

Ramsbottom Heritage Society

**Oral
Taping
Project
from 1987**

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society has always been interested in recording memories of residents, and had an Oral Taping Project that ran from 1997 and there are now over 60 recordings on cassette tape, which have been converted to digital format and made available on the website, where the interviewee has given permission.

Some of the recordings were made by the North West Sound Archive at special events held by the Heritage Society, such as exhibitions in the Civic Hall and the closure of St Paul's school.

This booklet is the index of the recordings which includes a summary of the recording using AI techniques.

Even though we have attempted a detailed summary, we encourage you to listen to the recordings and contact us if there are any errors.

Table of Contents

Page	Recording Number and Interviewee
------	----------------------------------

11	T01a Mrs Florence Fullard Mills between Summerseat and Stubbins
12	T01b Mrs Florence Scholes Local Hospitals
13	T02 Mr Charles Hall Life in Ramsbottom from 1902
14	T03 Mrs Ellen Mills A 93 year old resident shares memories of her life
15	T04a Mr Joe Barlow Memories of father and shops
16	T05 Mr Harry Archerly Work conditions in Ramsbottom and Prestwich
17	T06 Clara Booth Memories from 1907 onwards
18	T07 Mrs Elsie Baker School at Holcombe and general memories
19	T08 Mrs Amy Greenhalgh

Childhood in Ramsbottom

20 T09 Frank Galpin

Memories of Ramsbottom

21 T10 Wilfred Beswick JP

Growing up around Bye Road, Shuttleworth

22 T11 Mrs Constance Whittam

Connection to the Grant Family

23 T12 Eric Quinn

Evacuation from Manchester to Ramsbottom during World War 2

24 T13 Mrs P Rodwell

Hosting evacuees during World War 2

25 T14

Extracts from Ramsbottom School Logbook (1939-1946)

26 T15 Mrs Edith Duckworth

Memories from 1923 onwards

27 T16 Mr Thomas Wightman

Memories from 1915 onwards

28 T17 Margaret Nolan

Memories of Ramsbottom from 1911

29 T18 Mrs Edith Robinson

Memories of Edenfield

30 T19 George and Margaret Kay

Memories of Stubbins Lane, visit of King George and general

31 T20 Jim Welding

Early Life and Manager at Ocean Chemicals

32 T21 Mrs Doris Hillary

Memories of Edenfield and running a butcher shop

33 T22 Mr Keith Bradbury

Life in Edenfield in the 1960s and 70s

34 T23 Jennie Johns

Working in the mills of Ramsbottom

35 T24 Alice O'Donnell

General memories of Ramsbottom

36 T25 Mrs Marion Beech

38 T26 Mrs Irene Green and Dorothy Farnell

St Paul's school , work and community

39 T27 Frank Warwick Hall

Life in Ramsbottom Theatres

40 T28 Harry Hoyle

Childhood memories, education and work

- 41 T29 Margaret Hammersley
Childhood, School, and community life
- 42 T30 Miss Joan Barcroft
Hospital, work conditions and wartime
- 43 T31 Jack Holden
St Paul's School, work in mills, and evacuees
- 44 T32 John Lomax
Early life and work experiences in mills
- 45 T33 Brian Lamb
- 46 T34 Cyril Davenport
Started work at Porritts 1939 and stayed for 50 years
- 47 T35 Marion Beech
Working in the textile industry
- 48 T36 Edith Wood
Working in the paper industry
- 49 T37 Mrs Doris Hibbert
- 50 T38 Edwin Longworth
Family history and working in textile mills
- 51 T39 Lorna McIntosh
- 52 T40

- 53 T41 James Davenport
Working at Fletcher Bank Quarry and Farming
- 55 T42 Elizabeth Haworth
Evacuee from the Channel Islands during World War 2
- 56 T43 Frank Woods
Memories of Edenfield
- 57 T44 Dorothy Moss
Moving to Ramsbottom and starting the Ramsbottom
Heritage Society
- 58 T45 John Maude
Childhood in Bolton and Ramsbottom memories
- 59 T46 Bill Bennion
Moving to Ramsbottom as an evacuee and Ramsbottom
Library Service
- 60 T47 Barbara Southern
Childhood play, teenage leisure and pantomimes
- 61 T48 Eddy Chatwood
Childhood memories of Ramsbottom
- 62 T49 Violet Gregg
St Andrew's school, Peel Bridge Mill and Family life
- 63 T50 Leslie Richard Norris

Ramsbottom Theatre Royal and Summerseat Players

64 T51 Dorothy O'Reilly and Emily Bellenes

Memories of Ramsbottom

65 T52 Brian Farlow

Stained Glass window in Ramsbottom Library

66 T53 Denis Frearson

Working in the wire industry and starting a business

67 T54 Frank Richardson

68 T55 Norma Mills

Memories of grandmother living in Nuttall village

69 T56 Phillip Dunne

Turnbull and Stockdale and living in Edenfield

70 T57 Geraldine Mercer

Memories of Crow Lane

71 T58 Richard, Irene and Frank Hall

Ramsbottom Memories from 1928

72 T59 Tony Ashworth

Memories of Crow Lane and St Paul's school

73 T60 Jack Isherwood

Memories of Crow Lane

- 74 T61 Doreen and Fred Bardsley
Memories of Crow Lane
- 75 T62 Florence Nadin
Childhood memories and work
- 76 T63 Derek and Zena Middleton
Teaching in Ramsbottom
- 77 T64 Muriel Clark
Memories of Ramsbottom from 1928
- 78 T65 Barbara Jones and Alan Richardson
Crow Lane Memories
- 79 T66 Raymond Wilcox
Farming and Agricultural Practices
- 80 T67 James E Isherwood
Village Life Memories

T01a Mrs Florence Fullard

Mills between Summerseat and Stubbins

Born - Unknown

Recorded 1987 – 1988 by Dorothy Moss

Length 00:31:54

Summary of "Part and Parcel" by Florence Fullard

- The narrative reflects on life in Summerseat and Ramsbottom from 1929 to 1939.
- Describes the hard work in cotton mills, long hours, and the community's reliance on these industries.
- Highlights various mills, their products, and the impact of the river on the village.
- Mentions significant places of worship and their roles in the community.
- Concludes with the decline of mills post-World War II and the changes in village life.

T01b Mrs Florence Scholes

Local Hospitals

Recorded 1987 – 1988 by Dorothy Moss

Length 00:28:34

Summary of Bury's Medical Heritage

- The document explores the history of hospitals in Bury, including Fairfield Hospital, Bury Infirmary, and Florence Nightingale Hospital.
- Fairfield Hospital began as the Bury Union Workhouse in 1857, evolving through various expansions and uses, including a military hospital during WWI.
- Bury Infirmary opened in 1882, later becoming part of the NHS in 1948, with significant expansions over the years.
- The narrative highlights the transformation of healthcare facilities and their roles in the community from the 19th century to the present.

T02 Mr Charles Hall

Life in Ramsbottom from 1902

Recorded Oct-87

Length 00:37:44

- Charles recounts life in Tory Town, starting in 1902.
- His father, a sculptor, suffered health issues, leading to financial struggles.
- Charles attended Hazlehurst Council School, facing challenges due to vision problems.
- He began working in a cotton mill at age 12, earning minimal wages.
- The narrative includes experiences during WWI, including food scarcity and air raids.
- Post-war, he transitioned to insurance work and later served in Austria during the occupation.
- The speaker reflects on changes in local architecture and community life over the years.

T03 Mrs Ellen Mills

A 93 year old resident shares memories of her life

Recorded 1987-88

Length 00:38:34

- A 93-year-old resident of Ramsbottom, shares memories of her life.
- Childhood: Attended Holcombe School, participated in church choir, and played traditional games like hopscotch and skipping.
- Family: Came from a large family with five sisters and three brothers; recalls limited toys and Christmas gifts.
- Work: Worked in a weaving shed, enjoyed it, but had to leave due to family pressures.
- Life Changes: Discusses the evolution of household chores, cooking, and the impact of both World Wars on her life.

T04a Mr Joe Barlow

Memories of father and shops

Born Unknown

Recorded Sep-87 by Dorothy and David Moss

Length 00:46:42

- The conversation revolves around historical events related to a cotton mill and local families.
- shares memories of their father and the mill's operations, including a fire incident in 1873.
- Discussion includes local geography, community activities, and the transition from traditional to modern practices.
- The speakers reminisce about local entertainment, including concert parties and amateur dramatics.
- Personal anecdotes about childhood activities, family connections, and local history are shared throughout the dialogue.

T05 Mr Harry Archerly

Work conditions in Ramsbottom and Prestwich

Recorded 1987/88

Length 00:47:02

- The conversation involves two speakers discussing local history and personal experiences in Ramsbottom and Prestwich.
- Speaker 1 shares memories of engineering, local disasters, and wartime experiences.
- They reflect on changes in work conditions and community life over the years.
- The discussion touches on the impact of wars, the importance of unions, and the evolution of building standards.
- Personal anecdotes highlight family life, community values, and the contrast between past and present societal norms.

T06 Clara Booth

Memories from 1907 onwards

Recorded 1987/88

Length 00:22:13

- **Earliest Memories:** Speaker recalls starting school at age four and lessons involving a Jersey cow.
- **Strict Family:** Describes a strict upbringing and early work experience at age twelve in a weaving mill.
- **Girl Guides:** Enjoyed time in Girl Guides, camping in Derbyshire.
- **Work and Life:** Worked hard, shared wages with family, and enjoyed simple pleasures like trips to Blackpool.
- **Community Changes:** Discusses local shops, libraries, and the impact of historical events on the community.

T07 Mrs Elsie Baker

School at Holcombe and general memories

Recorded 13/01/1988

Length 00:41:12

Name: Elsie Baker (maiden name Starkey)

- Background: Born in Ramsbottom, oldest of four sisters.
- Education: Attended Holcombe school until age 14.
- Work: Started working at BDA warehouse at age 14, doing silking.
- Family Life: Describes mother's cooking and family dynamics after her mother's death.
- Community: Participated in church activities, local galas, and Sunday school.
- Childhood Memories: Remembers playing outdoors, winter activities, and local traditions.

T08 Mrs Amy Greenhalgh

Childhood in Ramsbottom

Recorded 17/01/1988

Length 00:46:33

- Speaker reminisces about childhood in Ramsbottom, detailing local shops and community life.
- Describes various shops, including grocery and chip shops, and the market scene.
- Mentions school experiences, including teachers and daily routines.
- Discusses leisure activities, such as playing games and attending the cinema.
- Shares anecdotes about family life, including parents' work in cotton mills and community events.
- Highlights the impact of historical events, like World War I, on local life.

T09 Frank Galpin

Memories of Ramsbottom

Recorded 1988

Length 01:45:50

- Discussion about a Catholic marriage around 1928, prior to the Great Depression.
- Speaker reminisces about attending St. Joseph's school with 120 pupils.
- Mentions unemployment issues and a failed investment in bleachworks.
- Describes family visits to a shabby street in Bolton and the decline of big houses.
- Reflects on personal experiences during the Second World War and working in textile warehouses.
- Touches on social issues, including means testing and family dynamics during tough times.

T10 Wilfred Beswick JP

Growing up around Bye Road, Shuttleworth

Recorded 23/08/1988

Length 00:15:13

- Bye Road in the 1920s-30s was bustling with residential and business activity.
- Key establishments included the local Co-op, post office, chip shop, and Mill Inn.
- St. John's Church, built in 1845, was central to village life.
- The local bleach works provided employment but is now derelict.
- The speaker has a long history with St. John's Church and local industry, including a 47-year career at Turnbull Stockdale.
- The transition from block printing to modern methods is noted, with a focus on the craftsmanship of block printing.

T11 Mrs Constance Whittam

Connection to the Grant Family

Recorded 17/10/1990

Length 00:09:34

- Background: Connected to the Grant family, instrumental in Ramsbottom's history.
- Family History:
- Ancestors founded William Grant and Sons.
- Notable relatives include the Charitable Brothers, featured in Dickens' .
- Remembers family connections and historical homes in Ramsbottom.
- Reflects on her family's legacy and contributions to the community.

T12 Eric Quinn

Evacuation from Manchester to Ramsbottom during World War 2

Recorded 1989

Length 00:57:45

- The speaker recounts their evacuation from Manchester to Ramsbottom during WWII.
- They were initially sent to a council house in Newton Heath.
- The speaker and their siblings were separated from friends and placed in different schools.
- They describe their journey on a steam train and arrival in Ramsbottom.
- The family was taken in by a local couple, referred to as Aunt Linda and Uncle.
- The speaker shares experiences of adapting to rural life, school, and community events during the war.

T13 Mrs P Rodwell

Hosting evacuees during World War 2

Recorded 21/08/1989

Length 00:12:00

- A family sought shelter during wartime, leading to a temporary stay with another family.
- The host family had two children and made arrangements for the guests.
- The guests stayed for about 18 months, facing challenges like bombings in London.
- The host provided food and care, sharing experiences of rationing and daily life.
- The conversation reflects on the differences between city and country living, as well as the impact of war on families.

T14

Extracts from Ramsbottom School Logbook (1939-1946)

Recorded Date unknown

Length 00:14:58

- School Closure: Closed on August 31, 1939; reopened on September 18, 1939.
- Shift System: Implemented two-shift system for Ramsbottom and Manchester children.
- Wartime Activities: Fundraising events like War Weapons Week and Warships Week raised significant amounts.
- Inspections: Regular inspections by school managers and health officials.
- End of War: Celebrated the end of WWII with school closures on May 8-9, 1945.
- Post-War Changes: Swimming instruction resumed in 1946; new headmaster appointed in 1947.

T15 Mrs Edith Duckworth

Memories from 1923 onwards

Born 20/04/1923

Recorded 26/08/1997

Length 00:18:31

- Birth: April 20, 1923, at Nowsmont Lane.
- Family: Grew up with parents and older sister, Anna.
- Living Conditions: Lived in a one up and down cottage with shared sanitation and basic amenities.
- Education: Attended St Paul's Day School; experienced strict teachers.
- Work: Started working at Shepherds, then Pollets, and later in munitions during WWII.
- War Impact: Experienced air raid warnings and community gatherings; faced rationing and limited resources.
- Health: Hospitalized for scarlet fever at age seven.

T16 Mr Thomas Wightman

Memories from 1915 onwards

Born 19/01/1915

Recorded 08/09/1997

Length 01:31:31

- Birth: January 19, 1915, in Kent
- Childhood: Moved to Summerseat until age 17; attended Summerseat School.
- Career: Started as a storekeeper in a chemical works, later worked in various roles including welding and cutting.
- Military Service: Served in the Royal Engineers for six years during WWII, involved in mine operations.
- Post-War: Worked in the textile industry, adapting to changes in technology and materials until retirement in 1977.

T17 Margaret Nolan

Memories of Ramsbottom from 1911

Born 01/07/1911

Recorded 01/10/1997

Length 02:15:13

- George Pickup's Family: Mention of three brothers and a sister, with the sister working in a dairy and singing.
- Weekly Routine: Sister walks to Ramsbottom and visits the narrator's house for rest.
- Childhood Memories: Narrator recalls family outings and saving money for holidays.
- Education: Attended school until age 14, with few students advancing to the convent.
- Theatre Experiences: Enjoyed amateur productions at local theatres, including operatic performances.
- Weaving Experience: Learned weaving from a relative, faced challenges with heavy tasks and machinery.

T18 Mrs Edith Robinson

Memories of Edenfield

Born 10/09/1907

Recorded 15/04/1996

Length 01:16:49

- Discussion of local sports and children's games, not formal sports like cricket or football.
- Mention of Dr. Deans and his partnership, followed by Dr. Crompton and Dr. Struthers taking over practices.
- Limited access to music and concerts due to transportation restrictions in Ramsbottom.
- Description of the delivery of medicines via tram and train.
- Schooling details, including attending Stubbins School and taking school certificates before leaving at age 16.

T19 George and Margaret Kay

Memories of Stubbins Lane, visit of King George and general

Born – George Kay 20/10/1916 - Margaret Westwell 23/03/1916

Recorded 27/11/1997

Length 01:25:10

- Participants discuss various locations and memories in Manchester.
- Mention of historical buildings and offices still in use.
- Discussion about local shops and changes in the area over time.
- References to personal experiences during Christmas celebrations.
- Conversations about family members and their pasts, including military service.
- • discuss experiences post-war, including jobs and working for the gas board., collecting payments and dealing with gas cut-offs due to unpaid bills.
- Introduction of new tariffs made gas more affordable, leading to increased usage.
- Challenges faced included managing customer debts and the emotional toll of cutting off services.

T20 Jim Welding

Early Life and Manager at Ocean Chemicals

Recorded 06/12/1978 NWSA

Length 01:01:47

- The speaker discusses their upbringing in Saint Helens, where their father was a miner and mother assisted doctors.
- They describe early work experiences, including carrying glass cylinders and working in a glass factory.
- The speaker recounts a significant injury from a fall, leading to a long recovery.
- They later transitioned to the chemical industry, detailing processes for producing sodium cyanide and caustic soda.
- Safety measures and workplace incidents, including explosions and handling hazardous materials, are also mentioned.

T21 Mrs Doris Hillary

Memories of Edenfield and running a butcher shop

Born 23/09/1915

Recorded 01/03/1998

Length 00:15:47

- Doris Greenwood was born in 1915 in Edenfield.
- During WWI, her father joined the forces, leading her and her mother to live with her grandparents.
- The family operated butcher shops, with her grandfather purchasing cattle for supply.
- Doris recalls the challenges of running a butcher shop, including meat delivery and home orders.
- She shares memories of church activities, Sunday school, and community events, highlighting the importance of family and tradition.

T22 Mr Keith Bradbury

Life in Edenfield in the 1960s and 70s

Born 16/11/1928

Recorded 28/05/1998 Ian Summer

Length 00:58:51

- Discussion of events in Edenfield during the late 1950s to 1970s, including lack of significant festivals.
- Mention of local businesses, including a garage and a butcher's shop.
- Personal anecdotes about community activities, such as running and school events.
- Reflections on changes in community involvement and church attendance over the years.
- Description of local pubs and social gatherings, highlighting the village's social history.

T23 Jennie Johns

Working in the mills of Ramsbottom

Born 06/01/1916

Recorded 16/12/1997

Length 01:09:14

- Interviewee: Jenny, born at Bolton Street, Ramsbottom.
- Family: One sister, Bessie (83), and Freda (61).
- Work History: Started weaving at 14, worked at various mills including Rose Mill and Horn Mill until 1945, then moved to wireworks until 1976.
- Work Environment: Predominantly women workers; men held supervisory roles.
- Health & Safety: Some accidents reported; no significant health issues.
- Post-War: Mills struggled to recover after WWII; many closed down.

T24 Alice O'Donnell

General memories of Ramsbottom

Born 29/03/1909

Recorded 16/12/1998

Length 01:32:40

- Speaker 2 has one son, Phillip, who lives on the Isle of Wight and is returning home for Christmas.
- Speaker 2 reminisces about childhood activities, including walks and school experiences.
- Discusses family dynamics, including siblings and their roles.
- Mentions working in a towel mill and learning skills like weaving.
- Reflects on community activities, church attendance, and the impact of the Second World War on family life.

T25 Mrs Marion Beech

Born 16/03/1927

Recorded 16/02/1999

Length 00:30:24

Summary of Marion Beach's Experience at Porrits Mill

- Marion Beach (formerly Poole) began working at Porrits in 1941 at age 14.
- She started with "reaching in," preparing warps for weaving.
- Worked hours: 4 AM to 5 PM (14-15 years old), with wages starting at 16 shillings and increasing to 18 shillings.
- Transitioned to weaving after two years, learning various techniques and working with different materials.
- Described a supportive community atmosphere among workers.
- Experienced challenges like broken ends and loom jams but found the work enjoyable.
- Speaker recounts over 30 years of experience as a supervisor for projects.
- Apprenticed with J&A Wessex, involved in painting factories and houses.
- Discusses Colonel Porritt's contributions to the National Trust and personal anecdotes from WWII.

- Describes the challenges of managing maintenance painters across multiple factories.
- Shares experiences with various painting techniques and materials, including flock paper and fireproof paint.
- Reflects on personal tragedies and the supportive nature of the company during difficult times.

Summary of Marion Poole's Life

- Name: Marion Poole
- Birth: March 16, 1927
- Family: Two sisters (Freda, Hilda) and one brother (Harold); parents worked in local mills.
- Childhood: Lived in a farmhouse without modern amenities; enjoyed playing outdoors and attending Stubbins Council School.
- Work: Started at Porrits Mill, transitioned to weaving, and worked in various mills until retirement at 60.
- War Experience: Experienced bombings during WWII; family relocated after their home was damaged.
- Legacy: Cherished memories of a simple, happy childhood.

T26 Mrs Irene Green and Dorothy Farnell

St Paul's school , work and community

Born – Dorothy 06/05/1921

Recorded 05/07/1999

Length 00:45:55

- Speakers: Irene and Dorothy, cousins from Ramsbottom.
- Childhood Memories:
 - o Born at 5 Carr Street, Ramsbottom.
 - o Family history includes sweet-making and motorbike repairs. Descriptions of living conditions, schools, and local shops.
- School Experiences:
 - o Attended St. Paul's School with various teachers.
 - o Shared anecdotes about friends and school activities.
- Community Life: Mention of local events, markets, and family traditions.
- Work History: Jobs in mills and shops, reflecting on early work experiences.

T27 Frank Warwick Hall

Life in Ramsbottom Theatres

Born 22/02/1920 Ramsbottom

Recorded 08/11/1999

Length 01:11:00

- The speaker reflects on various experiences in a bar and theatre settings.
- Mentions a shift in entertainment from live shows to radio in the 1930s.
- Discusses personal performances and the evolution of local theatre.
- Highlights a specific incident involving a complaint about a song during a performance.
- Notes the presence of family connections and their impact on personal history.

T28 Harry Hoyle

Childhood memories, education and work

Recorded 05/07/1999

Length 01:29:40

- Speaker 2 reflects on their mother's career as a hairdresser and her learning experiences.
- Discusses family life, including childhood memories and work experiences.
- Mentions various camps visited with children and their involvement in sports, particularly cricket.
- Describes educational experiences, including technical school and practical lessons.
- Talks about work in construction and the introduction of new techniques and equipment.
- Shares experiences with local hospitals and community interactions.

T29 Margaret Hammersley

Childhood, School, and community life

Born 08/05/1925

Recorded 18/01/2001

Length 01:29:22

- The conversation reflects on nostalgic memories of childhood, school, and community life.
- Participants discuss experiences in church, local events, and social gatherings.
- They reminisce about the changes in society, education, and family traditions over the years.
- Topics include local shops, wartime experiences, and the evolution of community interactions.
- The dialogue highlights the importance of family, friendships, and the impact of historical events on their lives.

T30 Miss Joan Barcroft

Hospital, work conditions and wartime

Born 14/06/1933

Recorded 24/01/2001

Length 00:38:33

- Speaker recalls a hospital experience, feeling lonely and scared post-operation.
- Mentions lack of visitors and a nurse's comforting presence.
- Discusses changes in work conditions and safety improvements over time.
- Remembers childhood walks and community interactions with neighbours.
- Reflects on wartime experiences, including bombings and school disruptions.
- Describes the labour-intensive process of laundry in the past.
- Notes the impact of shortages during wartime and community support.

T31 Jack Holden

St Paul's School, work in mills, and evacuees

Born – 12/12/1927

Recorded 07/03/2001

Length 01:20:06

- Mr. Holden was born in December 1927 in Ramsbottom.
- His parents were Annie (a weaver) and Samuel Holden (a warehouseman).
- Described childhood experiences, including playing in local areas and attending Saint Paul's school.
- Discussed family history, work in cotton mills, and the impact of the Great Depression.
- Mentioned involvement in sports and local community activities, including Sunday school pantomimes.
- War Era: Recalled the arrival of evacuees during WWII and military presence in the area.
- Schooling: Attended Peel Brow school, described daily routines and inspections.
- Community Activities: Mentioned local fairs and childhood pranks during the blackout.

T32 John Lomax

Early life and work experiences in mills

Born 11/12/1921

Recorded 02/05/2001

Length 01:26:10

- John Lomax, born in 1921, shares his early life and work experiences.
- Attended Peel Brow School and started working at a young age.
- Worked in various textile mills, including bleach works and weaving.
- Describes the labour conditions and machinery used in the mills.
- Discusses the impact of World War II on the workforce and his eventual enlistment in the RAF.
- Mentions the transition to modern looms and changes in the industry.
- Reflects on community life and the importance of steady employment in the mills.

T33 Brian Lamb

Working at Porritts retiring as weaving manager

Born 19/06/1935

Recorded 26/04/2001

Length 00:45:30

- Brian Lamb began his education at Peel Brow School and started working at Porritts as a warehouse boy at age 15 in 1950.
- He worked in various roles, including warehouse, felting room, and weaving shed. Transitioned to tackling and later became a supervisor and weaving manager. Experienced the shift from cotton to synthetic fabrics in the 1970s.
- Retired as weaving manager, overseeing health and safety and ordering parts for looms.
- Discussion on the responsibilities and experiences of a weaving manager.
- Emphasis on the importance of handling people and understanding job requirements. Challenges faced in making redundancies and managing staff.
- Overview of the weaving department structure and operations. Mention of company changes, including management and social activities.
- Insights into employee benefits, including pension and share schemes.
- Reflections on workplace culture and the evolution of the canteen services.

T34 Cyril Davenport

Started work at Porritts 1939 and stayed for 50 years

Recorded 09/05/2001 - Kate Slingsby

Length 01:08:25

- Interview conducted on May 9, 2001, by Kate Slingsby.
- Cyril began working in the weaving department on August 29, 1939.
- Initially employed in the cotton side, he later moved to the warehouse due to vacancies from the war.
- Described various roles, including stitching and shipping instructions.
- Discussed workplace culture, safety measures, and changes in the industry over time.
- Noted the transition from cotton to synthetic materials and the impact of automation on jobs.

T35 Marion Beech

Working in the textile industry

Born 16/03/1927

- Marion Beach worked at Porritts 1941, initially as a marring pool.
- Learned about cotton types and weaving techniques.
- Worked full-time from age 15, earning 1-6 months a week.
- Gained skills in weaving various cotton fabrics, including vests.
- No safety measures like masks were used, leading to health concerns.
- Emphasized a strong sense of community and teamwork among mill workers.

T36 Edith Wood

Working in the paper industry

Length 00:45:33

- The conversation revolves around personal experiences and work history in the paper industry.
- Discussion includes the transition from manual processes to computer systems in sales and production.
- Mention of the company's export activities to various countries, including Europe and South Africa.
- Insights into the working conditions, including food provisions and safety measures.
- The importance of technical departments for product improvement and problem-solving in manufacturing processes.

T37 Mrs Doris Hibbert

Born 20/07/1930

Recorded 09/12/2002

Length 00:39:15

T38 Edwin Longworth

Family history and working in textile mills

Born 09/11/1915

Recorded 27/06/2001

Length 01:06:47

- The recording features Edwin Longworth discussing his family history.
- Edwin's father was involved in the Labour Party and met his mother through local connections.
- Edwin's mother worked in a weaving shed and was skilled in dressmaking.
- The family faced hardships, including the mother's death and the father's disability after World War I.
- Edwin served in the Lancashire Fusiliers during WWII and later worked in various textile mills, eventually becoming a textiles technician.

T39 Lorna McTintosh

Recorded 30/06/2001

Length 00:42:39

- Name: Laura McIntosh
- Birth: January 1, 1940, in New Church at the Valley.
- Family Background: Father worked for the gas board; essential job during WWII.
- Childhood Memories: Recollections of wartime experiences, including air raid sirens and gas masks.
- Education: Attended St. Paul's Church of England School; learned the alphabet and had a structured routine.
- Community: Described Ramsbottom as a close-knit village with a strong community spirit during and after the war.
- Changes Over Time: Noted decline in local jobs and the transformation of Ramsbottom into a more tourist-oriented area.

T40

- Discussion about the police station's relocation and issues with electricity.
- Mention of historical figures and family connections, including Harry Oldham.
- Conversations about local businesses, traffic, and community memories.
- References to specific locations and events, including a chip shop and a hotel.
- Participants share personal anecdotes and recollections from the past, highlighting community ties and changes over time.

T41 James Davenport

Working at Fletcher Bank Quarry and Farming

Born 12/02/1914

Recorded 01/03/2005

Length 00:47:23

- Discussion revolves around quarrying work in the 1930s, specifically at Fletcher Bank Quarry.
- Participants share experiences of quarrying, including methods and tools used.
- Mention of coal mining background and transition to quarry work.
- Conversations about local history, including bombings during WWII and farming experiences.
- Details on dairy farming, cattle management, and milk delivery practices.
- Personal anecdotes about living conditions and community interactions in the area.

Summary of Farming Discussion

- The conversation revolves around the acquisition and management of three farms, including Carr Bank Farm.
- The farms primarily operated as dairy farms, delivering milk and eggs.
- The participants discuss the construction of a

bungalow and the use of local builders.

- They mention the challenges of farming in the 1960s, including land acquisition and livestock management.
- The discussion touches on the use of artificial insemination for cattle and the impact of wartime rationing on farming practices.
- The conversation revolves around personal experiences during and after the war.
- Discussion includes staying with family, farming, and milk delivery.
- Mentions of local shops and community life, including sweet shops and post offices.
- References to land ownership and agricultural practices.
- Conversations about animals, specifically pigs, and their management.
- Nostalgic reflections on childhood and community interactions in the 1940s and 1950s.

T42 Elizabeth Haworth

Evacuee from the Channel Islands during World War 2

Born 1929

Recorded 30/06/2001

Length 00:44:12

- Born: 1929, Channel Islands
- Evacuation: Moved to Weymouth as an evacuee before German occupation.
- Journey: Travelled by boat with around 200 children, carrying limited belongings.
- Settling: Initially stayed in schools, later moved to Burnley and Ramsbottom.
- Experience: Faced homesickness but found the adventure exciting; adapted to new surroundings.
- Post-War Life: Worked in a café, later in a mill, and reflected on changes in Ramsbottom over the years.

T43 Frank Woods

Memories of Edenfield

Born August 1923

Recorded 30/06/2001

Length 00:25:44

- Birth: August 1923, born in Enfield Police Station.
- Family Background: Father was a policeman; family lived in the police station.
- Childhood: Described small rooms, a cellar used as a jail, and basic living conditions.
- Education: Attended Enfield School; strict teachers and corporal punishment were common.
- Games: Played cricket, football, and marbles.
- Work: First job in block printing; suffered from dermatitis.
- Health Care: Pre-NHS, medical care required payment; home remedies were used.

T44 Dorothy Moss

Moving to Ramsbottom and starting the Ramsbottom Heritage Society

Born 03/09/1929

Recorded 30/06/2001

Length 00:21:54

- Background: Dorothy Moss, born in London in 1929, moved to Ramsbottom in 1966 due to her husband's job change.
- Community Involvement: Joined local groups like the Women's Institute, which helped her build friendships and confidence.
- Industry Changes: Discussed the decline of traditional mills and the rise of new industries, including transport and carpet manufacturing.
- Heritage Society: Co-founded the Ramsbottom Heritage Society in 1987, focusing on preserving local history and engaging the community.
- Current Challenges: Faces difficulties in recruiting volunteers and maintaining visitor interest in the heritage centre.

T45 John Maude

Childhood in Bolton and Ramsbottom memories

Born 1925

Recorded 30/06/2001

Length 00:26:50

T46 Bill Bennion

Moving to Ramsbottom as an evacuee and Ramsbottom Library Service

Born 26/05/1933

Recorded 23/07/2001

Length 01:02:25

- The transcript discusses the experiences of a pupil from a Manchester Catholic school during WWII.
- Evacuation to Ramsbottom involved boarding with local families.
- The school had a strict discipline system, including corporal punishment.
- The impact of the war was felt through air raid precautions and community involvement.
- Post-war, the pupil transitioned to a scholarship and later worked in libraries, witnessing significant changes in library services and community development over the years.

T47 Barbara Southern

Childhood play, teenage leisure and pantomimes

Born 12/07/1944

Recorded 20/06/2006

Length 00:21:38

- Personal Background: Barbara Southern, born on July 12, 1944, has lived in Ramsbottom her entire life.
- Education: Attended Saint Paul's School and Peel Brow.
- Work History: Started working at Shepherd's, earning £2.10 weekly.
- Childhood Memories: Remembers local cinemas, Sunday school, and community events.
- Living Conditions: Describes a childhood home without modern amenities, including a tin bath and outdoor toilet.
- Community Life: Engaged in local activities, including playing in the streets and attending pantomimes.

T48 Eddy Chatwood

Childhood memories of Ramsbottom

Born 06/10/1946

Recorded 20/06/2006

Length 00:07:05

- Eddie Chatwood, born in 1946, reminisces about his childhood in Ramsbottom.
- Unique local shops included Lumix ice cream, Buckle Banks Chip shop, and Vic Normans bicycle shop.
- Streets were cobbled, and horse-drawn carts were common for deliveries.
- Shared communal toilets and gas lights were part of living conditions.
- Sounds of industry, like looms and railway wagons, were familiar.
- Bathing involved a galvanized tin bath heated by a fire.
- Community life involved walking paths to Ramsbottom, now overgrown.

T49 Violet Gregg

St Andrew's school, Peel Bridge Mill and Family life

Born 15/07/1907

Recorded 23/06/2006

Length 00:42:00

- Birth and Early Life: Born in Ramsbottom; attended St Andrew's School.
- Work History: Started working at Peel Bridge Mill at age 12; married at 25.
- Family: First marriage in 1932; had three children; second marriage lasted 4-5 years.
- World War Experiences: Witnessed Zeppelin raids; dealt with rationing and wartime hardships.
- Social Life: Limited outings; enjoyed trips to Ilfracombe and Loch Lomond; attended cinema occasionally.
- Community Involvement: Grew vegetables for local vicars; engaged with church community.

T50 Leslie Richard Norris

**Ramsbottom Theatre Royal and Summerseat
Players**

Born 07/09/1931

Recorded 05/03/2006

Length 00:58:45

T51 Dorothy O'Reilly and Emily Bellenes

Memories of Ramsbottom

Born - Unknown

Recorded 05/03/2006

Length 00:20:35

- o Personal backgrounds: Birth years (1921, 1924), family occupations (stone mason, part-time work).
- o Childhood memories: Swing ports at Grand Grand Tower, family outings, and local farms selling ice cream.
- o Work experiences: Various jobs including box works, domestic work in hospitals, and weaving.
- o Discussion of local history and changes in the community over time.

T52 Brian Farlow

Stained Glass window in Ramsbottom Library

Born 1935

Recorded 05/03/2006

Length 01:08:59

- **Background:** Brian Farlow, born in 1935 in Appleton, shares his upbringing with a housewife mother and a father who worked at Shell BP.
- **Childhood:** He learned knitting and writing from his mother during WWII while his father was away.
- **Career:** Farlow became involved in stained glass work post-retirement, creating windows for local libraries and churches.
- **Community Engagement:** He participated in local events, including the dedication of stained glass windows for the Queen's Golden Jubilee.
- **Personal Life:** Farlow reflects on his family, hobbies, and the importance of patience in craftsmanship.

T53 Denis Frearson

Working in the wire industry and starting a business

Born Unknown

03/02/2206

00:39:19

- The speaker discusses their early career at Concordia Electric and involvement in wire manufacturing.
- They recount Mr. Engel's arrival from Germany and his contributions to the company.
- The speaker shares experiences of starting a business in 1936, challenges faced, and growth over the years.
- They highlight the importance of local workforce and relationships with clients in the radio and television industries.
- The conversation touches on the company's evolution, including changes in ownership and operations until the late 20th century.

T54 Frank Richardson

Not converted to digital

Born 07/03/1926

T55 Norma Mills

Memories of grandmother living in Nuttall village

Born 15/02/1942

Recorded 22/11/2006

Length 00:39:05

- The conversation revolves around the speaker's grandmother and her family background.
- The grandmother worked in a mill and married at 28, which was considered late for that time.
- Family members, including her father, played significant roles in her life, particularly regarding her health issues.
- The speaker mentions a trip to America and connections with relatives there.
- They also discuss the discovery of family graves in Holcomb and the history surrounding them.

T56 Phillip Dunne

Turnbull and Stockdale and living in Edenfield

Born 08/10/1953 - Edenfield

Recorded 29/08/2007

Length 01:29:10

- Residents south of Highfield Road preferred St. Phillips Church over Edenfield Parish Church.
- Before the 1967 bypass, access to Stubbins School and St. Phillips was easier via Chatterton Old Lane.
- Strong congregations existed at Stubbins Congregational Church and Edenfield Methodist Church in the late 1950s.
- Community members travelled primarily by bus and felt connected to Ramsbottom urban district.
- Family gatherings were modest, often limited to Sunday teas.
- Local industry declined over the years, with mills becoming derelict before being acquired by Peel Holdings.

T57 Geraldine Mercer

Memories of Crow Lane

Born - Unknown

10/05/2003 Kate Slingsby

00:45:36

- Discussion focused on the history of 33 Crow Lane and its occupants.
- Mrs. Mercer recalls her grandmother living there until her death on April 17, 1965.
- The house had gas heating, stone floors, and a larder with hooks for pots.
- Descriptions of the layout included two downstairs rooms (lounge and kitchen) and two upstairs bedrooms.
- Mention of a separate toilet and no formal garden or fences.
- Mrs. Mercer plans to gather more information from her sisters.

T58 Richard, Irene and Frank Hall

Ramsbottom Memories from 1928

Born - Unknown

Recorded 10/05/2003 NWSA

Length 00:40:42

- Discussion about the electrification of homes around 1928 and the introduction of radio.
- Description of bathing methods before modern bathrooms.
- Overview of local shops on Crow Lane, including a grocer and a bakery known for their potato pies.
- Mention of a police station and its layout, including living quarters and cells.
- Recollection of school experiences, teachers, and events like Empire Day.
- Insights into community activities, including amateur dramatics and local bands.

T59 Tony Ashworth

Memories of Crow Lane and St Paul's school

Born 1978

Recorded 10/05/2003 NWSA

Length 00:12:27

- Birth Year: 1978; attended school from age 4.
- Teachers: Notable teachers included Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Ramsden, and Mrs. Isherwood.
- School Size: Approximately 80-90 pupils, with 84 at the time of his departure.
- School Closure: The school is closing at the end of the term, causing community sadness.
- Future Plans: Potential conversion of the school into communal living quarters for local residents.
- Community Changes: Notable decline in neighbourhood engagement and increase in traffic issues over the years.

T60 Jack Isherwood

Memories of Crow Lane

Born 11/11/1932 Ramsbottom

Recorded 10/05/2003 NWSA

Length 00:17:12

- Birth Information: Jack was born on November 11, 1932, at 8 King Street.
- Family: He has three older sisters; only Alice is still living.
- School Memories: Attended Crow Lane school from ages 4 to 13, recalling plays and strict teachers.
- Community: Described local shops, street traders, and the police presence.
- Childhood Activities: Played in parks and around the railway sidings.
- Historical Context: Mentioned the impact of WWII on school life, including gas masks.

T61 Doreen and Fred Bardsley

Memories of Crow Lane

Born 1928 and 1933 in Ramsbottom

Recorded 10/05/2003

Length 00:31:38

- Participants: Doreen Bardsley and Fred Bardsley
- Birthplaces: Doreen - Silver Street, Ramsbottom; Fred - Peel St, Ramsbottom
- Childhood Memories:
 - o Lived on Crow Lane, near a cook shop selling potato pies.
 - o Attended school with strict discipline and memorable plays.
 - o Described school facilities, including classrooms with fireplaces and outdoor toilets.
- Community Life:
 - o Engaged in games like marbles and roller skating.
 - o Noted changes in Crow Lane over the years, including the loss of local shops and community spaces.

T62 Florence Nadin

Childhood memories and work

Born 10/12/1929 Bury

Recorded 15/07/2007 NWSA

Length 00:32:52

Summary of Document

- The speaker recalls experiences from their childhood, including walking to school and shopping in Ramsbottom during the war years.
- They mention limited food variety but do not recall hunger.
- The community spirit was perceived as better, with people being happier and less focused on money.
- The speaker worked in various jobs, including at a towel mill, and noted the lack of health and safety measures in the workplace.
- They reflect on changes in the local area, including buildings that have been demolished.

T63 Derek and Zena Middleton

Teaching in Ramsbottom

Born Derek 12/03/1932 Bury

Recorded 15/07/2007 NWSA

Length 00:53:07

- Birth Year: Derek was born in 1932 and has lived in the area all his life.
- Education: Attended Hazelhurst primary school, then grammar school until age 18.
- Career: Served in the national service for two years, then attended Chester College.
- Community Changes: Discussed changes in Ramsbottom, including the decline of local shops and the impact of traffic.
- Church Influence: Noted the decline in church attendance and community events over the years.

T64 Muriel Clark

Memories of Ramsbottom from 1928

Born 30/04/1928 Ramsbottom

Recorded 15/07/2007 NWSA

Length 00:32:49

- Discussion about the wire works and its workforce during the war.
- Mention of local churches and their significance in Ramsbottom life.
- Reference to historical buildings, including the Empire Theatre and Peel Tower.
- Personal anecdotes about childhood experiences and local events.
- Insights into the discipline and schooling of the past.
- Mention of the Ramsbottom train station and its changes over time.

T65 Barbara Jones and Alan Richardson

Crow Lane Memories

Born Alan 1927 in Bury, Barbara 1931 in Ramsbottom

Recorded 10/05/2003 NWSA

Length 00:33:37

- **Community:** Crow Lane was a close-knit community where neighbours helped each other.
- **Shops:** There were few shops, including an off-licence that struggled to thrive.
- **Childhood:** Children played together and attended a nearby school.
- **War Impact:** The onset of war affected the community, with soldiers departing for service.
- **Shop Operations:** A family-run shop sold various goods, including groceries and medicines, with items weighed out for customers.

T66 Raymond Wilcox

Farming and Agricultural Practices

Born 22/06/1939 Bury General Hospital

Recorded 12/01/2009 Ian Summer

Length 01:23:44

- Discussion on managing livestock and land fertility.
- Historical context of farming practices, including manure and modern fertilizers.
- Mention of social events like farmers' balls in Bury.
- Transition from horse-drawn to tractor farming.
- Reference to the Lancaster bypass and its impact on local farming.
- Education background includes technical college and night schooling in machinery maintenance.
- Notable advancements in veterinary practices, including animal transplants and vaccine development.

T67 James E Isherwood

Village Life Memories

Born 25/09/1938 Ramsbottom

Recorded 01/02/2011 Geoff Aston

Length 00:27:54

- The speaker recalls living in a stone terraced house on Sterling Street with no electricity, only gas lighting.
- Describes the layout of the house, including a solid back door and outside toilets.
- Remembers community activities, such as playing in the "big house" and seasonal games like sledging and kite making.
- Mentions local shops and the presence of a chemical factory that produced cyanide.
- Reflects on childhood recreation, including stamp collecting and bonfire nights with community gatherings.