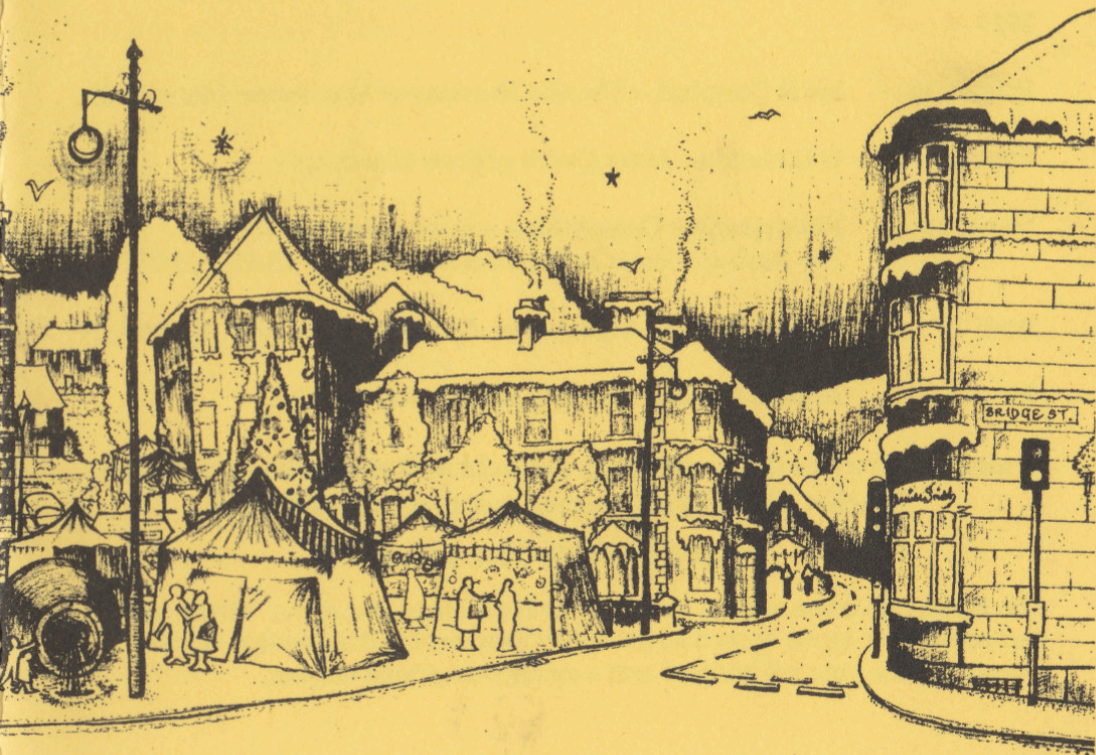


NEWS MAGAZINE

No 43 Autumn/Winter 2012

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**RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY, C/O RAMSBOTTOM LIBRARY,
CARR STREET, RAMSBOTTOM, BURY, BL0 9AE
Contact number: 01706 28 1998**

The objects of the society shall be:-

- a) To advance education of the public by creating an awareness of and interest in the study of the history and heritage of Ramsbottom (as defined by the boundaries of the pre-1974 Ramsbottom Urban District Council).
 - b) To locate relevant documents, records and artefacts. To retain, catalogue and/or copy them where possible, and to operate an information centre.
 - c) To seek to protect the heritage of Ramsbottom
-

PROGRAMME:

2012

November 21 Mrs Jean Seymour – *The Larks of Dean*

December 12 **Social Evening** – Christmas Festivities

2013

January 16 Mr H Campbell – *The IRA Bombing of Manchester* (illustrated)

February 20 G Eccleston – *Mary Queen of Scots* (illustrated)

March 20 **Photographic Competition** – judge – Andrew Todd
The Railway Comes to Ramsbottom – Twice - 1846 & 1987

April 17 Dr Paul Hindle – *Manchester, Bury & Bolton Canal* (Illustrated)

May 15 **Annual General Meeting and Members' Night**

**Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held at Ramsbottom Civic Hall,
Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30pm.**

Entry by donation, please.

The Editors welcome articles for inclusion in the News Magazine. These may be handwritten, typed or on disc (in "Word") and sent to the Heritage Society. Please include your full address and a contact telephone number.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine 43 Autumn/Winter 2012

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Cover – Market Place, Ramsbottom by the late John B Taylor

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's been a great year for the *Feel-good Factor*. We have had The Queen's Jubilee, the Olympics and Paralympics and, admittedly not quite on the same scale, we held the Ramsbottom Heritage Society 25th Anniversary Extravaganza on May 12th, perhaps our major success so far this year. We even had a queue at the doors when it opened at 12 noon. Nearly forty of you helped, including several very new members and your support shows just how involved we all feel in the society and how much it means to us. This time last year we asked how you would like to celebrate our Anniversary Year and at the Christmas Festivities you came up with lots of suggestions. Well, most of these have been done as requested. However there is still the Christmas celebration and I know we are in for a good time.

The new exhibition in the Heritage Gallery is *Shop Local Shop Ramsbottom - A 200 Year History* and again we have both longstanding and newer members preparing it and subsequently opening the Gallery to the public on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The system of having teams to staff the Gallery has been in operation for eighteen months now. It helps us make new friends who become ambassadors for the Heritage Society. Bridge Street shopkeepers have really welcomed posters we have produced to accompany the gallery exhibition and have placed them in their shop windows. The posters show the history of each individual building. Whilst delivering them to the shops we received the loan of a laminator to make the posters more durable, a £10 donation, a framed photograph, offers to view several sets of deeds and a tour round all four floors of 9c and 9d, Bridge Street.

Some of our activities require considerable fortitude. Producing the magazine and finding Wednesday night speakers is a continual task. The Jubilee Signs Project described elsewhere in this magazine still requires extensive work and we do not know yet if we will get Heritage Lottery Funding. This autumn it's also been back to work after a well-earned break for the archiving group and we have new volunteers to look after the artefacts and paintings. The Ramsbottom War News sold well over twelve hundred copies again this year and the team producing it started researching 1942 a couple of months ago.

Whilst our guided summer walks are not due to start again until well into 2013, we would be grateful if someone would offer to organise these. We are grateful to Linda de Ruijter who has retired from the task after many years.

All our varied activities promote the work of the Heritage Society, by researching the history of the town and bringing this new knowledge to the public. Whilst it does require commitment and a quite lot of hard work, it is good fun and is a great way for us to get to know each other. The fact that we often receive appreciative comments and enquiries, and we have had a lot of new members this year, makes it all worthwhile. So, yet again, I have the pleasure of thanking all for your involvement and for making the society the success it is.

Kate Slingsby

EMILY BADGER - AN APPRECIATION

Members living locally will be aware that the Society's monthly open meetings are publicised in advance by several means - not only by the 'What's on in Bury' quarterly programme of events of Bury Council, or by Society press release, but also by A4 sized posters strategically placed at several retail and commercial outlets around the town.

In the Society's early days the posters were hand drawn on coloured paper by David Moss, but more recently they have been computer-produced in a mix of colour and black and white by near neighbour young Emily Badger.

Emily has also devoted time to other Society activities, helping to mail Notices of AGM, and, notably, selling raffle tickets at Christmas social evenings - who could resist the appeal of a charming young lady!

Well, Emily has now left us and gone off to university to read chemistry. We thank her sincerely for her endeavours and wish her well in her studies and future career.

Joan and Tony Murphy

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY EXTRAVAGANZA - 12th MAY 2012

Held to celebrate the Society's 25th Anniversary, this event was a brilliant day out for the people of Ramsbottom and everyone else who is interested in local history', archaeology and conservation. It was held at Ramsbottom Civic Hall and there were plenty of interesting things to see and do for all age groups, including local artefacts, pictures of *Ramsbottom Then and Now*, historical photos brought to life in 3D, children's activities and demonstrations of book restoration. New issues of the Society's news magazine and the *Ramsbottom War News* were among the publications on sale at the bookstall and greetings cards specially designed for the Society by the late John B Taylor were available for the first time. Members of The Dickens Society also added to the interest and there were local history films and audio-taped memories. The talk and slide show on the origin of the railway in Ramsbottom by Andrew Todd was excellent - in fact we sat through it twice! We don't think the people of the town realise how the railway played a part in the everyday life of a small place like Ramsbottom, from the moving of coal and many other goods to the fact that it linked most of the towns in the Lancashire cricket league with most supporters travelling by train to league matches. Does anyone remember travelling in the guards' van with prams and young children?

We took some of our own old photographs of Ramsbottom to the event. These included ones of our father's shop on the corner of Nuttall Lane in the early 1900s when it had belonged to our grandfather. Others showed the floats at Ramsbottom Carnival: Carr Butchers with sheep on the back of the float (where was Health and Safety?), the BDA (Bradford Dyers Association) with all the colourful lining materials on it and also Edison's Plant Hire of Dundee Lane. How many people remember them causing havoc on Dundee Lane with the low loaders forty or so years

ago? Those were the days. John Leyland scanned most of our photos so maybe some of you will see them. They caused a lot of interest and later as we sat having a coffee, other visitors were asking to have a look. Later, we found Holcombe resident, John Ireland, sitting in a corner with the photos. He was absolutely fascinated with them, especially the ones of Holcombe Church before the lych-gate was built.

And so we came to the end of our visit and a very enjoyable day for both of us but it didn't quite finish there. One big question of the day had been, "Where is Kiln Street?" Brenda Richards had a photo of it on her stand but no one had seemed to know. We certainly didn't and although most people thought they had seen it they didn't know either. Andrew Todd even got old reference books out but still hadn't pinpointed it. When we got in the car, out came the trusty A to Z and, sure enough, there was Kiln Street. It is a side street between Dundee Lane and Garnett Street, across from Dundee United Reform Church. Not to be outdone, off we went to see it and to take a couple of photos. We also noticed that the street sign is attached to 38, Dundee Lane which is called Kiln Cottage. (We have lived on Bolton Road West all our lives and just five minutes walk away is a street we never noticed before.) Now the question is, "Why are they called Kiln Street and Kiln Cottage?" We have asked quite a few local people since and got one or two ideas but if anyone thinks they may know, please contact the Heritage Society. As the saying goes, you can learn something every day.

We thank everyone involved with the event for all the hard work they did to make it so interesting. We love our little town, which is nestled in the Rossendale Valley and, judging by our day at the Extravaganza, so do a lot more people. Well done to the Heritage Society for making everyone so welcome. Another question is, "When is their next celebration?"

Betty Chapman (nee Barcroft) and Ian Chapman (mother and son)

As part of the May 12th Extravaganza visitors were invited to choose their three favourite photographs from a selection of 50 winning entries from 25 years of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society Photographic Competition. The results were close:

1 st	<i>Peel Tower illuminated</i> by Robin Sharpies	1992
2 nd	<i>Cross Lane, Holcombe</i> by Brian Clarke	2010
3 rd	<i>Holcombe Moor</i> by John O'Connor	2008
4 th	□ <i>Ramsbottom Wharf</i> by Alice O'Brien	2007

NEWS FROM THE WEBSITE

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's website has now been active for more than twelve years, having been set up to publicise the Millennium Festival, which the Society helped to organise in 2000. During the twelve years we know that many members have been exploring its contents and that it has also been popular with a

much wider public. Since our last *News from the Website* in News Magazine number 32 (Spring 2007) an impressive amount of extra material has been added and the number of links has been increased so that it contains lots more interesting information. The site is often updated so it is well worth visiting it on a regular basis. Since 2000, the website has been expanded to include many sections: There is a calendar and news section, which publicises the latest events, a monthly meetings page with details of the upcoming meetings, a section featuring the latest exhibition at the Heritage Gallery, and a shop page, which promotes the publications for sale, and has resulted in several sales over the years, some from overseas. We have also had membership enquiries via the website from overseas, the latest from Australia. There is also research material, including the Crow Lane project, the Kibboth Crew Dig, and research into the connection between Dickens and the Cheeryble Brothers, which was featured at the 25th Anniversary Extravaganza held in May 2012. The public are also invited to submit questions, and also to answer previous questions raised. To date, over sixty questions have been asked, with several receiving answers, for which the questioners have been grateful. Have a look sometime, to see if you can answer any of the questions.

A major project in the last few years has been the addition of the first twenty five RHS news magazines which have all been scanned in. They are all available for reading and downloading. Another major project has been the scanning of over 4,000 photographs, both from the archives and the Society's annual photographic competition. These are also available on the website, searchable by the description of the photograph. There is also a link to the work performed by the archiving team, in cataloguing all the documents and artefacts, and which is held on the Bury Archives database. The website is constantly evolving, so if you have any ideas for any items that could be displayed, use the contact page or see John Leyland. The address is www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk.

RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY 2011 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Judge - Barry Aldous

Events and Daily Life

Winner: Ian Summers *Mothering Sunday* HPC-11EV-002

Buildings

Winner: Ian Summers *Rear of Horse & Jockey* HPC-11BU-003

Highly Commended: Joyce Sellers *Taken from the Bridge* HPC-11BU-013

Town and Country Landscapes

Winner: Alan Seymour *The Old Mondri Paper Mill* HPC-11TC-003

Highly Commended: Kathy Stott *Flower Beds* HPC-11TC-013

Themes

Winner: Joyce Sellers *Chocolate Festival Weekend* HPC-11TH-071 to 075 (5 photos)

Highly Commended: Brenda Richards Producing and Selling the War News

HPC-11TH-09! to 095 (5 photos)

Ian Smith Launch of the St Paul's 'Save Our Spire Campaign'

HPC-11TH-041 to 045 (5 photos)

Dickensian Trophy

Brian Clarke Image 5 from the *Peel Tower* theme

HPC-11TH-085

References are to the Photographic Competition database. All the entries from the 25 years of the competition and 2000 older photos at Bury Archives are available on the RHS website: www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk

The deadline for entries to the 2012 competition is January 31st 2013. Entry forms are available on the website. You can also collect an entry form from the Heritage Gallery when members are in attendance (see page 20 for details) or at monthly meetings.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Signs To The Past: Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Jubilee Project

The coincidence of the Society's silver jubilee this year with a certain diamond event prompted a number of us to consider ways in which we could commemorate these milestones with something tangible and of value. These sentiments coincided with a nagging concern of many Ramsbottom people that there are many unsigned footpaths, streets, alleyways and locations which do not figure on modern maps.

We all have our favourite examples - those of us involved with the archaeological dig at Kibboth Crew (and the ongoing attempt to publish our findings about this 400 year old site) are aware of the quaintly named trackway. Gutter, aka **Gutter Lane**, which runs to Kibboth Crew from Carr Street, just below the *Rose and Crown*. We now realise that this was the arterial routeway along which packhorses, and possibly carts, brought woollen cloth to and from the secluded fulling mill at Kibboth Crew. Yet no written source of recent years names this ancient thoroughfare, and there is no sign anywhere on its route. **Grant's Entry**, which runs from Bolton Street up to 'Tory Town' (Albert and Victoria Streets) is now a name known to a diminishing number of local people - we believe it took its name from Major J S W Grant, who lived at the adjacent *Spring Cottage*. Then there is **Draba Brow**, which connects Silver Street with Prince Street.

A number of buildings are fast becoming a lost memory - like **St Andrew's Presbyterian Church**, once at the top of Kay Brow, and the nearby **Primitive Methodist Chapel** at Rose Hill, opposite that historical play area, **The Green** (the Major Hotel's car park). Several churches in the town have disappeared or been converted to secular uses. The existence of the **apprentice house** at the foot of Crow Lane has perhaps understandably been banished from collective memory for over a century. Now three terraced cottages, at right angles to Crow Lane, this fascinating

building accommodated the pauper apprentices at **Ramsbottom Mill** from 1802 to the 1830s.

Localities such as **Kibboth Crew** and **Carr Fold**, both to the north of Carr Street, and now little-known, whilst the mediaeval **Gollinrod** has become subsumed in the newcomer name Red Hall, following the loss of its road signs during the construction of the M66 in the late 1970s.

To see how much popular support there might be for the erection of signs and information boards to counter this local dementia, Brenda Richards produced and distributed a survey. Around 130 returned by individuals, groups and retailers. There was a unanimous endorsement for the idea of heritage signs for old thoroughfares, and only one voice dissented from the proposal to erect information boards at the sites of historic buildings which are either disappeared or lost their original use. Many sites that we had not considered were proposed in the returns. The total number is now so large the town would be festooned with signs and boards if some pruning the list were not undertaken.

To create a shortlist and check feasibility, Brenda, Kate Slingsby and myself have visited virtually all the sites, have photographed the most promising and are currently awaiting costings. We intend to submit an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Our remit will be to preserve names and history for residents and visitors through a series of high-quality, vandal-resistant signs and boards. Ultimately, we hope to design some town trails to draw these sites together, into their historical context.

Andrew Todd

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT TURNBULL PRINTS LTD

At the Ramsbottom Heritage Society's April meeting members were invited to join a group visit to Turnbull Prints and see the exciting developments at their site in Stubbins. The company has established a 'state of the art' high-speed digital unit at Croftend Mill to complement their specialist printing operations in Thailand.

On display were traditional Turnbull fabric designs which were being prepared for an exhibition in Italy and are highly regarded by an international client base. The design development department combines traditional techniques with computer aided design (CAD) workstations. Work is also carried out to produce commissions of non-Turnbull designs. At one station samples which had been printed were being matched to the original design by checking for the correct shade and intensity of the colours. Natural fibres and those with a small percentage of man-made fibre content, e.g. 6%, can be printed on the new digital printing machine. Linen, cotton and silk have already been tried successfully. Fabric to be printed has to be carefully checked beforehand as even small faults can damage die print heads. It is then run over an applicator which gives it a coating of adhesive. This also opens up the 'pores' in the cloth to allow more dye to be absorbed. Next, the fabric runs between a roller and a belt made of silicone rubber (a material which withstands high temperatures).

Pressure is applied to the roller which causes the fabric to adhere to the belt. The belt and the fabric then pass together under the print heads which are moved across them from side to side while applying the ink. The machine's print system software interprets the data supplied by a digital file. The digital image has the data to control the output of the micro-sized droplets of ink so that image quality and colour control can be achieved. This process takes place with sixty four print heads firing the droplets of colour in a fine, carefully controlled mist. The heads move quickly, enabling production speeds of several hundred metres per hour.

The newly printed fabric is lifted off the silicone rubber belt and passes through a dryer, after which it feels stiff. The process replaces the old engraved roller and screen-printing methods. (Turnbull's beautiful hand block printing is now carried out in Thailand where labour costs make this type of production viable.)

After printing the fabric is roiled up and taken to a second machine where it goes through a steam heating process to fasten the colours. A third machine contains tanks of water in which the adhesive and a small amount of excess ink are washed out before the fabric is dried over heated rollers. Having shrunk in width during washing, the fabric is then returned to the correct proportions during a 'stentering' process. Finally, an important inspection process follows, after which the goods are cut into smaller roll sizes of fifty metres prior to packing and despatch.

We are very grateful to Turnbull Prints for arranging the Society's visit and for their considerable contribution to the 2011-12 textile printing exhibition in the Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery. We wish the company every success with the new digital printing unit.

(Turnbull Prints has its origins in the local giant that was Turnbull & Stockdale. The present company, its staff and ex-employees of both companies are justifiably proud

of their work of over 130 years in textile manufacturing and the fabrics they have produced at their Stubbins premises. A small selection from their designs was featured in the Heritage Gallery display. Turnbull & Stockdale has been the subject of two RHS news magazine articles by Clyde Tweedale: The Stockdale Saga - Issue 5 Summer 1992 and The Turnbull Tale - Issue 7 Summer 1993, and they published a 'Jubilee Brochure' in 1931 tracing and celebrating fifty years in the textile industry. Articles in recent magazines include 'Block Printing' by Mr J E Reynerd in issue number 40 and 'Items from the Archive' and 'Design and Technology' in numbers 36 and 38 respectively which feature Mr C R Eccles information from the T&S design studio.)

ROYAL MEMORIES

My earliest memory of the Royal Family is from George VI and Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1937 - not that we saw anything of the actual event but soon afterwards we visited London. I can remember the elaborate decorations at the Selfridges store

and I have been a royalist ever since. Later, whilst at school at Haslingden, I did see the King and Queen when they came to Lancashire.

In 1947, because she had a cousin living in London, my mother was able to see the procession for the Queen's wedding to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten but I was only able to watch it on the newsreels.

At last, in 1953, my sister Edna and I travelled down to London ourselves for the Queen's coronation. We left Ramsbottom by train around midnight, reaching Euston at about 8.30am on Coronation Day itself. We were too late to get a place on The Mall so we went on to Birdcage Walk where we listened to the commentary and cheered the road sweepers, the soldiers and anything that passed! In spite of the rain we had a marvellous time and cheered as loudly as we could when we eventually saw the Queen wearing her crown as she returned from the Abbey. The Queen of Tonga was a star: riding in an open carriage, oblivious of the pouring rain - no umbrella, such a happy lady. Lots of people in the crowd had periscopes so we could see what was happening. In the evening we were down at Buckingham Palace when the Royal Family came on to the balcony.

In the 1970s I went to watch the Trooping of the Colour, a magical spectacle. 1977 saw Prince Charles visiting Bury. I 'waited on' for him at a dinner at Bury Town Hall, the royal gravy pourer - and this the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee! Later in 1977 Edna and I visited London for the Silver Jubilee and once again there were huge crowds everywhere. I remember clearly that the Queen was dressed in pink and wearing a little hat decorated with bells, a tiny figure way ahead of us on the palace balcony. For her Golden Jubilee celebrations, on a beautiful day in June 2002, my husband Alan and I were in The Mall for the finale. An exciting spectacle for us was the Royal Air Force fly past with over 20 aircraft and the BA Concorde in formation with the Red Arrows display team. Then we were down The Mall to see the balcony appearance.

This year, for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee I ventured to Accrington on a really cold day to see her with the Duke of Edinburgh on the Jubilee tour. I waited for four and a half hours but it was well worth it because we were on the front row of the crowd and had such a good view of them both. "Are you feeling better, Sir? I asked the Duke. "Better than I was," he replied.

All the memories are very special but how fortunate we now are that such occasions can be watched on television as they actually take place.

God save the Queen.

Doris Hibbert

THE CENTENARY OF HOLME MILL, RAMSBOTTOM (1912 - 2012)

The mill is now owned by Cormar Carpets who, over the years, have added large extensions on to the original building. The company also trade from their other manufacturing plant at Brookhouse Mill, Greenmount.



*Cards drawn by the late John B. Taylor
and kindly donated to Ramsbottom Heritage Society for their sole use.*

Packs containing all 4 cards now on sale from the Society at £3.50.



The History Of The Holme Mill Site.

When it was first built in 1912, Holme Mill was named after the 'holm' as the land where it stands was known. It is situated in a loop of the River Irwell which originally was water meadow. Following prolonged heavy rain, the level of the river rises dramatically and the area has been subject to some spectacular flash flooding over the years. Modern flood defences seem to have prevented water from entering the mill as it used to do in the past.

In 1849 it is reported that the moorland extending south from Ramsbottom to Bolton, Bury and Rochdale was principally grazed by sheep with small dairy farms at lower levels, there being a demand for milk and butter. Down in the Irwell valley the land was suitable only for growing grass or turnips. John Grant (1775-1855) was the owner of Nuttall Hall which, until it was demolished in 1952, stood across the park from Holme Mill. He was said to run a 'most progressive' farm. This probably means he had increased his livestock, but he seems to have had a rough-and-ready way of dealing with certain matters. Reverend Hume Elliot in his book *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* which was written in 1893 but looks back to the heyday of the Grant family business at Square Mill. He mentions the holm (part of which eventually became the site of Holme Mill) and tells us:

In those days a foot-bridge over the Irwell, on the south side of the Square, connected the works with the path across the holm to Nuttall Hall One year that part of the holm opposite this foot-bridge was growing turnips, and Mr. John Grant one morning caught a young man carrying one of the tempting esculents into the works. By way of punishment, he ordered the offender to eat it on the spot. He began, but by-and-by the wheels drove very heavily, and once and again he wished to be excused. But no, the master was inexorable. He stood over him with his walking-stick until root, bulb, tops, and all had been consumed. Then, with an admonition, he sent him to his work It was a somewhat drastic chastisement, and never forgotten. For years after, even the sight of a turnip was, if possible, avoided.

After John Grant died his son William, often referred to as William Grant the nephew (1826-73) inherited the Grant estates and lived at Nuttall Hall with his wife Jane. After William's death the estates passed to his sister Isabella. She married Andrew Sherlock Lawson of Aldborough Manor, Yorkshire. When she died in 1890 the Grant Lawson estate passed to the second son Sir John Grant Lawson and then to her grandson Sir Peter Grant Lawson in 1919.

Holme Mill 1912 - 1973 Staff at Cormar Carpets, Ramsbottom Library and Bury Archive have been very helpful but we do not have enough material to construct a proper history of the mill before 1973. The Society's aim is to preserve and research the heritage of Ramsbottom, so we would welcome any documentary or photographic records which would fill the large gaps in the information below.

1912-13 The original part of Holme Mill was built, mainly in red brick on its

present site in a loop in the River Irwell. Its northern light roof is a good example of a weaving shed; looms were much heavier and created more vibration than spinning frames and weaving needed a good light, so single storey sheds were favoured. Set into its walls are two iron girders each cast with the mill's name and the date 1912 (In 1846 the railway line had divided up the land in the river's loop into two parts: the site where Holme Mill was eventually built and the area in front of Nuttall Hall which became Nuttall Park in 1928.)

1916 Holme Mill's lease sold to Messrs T H & F G Holden

1924 Holme Mill Manufacturing Company - a notice of resolution at Bury Archives (reference GRI/11/30) to appoint a liquidator and the document showing the appointment of E Wood to that position (ref GRI/11/31)

1925-59? The Rose Manufacturing Company (Ramsbottom) Ltd made a variety of cloths at Holme Mill, including winceyette, pure shirtings, cambrics, hair cords and cloths for bandages and dyeing.

1933-7 Holme Mill Manufacturing Co Ltd - receipts for their deeds (Bury Archive GRI/11/32)

1956- 66? Bury Felt Manufacturing Company. They merged with Mitchell, Ashworth & Stansfield to form Bury & Masco Industries.

1973 Holme Mill occupied by Holmbury Carpets. An earlier Holmbury advert states, "A carpet in the bedroom feels as good as a raise in wages" followed by "Holmbury Carpets - Inexpensive luxury for bedrooms". On 1st June 1973 Cormar Carpets purchased Holmbury' Carpets, production and offices from Bury and Masco Industries.

Cormar Carpets (Holme Mill) 1973 This period of Holme Mill's history was recorded in Issue 31 of the RHS News Magazine in Autumn 2006 when Cormar celebrated the company's Golden Jubilee.

RAMSBOTTOM PAPER MILL

J B Ingham & Son started to make paper here in 1857. Another paper mill was at Shuttleworth as early as 1849, registered in the names of Samuel Broadbent Ingham and James Broadbent Ingham. Their new mill at Ramsbottom was given the Excise Number 73. The company made casings and wrappings here from old bagging, jute and manila ropes. In 1872 the Inghams, trading as S B Ingham & Bros, agreed to sell their mill at Ramsbottom for £12,000 to a new public limited company which was formed to acquire it. Early that year subscriptions were invited to purchase shares in The Ramsbottom Paper Mill Co. Ltd. Prominent in the flotation were William Olive of Bury and Captain Edward Partington of Glossop, who were together involved in the substantial papermaking business of Olive & Partington at Glossop. (This business continued under that name until closure in 1950s.)

At this time wood pulp began to be used at Ramsbottom, as well as esparto straw and new rags, for making better class paper. The new company did well and before the end of the first year, machinery extensions were already under way.

Among the early shareholders were several notable local people - William Rumney of Stubbins, John Austin Porritt, James Porritt and Richard Millett Porritt, all felt cloth manufacturers of Stubbins Vale. Profits rose steadily to a level of £6,600 in 1876. Robert Skelton joined the company at its beginning when he was only 18, having worked at the nearby railway station. He became a prominent figure in the years following and a director in 1893.

Very little is known about the fate of the company in the following 20 years and in particular during the difficult period of 1883-86, but it certainly continued whilst others around it failed. In 1885 a brand new 90inch paper machine built by Smith & Law of Bury was installed. This machine continued to run for 89 years, closing for the last time in 1974. In his book *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers*, the Reverend Hume Elliot makes reference to 'the greatly extended and improved premises' of The Ramsbottom Paper Mill Co., Ltd. He goes on to say that 'their works employ 250 people and now constitute an important factor in the material wellbeing of the town'. The mill had its own railway sidings, signal box and turntable to take goods into the mill yard.

In 1895, 230 electric lights were switched on at the mill, this being the first appearance in Ramsbottom of one of the most important 20th Century inventions. The lights had taken four months to install and ranged from 16 candle power to 50 candle power (on the outside of the building) with 2 arc lights in the colour mixing department which, according to the *Ramsbottom Observer* of 26th January 1895 'gave illumination almost equal to daylight'.

Due to capital reconstruction, in 1896 it was decided to put the company into voluntary liquidation and to form a new company with exactly the same name. Edward Partington was appointed Chairman, Thomas Aitken, Deputy Chairman and Robert Skelton, Secretary. William Olive was no longer involved. Early in 1896 the Irwell & Mersey Joint Committee gave notice to the mill that pollution must be abated within two months. This situation recurred over a few years and eventually the mill had to give up the cooking of raw straw and esparto and any other material that required boiling. Expensive plant had to be put down for the pumping of the effluent. Apparently the colour of the River Irwell had varied according to the colour of paper being produced at the mill!

By 1914 Edward Partington had been knighted and shortly before his death was elevated to the peerage, taking the title 'Lord Doverdale'. Robert Skelton retired in 1919 and died in 1929. In 1921 the company reported a loss - the pulp and paper market had collapsed. The mill had mixed fortunes over the following years -- the General Strike and Coal Dispute of 1926 caused the mill to run intermittently because of irregular supplies of coal and during the 1930s there were adverse conditions with a

shortage of orders and unsatisfactory selling prices. During the years following World War II the Ramsbottom company was able to share in the better times that generally blessed the paper industry up to the signing of the European Free Trade Agreement in 1959 which opened the British market to the full force of Scandinavian competition. An advertisement for Ramsbottom Paper Mill Company Limited appears in the 1948 *Ramsbottom Official Guide* - this states they were 'manufacturers of all types of coloured papers with plain, embossed or mottled finishes'.

In 1964 the mill was sold to the Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd. during the next three years, the mill traded under the name of Holcombe Paper Mill Co. Ltd and then in 1968 became part of Trinity Paper Mills Ltd. According to an advertisement in the 1971 *Ramsbottom Official Guide*, Trinity Paper Mills Ltd, Peel Bridge, Ramsbottom (Head Office - Churchgate House, Bolton) manufactured 'all grades of paper for the corrugated carton industry'. In 1992 Danisco, a Danish Paper Packing company, took over from Trinity Paper Mills Ltd., and ten years later, in 2002, it was acquired by Mondi Packaging - an international paper and packaging group with key interests in Western Europe, Russia and South Africa.

The headlines on the front of the *Bury Times* (Ramsbottom & Tottington Edition) of 25th September 2008 was 'Paper Mill Jobs Blow'. The article went on to say that 'a historic Ramsbottom mill is facing closure which would cause the loss of 90 jobs. Crippling energy costs and other operational difficulties were blamed for the closure'. Unfortunately, during recent months, a lot of the paper mill buildings have been demolished and we can only await news of the fate of the site, the chimney and the very attractive 19th Century stone offices which have been a landmark in Ramsbottom for more than 150 years. The office building, near the chimney bears the date '1859' with a date and initials '1875 - R.P.M.' on the old engine house.

Kath Haddock

Sources:

John B. Taylor, Stories in Stone - Datestones in Ramsbottom 1991

Denis Lyddon and Peter Marshal, *Paper in Bolton 1975*

Ramsbottom Heritage Collection held at Bury Archives

Reverend Hume Elliot, The Country & Church of the Cheeryble Brothers 1893

RAMSBOTTOM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (Part 2)

Tributes have been paid this year to Mr Albert Little OBE who died aged 96 on 2nd May 2012. He was elected to RUDC in 1967 and became chairman in 1971. After the demise of the RUDC in 1974 Mr Little became the first leader of the new Bury Council in that year, holding office until 1983 and again from 1984 to 1986. He was Mayor of Bury in 1983-4 and was awarded the OBE in 1984. He was a headteacher in Bury and later in Middleton and a school governor for many years. He had served in the Royal Navy and was the President of Ramsbottom Royal British Legion. In

June 2010 he was made an honorary freeman of the borough at a ceremony in Bury Town Hall. This article is drawn from a scrapbook of news cuttings, mainly captioned photographs, found in the old Heritage Centre. It has previously provided material for an account entitled 'The Civic Year of Ramsbottom Urban District Council 1972-3' (R H S News Magazine number 37 Autumn 2009). We are again grateful to the family of Mrs Mary Mills, an RUDC's Chairman's Lady who compiled the scrapbook, for giving us permission to use it once more to research Council events just before Council reorganisation in 1974.

Cllr Ernest Barnes was the last person to wear the chain of office as Chairman of Ramsbottom Council before the 1974 council reorganisation. The chain, with the Ramsbottom crest, has recently been repaired and is often worn by the Mayor of Bury on mayoral visits to Ramsbottom. The RUDC commemorative stone, also with the Ramsbottom crest, stands in Ramsbottom Market Place. To mark the winding up of Ramsbottom Council in 1974 a number of commemorative events took place and townspeople made sure that the UDC ended on a happy note.

Although there were functions which mainly involved people who had been part of the Council, events were organised for the whole town. The town's old folk were invited to a party at the Civic Hall. Tea was provided and entertainers were pianist Mrs H Bowker and Mrs E McSherry, vocalist. The Council Chairman and his lady greeted everyone and the chairman's chaplain the Rev Charles David Douglas, Vicar of Edenfield was also present. It was possibly for this same event that Miss Edith Hardman, former teacher of Holcombe Brook, is reported as having had a thank you surprise from the Council when she was given an invitation to the Civic Hall but not told why. She was shown in a newspaper photograph cutting a 70th birthday cake, surrounded by members of organisations to which she belonged. During the afternoon the Council Chamber was thrown open to the public. There was also a mammoth bonfire in Nuttall Park to usher RUDC out in a blaze of glory. In another photograph Cllr Barnes is presenting a medallion to Mrs K B M Johnson, Chairman's lady for 1969-70 and other former chairmen's ladies formed an historic line-up to receive their medallions: Mrs A Gaskill, Mrs V C Randall, Mrs J A Parkinson, Mrs B Godwin, Mrs E Crowther, Mrs F Pollard, Mrs F Isherwood, Mrs E A Beswick, Mrs J Hayhurst, Mrs C Fellows, Mrs Pomfret, Mrs K Johnson, Mrs M Little, Mrs M Mills and Mrs F Barnes. Mr Jim Pomfret who was his wife's consort received a medal too. Ramsbottom Council members also attended a last buffet dance at the Civic Hall. Guests included Mr and Mrs S Barber (he had recently retired as Ramsbottom parks superintendent), Cllr E Barnes and Mrs Barnes, Cllr and Mrs Mills (Mr Mills was council vice-chairman) and Mr J Alcock (Clerk to the Council).

The last civic event of all was on a Sunday when Cllr and Mrs Barnes attended then- last function as Chairman and Lady of Ramsbottom UDC, an interdenominational service held at Edenfield Parish Church. The Chairman's Chaplain, the Rev Charles David Douglas, the Rev R R Carmyllie of St Andrew's, the Rev Father G Wearden of

St Joseph's R C Church, the Rev J Palmer of Ramsbottom Methodist churches and Mr H Kellett reader of Edenfield Parish Church all took part in the service. A significant moment during the service came when Cllr and Mrs Barnes removed their chains of office for the last time and handed them to the vice-chairman Cllr H Mills. It is expected the chains will be on display at Bury Town Hall. Cllr Mills then presented Cllr Barnes with a past chairman's medallion. When the new local government came into effect, members of the old Ramsbottom Council, Cllr H Mills, Cllr A Little and Cllr Mrs E Waite served on the new Bury Metropolitan Council. Cllr Barnes and Cllr D Johnson served on the new Rossendale Council

OBITUARY - W D McCLELLAND

In April we learned of the death of Mr W.D. McClelland, of Mill Hill, London, who had been a member of the Society from its earliest days, and we are grateful to his widow Gene for the following details- W.D. McClelland was born in Edinburgh on June 17th 1913. He said he could remember the Armistice celebrations in his home town of Macduff. His father died when he was 18 months old; his mother died when he was 16. Consequently he came to London to live with an uncle. After war service in WW2 he became a departmental General Manager in what was reputed to be the largest newspaper publishing firm in the world. His career ended after becoming a consultant to the Book Publishing Council. In 1946 he married Gene Crawshaw in the Wesleyan Chapel in Ramsbottom. She was the daughter of Irving Crawshaw the Chemist and sub-postmaster in Bolton Road West, and Sarah Booth, schoolteacher, daughter of James Booth. Her great grandfather was instrumental in building the chapel and the Booth family was always very prominent in its activities.

THE FOUNDING AND EARLIEST DAYS OF THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

As I read the letters in the *Bury Times* of early February 1987, I took particular notice of one written by Dorothy Moss.

She expressed her concern about the lack of a local history society and mentioned a previous one, which had been chaired by Reverend Roy Carmyllie, then vicar of St Andrew's Church.

Several years earlier I had developed an interest in the history of Ramsbottom and, with the points Dorothy had made in mind, I telephoned her. After an interesting chat, I mentioned that I had written and published a booklet entitled *Ramsbottom, a History in Stone*. I also told her about my large collection of old Ramsbottom postcards, booklets, books and artefacts. The collection included old bottles which bore the town's name: one from the *Grant Arms* and another from *Giles Taylor's Mineral Works* which was once located in Regent Street, Hazlehurst. Dorothy and her husband David expressed a wish to view these items and I was invited to their home.

The following week I was at the door of the Moss's cottage. Hesitantly, I rang the bell and after what seemed like an eternity the door opened and I was greeted by David. He took me into a huge kitchen area and introduced me to Dorothy. As David made us all a cup of tea, I felt welcome and at ease with this lovely couple. They were fascinated by what I had brought to show them. After a while, the possibility of forming a new local history society was mentioned by Dorothy and instantly, I agreed to be part of this. Dorothy said she would find a suitable venue for a public meeting and happily volunteered to pay all the costs of advertising, renting the venue and refreshments. She also asked me whether I knew any like-minded people to help to form a society. When the time eventually came to leave David, insisting on dropping off my paperwork and artefacts, took me for a few pints in the Grants - the start of a wonderful friendship!

The advert for the meeting was placed in the *Bury Times* with St Paul's School, Crow Lane as the venue. I soon found that Dorothy and David had been thorough and had ensured that everything would be done in a professional manner. In the meantime I contacted Andrew Todd, a long-standing friend with a passion for local history and genealogy who was teaching at the time. Andrew got the interest of another of our friends, Derek Rowley who worked for a high street bank. Everything was beginning to fall into place, rather like a jigsaw.

The meeting, on 25th February 1987, was a great success with about seventy people attending. They were told about the idea of a new local history society and asked for their views about what its activities should involve. The replies were all written down: walks, tours of interesting buildings, research groups, meetings with speakers. A steering committee was set up that night with Andrew Todd (Chairman), Dorothy Moss (Secretary), Derek Rowley (Treasurer) and myself (Vice Chairman).

Dorothy managed to release a small amount of money which was left after the old Ramsbottom Local History Society had been wound up. After much debate (and many cups of tea) a title was chosen and the Ramsbottom Heritage Society was born. The first meeting was at Ramsbottom Civic Hall on 8th April 1987. It attracted many local people from all walks of life. A vote took place and a full committee of the steering group with several other members was agreed.

Ramsbottom at this time was going through some exciting changes. On 25th July of the same year the ELR re-opened as a heritage railway, areas were designated for conservation and what was an ordinary but remarkable mill town, steeped in history and indeed heritage, was upgraded.

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society is now a thriving affair with nearly two hundred members. A grand achievement!

Bob Howarth 2012

OBITUARY - DAVID MOSS

Sadly, we report the death of David Moss on March 29th 2012, aged 83, four months after his wife Dorothy. Born in Camberwell David joined the Royal Navy and was stationed in Malta. During his time in the Navy Dorothy became his pen pal. Love blossomed and they married in 1951. Coming north in 1966 they lived first at Greenmount and then moved to Carr Bank in 1969. After leaving the Navy David developed a very successful career in sales and marketing, progressing from door-to-door selling with the Encyclopaedia Britannica to cosmetics and automotive products to the Sales Director of a succession of firms. Two employers worthy of mention are Tetrosyl at Walmersley, a large manufacturer and supplier of car care products, and AP (Automotive Products) which became the UK's leading manufacturer and supplier of clutches and braking systems and was dominant in the market until the 1970s.

Writing in 1994 for *Ramsbottom Reminiscences Vol. 2*, published in 1996, Dorothy talked about the North/South Divide and how they preferred the life in Ramsbottom, being charmed by the warmth and kindness of the locals. They loved the style of life that this northern town offered them, enjoying to the full the beautiful countryside, the excellent beer, the quality food and in fact everything which adds up to a good standard of life. Taking pleasure in the simple things like walking or listening to classical music or jazz, they also enjoyed travelling which led to their involvement in the Bury Town Twinning Association. Their lifelong interest in food was demonstrated by their membership of the *Lord Raglan* dining club at Nangreaves and more recently as his illness took hold in take away fish and chips and visits to an Italian restaurant in Bury.

Dorothy and David had been members of Ramsbottom Local History Society which had met upstairs in the *Grant Arms*. After the group's demise about 1980, Dorothy soon rallied the local press suggesting that a successor be found. They were both of the opinion that there should be somewhere to find out about the history of the town. Working tirelessly with a small group of like minded people Dorothy was instrumental in setting up the new Ramsbottom Heritage Society and in 1987 the former chairman and minister of St Andrew's Church the Rev Roy Carmyllie was speaker at the inaugural meeting.

David suffered from Parkinson's Disease and during his final years he still found pleasure in watching the badgers in late evening coming to feed in the garden. Dorothy often took him on outings up to the Trough of Bowland for lunch, all to break the monotony of his invalid life. He showed great courage in the face of severe disability, totally supported by his wife Dorothy.

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Ramsbottom Heritage Gallery

**A NEW exhibition in the Gallery at
Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre
Open to the public until September 2013**

Shop Local, Shop Ramsbottom

A 200 Year History

Featuring:

- 19th & 20th century items sold at the time
- 1888 map of local streets and shops
- historic photographs
- shop descriptions and people's memories
(Tell us your memories and stories about local shops on our website or phone 01706 28 1998)
- *Spot the Shop* quiz

Location:

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

Opening Times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 7.30pm

Saturday from 9.30am – 1pm

2nd Sunday in the month 12 noon - 3pm (side entrance)

Ramsbottom Heritage Society:

www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk



Bury
COUNCIL

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society has no staff, and cannot offer a research or query service.
The following institutions could be approached:

Bury Museum and Archive, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG tel: 0161 253 6782

Email: archives@bury.gov.uk Website: www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Opening Hours (please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm):

Tuesday	10am - 5pm	2nd Saturday of the month 10am -
Wednesday	10am - 5pm	4.30pm
Thursday	10am - 5pm	
Friday	10am - 5pm	

Visitors need to make an appointment in advance of any visit to the archives to avoid disappointment. A County Archive Research Network (CARN) readers' ticket or other identification with your name, address and signature is needed to access records.

The searchroom features large reading tables, computer and internet access, microfiche readers and access to . Paper catalogues are available in the searchroom and in Reference and Information Services, Bury Library. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time, and we hold details of researchers in the area who offer fee based services. The building has lift and ramp access, lockers and public toilets. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan.

Bury Central Library (Reference and Information Services), Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 0DG – tel 0161 253 5871 has publications on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older OS maps for the whole of Bury MBC, including Ramsbottom, copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers on microfilm.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; membership secretary David Burgess, 10, St Andrew's Drive, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7TR – Tel 01132695512, email: membership@lfhhs.org.uk. Ordinary membership is £12 per year (concessions £9.50) and this entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and 14 meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. More information is available on www.lfhhs.org.uk.

**Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre, Carr Street BL0 9AE
tel 0161 253 5352 (IT -tel 0161 253 5354) email: Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk**

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Please phone for details of regular family history help sessions.

Ramsbottom War News

Life in Ramsbottom during WW2

Compiled by the Society using information from editions of
The Ramsbottom Observer and our archives

ISSUE 4 ~ 1942

ON SALE FROM MAY 2013 ~STILL ONLY £1

War News issues 1, 2 and 3, published in 2010, 2011 and 2012,
have been our most popular publications ever.

Copies are still available.

