visual presentation entitled *Those Who Will, May Win* which featured the fascinating Kirkman story. This production was also very well received at the Kirkman House Museum located in Walla Walla, Washington State, which was originally William Kirkman's home in America. It is hoped to produce display panels for the Heritage Gallery based on the content of the AV.

Rick and Patti stayed a couple of days, mainly to discuss their planning of a museum group visit in 2021. To this end, a group of Society members including the Aldous's, John Ireland, Janet Smith, Brenda Richards and Tony Mosedale met up with the Tuttles in the Heritage Gallery at Ramsbottom Library.

Following the meeting, Rick and Patti were escorted to sites in the town that would have been familiar to the Kirkman family, particularly Rose Hill and the locations of the Square Mill and Nuttall village. Later, Barry and Isobel took

the visitors to the Helmshore Textile Museum, it being another potential place to visit during their 'Grand Tour' in 2021.

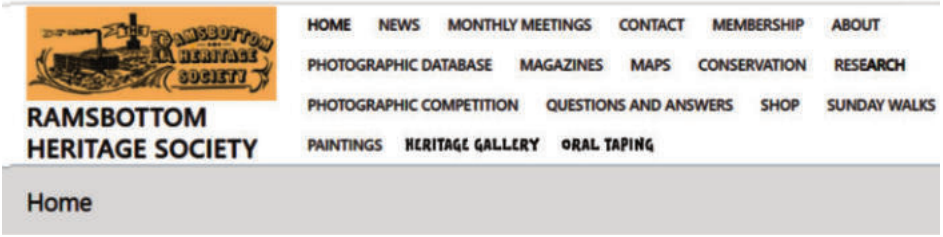
Rick left us with one big question "WHERE DO WE PARK THE COACH?"

Barry and Isobel's extensive collection of research documents can be accessed by visiting Bury Archives and using the following references (from the Archives' online catalogue):
Ref No: RHS/9/3/1/9 Title: William G. Kirkman papers
Description: Information compiled by Barry Aldous, RHS. member, in conjunction with the Kirkman House Museum...
Ref No: RHS/9/3/1/9/2 Title: Misc Correspondence and Literature
Description: Correspondence between Barry Aldous and Charles Harley with enclosures from the Kirkman House Museum



The house where William Kirkman's widowed mother lived is the one on the left.

WEBSITE NEWS



www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk Lots of hard work is going into making changes and additions to our own very extensive website. Pages have been linked differently to make information more easily accessible. The latest project is to add all the News Magazines, and to make all the research that members have published available in a central place. If you have any suitable research, please let John have it.

https://buntymiller.co.uk Official Artist and Artwork Information about Bunty Miller, the artist who painted our portrait of Lt Col Porritt. His portrait is now included on this site with a selection of Bunty's other work. (The website is run and administered by her son Colin Miller, himself a member of the Association of British Sculptors.) Lt Col Porritt's portrait was restored by the Society and hangs in Ramsbottom Library near the Gallery entrance at the back of the building. An article about the artist and the portrait was published in RHS News Magazine 52, Spring/Summer 2017.

https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk Our WW1 Porritt & Spencer War Memorial plaque has been listed on this site along with information and photographs. It was restored by means of a generous grant from the War Memorials Trust supported by funding from the Society. The plaque is on permanent display in the Ramsbottom Royal British Legion Club.

FACEBOOK NEWS

The Society has an active Facebook group with over 500 members. It is managed by Keith Burroughs and John Leyland, with Keith actively promoting the research that the society does, for example the shops on Bridge Street, the history of Carr Street and the Pubs Exhibition. Keith has also updated the date of build register to include most streets in Ramsbottom. We ask for information on the Facebook page, and as long as it can be verified, it can go into the research archive.

We also post details of the monthly meetings, and any last minute alterations, as Facebook is more immediate than the website. We also receive requests to research family histories and identify old photos.

For those who are not on Facebook, Andrew Todd would like you to identify a photograph that he received, that just says Ramsbottom, Lancs on the reverse

If you recognise the building, please contact John using the details on the inside cover.



Secretary's Report

For this report, I would like to concentrate on the work that goes on behind the scenes. In the last 6 months, the committee and others have been working on 2 projects, the installation of the Strang Interpretation board at Morrisons and the Art Exhibition. The interpretation board was mentioned in issue 55 of the magazine, and since then, we have received 3 quotes for the work and having spent several months designing the board, and consulting with Morrisons about the location, installation details and paint colour to match the lamppost, which wasn't helped by a change of manager at Morrisons, we are now in a position to place an order, and hopefully the board will be in place shortly.

The Art Exhibition proposal came from a committee meeting, when it was mentioned that it was a shame that we had possession of a lot of paintings that we didn't have the space to display. Due to the logistics of getting the paintings out of storage for display at the Civic Hall, we decided that we would show them for 2 days, and thus the 5th and 6th October were chosen. This gave the Art exhibition group time to research the history of each painting, devise a way of showing them on easels and chairs, and also arrange publicity. As Betty and Ian's report shows, it was a great success and well worth the time and effort spent by the members of the group.

The centre pages show 4 of the paintings and photos that were on display and their history. The full catalogue is available on the website.

Finally, I would like to thank Kate Howarth for producing a varied programme of speakers for 2020, and also for increasing the publicity by distributing more posters and leaflets than previously. On at least 2 occasions in the last 6 months, we have had to put more chairs out in the Holcombe Room, and for the talk on Bury Football Club in February next year, we may have to move back into the main room.



Captain Richard Whitaker Porritt by L. E. Brandon. 1/5th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. Honours Graduate, Cambridge University. Member of Parliament for the Heywood and Radcliffe, 1935-1940. Son of Lt Col AT Porritt. Died 26/05/1940, aged 29. Buried at Seclin (De Bergault) Communal Cemetery, France. He was the first M.P. to die in the retreat to the beaches in 1940. There is a street in Seclin, near Lille named after him, namely Square du Captain Porritt.

St Andrew's Church.
Watercolour**, e**arly to mid 19th Cent. Purchased at the same time as a Nuttall Hall watercolour, September 2014, so is thought to be by the same artist, R.D. Whittenbury.





RUDC Coat of Arms

Ramsbottom Urban District Council badge. The limits of old Ramsbottom Urban District Council (1894-1974) includes Edenfield, Holcombe, Holcombe Brook, Ramsbottom, Shuttleworth, Stubbins, Summerseat and Turn. Used on RUDC buses. Transfer on Glass. The RUDC badge is on a rock in the corner of Market Place by the lights, and was probably put there when the RUDC was disbanded in 1974.



Junction of Dundee Lane with Bolton St as it was in the 1920's.

Painted by Joe Barlow. Date not known, but before the Old Dun Horse extended to the corner of Dundee Lane.

RAMSBOTTOM - 200 YEARS IN PICTURES

After months of planning and hard work, on the weekend of 5th/6th October 2019 over a hundred paintings, drawings and photographs of Ramsbottom were on display at Ramsbottom Civic Hall for the public to see. They had been dusted down ready to be brought out of storage and on the Saturday morning an army of volunteers was up early and raring to go. Everything was set up using both the Main Hall and the Holcombe Room, where even the huge St Andrew's Church Whit Sunday Banner was on display, and a very impressive system of labelling linked to an exhibition catalogue was put in place. This was a nervous time for the Society as we had no idea whether the advance publicity (online, in the press and via our leaflets) had reached people.



The exhibition was to open at noon but the public started to filter in from 11.45hrs. Soon there was a steady flow of people and it was like that for the rest of the day. Questions were asked by the public and answered by busy Society members and other local residents. It was rewarding to hear lots of reminiscing of days and years gone by. At lights





out, doors locked and off home, the main thought was, "Let's hope Sunday is as busy."

On Sunday morning the team was looking fresh and ready to go. Again, the morning started early with Ian bringing in a family who had been in Market Place admiring the "Urn". After the doors were officially opened at 10.45hrs, people were already arriving and it soon became very busy indeed. Word was out that there was something interesting happening in the town and that it was a must-see event. One person who was generating a lot of interest was Mr Stuart Barkley, better known as *The Wedding Painter*, who had given up his time to do a painting of the event as the day unfolded. It was fascinating to watch someone start with a blank canvas and finish with a masterpiece. Stuart kindly donated his work to the Society at the end of the day.



[A photograph of the finished painting is on the front cover]

As the event was coming to a close people were still arriving. Sunday had been an even busier day than Saturday with lots of interest and discussion about who worked where and who lived here, there and everywhere. Old friendships were remade once again. Young and old, fascinated with the exhibits and memorabilia mingled together amongst the displays.



The oldest visitor was Mr Lees who is 100 years young (and still keeps a wonderful garden at his home!). All too soon, the time had come for the doors to be closed.

Whilst the volunteers were working hard dismantling everything in what seemed

to be a well-practised manoeuvre, I took a look at the visitors' book. It listed people from Middleton, Urmston and Stockport as well as Blackpool, Middlesex and Essex further afield, not to mention all the local people that had turned out in droves. It was great to see. There was even one family from Australia.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the many tasks which made the event so successful. It would be unfair to mention individuals as this was a group effort. Well done to the Ramsbottom Heritage Society for a fantastic weekend.

Betty and Ian Chapman

Photographs by John Leyland and Keith Burroughs

[*Photographs of the paintings, photos and posters are available on the website and a copy of the catalogue that was on sale on the day can also be downloaded*]



"Ramsbottom - 200 years in Pictures" Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October 2019

Table 1 - **Ramsbottom Heritage Society.**

RHSExhibition at the Library. - Booklet available

Ramsbottom Pubs & "the Odious and Loathsome Sin of Drunkenness"

The exhibition focuses on pubs that existed in 1890 and what they look like now. There are panels of the history of four local pubs that still exist, Edenfield Brewery and the story of the Marsdens who were arrested over 30 times for drunkenness. The exhibition also has many examples of pub memorabilia.

For more information, photographs, maps etc. visit www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk or our Facebook page

Table 2 – **In Need of Renovation - it will cost in the region of £500**

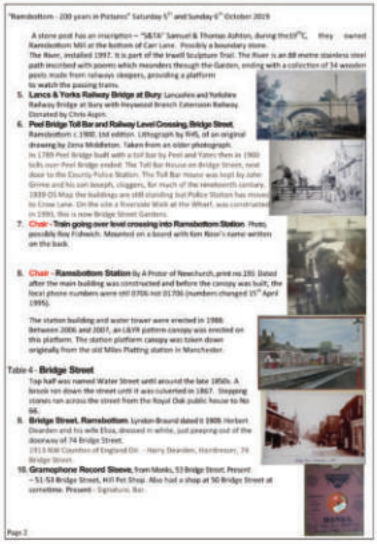
1. **Nuttall Hall. 1844** Shows the river bridge and Grant's Tower. Written on the back of the painting "Nuttall Hall near Bury, Lancashire. The residence of John Grant Esq. Drawn by R.D. Wittenbury 1844"
Label on the back "John Slack, Carver, Gilder and Ornamentalist, Looking Glass, Window Cornice & Picture Frame Manufacturer. 17 Lever Street, Piccadilly, Manchester. (Looking glasses reslivered and oil paintings restored)". Purchased by the RHS September 2014.
2. **St Andrew's Church.** Watercolour, early to mid 19th Cent. Purchased at the same time as Nuttall Hall watercolour, September 2014, so is thought to be by the same artist, R.D. Whittenbury.
Reverse of painting
Label 1 – "Coat of arms of the Grants. Date 1810 St Andrew's Church, Ramsbottom. Erected by the Late W Grant Esq of Springside."
Label 2 – "John Slack, Carver, Gilder and Ornamentalist, Looking Glass, Window Cornice & Picture Frame Manufacturer. 17 Lever Street, Piccadilly, Manchester (Looking glasses reslivered and oil paintings restored)"
Hand written on the paper covering the back "Mr F. Lawson 1875".

Table 3 - **Ramsbottom Station and Surrounding Area**

Ramsbottom Station opened 25th September 1846 By the 1880s there were 28 trains a day passing through Ramsbottom. In the 1960s - 77 trains a day. Station closed 5th June 1972 and reopened 25th July 1987 as part of the East Lancashire Railway. The line to Rawtenstall reopened 27th April 1991.

3. **Chair - Riverside Garden (Wharf), Bridge Street.** 1994. Now-called Bridge Street Gardens. Looking south showing the bridge onto the island by the slalom, Peel Bridge and Stead Street. By Geoff Nuttall.
4. **Chair - Riverside Gardens looking north up the River Irwell.** 1997 Showing the bridge onto the island by the slalom, Peel Bridge and Stead Street. By Geoff Nuttall.
Originally called Riverside Gardens, constructed in 1993, site of the Toll House & Police Station. (Name changed to Bridge Street Gardens).

Page 1



"Ramsbottom - 200 years in Pictures" Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October 2019

A stone post has an inscription – "S&TA" Samuel & Thomas Ashton, during the 19th C, they owned Ramsbottom Mill at the bottom of Carr Lane. Possibly a boundary stone.
The River, installed 1997. It is part of the Irwell Sculpture Trail. The River is an 88 metre stainless steel path inscribed with poems which meanders through the Garden, ending with a collection of 14 wooden posts made from railways sleepers, providing a platform to watch the passing trains.

5. **Lancs & Yorks Railway Bridge at Bury** Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bridge at Bury with Heywood Branch Extension Railway. Donated by Chris Aspin.
6. **Peel Bridge Toll Bar and Railway Level Crossing, Bridge Street.** Ramsbottom c.1900. Ltd edition. Lithograph by RHS, of an original drawing by Zena Middleton. Taken from an older photograph.
In 1789 Peel Bridge built with a toll bar by Peel and Yates then in 1900 bills over Peel Bridge ended. The Toll Bar House on Bridge Street, next door to the County Police Station. The Toll Bar House was kept by John Grime and his son Joseph, cloggers, for much of the nineteenth century. 1939 OS Map the buildings are still standing but Police Station has moved to Cross Lane. On the site a Riverside Walk at the Wharf, was constructed in 1993, this is now Bridge Street Gardens.
7. **Chair - Train going over level crossing into Ramsbottom Station** Photo, possibly Roy Fishwick. Mounted on a board with Tom Rose's name written on the back.
8. **Chair - Ramsbottom Station** By A Prator of Newchurch, print no 230. Dated after the main building was constructed and before the canopy was built, the local phone numbers were still 0706 not 01706 (numbers changed 15th April 1995).
The station building and water tower were erected in 1988. Between 2006 and 2007, an LNYR pattern canopy was erected on this platform. The station platform canopy was taken down originally from the old Miles Platting station in Manchester.

Table 4 - **Bridge Street**

Top half was named Water Street until around the late 1850s. A brook ran down the street until it was culverted in 1867. Stepping stones ran across the street from the Royal Oak public house to No 66.

9. **Bridge Street, Ramsbottom.** Lyndon Braund dated it 1909. Herbert Dearden and his wife Elsie, dressed in white, just peeping out of the doorway of 74 Bridge Street.
1911 NW Counties of England Dir. - Harry Dearden, Hairdresser, 74 Bridge Street.
10. **Gramophone Record Sleeve,** from Monks, 53 Bridge Street. Present - 51-53 Bridge Street, Hill Pet Shop. Also had a shop at 50 Bridge Street at sometime. Present - Signatures, Bar.

Page 2

The Historical Significance of Scotland Place as the Oldest Industrial Building in Central Ramsbottom

Ramsbottom looks like an old town, but it is very modern in historical terms, its centre dating exclusively from the 1820s. The painting below (*Figure 1*) is one of a pair, now at Bury Museum and Art Gallery, the only known representations of the industrial complex that preceded it. The pioneering Lancashire firm of Peel & Yates had erected this collection calico printing buildings on the green field site of what is now Ramsbottom town centre. Known as the *Old Ground*, the complex was bought by the Grant family in 1807, and demolished in the 1820s. The space and materials were recycled into the earliest buildings of the modern town. *Top o'th' Brow*, the white building on the rise, had become the Grants' family home in 1807, but was used as the *Grant Arms Hotel* from 1828 to 2017. The rear portion of the hotel is the only building in *Figure 1* that still exists.



Figure 1: The original Ramsbottom, swept away in the 1820s. The only known picture of the Old Ground, c1807.

It is not widely known that there are actually two other small survivals from the *Old Ground* days, neither shown on the painting. One is the pair of three storey houses, 16-18, Silver Street (*Figure 5,* next page), the other the terrace now known as Scotland Place. Thus, these three buildings, shown on the *Old Ground* plan on the next page, are the oldest in the town, and constitute a direct connection with the industrial entrepreneurs who created modern Ramsbottom.



Figure 2: Scotland Place originated as Peel and Yates' cloth drying house. When the Old Ground was abandoned in the 1820s, the drying house's shape lent itself to conversion into a terrace of cottages. This photograph shows the building before the extension was completed in 2008.

The terrace followed the usual Ramsbottom custom of acquiring a nickname, in this case *Scotch Row*, since at least three of the families, judging from the 1841 Census, were of Scottish origin, most probably in the employ of the Grants.

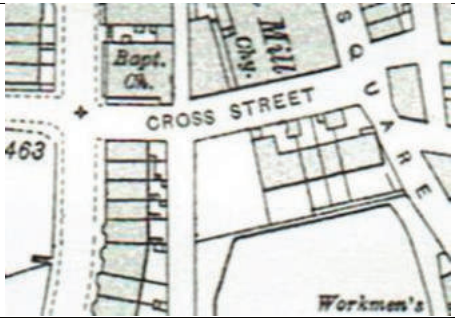


Figure 3: The terrace originally known colloquially as Scotch Row, on the 1908 25 inch OS map. In front is John Gray's Lodge, built as part of the Square Works complex 1821-2, drained in the 1970s and now the site of Kay Brow flats.

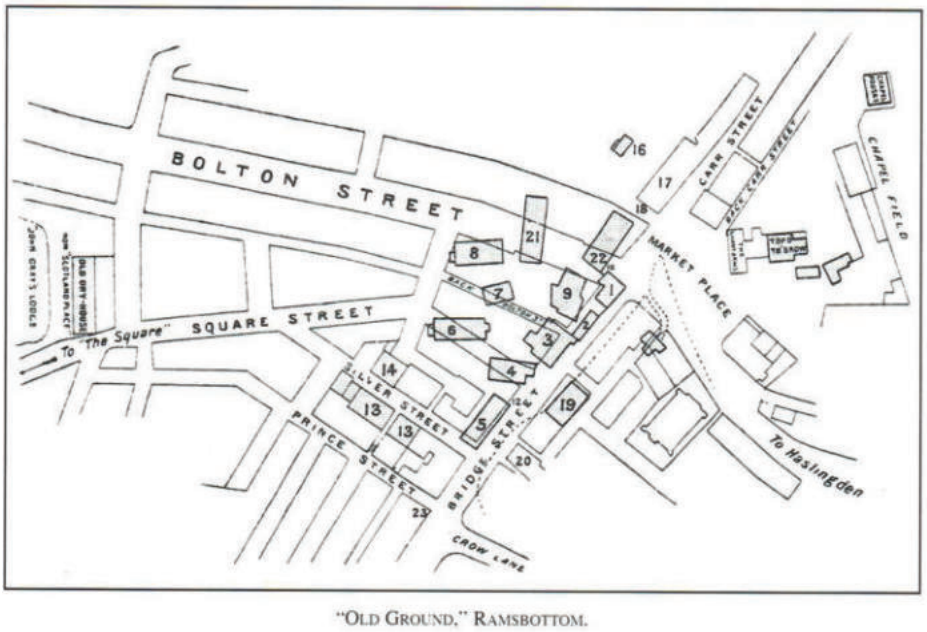


Figure 4: Plan of the Old Ground, believed to have been drawn up by the Grants' estate steward, James SW Grant, and used in William Hume Elliot's 'The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers' (1893).

Figure 5: 16-18, Silver St (marked 14 on the plan).



Figure 6: Scotland Place, marked at the extreme left hand side of the plan as Old Dry-house.



So *Scotch Row* may date back to 1783, but there are more modern features, such as the brick chimneys and Welsh slate roof. Ironically, the rear of the cottages faces the street. The front faced a large lodge, part of the complicated water supply arrangements at Square Works (1821-2). The terrace may in part have been

originally built as a 'back to back' row, judging from the 1841 Census. Like all working class houses, it was formidably overcrowded, 48 people living there according to the returns of that year.



Figure 7: There are distinctive vernacular features of the building which are characteristic of its late 18th Century origin. The gable end comprises water shot stonework, common in this area from about 1740 to the later 19th Century. The courses of stonework are tilted to allow rainwater to drain and evaporate.



There are especially hefty cornerstones, known as quoins; and many fine lintels. The whole building was constructed from locally quarried sandstone.

Figure 8: There are various hints of Scotland Place's earlier, non-domestic usage. Doorways and windows inconsistent with the plans for houses were clearly filled in.

Even without any kind of internal survey, it is apparent that the site represents the only survival of the town's original industrial calico printing complex. It is also the earliest surviving row of dwellings in the town centre.



The foregoing historical notes were submitted to Bury Planning as part of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society's objection to a planning application of June 2016, no 60316, to erect on 'Scotland Rd . . . a three storey house with large dormer windows on the end of a row of five [sic] cottages built around 1795'.

John Ireland is the best authority on the troubling events that have plagued this fine building in recent years, and provides the following details.

Our objection seems to have alerted the planning officers to the significance of the terrace, 60316 was withdrawn, and in December 2016 revised application no 60974 proposed a two storey dwelling, but again with features we objected to - the mismatched windows, the overall size of the building and the style and design of a proposed orangery. Nonetheless it was approved. The newly erected fifth cottage is at least a faithful representation of its four predecessors. If all had stopped there, we would have had no difficulties.

But what has followed has been, in John's memorable words, 'the most flagrant and cynical disregard of planning laws in a conservation area, seen in Ramsbottom, for a very long time'.

It began innocuously in January 2018 with application no 62307 for a 6m x 3m 'garden shed' in the north west corner of the garden. The shed, the applicant rather fancifully claimed, would be hidden beneath a couple of mature trees and concealed 'behind a wall, mature trees and shrubs'. Elsewhere in the application, no doubt to oil acceptance on environmental grounds, the applicant had stated that there were *no* trees adjacent to the development site or on site that would be affected! This highly creative application was also approved.



Figure 9: Confusingly, there were in fact, until recently, mature trees at the Lodge Street/Cross Street corner of the site. This architect's graphic (left) of the view from Cross Street towards Lodge Street was included in the original application. In reality, they have been cut down by the applicant (right).

The view in *Figure 9* (right) from the approximate same spot on Cross Street of the *actual* current state of the site shows the so-called '6m x 3m garden shed', 'concealed behind a wall' and non-existent mature trees and shrubs. Note the sad remnants of the missing mature trees in *Figure 10*, formerly by the Lodge Street wall, in the foreground of the photograph.

Measuring 9m x 4m the 'garden shed' is exactly twice the area of what was approved in 2018. The 'word on the street' is that far from being a garden shed, it is destined to become an annex to the main dwelling. Retrospective permission (63883) for these various aberrations was refused in August 2019.



Figure 10: Equally troubling is what this applicant is doing (again minus planning permission) in the back garden. Note the Kay Brow flats built on the drained site of John Gray's Lodge in the mid-1970s. The many 30' high wooden stanchions along the original wall of the lodge are presumably the beginnings of some sort of privacy wall or curtain to block out views to and from the block of flats. The purposes of the eight heavy grey steel vertical 'I' beams and the equally heavy wooden vertical support beams remain unknown, since they too have never figured in any planning application.

We are now left with a shed quite at odds with what has been legally approved, as well as the beginnings of other unauthorised erections. Bury Planning were to have a meeting with the owner early in October, as this article was being finalised. They will require him to remove virtually all the unapproved work from the garden, including the fence poles and the steel and wooden piling. A 'small amount of decking' will be allowed to remain. The shed must be clad in natural stone and a 'grass roof' installed, as per the original application.

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society strongly believes that the unique site of *Scotch Row* should be preserved, without incongruous modern intrusions. We are unaware of any equivalent building in the Bury area, or indeed even further afield in the North West region.

John Ireland, Andrew Todd

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: **archives@bury.gov.uk** or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

IMPORTANT: To avoid disappointment you are advised to check before your visit. An appointment is now essential if you wish to view any items that are stored in the archive.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW OPENING HOURS.
Monday Closed Tuesday-Friday – 10.00am-1.00pm and 1.30-4.30pm (closed 1.00-1.30pm)
Alternate Saturdays – 10.00am-1.00pm (please telephone to confirm)

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at **http;//archives.bury.gov.uk** as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The enquiry service offers 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries there is a charge. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives. **The local studies section** 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at http://library.bury.gov.uk – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services. **The Wordpress Blog** (https://buryculture.wordpress.com/) offers lots of news, information, events and articles on all aspects of our service.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society Bury branch meetings date: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at The Kay Room, Church House, The Wylde, Bury BL0 0LA (behind St Mary's Church). Branch contact via email at bury@lfhhs.org.uk . Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details about branch resources and events.

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

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

Sunday and Monday	Closed	Thursday	12.30pm – 7pm
Tuesday	10am – 4.30pm	Friday	10am – 4.30pm
Wednesday	10am – 4.30pm	Saturday	9.30am – 1pm

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month 12.30pm to 4.30pm.

Current Exhibition

At the Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library

Ramsbottom Pubs

"the Odious and Loathsome Sin of Drunkenness"

Normal library opening times and
also on the 2nd Sunday of the month
at 12:00pm-3:00pm
via the upper outside entrance.



The exhibition focuses on pubs that existed in 1890 and what they look like now.

There are panels of the history of four local pubs that still exist, Edenfield Brewery and the story of the Marsdens who were arrested over 30 times for drunkenness. The exhibition also has many examples of pub memorabilia.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

No 58 Spring/Summer 2020 **ISSN 0960 - 1244**

NEWS MAGAZINE



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

PROGRAMME 2020

Due to COVID-19 all meetings are cancelled. We hope to return in September. The AGM will be rescheduled. Check the website for up to date information

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH VOTES FOR WOMEN

It's a mere 100 years since the first women voted in a British Parliamentary election. Why did it take them so long to achieve this basic right, and why was the campaign so bitterly contested? **ELIZABETH SIBBERLING** in a welcome return visit will investigate the struggle and its consequences.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21ST THE LANCASHIRE WITCH TRIALS

Were these women unjustly accused in the 17th Century? Who were they, what were their lives like, and how do we see them now? **JULIE ASPIN'S** presentation will help us to decide.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18TH THE LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS

RON FLOWERS, of the FUSILIERS' MUSEUM, will describe the long and distinguished history of the Regiment and tell us about the Museum and its events and activities in the course of his illustrated talk.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9TH CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Tickets required for a meal

meetings are held in the Holcombe Room at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Entry: visitors- £2, members - £1.50, includes refreshments.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society
News Magazine No 58
Spring/Summer 2020

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Front Cover

Ramsbottom Market Place April 2020 - Photograph by Ian Smith

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the time of writing, we are in lockdown due to the COVID-19 virus. This has caused the cancellation of all of the public and committee meetings until further notice, but definitely all public meetings up to August 2020. We hope to return in September with the scheduled programme. Hopefully some of the cancelled talks can be rescheduled for next year. Whilst on this subject, Kate Howarth, who has been the Programme Secretary for the last 2 years, is standing down, so we need another committee member to take on this role, or a member not currently on the committee. If you are interested in this role, which involves sourcing speakers, and arranging the details of the talk with them, please contact any member of the committee. The Annual General Meeting was scheduled for May 20th, and this has now been postponed until either August or September, possibly before the September talk.

I am using the time to convert all the News Magazines into a digital readable format. I converted the first 25 magazines 10 years ago, but advances in computer technology means that they can be more accurately converted from an image into text. By the time you read this, hopefully the first 50 magazines will all be available on the website. I have also decided to recreate the first 25 magazines into individual A5 pages, so that they are more readable online. I will also separate the research articles in each magazine into individual documents, so they can also be accessed more easily, as they provide a valuable resource of the history of Ramsbottom. If anyone else has used the time for research, we would be interested in publishing it in either a future magazine, or on the website.

The committee hope that everyone is keeping well during this difficult time, and hopefully we will come back from this experience as a stronger community and Heritage Society

John Leyland

LATEST NEWS

STUBBINS REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY 2019

As we approached Remembrance Day 2019 it was suggested that the Society should contact Melba Swintex, the new owners of Stubbins Vale Mill, Ramsbottom, to express our hopes that the time-honoured tradition of holding a memorial service at the mill's memorial would continue. Shortly before we spoke to Melba Swintex we discovered that other interested parties had beaten us to it. They had been reassured that there was no problem with the Remembrance Sunday ceremony being held by the memorial. A company manager told the Society that they did not wish to interfere with anything that had been planned but, unfortunately, the factory and offices would be closed on the day. However, they were keen to play a part in the ceremony so had arranged for a wreath to be made for the Stubbins Vale memorial.

It transpired that Ramsbottom British Legion had already arranged to hold a small remembrance ceremony at the memorial at 12.30pm on Sunday 10th November. The ceremony included an opportunity for those present to lay a



Photo by Ian Chapman

wreath so Karen Kay, a Heritage Society committee member, placed Melba Swintex's wreath on their behalf.

Stubbins Vale memorial plaques are set into a wall to the side of the building's front entrance by a paved area. The wall also has a dedication plaque. Full details about the men whose names are on the two plaques are online along with close up photographs of the memorials.

"Interpreting Ramsbottom Station: Past and Present"

The Heritage Society provided and installed at its own expense, an information board in The Castle, Market Place, some years ago. On 8th June 2019 the Society's second information board was received by Ramsbottom Station staff, Alex Walker the station manager, Chandra Law and Liam Barnes. It was a gift from Ramsbottom Heritage Society to the ELR and their Ramsbottom staff to say



thank you for allowing us to sell seven editions of the *Ramsbottom War News* on the station and the trains from 2010 to 2017. The group who compiled the War News - Brenda Richards, Anne Mortimer, Ingrid Gouldsborough, Ros Kendall and Brenda Newth are pleased that so many from our Society got involved in selling the paper, dressed up as mill workers or similar. It was a great experience for all, and we sold well over 1,000 each year at £1 a copy.

Our thanks also go to Andrew Todd for all the effort he put into producing the board for us. It has been installed in the waiting room, giving the station's visitors the opportunity to enjoy looking through all the information, which is illustrated with a large number of images. The board shows the railway as it was in the past and also the working of the station's heritage features still in operation, with photographs which Andrew sourced from his own collection and the collections of Eric Bentley, Andy Coward, Peter Duncan, the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Society, Malcolm Orrett and Ramsbottom Heritage Society. It also includes an historical chronology with the railway's key dates from when it first opened in 1946 to 1991, when the present ELR heritage line was extended to Rawtenstall.

It is fascinating to discover how Ramsbottom used to be the most important intermediate station in the Bury – Bacup - Accrington area, once so much larger and so busy with goods traffic and passenger trains that the gates were closed to the road up to 180 times a day, and very surprising to learn that the nearby sidings had a capacity of over six hundred wagons.

The Joseph Strang lamppost project

This project was completed just after New Year 2020, when an information board provided by the Society was installed next to the lamppost by a Morrisons team. Since the store only took delivery of the board just before Christmas 2019, it was a lovely surprise to see it had been installed so quickly.

The project was very much a group effort and the Society is very grateful to all those who contributed. It was inspired by a Heritage Society member's success in gaining the necessary support for the original 1920s lamppost, which was



scheduled for removal, to be relocated to an appropriate site. As we reported in RHS News Magazine No 55 (Autumn/Winter 2018), due to the efforts of Bury MBC, Morrisons Supermarket PLC and the Society, the 1920s lamppost was renovated and installed by Morrisons car park, on the site of Joseph Strang's foundry where it was made.

The A1 size information board features the lamppost's story and also information about Joseph Strang's business and other 19th century Ramsbottom engineering works, sourced mainly from collections at Bury Archives (including the Ramsbottom Heritage Society Collection). Researchers included Susan Smith (joint leader of Ramsbottom Library's family history sessions) and individual RHS members Brenda Richards and Barbara Park who also helped with the final selection of the content. John Leyland was involved with the drafting of a design which he then worked up into the final layout.

The restoration of the Grant Arms

Extensive repair work on most of the building, except for the oldest portion at the back, was completed by November 2019 by Rosebridge, who are now the occupiers. The Grant Arms has been given a new lease of life as their offices, standing over Market Place as a visual reminder of the town's heritage. The planning application for this iconic Grade 2 listed building has ensured a sympathetically renovated exterior (with its clock now in working order).

On 8th November Rosebridge held an open evening at the Grants which was attended by Jake Berry MP. The company was set up as an independent financial business in Bolton in 2006 by Phillip Rose. He first started in financial advice on



Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, and is now Rosebridge's Group IFA CEO. The business also has offices in Skipton, Chester and Leeds.

Roadway resurfacing in Ramsbottom Conservation Area

On 19th February, work was about to start on resurfacing streets within the town's conservation areas: Eliza Street, Carr Street and a section of Tanners Street. John Ireland, on behalf of the Society, requested that yellow line road markings relaid upon completion of the resurfacing work be done according to conservation area guidelines, which specify that double lines be only 50mm wide and primrose in colour. This style of yellow line can be seen in Holcombe and in Bury town centre. We believe that Ramsbottom's new road markings could be laid to follow the conservation area guidelines at no extra cost.

The 2011 Bury Council's *Ramsbottom Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan* (which can be viewed online) notes that highway surfaces and details are all important to the area's character. In particular, the document pointed out that there had been some obtrusive and inappropriate yellow line marking in Ramsbottom, which had not followed the required narrow primrose coloured detail. This has even affected most parts of the conservation area in Ramsbottom town centre over a sustained period.

(Our collection of photographs from 2007 show lines 3" / 75mm wide and vivid yellow that can probably can be seen from outer space!)



Market Place





Bolton Street







Bridge Street



Tanners



Carr Street



Smithy Street

RAMSBOTTOM CONSERVATION AREA:
Less obtrusive yellow lines should have been used for the management of traffic.

Annual Photographic Competition 2019

The competition has been running for 33 years, and this year 9 entrants entered a total of 590 photographs in 4 categories, The judge was Steve Gill who would have presented the awards on the evening, but the meeting had to cancelled. Steve, who is a retired professional photographer, was looking for photographs that were instantly recognisable as having been taken around Ramsbottom in 2019. There are now over 4,700 photographs on the Ramsbottom Heritage website taken since 1987, searchable by filename or description, and they are an invaluable record of the many changes in the town. The winners are each category were

Events and Daily Life

There were 168 photographs in this category, which is for events during the year, as well as pictures of everyday life in the town. The winner was John Leyland for a photograph of the signs on Bridge Street



HPC- 19EV-118 - Signs by the Railway - John Leyland

Highly commended certificates in Events and Daily Life were awarded to Ian Summers (HPC-19EV-101) for a photograph of Edenfield & District Horticultural Show, and also to Alan Seymour (HPC-19EV-142) for a Chocolate Cafe Christmas window display.

Town and Country

127 photographs of landscapes and general views

The Winner is Ian Williams for his entry of Holcombe Hill taken at sunset in July from Summerseat.

Only one Highly Commended certificate was awarded, as there is a limit of two awards per entrant. This was awarded to John Leyland for a picture of a snowman in Nuttall Park (HPC-19TC-107)



HPC-19TC-119 - Holcombe Hill Sunset – Ian Williams

Themes

Up to 5 photographs on a theme
There were 22 Themes entered - a total of 101 photographs, with the 1940's weekend and the Tour of Britain cycle race being popular topics

The winner was Alan Seymour for 4 pictures of the Black Pudding lobbing championship. There was one Highly Commended certificate for Joyce Sellers's five photos of a wedding photoshoot for a magazine, based around St Paul's and the railway station (HPC-19TH-201 to HPC19TH-205)









HPC-19TH-111 to HPC-19TH-114 - Black Pudding Lobbing - Alan Seymour

Buildings

This category attracted 194 entries, with some entrants concentrating on a theme, such as the shops on Bridge Street, and the date stones around town. These photographs will be useful in future years to identify the shops and cafes which seem to be constantly changing

The winner was Ian Chapman for his photograph of Irwell Brewery on Square Street. This photograph was also selected as the overall winner of the competition and Ian was awarded the Dickensian Trophy to keep for a year

Highly Commended certificates were awarded to Keith Burroughs for his entry HPC-19BU-164 of Mannings bakery, and also to Ian Chapman for his entry HPC-19BU-128 of the redevelopment of the Grant Arms by Rosebridge.

Dickensian Trophy Winner



HPC-19BU-068 -- View of Irwell Brewery from Bolton Street- Ian Chapman

SIGNS OF THE TIMES ~
THE FACTORY BOTTOM TRAGEDY 1864

Abraham Hitchings, a maker-up at a local cotton mill, lived with Eliza, his wife of fifteen years, at Factory Bottom, Ramsbottom. They had two children, a thirteen year old daughter and a son who was four. Eliza's widowed sister, Hannah Bagley had also lived with them for the previous eight months. Abraham and Eliza had sometimes argued, but nobody had known him to have behaved violently towards her.

On Saturday, May 14th 1864, Abraham went to work and returned home at dinner time. He ate his meal and at three-thirty, left the house without saying where he was going or when he would return. That evening, Eliza and Hannah decided to go shopping and were home by ten. Abraham was inside but had locked the door, preventing them from gaining entry and he did not respond to their repeated knocking. He had done this once before, several months earlier and as they did on that occasion, the sisters called on their next door neighbours, Richard and Harriet Haddock, who agreed they could stay the night with them.

It was four o'clock, on the Sunday morning that Abraham knocked on the door of his neighbours, who invited him in. He immediately rushed towards Eliza, who was asleep in a chair in front of the fireplace and grabbing her violently by the hair, dragged her out into the street. He was in a rage and fearing for her sister's well-being, Hannah followed them outside and when he threw Eliza to the ground, she flung herself on top of her in an attempt to protect her.

Several neighbours, together with Hannah and Harriet witnessed what happened over the next few minutes, but later they could not agree on what had actually occurred. Some thought he was drunk, but others did not. Some believed he struck Eliza once, others that he did so twice. It was also unclear as to whether he slapped her with an open hand or punched her with a clenched fist. However, all were agreed that when she died a few minutes later, Abraham was genuinely distraught.

The inquest into Eliza's death opened on the following Wednesday at the Grant Arms and evidence was heard over two days, before coroner Mr Dearden. Those who had witnessed the incident appeared and details were given of a post-mortem,

performed by Ramsbottom surgeon James Smith, who was assisted by Dr. John Carruthers of Bolton.

There were no visible external injuries but on removing her scalp, they found six ounces of blood at the base of her brain and they advised the coroner that this effusion of blood was undoubtedly the result of violence. Mr Dearden summarised the evidence and outlined the differences between murder and manslaughter before the jury retired. They were absent for three hours and returned with a verdict of guilty to manslaughter.

This was by a majority of thirteen to three and the dissenting jury members afterwards confirmed they believed that Abraham had done nothing untoward and should not have been accused of any crime. There was obviously much support for him and reports in the *Bury Times* suggested there was a widespread feeling in the district, that he had been provoked into acting as he did by Eliza's behaviour. 'Provocation' was often used in their defence by men accused of killing their wives, but this did not necessarily refer to violent behaviour. More often, it was said to have been because their victims were considered to have behaved inappropriately, such as by drinking heavily, or to have shown themselves to be poor wives and mothers.

Abraham was also committed to the Manchester Assizes by the town's magistrates, which the law then required and his trial took place on Friday July 29th. He claimed to have spent the Saturday walking, had not been drinking and insisted he loved Eliza, whose death was a terrible accident. Nevertheless, the jury convicted him of manslaughter and he was sentenced to four months imprisonment, which he served at the New Bailey Gaol in Salford.



Martin Baggoley

References include the *Bury Times* 21st, 28th May and 6th August 1864

MEMORIES OF THE BUTCHERY TRADE IN RAMSBOTTOM

There were over a dozen butchers in Ramsbottom between the wars and advertisement phrases such as "home killed meat only" or "all our own killing" indicate that much slaughtering, especially of pigs, went on in the town. It seems that squeals from one slaughterhouse off Square Street could be heard on Bolton Street. Cottrill's pork butchers shop (established 1866) was at 40-42 Bridge Street but the slaughtering was done at a discreet distance on Kay Brow.

Ernest Hutchinson was born in Ramsbottom in 1918 and started school at five years old at St Paul's school in Crow Lane opposite St Paul's Church. At thirteen years old he moved to Bury Technical School in Broad Street and when he was fifteen he went on to Stand Grammar School at Whitefield before starting work on 1st April 1937. In the following extract from his memoirs he recalls, in detail, his experiences helping some of the butchers, which he did when he was under ten years old. (Editor)

Every Tuesday, cattle and sheep arrived in railway wagons in a little siding in what was then the Square Works, (now the TNT Transport Depot) at the south end of Railway Street. The area where the animals were offloaded from the railway wagons was fenced off by vertical long baulks of timber built like a palisade with a gate outlet down a ramp to Railway Street. As the area within the fence was raised to the height of the floor of the railway wagons, part of the side of each wagon was lowered to bridge the small gap between the wagon and the platform so that it was safe for the cattle to get out. Sometimes the cattle came out ok, but many times it was a case of prodding with sticks and the butchers' curses that forced them out. Other times, one or two came out with a mad rush, scattering the butchers who were trying to sort out their marked beasts. (They were usually marked with an ear tag with the butcher's name.)

During this unloading, we lads sat on top of the stout timbers of the palisade shouting ourselves hoarse. The butchers worked as a team to sort out one butcher's cattle and sheep in a huddle by the gate, then his dog and boy helpers herded them to his slaughter house, where he had his holding sheds or field

enclosures. All the animals were sorted in this way. Then the yelling, cursing, mooing, baying and barking of the dogs died away and the cattle yard was quiet again. There was, however, a sea of muck and urine to be cleaned up by someone detailed for that pleasant task.

We lads loved these Tuesday nights, they were like a Wild West show to us and the more chaotic it was, the more we enjoyed it. If you managed to prove yourself a good herder, there was a 2d or 3d to be earned when the cattle were safely in the butcher's holding pen. I usually herded for Thompson, Barcroft and Whitaker who had a joint slaughter house at Barwood Lea, owned by Barcroft. It was situated near the bottom of the Church Field on the ground between there and Kay Brow, which is now a small housing site. Sometimes I would herd for Procter; his slaughter house was at Kibboth Crew (near the old tallow works that is now The Old Mill Restaurant). It was a long haul from the cattle yard and not much fun on a dark winter's night if an animal shot off up Carr instead of along Springwood Street. A chase up Carr past the Rising Sun pub would take the wind out of anyone. Mr Procter did his own killing with just one helper, a kind chap who used to take me in his pony and trap when he was delivering meat to customers on Saturdays.



At holiday times and after school on Wednesday afternoons I would go to Thompson's slaughter house or Barcroft's. Mr Barcroft only had one helper, and killed only for his own shop. (Wednesday was the day when they did the week's killing as their shop closed in the afternoon.) For the princely sum of 6d my tasks included squeezing out the contents of yards of intestines, which would be used for sausage skins, cut fat off cows' hard stomach, hold sheep's legs on the cracker and make sure all the blood ran into the blood bucket to be used for black puddings. To earn my money I also had to scrub the wooden cutting bench and help swill the floor with a hose pipe and help to put fresh straw in the cattle pen after it had been mucked out. The butcher pushed a knife in their throats as they lay on the cratch and put his finger in the hole, I think to break the spinal cord. The blood together with the cow's blood was used to make black puddings.

The Cattle were "pole axed" in those days, a rope was put round the cow's neck and passed through a stout iron ring. The cow's head was then pulled down and held still and the axe man, using an axe with about ½ an inch hollow pipe, shaped as in the diagram [author's sketch]. This was driven into the cow's forehead which felled it unconscious on the floor. Then a cane was inserted in the axe hole and sliced round to make sure it was totally put out and then its throat was cut and it was drained of blood. Then it was hauled up by its hind legs to hang from a girder in the roof to be skinned, gutted and sawn in two, washed ready for the sanitary inspector to inspect it, and the liver and kidney and to give his approval that all was well and that the cow was healthy. When the cow was down I was called in to stand on its side and, aided by a rope hanging down from the roof, by pressing down with my feet make my weight help to pump the blood out of it. On one occasion a large bull was being slaughtered and the butchers were having difficulty getting the bull's head up in the right position for pole axing so I was sent out in the yard for safety. They told me they would shout for me then the bull was axed and down and could then go in to do the pumping. I waited and then they called me, but as I got just outside the door they dropped buckets and shouted, "Look out the bull's up". I fled down the yard, leapt up onto a ledge in the high outside wall near the high solid gate and jumped the wall. Unfortunately Mr



Barcroft had some sheep herded in front of the gate waiting to be let in when the bull was down and I landed in the middle of them. They scattered and Mr Barcroft called the dogs to get them back and then started to thump me with his stick and the other butchers, who had come out of the slaughter house, were all lined up looking over the wall and cheering him on. I was never allowed to forget that incident, they said they had never seen anyone move so fast and make the jump to the ledge and over the wall.

Ernest Hutchinson 2005

THE FLAG ON HOLCOMBE TOWER 1957

In the 1950s, when I was in the Lancashire Fusiliers a few lads and I did something that got us into the national papers regarding the then closed Peel Tower. In April 1957 I asked for and received a transfer from St George's Barracks in Gosport to the Parachute Regiment but was told that first of all I would have to do infantry training and would therefore have to choose a regiment to do it with. After a lot of thought the Lancashire Fusiliers came to mind - although I had never wanted to join them but twelve weeks would be fine. On

arriving at Bury Barracks I was told by our CO that I would be transferred to the 1st Bn Lancashire Fusiliers in Cyprus - where the EOKA terrorists were causing havoc.

As part of the training we had to spend a week at the shooting range in Hawkshaw - a very welcome break from the discipline at Bury Barracks. During the day we did our shooting on various weapons and in the evening we were free to do what we wanted. This was during May 1957.

Some of my pals knew that I was from the area and used me as their guide to explore. Sometimes I would lead them over Redisher and on to Holcombe Village where we would take over the piano and have a sing song at the Shoulder of Mutton and later on walk back the same way in the dark to our bunks. They were very intrigued about the Tower and asked a lot about it. I told them about Peel but that the Tower had been locked for a number of years because of the disrepair.

Two days later a pal approached me and said that they had a flag which could be put on top of the Tower. I reminded him of the risks but that didn't bother him. Another lad, who was our cook, had made a large jute flag and painted the regiment's infantry number on it - XX, i.e. the 20th of Foot, in red paint.

The same evening we walked to the Tower from the shooting range. There were four of us - the cook, Rocky from Manchester, Gilly from Cumberland and yours truly. The Tower was, of course, locked and there could have been a notice there saying that it was dangerous. We had a look around and found that a boarded-up window was very easy to gain access to the building. So in we climbed. The stairs to the top were in a bad state and we had to be careful. There were gaps and we feared that they might collapse. But being Lancashire Fusiliers we continued to the very top.

It was quite windy up there. There was a broken flag pole on one side of the "battlements" and we could affix the flag on it. The question was. who was going to stand on the wall and do it as the wind was a problem. After a discussion one of us volunteered to do it while we others held on to his legs so he wouldn't blow over. The flag was fixed on the flag pole and we beat a quick retreat before people started to notice it. We kept very quiet about it as we didn't know what our CO would do about it.

Two days afterwards some of the fusiliers were talking about the flag and wondering who was responsible. One lad, called Frank, said that he alone had done it! (He later jumped troopship while we were in Algiers.) The story of our flag on Peel Tower appeared in two or three national newspapers, which we certainly hadn't expected, and I do remember seeing a photo on the front page of the *Daily Express*. *(The Bury Times had a report about the escapade on 25th May 1957. Apparently, a farmer had seen soldiers near the Tower the night before the flag appeared. Unfortunately there was no photograph. – Editor)* The papers had contacted our CO and he, to our surprise, said that he was very proud of what his fusiliers had done. It showed good spirit.

It was quite an adventure, maybe better than the time living rough in the mountains of Cyprus. Gilly has now died, Rocky maybe lives in Rochdale (his brother was shot to death in Cyprus) and the cook stayed on at the Barracks.

Malcolm C. McDonald 2020

Along with his story of the flag incident, Mr McDonald sends his thanks to the Society for their response to his family history enquiry. He also asks us to pass on his thanks to Holcombe Church for providing copies of transcriptions from some of the gravestones. Mr McDonald now lives in Sweden but is originally from Tottington. Accompanied by his wife, he visited Holcombe during Summer 2019 to take a look in the graveyard. Ancestors from his mother's side of the family were mainly from Ramsbottom. Most of them were from the Berry (Bury) family and were buried at Holcombe. They were cotton operatives and he tells us some of them also owned a few of the town's pubs: The Hare and Hounds at Holcombe Brook (my great grandparents and my grandfather), The Major, The Shoulder of Mutton and The Royal and also the Spread Eagle at Edgeworth. The majority of the Berrys were members of the Swedenborgian Church (New Jerusalem Church) and Thomas Bury was a leading figure there. The oldest of Mr McDonald's ancestors' burials at Holcombe are those of Thomas Berry (Bury) 1779-1861 and his wife Alice (Duckworth).

THE SALE OF SPRINGWOOD MILL, RAMSBOTTOM 1952

'The 'Cheeryble' Mill Comes under the Hammer'

Bury Times June 21st 1952

Leaning on the carding engine, and grouping in the narrow alleys between machines, millowners, buyers and machinery dealers from a wide area signalled and called their bids, as the equipment of the Springwood Mill, Ramsbottom, was auctioned on Thursday. It was the first mill to be sold-up since he trade slump began.

They paid more than £4,000 for 252 lots which formed the condenser spinning plant in one of the oldest mills in the area-built by the Grant Brothers, originals of Dickens' famous Cheeryble brothers, more than 100 years ago.

Although the machinery they bought was fairly modern in design, the old mill building was just as it was in the days of the mid-nineteenth century, when it was the focal point of a flourishing little community. To reach the second storey low-beamed carding room, where auctioneer George Singleton stood for more than three and a half hours on his little rostrum, more than a hundred men in the cotton trade climbed the narrow stone spiral stair case, brushing peeling whitewash from the uneven stone walls.
Where once the millworkers converged each day on the four-storeyed grey stone mill, cars lined the narrow approach lane and nosed into the cobbled mill yard.

Men in trilbies and belted raincoats hooked their umbrellas on to protruding shafts and machine handles, consulting their catalogues, and the sale began. With more than thirty years ' experience of such sales, Mr. George Singleton first offered the 252 lots as a mill unit, with option on the lease of the building. A man called "£2,000". After a pause came a second offer- £3,000- and there was no advance. The figure was too low, said Mr. Singleton, and withdrew the sale to offer the equipment piecemeal. It was a friendly sale with slight, grey-haired George Singleton calling occasionally "Where's Wilf? This is in his line," or, "Come on Tom, you're still in, aren't you?".

Most of the thirty five to forty operatives who were employed at the feeders, scutchers, frames and carding engines, have now found other jobs. Among them is Harold Edmondson, of Callender Street, twenty years a stripper and grinder at the mill. But on Thursday he finished work at 2pm and went into the mill for the end of the sale. Cloth cap and working clothes on, he said, "I have had to go into a local paper mill, and now we are on short time there - but at least it is a job." Seventy this summer - and still not thinking of retiring- Joel Entwistle, who was

a piecer at the mill, has found himself a lighter job at another mill, just down the road. Joel first worked as a lad of ten or twelve at Springwood, then, after forty five years at another cotton mill, returned to the old mill seven years ago, walking each day down the steep hill from his home in Tanners Lane, which overlooked miles of moorland around Ramsbottom.

FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE

Early in the day, when the auction was just getting under way, fifty six year old Harold Foster of Nuttall Lane, looked in, accompanied by his brown mongrel, Bruce. More than thirty years ago he was employed at the mill and wanted to see what happened "just for old times' sake".
When thirty four years old clerk Harry Hitchon strolled into the mill in his lunch hour, he provided a link with the history of the old building. At the end of last century his grandfather, Joshua Hitchon bought the mill and lived at the house in the mill yard. Harry's father was killed during the 1914-18 war but three sons of Joshua Hitchon - Ernest, Herbert and Fred - carried on the family business. Some years ago oldest brother Ernest Hitchon, collapsed and died on the mill steps, and in 1946 Herbert and Fred sold out to Springfield Manufacturers (Ramsbottom) Ltd., who have now gone into voluntary liquidation, bringing about the present sale of equipment. Said Harry Hitchon, " I used to play with my cousins in the mill when I was a boy, but it must be nearly twenty four years since I last came into the building. I thought I would have a last look round before the rooms were emptied".

THE LAST EMPLOYEE

When finally, the bidders departed forty seven year old Frank Shepherd, of Leachfield Place, Halliwell, Bolton. locked the doors. A mule overlooker and one of the first men employed when the Springfield Manufacturers took over in 1947, he had remained at the mill to look after everything until the sale.
Commented auctioneer George Singleton, "Prices were good and despite the trade position there was no reluctance to buy machines which could be installed in other mills."

Within the next few weeks the machines will be dismantled and taken to all parts of Lancashire, but the history of the Grant brothers' mill will not end. The building is part of the Grant-Lawson Estate, and may be sold or leased to new occupants.

THE TEMPLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY 1941

A transcription of a letter dated 15th November 1941, acknowledging work done by the company:

Dear Sirs,

Mr Riber has today shown me a reel of 47 gauge Resistance wire which I understand is almost the first length of this size that you have covered with silk.

Taking into account the short time your works have been open and that none of your operatives had previous experience in this work, the speed with which your people have learnt the necessary technique is very creditable to them and they must be feeling very happy to think that they can take a share in this delicate work. This size and class of wire is used in instruments and radio location work, as well as tanks equipment, all of which are national requirements of the highest priority.

Yrs faithfully

?? Suanders



Background information

In Regent Street, Ramsbottom was F D Sims wireworks which had been established by Kurt Engels in 1936. When war broke out it became an essential industry. During the war, some of the company's work producing covered wire was for the Admiralty and was done, under the supervision of Mrs Engels, by the Temple Manufacturing Company. Kurt Engels had started this company and it occupied the top floor at Cobden Mill down Kay Brow. (The premises was owned by William Eccles whose weaving mill on the ground floor was supplying towels for hospital and army use.) New working regulations meant workers could not leave without either joining the forces or obtaining permission at a tribunal.

Much of the wire that Sims processed was cotton or silk covered. This entailed introducing the silk or cotton strand on to the wire which was wound as it was being covered, without leaving even tiny gaps in the covering. A new strand had to be put on without a knot. The copper wire gauges went from 1 – 49 and women were employed winding the finer wires, some of which were as fine as a human hair. A large reel of wire was put in place at the bottom of the winding machine and the strand was brought up the winding machine, in a similar way to the threading of a sewing machine, to the smaller reel on to which the wire was being wound.

Sims supplied manufacturers such as English Electric. The finished wire was used in all kinds of electric motor and for almost everything that moved, including motor cars and railway engines.

References:

Jennie Johns (2006) RHS News Magazine number 30
Denis and Nancy Frearson (2006) RHS News Magazine number 35
Fred Entwistle: *Ramsbottom Reminiscences* Ramsbottom Heritage Society (December 1992)

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:
Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact:
archives@bury.gov.uk or tel**: 0161 253 6782**

IMPORTANT: To avoid disappointment you are advised to check before your visit. An appointment is now essential if you wish to view any items that are stored in the archive.
OPENING HOURS.
Monday : Closed Tuesday-Friday – 10am-1pm and 1.30-4.30pm
Saturdays – 10.00am-1.00pm (please telephone to confirm)

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at **http;//archives.bury.gov.uk** as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The enquiry service offers 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries there is a charge. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives. **The local studies section** 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at http://library.bury.gov.uk – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services. **The Wordpress Blog** (https://buryculture.wordpress.com/) offers lots of news, information, events and articles on all aspects of our service.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society Bury branch meetings date: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at The Kay Room, Church House, The Wylde, Bury BL0 0LA (behind St Mary's Church). Branch contact via email at bury@lfhhs.org.uk . Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details about branch resources and events.

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

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

Sunday and Monday	Closed	Thursday	12.30pm – 7pm
Tuesday	10am – 4.30pm	Friday	10am – 4.30pm
Wednesday	10am – 4.30pm	Saturday	9.30am – 1pm

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month 12.30pm to 4.30pm.

2020 Exhibition

At the Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library

Ramsbottom Pubs

"the Odious and Loathsome Sin of Drunkenness"

Normal library opening times and
also on the 2nd Sunday of the month
at 12:00pm-3:00pm
via the upper outside entrance.

The exhibition focuses on pubs that existed in 1890 and what they look like now.

There are panels of the history of four local pubs that still exist, Edenfield Brewery and the story of the Marsdens who were arrested over 30 times for drunkenness. The exhibition also has many examples of pub memorabilia.



THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

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NEWS MAGAZINE



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

Facebook



How to become a member of Ramsbottom Heritage Society Facebook.

Open up Facebook and use the Search box top left.
Type in "Ramsbottom Heritage Society". Click on "Join Group" button.
You will not have access straight away, I will need to approve your request (I usually do this very quickly) but bear with me. This will give you the ability to post to the site if you want too. I still will need to approve the post, this stops people just wanting to advertise a product or service, plenty of sites for that.
Across the top you can see the following headings:

About Just a few lines about the site.

Discussion This is where you will see all the posts – you can search this by using the search button on the right near the Invite button.

Members Lists the members (1437 as at 28th November)

Events will usually have the time and dates of the Wednesday talks, Summer Walks, Exhibitions etc.

Media – Photos All the photos that have been uploaded to Albums
Albums – 1. Ramsbottom Signs, 2. Front Cover Photos
3. Exhibition Posters, 4. Local Blue Plaques
5.Ramsbottom Pub Signs.
Files – 14 PDF documents that you can download.

I hope you will enjoy using Facebook. Keith Burroughs.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 59

Autumn/Winter 2020

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

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Front Cover

The River Irwell in the Gollinrod Gorge: deflector walls associated with the mills upstream at Nuttall - Photograph by Ian Smith

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In my last report, I mentioned that I was converting 50 of the magazines to be available on the website. This was completed, and I also mentioned that I would split the articles by topic. I did start this, but then was asked to edit the new book, so this is still on the 'to-do' list. The committee have met a couple of times using Zoom, but with the current restrictions, there is still no prospect of resuming the monthly meetings in the next few months, so each speaker will be asked to move their talk to the same month in 2021 or 2022. There is also a review of Bury Venues, including Ramsbottom Civic Hall, which didn't re-open in July, even though community centres were allowed to.

It was agreed that there wouldn't be a photographic competition this year, but photos taken this year are still welcome, and will be posted on the website. Contact details are on the inside cover.

Keith Burroughs, one of the committee members, and our Facebook administrator, has been researching the history of Bridge Street and Bolton Street shops, and has been posting his research regularly. If you are not already a member of our Facebook group, Keith explains how to access it on the inside cover. Keith has also been promoting the new book Nuttall: Ramsbottom's Lost Village, which is already such a success that 600 copies were initially printed.

There is also no prospect of the Heritage Gallery re-opening at the library until the present restrictions are lifted. The Conservation group has been active, as you will read in the Latest News.

In summary, even though we cannot meet at present, members of the Society have been active in the background, including John Tomlinson, who is producing a book that you can read about on page 24.

I hope you are in touch with each other through telephone calls and social-distanced walks.

We thank you for continuing to be a member of the Society.

NUTTALL: RAMSBOTTOM'S LOST VILLAGE

I knew that Brenda Richards had been leading for some time a group who were researching the history of Nuttall, as each time an query about the area came in via the website, I passed it on to Brenda. It was in May when Brenda first asked me to put captions on an old map, that I knew she was thinking of collating all her research into a book. Janet and Ian Smith were also researching the history of Ocean Chemicals and the water power used at the old mill. With the lockdown easing in July and August, there wasn't much progress on the book, apart from a social distanced visit to the area with Mark Fletcher, an archaeologist, who helped Brenda, Janet and Ian to confirm some ideas, including the existence of a tailrace tunnel which crossed to the opposite riverbank under the river and continued downstream to the Gollinrod Gorge tunnel exits. As a result of Mark's visit, several aspects of the book were amended.

Work continued with Brenda and Janet producing the text and photos for the book, and when it was mentioned that they would like to get it published before Christmas, I started looking at how to get a book published, including through Amazon, going to an established publisher, or self-publishing. It was decided, due to costs and time-scales, to self publish, and Orbital Design, based on Silver Street in Ramsbottom was chosen as being local. They would require the finished book by the end of November, so Brenda and Janet gave me their latest versions of the two parts of the book, and I started to format the layout. This process continued throughout October and November, with emails and telephone calls, and others reading the book and checking that the facts were correct, and also the grammar. I checked that dates and numbers were in a consistent format across the two parts. It would have been much easier to have met to discuss the final text and location of photographs, but this was not possible.

The book, which retails at £9.99, will be available via the website, and in local shops, including Hearts for Home and Olchon's Gallery, both on Bridge Street. Details of the book are on the back cover.

John Leyland

LATEST NEWS

RAMSBOTTOM TOWN CENTRE CONSERVATION AREA 2020

Yellow line road markings update

Following John Ireland's request, on behalf of the Society, to Bury Council, that conservation area guidelines be followed, the narrower, primrose coloured style of yellow line has now been used on some of Ramsbottom's recently resurfaced streets. Hopefully, the more obtrusive, wide, bright yellow lines, which have often appeared after resurfacing work in (or within sight of) the conservation area, will be avoided in future.



Near the Rose and Crown



Carr Street

<u>The following are the subjects of planning applications not yet decided (November 2020):</u>

Former Mondi/Holcombe Mill, Bridge Street (application number 65844)

Proposal: Erection of 72 no. dwellings including the retention and conversion of 2 existing buildings to residential use (5 no. units), the retention of a chimney and the demolition of a derelict building, together with engineering operations to create a development platform and associated parking, landscaping, drainage, the layout of internal estate roads and footways and other associated works.

(As a Society we were initially delighted to hear of plans to redevelop the long-abandoned Mondi Mill site, part of which is in the conservation area. However, having reviewed the application, members voiced their concerns, because what is being proposed would not take advantage of the opportunity and potential this site has to improve the centre of Ramsbottom for generations to come, in terms of offer, design and density. In our response to the Council on behalf of the RHS, we detailed these concerns. We also expressed our sincere disappointment in the lack of communication and public consultation that has been presented by the applicant to ourselves, local businesses, residents and the wider community of Ramsbottom to discuss the proposals for the site.)

St Paul's Church Memorial Gardens, Bridge Street (66011)

Proposal: a new war memorial including rebuild/repair of the boundary stone walls and landscaping work

(A very welcome development. Realising how frustrating the delays have been, not only for the Ramsbottom War Memorial Project Group but also for the public, including our Society and many other local groups who supported them, the project group have put information about progress on their website. They have also thanked everyone once again.)

The Former Grant Arms Hotel (65739)

Proposals: Change of use and listed building consent for rear of building from hotel/public house (Class A4) to financial and professional services (Class A2) including changes to the external appearance, internal modifications and the creation of new car parking to the rear yard area. New bollards to existing parking spaces.



Rear of former Grant Arms Hotel

(The Society's conservation group has submitted comments to Bury Council welcoming new proposals for the Grants, as they will complete the restoration of the building. There are concerns about parking areas and access roads around the site.)

The Former Ramsbottom Cooperative Society stores, 51-53 Bolton Street

An application for the listing of the premises has been submitted to Historic England by the Theatres Trust, and their assessment is underway. As a result of this the local planning authority has served a Building Preservation Notice (BPN) which temporarily gives the building listed building status for 6 months from the date the BPN was served which was the 18th September 2020. This meant that the planning application could not be supported by the Council and was therefore withdrawn. Readers will find an article with more details about the building, its history and the Theatres Trust application in this newsletter.

BURY COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS FOR RAMSBOTTOM

Statements from the Council - November 2020

Proposals are being drawn up to ensure Ramsbottom continues to flourish as a main visitor destination over the next 10 to 15 years. The impact of Covid-19, and continuing changes to the retail and leisure sector, has prompted council leaders to examine how best to improve and promote the town.

The Leader of Bury Council, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien:

- We need to make sure that Ramsbottom can adapt and respond to these changes by further improving the quality, appeal and range of attractions in the town to ensure that its economy thrives and remains attractive to visitors.
- Initial ideas will focus on the town's public spaces and infrastructure, traffic and parking, leisure and co-ordination of visitor attractions, while identifying sites for development opportunities and ways to attract external investment.

- We'll be having extensive engagement with local businesses, the community and wider stakeholders because it's important that we all work together to sustain the town centre's vibrancy for generations to come.

The above statements were extracted from a Bury Council press release dated 24th November. It was found online via the home page of www.bury.gov.uk, search for "press releases" and then choose News Desk. Hopefully, in the light of what they say about Council proposals for Ramsbottom, councillors and their officers will make sure they examine the planning application for the former paper mill site, which is right in the town centre.

THE FUTURE OF RAMSBOTTOM CIVIC HALL - UPDATE 24.11.20

I am writing to let you know that our group, the Friends of Ramsbottom Civic Hall (FORCH), has had verbal contact from Bury Council following an expression of our continuing interests in the future of the Civic Hall.

I am advised that measures to cope with their financial problems are due to be considered by the Council in the immediate future. The issues facing the Council, made stark by the effects of the pandemic are both problematic and long lasting. Decisions and planning for the financial year commencing in 2021 will need to be determined in the next few months. One of the options the Council are considering is the complete closure of Bury Venues, including Ramsbottom Civic Hall.

In the past FORCH has been approached with the option of managing Ramsbottom Civic Hall, but has not adopted that course. It is now clear that such an option is one which would still be available to the Friends Group, subject to the Council's agreement to a Financial and Management plan. For this option to be considered the community, not just the present FORCH members, would need to come together and there would have to be commitment.

In order promote discussion and test if there is a viable way ahead to preserve the interests of Ramsbottom, I now share the news with Friends

members, users of the Hall, local figures, businesses, key contacts and organisations including the Heritage Society and the Business Group.
Yours sincerely,

Edward Jones (Chair, Friends of Ramsbottom Civic Hall)

Other news : A recent enquiry

I am contacting your Society to enquire whether you have any information or records regarding children that were evacuated to Summerseat during WWII. My mother (Irene Cornes dob 9.4.31) and her brother (John Cornes dob 26.1.30) were evacuated to Summerseat for about 2 years although they were placed with different families. The only information I have regarding my mother's stay is that she was placed with the "Co-Op" Manager, his wife and their daughter (who I think was approximately 20 years old). However, I don't know their surname. She attended the local school. Apparently, her brother was placed with a family on the opposite side of the river in a less affluent area.

If you can help, please let the Society know. We would then contact the lady who wrote to us. She told us she would be very grateful for any assistance.

THE PORRITT LEGACY TO RAMSBOTTOM AND BEYOND

The Gift of Nuttall Park ~ The Wider Picture

Many of our newsletter readers will remember how Lt Col Austin T Porritt, of Stubbins Vale Mill, handed over Nuttall Park to Ramsbottom in 1928 “as a free gift for the recreation of the inhabitants and as an open space forever”. He had borne the cost of the land and everything necessary for the completion of the park. By the time of these, and other generous donations locally, he had apparently, for health reasons, made his home at Yewbarrow Lodge, Grange over Sands, but he continued to be committed to his business and his other interests

in Ramsbottom. At Grange he provided money for extending the gardens and parks and when Lord Derby opened the lido in 1932 it was Colonel Porritt who handed over the keys. (*During World War II, he and his wife Annie also took in evacuees at Yewbarrow Lodge. See WARTIME MEMORIES below – Editor)*
In providing a range of outdoor public facilities locally, Colonel Porritt followed a family tradition. At Grange over Sands his cousin Harold Porritt (1855-1910), who was a director of a Sunnybank Mills at Helmshore, had been one of that town's most prolific benefactors. Harold had lived in Grange over Sands from 1895, was elected on to the council and became Chairman of the Highways Committee. He defrayed the cost of planting shrubs and evergreens along the promenade and of "refreshment rooms and other conveniences in the locality" (*shelters and public urinals – Editor*). At the time, Grange attracted day trippers. Some of them, until about 1910, came from Morecambe by steamer as part of their holidays. The railway to Grange had been completed in 1857 so visitors came from the Lancashire and Yorkshire mills as well as from Glasgow.



Gifts from Harold Porritt to Grange also included the cast iron bandstand, with an unusual zinc pagoda roof and ornamental ironwork. It was originally built around 1901-1904 on the promenade, where early Edwardians would enjoy their Sunday afternoon stroll, next to his tea rooms. (Ladies had protested to the council about soot from passing steam trains ruining their dresses whilst they sat near the bandstand and listened to the music, so it was later moved to Park Road Gardens as the park's central feature. It was extensively renovated in 1990, and is listed by English Heritage.)

The first bandstands in Britain were built in the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, South Kensington in 1861. Their introduction into public parks became a significant aspect of their reforming potential encouraging "a better use of Sundays and the replacement of the debasing pleasures". The bandstands quickly became hugely popular, many of them originating in the Victorian era as the British brass band movement gained popularity. Considered a necessity in parks by the end of the 19th century, in their heyday there were over 1,500 in Britain, in public parks, on piers and seaside promenades. (Colonel Porritt installed his bandstand in Nuttall Park in 1929, the year after the opening of the park itself.) Many fell into disuse in the post-World War II period and were in a state of disrepair by the late 1940s and 1950s. The present revival of bandstands dates from the late 1990s and many of the old structures have now been repaired and renovated.

References

Paul Rabbitts	*Pavilions for music, entertainment and leisure* published by Historic England in 2018
Dr Ruth Hughes	*Grange Over Sands – Heritage – c 2006* unpublished work in progress

Work continues behind scenes by the Friends of Nuttall Park on their daunting project to try to replace the ironwork of Nuttall Park's bandstand. (it had been deemed unsafe and removed in the 1950s.) As we reported in Spring 2019, the

Society played an important part in the restoration of the bandstand's plinth and three of our Society's members also belong to the Friends group. We are retaining an interest in the bandstand - an interest which we know is shared by a large number of local people. In their latest report the Friends group tell us that the relevant permissions are in place and that the professional people to carry out and monitor the bandstand construction are waiting to start. They are now hoping that grant funding will become available soon.

WARTIME MEMORIES RELATED TO YEWBARROW LODGE

In September 1939, I was evacuated to Grange-over-Sands, on Morecambe Bay, from Salford, near Manchester. My first new home was on the outskirts of the town, so after 4 months, I moved into a house near the school, in the town centre.

After a few more months, I moved to a large house in its own grounds, called Yewbarrow Lodge. There were 8 other evacuees there and I enjoyed my stay very much. My parents took me home for Christmas 1940, but it was the time of the Manchester and Salford Blitz. After spending all night in a cupboard under the stairs. my father drove me back to Grange the next day.

In May 1941, Grange was bombed and our house was burnt out. We were carried out of the adjoining shelter by fireman, as the fire spread. All I was wearing was a vest. The next day we searched in the debris but all I could find was my tin hat. My father took me back to Salford, then after a few days, he took us to Seascale in Cumbria, where we spent the rest of the war.

I found the experience of being an evacuee scary, but exciting. My time at Yewbarrow Lodge was very memorable and I enjoyed it very much. It was so sad to see the house ablaze, but I will always be thankful for Colonel and Mrs Porritt, who looked after us and the friends I made there.

Douglas Trevor Nuttall, WW2 People's War (2003)
(WW2 People's War is an online archive of wartime memories contributed by members of the public and gathered by the BBC. The archive can be found at bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar)

THE GRANT ARMS (RAMSBOTTOM) & THE GOODRICKS

The following article was kindly written for us in response to our information request by a descendant of George Goodrick (landlord of the Grant Arms for over fifty years from 1834). We had asked him about the Goodrick family's link to the Grant Arms and about the large silver tree, known also as the Grant Arms Trophy, which had been mentioned in an earlier RHS newsletter.[1]

Since we received the article and a copy of a family photograph of the silver tree, an internet search has revealed fascinating news. The silver tree was listed (as a Victorian Silver Plate Tree-Form Three-Light Centerpiece), with its photograph, as having being sold in 2015 at Christie's in New York. According to the sale details it had come from the collection of Richard Mellon Scaife. (In an obituary he is described as an influential but reclusive American billionaire who died in 2014 aged 82.)

Did fine dining at the Grant Arms in George Goodrick's day feature the silver tree at the centre of his dinner table?

My earliest memory of 'the silver tree' dates to January 1949 when as a six-year old I was taken to visit my maternal grandfather on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. The trophy was displayed, in its glass cabinet, in the front room of my grandparents' Victorian house in Longsight, Manchester; this room, of course, only to be entered on high days and holy days! As I got older I began to be aware of the existence of the Grant brothers, the Grant Arms in Ramsbottom and the Cheeryble brothers although, at the time, I never really understood the exact relationships – it was just a part of "family lore". Now, in the 21st century with the availability of internet search engines I have been able to further explore those tenuous links with the past.



A VICTORIAN SILVER PLATE TREE-FORM THREE-LIGHT CENTERPIECE

MARK OF ELKINGTON & CO., CIRCA 1883



Realistically cast as an oak tree with three leafy branch-form arms with sockets, the base set with two deer, one recumbent the other standing, with engraved presentation inscription 'Presented to George Goodrick, Esq. of the "Grants Arms" Ramsbottom by a number of his friends, on the occasion of having taken out the 50th license for the above hotel, October 1883' and dated 1883, marked at base; together with four cut-glass bowl inserts. 23 ¾ in. (60 cm.) high.

Four hundred years ago the Goodricks were an established family in the area to the north-east of York known as the Yorkshire Wolds. They lived for many years in and around the small village of Terrington, close to the Castle Howard estate, and most of the male members were employed as agricultural labourers. The earliest family member identified is William Gooderick, born in 1619.

At some point William Gooderick's descendant, George Goodrick (b:1805), moved west across the Pennines to Ramsbottom in Lancashire where he found employment as butler to the Grants. On 29th October 1834 in the parish church of St Mary in Bury, George married Matilda Carr (b: 14th April 1805 in Bury) and his occupation at that time was still recorded as a butler, although by the time of the 1841 census he was recorded as being a publican, having taken over the Grant Arms in 1834. As well as his wife, also resident in the Grant Arms in 1841, were three other members of the Carr family viz: Mary (aged 25yrs) and twins Fanny (dressmaker) and Robert (pattern maker) both aged 20yrs, perhaps implying that the parents of Matilda viz. Robert & Ellen Carr were already deceased. Ten years later in 1851 George and Matilda are recorded as employing the same three members of the Carr family as cook, barmaid and ostler respectively. In addition living there was a niece of George Goodrick, also named Matilda Goodrick, aged 7yrs; she being the daughter of his younger brother Robert and deceased first wife, Jane (also née Carr). This Matilda does not appear at the Grant Arms in 1861 but ten years later she is back there and recorded as being in employment at the inn.

It seems that George and Matilda did not have children of their own but within the local community they must have been well respected for the work they did at the Grant Arms, so much so that on reaching fifty years as the licensee George Goodrick was presented with an impressive Elkington Plate[2] table-centre piece (known to the present-day family as the 'silver tree'). On 28 January 1890, George Goodrick, the licensee of the Grant Arms for more than half a century, died aged 85yrs; probate records indicating that he left an estate to the value of £3206.6s.8d a sum equivalent to approximately £400,000 today.

The Grant Arms Trophy passed to his nephew George Goodrick (1833-1911) and subsequently to his son, also named George (1869-1957)[3], a lithographic artist living in Longsight, Manchester. Finally on the death of this latest George Goodrick in 1957, aged 88yrs, the trophy passed via two of his three daughters and into the following generation. (After some thought and discussion with my brother we would suggest an estimated height for the trophy at around 2 feet to 2 feet 6 inches.

Sadly, I note that the Grant Arms closed as an hotel in 2017 but recent media reports suggest that this "listed" building is to be authorised for redevelopment and future commercial use (*Bury Times* 19/12/2018). It is to be hoped that the name may be preserved in some form in whatever use the site finds for itself in the coming years.

John Goodrick Mitchell

Notes

1. Andrew Todd, RHS News Magazine number 23 (Spring 2002), *George Goodrick, the Grant Arms and the Truck System*

2. Elkingtons was one of the prime producers of silver plating, receiving various royal warrants of appointments, and also an Imperial and Royal Warrant of Appointment from the Emperor of Austria. One of their most famous pieces is the electrotype copy of the Jerningham Wine Cooler, at the Victoria & Albert Museum.
The company was founded in Birmingham by George Richards Elkington and his brother, Henry Elkington in the 1830s as silversmiths. The company, originally G R Elkington & Co, was founded in 1840 after devising a new method of electro-plating one metal on to the surface of another. Their 1842 advertisement reads, "PATENT ELECTRO-GILDING and SILVER PLATING. Manufacturers and others are informed, that the Patentees, ELKINGTON and CO., have OPENED a MANUFACTORY for the above process, at 45, Moorgate-street, where articles of every description, and in all kinds of metals, are gilt and plated. Old Sheffield plate and ormolu work replated and regilt."

The company exhibited at the 1851 Great Exhibition with great success and by 1885 Elkington were registering designs by Christopher Dresser which included tea services, sugar bowls, claret jugs, kettles, cruet stands, baskets, a tureen and a tankard. His models are recorded in Elkington's silver and plated ware pattern-books. The firm operated independently as Elkington & Co. from 1861 until 1963 being taken over by British Silverware, Ltd. in 1971.

3. Maternal grandfather of the writer of this article.

RAMSBOTTOM MUSIC HALL

This venue has been disused for so many years that we believe most of the local community are unaware of the existence of "Ramsbottom Music Hall", locally known as the Co-op Hall. Records suggest it was last used just after World War II and its condition has been deteriorating ever since. The Hall occupies the top storey of the three-storey extension (nos 51,53 and 55, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom). The extension was added by the Ramsbottom Industrial & Provident Society to its earlier (1863) two-storey building (nos 45,47 and 49). The buildings eventually became Ramsbottom Central Co-op, which closed in the 1980s.

Memories of the Ramsbottom Central Co-op by George Ashworth is one of the items in RHS News Magazine no 21 (Spring 2001) and in issue no 22 (Autumn 2001) is another article *Ramsbottom Central Co-op: a Postscript* by Andrew Todd. Both magazines are on our website

www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk.

Today, at street level, the occupants of the buildings are:

Lacy Days (Bridal shop) at 45, Bolton Street
The Mouse Trap (Cheese and Wine) at number 47
San Leonardo (Italian restaurant) at number 49
Indian Lounge (Restaurant and takeaway) at number 51
Posh Chops (Barber shop) at number 53

On 7th July 2020 Bury Council received a planning application (no 65698) for the conversion of the first and second floors of 51-53 Bolton Street to provide eleven apartments with alterations to external elevations and dormers at the front and rear.

The Theatres Trust response of 25th August 2020 to Bury Council points out that Ramsbottom's Co-op Hall is a rare early survivor and represents a historically significant building type. They say that very few other examples around the UK of the numerous halls built between 1850-1880 are known to remain and also believe that it is important in terms of the history of the Co-Operative movement. The Trust concludes that the proposed development would result in the loss of the Co-op Hall as a currently undesignated heritage asset but one with great local and potentially national significance. They consider that statutory listing is merited and they have submitted an application to Historic England on that basis. They have kindly provided us with a selection of their photographs of the Hall's interior, presumably taken when it was visited by their Architectural Adviser in 2017 and allowed us to reproduce text from their listing application, as follows:

THE THEATRES TRUST LISTING AND DESIGNATION APPLICATION TO HISTORIC ENGLAND

There is a current planning application to convert the first and second floors into apartments with alterations to external elevations. This will involve the complete removal of the interior which includes an early music hall. These types of buildings are rare in the UK and this is an intact and well-preserved undivided example. It retains nearly all its original features including paintwork.

The Ramsbottom Co-op Hall was built in 1876 when the Ramsbottom Industrial and Provident Society built a three-storey extension alongside its existing (1863) building. The new extension was constructed to house shops on the ground floor with offices, stores and a music hall above. It was designed by Bird and Whittenbury* of Manchester and was the chief theatrical and social venue in the town. The hall was to seat 800 people and cost £4300.

The upper floor hall was originally used for variety entertainment of the kind commonly associated with music halls of the period as well as lectures, Guild meetings, Temperance Services and grand concerts. Adverts at the time support these activities. During the 1920s the hall was used by travelling theatre groups and players. The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) ran promotional films and smoking concerts in the 1930s. During World War II it was used as an army training centre and the seating removed. In 1944 it was taken over by the Labour Exchange and has remained unused since.

Externally the building is constructed of Ashlar, a three storeyed range facing Bolton Street with five original uniformly placed timber sliding sash windows at first floor and second floor features including roundals over casement windows. An eaves cornice and blocking course, along with quoins, chimneys, pitched slate roof and shopfronts across ground floor (later) are all features. The entrance to the Hall features a gabled cornice, corbel, circular fanlight and original timber doors.

The Hall was approached by a stone staircase directly from Bolton Street featuring a decorative metal scrolled balustrade and a stained mahogany handrail. The auditorium had a full gallery around three sides, the side tiered ranges with arcades of decorative cast iron columns with moulded arch braces to hammer beams carrying basket-arched roof trusses and a boarded upper ceiling with ornate cast-iron ventilator sunburners. The balcony had gilded panels of open ironwork (now stored on site). The fourth side contained a stage area. The hall was 54 feet x 51 feet x 50 feet high. The original decoration was a French grey colour with the walls stencilled with co-operators' symbols and mottos – the beehive and the wheatsheaf etc. The furniture was pitched pine which was stained and varnished. The hall was lit by two gas sunburners.

At first floor level the original mahogany panelled offices survive featuring glazed and timber partitions. The ceiling was finished in tongue and grove panelling and supported by cast iron columns. The doors feature leaded glass work.

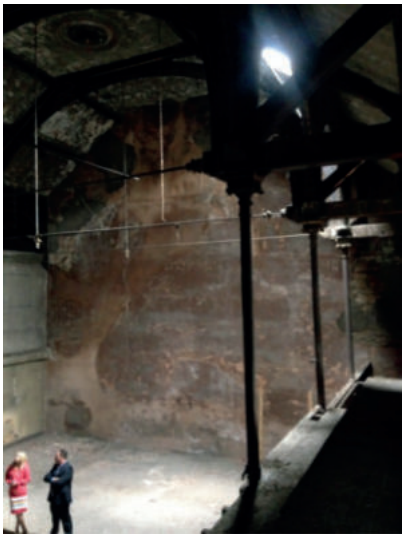
Rarity

The room itself was typical of smaller music halls, in that it was a long rectangular flat-floored room. In the 1870s music halls were steadily moving away from the ‘supper room and promenade’ style, with an open concert platform, to a more theatrical configuration with rows of benches and a simple proscenium stage and galleries. It is known that the Co-op hall had a portable proscenium and scenery, which suggests a mid-point transitional form. Music halls were once numerous everywhere, but only a handful of those of the 1850 to 1880 period now remain to be seen. The Co-op hall is not as decorative or grand as the handful of listed examples such as Wilton’s or the Glasgow Panopticon but it represents a historically significant building type of a provisional nature. It must also be important for the history of the Co-op.
The Building News of 1874 describes it thus:

> **The Ramsbottom Industrial and Provident Society have commenced the erection of a new Co-operative Hall to seat 800 persons, together with increased cellarage and butchers' and grocers' shops. The architects are Messrs. Bird and Whittenbury*, of Manchester, the principal contractors being Messrs James Garnett and Robert Crowshaw, joiners and slaters' work; Mr Schofield, plumber, glazier, etc; and Mr. Rothwell, painter. The total cost will be £4,300.**

The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. They were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.





Photographs taken in July 2017 and kindly provided by the Theatres Trust -



As well as applying to Historic England for the listing of Ramsbottom's old Co-op building, the trust has submitted a detailed response to Bury Council about the planning application. It concludes:

"…this proposal would result in the loss of the Co-Op Hall as a currently undesignated heritage asset but one with great local and potentially national significance without evidence that restoration to facilitate a more compatible use cannot be achieved. Therefore the Trust strongly objects to this proposal and recommends the refusal of planning permission."

*Bird and Whittenbury

Clifton Wilkinson Whittenbury joined George Oliver Bird in partnership in 1874 under the names Bird and Whittenbury and continued the firm as sole representative following the death of the latter in 1878. Their address in 1876 was Bird & Wittenbury, Town Hall Buildings, 74A, King Street, Manchester (Slater). Other buildings by the practice include: The New Jerusalem Church, Ramsbottom Lane, Ramsbottom (1874) demolished 1971, St Pauls Church, Heaton Moor, Stockport (1875 -1877) Listed Grade II and the Church of St Joseph (RC), Ramsbottom (1879 – 1880).

WORRALL's Trades Directory of 1871 lists a Robert D Wittenbury at Square Lodge, Ramsbottom. Andrew Todd's short item in RHS News Magazine 24 (Spring/Summer 2003) entitled Robert D Wittenbury: Ramsbottom's Unsung Architect is based on the probability that Robert Wittenbury was one of the Bird & Wittenbury's partners.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES 1884-5

A CONCEALMENT OF BIRTH IN VICTORIAN RAMSBOTTOM

Prior to the New Poor Law reforms of the 1830s, an unmarried pregnant woman, abandoned by the putative father, would receive outdoor relief from her home parish, thus enabling her to raise her child within the community. However, the

reforms put an end to this tradition and henceforth, the woman's plight was to be regarded as the result of her own promiscuity. The father was absolved of all responsibility for the child and furthermore, the parish would no longer offer financial support automatically.

If her family could not help her, she faced destitution and the dreaded workhouse. An abortion was expensive and dangerous, so she might consider simply abandoning the baby. However, some chose infanticide and several women were hanged for murdering their newborn. This resulted in juries becoming increasingly reluctant to convict these desperate women and perhaps send them to the gallows.

The government therefore decided to address this issue with the passing of the Offences Against the Person Act of 1861, which created the crime of concealing the birth of a child. This was a non-capital offence, for which the woman and anyone who helped her, could be imprisoned for a maximum of two years and it was usually necessary for the accused to persuade the authorities and juries that the child was stillborn. In the mid 1880s, a Ramsbottom couple was accused of such a crime.

On the afternoon of January 6th 1885, Tom Kay was walking across a field belonging to local farmer Samuel Preston, known as Preston's Meadow and he noticed a patch of disturbed ground. He went to investigate and saw that it was a shallow grave, in which he could see a baby's body. He immediately sent a boy in search of a police officer and the youngster found Sergeant Preston and Constable Thomas Bush at Fletcher Bank. He told them of the find, but it would soon emerge that this came as no surprise to the constable.

The body was taken to the Eagle and Child Inn, where an inquest was held on the following Thursday. A post-mortem was performed by Dr. W. Deans, who confirmed that the baby was a fully developed girl, but he was not prepared to swear that she was born alive.

A short time later, thirty-five year old Nancy Hutchinson, who had a grocer's shop on Bank Lane, Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth, a few hundred yards from where the grave was found, called at the police office. She admitted giving birth

to the baby and in view of the testimony of Dr. Deans, the police had no option other than to accept her claim that the child was stillborn.

She explained that she was at home alone on the afternoon of October 28th 1884, when she gave birth. She fainted and on coming round, realised the baby was dead. Fearing she would not be believed, Nancy placed the baby's remains in a box, which she hid under the bed. She named Constable Bush as the father, who when told of the birth, had said he would bury the body. However, this was not done until two weeks later, after Nancy's lodger Sarah Hall discovered what had occurred.

After he had done so, he suggested Nancy should leave the district, but she rejected the idea, insisting she would remain in Ramsbottom. The constable was a married man and responded by saying he would deny being the girl's father if details of the birth became known.

The police interviewed Sarah, a winder in a local mill, who had lodged with Nancy for two years. She confirmed that on November 10th she became aware of a dreadful stench emanating from the box. She opened it and was horrified to find the decomposing corpse. She confronted Nancy, who paled visibly on realising her secret had been discovered. She begged Sarah not to inform the police and she did not do so, but moved into new lodgings that night.

Hartley Farrell, a carter, reported that he was visited by Thomas in July and he told him that Nancy was six months pregnant and he was the child's father. However, she had promised not to name him on the birth certificate, nor make any financial demands of him. Thus, when the trial took place at the Manchester Assizes on Friday, January 30th, he did not deny being the father. However, he pleaded not guilty to concealing the birth and Nancy pleaded guilty.

Having listened to the evidence, the jury found Thomas not guilty and the judge said he would consider Nancy's fate over the weekend. When the hearing resumed on the Monday morning, she was sentenced to one week's imprisonment, which meant she was released immediately because of time already served.

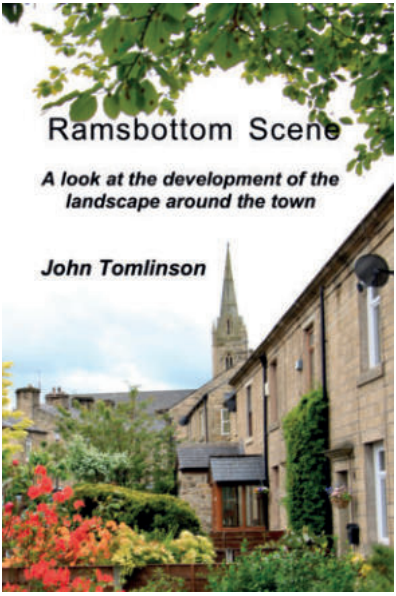
Martin Baggoley

COMING OUT IN THE NEW YEAR ~ A NEW BOOK

Ramsbottom Scene

A look at the development of the landscape around the town

by John Tomlinson



The author was born and bred in Ramsbottom, attended Peel Brow Primary School and Haslingden Grammar School. After studying geography at Liverpool University his career was spent in a variety of posts in education. He is a member of Ramsbottom Heritage Society and has a lifelong interest in the development of landscape and the history of education. He says,

"It is not a history book but does deal with some history. It is mainly a look at the landscape around Ramsbottom and looks at the background to it using local planning department reports and other research. It is illustrated by numerous local photographs of my own and other photographers. Any profits will be donated to Ramsbottom Heritage Society."

Mr Tomlinson hopes to complete his book in the next few weeks and aims to get it returned from the printers early in 2021. He thinks the price will be about £12. He has put several photographs on the Ramsbottom Now & Then Facebook page, and we will advertise the book on our Facebook page when it is ready. Ordering can be done by email to airevillepublishing@gmail.com

LOCAL RESEARCH UPDATE

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG
IMPORTANT: Bury Archives hope to re-open their appointment only service on 2nd December 2020. You can still contact them with your enquiries via archives@bury.gov.uk or 0161 253 6782.

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at **http;//archives.bury.gov.uk** as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

The local studies section 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at http://library.bury.gov.uk – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries.

The Wordpress Blog (https://buryculture.wordpress.com/) offers lots of news, information, events and articles on all aspects of our service.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, Bury
The Trustees of the Society have suspended most activities for the time being in line with government guidance. Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details. The Society's research centres at Chorley and Oswaldtwistle and at the branches have been closed since 18th March 2020 until further notice. Bookshop orders may be delayed if volunteers are not available to carry them out.

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE
email Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk

Important information: Services during the Covid 19 situation
An Order and Collect service for books (catalogue access via www.bury.gov.uk) and limited public access to computers are available. Computer access must be booked by calling 0161 253 5352 and customers can order books online at any time or by telephoning the library on 0161 253 5352 at the following times:

Tuesdays, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 12noon and 1pm to 4pm

Introducing

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY'S NEW PUBLICATION

150 pages with over 100 illustrations, including recently donated photographs

Meticulously researched by Brenda Richards in collaboration with ex-Nuttall residents and Society members, this book is much more than a history of a once-vibrant village, now hidden beneath undergrowth. It brings to life a busy 19th century mill community, the days when a chemical factory caused villagers much concern and Nuttall's dying days in the 1940s and 50s.

Essentially, it is a story about people, with emphasis on the living memories of some of the last people to live there.



ON SALE FROM EARLY DECEMBER 2020

How to get your copy of the book

Please go to page 3 for information.

A Christmas gift idea

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

No 60 Spring/Summer 2021 **ISSN 0960 - 1244**

NEWS MAGAZINE



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

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 2021

We are hoping to restart our public meetings in September 2021.

It is not known whether Ramsbottom Civic Hall will be available, so we may have to find an alternative venue, which could mean a different date from the usual third Wednesday in the month, or even a different day of the week

We will publicise the programme when available on the website and Facebook page

The expected speakers and topics, which are subject to change, are

September 15th:	Elizabeth Sibberling	Votes for Women
October 20th:	Julie Aspin	The Lancashire Witches
November 17th:	Philip Mather	The Fusiliers' Museum
December 8th	Christmas Social	

Ramsbottom Heritage Society
News Magazine No 60
Spring/Summer 2021

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Front Cover

The base of Nuttall's mill chimney, an important reminder of the lost village, comes back into view. - Photograph by Ian Smith

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The committee have decided to not restart the public meetings until September at the earliest. We are looking for a Programme Secretary to help organise the speakers from September 2022. Due to the pandemic, all speakers organised by Kate Howarth, who is standing down, have agreed to move forward a year. Thanks to Kate for organising the speakers for the last few years. Please contact a member of the committee or myself if you feel able to help.

Since the last magazine, Brenda Richards has researched old street names, with a view to having street signs re-instated, possibly with the Ramsbottom Heritage Society logo. Kate Slingsby has been reproducing our old books that are out of print, with a view to selling them to a new audience. These will include Ramsbottom Reminiscences, Ramsbottom in the 1920s, Drink and Drinking in 1890. It is planned to release these over the next year. Keith Burroughs has continued with his research of buildings with his date of build register, and also the history of shops on Bridge Street and Bolton Street, which is constantly being updated as described in the Photographs of 2020 section.

We are grateful for your continued membership of the Heritage Society, and hopefully we will able to meet again soon.

John Leyland

NUTTALL: RAMSBOTTOM'S LOST VILLAGE

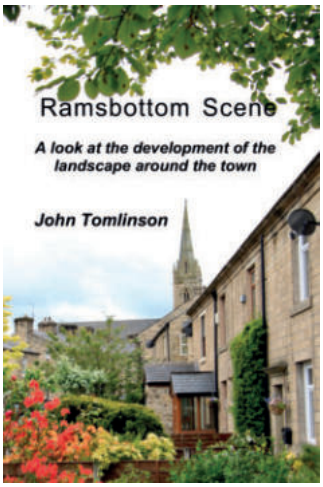
The making of this new book was described in issue 59 of the News Magazine. Since then, the book was initially advertised on Facebook as to whether there would be interest, and over 500 people responded, saying they would buy a copy. As a Society, we couldn't afford the risk of ordering so many on the basis of Facebook comments, so overnight, a Paypal account and website shop were created, asking for advance orders. As a result of this 600 copies were printed at the end of November, which

sold out by mid December, and a further 200 were ordered, which have now been sold, leading to a further reprint of 100, thus 900 in total.
It was also decided to hand deliver locally, as otherwise it would have meant 600 copies would have to be posted, which would have meant paying and printing the labels online, as visits to the Post Office were still discouraged. 450 books were delivered by members of the society in early December, the area being split into 5 sections, with the Whittingham Estate area ordering the most books, well over 100. It would have been far simpler to have been able to hold an event to sell the books on one day. Hearts for Homes and La Petite Patisserie offered to stock the book for us and the book is still available at both these town centre shops.
Many local people are fascinated by the mysterious village of Nuttall and are exploring the site, which has now returned to nature. The Society therefore decided that the base of the mill chimney, an important reminder of the lost village, needed to be on view again. The chimney had been erected in the mid-19th century, when William Grant & Bros began to use steam power in their mills down by the River Irwell at Nuttall. By the 1960s its top was in disrepair and was removed in 1967 – leaving the substantial chimney base. Over the years, willow trees grew and virtually hid the chimney. In a plan backed by Bury Council, it was decided to use some of the profits from the book to employ a tree surgeon to remove some of these trees. The work was carried out early this year. Further work is planned. Treatment to prevent regrowth and trees discovered growing inside the chimney will be removed.
The book itself, now into its third reprint, is receiving many expressions of approval, including this comment on Facebook:

"If you live around the Whittingham Drive area and walk to Nuttall Park down Nuttall Lane and along the river you have to look at this book by the Ramsbottom Heritage Society about the lost village of Nuttall. Absolutely superb read and totally eye-opening about our past. Great photos and maps in the book."

LATEST NEWS

"Ramsbottom Scene"



We have just read John Tomlinson's new book, which is now on sale. We think that readers of this magazine will enjoy the 169 page book with its beautifully reproduced illustrations, maps, charts and very useful index. It contains lots of interesting information that we have not found in any other publication, such as the geology of the area, evidence of occupation before the Grants, town and population growth since 1851, development of the road system including turnpikes and toll roads, chapters on coal, stone and water, the history of churches, and significant buildings.

The book is priced at £13.50 including postage and packing and is available now via airedalepublishing@gmail.com

The author is a member of the RHS and has generously decided that any profits will be donated to our Society.

Ramsbottom War Memorial Project

On Christmas Eve 2020, the Ramsbottom War Memorial Project Team received the most welcome news that planning permission had been granted for their project: to create, for posterity, a permanent visible and tangible record of the names of those Armed Service and Merchant Service personnel from Ramsbottom, who have given their lives for their country since the start of World War 1 through to future conflicts. In addition, Bury Council allocated funding to upgrade the Memorial Gardens, surrounding walls and pathways.

Research since August 2011 revealed over five hundred names for which there was insufficient room on the town's existing war memorial in St Paul's Memorial Gardens. It is now a Grade II listed monument and there are no plans to carry out any work on it, although new surfacing and edging will be laid around it. To bear all the names, fourteen sawn sandstone plinths will be created with the lettering carved into the face of the stone. The plinths will be cut on a radius and installed in two sections on either side of the existing path and by the outside edge of the new surfacing around the original memorial.



The work on the installation and engraving on the memorial plinths is scheduled to commence, on site, in July when it is hoped that good weather and long days will enable the stone mason to carry out his work without interruption from inclement weather. The memorial will provide the only comprehensive listing of the war dead of Ramsbottom and form an integral part of Remembrance events.



War Memorial and gardens before the work started - November 2020

Update - Ramsbottom Co-operative Hall, 51-53 Bolton Street, Ramsbottom (Ramsbottom Music Hall)

There is now another new Grade II listed building in Ramsbottom! Historic England, in their statement of 17th February 2021 explain:

> **Following the Building Preservation Notice (BPN) served on the above building by Bury Council and the subsequent application to add it to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, we have taken into account all the representations made and completed our assessment of the building. Having considered our recommendation, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add Ramsbottom Co-operative Hall to the List. The building is now listed at Grade II.**

The List entry for the above building, together with a map, has now been published on the National Heritage List for England, and will be available for public access. This List can be accessed through the Historic England website. List Entry Number: 1473516.

A planning application to convert the first and second floors of the building into apartments has been withdrawn.



Photograph taken November 2020 - John Leyland

The Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital Weathervane

We are very pleased to report (belatedly) that the weathervane is now a prominent feature on the roof of Cobden Mill, Square Street, Ramsbottom. Some of the details about how members of our Society and Bury Council's planning department were working with Greenmount Developments to "save" this important artefact appeared in News Magazine No 56 Spring/Summer 2019.



Photograph taken by Ian Chapman in February 2020, and available for viewing on the website as part of the Photographic Database as reference HPC-20BU-006

Photographs taken in 2020

There wasn't a photographic competition this year, but Alan Seymour, Ian Chapman and myself submitted photographs to illustrate the year. Some of these are shown throughout the magazine. I took the opportunity of the shops being closed and the streets being empty to photograph every building on Bolton Street, which caused one owner to ask what I was doing. He seemed satisfied when I said I was taking a snapshot of the street for the Heritage Society.

Alan and Ian also included shops or buildings on Bridge Street and Bolton Street that have changed in 2020, and a selection are shown below, with the reference of the Photographic Database on the website.



HPC-20BU-058 - Alan Seymour
Big Butts bakery closed in 2017



HPC-20BU-055 - Alan Seymour
For many years was Denise Smith lighting



HPC-20BU-086
John Leyland

Ex-Eclectic Deli



HPC-20BU-038
Ian Chapman

RBS being converted to a restaurant



Ex -Topping Butchers



Ex Dream Doors - now Baby Gaga

A YOUNG BOY'S RECREATION IN THE 1920s

From Albert Street, my parents moved to 69 Callender Street and then to 51 Callender Street. I was born there on 17th Oct 1918. Behind 51, Callender Street there is a retaining wall about 6ft high and there is a steep slope up to Albert St. At the bottom of this wall is a little gutter which takes away the water that drips down from weep holes in the wall. Callender Street, having a slope in its length, at times after heavy rain, the water rushed down it in a torrent, and when I was very young I spent hours sailing little bits of wood, with a matchstick for a mast and a piece of paper for a sail, careering down the torrent. On part of the land above this wall (presumably the grass bank between Albert Street and Callender Street, now landscaped - Editor) my father had a garden and a large greenhouse, where he grew lots of tomatoes. He also grew vegetables and flowers, and when he retired, he became a specialist in growing carnations and won many prizes at local shows.

Callender Street was a long, cobbled street stretching from Bolton Street to Carr Street and consisted of four distinct rows of houses on the west side of the street with only five houses on the east side near the junction with Bolton Street. The entire street was an elevated terrace along the



Albert Street, c1910, probably taken by John Wallis Hutchinson, who was enumerated in the 1911 Census with his wife Mary Alice and sons at no 6, third from the end. Carr Fold is visible to the right, middle distance; and Springwood Mill beyond the wall of the Rose and Crown *bowling green*

slope of the hill, rising up from the River Irwell to Holcombe. It had a wonderful view of the moors across the valley – Top o'th' Hoof (Grants Tower), Whittle Pike, Windy Harbour and the Quarry at Shuttleworth. At intervals on the east side of the street, there were mature, single trees rising from the footpath and gas lampposts. As boys we used to climb the trees and also swing on the gas lamp ladder arms.

Outside our house, on hot summer days, the tar between the cobbles in the street softened, and as boys we picked it out and rolled it into little balls. When the tar cooled and hardened we would use them to play marbles. The trees on the footpath running along Callender Street were about 25-

30ft high and we climbed these to swing from the branches and hide in the upper branches to drop tar balls on other children passing below.

As a boy, my main recreation was walking the Moors and Valleys around Ramsbottom; Stubbins; Helmshore; Holcombe; Grants Tower and Buckhurst and playing games: 'rally ho', hide & seek, hoop, piggy, top & whip, marbles, swimming, cricket, football, gymnastics and sledging in winter. When I was about six, I would wander about Ramsbottom and on some Sundays, I would go down to the Newmarket Pub, a beer house kept by Mrs Hall, my Aunt Lucy's mother-in-law, to swill out the spittoons or cuspidors to give them their posh name, with a hose pipe in the back yard. I would also chop firewood for the weeks kindling for lighting the fires. All this used to earn me a tanner (6d) or so.

In those days, I hated school – it tied me down and I'd rather have been out and about doing something practical, or roaming the countryside, woods and moors. I loved the winter when in those days it always snowed hard and we had severe frosts, when we could sledge. My sledge was a 'hand me down' from my brother, and it was the best 'skeleton sledge' in Ramsbottom. (At least I thought so!). It was made by Dad from a stout board with foundrymade ½ inch diameter iron runners, slightly flattened where they made contact with the snow or ice. We would spend all night sledging down The Rake from Holcombe, down to Rostrons Road and sometimes getting down to the Market Place via the little ginnel and steps that go into Carr Street. Then we would walk all the way back to Holcombe to do it again.

At weekends we went up on to Holcombe Moor to sledge on the Long Pits – two flashes of frozen water amongst the reeds on the flat land between Holcombe Hill and Harcles Hill. The small flashes were probably made by people digging for peat in the olden days, but now in 2005, they have disappeared, probably silted up and overgrown. We used to take a short run with the sledge held up to our chest, then dive onto the

ice and go hurtling along being pulled up by the reeds on the other side. My sledge with the iron runners used to fly like the wind.

During the winter, there was always the Empire Cinema to go to if it was raining on a Saturday. The cinema was on Railway Street, but was demolished after a fire there. They put on a children's matinee showing films like Tom Mix in cowboys and Indians and serial films. One serial called The Green Archer went on for weeks. There used to be long queues waiting for the doors to open and when they did, there was a mad rush to get the best seat. Before the films began, a chap came round with a very long pole to close the wooden shutters over the high windows in the sides of the building. He also shouted for the children to keep quiet and settle



Opposite the station on Railway Street stood the Empire Picture Palace, built in 1910. This maypole dance may even have been celebrated its opening. Owned by Blakeboroughs, the theatre closed in 1962 and burned down in 1978

Photo and text taken from Around Ramsbottom , page 27

down. The films were silent films, but a pianist belted out appropriate music to the action going on in the film. At these matinees, no-one was allowed in the balcony upstairs, in case someone fell over the balcony rail when jumping up and down in the exciting bits of the film.

In summer, we went swimming in Springwood Lodge and in a small lodge behind a derelict mill with a water wheel which was between Proctor's slaughter house at Kibboth Crew and the farm towards Oxhey. The water in this small lodge was so cold we could just about swim across and then be too cold to swim back.

One of my first ambitions was to be a farmer and I spent some time helping at a farm over Oxhey nearer to Stubbins. The farmer's son, who was older than me and resented me being there, started knocking me about. On one memorable day, he went too far, and I pelted him with hen eggs and in the ensuing fight I managed to burst his nose, before taking to my heels and running for home. Needless to say, I never visited that farm again. The farmer, who took milk to my Auntie Suzy in Stubbins, asked her why I didn't come to the farm any more, but she didn't know. I learned later that the lad never told his father about the fight, I think his pride had been dented.

When I was about six or seven, I went on a ramble with Arnold Baldwin and some other pals round the back of Nuttall Park up towards the coach road. In a little valley there was a pipe across the valley about 4ft from the ground. Being dared to walk across the pipe, I set off and midway I slipped and sat with one leg either side of the pipe which was wrapped with barbed wire. I was not able to get up as the wire was in my short pants. I raised myself up with my hands and threw myself sideways off the pipe, but my left leg caught on the wire and tore two chunks of flesh from the side of my leg below the knee. The lads tried to find the flesh to put it back into my leg, but couldn't find it, thank goodness! With handkerchiefs they wrapped my leg to stop the flow of blood and helped me back home.

I was scolded by my Grandmother, who sat me on the mangle draining board, put salt into the wounds and bandaged my leg up. A week later, Dr Charles came to visit my mother, who was ill in bed in the front room, and saw me hobbling about. He looked at the wounds and said it should have been stitched and now would take six weeks to heal – which it did and I still have a scar.

Ernest Hutchinson 2005

We told Mr Hutchinson's daughter, Mrs Sheila Nolan, that we hoped to publish the above extract from her father's memoirs. She replied, "I would like to mention, that in later years, my Dad would tell his grandchildren that the scar on his leg was from when a dinosaur bit him!" (Editor)

THE ROSE AND CROWN, Carr Street, Ramsbottom

Hopefully, the Heritage Gallery at Ramsbottom Library will reopen to the public soon and it will be possible to visit the RHS exhibition,"Ramsbottom Pubs – The Odious and Loathsome Sin of Drunkenness". Meanwhile, we are very grateful to the members of the exhibition team, who have contributed their research to inform the item below, and to Martin Baggoley for his article, "The Rose and Crown Inquests".

Situated in the old settlement of Carr, the Rose and Crown was built between 1784 and 1818, when it was listed in Rogerson's General Directory. In its early days it was also known as the Crown Inn and its neighbour was The Rising Sun (a beerhouse built in 1794 and converted into two private homes, numbers 2, Tanners Street and 1, Manor Street many years ago). Previously, the only public houses in the area had been the White Hart (now Higher House) and the Shoulder of Mutton, both at Holcombe, so Ramsbottom's thirsty workers faced the steep climb up The Rake.



Photograph by Heather Ryder

Massey's Burnley Brewery once owned the Rose and Crown and one of its decorative windows with 'MBB' etched on it survives.

In 1966 Massey's shares were acquired by Charrington United Breweries and the pub is now a Thwaites house.



Massey's Burnley Brewery Ltd's original windows in 2018. These two have now been replaced.

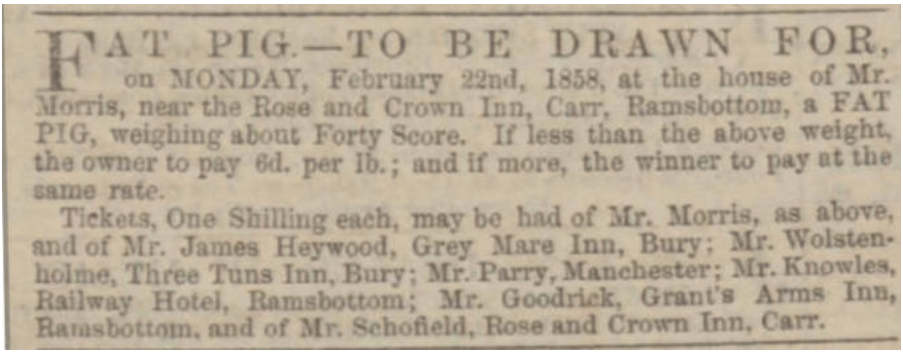


The highest corner of the 18ft wall

The bowling green behind the pub lies above impressive stone retaining walls which are eighteen feet tall at the highest corner. The present-day car park was once the site of some of Carr's old back-to-back cottages, long since demolished. (The survey of 1795 Carr includes cottages, houses and mills. The 1842 and 1850 plans show the Rose and Crown, Carr Fold, Gutter Lane, Carr Barn, farms at Top Wood and Kib o' th' Crew and a range of mills and reservoirs referred to as Spring Wood Mill, Carr Mill, Top Wood Mill and Holcombe Mill. References date back to a fulling mill in 1627. The mills were individually fairly modest buildings producing both cotton and woollen goods but together, and with the many reservoirs and man-made watercourses, must have been a key part of the industrial landscape of Ramsbottom.)

The Rose and Crown is reputed to have been a venue for cockfighting[1] and for a short time much more recently for the New Years Day Game Fowl show. Inquests were held there during the 1800s[2], although it was not the only pub in the Ramsbottom area to hold them during this period.

(Records confirm they also took place at the Grant Arms, The Eagle & Child, The Pack Horse and The Railway Hotel.) As well as business functions and meetings, it was not unusual for auctions of land and property to take place in public houses in the 1800s. Press notices suggest the landlord of the Rose and Crown, Richard Schofield, was involved in making arrangements for a range of activities.

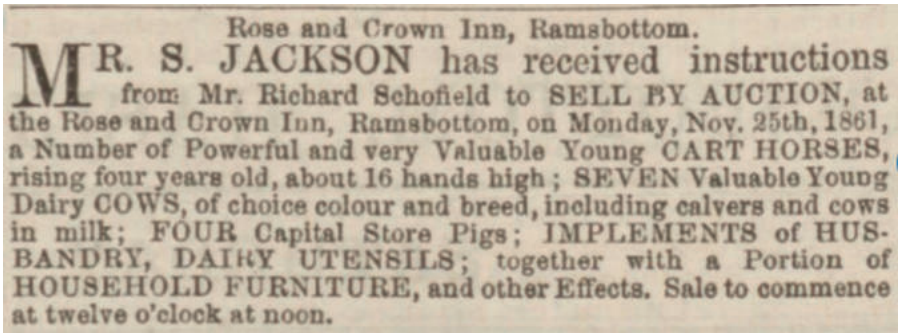


FAT PIG.—TO BE DRAWN FOR, on MONDAY, February 22nd, 1858, at the house of Mr. Morris, near the Rose and Crown Inn, Carr, Ramsbottom, a FAT PIG, weighing about Forty Score. If less than the above weight, the owner to pay 6d. per lb.; and if more, the winner to pay at the same rate.

Tickets, One Shilling each, may be had of Mr. Morris, as above, and of Mr. James Heywood, Grey Mare Inn, Bury; Mr. Wolstenholme, Three Tuns Inn, Bury; Mr. Parry, Manchester; Mr. Knowles, Railway Hotel, Ramsbottom; Mr. Goodrick, Grant's Arms Inn, Ramsbottom, and of Mr. Schofield, Rose and Crown Inn, Carr.

Bury Times 30th January 1858

This article is under the SALES BY AUCTION section



Rose and Crown Inn, Ramsbottom.

MR. S. JACKSON has received instructions from Mr. Richard Schofield to SELL BY AUCTION, at the Rose and Crown Inn, Ramsbottom, on Monday, Nov. 25th, 1861, a Number of Powerful and very Valuable Young CART HORSES, rising four years old, about 16 hands high; SEVEN Valuable Young Dairy COWS, of choice colour and breed, including calvers and cows in milk; FOUR Capital Store Pigs; IMPLEMENTS of HUSBANDRY, DAIRY UTENSILS; together with a Portion of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other Effects. Sale to commence at twelve o'clock at noon.

Bury Times 23rd November 1861

The cuttings above, and on pages 18 and 20 have been copied from www.findmypast.com, which has a selection of Bury Times newspapers.
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Rose & Crown jug which was sold at auction as Lot 124 on 16th January 2014 at Barnsley BBR Auctions. Described in the auction catalogue as :

"RAMSBOTTOM PUB NAMED JUG 3.5in tall, blue and white oriental design all around …..black lettering to front."

A "REARING" OF A NEW MILL AT THE ROSE AND CROWN

DINNER TO WORKPEOPLE. — RAMSBOTTOM SPINNING & MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

On Saturday last, the above Company treated all the workpeople employed in the erection of their new mill to a good substantial dinner. The workpeople were 93 in number, and the dinner was served up in a style which reflected great credit on the worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Schofield, of the Rose and Crown Inn, Carr, Ramsbottom. These 93 stout and robust excavators, quarrymen, masons, &c., presented a beautiful sight when all seated together, and showed as much skill and determination in the use of the knife and fork as they had with the pick, hammer, and trowel, for a very short time sufficed to do justice to the good things provided.

Bury Times 26th October 1861

After the meal, the Chairman of the company, Mr William Ross, explained that the gathering was what was called "the rearing of the mill". He wished everybody to bear in mind that the mill had been built without any disturbance among the men, or between the men and the foremen and, as they had managed to work peaceably together for six months, he felt confident that they could eat and drink peaceably together for one night. There were cheers and he then proposed a toast to "The Queen, and long may she reign over a happy, prosperous people". The toast, which is reported to have been drunk with enthusiasm, was the first of many that evening. Each was followed by loud cheers and interspersed with songs and a recitation.

The diners drank toasts to the health of mill architect Mr Edmund Simpson of Bury, the excavators and labourers, Mr John Crankshaw (foreman quarryman), Mr John Hargreaves (foreman mason), Mr Thomas Wolstenholme (timberwork contractor), James C Kay Esq of Bury, who had contracted for the engines and gearing, and the company directors.

Afterwards there were several more songs and recitations and the meeting "which was in every respect a very pleasant one" broke up at about eleven o'clock.

References:

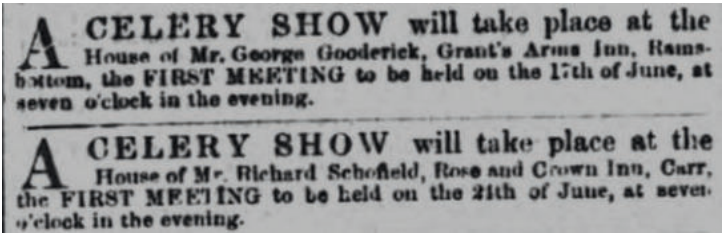
1. "Ramsons" pictorial map by Zena Middleton
2. Three examples of inquest reports:
   Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser 8.7.1846
   Bury Times 2.5.1863, *Burnley Gazette* 25.2.1888

THE ROSE & CROWN INQUESTS

The public house has long been a place to meet friends and to take part in activities which have included darts and bowls and in more recent times pool and quizzes, or celebrate life's significant occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries. Therefore, when I decided to look back on

the history of my local, the Rose & Crown on Carr Street, it came as no surprise to discover that it had been important in the district's life for many years.

It was also where local groups and societies met and from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, among these were the Welcome Stranger Lodge of the Oddfellows and the Ramsbottom Friendly Burial Society.*



A CELERY SHOW will take place at the House of Mr. George Gooderick, Grant's Arms Inn, Ramsbottom, the FIRST MEETING to be held on the 17th of June, at seven o'clock in the evening.

A CELERY SHOW will take place at the House of Mr. Richard Schofield, Rose and Crown Inn, Carr, the FIRST MEETING to be held on the 21th of June, at seven o'clock in the evening.

Bury Times

2nd June 1860

Events held at the pub included a celery show in June 1860; in January 1862, the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway employees at Ramsbottom station and their families dined there, after which they held a dance to welcome in the New Year; and two years later, there was an auction of six properties on Kenyon Street.

However, one of its most important functions was to provide a venue in which to hold inquests following unexpected deaths in the surrounding area. In the absence at the time of a Coroner's Court, it proved to be suitable as there was sufficient space to accommodate the coroner, his staff, the jury, witnesses and as the deceased had usually lived nearby, his or her family and neighbours.

Contemporary editions of the Bury Times contain accounts of inquests and the first to be reported on in that newspaper was that of forty-six year old labourer John Schofield, whose body was found in the pub's grounds on the night of January 8th 1857. He was very drunk when he left the pub earlier that evening, before apparently seeking shelter in a barn adjoining the pub. At the inquest, held five days later before the coroner Mr Dearden, it was stated that there were no signs of violence and he was not

thought to have been suffering from ill-health. However, he had been drinking heavily in the weeks leading up to his death and it was believed he must have fallen asleep and had probably frozen to death. The jury therefore returned an open verdict of 'Found Dead'.

Mr Dearden was at the Rose & Crown again on May 4th 1860 to consider the death of eight-year old Thomas Duckworth, who had lived on Tanners. On the previous Tuesday, the youngster was playing with friends in a dug-hole, but unfortunately they were unaware of the dangers they faced. The dead boy was standing in the hole when a massive amount of sand fell from its rim on to him and he was buried alive. The alarm was raised and his father James, who was close by, rushed to the spot. With the help of neighbours, he dug frantically in the hope of uncovering the boy, but he was unable to do so. Having heard the statements given by several witnesses, the jury had little hesitation in bringing in a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

Richard Schofield was landlord of the Rose & Crown for a number of years and sadly, on April 24th 1863, his six-year old son John died. On the previous day, after leaving school, he went bird nesting on Holcombe Hill and fell twelve feet down a steep incline, known as Deep Clough. He banged his head on a large stone, but despite his injuries, he was able to make his way home, where he died the following day. At the inquest on May 2nd, held in the pub with the agreement of John's family, a verdict of 'Accidental Death' was recorded.

Confirmation of the often dangerous working conditions faced by many in the Victorian era emerged at an inquest held on November 13th 1869, before deputy county coroner Mr Molesworth. The deceased was seventeen-year old James Dewhurst, who on the previous day was working at James Ingham's Ramsbottom Paper Mill. At about two-thirty in the morning the young man was operating machinery in which he became entangled. This led to his head being crushed between two rollers, which caused the horrific injuries from which he died. After listening to

evidence provided by James's workmate Joseph Gilpin and Thomas George the manager of the mill, the coroner said it seemed to him that no blame for his death could be attached to anyone other than James himself. The jury agreed, deciding it was an 'Accidental Death'.

Unsurprisingly, a 'Suicide' verdict was the outcome of an inquest that took place on October 4th 1877. Two days earlier, the body of thirty-seven year old local mill worker Thomas Nuttall was discovered hanging from a tree in Carr Bank Wood. Described by witnesses as 'a man of intemperate habits', he had been telling friends he wished to put an end to his life for some time previously.

Martin Baggoley

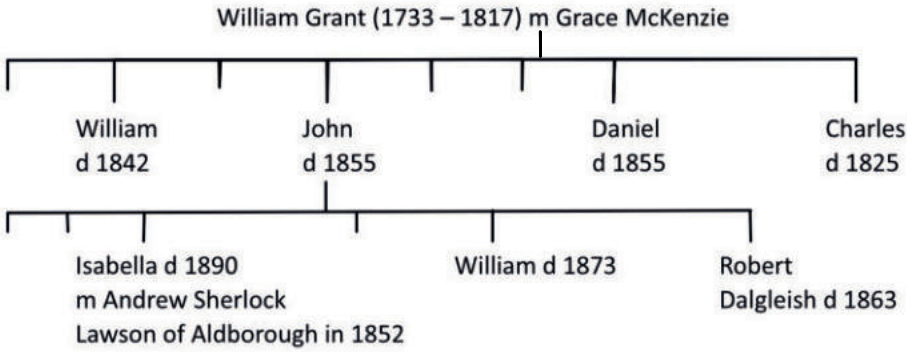
**Dues used to be collected at the Rose & Crown for the Ramsbottom Friendly Burial Society (also known as the Carr Club or the Dead List). A guaranteed benefit payment was made to members in the event of a family death.*

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM GRANT, OF NUTTALL HALL, 30TH MAY 1873

The Grant family, who were important in the development of Ramsbottom and in influencing the lives of its inhabitants, followed the tradition of carrying on family names through the generations[1]. William Grant of Nuttall Hall, who died in 1873, was a member of the third generation of Ramsbottom's Grants. His grandfather William (married to Grace McKenzie) founded the business which was expanded by four of his sons William, Daniel, John and Charles and became known as William Grant & Bros. By 1855 all the brothers had died, and the business was inherited by John's sons, Robert Dalgleish Grant and William Grant.

Neither of the men was in good health. Robert Dalgleish died in 1863 during the Lancashire Cotton Famine (1861–65), which caused a

depression in the textile industry. William was unable to continue and sold the Grant businesses in 1864. His death in 1873, at Grange in Cartmel, marked the end of an era. The estate passed to his sister Isabella and became the Grant Lawson Estate.



Below are two transcriptions by Brenda Richards. The first is the report of William's death which appeared in the Bury Times in June 1873. It is followed by the account that the newspaper published a week later about William Grant's funeral.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. William Grant, of Nuttall Hall, Ramsbottom, which event took place yesterday morning about eight o'clock, at Grange, near Ulverston. Mr Grant, has for a considerable period been afflicted with rheumatic gout, his sufferings from which has recently been very severe, but so suddenly fatal an issue was not at all anticipated, and the intelligence of his death will prove a surprise to all who knew him, and awaken sorrowful feelings in the breasts of many to whom he had been benefactor and friend.

The deceased, who for many years resided at Carr Bank, was the son of the late John Grant, of the firm of William Grant & Brothers, and was born at Nuttall Hall, which family mansion he had lately occupied. Being the last male survivor, Mr. William Grant inherited much of the wealth accumulated by the well-known 'Cheeryble Brothers', out of which he

generously contributed to the support and establishment of various religious and educational institutions in his immediate neighbourhood, his last act of munificence being the erection of day and Sunday school in connection with St. Andrew's Church, Nuttall Lane and an infant school attached to St. Paul's Church, in Crow Lane. The first-named of these churches was built and endowed by Mr. Grant's predecessors as a Presbyterian Church, in which faith the deceased was brought up; but latterly Mr. Grant attended the services of the Church of England, whose form of worship is now observed at St. Andrew's. At both these places the entire expenses of the respective choirs were defrayed by Mr. Grant and a number of children wearing school uniform attire, received gratuitous education at his hands.

Mr. Grant, we understand, was in his 48th year. A few weeks ago, by the advice of his medical attendants, Dr. Southam of Manchester and Mr. Wilson, surgeon, of Ramsbottom, he went to Grange, with the hope of restoring his health. While there he was constantly attended by Dr. Southam, as well as Mr Wilson, or his assistant, Mr Wells but within the last few days his suffering greatly increased, and he weakened very rapidly, and died yesterday morning as above stated.

Mr. Grant leaves a widow, but no children. The only member of the family now surviving is his sister, Mrs Lawson, of Aldborough. Mrs Grant has lost both her husband and father, the late Mr Clegg, of Prestwich, in little more than one week – the last-named gentleman having been interred on Friday, the 23rd instant.

The Funeral of Mr. William Grant

On Thursday, at noon, the remains of Mr. William Grant of Nuttall Hall, whose death we briefly noticed last week, are consigned to their last resting place at St. Andrew's Church. The funeral cortege left Nuttall Hall about a quarter past eleven o'clock, in the following order: -

Two mutes[2]

Female Sunday School scholars and teachers

Male Sunday School scholars and teachers

Choristers of St. Paul's and St. Andrew's in surplices and black silk scarfs

A number of out-door workers on the estate

The bearers

First mourning coach, containing Mr. Thos. Schofield, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom; John McRae, W. Oliver, Jos. Strand, Ramsbottom

Second mourning coach: - Messrs T. Howson, Samuel Wilson, William Bramley (Ramsbottom) and James Kay (Pike)

Third mourning coach: - Mrs T. Knowles, Edward Wild, George Goodrick (Ramsbottom) and Richard Howarth (Nuttall Farm)

Fourth mourning coach: - Messrs W. Stead, Thomas Wild, Jamieson Morton (Ramsbottom), Thos. Schofield (Bridge Street, Ramsbottom)

Fifth mourning coach: - Messrs Henry Heys, Lawrence Stead - Heap (Ramsbottom)

Mrs. Grant's Brougham, containing the Rev. W.H. Corbould, vicar of St. Paul's; Rev. J. Cartman, Hazlehurst, Ramsbottom and the Rev. John Henn, Old Trafford, Manchester

Two mutes

Hearse and four horses

First mourning coach, containing Messrs Andrew Lawson and John G. Lawson (nephews of the deceased), Old Borough Manor; Rev. John Clegg (brother in law of deceased), Eccleshall, Staffordshire; Mr. Dowsett; Mr. John S.W. Grant, and Mr. Whittenbury (stewards)

Third Mourning coach: - Rev. Canon Hornby, Bury; Mr. R. E. Ashton, Fallowfield, near Manchester; Mr. James Park, Bury; Mr. Lorraine Wilson, Fallowfield

Fourth mourning carriage: - Mr. Thomas Ashton, Ramsbottom; Rev. H.P. Hughes, Shuttleworth; Rev. J. F. Yeo, Edenfield; and the Rev. J.H. Fletcher, Radcliffe

Fifth mourning coach: - Rev. J.H. Butcher, Audenshaw; Mr. Thos. Woodcock, Haslingden; Dr. Wilson and Mr. Wells surgeons, Ramsbottom

Sixth mourning coach: - Dr. Woodcock, Woodside; Mr. A. Hepburn and Mr. W. Rumney, Ramsbottom

Next followed the undermentioned private carriages (closed): -

Mr. Dalglish's,	Rev. John Clegg's;	Mrs. Jas. Munn's (Prestwich);
Mr. O.O. Walker's (Bury);		Mr Jas. Parks' (Bury);
Mr Rumney's;		Mr. L.W. Fletcher's.

The funeral cortege, which had left Nuttall Hall about a quarter past eleven o'clock and was of considerable length, arrived at the church about half-past twelve; and along the whole line of the route, viz, from the Hall, down Shipperbottom New Road, thence down Peel Brow, crossing the railway into Bridge Street, and along Bolton Street to the church, the blinds of the dwelling-houses were drawn, and all the principal places of business closed. In fact, throughout all the whole of the town there were manifest indications of grief at the loss which the inhabitants have sustained of the last male descendant of an illustrious family who have undoubtedly contributed in no small degree, by a liberal use of immense wealth which they succeeded in amassing, in elevating the town of Ramsbottom to the highly credible position of commercial prosperity which it now occupies. We believe that the name of the deceased will be held in grateful remembrance by future generations, and that as the

descendant of the "Cheeryble Brothers", who have been immortalised by that eminent and much-lamented novelist, Charles Dickens, his memory will not soon be forgotten.

Upon the arrival of the funeral procession at the church the service was impressively read by the Rev. W. R. Corbould, vicar of St. Paul's assisted by the Rev. J. Cartman and J. Henn. As the corpse was being borne up the aisle Mr. T. Wolstenholme, organist of St. Paul's, presided at the organ, playing the Dead March "Saul" after which, a hymn was sung by the choir, and Psalms xxxix and xc. were chanted, the music selected from Dr. Croft and Dr. Blow. The Vicar then read (being evidently deeply affected) the lesson in 1 Cor.xv.,20. The chorale, "Sleepers awake! A voice is calling," was then sung by the choir; the coffin, upon which was placed two beautiful wreaths of immortelles, was then lowered into the vault, which is situated within the communion, at the east end of the church, near the last resting places of deceased's relatives. The depth of the vault is 9ft., length inside 7ft. and width 3ft 4 in. It is constructed of ashier stone, and the bottom is covered with ground flags. The reading desk, pulpit, choir stalls, and front of the gallery of the church were draped in black cloth, and the gas brackets were enveloped with black crape. The undertakers were Messrs. Satterfield and Co., of St. Ann's Square, Manchester, and the hearse, mourning coaches &c, were from the establishment of the Manchester Carriage Company.

We may state that the mourning carriages which went before the hearse were each drawn by two horses, and the coaches which followed it were drawn by four horses. The coffin consisted of an oak shell (which contained the body of the deceased) enclosed in a leaden coffin, on which was a plate which bore the following inscription in raised brass letters "William Grant, born 15th August 1825; died 30th May 1873". The outside coffin was of oak, covered with a black cloth, with rich brass furniture, and on the lid was a brass plate on which was engraved an inscription similar to the one above. We may also state that whilst on the

way from the Hall to the church the choir – under the leadership of Mr. Nuttall, professor of music, Bury – sang three hymns, the first opposite St. Paul's, the second in Bolton Street, and the third in Nuttall Lane prior to entering the church. None but those who had invitations to the funeral were allowed to enter the church, in order that overcrowding might be prevented; but after the funeral service was over and the mourners had left the sacred edifice, those who wished to visit the last resting place of the deceased were permitted to do so, the arrangement being that they should enter by the south entrance to the church and leave by the north, and large numbers of people availed themselves of this opportunity of paying a last tribute of respect to the departed.

NOTES

1) Hopefully to dispel any confusion about other local Grants whose name was "William":

William Grant, the manager of Nuttall Mills, was a cousin of William, Daniel and John Grant. He was known as William Grant Wellfield, to distinguish him from the others. His name was chosen as it was the name of the house where he lived which was Wellfield House, subsequently numbered 223, Nuttall Lane.

Major John William Sueton Grant worked as an agent for William Grant & Bros. He was a friend of William Grant of Nuttall Hall and trustee of his will. He came from Morayshire, the same area as William and Grace Grant but may not have any family connection to them. In her article in News Magazine 35 Autumn 2008 Brenda Richards said she had been told that Morayshire "was awash with Grants".

2) During the Victorian era, when funerals were an extravagant business, the family of the deceased would often hire a mute for the occasion. A mute was basically a paid mourner, whose job was to keep vigil outside the house then lead the funeral procession. A mute dressed in sombre clothes with a black top hat.

LOCAL RESEARCH UPDATE 2021

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service.

The following could be approached:

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

NB Bury Archives is currently closed but can be contacted with enquiries via archives@bury.gov.uk or 0161 253 6782.
It is hoped to re-start the visitor appointment service again soon and details can be found on the www.bury.gov.uk website by clicking on "View all libraries and archives" under the "Libraries and Archives" heading. In the meantime, you are invited to check out the Bury Archives Online site and Bury Culture - Archives blog.
Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at **http;//archives.bury.gov.uk** as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.
The local studies section 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at http://library.bury.gov.uk – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries.
The Wordpress Blog (https://buryculture.wordpress.com/) offers lots of news, information, events and articles on all aspects of our service.
Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, Bury
The Trustees of the Society have suspended most activities for the time being in line with government guidance. Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details. The Society's research centres at Chorley and Oswaldtwistle remain closed but enquiries can be handled by email sent to researchcentre@lfhhs.org.uk. Bookshop orders may be delayed if volunteers are not available to carry them out.

Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, C arr Street BL0 9AE

email Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk, telephone 0161 253 5352

NEW LIBRARY OPENING HOURS: From April 28th 2021

Books may be returned and left in the box in the foyer between 10 a.m. and noon and between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday.

Customers can order books by telephoning the library or by ordering online.

Open for browsing and 'Click and collect' service

Tuesday to Friday between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

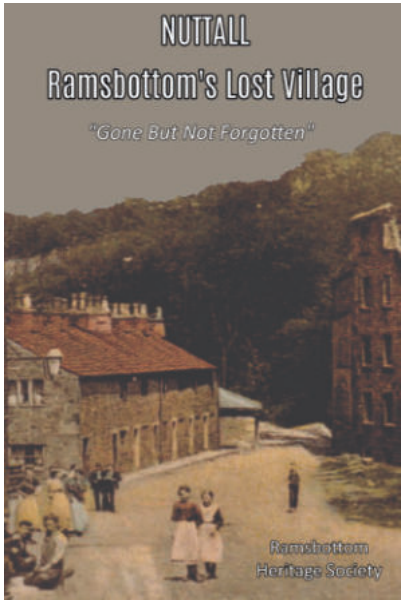
Introducing

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY'S RECENT PUBLICATION

150 pages with over 100 illustrations, including recently donated photographs

Meticulously researched by Brenda Richards in collaboration with ex-Nuttall residents and Society members, this book is much more than a history of a once-vibrant village, now hidden beneath undergrowth. It brings to life a busy 19th century mill community, the days when a chemical factory caused villagers much concern and Nuttall's dying days in the 1940s and 50s.

Essentially, it is a story about people, with emphasis on the living memories of some of the last people to live there.



Cost £9.99

Available from Hearts for Homes, Bridge Street

and La Petite Patisserie, Market Place

Also from the website

www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk



Hearts for Homes
@heartsforhomesuk · Home Decor



La Petite Patisserie
@lapetitepatisserierammy · Cafeteria

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

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 2022

Note that meetings will be held on Thursday evenings at Christ Church Neighbourhood Centre at 7.30 p.m.. See back cover for details of the venue

13 January	10 February	10 March
7 April	12 May	9 June

Speakers haven't yet been confirmed for these dates, but will be announced on the website, Facebook and posters when confirmed.

A taste of what's ahead, a varied and interesting selection including

Stephen Wardle: The Future of Ramsbottom Coop Hall.
Mark Fletcher: Burrs Country Park: Thirty Years On
David Wright: The History and Development of The East Lancashire Railway
Stephen Gill : Understanding and Making the Most of Old Photographs
Alan Seymour : Morris Dancing
Norman Redhead: Former County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester: The Archaeology of Bury District including Ramsbottom.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 61

Autumn/Winter 2021

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Front Cover

David Malin taken in 2000 and Bird Hall in 1978 . A recent photo of Bird Hall is on page 16 . The three photos are courtesy of David Malin.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In issue 60, I appealed for a new Programme Secretary to organise the monthly meetings. I am pleased to announce that Linda de Ruijter has taken on this role, and had organised speakers for 2022, although the speakers for each date haven't been confirmed at the time of writing. The committee has also decided to restart meetings, but as the Ramsbottom Civic Hall is still be used for Covid-19 vaccinations, we will temporarily move to Christ Church Neighbourhood centre on Great Eaves Road. We are unable to book Wednesday evenings, so the meetings will be held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m.. The first one will be a members' social evening on Thursday 9th December at 7.30 p.m, which will include a Christmas buffet. We will also use the meeting to hold a short Annual General Meeting to confirm the appointment of Linda and the rest of the committee.

I have recently received a request from Kathy Fishwick :

> Maybe you remember a talk I did for you some time ago on Henry Hargreaves' Diary? Well, like many other people I found time during the lockdown to do things I haven't got round to before, and this includes a study of the diary and filling in background information. I would love to publish this as a book, but there is a snag: the owner of the actual diary always (quite rightly) kept it very preciously, and I do not know who it is. I feel that it would be only right to ask the owner's permission before going into print, although it would be done purely for academic purposes and any profits would, as from the other books I have done, go to a Charity. The contact I had was Barbara Horrocks, who is now sadly suffering from dementia, and can't remember. I know the owner lived in the Ramsbottom/Bury area and wondered if you had any contacts who could shed light on this. I really don't want to push ahead without asking, so your help would be very much appreciated.

If you have any information, please contact me using the details on the inside front cover

I also received these comments about living in Nuttall village, by an anonymous correspondent who wishes to be known as “Starling Street Ghost ?”.

A friend has kindly lent me his copy of the book about Nuttall, the lost village. I must thank the people who took time and trouble to research and publish said book. Being an "Owd Nutterite myself" it has brought back years of dear fond memories of childhood in the village. I would like to make reference to the "round hole in the field near the big chimney". This was indeed to hold water as sometimes the soot at the base would catch fire and had to be extinguished by going into the tunnel (which access point is very close by) to put out the fire. This is the tunnel we used to store our bonfire wood in and have a crafty "woodbine or two in" so as not to be seen by our parents. (sorry boys, the truth slipped out). I was sad to see the Bridge of conquest had fallen down (Gollinrod Footbridge) as this took with it many,many "Bragging rites" of some of the boys, at the time. We played all the usual games kids played in the 1940s and 50s, a favourite being "kiss catch", once you had received your kiss you could, at a later time add a notch to the girl’s initial on the bridge. This was done by laying flat on the decking and hanging out over the water to cut a notch in the downstream side "at the side of the girl’s initial". This could only be seen by walking along the "iron bridge” mentioned by Jim Isherwood in the book and looking up-stream at Gollinrod Bridge. I hope nature has been kind and the "tree of love" is still growing strong. This is a tree which grows near where the Natives called "the big hill" where we spent many happy hours sledging down in winter. It can be found at the top of the cliffs overlooking the second iron bridge. By the way both iron bridges were not footbridges, but large sewer pipes. On this tree was carved a heart with a girl’s/boy’s initials (of which there were many) to who one had a teenage crush/puppy love on. Most of the village girls had their initials on the tree. The one who had the most admirers was almost on the top branches.

This was an insight into the the innocent side of wartime village life.

SOCIETY NEWS

Nuttall Mill Chimney Remains

In December 2020, and again in May 2021, using some of the profits from our book "Nuttall: Ramsbottom's Lost Village" a tree surgeon was employed to remove some of the trees which had been hiding the remains of the chimney, an important reminder of the old village of Nuttall. Treatment to prevent regrowth has now been carried out and trees discovered growing inside the chimney have been removed.





Before the first tree felling



After





A second tree felling removed the trees on top of the chimney. The photo on the left was taken by James Leyland using a drone, and the montage on the right, which highlights the red circle, was extracted from a video taken by the contractors Tower Forestry.

The Signage Project

Brenda Richards' research into old street names led to proposals being put forward for brand new street signs at four local sites identified as being of historic interest: Grant's Entry, Draba Street (*Draba Brow*), Gutter Lane, and Chapel Gate. A firm decision was made to go ahead and we are delighted to report that, all being well, the installation of the four signs may be completed by the time members receive this newsletter.



John Ireland and Andrew Todd

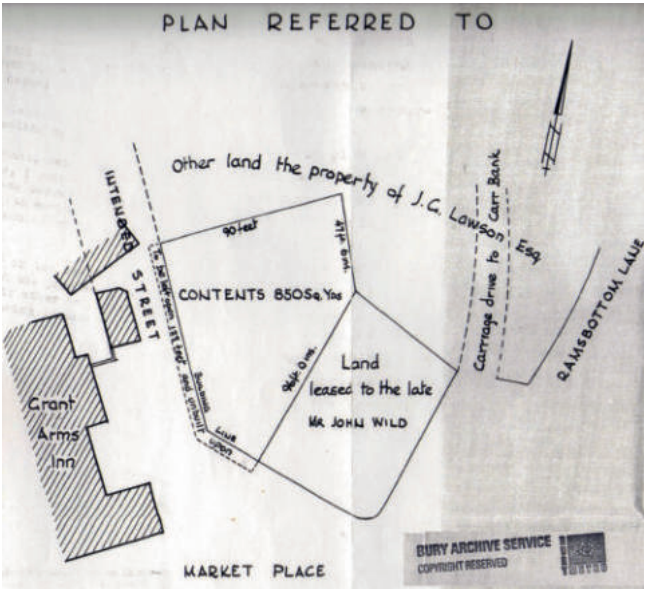
We are giving you a chance to discover the signs for yourselves when you are out and about around Ramsbottom. They are aluminium and painted white (black text and border) with the Ramsbottom Heritage Society logo in full colour.

Contact with Bury Archives

1) The donation by the family of the late Rev. R.R. Carmyllie

We have recently learnt that a number of documents and photographs were donated to Bury Archives by the family a while ago. The Rev. R.R. Carmyllie was once the Minister of St. Andrew's Church and a keen historian who researched Ramsbottom's past and wrote a number of booklets on the subject. These documents are awaiting appraisal and cataloguing, and not yet accessible to the public. We have registered our interest and hope to view them as soon as they are available.

2) Plan – Land leased to the late John Wild



This undated plan was found in Bury Archives years ago by one of our members. Archives staff say, "It may have been attached to a lease or conveyance in our 'Woodcock & Sons of Bury and Ramsbottom, solicitors' collection. A large part of the Grant Lawson material is still to be catalogued so it would be difficult to locate the original lease to provide a date for the plan."

Background information:

"Carriage drive to Carr Bank" exists today as a wide footpath/track leading from the gatehouse on Ramsbottom Lane but was originally access to Carr Bank House. In his 1893 book, "The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers", Reverend Hume Elliot noted that the house was originally called Carr Barn and writes:

"the house was built and its grounds admirably laid out and planted in 1850. It was prepared for Mr John Grant, the younger, of Nuttall Hall, who, however did not live to occupy it. It was occupied for a time by his brother the late William Grant…"

(RHS Newsletter no 56 has an article about Carr Bank House which was demolished in the 1950s - Editor.)

"Other land the property of J G Lawson Esq":

this site includes the present Ramsbottom Civic Hall garden



"CONTENTS 850 Sq. Yds": now the site of Ramsbottom Civic Hall

"Land leased to the late MR JOHN WILD": now the site of the Grade II listed Market Chambers, and which has been known locally as "Wild's Building". Built between 1842 and 1847, it housed Ramsbottom Urban District Council Offices for about 60 years.

(Since our research for a Newsletter 48 article we are still hoping to receive more information, particularly about the use of the building before it was bought from Mrs A E Wild by RUDC in 1911 – Editor)

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL IN THE 1920s



An unusual St Paul's classroom view C1928

Photo taken from page 38 of *Around Ramsbottom*, Ramsbottom Heritage Society 1995.

I started school at 5 years old at St Paul's School in Crow Lane opposite St Paul's Church. All I remember about the infant class was the teacher Miss Hasell giving me a slate to draw on with chalk crayons. I took a red chalk and covered the slate in red. She asked me what I had drawn and I said, "A house on fire." We played musical chairs and all the kids sang 'Poor Cock Robin' and other ditties.

On moving up to Standard 1, I was taught by my cousin Lucy Hutchinson, the daughter of my Father's brother Louis. I think she tried to discipline me, as my mother was ill and my Grandma hadn't much time to manage me. She would take me to task over the least misdemeanour and also inform my father about it as well - so I was punished at both ends! Looking back, I think it did some good, anyway it taught me to take

the knocks of later life. One episode was when she was reaching up high on the blackboard to write something, her knicker elastic broke and her knickers dropped down to her ankles. I was the only one who laughed out loud and of course I was chastised and my father informed later, so I got another telling off.

Cousin Lucy was a favourite of my Grandma's, she used to collect rents from houses my Grandma owned in Wallis Street which was a street off the bottom of Peel Brow now demolished and part of The Good Samaritan car park (now The Hearth of the Ram - Editor), and houses in Shuttleworth, some of which are now demolished. She came to Callender Street regularly. I remember her coming once to tell Grandma that she had met a young man, Norman Metcalf, and they had started courting. I thought this was one of her good turns to me, because he and his brother were pork butchers in Ramsbottom and they had a pig slaughter house. Later, when I knew Norman, he said I could visit the slaughter house, which I did and he gave me some pigs' bladders. When blown up and tied to a stick, we lads had some fun having bladder fights until they wore out and burst. Eventually Cousin Lucy married Norman Metcalf and they had a house in Dundee Lane near to the junction with The Rake and next to her mother's house.

The next class at St Paul's was Mrs Cook's, and after that Mrs Burton's, (Penny Burton). She had a large cupboard at the back of her classroom about 5ft high and any misdemeanour meant a spell in the cupboard for the culprit. However, I had one moment of glory in her class, I was good at making clay models and one day, the owner of a chip shop in Bridge Street and his wife, visited our classroom on a visit to the school. (I think he was a school governor or something.) He said he would give 6d to the best clay model when he came back later in the afternoon. I won the 6d with a model of a bunch of grapes. After school, I went to the little shop behind St Paul's Church and bought a large stick of liquorice root to chew and had some money left to save.

The next class was Mr Lindley's (Stink). I remember it was the first time I heard the poem "The Highwayman". We enacted this poem in class, Harry Williams was the Highwayman. I was one of the soldiers who shot him using a broom shaft for a gun. When I was in Lindley's class, I had a fight with another boy who had started to bully me. It was the custom to hold fights at the back of the 'Tubbers' (a works in Paradise Street where they made wooden barrels for beer etc). The lads would congregate there to shout support for their pals in the fight. It was known for the tubber to come out and throw a bucket of water over the fighters if things got too rough. Luckily, this didn't happen to me, the lad knocked me about but I didn't do so bad myself and knocked him about too. He never attempted to bully me again.

My next class was Miss West's (Cocky West). She looked 90, but dressed like a young flapper! Her geography lessons appealed to me and I really enjoyed her classes. Then it was Mr Harry Price's class (Old Harry). He was a strict disciplinarian and was the one, as Headmaster, who administered all the corporal punishment. You were always given the choice of the cane on your hand, or bent over and have it on your backside. I had it a few times, and always on my hand. The older lads used to say if you lay a long hair on your hand, it wouldn't hurt as much, but I had trouble trying to keep a hair on my hand when he held it to deliver the cane, and it always hurt like mad.

Mr Price's class was held at the end of the main hall, and one day, Arthur Young and I were fooling about before class making little ink bombs with modelling clay and ink from the ink wells in the desks. A tiny cup was fashioned from the clay and a little ink poured into it, then the cup was sealed and it was ready to be thrown. I threw mine at Arthur, missed him, and hit the hall and left an ink blob on the wall. Then Mr Price came in to take the lesson, during which we were sure he would see the ink blob on the wall. However, he never noticed it, and when he had finished the

lesson, he left the hall to take a class in another room. We then found some coloured chalk which was a close match to the colour of the distemper on the wall and disguised the ink blob. In time, this wore off, but when Mr Price did notice it, he was assured it had been there for ages and had been noticed by others. So to our relief, it was properly removed and forgotten about.

I think my one moment of fame in Mr Price's class was when he was teaching us about circles and areas, and he put the sign of π on the blackboard and asked if anyone knew what it meant. Having travelled to and from Bury many times with Grammar School lads doing their homework on the train, I knew all about Pi and gave him a full explanation. He was impressed, but my pals just said "swot" and pulled my leg unmercifully.

At St Paul's, we had weekly woodwork classes at Ramsbottom Technical School (this was a building on Stubbins Lane opposite the present fire station) and the girls had cookery classes. Our teacher was a Mr Camme, a red-haired disciplinarian who issued strict instructions which had to be obeyed for obvious safety reasons. It was my first encounter with really sharp and dangerous tools. He was a fine teacher and I always remember his 'face side, face edge' and the mark on the wood to be planed – face side face edge.

I was never much impressed with school, it tied me down too much but I enjoyed the companionship of my pals. I played football and was in the cricket team. However, I was an avid reader and read lots of books from the little Ramsbottom library, travel and adventure, Rider Haggard's King Solomon's Mines, Aesha, Rudyard Kipling's books on India and all the Dickens books.

Ernest Hutchinson 2005

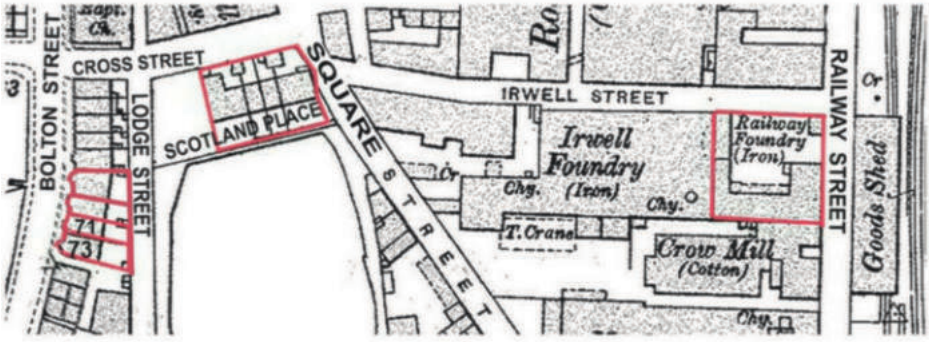
(RHS news magazines nos 58 and 60 also featured extracts ("Dealings with the Butchery Trade" and "A Young Boy's Recreation in the 1920s") from Ernest Hutchinson's fascinating memoirs.

Arthur Bentley – Iron Founder and Builder

In 1851 Arthur Bentley was the first Iron Founder in Ramsbottom. He had learned the skills of an iron moulder as a young man and later owned Railway Foundry where Clarke's Crafts is today. This was conveniently near the railway station and goods sheds and a very short walk from his home.

When Arthur and Sarah Bentley first moved to Ramsbottom, they lived in Back Bridge Street but later moved to Scotland Place, off Square Street. It was from there that Arthur must have seen building work going on up above them on Bolton Street and decided to branch out into property himself.

In 1868 Arthur leased land from William Grant, on which he built the four houses 67 to 73 Bolton Street, calling them Lodge View. From Bolton Street the houses appear to be only two storeys high, but because of the steep slope they had three or four storeys at the rear overlooking John Gray's Lodge, now a development of flats. They also had cellars and attics and five or so bedrooms. Lodge View 1868 is carved in stone on the terrace beneath the gutter.



Railway Foundry, Scotland Place and Lodge View, Bolton Street, are in red. 1892 OS map



Lodge View, 67-73 Bolton Street houses built by Arthur Bentley

Initially the Bentleys, a family totalling eleven, moved into number 67, the largest of the four houses. However, the oldest children, already in their twenties, soon left and by the time Arthur had died in 1876, there were only six people left at home. Sarah, his widow, then installed the family at no. 73 and then, inexplicably, moved again to no. 71. The houses they were not occupying were always let to tenants, which would have given Sarah an income. Interestingly Reverend William Hume Elliot was once one of their lodgers in 1901, and knew them well. 73 Bolton Street was sold to a printer in 1919, but it is not known how much longer the Bentleys owned the other houses.

The lives of Arthur and Sarah Bentley's children were as fascinating as those of their parents. Whilst three of twelve babies died in their infancy,

the other nine children and their mother all survived into the 20th century and their stories will be published later.

I am grateful to the current owner of 73 Bolton Street, who kindly lent me his deeds and to Keith Burroughs who placed information from censuses and trade directories on Facebook.

Kate Slingsby 2021

(In the later 19th century several iron foundries were established near Ramsbottom centre to be close to the railway. Regular readers will know that outside Morrisons, proudly reminding us of Ramsbottom's manufacturing history, stands an old lamppost. In 2018, an RHS member, enlisting the generous support of Bury Council and Morrisons plc, had it "brought home" to the supermarket site, which was once occupied by its manufacturers, Joseph Strang, Prince's Foundry, Prince St, Ramsbottom. The Society installed an information board beside the lamppost.)

BIRD HALL, ROWLANDS ROAD, WALMERSLEY

David Malin, the author of the article below, was born at Bird Hall, near Summerseat in 1941, but now lives in Australia, and has done since 1975. He has contacted the Society via our website and kindly sent extracts from the memoirs he is writing about his eventful life, telling us that access to the RHS bulletins has been very useful to him in filling out many details, especially of Summerseat. We are keen for our readers to have access to his interesting local research, so we are very grateful that he has allowed us to create two separate articles.

(A future issue of our newsletter will feature his memoirs of Summerseat itself.)

A quick internet search reveals that after graduating from technical college in Bury, Mr (now Dr) Malin began his career as an assistant in a

pesticide laboratory. Within a decade he was head of the electron microscopy laboratory of the research department of Ciba-Geigy. One of his main interests at that time was scientific photography as a research tool.

It was in 1975 that he became a scientific photographer and later an astronomer with the Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO), now the Australian Astronomical Observatory, near Coonabarabran in outback New South Wales. He is principally known for his spectacular colour images of astronomical objects. A galaxy is named after him, Malin-1, which he discovered in 1986 and which is the largest spiral galaxy so far known.

I was mainly brought up by my grandparents, Tom and Florence, and spent the first 10 years or so of my life living at Bird Hall, a grand-sounding place, but in reality a terrace of three isolated 2-up, 2-down cottages. Bird Hall, high on the eastern edge of the village of Summerseat, is likely to have been the adjoining district of Walmersley, though that's not clear on the first map that mentions the place, Greenwood's map of 1818. This location may have had an earlier name, Bridhole, and it is mentioned in Bygone Bury by John Lord (1903). The exact quotation is:

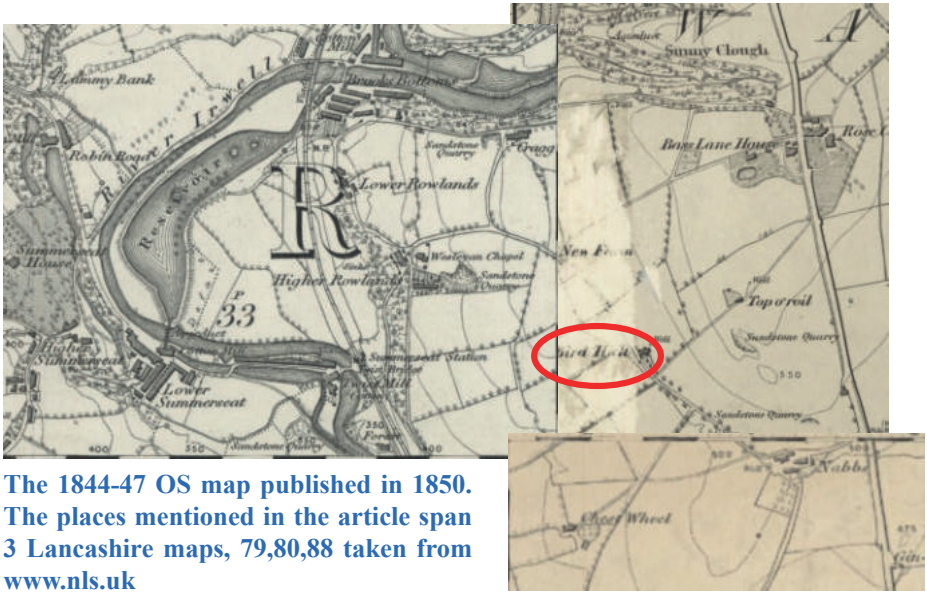
"Thomas Kay de Bridhole buried his wife Ann, 13 December, 1613 and himself was buried 6 December, 1614"

The Kay family have long been associated with Summerseat, and there's more about this on the Kay Family "homes" website, including a commentary on the row of houses itself.

Over the years the name of the place seems to have evolved into Bird Hall, but what stood there until recently was a terrace of three modest and remote cottages on the unmade part of Rowlands Road that runs south-west to join Walmersley Road at Nabb's Farm — this is just noted as 'Nabbs' or 'Nabs' on the 1851 Ordnance Survey and earlier maps.



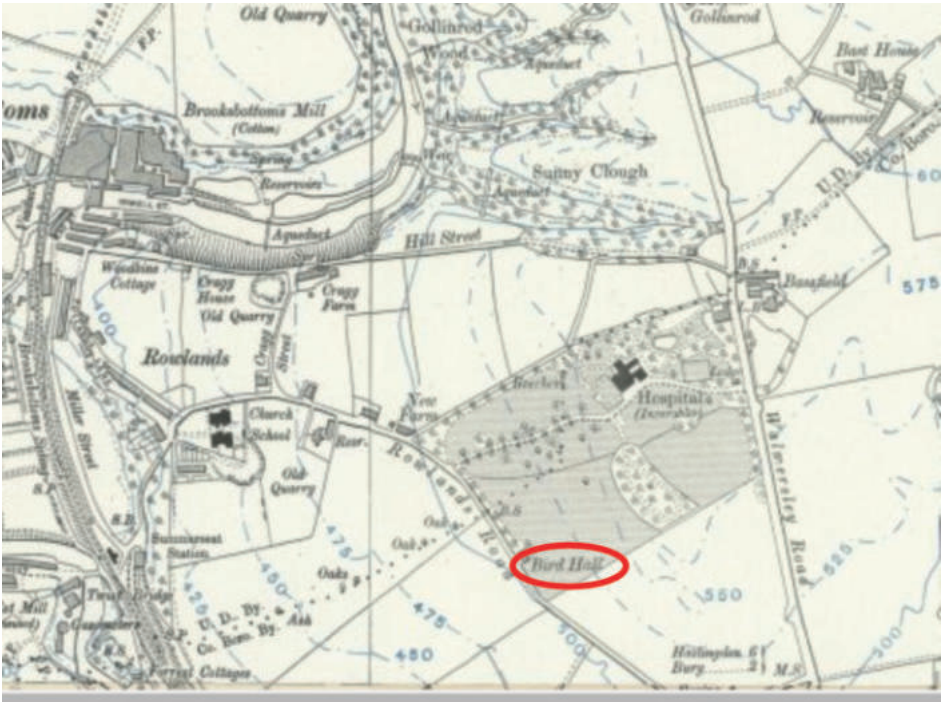
Bird Hall after its conversion into one dwelling



The 1844-47 OS map published in 1850. The places mentioned in the article span 3 Lancashire maps, 79,80,88 taken from www.nls.uk

More recently the three cottages have been tastefully amalgamated into a single dwelling.

Almost exactly half-way between Bird Hall itself and what are locally known as the 'Home Gates', originally an entrance to what was once a hospital, The Robinson-Kay Hospital for Incurables (*now The Priory Highbank Centre – Editor*), is a triangular boundary stone against the south west wall along the highest part of the road. I recall from my youth that it has carved lettering on two sides but don't remember the inscription. However, an 1893 map has 'L.B.D. Bdy.' on its northern side of a dotted boundary line and 'Co. Boro. Bdy.' on the other. I assume this means Local Borough District boundary and County Borough (i.e. Bury) boundary, in



Bird Hall highlighted on the 1893 OS Map taken from www.nls.uk

which case Bird Hall is in Bury/Walmersley district, not Ramsbottom or Summerseat, though Summerseat had the nearest shops (and the railway).

This is confirmed by a historical description in the UK Genealogy Archives, which says,

> **"Summerseat, a village in Walmersley township, Lancashire, on a section of the L. & Y.R. [Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway], 2¼ miles N of Bury. It has a station with telegraph on the railway, and a post and money order office under Manchester. There are cotton-spinning mills and a Wesleyan chapel and school."**

The Robinson Kay Home was a five-minute walk from Bird Hall across the fields. It was also a five-minute level walk from Bird Hall to Walmersley Road, but much further to the railway station near the valley floor. I remember that the train to Bury took four or five minutes from Summerseat station but from Bird Hall it was just as easy to catch a bus to Bury from Walmersley Road, or when I was very young, the tram from the New Inn at Walmersley.

Bird Hall's three terraced cottages were well-built. Each one had the normal two-up, two-down layout for such houses, and when I lived there little had changed in the 100 years or so since they were built. They were small by modern standards, each major room probably about 4 metres square—I don't know the exact dimensions. It was an idyllic place to grow up, but very isolated and completely lacking in modern amenities. There was nothing modern about them, the houses were without electricity, or gas, there was no sewerage system, and the tap water likely came from a spring or a well. It seemed normal to me, not knowing anything else, but in hindsight, daily life was difficult, and belonged to another era.

My grandparents had lived in Bird Hall since the early 1930s, at number three, at the SE end of the row, and were used to, and probably preferred

its isolation. However, the low rent was likely the main attraction, and a reflection of the lack of town gas, sewerage and electricity to the premises, and absence of street lighting along the potholed and unpaved Rowlands Road. There's no indication anywhere on the structure as to when it was built. In researching this bit of history, I was able to download sections of old Ordnance Survey maps, which proved very revealing. The maps and the Kay website mentioned earlier suggest there was a dwelling there in the early 1700s, and that the Bird Hall I knew was probably built 200 years later in the mid-19th century. It's possible that the current dwellings were built as homes for the workers at the nearby Robinson Kay Home. However, they were not the first dwellings to be built there. The 1844–48 OS survey map reveals an earlier building a few metres south of the current structure, it was smaller and oriented at right angles to the existing houses.

This map also marks a well close to the houses but not shown on the 1892 map. Gone, but not forgotten. In the same location when I lived there in the 1940s was an old ceramic kitchen sink at ground level, fed from an underground source, and it was used to water the cattle in the field. More mundanely, I never did find out where the water to the only tap in the house came from, nor did it occur to me to ask, but it was always slow in arriving, so I suspect it was also spring water.

The other feature of note on the 1844–47 map is the line of three trees indicated in an enclosure to the SE of Bird Hall. Its boundary appears to be identical to the tapering footprint of a smallholding of fenced land that our nextdoor neighbour at Bird Hall had turned into a fruitful vegetable garden, likely a wartime necessity. At the southern end of that area a lane (dotted line) runs NE from Bird Hall, towards something marked as 'Top o'roil' on the 1840s map, where another well is indicated. On the earliest OS maps this place is marked as 'Top of Rye', names I never heard of in the years I lived there. Alongside the 'Top of Rye' name, the older map also shows a delta-shaped hatched region that I took to be standing water,

perhaps some kind of underground reservoir (see above). But that hatching seems unique to that feature; there's nothing else like it on this or adjoining charts. Standing water is marked quite differently all over the map, like the oval pond near Bass Lane House. I've never heard of Top o'roil or Top of Rye, but up there today is a large clump of trees and the 1890 map shows a looping pathway or a track, leading to the Robinson Kay Home.

We called this dense clump of trees 'The Wilderness' when I was a youngster and it was much more extensive then than it is today, running to the eastern fence line. Sometime in the early 1960s, high tension power-lines cut cross the landscape near Bird Hall running roughly NE to SW, and half of the clump of trees was cleared. But as a child I remember that the heavily wooded area hid some substantial sub-surface, brick-built rooms with arches as their roofs. Some had fallen in over the years and I never knew what they were for, being in such a remote spot. Bricks were expensive, so I now think they could have been large underground water tanks, and that's perhaps what the diagonal hatching on the map indicates. However, the tanks were at essentially the same level as the hospital, while Bird Hall is 20 to 30 metres lower, according to the contours, so they could possibly have been the source of Bird Hall's water after it was rebuilt. My other memory of “The Wilderness” is seeing two tall, rectangular stone gateposts at the hospital (NW) end, probably at the end of the oval shaped track shown on the 1890s map mentioned above. I don't recall seeing any traces of that track as a child, and the Google satellite image of the area shows that if it was there, it's now been flattened.

This was the magical landscape I enjoyed as a child, living at Bird Hall in the care of my grandparents. I loved the outdoors and the freedom I had in those years, and was able to wander wherever I wished without constraint. It's wonderful to relive it here and with the benefit of many years and the internet, to reconstruct the rural landscape from the old maps. Of course, it wasn't always summer, and it was often raining or

worse, being Lancashire, so there was an indoor life as well, which was much less entertaining. There was no TV in those days, and the battery radio was used sparingly.

David Malin 2021

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

An item entitled "The Rose & Crown Inquests" was published in our last issue. Readers have responded with copies of 1893 news cuttings about two more local tragedies. The venues for two separate inquests were the Rose and Crown, Carr Street, Ramsbottom and The Clarence, Bolton Street (now The Cardamom Cream Restaurant).

Ramsbottom Observer 1893

TERRIBLE FATALITY AT RAMSBOTTOM

A CHILD CRUSHED BY A 7 TON WEIGHT

THE INQUEST

The inquest on the body of the child Ward (George Ward, son of John Ward, a paper-mill labourer - Editor) was held before Mr. J. W. Barlow, deputy coroner, at the Rose and Crown public-house, on Monday afternoon.

> The first witness called was Margaret Ward, 53, Tanners-street, the mother of the child, who said (he) was 1 year and 8 months old. The child died in the cradle about 2 o'clock. She saw him alive just after eleven o'clock, which was about 3 minutes before she heard him crying. He was then playing about two yards from the window of her house with a little girl named Nora Duckworth. She did not see him again until she heard him crying, when she ran out and found him lying in the road, about a yard from the lurry, which

had come downhill, with his feet towards the wall. He was in a sitting position as if he was trying to get up. The road was a straight one, and nothing to obstruct the view. The child Nora was sitting on the floor also. The deceased was crying and she picked him up, and gave him to her husband, who also ran out of the house. Dr. McCleod and P.C. Callister attended to him, and Dr. McCleod told her to keep the child by the fire until it died. .

(An earlier news report stated that the lurry weighed two tons and was laden with five tons of paving-stones. It was being drawn by one horse, owing to the gradiency of the street, while a chain-horse walked behind the lurry,)

Joseph Hamer, carter, residing in Tanners-street, said he was going up Tanners-street, on Friday last about half-past eleven. He did not see the deceased in the road, but he saw the little girl Duckworth. He saw the lurry laden with stone coming down at a slow pace. The driver (Whewell), was at the brake at the time. The brake was worked by a wheel, and was in the middle of the lurry. Whewell was on the proper side of the road, and saw the child Duckworth on the other side of the lurry, being about four yards at the back. He did not see the deceased at all. The child Duckworth was lying on its back, as if it had been knocked down. The previous witness had described to him where she picked up her child, and the place was the same spot where he saw the child Duckworth. He did not see the children before the accident occurred. Witness repeated that Whewell was at the brake of the lurry, and said it was proper for him to be there at the time. He had his horses under control and he was sober. Witness had known Whewell several years. He seemed to be an experienced driver.

Thos Whowell said he lived at Little Holcombe. He was a carter for Messrs. Wild. He was driving his horse down Tanners-street, on Friday, it being attached to a lurry laden with stone. There was one horse in front and another behind. He came down the hill very

gently and easily. He was walking (sic) at the brake just before he stopped and had been at the brake from Mr. J--. Booth's shippon, about 100 yards further up. He heard a shout and saw a man put his hand up and at the same time felt a "chock" to the lurry. He looked around and found the child lying on the floor. The off hind wheel had gone over it. He was on the left hand side of the lurry and looking in the forward direction when proceeding down the hill. The child was lying face downwards when he saw it. The child seemed to have been dragged a little before being run over. He only felt one chock and would have doubtless have felt two, had two wheels passed over the child. If the front wheel had passed over the child, the shaft horse would have been sent to one side. He had not seen the children before the accident, and only a little before, he had been round by the lurry and found the road was clear, with the exception of a man coming up. There was a garden gate opening into Tanners-street, just at the point where he felt the chock, but everything was clear until he got up to it. The child Duckworth seemed to have been under the lurry, for the chain-horse, which was walking behind the lurry, swerved round and caught him, when near the brake. He only felt one chock, he again repeated, and he concluded that through that the deceased must have got under the lurry, between the front and hind wheels.

The deputy coroner, in summing up, said he did not think there was any culpable or criminal evidence as to the action of Whewell, and the jury signifying their approval of this idea, unanimously returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

(The name of the driver is referenced as Whewell and Whowell in the original newspaper. Research on Ancestry shows the correct name is Whowell - Editor)

Ramsbottom Observer 14th April 1893

THE SAD DROWNING AFFAIR AT RAMSBOTTOM

AN OPEN VERDICT

The inquest on the bodies of two children of Thomas Walters, slater's labourer, lodging at 10, Back Silver-street, Ramsbottom – John aged three years and four months, and Sarah Ann, aged two years and four months – who were missed from home on Wednesday morning week last, and whose dead bodies were found in the Ashton Mill lodge, Ramsbottom, on the afternoon of the following day, was held before Mr. S.F. Butcher, coroner, at the Clarence Hotel, Bolton-street, Ramsbottom on Saturday. The foreman of the jury was Mr. Robert Crowshaw.

The first witness was the father of the unfortunate children, who gave evidence of identification…. They lived with witness at the house of a man named James Clegg. He (witness), was a widower, and Clegg's wife took charge of the children, while he was at work. He last saw them alive about twenty minutes to six, on the Wednesday morning, at home. The children were insured. He had no reason to think that any violence had been used towards them. He was not present when the children were found. He and others searched for the children on Wednesday night, until one o'clock on Thursday morning.

James Nuttall, 23, Stubbins-lane, coal agent, said he saw the children playing among the dirt at the railway coal siding in Stubbins-lane, about 12 o'clock (noon), on the Wednesday. The siding adjoined the lodge of water, in which they were found. He had sometimes seen children playing about there before. Children were not allowed to go into the coal yard. There was no rail separating the lodge from the yard. Witness in answer to the foreman said there was nothing to protect anyone from walking into the lodge from the coal yard, on a dark night, and the foreman said there ought to be some protection.

The Coroner: Have there not been several other fatalities in this similar lodge?

Several jurors made an observation in the affirmative, and witness said that one night a woman was going off the end of the bridge, at the place, when she walked straight into the water, and so the railway company had railed that portion of the place off. Witness explained that there had previously been some dispute between the railway company and Messrs. Rumney, whose mill premises were next to the lodge, as to the railing off of the lodge, and a juror remarked that the lodge ought to be fenced off. Witness explained that there had previously been some dispute between the Railway Company and Messrs. Rumney, whose mill premises were next to the lodge, as to the railing off of the lodge. Witness continuing his evidence, said that a man on the Wednesday heard a little girl crying, in the direction of the lodge, and he took it away from the place, but could not get any information out of it, the child being so young. The child was taken across to Mr. Thomas Kay's, where it was washed, and a person who came by owned it, and took it home. A man named Ralph Entwistle, was going to his dinner on the Thursday, when he saw what he thought was a child's hand above the surface of the water in the lodge. He knelt down and got hold of the object, and upon shouting to witness to go to him, he (witness), saw it was the deceased girl. Entwistle was holding the child by the top of the head and witness got hold of its hand. The water where the child was found would be about two to three feet deep. That would be at 12.30. Part of the water was run off, and the little boy's body was found about 1.30, at a spot where the water had been about two yards deep.

A Juror: Did the father know they were drowned? – The Coroner: No, he was at his work.

Sarah Ann Clegg, residing at 10, Back Silver-street, said that these children were left in her care. She saw them between eleven and a quarter past on the Wednesday morning, in the street near her house. She missed them about two o'clock. She had not looked for them before then, as she had a little baby to look after, and washing to do. Besides, the children

had been accustomed to going out and staying away an hour or two at a time. She was not paid to look after the two children.-

These were all the witnesses called, and the coroner in summing up, said they had not any evidence as to exactly how the children came into the lodge. His opinion was that under such circumstances as these it was quite as well to leave the means whereby they came into the water an open question, and simply return a verdict that they were found drowned. At the same time he thought it was pretty certain that the children wandered into the water. It was a very great reflection on the railway when, seeing that children went into their yard, they allowed the lodge to be unfenced. He would write to them and point out that fact. … It was one of those unfortunate cases that arose through the necessities of our Lancashire life. People like Mrs. Clegg were bound to let their children run loose in the streets; they could not keep from doing so, and they had to look after their own work, and Mrs. Clegg was doubtless doing her best to look after the children while at the same time attending to her household duties. He did not think there was any blame to be attached to Mrs. Clegg. His suggestion was that the verdict be one of "Found drowned"

The Foreman: I feel certain in my own mind that it is a pure accident…..

A juror observed that there was as much blame in respect of the railing of the lodge to be attached to Messrs. Rumney as the railway company. It was a place where children constantly played about, and he thought Rumney's side of the lodge was much more dangerous than the company's side.

Another juror said the "fair" was held on the spare ground near the lodge and children were attracted to the place. Then it was the only playground children had in Ramsbottom, and great care should be taken in respect of the lodge.

The jury then returned a verdict in accordance with the coroner's suggestion, and the Coroner intimated that he would make inquiry as to

who was responsible for the fencing off of the lodge, and then write to the party concerned.

The third news report (below) was discovered while carrying out research for our recent publication about the lost village of Nuttall.

Bury Times February 1875

A TACKLER'S TALE

From information forwarded to us by a correspondent it would appear that a tackler, whose web of life is being woven in a village not a hundred leagues from Nuttall, experiences considerable difficulty in getting home in an evening. One night shortly before Christmas he was "making tracks" homeward by way of Gollinrod, but, being overweighted with "cheer", he tumbled into the Irwell. He managed to scramble up the bank, where he laid hold of a tree, and with all his might shouted for help. After he had shouted for some time, two women came up, and attempted to bring him safely to terra firma, and in this they at last succeeded - not, however, without great difficulty, for the ill-fated fellow, either fearing their ability to help or by reason of the intense cold, clung to the tree like a barnacle, and such was the tenacity of his grasp that some of the bark came off in the struggle.

In New Year's week, when returning from Ramsbottom, he found one of these women lying drunk and asleep in the ditch, and, on the principle that one good turn deserves another, he reared her up, took her on his back, and set off with her towards her home. Before he landed there the woman rewarded him for his pains, and the wetting he got on that occasion will no doubt make him question the propriety of acting the part of the "good Samaritan" to inebriate females in future.

Last Sunday week the ill-starred tackler, along with one male and three female acquaintances, patronised a hostelry vulgarly known by the title of "The Kicker," and as it was dark - closing time, in fact - when they found it desirable to make the return journey, the males thought it would

conduce to the safety of the party if they paired with the women. In this order they started out. Whether owing to the sweet seductiveness and obliviousness of the outside world which attend on "whispering nothings," or whether it was that the parties were "three sheets to the wind," we do not pretend to say, but certain it is that No.1 pair went on the wrong track and tumbled in a heap into the goit which supplies the wheel at Nuttall Mill. The tackler and his fair companion were behind, and, discovering the plight of the preceding couple, he went into the village for some assistance. By the aid of clothes props and coal rakers pair No.1 were fished out - not, however, before the Neptunian tackler, in his efforts to bring them to bank, had himself received a considerable "ducking". At this, it is said, he bellowed like a bull and his partner consolingly told him he ought to stop there, for he appeared capable of living either in or out of the water.

LOCAL RESEARCH UPDATE AUTUMN 2021

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG
Access to archive material is now 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
The website address for our image website is www.buryarchivesonline.co.uk and our blog is at www.buryculture.wordpress.com

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at http://archives.bury.gov.uk as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

The local studies section 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), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at http://library.bury.gov.uk – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society
Most activities have been suspended and the research centres are closed for the time being. Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details and updates.

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

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS – now back to normal:

Tuesdays from 10am to 4.30pm
Wednesdays from 10am to 4.30pm
Thursdays from 12.30pm to 7pm
Fridays from 10am to 4.30pm
Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm

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

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Possible restarting of family history help sessions will be looked into shortly.

★ Latest Society News ★

OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS RESTART

We look forward to welcoming everyone.

Venue

CHRIST CHURCH

Great Eaves Road,

(off Stubbins Lane) BL0 0PX



Until further notice our meetings will be at Christ Church. This is because no date can be set for Ramsbottom Civic Hall to be available while NHS staff still need the building to carry out vaccinations. The car park is at the back of the church off Great Eaves Road



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th December 2021 - CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

2022 MONTHLY MEETINGS:

13th January **10th February** **10th March,**

7th April **12th May** **9th June**

(For more details about the talks - see the inside of the front cover)

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 62 Spring/Summer 2022 **ISSN 0960 - 1244**



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

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 2022

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

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

12th May .	AGM followed by **David Wright** : The History and Development of the East Lancashire Railway
9th June	**Norman Redhead** The Archaeology of Bury District including Ramsbottom
Sunday 10th July -	Visit to the newly restored **Heaton Hall, Heaton Park**.
August	Possible outdoor meeting to be arranged

Following dates and venue are provisional

15th September	**John Ireland** : The Last Voyage of the SS Malakand
13th October	**Alan Seymour** : Morris Dancing
10th November	**Stephen Gill** : Understanding and Making the most of your old photographs
8th December	**Christmas Festivities**

Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 62

Spring/Summer 2022

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Front Cover

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

Back Cover

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

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

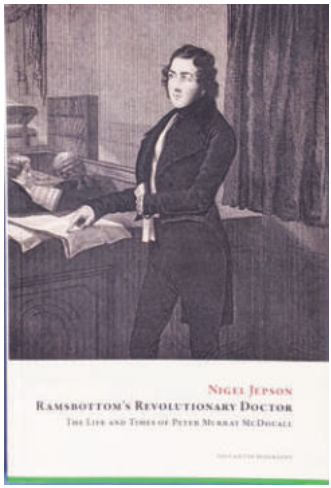
We are looking for members to help with the next exhibition in the Heritage Gallery in 2023. If you are interested, please contact me.

John Leyland

SOCIETY NEWS

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

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



Nuttall Park Bandstand – fantastic news

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

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

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



Installation day 14th February 2022 - Photo by John Leyland



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



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

Everyone is invited to join the Friends of Nuttall Park and Ramsbottom Rotary to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

AND the bandstand's unveiling
with a Brass band, a ukulele band and local singers.

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

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



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

THE JUBILEE
OF
GEORGE THE THIRD

"THE FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE."

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

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES

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

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

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

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



REPRINT NOW IN STOCK

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

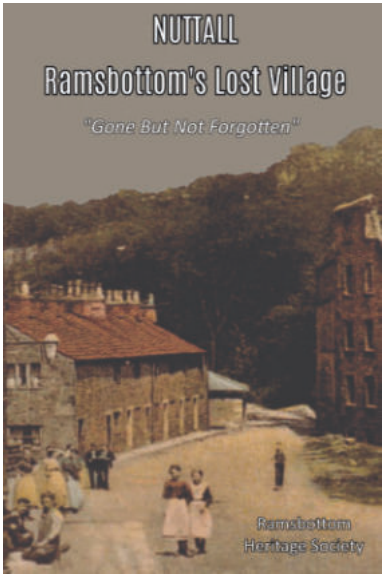
150 pages with over 100 illustrations £9.99

available at

Hearts for Homes, Bridge Street

Also from the website

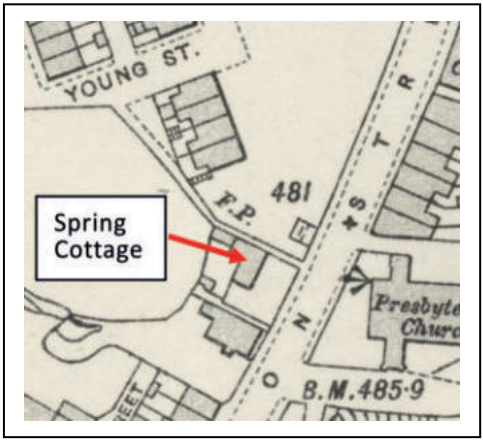
www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk



Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Lost Street Names Project

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

1 GRANT'S ENTRY



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

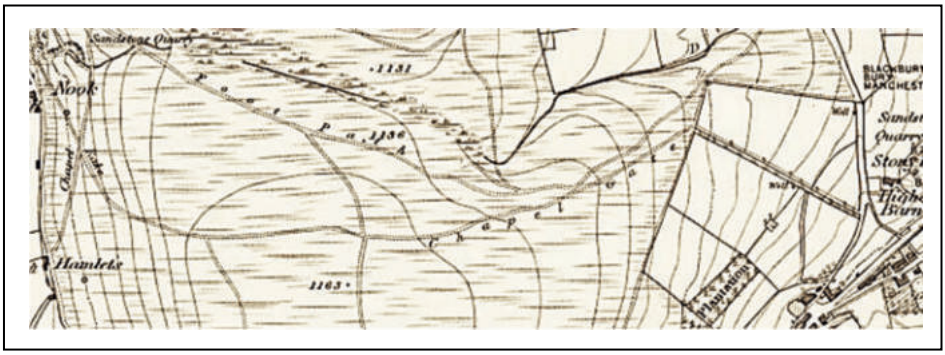


We believe it was named not after William & Bros, but Major John Sueton William Grant, their estate steward. He lived at Spring Cottage from the 1860s until 1893, when he retired to Scotland.

Grant was closely associated with the Ramsbottom Volunteers - part of the Rifle Volunteer Corps, established nationally in 1859 in response to a threat of invasion by Napoleon III of France. The *Major* hotel, 100 yards up the road, is also named after him.

2 CHAPEL GATE

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



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

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

3 GUTTER LANE

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

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



Gutter Lane was never more than the rough track we see now by the Rose and Crown bowling green. The line of trees disappeared some time later in the 19th Century. The lane existed as early as 1606: it was the sole access to a fulling mill at Kibboth Crew, first recorded then. The mill had appeared in a 1632 legal case over an attempted fraud by its owner Samuel Schofield. His 15 creditors were geographically spread from Yorkshire to Shropshire and London, suggesting regular long distance packhorse train traffic along Gutter Lane to and from the Kibboth Crew mill. In all probability, the lane will be much older, giving the only access to farms around Top Wood and Dickfield. Cattle were driven along this route well into the 20th Century.

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

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



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

have referred to the reliable spring known within living memory as 'Judy Spout'. This supplied water to Carr Fold into the 1930s, and was in the vicinity of the cottages known as Gutter.
The cluster of cottages, as well as the lane, was also referred to as 'The Gutter'.

4 Draba Street



This cobbled street runs down from Silver Street to Prince Street, and is one of Ramsbottom's five brows, often pronounced brew, its local name being 'Draba Brow'.
Draba (see photograph) is a large genus of white or yellow flowering plants in the family Brassicaceae, commonly known as whitlow-grasses. Originating in the Caucasus Mountains, its preferences for sun, and well-drained soil or rock crevices, may indicate be a clue about the appearance of this east facing slope before the construction of the Old Ground in 1783.
Details of the further three signs/plaques which we hope to erect in Phase Two of the Lost Street Names Project should follow later this year.

THE GRANTS' BARREL ORGAN

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

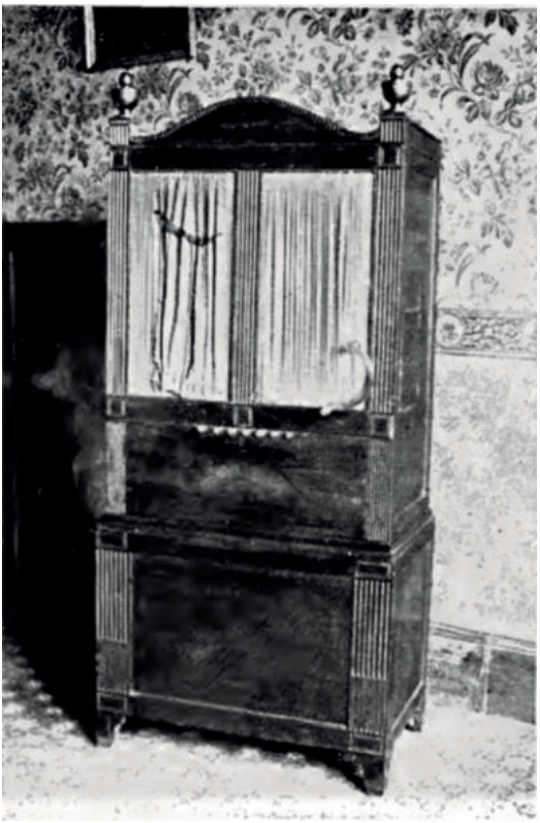
Whilst singing and musical instruments had always been a part of people's lives, recorded music was much later in development, with the phonograph being invented by Thomas Edison in 1877[1]. However, barrel organs were invented a hundred years earlier and whilst the "barrel" had similarities to a musical box, the complete organ was much more complicated.

In a V & A museum catalogue[2] it states that they were often fitted with organ pipes and bellows, with a crank-handle which rotated a wooden cylinder or barrel. This also pumped air as well as controlling its supply to the individual pipes and enabled different tunes to be played. Longman and Broderip, who made barrel organs, traded from 1776 to 1795 when they went bankrupt.

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

On page 71 of his book[3], Reverend William Hume Elliot explained that when William and Grace Grant and the family first came down from Scotland in 1783, they moved to Bury. There they learned their trade as cotton producers and printers at Hamson's Mill. They also owned a shop in Bury, in which they could sell their wares and around this time they must have bought the barrel organ. Hume Elliot says, "While at Bury, old Mr Grant used on special occasions to regale the lieges near the shop with music from a hand-organ, which must have been a costly instrument in its time."[2] He also commented on the Grants' barrel organ, "A costly instrument it must have been, with its four barrels and two and thirty tunes."

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



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

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

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

describing it in his 1893 book[3]. Then in his second book[4] published in 1906, he not only referred to the organ again, but also included a picture of it, along with his thanks to Mrs Bentley for her permission to publish its photograph.

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

References

1. Wikipedia – Thomas Edison, Phonograph

2. Victoria and Albert Museum Catalogue of Musical Instruments.

3. Reverend William Hume Elliot The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers 1893, p130, p 71, p95,

4. Rev William Hume Elliot The Story of the 'Cheeryble' Grants: from the Spey to the Irwell 1906 p 99 & p 101(photograph)

Ancestry.co.uk ; Deeds of 73 Bolton Street ; Trade Directories 1818-1888

Kate Slingsby

SUMMERSEAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

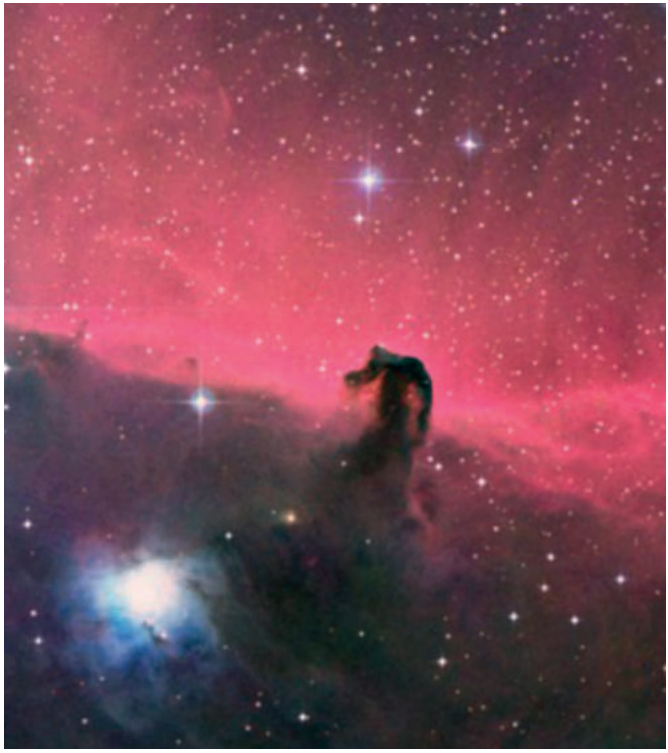
owned by the generous woman who had employed my grandmother as a home help and cleaner for many years.

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

David Malin

ASTRONOMICAL IMAGES

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



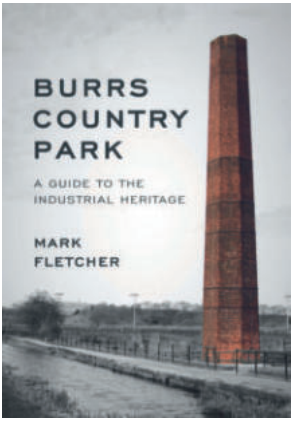
Horsehead Nebula in Orion. Anglo-Australian Telescope, photo by David Malin - https://images.datacentral.org.au/malin/UKS/001



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

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

BURRS COUNTRY PARK



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

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

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

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

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

Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG
Access is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact us in advance to arrange a visit on 0161 253 6782 or email us via archives@bury.gov.uk

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

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

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

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society
Meetings and activities are starting to resume and the Oswaldtwistle research centre has re-opened (Thursday1to 5pm). Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details and updates.

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

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS AND ACCESS – now back to normal:
Tuesdays from 10am to 4.30pm Wednesdays from 10am to 4.30pm
Thursdays from 12.30pm to 7pm Fridays from 10am to 4.30pm
Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm

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

Back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film for use on a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. The IT suite, boasts a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation.










ZUBUKU SUSHI






theleca
50 Bolton Road West

FROM
30 MAY
2022


Please wait
here to be
seated



THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY



NEWS MAGAZINE

No 63

Autumn

2022

ISSN 0960 - 1244

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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

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 2022 -23

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

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

December 8th Christmas Social - see Secretary's report for details

2023

January 12	Kathy Fishwick - "Roads around Ramsbottom "
February 9	Sally Hilditch - From Fleece to Fabric
March 9	Elizabeth Sibberling - Victorian Workhouses & Asylums
April 20	The Holcombe " MoorCarbon" Restoration Project How the National Trust team and their partners are providing community benefits whilst tackling climate change.
May 18	AGM followed by talk by Lavinia Todd - Rags to Riches (the story of the Peels)
June 15	Peter and Barbara Snape - Cotton Town Chronicles

Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 63

Autumn/Winter 2022

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Front Cover

Photo by Gary Pemberton - part of the collection of photographs documenting the construction of the War Memorial in St Paul's gardens in 2021 and 2022.

The collection is on the RamsbottomHeritage website

http://www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk/cpg/index.php under 'Special Collections' and 'War Memorial Project'

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The committee have decided to remain at Christ Church Neighbourhood Centre for the monthly public meetings, rather than return to Ramsbottom Civic Hall. This was based on the cost of hire, a proposed switch to a Monday evening, and the reduced numbers attending meetings since lockdown. For those members who have not returned or have not been before, we encourage you to come. The evening starts with the latest news, usually followed by the first part of the talk, then a break for refreshments and a chat, and then the second part of the talk. All are welcome, with a discount for members. There is a Christmas social evening on Thursday 8th December, with a pie and peas supper, and if you would like to attend, contact John Leyland before Sunday 4th, using the details on the inside front cover.

John Leyland

SOCIETY NEWS

Facebook

There are now 2,496 members on the Facebook page, and members are starting to post their own queries and research. Committee member Keith Burroughs approves these posts, and doesn't allow any promoting their business.

You Tube videos

There are now 86 subscribers to the YouTube channel with 37 videos, which have been viewed over 8,000 times. Keith is working on a Heritage Trail, which will link to the videos and also include the street signs and blue plaques. He is looking for a map of the town that he can use without any copyright issues.

Blue Plaques and Lost Street Names Project Phases 2 and 3

We now have a further three in the offing. Two have been delivered and we hope they will be erected before the end of the year:

- A blue plaque is ready to go on the Apprentice House on Crow Lane. This records the carting of pauper children from city workhouses to work in Ramsbottom mills in the early 1800s.
- A plaque for Dungeon Row, so called as it was near Ramsbottom's 'lock-up', will go above a shop front on Bridge Street.
- The other plaque has still to be approved by the owner of the building.

More sites for street signs and blue plaques have been identified for Phase 3. Further details will be available in future magazines once our research is complete, and we have the approval of both the Council and householders.

Meanwhile we would be pleased to hear from anyone who has a suggestion of other places we could commemorate.

Ramsbottom Reminiscences – Volumes 1 and 2

Published November 2022, a combined new edition of our original Ramsbottom Reminiscences newly formatted and now with many unpublished photos.

See back cover for more details and how to buy a copy.

Ramsbottom Reminiscences – Volume 3

Hard on the heels of the combined new edition of Volumes 1 and 2, we are keen to collect contributions for a further collection of local memories. As you will see from the reprint of 1 and 2, there is no stricture with regard to length. Nor are we prizing academic polish!

Do you ever marvel at how little youngsters know about 'the olden days' –

when there were no smart phones, and people looked things up in books; when there were only four TV channels; when you could get a train from here to Accrington or Manchester; when there were cotton mills in the town; when children played out all day; when you could buy virtually anything locally, including ham sliced by the butcher; when there were no supermarkets; when the river and air were filthy; when we still had two cinemas?

We have already got three or four contributions, including superb memories from a conductor in the very last year – 1969 – of Ramsbottom's tiny fleet of damask red and cream buses which operated from Stubbins Lane garage. This site is now occupied by the Esso garage. His account is full of tales, hilarious and poignant . . .

As with the new reprint, we have access to lots of photos that we can integrate into each submission. Better still if you have your own!

If you have anything, however short, or want to ask questions and float ideas, please email me (none of that in our day!) at aatodd1846@gmail.com.

Andrew Todd

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

Our publications will be on sale
at
Ramsbottom Library
on
Saturday 10th December from 9.30am - 1pm
at the
SOCIETY'S BOOKSTALL
There will be a selection of books, plus some leaflets about Ramsbottom Victorian shops - as stocking fillers.

CONSERVATION GROUP NEWS

2022 has already been an interesting year with the Society responding to several major planning and new development proposals.

1.Ramsbottom Town Centre Plan -

Approved by the Council 9th March 2022.

Despite our many misgivings and constructive suggestions expressed to the public consultation, only two of our ideas were taken on board: to redevelop the long-neglected Bridge Street Gardens and to recreate the old footpath to the cricket ground beside the River Irwell, adding a footbridge across to Nuttall Park. The most disappointing aspect of the approved plan was the complete absence of anything to do with preserving/enhancing any aspect of the Town Centre Conservation Area, which gives the town the attractiveness and character it enjoys today.

2. Mondi Mill - Planning Application 65844 -

Still to be decided by Bury Council.

The saga of this proposal to build on the site rolls on. It started in February 2020 as a revised application to build 73 houses (not 85 as originally planned), which finally appeared before the full Planning Committee for approval on June 7th. Although Council officers had recommended approval, after the Society and two councillors had spoken against, the Committee voted to refuse. Eccleston Homes, the developers, have appealed the committee's decision, and the jury at national level are still out.

From day one, we have felt strongly it's absolutely vital that, standing as it does beside a key gateway into Ramsbottom and located partly within the town centre conservation area between the river and the ELR station, the design, type and number of new houses in any planning proposal, must compliment and blend seamlessly with the rest of the conservation area surrounding it. The current undecided application proposes a style of housing completely and

utterly inappropriate for this location. We believe it would do irredeemable damage and be a hammer blow to the heart of town.

In the event that the application fails (for this site with potential and permanent flooding problems that should preclude any future new housing prospects), we believe the greatest legacy with which Bury Council could endow Ramsbottom would be to buy the empty Mondi site. As a huge open green space it could offer endless exciting possibilities: sporting activities, riverside access, big car parking capacity and an impressive view of the town over the bridge of remains of Ramsbottom's industrial heritage, a glimpse of the river, steam trains, the mill chimney and Peel Tower on the hill above– a fantastic introduction to Ramsbottom.

3. Eccles Street - Planning Application 68526 –

Withdrawn by the applicant.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society's objection was one of 39 submitted.

We believe this application failed the fundamental remit (of any new development in both a Conservation Area and within Green Belt), that it must respond to its surroundings in terms of height, scale, design and choice of materials. The proposal's oversized building, with less than 20% of the external walls in natural stone and the remaining 80% (plus roof) clad in timber and zinc panels, was a world away from the existing predominantly mid-19th century sandstone, terraced cottages with their natural blue slate roofs.

4. No 2 Tanners Street – Application 67553 -

Approved April 2022

This is one that got away, because if there was ever a more inappropriate structure built in a Ramsbottom conservation area, we would be amazed. Members of the Society and the wider public were convinced that the unsympathetic design in terms of size, choice of materials and features such as the flat roof, rendering and garden walls, smoked glass floor-to-ceiling windows, balconies and balustrades would be completely incongruous and out

of character with the well-proportioned, traditional, stone houses that make up this corner of the Tanners Conservation Area. We submitted our objection on the 7th November 2021 and spoke against it at the full planning committee meeting.

5. New Dwellings off Spring Street - Application 68578 -

Still to be decided by Bury Council.

As this development would adversely affect one of the few remaining wildlife corridors between the River Irwell and the West Pennine Moors beyond Holcombe, the Society objected to the application.

A couple of applications for sites within the Holcombe Conservation Area are currently under discussion regarding their choice of materials and design.

John Ireland

UNITED UTILITIES' PROPOSED WORKS IN NUTTALL VILLAGE

During 2022 our interest in the site where Nuttall Village once stood has taken a new turn with United Utilities' proposals to carry out works to improve the River Irwell's water quality. If you have been in the area you may have noticed surveyors and excavations.

Since January the Society has been invited to several on-site visits with United Utilities. At an initial meeting we were told that two sites were being considered, one near the chimney and one nearer the river, which was the old loom shed. In the light of what a group of our members had discovered and recorded in our publication *Nuttall: Ramsbottom's Lost Village*, it seemed there was a possibility of an archaeological survey, so Ian Miller from Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) was contacted.

In April Ian Miller attended a second visit when we located the houses, loom shed and old spinning mill. United Utilities told us that the old loom shed was



Field above site of Nuttall Village during United Utilities' excavations - Ian Smith

their desired location. After purchasing the land from Peel Holdings, a tank would be installed at a depth of 20 metres underground, with a diameter of 17 metres. There would also be an above ground "kiosk" for control equipment. They had read our book and were very sympathetic to the archaeology in the area.

On 13th April Ian Miller sent the following message.

> Thank you all very much for your time yesterday and for making what I found to be a very useful, informative and enjoyable meeting and site walkover. It was great to meet you all, and have a guided tour of the proposals and the wider site. I thought it might be useful for me to summarise what I brought away from the meeting.
>
> The proposed scheme, which is likely to be brought forward 'on the ground' in 2024, will involve the construction of a new below-ground attenuation tank and associated infrastructure (including a new access



1893 OS MAP superimposed with United Utilities infrastructure locations

road) that will be aimed at improving the water quality in the River Irwell. The construction works required to deliver the scheme is likely to remove some surviving below-ground foundations and other remains of the former Nuttall Mill and associated workers' housing that formed the late 18th- / early 19th-century 'factory colony' of Nuttall. In particular, the proposed scheme will impact on the footprint of a weaving mill that was added to the Nuttall Mills complex in the c. 1830s(?), although some of the below-ground remains of this mill will have been impacted on in the 20th century when the existing sewer system was installed. The proposed scheme will also necessitate some clearance of trees / vegetation, and especially those that are contributing the instability of the extant walls of the former weaving mill – these currently act as retaining walls for the raised ground to the rear, and will be subject to some consolidation works as part of the proposed scheme.

It is GMAAS' view that the impact on the potential archaeological remains of the mill can be offset by an appropriate level of mitigation and, as such, GMAAS does not, in principle, have any issues with the proposed scheme,

not least as there is considerable public benefit to be gained from its delivery. It is also GMAAS' firm view that the proposed scheme presents a rare and exciting opportunity to help to 'celebrate' the immense historical importance of the site, and build on the excellent work carried out to date by members of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society and the publication of their book on 'Ramsbottom's Lost Village', which has been of huge value in highlighting the importance and local interest in Nuttall village. With this in mind (whilst acknowledging that the design proposals are at an early stage), GMAAS recommends consideration of the following as a mitigation strategy to be delivered in advance of / during the proposed works:

-Measured survey of the above-ground structural elements of the former mill (preferably including the riverside wall beyond the 'red-line boundary' – this could be captured efficiently and safely by laser scanning) following any vegetation clearance work. Ideally this survey would extend beyond the limits of the 'red-line' to allow any remains uncovered during intrusive investigation to be placed in context;

-An initial stage of limited further investigation. This could comprise the (hand) excavation of a small number of trial pits just to confirm that structural remains of the mill do survive as below-ground remains, and gain a handle on their extent and depth below ground. I'm trying to avoid the use of the word 'evaluation' as that can imply a larger piece of work than I think is required in this instance, although I am essentially talking of a small-scale evaluation;

-Assuming that below-ground remains do survive (to be confirmed via initial trial pits), I would suggest that the site is a perfect target for a community-based excavation, i.e. an excavation overseen / facilitated by professional archaeologists providing guidance and tuition for any members of the local community that wish to participate in an archaeological excavation, coupled with engagement with local schools and a public open day. It is GMAAS'

considered opinion that this would represent the ideal mitigation strategy, as it enable any archaeological remains to be recorded whilst engaging the local community in this important site.

-Pending the results obtained from the above, it might be beneficial to maintain a limited watching brief during construction works to resolve any questions that arise from the community excavation.

I hadn't fully appreciated the importance of the site to the area's early cotton industry, and just how much stone fabric of the mills and associated housing is still visible. The river elevation of what I assume is the early spinning mill (just north-east of your 'red line') is particularly intriguing, and inspired me to have a quick scan for anything I have on file / can find pertaining to its early development. This can be traced to 1791 when the absentee landowner of the Nuttall Hall estate, Rev Richard Formby, advertised the lease of part of the estate with 'a fine stream of water…together with any quantity of land' (Manchester Mercury, September 1791). This lease was taken some 12 months later by a Manchester-based cotton merchant and manufacturer, Richard Alsop. The terms of the lease allowed Alsop to make a carriageway, erect buildings, divert the Irwell and build a bridge across the river, enabling him to set about erecting an 'Arkwright-type' water-powered cotton spinning mill. This five-storey mill was extant by January 1794, when it was insured by a partnership between several members of the Alsop family and James Diggle. Samuel Crompton's 'survey' of 1796 accredited the mill with housing 5,656 mule spindles (but no throstles). The original mill was thus amongst the first wave of textile mills to be built in the region, with added historic interest deriving from the associated 'factory colony' settlement.

I haven't found a date for the erection of the weaving mill that occupied the proposed scheme area, although it is shown on the tithe map of 1839, and the site is described as a 'manufacturing establishment' in a newspaper article of 1839 (the term 'manufacturing' implying that both spinning and

weaving was being carried out). This is a relatively early date for powered weaving mills, and the evidence available indicates that this was a steam-powered mill. Given the early date of the weaving mill, a key research objective for the archaeological excavation will be to determine whether the building had a north-light roof (which could possibly be determined by the presence and spacing of internal columns) together with the location and layout of the steam-power plant – this will have been a beam engine initially, although it is possible that this may have been superseded in the second half of the 19th century by a horizontal engine.

All is all, I feel that this is a very exciting project and I look forward to discussing it in more detail in due course.

With kindest regards Ian

UPDATE 28th JUNE 2022 - United Utilities reported on progress with the project.

Land Ownership: The company were days from purchasing two small areas of land from Peel 1) land above proposed new tank and surroundings 2) land at junction of pipes (near present grid) and were hoping to submit a planning application by Christmas 2022.

The kiosk will be hidden by “stone walls” in keeping with surrounding masonry i.e. retaining wall to Nuttall Road (ex loom shed wall). Depending on a survey this wall may have to be rebuilt.

Vegetation: All trees on the old loom shed site and surrounds are to be removed. To compensate for tree removal, new trees could be planted elsewhere. On completion of the works on the tank etc (taking e.g. 18 months), United Utilities owned site(s) may be seeded with wild vegetation which could include some trees.

Nuttall Road will not be urbanised but edges will need to be strengthened to enable access by large equipment.

Archaeology: When the site has been cleared off a decision will be made about an excavation near the loom shed. United Utilities would use professional archaeologists. Ian Miller hopes that this isn't at the preclusion of any of the local community that would like to be involved. Please let us know if you are interested in engaging with the archaeological work.

UPDATE OCTOBER 2022

United Utilities are planning a public exhibition to share up to date plans with the public.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

On Sunday 7th May our family went to St Paul's Church gardens for the re-dedication of the Memorial Cross and the War Memorial and the dedication of the new War Memorial. It is inscribed with the names of the Ramsbottom people (i.e. of the old Ramsbottom Urban District) who gave their lives in the two World Wars. In the crowd were lots of people from near and far who had come to our little town to take part in the celebrations on this special day.



Ian Chapman

Ramsbottom British Legion member Mr Martin Wiggam's welcome was followed by the Boomerang Brass Band from Haslingden playing a selection of old songs which we all joined in, having a "right good sing". An army veteran with a chest full of medals sitting in his wheelchair by us sang his heart out. The music obviously brought back many memories of his days serving King and



Ian Chapman

country in the Second World War. We later found out that he was 90 years young and was remembering his fallen comrades whose names are inscribed on the new memorial plinths.



Maureen Dalliday - Photo by Ian Chapman

We enjoyed more singing from Rossendale Male Voice Choir until it was 14.00hrs and time for the re-dedication service to begin. It was taken by the Venerable Jean Bulges. After prayers and the dedication, the Last Post and Reveille was played by Maureen Dalliday, a local lass who has lived in Ramsbottom all her life. What an honour it must have been for her.

After the two-minute silence we had the National Anthem, which must have been heard up the Rossendale Valley as the whole crowd sang out. The Standards from all the different British Legions and military units present were lowered. There were fourteen in all and they were led by Ramsbottom British Legion's Standards. It was a spectacular sight and a very proud moment for all.

Martin closed the event by thanking everyone for attending and making the day so memorable. He invited everyone to the Royal British Legion Club on Central Street for refreshments and to listen to the brass band in the upstairs lounge. Finally, he led the three cheers for our Queen and another special cheer for the people of Ramsbottom. A very special day was had by all.

We would like to thank all who have been involved and have worked so hard to make the new memorial possible. It has been a long hard slog for the Ramsbottom War Memorial Committee with ten years of fundraising and jumping through hoops and red tape. Well done to each and every one.

Betty and Ian Chapman (members of the Ramsbottom Royal British Legion and Ramsbottom Heritage Society) 2022

OUR PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND

By Wednesday 1st June, I had planned to be at Hinchliffe's yard to see the jubilee beacon being lit on Holcombe Hill opposite. My grandson Harrison was keen to join me and had a bright idea. "Let's go up the hill to watch it properly. We'll never see anything like this again in your lifetime – and I can't imagine me seeing anything like it in mine." (He's only fourteen!) One quick phone call was all it took for my daughter Holly to agree to come with us so the stage was set.

The following evening, Thursday 2nd June, at 19.30hr I picked up Holly (and a bag packed with drinks, snacks and our torches). As we drove from Bury to Holcombe Holly told Harrison about the last time, at the age of nine, she went up Holcombe Hill to see the beacon that was lit there on a very exciting millennium night.

After parking outside Holcombe School we began the climb beside the school up the very uneven path, which was a task in itself. We had plenty of time for a rest and a chat with other people walking past, and for stopping to admire the views of Ramsbottom as we turned the corner at Whirlwind. Then it was the last push and Holly and Harrison raced ahead because they wanted to have a

look at the old quarry. I plodded on, stopping at the stile to lean on the iron gate and watch the horses and sheep and the world go by. They caught me up and



Ian Chapman

we soon reached the tower where hundreds of people, young and old had already gathered. There was a fantastic atmosphere with plenty of the "old Ramsbottom faithfuls" and much reminiscing, especially about the millennium event.

The event had been organised by the Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force and, as well as hundreds of members of the public, Sir Warren Smith, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Commandant Colonel Catherine Harrison, cadets and staff were there.

The celebrations were started by the Cadet drummers and the National Anthem was sung. How great that was, with the sound echoing around the tower and across the hills. Holly and Harrison managed to get in front of the crowd as the beacon was lit. Hundreds of mobile phones captured the moment, lighting up the sky and reminding us how times have changed since

the year 2000. After another rendition of the National Anthem the crowds started to make their way down the hill. We hung back for twenty minutes or so, just looking up the valley and over towards Manchester and beyond, enjoying the sight of other beacons flickering in the distance. It was time for our torches to be switched on for a slow walk down with everyone saying how much they had enjoyed the event. It was nearly midnight when we arrived home.

Nuttall Park Jubilee Celebrations Friday 3rd June

For this very special event, more Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Nuttall Park, there was a feeling of real excitement. My granddaughter Amelia's hair was in a pony tail plaited with red, white and blue ribbon by her clever Mum. "Is there anyone here that you don't know?" she said after we had made our way round the stalls.

Harrison piped up, "If Great Grandma were here we wouldn't get round, as she really does know everyone."

We made our way over to where crowds had gathered to listen and join in the singing of Lee Grant, a great rock and roller. Afterwards it was off to the funfair. We were soon laden with doughnuts for Amelia's dad and other goodies that the grandchildren had won. One of Amelia's prizes was a goldfish and she was over the moon. The life-saver, a plastic bag for the goldfish, was given to us later by my cousin Karen back at the Heritage Society's stall.

Over at the Friends of Nuttall Park's pavilion we sat down and had a cup of tea. The ladies were lovely and asked Amelia about her hair. We then returned to the bandstand to join in with the sing-song which was led by Haslingden and Helmshore Brass Band.

(The family had another great day on the Saturday at the celebrations at Redvales playing fields, Bury.)

Ian Chapman

HOLCOMBE ROVER SCOUT CREW 1936 – 39

(Rovers were the older branch of the Scouts, with a minimum age of 17.)

The log book belonging to the Holcombe Rover Scout Crew on their formation on 10th February 1936 up until October 1939 has recently been donated to the Society archives. The donor, Mrs Christine Bristow tells us that her father, Andrew Hayhurst, who was one of the first Holcombe Crew members, appears to have been the writer of the final logs so the book was in his possession when they disbanded at the start of World War II. Mrs Bristow explains briefly that the log book contains the minutes of the Rovers' weekly meetings, describing how the first members were invested and reports weekly on their activities connected to the scouting movement, Holcombe Church and the village.

A news cutting inside the log reports that the Holcombe Rover Crew were the second to be formed in the Ramsbottom Association. Although "the weather invited no one to turn out" there was a very good attendance at the opening ceremony of their meeting place, the Rover Den, for their formation. "After literally battling against the wind, and precariously picking one's way along the icy footpaths through the fields to the Den, it was a comfortable feeling to find oneself in this cosy lamplit room, with a combustion stove roaring up the chimney."

Following a few introductory remarks by the Rector of Holcombe Church, the Commissioner formally declared the Den open and gave a short address before investing four Rovers of the new crew. They were S Clive Butterworth, Herbert Slater, John Taylor and Edwin Towers. After formal proceedings ended "the assembly 'fell to' to enjoy refreshments". Crew members who joined later in 1936 were Andrew Hayhurst, Eric Rostron, and Ernest Hutchinson. Vincent Booth, Tom Rostron, Harold Howarth and Richard Wilson are listed in the log as joining in 1937 and Henry Entwistle and Gilbert Dewhurst in 1938.

The group was run by Mr Vernon Booth, whose name appears in a list of Peel Brow Primary School headmasters. (Records show him living in Holcombe in

1939, aged 60 and his occupation as School Master, Elementary School.) Interestingly, there is a 1961 letter inside the log book written by Mr Booth regretting that he hadn't been able to commit fully to the group, as he had a young family at the time. (*Entries in the log book suggest that his contribution to the group was much appreciated by the group at the time, however. - Editor*)

Much of the early logs cover the setting up of "The Den", to which the Rector and also the school held keys. Soon the Rovers had provided various sundries including paint, a wick for a lamp and two cwts (hundredweights) of coke for the stove. Records show they also sawed logs and lit the stove before many of their meetings. (Later, on 16th July 1937, each Rover paid ½d towards a tin of black lead for the stove.) After correspondence between Mr Booth and Mr G Turnbull, cloth was donated for wall decoration and a screen they were making. At the end of July 1936 "the den was presenting a habitable appearance" and had a billiard table courtesy of Reverend Scarlin. By the end of the year Mr and Mrs Beasley had presented the Rovers with a table tennis table.

Many hours seem to have been spent over the years making improvements to the Den, "a fine example of team spirit". The Rovers' work on the fireplace involved buying stones and cement and two rotten joists had to be replaced





Holcombe Rovers took the scouts and cubs on Summer camp 1939

when they put in a new tongue and groove floor. The total cost of materials for the reflooring was £3-3-2d. One 1937 project was the building of a small altar. In November 1937 work began on installing electric lighting after J Woods' tender for the work was accepted. The rate per unit, (which reads as either 5d or 8d) was agreed with the electric company.

MORE DETAILS OF THE HOLCOMBE CREW'S ACTIVITIES EXTRACTED FROM THE MEMOIRS OF ERNEST HUTCHINSON

During my time in the building trade, I joined Holcombe Rover Scout crew along with Eric and Tom Rostron, Eddy Towers, John Taylor, Andy Hayhurst, Henry Entwistle, …. And Vernon "Dinky" Booth (a schoolmaster) was the crew leader (called Dinky because he wasn't very tall, in fact he refused to wear short pants in case he was mistaken for a boy scout and he always wore long trousers). We used to meet on Friday evenings in the then Holcombe Rectory Barn. The Barn was just a large one storey building above the rectory (the parson at that time was the Rev Scarlin). It was empty but hadn't been used for ages so we set about and cleaned it out. At our first meeting we were frozen so, as there was no heat and the roof was so high, I suggested putting in a false roof and a partition to make the place a bit smaller inside. Being the only one in the building trade I took all the measurements and worked out the quantities of materials required and arrived at a cost. At our next meeting it was decided to run a few dances at Holcombe School to pay for it.

About this period Summerseat was included in Holcombe C of E parish and at our first dance some girls came up from Summerseat. Tom, Eric and myself couldn't dance and I was busy taking money on the door, looking after the refreshments and making sure no drunks came in so didn't really notice who was there. Hearing about the first dance Hilda, Tom and Eric's elder sister, said it was time we learned to dance and she taught us to do the foxtrot and waltz in their front room at Rostron Road with her mum and grandmother looking on whilst doing the family clothes mending.

Dances or similar events could only be held once a month so we continued working on the inside of the Rover den, building a stove and making the walls reasonable with a rough pointing of cement and then a couple of coats of distemper. At the next dance some of the older men and women of the church helped us with the doorkeeping and refreshments so Tom, Eric and I could have a go at dancing.

The Rover crew all attended Holcombe Church and Sunday School and took the scouts and cubs on summer camp. This was always held at Grange-over-Sands and one of my jobs was to take them for P.E. Holcombe School also had a P.E. night class for parallel bar, horse work and a horizontal bar. The classes were instructed by a man from Edenfield who was top class in this field. I was part of the team giving displays around Summerseat and Holcombe.

Sometimes in the spring the Rovers would go to Lower Odder Bridge after the dances, camping there by the river. We all used bikes and after pitching our little tents we would walk the woods and lanes in the moonlight till about 2am. Sunday morning we rose, had a plunge in the river, which was always hellishly cold, and a run about to get the feeling back in our legs. Then out with the primus stoves and cooked bacon and eggs for breakfast and another walk through the woods amongst the smell of wild garlic then back home for about 2pm.

HOLCOMBE ROVERS LOG BOOK EXTRACTS

12th May 1937:

Coronation of their Majesties King George and Queen Elizabeth

The Crew paraded with the School down to Ramsbottom to take part in the town's celebrations, Rover Edwin Towers having charge of the Summerseat scouts in the Summerseat parade. Later in the evening the crew joined with the rest of the scouts in the torchlight procession to the bonfire, the whole evening being a complete success.

The Crew had made an illuminated box with suitable lettering for the procession and had decorated the Den with red, white and blue streamers and a large Union Jack. After their 14th May meeting, to celebrate the Coronation, they "tucked into a huge supper of sausage and mash kindly cooked for us by Miss H Rostron".

July 21st 1938:

Unfortunately, the chief Rover (namely 'Hutch') responsible for this work (on erecting a false roof in the Den) is leaving us to take up a fresh job and although we wish him well, we also have very great feelings in losing such a good Rover and pal. Next week we hope to have a farewell supper and presentation for Ernest."

Ernest Hutchinson had been offered a post as a trainee surveyor at the Ordnance Survey office in Southampton in June 1938. (Being under 21 years old and a trainee his 'princely salary' was £120 per year.)

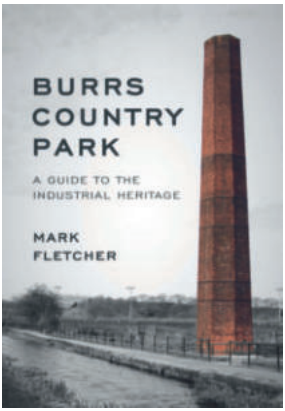
He was able to come home from Southampton at Christmas that year for the holiday and on 30th December was present with the Rovers at The Den tucking into a potato pie supper made by Mrs Entwistle. Later, back in the OS drawing office in Southampton, he gained a transfer to the Tunbridge Wells Survey School. It was then 1939 and he received a call up letter. The last time he is recorded in the minutes as attending a Rovers meeting was on August 4th? 1939.

October 1939:

Eric, Eddie and Ernie have been called to the colours. Mr Booth being occupied with the ARP. We, the remainder, rather dispirited, are not carrying on as we should do, and are given to spending the evening in discussion. As the Den is about completed, it is rather hard, as some earnest Rovering could have been done. If the War should spare us all, the Crew will carry on again, and may the end of it come soon.

BURRS COUNTRY PARK – A GUIDE TO THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

by Mark Fletcher



Burrs Country Park – Thirty Years On was the title of Mark Fletcher's very interesting talk at the Society's February 2022 meeting. At the end of the meeting I bought a copy of this recently published book. The book builds on his talk and gives more details of the site as it is now. You are advised to allocate 2 hours for a visit to the site which is perhaps a conservative estimate depending on your interests.

I would strongly advise reading the book before going, taking it with you and consulting it as you walk around. The contents page is detailed and comprehensive. There is a detailed plan of the overall site at the beginning of the book with further "expanded" plans of Calrows village, Calrows Mill and Burrs Mill. The text is supported by photographs, both historical and contemporary, diagrams and sketches and the author has provided a "what 3 words" reference for each point of interest for those with the app.

Calrows village was established in 1793, with the 1801 census listing 204 residents within 31 households. It consisted of three streets, a chapel, school and shop. The original mill, established in 1793, was a water powered cotton spinning mill, being converted for the manufacture of paper in 1871. Sometime in the late 1920s a glue works was established before it was finally demolished in the 1940s. The author highlights and describes 15 aspects of the mill including a gas holder tank, waterwheel pit, tailrace, counting house, beam engine, chimney, bywash and warehouse. There are a couple of biographical pieces on people who lived and worked in the village and at the mill.

Between the 1820s and 1870s there was a spindle mill on site providing spindles, bobbins and skewers for both Calrows and Burrs Mills. Burrs Mill had begun life in 1791, constructed by innkeeper Robert Bridges, who decided to

capitalise on the economic benefits of the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal, which gave Bury access to the canal and river networks of Salford and Manchester for the transport of raw materials in and the distribution of finished products. The mill was owned, briefly, by Peel, Yates and Co before being sold to the Calrow family in 1808 who added a steam engine. In 1870 it was operated as a cotton mill, being converted to papermaking in 1882. This appears to have been short lived as by 1884 it was converted to a bleachworks. The mill closed in 1933 and was finally demolished 1956 leaving just the chimney standing. The author describes 11 aspects of the mill site including manager's house, blacksmith's shop, engine house, boiler house, chimney stack, turbine house and well.

The book also describes bridges, viaducts, aqueducts, millponds, weirs, fords, headraces, canal feeders and finally last but not least the 'middens'. All structures required to operate a mill in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

The site is relatively small and compact. However, it must have once been a 'hive of activity' with 2/3 mills and 250+ people living and working on the site in the mid-19th century. Many structures have now disappeared, but the remains of many and the footprints of others are still there to be seen and give an idea of what the site consisted of. Today the site also has a showground, a caravan park, a railway halt, pub and a café. Plus as part of the Irwell Sculpture Trail it has several modern sculptures and many lovely walks through the surrounding countryside and along the canal and riverside.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the book and found it a good reference whilst wandering round the site exploring the industrial heritage of a small corner of our town.

Mildred Bootland 2022

The book costs £10 and is on sale at Burrs, at both the Lamppost Cafe and the Caravan Site Shop; and it is also selling at the Fusilier Museum, in Bury town centre. To buy one directly from Mark, you can email burrsheritage@gmail.com.

LOCAL RESEARCH

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

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

Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG
Access is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact us in advance to arrange a visit on 0161 253 6782 or email us via archives@bury.gov.uk

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

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

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

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society
Meetings and activities are starting to resume and the Oswaldtwistle research centre has re-opened (Thursday1to 5pm). Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details and updates.

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

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS AND ACCESS – now back to normal:
Tuesdays from 10am to 4.30pm Wednesdays from 10am to 4.30pm
Thursdays from 12.30pm to 7pm Fridays from 10am to 4.30pm
Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm

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

Back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film for use on a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. The IT suite, boasts a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation.

★ NEW ★

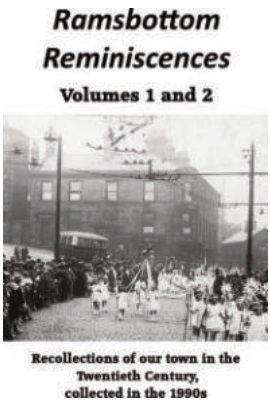
IDEAL PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS

A combined edition of

RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES

Well over 100 pages

Many unpublished photos



Long out of print, our original Ramsbottom Reminiscences came out in two volumes, in 1992 and 1996. They comprised 20th Century recollections of the town, written by 21 residents, some born before the Great War.

These gems of memory increase in historical value as each year passes. The Ramsbottom trackless trams and buses, mill work, the Home Guard, living conditions in 18th Century terraced cottages, fetching water from wells, extreme poverty, school gang fights between Catlicks and Prodigogs on Church Fields, snow drifts 15 feet deep, shopping when you could buy virtually anything in the town.....these writers truly bring the old town back to life.

Available at meetings or our usual outlets

and on

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER from 9.30am to 1pm

at

RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY

when the Society's bookstall will be open with more stocking fillers.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 64 Spring / Summer 2023



ISSN 0960 - 1244

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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

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 2023

Note that monthly meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. apart from July and August.

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

May 18 AGM followed by talk by Lavinia Todd - Rags to Riches (the story of the Peels)

June 15 Peter and Barbara Snape - Cotton Town Chronicles

July 10 Visit to Gorton Monastery. Tour costs £8.

September 21 Martin Baggoley : Murder in Victorian East Lancashire

October 19 Brian Groom : Northerners from the Ice Age to the Present Day

November 16 Elizabeth Sibberling - Victorian Workhouses & Asylums

December 14 Christmas Festive Fun

Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 64

Spring / Summer 2023

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Front Cover

Cover photo by Joyce Sellars: The Flying Scotsman, just north of Ramsbottom station in 2016. It had been painted in wartime black after a £4m, ten-year overhaul. In March 2023 the famous engine returned in its familiar Brunswick Green livery to the East Lancashire Railway as part of the celebrations for its 100 years of service.

The photo is part of the Society's photo competition collection on the Ramsbottom Heritage website.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There is a new exhibition at the Heritage Gallery entitled Ten Monarchs, Eight Coronations, which is an update of the exhibition from 2013. An accompanying booklet details the events that occurred in Ramsbottom around the time of each of the reigns of the monarchs. This will be on sale at *Hearts for Homes*, who very generously stock our most popular publications.



There will also be a new Heritage Trail booklet produced by Keith Burroughs ready for a Coronation Party event in Nuttall Park on Sunday 7th May, where the Heritage Society will have a stall promoting membership and selling our publications.

I also encourage you to read Andrew's suggestions for a new Project Group which will look at sharing research, as well as other projects. As the first contact through the website, I regularly get requests for information on buildings, or streets, and it would be good to have all the research that members have in a central place, ideally available on the website or Facebook for easy access. As an example the first 60 News Magazines have been scanned in, and have been a useful resource for the editor when researching some of the articles in this magazine.

John Leyland

SOCIETY NEWS

Projects Forum : Initial Proposal

1. One of the Society's achievements in its 36 years of existence has been the steady stream of original research which has been publicised through

   i.. booklets and books
   ii. magazine articles
   iii. online resources – e.g. the oral recollections of local residents
   iv. displays and exhibitions
   v. talks
   vi. information boards
   vii. leaflets
   viii. posts on social media
   . . . .and many more can be added.

2. There is an unknown number of people in the Society who could be interested in greater involvement in such activities, and one means of reaching and encouraging them could be to set up a kind of Projects Forum. This would be able to offer suggestions, maybe organise seminars or classes to equip members to do their own research. It can also be a means of publicising possible projects.

3. The remit of the Forum would not necessarily be to plan and implement projects, although it might do. If there are financial implications, the group may well put together a proposal for the Committee to consider.

4. We envisage no fixed membership, although a core may well evolve. There need not be a timetable of meetings, though some degree of formality may be necessary to record and circulate decisions.

5. Any member of the RHS would be welcome to join, or might simply contact individuals in the group, who could offer advice, and put them in touch with people and sources of information. Many new members may not realise what human and documentary resources are accessible and available.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Andrew Todd, aatodd1846@gmail.com, 07906 479517, who will act as the initial contact.

Blue Plaques and Lost Street Names Project

Phase 2 is now completed, and we have a street sign "Dungeon Row" above *Woodholme Supplies*, the D.I.Y. shop at 40 – 42, Bridge Street, and a blue plaque on 40, Crow Lane to commemorate "The Apprentice House".





Unfortunately, we did not get the property owner's agreement to put up the other blue plaque.

Phase 3 which includes two blue plaques and two street signs is well underway and we hope to have them erected by this Summer.

Mondi Mill - Eccleston Planning Appeal

Last year the planning application (number 65844) to build 73 new houses on the empty Mondi Mill site at the bottom of Bridge Street, Ramsbottom was rejected by Bury Council's Planning Committee. Developers, Eccleston Homes decided to appeal the decision at national level.

The Planning Inspectorate has now also rejected Eccleston's appeal, but ordered costs for both parties to be paid by Bury Council, due to the council "relying on general assertions by the applicant as to the impact of the proposals, which were unsupported by objective analysis".

And more critically, the Inspector found that there was a lack of evidence on the risk from the combined sewer flooding the site or on the size and scale of a combined flood involving all four possible sources: 1) foul drainage from the combined sewer, 2) fluvial (the overflow from the River Irwell onto the site), 3) existing groundwater and 4) surface water.

The Inspector concluded, “It is not therefore possible to determine if the benefits of the scheme would outweigh the flood risks.”

Conclusion

Following this rejection, will Eccleston Homes (or any other developer), now decide to abandon any further attempts to build homes on the Mondi site, allowing the site to be developed instead as a community asset for Bury? Creating a fabulous open green space in the centre of town would offer endless exciting possibilities such as sporting activities, Christmas fairs, a riverside walk with picnic tables and one day a pedestrian bridge over the river into Nuttall Park. Every visitor would have a wonderful visual introduction into Ramsbottom as they crossed Peel Bridge over the river: an open green space, steam trains and signal box, the mill chimney as a reminder of the town’s industrial past and Holcombe Hill and Peel Tower as a back drop. Last but not least part of the site could provide much needed extra car parking space.

United Utilities Works in Nuttall Village – update

When United Utilities held their public exhibition at Ramsbottom Civic Hall on the evening of 24th January we were told that work on installing the attenuation tank would start in Autumn 2023. The exhibition handout said that so far they “had carried out a range of heritage and environmental surveys along with ground investigations to help to develop our proposed solution”.

Contractors have been employed and they are now carrying out drilling work near the site of the proposed attenuation tank. One of their engineers told us that they were investigating underground water levels and “didn’t want to find too much water”. (We are told it is possible, if there is too much water in the ground and the underground tank is empty at any time, as it seems it may well be, the tank will have a tendency to 'float' upwards - sometimes a problem with swimming pools

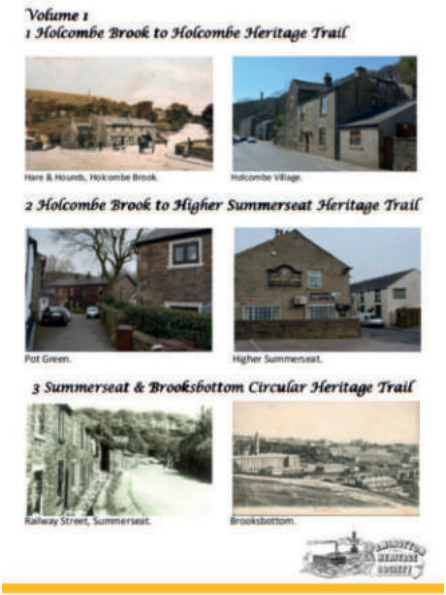
if groundwater is near the surface! It would mean more concrete would need to be used.)

Classed as a 'statutory provider', United Utilities are "enabled to undertake such necessary works without restraint" so, although we support the work to improve the River Irwell's water quality, we are concerned that the proposals will be very destructive to the surviving Nuttall mill remains. We are now waiting for news about whether United Utilities have already had an archaeological assessment done by a contractor and hoping that Ian Miller of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service will be able to negotiate a detailed response, mainly by 'preservation by record'.

Heritage Trails Volume 1 £2.00 - Available from May 2023

It includes 39 pages of photographs old and new, six maps, descriptions of buildings that you will pass and 11 QR codes to videos on some of the buildings.

This is divided up into three walks:



Walk 1 is from Holcombe Brook to Holcombe via the Holcombe Old Road to Peel Tower, onto Holcombe School and Church, passing the Shoulder of Mutton and back along Lumb Carr Road to Holcombe Brook.

Walk 2 is from Holcombe Brook to Higher Summerseat via Pot Green, Summerseat House, Peel Hall and the three public houses in Higher Summerseat, onto Longsight Road and back to Holcombe Brook.

Walk 3 is a circular walk starting at Summerseat Station, Queens Place, Hoyle's Mill, St. Winifred's Church, Primitive Methodist Church, Railway Street, and back to the station.

Keith Burroughs

J & J WHITTAKER, THE EARLY DAYS OF A LOCAL HAULAGE COMPANY

In December 2022, after an exchange of messages between the Society and the granddaughter of Rostron Whittaker, we were very pleased to receive her donation of a large parcel of ledgers from the days when J & J Whittaker, the haulage contractors, were using horses. The ledgers had passed down the generations of the Whittaker family. A copy of a photo showing a ten horse hitch taking stone off the moors and a list of the ledgers were enclosed with the donation, describing them as follows:

Brown ledger (long) 1870 – 1873 including a valuation of stock

Large brown journal 1876 – 1887

Brown thin ledger 1905 – 1908 – items from Ramsbottom and Rawtenstall

Blue ledger dated 1905 – 1915 listing items purchased by the company

The company which became J & J Whittaker was based at Crow Woods, Edenfield at the north end of what is now Moorlands View, off Burnley Road. (A nursing home is now on the site.) After his death on 29th November 1861, the following report has James Whittaker of Chapel House, Edenfield, as the founder of the business, which took place in 1825. Whittakers were then carrying goods from Burnley and Church through Rossendale to Manchester.

Extract from the *Bury Times* of 7th December 1861:

Mr Whittaker in his early days resided at Chatterton Hey, in the township of Tottington-higher-end, and commenced life as an out-door labourer; but his never-tiring industry and energy of character soon placed him in a position to commence the business of a carrier, which ultimately became very extensive, and in which he was very successful, notwithstanding that in his early struggles he had to provide for the

maintenance of a large family consisting of seven sons and three daughters, of whom six sons and two daughters are still living. His business increasing, he removed to Crow Woods and thence to Chapel House, where he died. The estimation in which Mr. Whittaker's abilities and character have always been held, is best exemplified by the fact that he was almost invariably consulted on all important matters in connection with the township. For a number of years he filled the offices of guardian and churchwarden, and was also an active director and most efficient chairman of the Ramsbottom Gas Company.

As the textile industry grew during the 18th century better roads were needed to transport much larger loads of raw materials and finished goods. Turnpike trusts were set up to improve existing roads, build miles of new road and take responsibility for maintenance.

(The contractor responsible for building about seven miles of the road belonging to the Bury, Haslingden, Blackburn and Whalley Trust was John Metcalf, known as "Blind Jack of Knaresborough".) By 1800 there were four turnpikes meeting at Edenfield, bringing opportunities for local people to make a living as carriers. Under James Whittaker's agreement of 1850 with the trustees of the Burnley and Edenfield turnpike any future tolls on carts and waggons carrying goods would be paid twelve monthly in advance, at no more than half his current rate. Of the four master carriers in Edenfield by the mid-19th century, Whittakers of Crow Woods and Chapel House was the most successful. Their deliveries included bales of raw wool to W and R Turner of Helmshore and a variety of items e.g. boxes of soap, sacks of malt and loads of turnips.

A list of carriers for Tottington Higher End dated 1850 has, "To Manchester – James Jackson, James Whittaker, and George Ramsbottom, from Edenfield, daily" and "To Bolton – Robert Nuttall, from Edenfield, every Saturday – and James Whittaker, from Edenfield twice or three times a week".



Crow Woods toll house 2023. Turnpikes had toll houses at various intervals where charges were displayed and collected

(There are no carriers mentioned in the corresponding list for Tottington Lower End which included Ramsbottom itself.) The reason firms continued to carry goods to and from Manchester by road even after the railways opened in the 1840s was probably because each local railhead was at a distance and in the valley. The cost of loading and unloading say for a journey from Shuttleworth or Edenfield down to the railway would have really increased transport costs. The 'terminals' as these costs were termed would have made it more economical to load and unload just once.

Whittakers were so successful that by the end of the 1850s the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company had granted them exclusive rights to carry goods from all the stations between Ramsbottom and Bacup. In return they had to withdraw from the Manchester route. The 1870-73 ledger shows Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway cartage accounts for Ramsbottom, Ewood Bridge, Rawtenstall, Newchurch and Bacup. Entries seem to show that at this time much of Whittakers'

business was carried out up the Rossendale Valley, i.e. to the north of Ramsbottom. At Ramsbottom itself a whole series of stone and coal yards was developed. They eventually stretched along Stubbins Lane adjacent to the six coal sidings which lay on the Western side of the railway line. The much larger extent of sidings on the east side was used for marshalling trains rather than transhipment from other forms of feeder transport.



TRANSPORTING THE PILGRIM'S CROSS STONE
SATURDAY MAY 24TH 1902

Fourteen horses and seven drivers were needed to transport across the moor the two stones from Fletcher Bank Quarry which comprise the 'cross'. Nine horses pulled the lorry carrying the larger block (weighing just under four tons) and five the lighter one. The journey from Holcombe Village to the site took 3½ hours and the whole mammoth operation was planned and undertaken by Messrs. James and John Whittaker of Edenfield.

The Rector of Holcombe (Rev Henry Dowsett) presented the stone to the public through Councillor Garnett, J.P., Chairman of Ramsbottom Urban District Council

Text and Photo taken from *Let's Look at Ramsbottom*

A VALUATION OF WHITTAKER'S STOCK DATED 1ST JANUARY 1870

55 horses are listed individually, in order of their value starting with Wack Grey Captain (£45) and Brown Mare Rose (£40) right down to Grey Mare Lofty (£3). A few of the horses are unnamed, recorded just as e.g. Hitch Bay Horse (£40), Shunt Horse (£25).

Vehicles (all horse drawn) 15 carts, 44 lurries and 4 waggons.

Cart values range from £14 down to £2.10s. There are one and two horse pack carts and carts for coal, stone, manure and water. Two of the lurries are timber carriages, which are valued at £40 each. Another twenty eight lurries are valued at £20 to £30 each and the rest at under £20. Other details seem to link a few of these vehicles in the list to the local area/ businesses e.g. Haworth Lurry, Pickup Lurry, Clough Little Lurry, Rose Bank Lurry, Todmorden Lurry. Six of the forty four lurries are termed skeleton lurries. Two of the four waggons (values £8 and £10) entries read "Bright light wagon".

Livestock 16 cows and 75 sheep

The valuation also has the numbers of stable equipment and farm implements, hay, straw, the fixtures and implements in the smithy, sundries such as bags of 3 inch, 2½ inch or 2 inch nails and furniture in the office.

In other parts of the ledger are separate accounts related to tolls at "sundry gates", farm buildings, cows, pigs, sheep, poultry, hay, straw, pasture, sacks, coals, oil - and manure. Other accounts refer to mares served, loans of horses and carts and work done by blacksmiths, wheelwrights, saddlers and wages "to workmen in various places". A 12th February entry in the 1873 provender account is for carrots which cost £7 4s 2d.

The following have been chosen from the ledger at random:

- Ramsbottom Gas Co – quarterly payments for Crow Woods, Chapel House and other properties for 1872 and 1873….. Gas was also supplied to Whittakers by the Rossendale Union Gas Co.
- Water rates - to three companies: Rossendale Water Works Co, Haslingden & Rawtenstall Water Works Co and Bury Water Works (all quarterly)
- Ramsbottom Local Board – rates of 8s 7½d, paid June 1873
- Duke of Buccleuch per J Markland - rates of £1 3s 8d, paid September 1873

(During 1872-3 over a dozen more rate payments were made on property, including some in Bacup.)

- Wm Grant/Executors of William Grant – three items in a list of about forty separate payments for stable rent to different owners which were settled in December 1872, March 1873 and September 1873 at £6 10s each time.
- Northern Assurance Co - £3 10 3d, 16th September 1872 (an annual payment)
- Hepburn & Co – claim of 3s 9d for damages, 30th September 1873
- Wm Stead - claim of 5s for damages, May 1873
- Bury Fair – (Horses) £57, 5th March 1872
- Governor of Salford Gaol - £3 7s 6d paid on 31st August 1872
- Haslingden County Court - 18s, 8th March 1873

Whittakers continued to prosper and expand. While beginning to use mechanical means of transport (their traction engine was the first ever to be seen in Bacup in October 1877), the company still used horses for some deliveries until the 1950s.



A 10 ton stone quarried at Fletcher Bank en route to Manchester to be installed in Manchester Corporation Gas Works, most probably as an engine bed or as a base in retorts. It is interesting to note the reinforced back wheels.

(Many copies of the photo were produced for Whittakers to hand out.)

References

John Simpson *A History of Edenfield and District*
(pub 2003 by Edenfield Local History Society)
Trade directories: Heap 1850, Worrall 1871
Kenneth Beetson and Roger Shilton, *Let's Look at Ramsbottom (1977)*

CARTAGE - RAMSBOTTOM

Whittaker Ledger Entries - August 1872 to December 1873

NAMED CARTAGE CUSTOMERS		No of ENTRIES
J.N. Boothman		2
Edward Chattwood		1
Mr Clarke		1
Robert Crawshaw		10
Greenhalgh, Harrison & Barlow	Waterside and Ramsbottom Mills	2
Richard Haworth		1
Thomas Heap		10
Hepburn & Co	Bleachers and Finishers, Grant's Works	6
Henry Heys	Victoria Mills, Stubbins Lane	1
James Holt		5
Hugh Horne		3
J. Procter	Palatine Iron Works, Irwell Street	1
Ramsbottom Paper Mill Co		15
Ramsbottom Spg Co	Stubbins	4
Ratcliffe & Sons		1
William Rumney	Stubbins Print Works	4
John Rushton		1
William Sharples		3
Lawrence Stead & Bros	Garden, Hope and Irwell Bridge Mills	5
Wm Sutcliffe & Son		1
John Tomlinson		1
James Warburton		1
Watson & Stark	Bleachers & Calico Printers, Rosebank	4
Edward Wild		1
Wm Wild & Bros	Shuttleworth Mills	8
Thomas Wolstenholme		6

(More payments are listed under the heading "Sundry Persons".)

RAILWAY GOODS TRAFFIC AT RAMSBOTTOM

Ramsbottom to Manchester was a long, hard day's work for drivers and horses but some journeys continued well into the 20th century, even after Ramsbottom station had developed into a key railhead for the area. Up to 1900, and for some years later, transport of goods used horse drawn lorries to and from the railway's goods yards and between local factories, and warehouses in Manchester. Ramsbottom had become a junction station, a huge enterprise by any standards, the distribution point for freight coming into the Manchester area from north Lancashire, once employing scores of railwaymen.

A whole series of stone and coal yards stretched to the north of the station along Stubbins Lane adjacent to the six coal sidings, which lay on the western side of the railway line. The coming of the railway in 1846 had meant stone could be exported from the dozens of quarries in the area to northern cities and even London. Society member Alan Slater remembers how, as recently as 1935, huge Belgian draft horses and Clydesdales hauled coal in two wheeled carts from the railway yards to the mills. "I would go round to the smithy on Paradise Street," he says, "and watch them being shod. They were so big that as a child I could walk under their bellies."

The much larger extent of sidings on the east side were laid out around the 1880s to the east of the Stubbins line. The land chosen for the sidings, Great Eaves Meadow, to the north of Ramsbottom station, was the only flat site in the area with sufficient acreage and accessibility. Known as Ramsbottom Marshalling Sidings, they were used for making up goods trains rather than transhipment from other forms of feeder transport. Freight was often carried via Bury, passing through Ramsbottom, to relieve the busy Calder Valley line. The whole five miles of line between Bury and Stubbins Junction was the confluence of heavily used routes northwards to Bacup, Accrington and Yorkshire, and southwards to Rochdale, Manchester and Bolton.

The station itself was a busy centre for parcels large and small, the platform "full by teatime" every day, shire horses pulling countless carts and wagons up to the booking office, the foyer being the only way onto the station. The absence of refrigeration before the 1880s necessitated daily deliveries of perishable food, fish coming from Fleetwood or Grimsby. Every trader used the railway, not least local textile manufacturers, who dispatched parcels of cloth daily. In contrast, Marlene Crowley remembers how in the 1940s, her granddad would get a box delivered by the railway* every year: "Inside the box were newborn fluffy yellow chicks and these were put on the peg rug (which Grandma had made out of pieces of old coats) to keep them warm in front of the fire."

There was also a goods shed on Railway Street and local butchers used to collect their meat from the sidings there.



The station yard was to the east of the station, alongside Holcombe Paper Mill. The Goods Shed stood at the south end of platform 2, alongside Railway Street. Credit to Chris Littleworth, Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Society



Extract from 1908 OS Map

Note the extent of the sidings north of Bridge Street

As a lad in the 1920s Ernest Hutchinson helped the butchers with livestock: "Every Tuesday cattle and sheep arrived in railway wagons in a little siding in what was then the Square Works (now the TNT Transport Depot) at the south end of Railway Street. The area where the animals were offloaded from the railway wagons was fenced off by vertical long baulks of timber, built like a palisade with a gate outlet down a ramp to Railway Street."

From its earliest years, Ramsbottom station increasingly generated road and rail movements. These only began to subside well into the 20th century. The East Lancashire Railway operated Ramsbottom's level crossing from the line's opening in 1846 until its amalgamation into the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (1859). It is clear that the company, with the right of way, kept the gates closed to the road for long periods of time. As early as 1867, Ramsbottom Local Board, a forerunner of a modern council, was petitioning for a road bridge to avoid the delays at the level crossing, a "source of great danger, annoyance and inconvenience". Nothing happened. "It is no uncommon thing to see a good half a dozen carts, lurries and

carriages wait a good 15 minutes before they can cross the line," declared the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 13th June 1890. (Some of the congestion around the station was probably caused by the horse-drawn hansom cabs run by Abraham Duckworth, known colloquially as 'Old Ab's Cabs', which, as late as the 1920s, queued up outside the station plying for hire.)

**The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company had an arrangement for newly-hatched chicks to be transported by fast passenger train with Thornbers of Mytholmroyd, who may well have been the suppliers of Mrs Crowley's granddad's chicks. After hatching, Thornbers chicks were delivered in well-ventilated cardboard boxes all over the country within one day. (As far as we remember, the boxes were hexagonal and measured about 15 inches across.) Though tiny, apparently fragile things, the day-old chicks easily stood such treatment as the chick actually develops from the white of the egg around the yolk which provides a source of nourishment for up to 48 hours after it has hatched. At one time Mytholmroyd railway station was despatching up to 2,000 consignments of day-old chicks per day.*

References:

Andrew Todd, "Memories of Ramsbottom Station Signalbox and Crossing", *East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society Magazine* (Winter 2019)

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

Edith Robinson, "Journeys Down Memory Lane", *RHS News Magazine* no 3 (Summer 1991)

Alan Slater, "Ramsbottom Ramblings", *RHS News Magazine* no 24 (Spring 2003)

Marlene Crowley, "Memories of Pebble Beach", *RHS News Magazine* no 25 (Autumn 2003)

Ernest Hutchinson, "Memories of the Butchery Trade in Ramsbottom", *RHS News Magazine* no 58 (Spring 2020)

Hebden Bridge Local History Society website

ISHERWOODS, 44 TO 48 BOLTON STREET, RAMSBOTTOM

An 1887 list of thirty four beerhouses and eighteen hotels in the Ramsbottom area included The Forester's Arms which occupied part of the Isherwoods building in Bolton Street. Trades directories for 1871 and 1888 both record 44, Bolton Street as a beer retailers. (The Sale of Beer Act 1830 allowed any householder assessed for the poor rate to buy a licence from the Excise authorities for two guineas a year. In return he could sell beer in his own house, for consumption on or off the premises, without interference from local magistrates.)

Granddad Hutchinson had the Forester's Arms in Ramsbottom. He took it over from his father-in-law, John Wallis, my grandmother Jane's father. (The premises became a Singer Sewing machine shop and showrooms when Granddad retired.) Soon afterwards it was bought by Isherwood as a carpet and furniture shop….. When Granddad Hutchinson kept the Forester's Arms (the building now Isherwood's furniture shop), he brewed his own beer in the cellars and in one of the rooms upstairs he kept skeens of hops and sacks of malt. Some sacks of malt were used as back rests to benches in the tap room of the pub. Grandma Hutchinson sometimes had men arriving in gigs (horse drawn light carriages) to attend a meeting in Central Street Co-op Buildings and they stayed the night at The Forester's and had breakfast. They came from outside Ramsbottom to this meeting which I think was called 'The Judge and Jury'*. My father, John, kept pigeons in the top loft of the pub and they came and went out via a small window high up in the end of the building. The small window can still be seen today. He used to enter the pigeons in races from places quite some distance from Ramsbottom. When the birds arrived back to the loft, the racing ring on their leg showing their number had to be taken off and rushed to be clocked in at The Grant Arms at the Market Place. On important racing competition days,

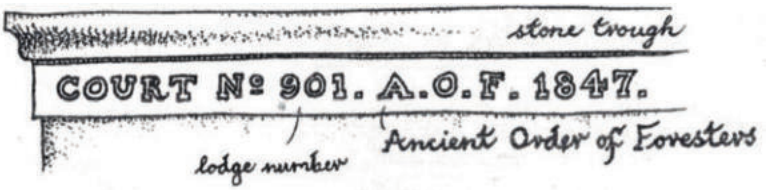
usually a Saturday, my Uncle Fred Bentley (mother's sister Suzy's husband) who was a fast runner, would be on hand to get the rings to The Grant Arms as quickly as possible. Dad said it was sometimes the fastest runner who won the race, not the pigeon!

Ernest Hutchinson 2005

Now in the process of being sold, Isherwoods have been based in the heart of Ramsbottom for over 100 years . It was in 1930, after expanding their business, the family bought the shop at 44, Bolton Street. The adjoining premises at numbers 46 and 48 were purchased later. Customers who bought essential items for their homes in 1935 included Mr T Swindlehurst and his wife May, who married that year and furnished their rented home at 6, Water Street from Isherwoods at a total cost of £72 10s - "three piece bedroom suite, table, four chairs and a kitchenette, carpets and oilcloth doormat".



John Leyland March 2023



Taken from *Stories in Stone* - John B Taylor.

**A datestone & inscription near the gutter of 44 to 48, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom reads "Court No 901. A.O.F. 1847", so Mr Hutchinson's comment is an interesting confirmation of the actual presence of the Ancient Order of Foresters in our town. The Ancient Order of Foresters is one of the oldest friendly societies, with its origins in a much older society called the Royal Foresters. Evidence from 1790 shows Court No. 1 of the order met at the Old Crown Inn in Kirkdale in Leeds. The society spread nationally and internationally and was formed locally in Rochdale in 1834. Members paid into a fund from which sick pay and funeral grants could be drawn. By 1895, having 4899 courts and 731,442 members, the Foresters were engaging in general charity as well as providing financial support for its members. The Society is now known as the Foresters Friendly Society.*

Right into the 20th century dues were collected by the Ramsbottom Friendly Burial Society (known as the Carr Club or Dead List) at the Rose and Crown, Carr Street, which guaranteed a benefit payment to members in the event of a family death. There were similar clubs in the area, notably the Bank Lane Burial Society.

"The History of Isherwood's Furnishers" is featured in our Spring 2006 News Magazine. This article is available at www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk by searching for magazine number 30. In it, David Isherwood describes how his family's business developed from the 1920s to 2005, mentioning that generations of loyal customers continued to visit the stores over all that time. He also says, "Occasionally we still come across pieces of furniture originally made by Isherwoods. It has lasted well. If you have an item please let us know."



Possibly photographed on Ada Street ready for a parade.

References:

John Simpson, *A History of Edenfield and District (2003)*

John B Taylor, *Stories in Stone – Datestones in Ramsbottom* (1991)

Trades directories: Worrell 1871, Slater 1888

T Swindelhurst "*The Water Street Family Story*" in *Ramsbottom Reminiscences Volumes 1 and 2* (new combined edition 2021)

RHS News Magazine No 9 (1994)

Ancient Order of Foresters UK website

JOHN JAMES HORROCKS

John James Horrocks, who was born in 1877, served in the 1914/1918 War and afterwards he returned home to Ramsbottom. In 1918 he married Sarah Ellen Harrison (d. 1931) at Edenfield Parish Church, settling down at No. 32 Crow Lane, Ramsbottom and remaining there until his death.

His trade was as a Cooper, and when he set up as such in the 1920s it was in a dilapidated building backing on to Paradise Street and facing the back of 19-27, Crow Lane. He died on 27th June 1954, aged 77, at Fairfield General Hospital, Bury.

Under the terms of the John James Horrocks Probated Last Will and Testament there were various legacies of which some were local: New Jerusalem Church, Ramsbottom Branch of the British Legion, Ramsbottom Cricket Club.

The residue monies of the Estate were invested into a Trust Fund named The John James Horrocks Trust

The second part of the Trust was to help the poor and needy people of Seventy Five (75) years of age and over and living alone in the Central Ward of the Urban District of Ramsbottom,

On a regular basis a notice would appear in the local press, including The Ramsbottom Observer inviting applications for financial aid from his Trust Fund. The wording of the invitation was as follows:

THE JOHN JAMES HORROCKS TRUST

The Trustees invite applications for financial aid from the above Trust Fund.

Eligible persons must satisfy the following requirements:

1. **Be 75 years or age or over**
2. **Live alone**
3. **Live in the Central Ward of the former Urban District of Ramsbottom**
4. **Be in need**
5. **Not hold communistic views**

N.B. Anyone in receipt of Supplementary Benefit or with savings of less than £3,000, considered eligible under item number 4.

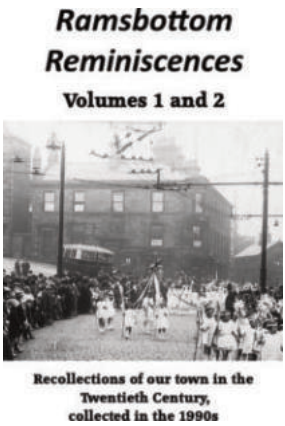
The income from the Fund is distributed in June and December.

Application forms and further details are available from George Howarth, Chappell & Whitworth.

The Trust Fund was wound up over 20 years ago.

Richard W Hall 2023

RAMSBOTTOM REMINISCENCES



Since its recent publication, our combined new edition of volumes 1 and 2 of Ramsbottom Reminiscences, with its gems of memory and many previously unpublished photographs, has been bringing our old town to life for its readers.

Ramsbottom Reminiscences Volumes 1 and 2, is available at *Hearts for Homes*, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom priced at £10, and also via the Society website.

Ramsbottom Reminiscences - Volume 3

We are now keen to collect contributions for a further collection of local memories and have already been sent three or four contributions, including some superb memories. As with the new reprint, we have access to lots of photos that we can integrate into each submission. Better still if you have your own! If you have anything, however short, or want to ask questions and float ideas, please email me (none of that in our day!) at

aatodd1846@gmail.com.

Andrew Todd

LOCAL RESEARCH UPDATE SPRING 2023

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 – now back to normal:

Tuesdays from 10am to 4.30pm
Wednesdays from 10am to 4.30pm
Thursdays from 12.30pm to 7pm
Fridays from 10am to 4.30pm
Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm

Computer access may be booked by calling 0161 253 5352 but booking is not essential.

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

Collections e.t.c.

Back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 are 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.

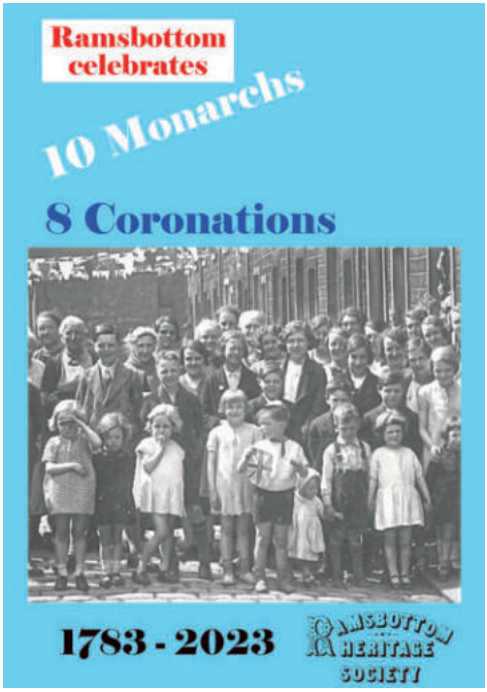
There is a drop-in Family History Surgery every 3rd Thursday from 1pm to 4.15pm.

Ramsbottom Celebrates

10 Monarchs and 8 Coronations

The new exhibition, at the Heritage Gallery inside Ramsbottom Library, relates each monarch, starting with George III, to national and local events affecting the town. George III had been already on the throne for over twenty years before Ramsbottom developed into a town, and Edward VIII was never crowned

- hence the title of this exhibition.



There is an 36 page booklet priced at £2 to accompany the exhibition.

This is available at *Hearts for Homes* on Bridge Street and also at the Heritage Gallery.

Opening times for the Library are on the inside back cover.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 65 Autumn / Winter 2023 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

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 2023 - 24

Note that monthly meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. apart from July and August.

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

December 14 Christmas Festive Fun

2024

January 11 Geoffrey Scargill - Edward Watkin : Railway King

February 8 Joseph O'Neill - Angel Meadow: A Manchester Slum

March 21 Elaine Taylor - Gardens for Lord Leverhulme

April 11 Sid Calderbank - Edwin Waugh - The Lancashire Burns

May 9 A.G.M. followed by Peter Watson - North Country Folk Learning

June 20 Sharon Ruston - Reading Sir Humphry Davy's Notebooks

Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 65

Autumn/ Winter 2023

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Front Cover

Besses o' th' Barn Brass Band playing at the Nuttall Park bandstand re-opening day Sunday 1st October - Photograph by John Leyland

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In Issue 64 there was an article about a new Project forum designed to share resources and make all the research that members of the Heritage Society do available to all, either through books, via the website, Facebook or News Magazines. Most of the articles this issue are written by members of the forum. The forum has met twice to consider the best way forward, and it has been agreed that the website needs updating to make the research easily available. There is currently a large amount of information on the website, e.g. photographs, tape recordings, articles, etc, but they are not easy to find, and there is a lot of research that hasn't been uploaded yet. The group is still open to new members joining, and we are considering holding public sessions to encourage people to come forward and help with this process.

John Leyland

UPDATE ON UNITED UTILITIES'S WORK IN NUTTALL VILLAGE

Issue 63 outlined the work that United Utilities are undertaking in Nuttall Village to improve the River Irwell's water quality. There was an update in issue 64, and we are still meeting with United Utilities, the latest being on the 3rd October.

The planning application 69680 for the scheme was submitted on the 24th May 2023 and approved with conditions on the 15th September.

The meeting on the 3rd October was attended by John Leyland, Janet Smith and Sheena Crombie on behalf of the Heritage Society, and three representatives from United Utilities.

The initial focus of the meeting was four trees that were mentioned in the planning application, as to be saved if possible. This included an oak tree in the centre of the temporary compound, and three others at the exit of the new temporary roadway. This area is in front of the Nuttall mill chimney.

It was explained that since the application was submitted in January, a survey had indicated that the railway tunnel that runs under the compound, could not

tolerate constant heavy machinery movements, and thus the four trees had to be removed to accommodate the amended route of the temporary road.





Photos before and after the tree removal.

It was suggested that seedlings of the oak tree were preserved and replanted when the work is completed



The new road would now exit the compound further down Nuttall Road near the sign. The existing wall would be removed, stored and reinstated after the work has been completed.

Another wall of interest is in the main compound, which will form part of the new electric substation. Once again, this wall will be removed and replaced using local stone.



Top 3 photos by John Leyland August and October- bottom photo by Joe Crompton - July

BARBARA PARK (NÉE FORSTER) 1931-2023

Barbara died on 24th June, aged 92, one of a vanishing number who were involved in our Society from the start. She and husband Trevor had attended that inaugural meeting at St Paul's School on 26th Feb 1987; and she became a committee member right away. Bubblingly keen, Barbara was one of the more helpful voices, always full of ideas, involved, and sane in relation to the forcefulness of some early activists! There were some fierce arguments in those early days. Somehow I managed to chair these fixtures, with Secretary Dorothy Moss the great diplomat, and I think we managed to keep walkings out down to one! In ancient Rome, one capital punishment was to be sewn into a sack with a dog, viper, cock and monkey, and cast into the Tiber – sometimes, being RHS chairman at those early committee meetings wasn't much different.



Barbara was not in that mould, very much a backroom mainstay, though very much from an activist tradition, and as the Society became focused, she came into her own. She pitched into exhibitions, the taping project, publications, and put together and edited the magazine for its first years. It is now possible on our website to search for key words in the 1,419 pages of the first 60 editions – and there are over 60 references to her! She and Brenda Decent, another early stalwart, did lots of the research for the individual photographs in Around Ramsbottom (1995). The three of us spent much of that sweltering summer in the old Heritage Centre, later the site of the Sure Start Centre, opposite the new library. Once we'd selected photographs to include, from tables spread with

possibles, they would go off and use their numerous contacts to provide the raw material for the captions. 'The best thing we did!' Barbara reckoned years later. And yet characteristically she and Brenda wanted no mention as co-authors.

Barbara Forster had married WEA tutor Robert Trevor Park in 1951. Both on the progressive side of politics, Trevor was Labour MP for Derbyshire South East during the Wilson government years of 1964-70, and had numerous awards from different NUM branches for his support during the Miners' Strike of '84-5. He had made Ramsbottom's famous Chartist, Peter Murray McDouall, a life interest, collecting biographical material for years.

Trevor had died in 1995, and Barbara remained active in the Society as long as she could, despite battles with bad health. In later years she moved out of Ramsbottom and into sheltered accommodation just off Walmersley Road. But she never lost interest in the Society, or in the many members with whom she had been friends.

Barbara's funeral on 11th July was par for the course, humanist, lasting only an unassuming 20 minutes, yet attended by people who were truly moved by her loss. 'A constant for so many people,' said the celebrant, who then read the famous poem, 'Miss me but let me go'. We shall miss her.

Andrew Todd

FROM NEW ZEALAND TO RAMSBOTTOM, SEPTEMBER 2023

This slightly ruffled Kiwi survived her twenty-six hour plane journey to Ramsbottom, Lancashire to walk in her forebears' footsteps. (Although it was September the temperature was 32ºC when I arrived and absolutely sweltering.)

Ramsbottom Heritage Society member Bren Richards kindly showed me places of interest pertaining to my family. We had 'met' through the Society's Facebook page and I had purchased the amazing book *Nuttall Ramsbottom's Lost Village*. My ancestors, the Sutcliffes and the Grimshaws, lived there from about the 1830s. We found two family graves in Ramsbottom churchyards, one

in St Paul's and one in Holcombe Emmanuel's. Both tombstones added vital information to my family tree.

Brenda and I also visited places where members of my family had lived: my three times great grandparents Grimshaw homes in Old Engine Lodge, off Nuttall Hall Road, and in Lower Nuttall Lane. Here, I knocked on the door and the occupier invited me in. Gobsmacking! The house was built in the late 1700s and I was in seventh heaven to stand in my ancestors' home. We then walked down to the site of Nuttall Village, where all that's left is part of the mill chimney and some old stone walls. We also went to the Sutcliffe homes at Barwood Lea and Rose Hill. Next day I had an appointment at Bury Archives. It was also a gold mine, every genealogist's dream!

On 6th September I visited Whalley, Wiswell and Pendleton where the Sutcliffes originated before moving to Ramsbottom to work in the cotton mills. At St Mary and All Saints Church in Whalley I stood by the gravestone belonging to my four times great grandfather Isaac Sutcliffe and his family. He was a farmer at Wiswell Moor Bottom up until he died in 1843. In all we had five generations of Isaac Sutcliffe in a row.

Somehow, on my way to Wiswell I managed to get myself on a very narrow one-way lane with high hedges like they have in Cornwall. It was hair raising especially as I can't reverse at the best of times. In some places the bushes were brushing against both sides of the car! When I got to Pendleton, so relieved, I had a beautiful chicken liver pate lunch from the *Swan with Two Necks* Pub. It won best pub in the Ribble Valley this year.

I had a wonderful four days in Lancashire. The architecture is very interesting: rows upon rows of 'two up two down' attached cottages whose doorways open up onto the streets which are clogged with residents' cars. I met interesting people including, at the Swan, a look-alike of Mr T (the A Team TV Series), complete with greying hair and white beard and adorned with many silver chains. He told me how to get back on to the motorway to Ramsbottom then sent me off with a hearty 'God bless you'! Travelling alone one meets all kinds

of folk and all of them very helpful.

I loved my stay in Lancashire; the beautiful countryside and the welcoming, very kind people who helped to make my stay so memorable. Thank you all.

Anne Mackintosh

BARWOOD LEA (OR LEE) – A GLIMPSE INTO ITS EARLY YEARS- 1780S-1880S.



Barwood House in 1988 - Photo taken from Bury Archive RHSBA-1665

Barwood Lea or Lee is the name of an area off Kay Brow. There are at least two explanations for the name – a) that it is a derivative of Boar's Wood from the Anglo-Saxon 'boir', meaning a wood infested with boars, or b) a name for one of the most widely used of natural dyes, easy to apply to wool and the basis of many brown combinations.

A house was built there in the 1780s for Henry Kay, partner in Peel & Yates, calico printers at 'The Old Ground'. In the 1794 Actual Survey of the Township of Tottington, it was noted as having 'certain buildings' occupied by Peel &Co. It was later sold to John Rostron before being resold in 1819 to William Grant & Bros. It then became the home of Charles Grant who added a gate house accessed from Bolton Street. Charles died in 1825, and c1841 it briefly was the

home of his brother, Daniel and wife Jessie before her early death. It was close to the family's flagship mill – the Square - which lay further down the valley beside the River Irwell.

The 1842 Tithe Map Schedule shows the area had been developed and now had mills including a Gas Works and Callender Works, a Bleach Works, and a Print Works - all owned by William Grant & Bros. There were also reservoirs, embankments, stables, plantations, gardens, and a large number of cottages occupied by people working in the cotton industry, servants for the house, and other miscellaneous workers such as the Sutcliffes (mentioned by Ann Mackintosh in her article about her visit to her ancestors' home town in 2023) who were agricultural labourers.

By 1842 Barwood Lea House had been the home of the Reverend Andrew McLean, Presbyterian Minister of St. Andrew's Church, for around eight years. He lived there with his wife, Elizabeth Grant, daughter of James Grant, his son Daniel Grant McLean aged five, and two servants. Reverend W. Hume Elliot mentions them in his books on the Grant family and he says that the Reverend McLean lived there until 1863 when William Grant, the nephew, asked him to leave. This caused much consternation as he had to break up his natural history museum. (William Grant, later in the Autumn of 1869, ousted him from St Andrew's Church, passing it over the Episcopalians. Reverend MacLean died three weeks later.

After 1863 Barwood wax returned to the Grant estates and for a while was used by their Estate Manager. The house had other occupants in the 1870s and 80s, including three people who had pews in St. Andrew's (Dundee) - John Maiden (1877-1882), James French (1878- 1883) and George French (1885-1888). The house still exists today but is now divided up into several residences.

Bren Richards

SIGNS OF THE TIMES 1875

An extract from a report of a Ramsbottom Local Board Meeting

(The Local Board pre-dated Ramsbottom Urban District Council. A Public Health Act of 1875 required local authorities to provide central slaughterhouses but they were only given powers to close unsanitary slaughterhouses in 1890.)

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES

In answer to a question, the Clerk said there had no alterations taken place in the slaughter-houses (at Tanners and behind the Grant's Arms) since they were reported upon two months earlier. The offal was being thrown out on the middens, which were close to the houses and the street, and the stench was very bad.

Mr Smith (Medical Officer of Health) – said there was a difficulty in the way of providing a remedy so long as the boards had no "tip". He thought the question had better stand overt until a tip was provided, for the butchers at present had no place in which to deposit their offal. In all other places where the requirements of the Slaughter House Act were carried out, the body forming the sanitary body for the district provided carts for them.

Mr. Barlow: That is not so.
Mr. Smith: Well, in Manchester they do.
Mr. Barlow: In Bury they don't remove it.
Mr Smith: The question is not settled there; it is in consideration.

Mr Barlow said it had been settled aforesaid, and the butchers had had the responsibility. The mischief in their own case was that they were not acting up to the byelaws, which said that the butchers must keep boxes, tubs, and vessels, for the purpose of receiving and conveying away all manure, garbage, and filth, and that immediately after the killing and dressing of cattle they must cause such manure etc., to be removed to such places as might from time to time be fixed by the Local Board. The fact was, they had not got covered tubs and vessels. Let them comply, and then they might rely on the Board.

Mr. Smith: You can serve them with notice to comply with the byelaws, which is an absolute responsibility.

Mr. Barlow: I don't see that it is.

Mr. Smith: I don't think that up to the present the deposit of offal had had a prejudicial effect on the health of the neighbourhood.

Mr. Barlow: The doctor, it seems, appears here as the advocate of the butchers. I lay it down it is not our business either to provide a tip or remove the matter. The butchers carry on a business from which they make a profit, and they must carry it on in such a manner as not to be injurious to their neighbours.

Mr. Stead: I think we are honour bound to provide a tip.

Mr. Smith: It is only a question of justice, I think.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Knowles, it was agreed to leave the matter in the hands of the nuisance committee.

Transcribed by Brenda Richards from the *Bury Times*, 8th February 1875.

OPENING OF THE NEW BANDSTAND IN NUTTALL PARK

The new bandstand in Nuttall Park was officially opened on Sunday 1st October 2023 by the Mayor of Bury. It would be appropriate to say the bandstand was thoroughly christened, as the rain poured down for much of the afternoon. But such is the commitment of the people of Ramsbottom that this did not deter a surprisingly large number of people from unfurling their umbrellas and folding chairs and sitting throughout the deluge. During the drier moments the Mayor, her consort and the other visitors came to the *Ramsbottom Heritage Society* bookstall and the *Friends of Nuttall Park* refreshment stalls and Tea Room. *Ramsbottom Rotary Club* members worked alongside us helping to put gazebos up and generally supporting us.

For the formal opening, Gwenda Newton, Chair of the *Friends of Nuttall Park*, who had worked so hard to see the building of the bandstand through to its

completion, and Brenda Richards of the Heritage Society accompanied the Mayor and her consort on to the bandstand.

Gwenda delivered the opening speech, welcoming everyone to Nuttall Park and to the 2023 official opening of "this beautiful bandstand". She added, "I would like to thank all the people who have in any way helped to make today's opening possible. It is good to see some of them here and their support has been invaluable. *Besses o' th' Barn Brass Band* and *Rossendale Ukulele Ban*d are waiting to entertain you and you can see the various stalls where food and drink are available. Your generous donations today will help to support *Bury Hospice*." She handed over to The Worshipful Mayor of Bury, Councillor Sandra Walmsley, who officially opened the bandstand.



Photo by Barry Aldous

The formalities ended with the playing of the National Anthem.

However, the major event of the day could be said to be the first concert on the new bandstand, which more than compensated for the weather. Stirring music played by *Besses o' th' Barn Brass Band* and the cheerful sound of the *Rossendale Ukulele Band* were the perfect antidote.

Nuttall Park itself was given to the people of Ramsbottom in 1928 by Lieutenant Colonel A.T. Porritt, a prominent and generous local mill owner.

It was a year later he added a bandstand, much to the delight of local people, who often came to listen to the bands after working hard in the mills all week.



Colonel Porritt opening Nuttall Park July 1928 - RHSBA-1593

Unfortunately, the metal structure of Colonel Porritt's bandstand was removed in the 1950s but the stone plinth remained and our regular newsletter readers will remember that the Society was involved in its repair and restoration. Nuttall Park's new bandstand has been modelled on the original, whose roof and uprights were removed seventy years ago. Since so few photographs remain of the old one, virtually no-one knew what it should look like. However, those who have now seen the new bandstand have all expressed delight with its smart and attractive appearance. It is a great tribute to both the Porritt family, the original benefactors and to those who have worked so hard to overcome delays and problems, to build its replacement.

Restoring the bandstand to its former glory was instigated by *Friends of Nuttall Park* and *Ramsbottom Heritage Society* and has been done in partnership with Bury Council. Work began on the new bandstand in 2021 and has recently been completed by a Derbyshire company, Leander Architectural, who also created the castings.

It is expected that there will be regular band concerts and other groups and individuals will be encouraged to use it as a platform on which to entertain the community. It is a wonderful addition to the facilities in Nuttall Park and we are looking forward to the events it will host in the coming months and years.

Kate Slingsby



Photo taken by John Leyland in August

Who knew?
After Colonel Porritt donated the bandstand for Nuttall Park in 1929, there were two bandstands in Ramsbottom. It was reported in the RUDC minutes of 2nd July 1925 (before the Peel Brow housing estate was built), that the East Ward Band Stand Committee had placed the contract for provision of a bandstand in the Peel Brow Playing Fields. It was resolved that the Council bear the cost of preparing the foundation for the stand.

RAWSON'S RAKE, RAMSBOTTOM

Tour of Britain 2023

Hundreds of people lined Rawson's Rake, also known as The Rake, on Sunday 3rd September 2023 waiting to cheer on Tour of Britain cyclists, who were about to tackle one of the toughest hill climbs in the country. Accompanied by their support cars and motor cyclists - apparently there was one motor cyclist to every five cycles in the race - competitors had ridden along the part of their long-distance cycle route through Edenfield from Rochdale, southwards along Whalley Road and down Peel Brow. Arriving in Ramsbottom they were welcomed by the sounding of a whistle from a steam train.

Parts of Greater Manchester were hosting Stage 1 of the prestigious eight-stage Tour of Britain professional cycle race, with one of the day's two designated *King of the Mountain* climbs being Rawson's Rake. Designated as a category one challenge, The Rake is perhaps Lancashire's most famous ascent, thanks to regular appearances in the Tour of Britain and also the championships of the Ramsbottom Rake Cycling Hill Climb time trials.



Photo by Dorothy Moss - 1993 catalogued HPC-93EV-014

The British National Hill Climb Championship has been held annually since 1944, with the location varying year on year. It has involved an ascent of The Rake previously in 1999, 2005 and 2012. The hill climb course is only 875 metres long. But, though short, it makes up for it in steepness – reaching a maximum gradient of 22%. It starts at lamp post No. 3 outside the public library in Carr Street and proceeds via Carr Street, Tanners Street and Rawson's Rake to finish at the lamp post opposite Exeter Cottage, Chapel Lane, Holcombe approximately 120 yards before the junction with Helmshore Road.

An extract from the Ramsbottom Urban District Council's April 1925 surveyor's report reads,

> **The Secondary Road, that is the road leading by way of Bury New Road, Bridge Street, Carr Street, and the Rake, and affording means of communication between Manchester Road and Helmshore Road has involved a total expenditure, exclusive of scavenging, of £274. A further expenditure for tarspraying on this road has cost £29.**

However, we are told that up to the 1950s The Rake was still surfaced with small stones rather than tarmac. Even so, back in 1929, Bury Cycling Club are said to have started a challenge to see who could ride the furthest up The Rake without falling off! As more managed to ride to the top, it became a test of who could climb the fastest. After World War II, as preparation for the National Hill Climb Championships, competitors would frequently train on The Rake. It became an open event in 1962 and has increased in popularity until, for example, 77 riders took part in the time trials in 2019. In 2012, the road was resurfaced just before the competition.

In 1991, these hill climb trials, organised by the Lancashire Road Club received sponsorship from local businesses for their own event with prizes for winning considered to be "not bad for two minutes work"! On 15th October 2023 the Rake once again became the focal point for cyclists from all over the north west when the LRC held their event.

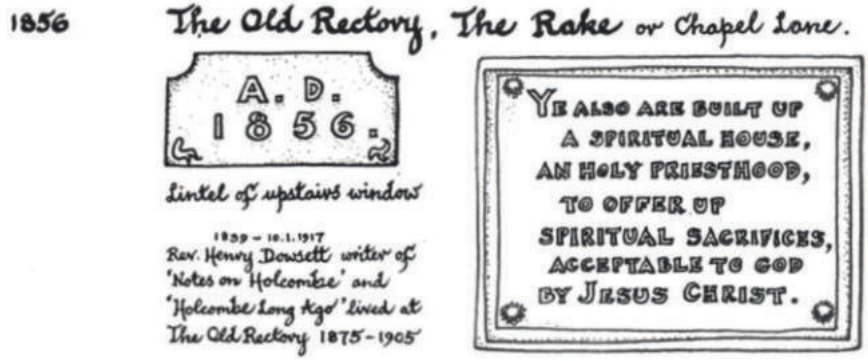




Photos dated 1998 courtesy of Ramsbottom Library

The Rake's History

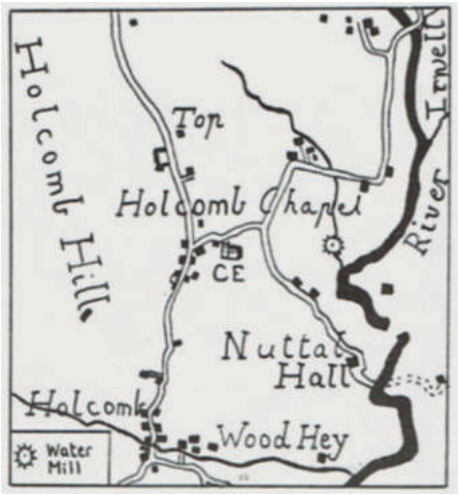
Both Foot o'th'Rake and Tanners Lower Tenement are recorded on the 1795 Survey of the Township of Tottington Lower End. The Old Rectory on The Rake or Chapel Lane was built on the site of the old Courthouse after its demolition in 1864 and has a datestone (1856) on the lintel of an upstairs window. There is also a plaque above the front porch.



Taken from *Stories in Stone - Datestones in Ramsbottom* by John B. Taylor -

Other buildings by The Rake with datestones include 1, Rawson's Rake (DOMJAC Jan 88) and Sundial House (1989), postal address 284, Dundee Lane, Foot o'th' Rake. Also, Hume Elliot's 1893 book has an image of an old glass pane, which had been removed from an old Foot o' th' Rake house, with the date 1664 on it.

The Rake's origins are lost in Dark Age time. It was already centuries old when William Yates surveyed Lancashire in 1783, and published 1786. The inset (below, left) is based on the map's Ramsbottom area. By 1818, when Christopher Greenwood published his more precise county map (below right), two turnpike roads had sliced across the district, relegating the old lanes and trackways to mere traces of the old routes.





The Rake's transition from major arterial road to minor byway. The two new turnpike roads can be recognised by their one thickened black edge and (long-vanished) numbered mileposts. The older route from Bury northwards towards Edenfield is now represented by Holcombe Old Road, The Rake, Carr Street, Bridge Street, Crow Lane and Factory Street.

The Rake, with its gradient of very nearly 1 in 4, survives today as part of the original west to east link track which connected the main route north (Holcombe Old Road/Moor Road) with the valley bottom. Traffic for the Edenfield direction split either left at Foot o' th' Rake; or right into Dundee Lane, for Nuttall and Walmersley. The 1783 map shows that the town of Ramsbottom did not then exist. Until the late 18th Century any human population of the area lived on higher drier land at Holcombe and moved around following higher level trackways. Holcombe was the hub of local settlement and therefore transport routes.

The trackways replaced by the new toll roads were truly ancient, developing over as many centuries as people travelled the area. The Rake, however, had evolved millennia before anyone thought of travelling any distance out of their home area.

In his excellent history, *The Lost Forest of Holcombe*, Mark Fletcher has summarised how The Rake was just one of several ancient livestock routes:

> **Since the medieval period, the vastness of Holcombe Moor had served as an 'intercommon', where the rough pasture could be used in the summertime by people from the adjoining townships of Tottington Lower and Higher Ends, Quarlton, Edgworth, and Musbury, seeking to feed their cattle and sheep, so as to conserve their own scanty lowland resources for the winter months. Similar arrangements existed elsewhere in England, wherever there was high moorland in close proximity to lower areas.**
>
> **In order to drive livestock from lowland settlements onto the upland pastures, the Holcombe Forest tenants used trackways known as 'rakes' (or 'strakes' in south-west England). Everyone knows of 'The Rake' which connects Ramsbottom to Holcombe, but how many have heard of Chapel Rake, Green Rake, Long Rake, The Rakes, and Stanley Rake? All of these 'rakes' run steeply uphill onto the Holcombe Moor plateau, from the valley of the Holcombe Brook.**

Indeed *Rake* had a double meaning in Middle English, *steep track*, but also *rough pasture for sheep and cattle.* It is probably this far longer use of our Rake for animal movement that has gouged the track into a deep *sunken way* or *hollow way*.

Yates map shows the old trackway continuing down the present Tanners Street and Carr Street towards Crow Trees Farm and adjoining buildings (known as Lower Ramsbottom), probably represented by the two black squares at the right-angle left turn in the road to the north. St Paul's Church now stands on the site of the farmhouse and on its meadow.

When the textile industry grew during the 18th Century creating a need to transport much larger loads of raw materials and finished goods, turnpike trusts were set up to improve existing roads, build miles of new road and take responsibility for maintenance. Although the ordinary horse-drawn vehicles which used these roads did have brakes, very heavy loads sometimes had additional horses behind to slow the vehicle down on steep hills.

Winter Weather 1865



On 9th January 1865 Mr. Henry Hunt, the first Master of Holcombe school wrote, "As may be expected attendance figures seem to have been much affected by the weather and sickness. In the winter heavy snowfalls, frost and fog resulted in very low attendances as many of the children were unable to make the journey from outlying farms, or up the Rake, and often the children were sent home early so that they might get home in the light." Heavy rain and violent storms are also described and on some occasions resulted in the children being kept back until the weather eased."

Runaways

Fred Hanson, recalling some of his childhood memories from between the wars, remembers that a steam roller once ran away down the Rake.

Photo taken from:
Let's look at Ramsbottom
by
Kenneth Beetson
and
Roger Shilton



(We think it is likely that the incident is the subject of this photograph.) Fred knew the driver, Bill Markham, whose job in the 1930s at the age of 18 or 19, involved driving the RUDC's steam roller. (Fred lived at Carr Fold and Bill lived nearby, next to the Rose and Crown on the site of the present car park.) Fred's account of the runaway, which he said was talked about for decades afterwards:

"One day when Bill was working on the road - the Rake with its very severe gradient of 1 in 4 – the steam roller ran away. There were possibly still one or two houses immediately opposite the bottom of the Rake. Bill, who boxed at Belle Vue about 1935-8 as "The Unknown (masked)", ran to the front of the steam roller and braced himself and gradually held it until his mates scotched it – tremendous performance! It was reported in the *Ramsbottom Observer*. Four yards short of the house! I don't know!! Bill was about 16 stone when 16 years old. His mother said he had 12 muffins with ham and six scones for lunch."

Occasionally, there are still incidents on the Rake. The road is narrow with very little "wiggle room" or even a footpath. Along the wall right by the roadside is a bannister-style handrail for pedestrians. A car driver had a lucky escape in 2019, when his vehicle was wrecked with a front wheel torn from its axle, after sliding down the icy roadway. Warning signs are now in place and in bad conditions there have been closures.

Sledging

Ernest Hutchinson described the sledging route in his memoirs. "We would spend all night sledging down the Rake from Holcombe, down to Rostrons Road and sometimes getting down to the Market Place via the little ginnel and steps that go into Carr Street. Then we would walk all the way back to Holcombe to do it again."

Fred Hanson tells us more, "The toboggan run down to the Newmarket Inn, which was at 3, Market Place in premises that were later occupied by the Community Education Service (*since July 2023 The Cocoa Tree chocolate shop and café - Editor*) must have been around half a mile long! Some of the lads, however were even more daring. If the station gates were closed, we'd hit them. Otherwise, we'd come to a stop just where you turn in for the cricket club!" At the time Bridge Street was often busy with traffic and on a bus route!

Nor was this precarious pastime a male-only affair. Amy Greenhalgh (nee Entwistle) reminisced about a childhood just off Carr Street and later 'up Tanners'. They would sledge right from Holcombe Church "down on the left hand side of the Rake over the top of Rostrons Road . ... then you shot across the road down the right-hand side over Callender Street and ended up at the Newmarket. But you only did it once because you were too buggered to walk back up again!"

Ramsbottom Radio Relay Station, which was a cabin at the bottom of the Rake, was managed by a Mr Monks. During an outbreak of measles on 16th October 1932 Fred Hanson and his brothers were collected from school and sent home! Fred was 13 years old but never went back. Having to leave school enabled him to get a job before Christmas at the Radio Relay Station. He writes, "Inside were two large benchlike tables, each about six by five feet, with a radio receiving and sending set on each, a mass of valves, condensers, resistors, wires, amplifiers etc. Wires ran from these to poles outside and from there via poles down to Bridge Street, covering Ramsbottom, Shuttleworth, Edenfield, Ewood Bridge, Helmshore and Summerseat. Mr Monks supervised at the relay station twice a

week. There was him and me and four polemen, and a Mrs Kay who collected round the area.

Wireless sets were in their infancy in the 1930s. We put a speaker in a house and ran two leads in from poles to a two-way switch on your window sill with your speaker, provided for your choice - Home Service and one other, charge one shilling a week. Good money, 15s 6d a week and 5s 0d extra for every customer you got. I got a shilling a week pocket money. I started work there in November 1932 and worked for 10 weeks. It was a short walk from Carr Fold - I kept the cabin clean, supplied wire, poles, nuts, bolts etc to the workmen as required. Kept records of same and when Australian cricket was on, was there before 7am. An interesting job."

The Well at the bottom of the Rake

On the left at the bottom of Rawson's Rake, there was a well in the wall. Before 1838, when the Radcliffe and Bury Waterworks Company was established, the people of Ramsbottom relied for domestic water supplies on the River Irwell and the area's many springs and wells. The river was often polluted and unfit for domestic use. Water obtained from springs and wells was not always pure either.

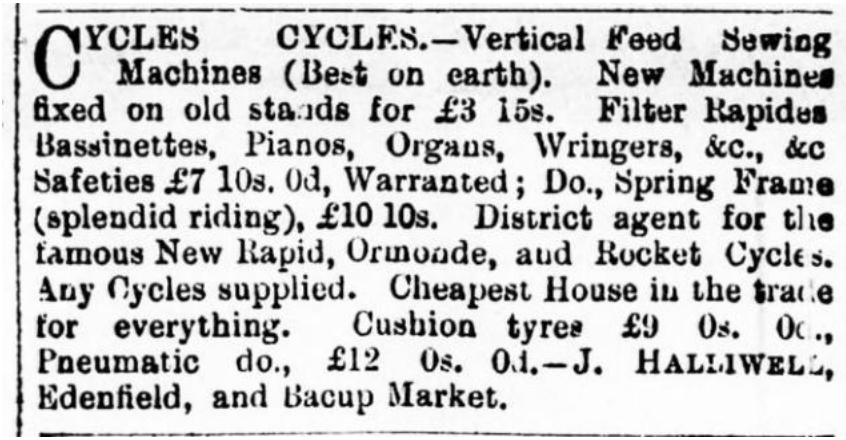
Local Cycling's Early Days



Cycle Club 1859

In this locality bicycles had first begun to make an appearance in the 1850s and, as they were improved, cycling became a popular hobby.

The Cycle Club in Ramsbottom was active in raising money for Ramsbottom's Aitken Memorial and Jubilee Cottage Hospital, which opened in 1899. They supported it and other district nursing funds by organising an annual Rose Queen Festival, which was also known as the Cycle Parade.



CYCLES CYCLES.—Vertical Feed Sewing Machines (Best on earth). New Machines fixed on old stands for £3 15s. Filter Rapides Bassinettes, Pianos, Organs, Wringers, &c., &c Safeties £7 10s. 0d, Warranted; Do., Spring Frame (splendid riding), £10 10s. District agent for the famous New Rapid, Ormonde, and Rocket Cycles. Any Cycles supplied. Cheapest House in the trade for everything. Cushion tyres £9 0s. 0d., Pneumatic do., £12 0s. 0d.—J. HALLIWELL, Edenfield, and Bacup Market.

Advert from *Ramsbottom Observer* Friday 18th September 1891

In 1891 the following results of long-distance cycling competitions were reported in the *Ramsbottom Observer*.

15th May 1891:

CYCLING – MR. H.J. WHITWORTH WON THE LONG-DISTANCE MEDAL

On Monday last Mr. H. J. Whitworth of Irwell Vale won the Gold centre Long Distance Medal (12 hours) of the Rossendale Bicycle and Tricycle Club, by riding 125 miles in 11 hours 55 minutes on Lancashire and Cheshire roads. Mr Whitworth rode a Beeston pneumatic tricycle, weighing 42lbs.

18th September 1891:

A CLEVER CYCLING FEAT - On Monday September 14th H. J. Whitworth of Irwell Vale, won the bronze long distance medal of the Catford C. C. by riding from Old Trafford (Manchester) to Shrewsbury and back as far as Hanley, a distance of 108 miles in 11 hours 58 minutes on a pneumatic tricycle, rain falling almost the whole time, which made the roads exceedingly heavy.



During his long career Henry Whitworth won many trophies. Along with his brother-in-law, Herbert Ruthven, also of Irwell Vale, Henry was an original member when the Rossendale Bicycle and Tricycle Club was founded in 1878.

H.J. Whitworth
With kind permission from
John Simpson.

References

- Holcombe School Log Book 1865
- RHS News Magazine number 60 *"A Young Boy's Recreation in the 1920s"*
- Andrew Todd, *Ramsbottom Reminiscences Volumes 1 and 2* (2022)
- RHS News Magazine 15, 27 and 51
- John B Taylor, *Stories in Stone – Datestones in Ramsbottom* (1966)
- Reverend W. Hume Elliot, *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (1893)
- John Simpson, *A History of Edenfield and District* (2003)
- Mark Fletcher, *The Lost Forest of Holcombe*, Ramsbottom Heritage Society, Facebook group (in 8 parts, Feb-April 2020)

LOCAL RESEARCH UPDATE AUTUMN 2023

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 – now back to normal:

Tuesdays from 10am to 4.30pm
Wednesdays from 10am to 4.30pm
Thursdays from 12.30pm to 7pm
Fridays from 10am to 4.30pm
Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm

Computer access may be booked by calling 0161 253 5352 but booking is not essential.

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

Collections e.t.c.

Back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 are on film for use on a microfiche reader.

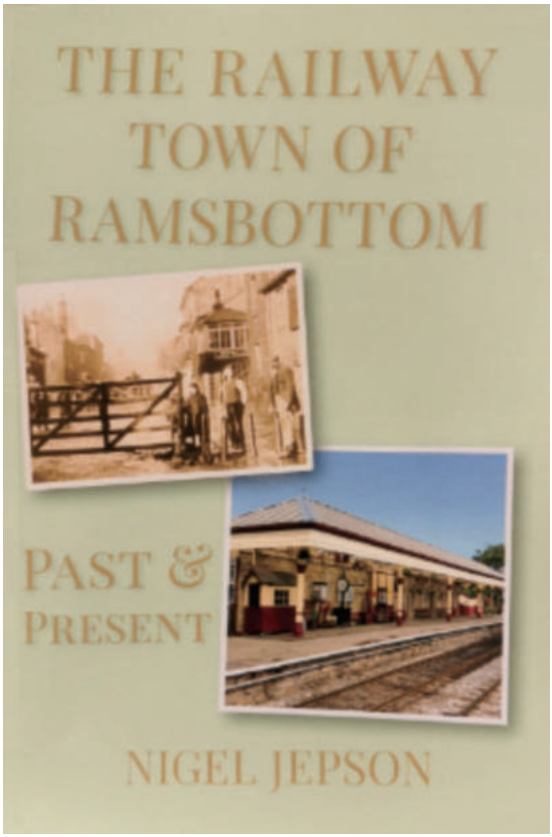
Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets.

There is a drop-in Family History Surgery every 3rd Thursday from 1pm to 4.15pm.

Nigel Jepson, a Heritage Society committee member, and an author of several books about local history, including the histories of Ramsbottom Cricket and Ramsbottom United Football clubs, as well as the life and times of Peter Murray McDouall entitled Ramsbottom's Revolutionary Doctor, has written a book called

The Railway Town of Ramsbottom - Past and Present

The book, which has 148 pages, includes text taken from articles in previous News Magazines as well as photographs from the Heritage Archive.



This book tells the fascinating story of how Ramsbottom became a railway town in the 1840s after a group of local businessmen met in a pub in Bury to set up a company which became known as the East Lancashire Railway.

The various ups and downs in the process of building the line connecting Ramsbottom with Bury and Rawtenstall are described here using a variety of sources, including newspaper reports of an 'alarming riot' of railway workers at the Grant Arms.

The arrival of the railway brought immense benefits as far as local industry and the town's growing population were concerned. However, the 'Beeching Cuts' of the 1960s had telling consequences for the existing East Lancashire rail network. The impact on Ramsbottom is gauged by exploring the views and reactions of local people as well as those in Summerseat where police had to be brought in to suppress protest action.

Although the demolition of Ramsbottom Station in the early 70s seemed a nail in the coffin for its railway town status, a brave campaign, spearheaded by the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society (ELRPS) was already underway aimed at re-opening the Bury-Ramsbottom line.

Against the odds, victory for this brave band of rail enthusiasts came about in 1987 and marked by the re-opening of a heritage line between Bury and Ramsbottom. The development was seen as 'a heaven-sent opportunity', galvanising the life of the town as a whole. First-hand accounts are used to highlight the significant impact railways have had on people's lives up to the present day.

The book is priced at £10 and is available from

Ramsbottom Heritage website and local outlets, including Hearts for Homes, Park Farm Tea Room and Bury Tourist Office.

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 66 Spring / Summer 2024 ISSN 0960 - 1244



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

Contact : John Leyland 01706 827253
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
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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

Note that monthly meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. apart from July and August.

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

May 9 A.G.M. followed by **Sid Calderbank** Edwin Waugh - The Lancashire Burns

June 20 **Sharon Ruston** - Reading Sir Humphry Davy's Notebooks

Possible Summer 2024 outing to Rochdale Town Hall after a 4 year restoration.

September 12 **Paul Hindle** : History of the Manchester Geographical Society

October 10 **Stephen Etheridge**: Bandstands. ' How the area's brass bands contributed to the creation of northern working class identity.'

November 7 **Brian Furness** : Blacksmiths to Surgeons, Brian tells the story of the Doctors of Whitworth.

December 5 Festive Christmas meeting.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society

News Magazine No 66

Spring / Summer 2024

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Local Heritage Trails Volume 2	*Keith Burroughs*	back cover

Front Cover

Photo by Ian Smith taken on a visit in 2008 by a group of RHS members to Scout Moor Quarry to choose the Nuttall Park Stone. (It carries the replica plaque which commemorates Lt Col Porritt's gift of the park to the people of Ramsbottom.)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last report, the committee have agreed to fund an interpretation board detailing the history of the New Jerusalem Church, which was on the corner of Ramsbottom Lane and Factory Street. This was first proposed by the Heritage Society in 2008, but has been waiting for the site to be renovated by Bury Council. Ramsbottom Civic Pride are now involved in restoring this and have plans to use the full site as a woodland path, possibly using some of the flagstones discovered in Nuttall as mentioned in the update of United Utilities.

The Heritage committee is also involved with The Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee, which is a group of people working towards the remembrance of the handloom weavers uprising across Lancashire, 24th-27th April 1826. Meetings have been held with Edenfield Local History Society to discuss how we can remember the Chatterton Riots, and at this stage the group is applying for funding.

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting is held on the 9th May and also that membership renewal forms are enclosed with this News Magazine.

The committee appreciates your support of the Society through your membership, your attendance at meetings, and the research that members contribute, either through articles for the magazine, or comments on Facebook

John Leyland

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

If you have been paying your membership fee either by cash, cheque or bank transfer (BACS) your annual membership fee is now due and a renewal form (printed on coloured paper) will have been included with the News Magazine for Spring/Summer.

You may continue paying as you have been, or you can set up a Standing Order. Whichever way you decide to renew please complete the form and send it as requested.

Update on United Utilities' work in Nuttall Village

United Utilities uncovered the floor of the old weaving shed in Nuttall Village whilst excavating the area for the underground storage tank. They invited the Heritage Society to examine the work and arrange for the relocation of some of the stones for local projects. Ramsbottom Civic Pride have taken 10 flagstones, with a plan to use them on the New Jerusalem site.

Whilst the flagstones were exposed, James Leyland took a video using a drone of the area. This can be viewed on Flickr at
https://www.flickr.com/photos/jamesleyland/albums
where there is an album called Nuttall with the video and photos



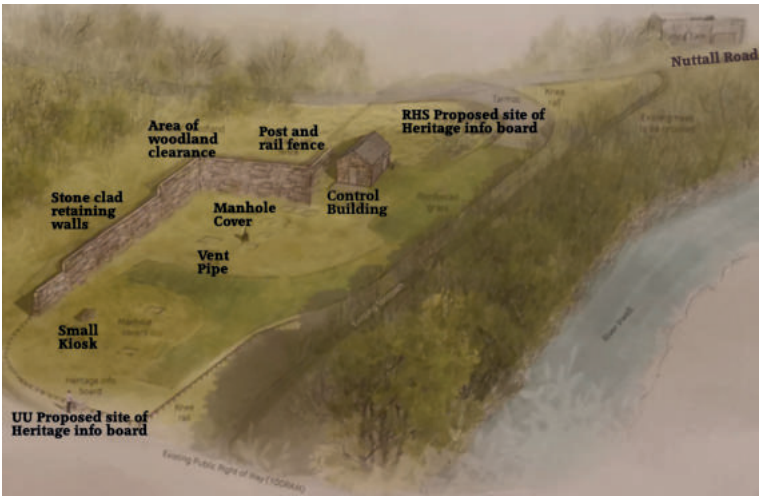
James Leyland

United Utilities produced a newsletter in February 2024 outlining the progress so far and what happens next

- We started in September and are progressing well. The compound is finished; we are moving on with the Nuttall Lane/Nuttall Road carriageway widening & strengthening works.

- This work will involve the installation of a new temporary haul road for all construction traffic, the main site set up for the new build and re-use of the existing stone on site.
- In the coming weeks, as archaeological surveys and checks are developing, we will move down into the lower area of the site (area of the old mill)
- Once all permissions have been granted, we hope to start work on the underground storage tank and associated pipework works in April.
- As well as building the new tanks, screen and chambers, we will also be installing mechanical pumps and electrical equipment so that everything works automatically once the work is completed.
- At the end of our works we will landscape the areas we have worked in and recreate the old mill wall as part of the overall finishing works.

At the end of the project in 2026 the Heritage Society have been invited to produce an interpretation board, which will be installed at the site. The initial design is near the Gollinrod bridge, but we would like it near the road, for maximum visibility.



Artist's Impression of the Nuttall site on completion

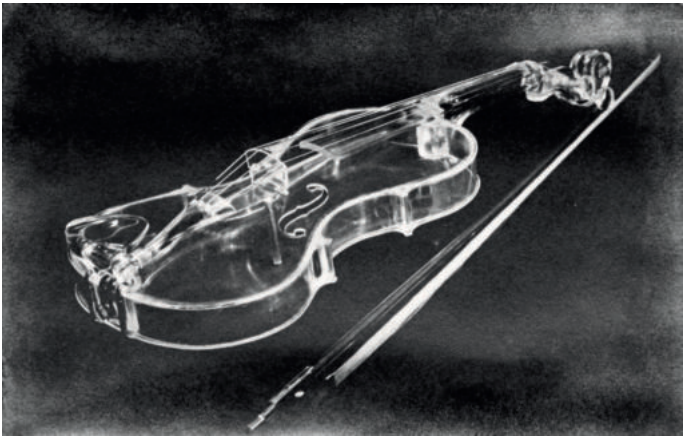
REFLECTIONS ON A WARTIME PERSPEX VIOLIN

I was surprised to recently come across an article* in the magazine of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society the content of which had been tape recorded by Mr. Harry Hoyle in 1999. A small section of the article highlighted his friendship with a Mr. Roland Whittaker at the somewhat secretive ICI plastics factory in Townsendfold during the Second World War. It concerned the carving of a Perspex violin by Roland Whittaker. Harry Hoyle, as a violinist himself, became interested in the quality of the resulting instrument.

Roland Whittaker was my father and although I was born in 1939 and was therefore a young child during the war, I can clearly remember the violin being brought home to the village of Water where I lived. Eventually I came to learn to play a violin myself and became even more interested in the ghostly instrument which I understood (probably incorrectly) to be the first ever carved as distinct from moulded from the new plastic. I just recall visiting Townsendfold and Darwen factories myself and later discovered that they were developing secretive new materials particularly for items such as gun turrets and cockpit covers for war planes.

My father was trained initially as a carpenter and craftsman in one of the local woodworking companies in the Rossendale valley. Before the war he sought further education at City and Guilds level by travelling to Bury and Manchester and he was then trained in teaching which he pursued for the rest of his working life in the wood and metalworking craft areas. I think it was probably this background which resulted in him being seconded to ICI as a reserved occupation during the war. Someone at ICI wanted the wartime and future uses of Perspex (Methyl Methacrylate) to be investigated and thought that the carving of a musical instrument might demonstrate its widely applicable usage.

As my father had no previous experience in violin making he sought the advice of a well established violin maker in Manchester – Paul Voigt. His family have been in the trade for seven generations and I believe that he was finally quite



pleased with the violin my father made, particularly with the bow which had to be specially strengthened to prevent change of shape whilst tightening the hairs.

Eventually the violin was accepted by ICI and it disappeared from my post-wartime upbringing. Many years later (I think the late 1980s) I found myself outside the then headquarters of ICI on Millbank, London. I presented myself to the receptionist in the main entrance hall and explained my interest in my father's role in this story. The librarian was consulted and to my amazement, a number of internal reports and news flashes were located showing photographs of the violin, its history and its final presentation to the then Chairman of ICI. Its subsequent whereabouts were not recorded. I was able to present the reports to my father not long before he died in 1991 and I know that it brought back many memories of his time in Townsendfold. I am, of course, very grateful to your magazine and particularly Mr Hoyle for bringing back many memories to myself and perhaps others whose family members were associated with those wartime events.

Professor David Whittaker 2024

**The article that Prof David Whittaker mentions reading online, is in issue 29 of our news magazine (available on the Society's website). It was based on a tape recording made by an RHS member of Harry Hoyle in 1999, who was 81 at the time. The actual recording is also on our website T28a, starting around 30 minutes in.*

BURNLEY & EDENFIELD TURNPIKE ROAD - TABLE OF TOLLS

The staff at the Whitaker Museum, Rawtenstall kindly found for us in their collection this small board, which we were able to photograph and produce a transcription, part of which is below. The full details can be viewed on the Heritage Society website in the Photographic Database



It was with the Burnley & Edenfield Turnpike trustees that Whittakers, hauliers based at Crow Woods, Edenfield had an agreement starting in 1850 that any future tolls on their carts and waggons would be paid twelve monthly in advance, at no more than half their current rate. The turnpike era ended in 1890.

TABLE OF TOLLS

TO BE TAKEN AT THIS GATE.

For every Horse, Mare, Gelding, Male, or Ass, laden-or unladen, and not drawing, the sum of	0 1 1/2
For every Score of Oxen or Neat Cattle, and in proportion for any greater or less number	0 10
For every Score of Calves, Sheep. Lambs, or Swine, and so on in proportion for a greater or less number ...	0 5
For every Coach, Chariot, Landau, Berlin, Chaise, Curricle, Calash, Chair. Caravan. Hearse, Litter or other such Carriage, drawn by five, six, or more Horses, or other Beasts of draught, &c.	3 0

Ditto drawn by three or four Horses, &c.	2 0
Ditto drawn by two Horses &c.	1 0
For every Chaise or Chair, or other such like Carriage, drawn by one Horse, &c.	0 6
For every Waggon, Wain, or other such four-wheeled Carriage, having the fellies of the wheels thereof of less breadth than six inches, and drawn 30 by three or four Horses, &c.	3 0

.....

The above Tolls are to be taken for the first and every fifth time of passing through this Bar on each day.

By order of the Trustees, R. HANDSLEY, CLERK

General Booth in the Valley.

THROUGH PEEL BROW, EDENFIELD AND RAWTENSTALL.

The man of the moment last Tuesday was General Booth, of the Salvation Army, who is on tour from Cornwall to Aberdeen, his mission, which he accomplishes on the motor car, being to touch those country byways which hitherto he has been unable to embrace.

AT PEEL BROW.

The General was expected here at close upon ten o'clock in the morning, he having left Bury at 9-30. There was a goodly number of people out of doors - but scarcely as many as was expected. The members of the Ramsbottom Corps, including Captain Grey, were present. Two cars preceded the glass-covered one in which the General was recognised. The heavy rains of the previous night had rendered the roads anything but pleasant, and the half-dozen cars simply ploughed the mud up as they darted along. Not at Peel Brow or Edenfield did the motors give evidence of having slackened their speed, and their annihilation of the distance right up to Rawtenstall left the villagers profound in speculation and wonderment. The General rose from his seat at intervals and waved both hands to the knots of bystanders who lined the route.

Ramsbottom Observer 26th August 1904

Turnpikes had been an improvement on the old highways but they usually consisted of laying a compacted surface of small stones and gravel so they were not a complete success. Trusts had to borrow money to finance the road building and maintenance and often found that their income did not cover costs. Poor road surfaces led to demands for the abolition of Turnpike trusts and the turnpike era finally ended in 1890, the Blackburn, Bury, Haslingden and Whalley Trust having lapsed in 1875.

Ramsbottom Urban District Council borrowed money in 1902 and 1906 to finance its road repairs and by the end of 1907 considerable lengths of the highway through Edenfield and in Bolton Road North had been macadamised or paved with setts.

J & J WHITTAKER LOCAL HAULIERS (Part 2)

THE EARLY 1900s

The first sixty two RHS news magazines have been converted to pdf files and can be viewed on the Society's website. A request for a copy of Part 1 (in RHS News Magazine number 64), which focusses on Whittakers' business in its earlier days, would be dealt with sympathetically.



The road leading to Fletcher Bank Quarry, 1898.
Ramsbottom Volume 2 by Kenneth Beetson

As far as haulage was concerned, the motor age had not yet begun in 1900, so most goods and materials continued to be carried by horse drawn vehicles. (Only from 1896 was there a Leyland steam driven van with a capacity of 1.5 tonnes and their first petrol-engined vehicle appeared in 1904, the "Leyland Pig".)

Local hauliers, J & J Whittaker, whose company was founded in 1825 and based at Crow Woods, Edenfield, had introduced traction engines into Rossendale in 1877 but continued to use horses for some of their work until the early 1950s.

Entries in their ledger covering the early 1900s seem to show that most of their business was carried out up the Rossendale Valley, i.e. to the north of Ramsbottom. Around Ramsbottom itself they were moving raw materials and finished goods for their customers who included millowners, builders, farmers, coal merchants and engineering businesses.



Workmen with horse drawn carts, Hazelhurst Engraving Works
Taken in Works yard, [date ? early c20] -

By 1860 they had exclusive rights to carry goods from all the railway stations from Ramsbottom up to Bacup. A substantial part of the Whittaker business at that time involved work for local quarries.

STONE FROM LOCAL QUARRIES

Between Bury and Rawtenstall by the 1840s there were thirty stone quarries, which were still relatively small-scale affairs and much of Ramsbottom was built of the stone including St Paul's Church, Market Street Methodist Chapel (now converted into Adderstone Mansions) and the former Coop buildings on Bolton Street. In 1901 Peel Brow Board School, later Ramsbottom County Secondary School (the M66 was driven through the site in the late 1970s) was opened, followed by Hazlehurst School in 1903.

At Fletcher Bank the first quarry was dug in 1792 and Joseph Heap is listed as its owner in the 1851 census. Later, Fletcher Bank and Scout Moor quarries became substantial concerns and their gritstone was widely known for its exceptional quality. In a ledger belonging to J & J Whittaker there are sixteen separate entries for regular customer Richard Wild during September 1903: ten loads of setts from his quarry to Rawtenstall and six loads of stone to the stoneyards at Ramsbottom station. There are nine similar entries in the ledger for carrying stone for Richard Wild in November 1903, two more for him in December, four for January 1904 and twelve for "stone to station" during March 1904. From the railway, the stone could be exported to Manchester, Preston, Liverpool, Birmingham, parts of Yorkshire and even London. (In Slater's 1888 Trade Directory, Richard Wild is listed at the Eagle & Child, 3 Whalley Road, Shuttleworth as a farmer and owner of the opencast Fletcher Bank quarry.)

By the end of the 19th century most of Ramsbottom's rows of terraced houses had already been built from the local grit stone. The town's Victorian housebuilders had done a better job than those in many of the larger industrial cities. From the mid-19th century onwards these houses, similar in many ways to the earlier cottages, are larger with higher ceilings and bigger window openings. The terraces, such as those on Tanners, could either be built all in one

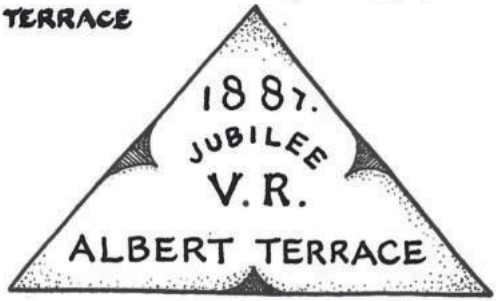
go or piecemeal over a number of years. The datestones and photographs below belong to later additions to streets.

1885 GLADSTONE TERRACE Gladstone Terrace, 20, Garnett Street.



William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898)
Prime Minister — four times —
1868-1874, 1880-1885, 1886, 1892-1894

1887 JUBILEE V R ALBERT TERRACE Albert Terrace, 62, Albert Street.

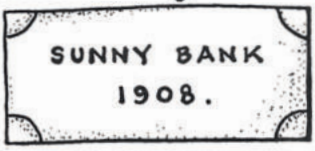


Victoria Regina

1903 SPRING VIEW Spring View, 41-43, Eliza Street.



1908 SUNNY BANK Sunny Bank, 122-124, Albert Street.



Datestones taken from Stories in Stone - Datestones in Ramsbottom John B. Taylor



Spring View, Eliza Street from a dated postcard 1902, although the datestone between 41 and 43 is 1903 . The photo is on page 86 of Around Ramsbottom

After the coming of the railway demand for local stone grew because of the toughness of the rock which meant its uses could include kerbstones, road setts, flagstones and engine beds. By the early years of the 20th century, with most of the terraces completed and reserves of stone near the surface exhausted, high activity at Fletcher Bank was coming to an end although quarrying continues there for aggregate. Scout Moor, after a period of closure when other building materials like brick and concrete had become more popular, is still worked today for the extraction of gritstone and sandstone.

MORE EXAMPLES OF HAULAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS BY WHITTAKERS FOR LOCAL COMPANIES

For Platt and Castle, listed as stonemasons of Stubbins Lane in 1888

September 1903	stone and bricks from station to Carr Brow and Hazlehurst and cement from station to Hope Mill
October 1903	flags from station to Hazlehurst and stone from station to Hope Mill

January 1904 material to Holcombe (1 horse, 3 hours) and mortar from yard to J Waterhouse (2 horses)

October 1904 stone from station to yard

December 1904 bricks and cement to Lumb (3 horses) and 4 loads broken stone from yard to Lumb

<u>For Charles Lomax</u>, stonemason and contractor, Higher Summerseat in 1888

February 1904 material from yard to ?? (2 horses 5½hours) and material from yard to S'seat (2 horses)

March 1904 one chain horse ½ hour

pipes from Rawtenstall station to Pike Saw (sic), bricks from Townsend Fold to Pike Saw. At Pike Saw also, 2 horses ½ day and one horse to Holcombe Brook 2 hours (Pike Farm is near the site of Grants Tower.)

Cement and pipes from Ramsbottom

May and June 1904 over 30 entries each month for hire of up to 4 horses at Pike Saw

<u>For Ramsbottom Urban District Council</u>

October 1904 stone from station to end Eliza Street

November 1904 stone from station to Whalley Road – 3 deliveries

December 1904 1000 bricks from station to Edenfield, 1000 bricks from station to ? Lane and 500 bricks from station to ? Lane

2 entries for stone from station to Patmos

July 1905 5 loads chippings from Ramsbottom to each of Dusty Miller, Park Chapel x 2, Top New Road, Summerseat

August 1905	5 loads stone and 1 load chippings from station to Park Chapel, Walmersley Road
September 1905	9 loads of stone from station to Fletcher bank, Top New Road, Park

For J Byron in May 1905 Whittakers took three loads of girders to Rosebank.

For Etteridge & Clark, as well as some valves and bricks, they carried ten loads of pipes to ?Scout View. Eleven more loads of pipes were moved from the station to places such as M? W Lane (? Michael Wife Lane – Editor), Scout View, and Gin Croft.

In 1905 the Callendar Cable Co had nearly thirty entries in the ledger for carrying mainly cables/pitch from the station to Bolton Road and were hiring two of Whittakers' horses for twenty six days.

HAULAGE FOR RAMSBOTTOM ENGINEERING WORKS AND FOUNDRIES

FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1903

By the end of the 19th century several metal works and foundries had been established near Ramsbottom town centre. (Three examples included in 1888 trade directory lists are John Wood, engineer & iron founder, Railway Street, Joseph Strang, brass & iron founder & machine maker, Princes Foundry and Richard Mason's, iron & tinplate works, Prince Street.)

Whittaker's ledger shows that in the early 1900s they were carrying goods and materials for these manufacturers and for other Ramsbottom engineering works.

For Joseph Strang

Entries show Strang's machinery being carried from their works on two loads to Bury and one to Cheadle on vehicles each pulled by two horses. Loads of pig

iron and scrap were moved to Strang's works from Ramsbottom station and machinery was taken from the works to Crumpsall using three horses. Strangs twice hired Whittakers' chain horses, once for six hours and once for the day.

For John Wood

There are three entries for carrying machinery from Wood's works to Bradshaw and entries for iron and scrap going from the station to the works. Woods also hired chain horses from Whittakers.

For Fred Mason

Twenty four ledger entries over this three month period are for carting cylinders to/from Mason's works and various places including Loveclough, Bolton, Accrington, Salford, Bradshaw, Holcombe Brook, Birstall, Holme, Tottington Mill, Whitefield, Radcliffe and Rosebank.

Later on, in 1924, Fred Mason Ltd is listed at Atlas Steam Tin Copper & Iron Works, Kay Brow, Ramsbottom. The company's lavishly illustrated 1927 billhead has Fred Mason as a "Coppersmith, Iron & Tin Plate Worker &c" carrying out work on "Steam Cylinders, Copper Colour Pans Rollers and all kinds of Tin & Copper Work" for "Printers, Bleachers, Engineers, Mill Owners etc". At that time, Masons regularly made items for fitting on to the printing machines manufactured at the works in Garden Street by John Wood, another customer of Whittakers.

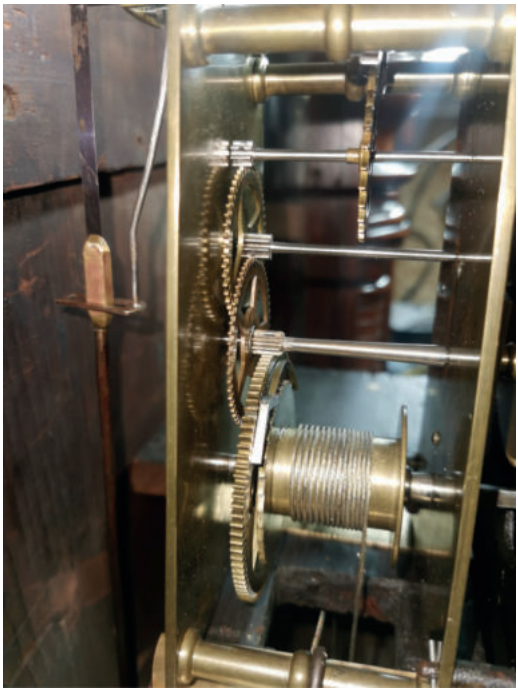
References:

RHS News Magazines	35, 38 and 42
Trade Directories:	Slater 1888 and Kelly 1924
John Simpson	*A History of Edenfield and District* (pub 2003 by Edenfield Local History Society)
John Tomlinson	*Ramsbottom Scene* (2021)
John Taylor	*Stories in Stone – Datestones in Ramsbottom* (1991)
Kenneth Beetson	*Ramsbottom Volume 2* (1978)

THE BRIEF STORY OF A CLOCK….

The Society has recently been contacted by Mr Rupert Battersby with his own memories of his family's antique clock. He has sent us photographs and information and explains how his research has led him to believe that it once belonged to Ramsbottom's Grant family.





All through my childhood I was aware of a large, dark wood wall clock which hung on the wall in my parents' house. As my interest in family history grew into an obsession, I spoke to my father about various matters surrounding the former family business – a hat factory in Stockport which ran for almost exactly a century from 1865, founded by my great grandfather William John Battersby.

I discovered that the clock had been bought by William as his business began to succeed – it must have been quite a personal reward for him as his childhood had been spent in abject poverty and only by hard work and honesty had he dragged himself out of it. The clock was an early sign of success for him I suppose.

The dial bears the name 'J Bennett, Stockport', a clock retailer from the mid to late 19th Century in Underbank.

Two things came with the clock – a story and a newspaper cutting.

The story was that the clock had originally belonged to one of the Grant brothers, the believed inspiration for the well-known Dickens characters.

The newspaper cutting from a Stockport newspaper is dated 11th October 1949, and has the clock's story in it with quotes from my grandfather, William's son. The reporter wrote:

> **'I find that Stockport has a link with (William and Daniel Grant) that is still ticking as cheerfully and accurately as business did in their Manchester office…..**
>
> **In the office of Battersby and Co Ltd, the well-known Stockport hatters, there has hung for a long lifetime a clock which belonged to the Grant Brothers.**
>
> **"It keeps excellent time," says Mr Walter Battersby, who has been going into the history of the Grant Brothers.'**

If Walter did find anything further it went unrecorded, and in 1966 the factory closed and the clock came to be hung on the wall at my parents' home.

More time passed and eventually it came to me in sorry condition, outwardly with only a few signs of age, but inwardly dead. It had neither ticked nor tocked for many years. After some searching I managed to find a reputable and trustworthy clock repairer, who took it away for several months and returned it in full working order.

Meanwhile I did a bit of digging to try to see if there could have been a Grant Brothers link.

The story of its Ramsbottom connection has provenance back to Mr Bennett's shop around 1865 – the story from great grandfather, to grandfather, to my father to me is solid, and the newspaper cutting backs it up further. Given that the clock was about 70 years old when last sold, and advertising being what it is, the changing of the face to advertise Bennett's shop is quite understandable

Thanks to your Society I was then able to get some more information on the Grants. Initially I was disappointed to find that Daniel, the second of the 'Cheeryble' Grant brothers died in 1856. At that time my grandfather was almost penniless and only 17 years old, so would not have bought the clock then. However, Daniel Grant left his possessions to his nephew William Grant, who eventually sold up and moved away from the area in 1864.

This made the connection far more credible. In 1864 William Battersby had been married for a year, and with the backing of his wife Mary was beginning to prosper. He was a manager at Shelmerdine's hat factory in Stockport earning six pounds a week. By 1865 he was in a partnership with his own business, and effectively never looked back. When he died in 1915 his estate was valued at just short of sixty thousand pounds.

The point where William Grant the nephew sold up fits exactly with the point where William was starting to prosper. Was it actually a trophy to reflect success, or a necessity in the office or even visible in the factory to make sure nobody left early?

But the hunt is now for any list or record of the property that William Grant sold off. It was normal then as now to sell off by auction, so is there any list of items to be sold?

Obviously, the key would be if there is by any miracle a list of the property sold by William Grant in 1864 - that would be wonderful if it mentioned anything

that might be this clock, but the chances are going to be very slim indeed. The alternative is that the clock was in the pub that became the Grant Arms, and some sale in the 1860s saw it disposed of, but at the moment the William Grant connection is most promising. I do think it unlikely that my great grandfather would have made up the Grant connection, and the 1949 article is apparently entirely sincere.

Meanwhile, as I type this, the clock ticks and tocks sedately to itself on the wall in my very untidy study. It is strange to think that such a serene noise has overseen so much – from a small initial factory to a large purpose-built one in Offerton in Stockport , which incidentally still stands to this day as it is now being converted into housing.

The clock was in the office when fire swept the factory in 1906, being saved by a number of men breaking the office widow to pass it out to safety. It would have been privy to any number of conversations, decisions both good and bad, success and failure. But now, like me, it is retired. I am very proud to be the



Battersby & Co Ltd, Front view of factory August 1907

latest custodian of this heirloom, and find it intriguing to think that it has been in the same family for some 160 years.

The question is, in its first 65 years or so did this clock also bear witness to other industrial ups and down? If anyone can throw this to any Grant enthusiasts and come up with something positive I would be incredibly grateful.

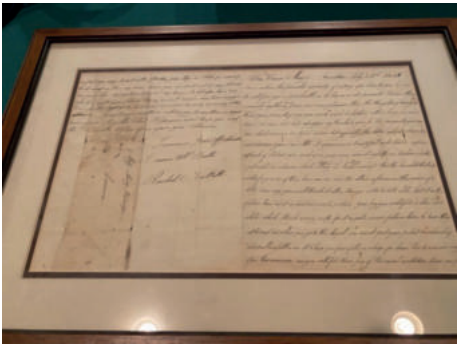
R Battersby 2024

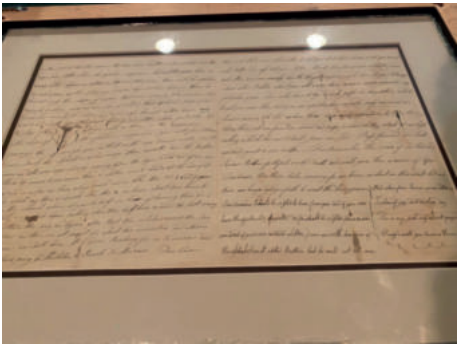
A LETTER FROM AMERICA

In January 2023, John Leyland received this email from Daryl Vogel

> Going through some of my mom's things (she passed away in 2013), I came across a framed letter that had been in possession of her father. It's from a Rachel Nuttall of Ramsbottom and is dated 1843. It was written to her cousin, a Mary Horridge, that was living in America. It's wonderfully preserved and mentions random bits of every day life and includes things such as "Mr. Odgen preaching" and "Uncle Charles is going to Middleton to preach tomorrow." I looked up Ramsbottom online and found your site. Thought this might be something the Heritage Society would be interested in having? I can send pictures if you like.

Upon replying, it transpired that Daryl lived in the United States of America and the letter was in a double sided glassed frame, that he sent photos of.

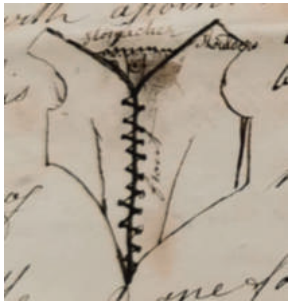




After further correspondence, Daryl extracted the letter from the frame, transcribed it, exactly as it is written, i.e. the use of 'ican' instead of 'I can' and posted it to the Heritage Society for our archives.

Dear Cousin Mary

I now embrace this favourable opportunity of writing afew lines to you hoping they will find you in good health as it leaves me at present Cousin there is scarcely anything that has given me more pleasure than the thoughts of being able to send you preasents of my my own work which has kept me rather busy for some time and ican not help expressing my thanks to you for the preasents you sent me which was very beautiful indeed buy especially the letter which ihave read over and over again and still it appears more beautiful each time ioften think of that rose you speak of in your verse were it says the rose has been washed just washed in a shower which Rachel to Mary convey'd And the bracelets that I have worked for you one of them has a rose on and the other a flower in the name of a dilly. dare say you will think it rather strange not to be both alike but it is the fashion here and it is considered much prettier Your bag you willfind is blue and white which ithink is very pretty for it is quite anew fashion here to have them not to draw and when you go to the chapel you must put your pocket handkerchief and smelling bottle in it to keep you from falling asleep for ihave had to use one very often this summer and you will find three pair of red curred imitation beads one pair for your which his like mine they have been knitted on two needles and the bags ihave platted. There is a fashion magazine but not this years There will be apicture for each of you in the 946 page and the topmost line but one there is a bonnet nearly the shape of mine that iam wearing this summer but it is only aribbon crossed over and a bunch behind that which i have worn this winter is nearly the shape of John's wife bonnet rather lesser my dress is made with apointed front laced up and alittle white front at the top the shape of this but



you will see them in the magazine in the inside of the fashion magazine you will find three drawings the one for you is that with my cousins wrote on it Cousin iteach the alphabet scholars every other month and the teachers names are called over every Sunday morning before the begin to read and if we are not there to answer to our names there is alittle mark made at the side of it and if we do not go we have along mark made like this RN/. and if we miss the whole day there is amark like this X we have about two hours to be in the school when it wants half an hours of looseing their is a little bell rung for to begin spelling when the half hour is ended the bell is rung again and then they sing an hymn after that the scholars repeat the Lords prayer aloud and then we all go out for about ten minutes and return again to service We shall have Mr Odgen preaching for us tomorrow and Uncle Charles is going to Middleton to preach tomorrow

Dear Cousin ican not call to mind all iwished to tell you but what i leave short you must make Brother and wife tell you I often think how far we are separated from each other and ican scarcely bear the thoughts ioften wish ihad all your likeness i have asked Brother about you all many atime as ican never remember my particulars of you ihave asked him to try to pick people in Ramsbottom who he thought you were like but if we are separated here on earth omay we meet in heaven among the blest where there is no more separation to take place Let us then set our faces Zionward and press forward to the mark of our high calling which his in Christ Jesus our Lord Press forward and look upward must be our motto. Let us remember the words of our Lord and Saviour Be thou faithful unto death and iwill give thee a crown of life

Dear Cousin let us take warning of our time is short in this world let us trim our lamps and go forth to meet the bridegroom

Dear Cousin ishould be so glad to hear from you and if you ever have the opportunity to write do for ishall be so glad please to send me word if you ever received aletter from us with two copies of the alphabet in it iasked Brother but he could not tell me

And when from hence we are called away

To realms of joy and endless day

This is my wish my ardent prayer

O may i meet you Cousins there

We feel very sorry to part with Brother John Wife and child for iscarcely think imust see them any more iassure you we will no be easy till we hear from him and will just you in Dear Cousin to look after him and make him write if you please idaresay we will dream over him many a time for the night before he landed idreamed he was coming at the next run I must now conclude wishing you to wear them in remembrance of me May the Lord Bless you and keep you may the Lord make his face shine upon you

Amen

iremain your affectionate Cousin till Death

Rachel Nuttall

After receiving the letter, I tried to research the names, but the evidence was not conclusive, as I cannot find a Rachel Nuttall living in Ramsbottom in the census of 1841. I found a Rachel Nuttall living in Carr Street in 1851, aged 26 and a dress maker. Rachel had been baptised at Holcombe Chapel in 1824, and was the daughter of John, aged 67, and Alice Nuttall, aged 63, and sister of Peter, aged 24 in 1851

The only Mr Ogden I can find around this time was John Henry Ogden - professor of music at Bolton Street

I'm sure Daryl would be interested if anyone is able to find Rachel Nuttall and cousin Mary Horridge in 1843

Daryl Vogel and John Leyland

LOCAL RESEARCH UPDATE SPRING 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. Ramsbottom Library's family history help sessions have restarted – every 3rd Thursday of the month 1pm – 4.30pm.

Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG
Access is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please contact us in advance to arrange a visit on 0161 253 6782 or email us via archives@bury.gov.uk

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

Catalogues of collections and the extensive range of records, (including Ramsbottom's) held at Bury Archives are at 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.

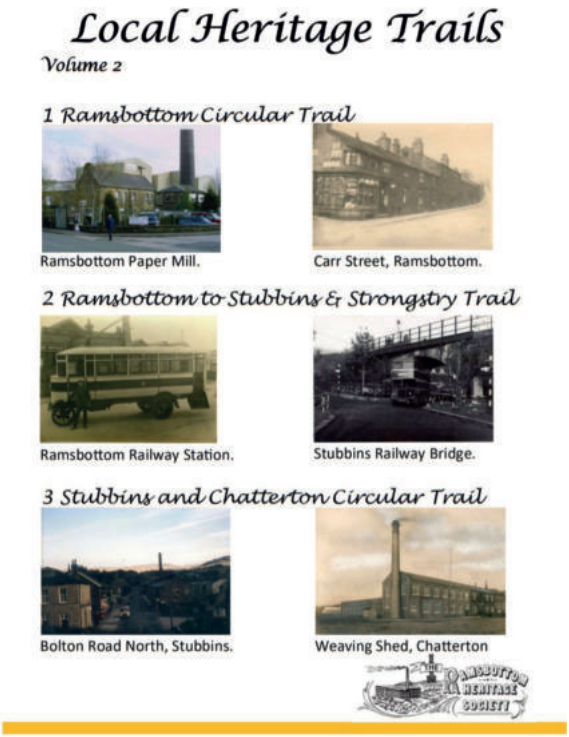
Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS AND ACCESS – now back to normal:
Tuesdays from 10am to 4.30pm Wednesdays from 10am to 4.30pm
Thursdays from 12.30pm to 7pm Fridays from 10am to 4.30pm
Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm

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

Local Heritage Trails Volume 2 £2.00



It has 3 guided walks and includes 40 pages of photographs old and new, 4 maps, descriptions of buildings that you will pass and 25 QR codes that link to videos on some of the buildings or places.

Walk 1 is from Ramsbottom Station, Bridge Street Gardens, Hearth of the Rams, back up Bridge Street, Wesleyan Chapel Market Place, Bolton Street, Dundee Lane, Tanners Street, Carr Street, Grant Arms Market Place and back to Ramsbottom Station.

Walk 2 is from Ramsbottom Railways Station, Railway Street, Irwell Street, Scotland Place, Morrisons Car Park, Draba Brow, Silver Street, Crow Lane, Factory Street, Stubbins Lane, Stubbins Street, Strongstry and then back along Stubbins Street, Stubbins Lane, Factory Street, Paradise Street, Bridge Street and Ramsbottom Station.

Walk 3 is Stubbins Railway Station, Bolton Road North, Croft End Mill, Chatterton Road, St. Philips Church, Peace Playing Fields, Old Chatterton Old Road, Edenwood Mill, Bolton Road North and back to the start.

This book and others are available from Hearts for Homes and Memories on Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, The Hub Tea Rooms, 13 Brandlesholme Road, Greenmount, Bury Tourist Information Centre, inside the Fusilier Museum and our website

www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWS MAGAZINE

No 67 Autumn / Winter 2024

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

Contact : John Leyland : 07923584340
Website : www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk
Email : john@ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

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

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Ramsbottom Past and Present Volume 1 - Transport	*Keith Burroughs*	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.


DONEGAN

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, Hoddlesden and Helmshore on the Tuesday. On these first two days, a total of 573 machines had been destroyed.

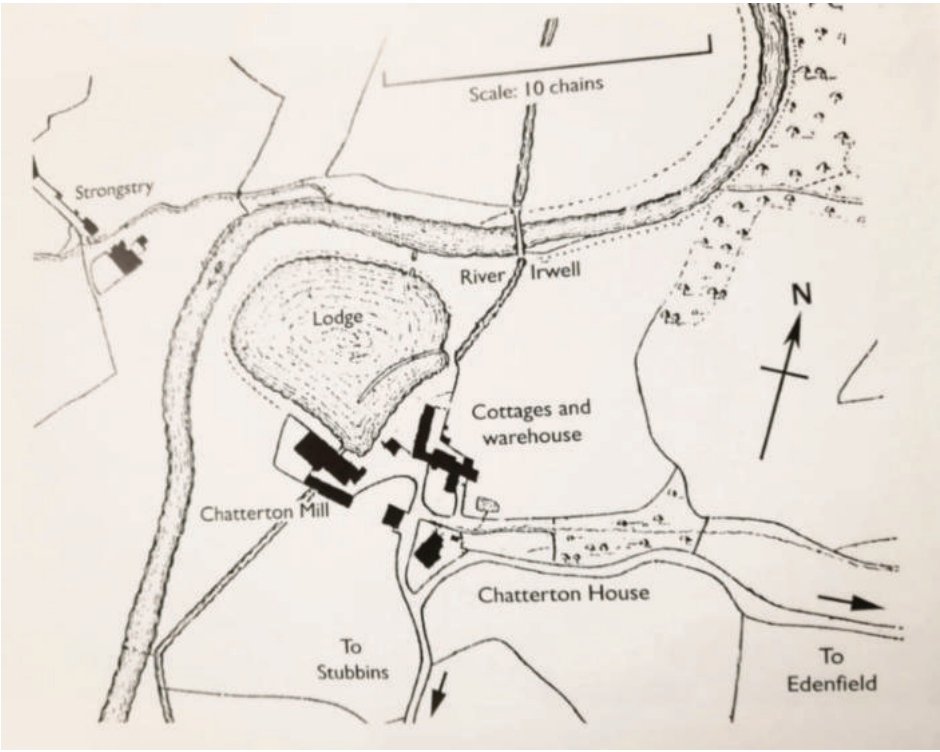
With no strong local police presence in these times, it had taken until Tuesday for a small contingent of soldiers to arrive in the area from Manchester. Colonel Kearney was the officer in charge. Grant had invited him to stay at his 'Springside' residence on the Tuesday night. With reason to believe 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.

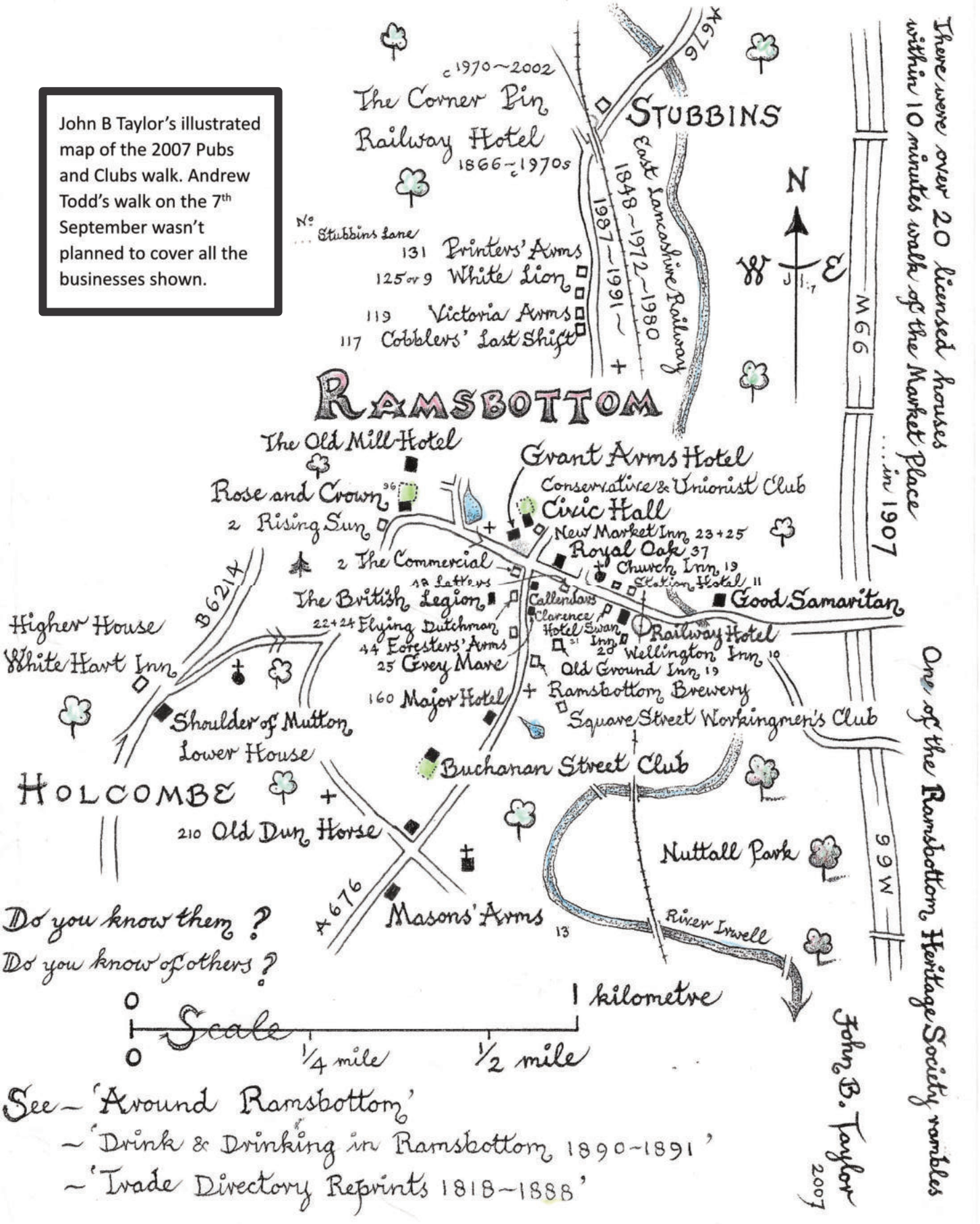
Notes

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.

Nigel Jepson

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.



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

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 Attbrigge 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.

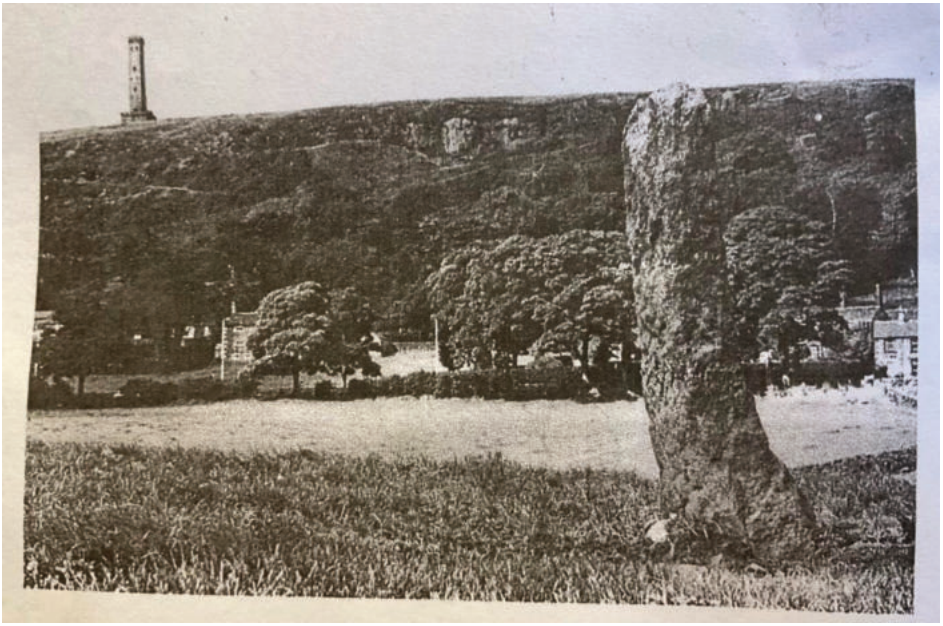


Robert was sentenced to die by hanging on Holcombe Knoll and according to the custom of the day, his body was then hung in a gibbet to rotate slowly in the icy winter winds with nothing but a shroud of snow on his head and shoulders as a stark warning to others who might break the merciless Norman Forest 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 lurries entitled: Britannia, Nations and Colonies, Builders of the Empire, Army and Navy and Quaker?? ?? on lurries. 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 lurries 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.

