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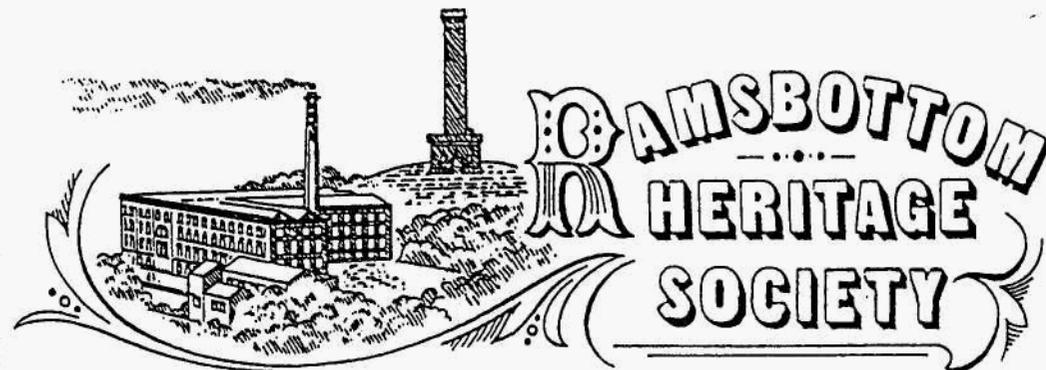
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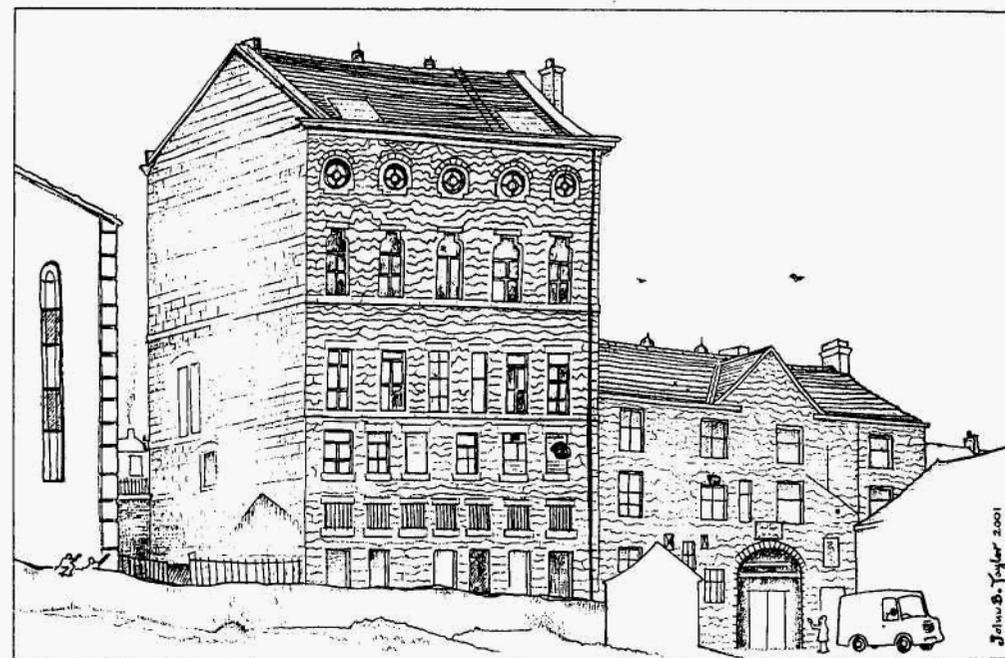
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NEWS MAGAZINE

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY
THE HERITAGE CENTRE
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BLO 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

16 th Jan	Alex Walker, <i>The East Lancashire Railway, Past and Present</i>
20 th Feb	Mr and Mrs B Corbett, <i>Pilkington's Lancastrian Pottery</i> (illustrated)
20 th March	Photographic Competition + Peter Watson, <i>Medicine and Magic Part 2</i> (illustrated) Ralph Hart, <i>King Cotton</i> (illustrated)
	AGM and Members Night
19 th June	Mrs MM Gilbertson, <i>The Cotton Queens</i>
17 th July	Guided Walk to Peel Tower. Meet <i>Shoulder of Mutton</i> car park, 6-45pm
21 st Aug	Denise North, <i>Violet's Story: Part I</i>

**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, I 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 modern 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

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 Ketel*, 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 names all 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 BLO 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 20¹ 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 this¹ 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 there 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 Haltwistle, 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 Bums Club, and in May 1900, he was elected an honorary member because he was "a person distinguished in poetic and general literature and a benefactor of the club." He never failed to send "an effusion" to the annual gathering of the club known as "Bums 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.

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 19ⁱ 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 28ⁱ 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 quarrymen doing serious injury to GRANT's 'mercenary force' of agents who were in possession of the church. Ramsbottom 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. 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-19ⁱ 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 and 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 clough, 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 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.

I Ramsbottom Observer Special, 24 March 1905

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 50 feet 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 sheaf of wheat. 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 torn) 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 Wholesale Society 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 the hall. 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 Co-op 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.

Andrew Todd, 183, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom, Bury BLO 9JD

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 150th anniversary, even if it did occur in 2000! I have taken the liberty of adding a little, notable 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

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 Crowtrees 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 modern 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 J J LEWIS who proved to be a good organiser and during his time at St Paul's the 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 giddy 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 1st October Bishop David GILLET 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 is erected in memory of those who through much tribulation rested in Him whilst 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 St Paul'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 J J LEWIS, vicar 1893-1915.

More representative, 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 bom

porter of (1864) *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, an 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 72-8 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 24th May 1851, the first body to be interred in the new churchyard. Apparently he drowned.

Trade directories explain the mason s 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.

Joan Barcroft, Ashton Lodge, Ramsbottom

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.

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 CRA WSHA Ws. 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 - I 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 1961 I 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.

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 corner 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, "Tunny 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, 20, Moor Way, Hawkshaw, Bury BL8 4LF

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 this 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 OAS; tel: 0161797 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: 0161253 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.