

No 54 Spring / Summer 2018

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NEWS MAGAZINE



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PROGRAMME 2018

Wednesday May 16th AGM and Member's night.

Includes presentations by the various groups highlighting the activities within the Society in the last 12 months

Wednesday June 20th Dr. Clive Barrett, presents an illustrated talk on Conscientious objectors in WWI. He is Chair of Trustees at the Peace Museum, Bradford.

TUESDAY July 17th outdoor visit to Hall i'th' Wood (only open Tuesday) (Green way off Crompton Way, Bolton) - spinning history housed in a Tudor Hall. A private guided tour (1.5 hours), meet 1p.m. Carr Street near library for car sharing, or 1.30 at the Hall cost - £2. (It is requested No High Heels to be worn)

August - no meeting

Wednesday September 19th 'The Pankhurst's, the Suffragettes and the campaign for Votes for Women'

Janet Pickering from the Pankhurst centre will present an illustrated talk to celebrate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918 which was the start of female suffrage in Great Britain.

Wednesday October 17th Coalmining In Lancashire

Alan Davies will present the photographic record of the Lancashire coal industry from the arrival of photography to the latest explorations and opencast sites.

Wednesday November 21st 'Folk Magic'

Peter Watson, local historian, investigates the fascinating and unusual topic of 'Folk Magic' with the aid of some interesting artefacts.

Wednesday December 12th (note 2nd Wednesday of the month)

Christmas Social (Quiz, raffle and general get together - seasonal food – pre-booked ticket required for the latter.

**meetings are held in the Holcombe Room at Ramsbottom Civic Hall,
Market Place, Ramsbottom, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Entry: visitors- £2, members - £1.50, includes refreshments.

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 54

Spring/Summer 2018

The objects of the society shall be:-

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

CONTENTS

Meetings programme		inside front cover
Secretary's Report	<i>John Leyland</i>	Page 2
What Now for the Grant Arms?		Page 2
Croft End, formerly New Bridge Mill, Stubbins Bridge	<i>Andrew Todd</i>	Page 5
Annual Photographic Competition	<i>John Leyland</i>	Page 9
Old Pictorial view of Ramsbottom		Page 12
Annual Photographic Competition	<i>John Leyland</i>	Page 14
Letter from John Spencer	<i>John Spencer</i>	Page 16
Local Family History in the World War One exhibition	at Bury Archives	
	<i>Ian Chapman</i>	Page 17
The Belgian Connection - Part 2	<i>Kathleen Husband</i>	Page 19
My Final Job	<i>Doris Hibbert</i>	Page 22
Local Research		Page 23
Heritage Gallery Exhibitions		inside back cover
Summer Walks 2018		back cover

Cover Picture – The winner of the Dickensian Trophy of the Annual Photographic Competition - see pages 9 - 15

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the time of writing, there is a vacancy on the committee for a programme secretary to organise the speakers at the Wednesday meetings. Barbara Williams took on this role in 2013, and after 5 years, feels it is the right time to step down. The role involves finding speakers via the Internet and other local history societies, and arranging dates to fill 7 of the annual meetings, the others being the photographic competition, the A.G.M., Summer visits and Christmas Social. Barbara has completed the programme for 2018, and there are a possible 4 speakers arranged for 2019, leaving just 3 for the new programme secretary. This is an important role within the Society, as without a speaker, it is unlikely that all the current members would come to the monthly meetings just for a chat. As Barbara said, whoever does the role is able to organise talks that they are interested in! If anyone feels that they can take on this role, please see Barbara or another member of the committee for further details. Barbara will have a list of previous speakers who can be contacted for future talks. Barbara is also standing down as a committee member, and I would like to thank her for her contributions, which has included being the meetings secretary as well as the programme secretary. There are currently vacancies on the committee, which hopefully will be filled at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16th May. I would encourage you to attend the A.G.M. and learn about the activities of the society in the second half of the evening. A lot of people do good work for the society, which often goes unnoticed, and this is the chance to hear about it

John Leyland - Secretary

WHAT NOW FOR THE GRANT ARMS?

An outline planning application by Astim Ltd to demolish the rear part of *the Grant Arms Hotel* and replace it with a new building for sheltered housing was refused by Bury Council officers on 8th March 2018. Ramsbottom Heritage Society had formally opposed the planning application and expressed dismay at yet another application by Astim. (The company's appeal against the Council's refusal of their plan to build a three-storey block of flats for the elderly on the former Grant Arms bowling green was rejected in 2016 by the Planning Inspector.)

Historic England (previously English Heritage) said in their letter to the Council responding to the application:

- The Grant Arms Hotel is a Grade II listed building of national interest, and prominent contributor to the character and appearance of the Ramsbottom Conservation Area.
- The rear part of the building could potentially be of notable significance for understanding the earlier history of both the building and the conservation area.

The Ancient Monuments Society (which actually defends historic buildings of all types and ages):

- The Grant Arms is a handsome and imposing stone building with a symmetrical, classical front, which stands in an elevated position overlooking Market Place; it is one of Ramsbottom's most attractive historic landmarks.

Most of our readers will know that the *Grant Arms Hotel* is in the Ramsbottom Town Centre Conservation Area and Grade II listed. The whole building, including the interior, is included in the listing. Because the oldest part, the rear portion of the hotel, was the home of William and Grace Grant from 1806 and known as Grant Lodge, it provides the town and its visitors with a direct link to the Grant family. Originally their two-storey house, dated c1780, had been known as *Top o' th' Brow* and was occupied by Henry Warren, a partner of Peel and Yates. As the local 'big house', it was in this central location to overlook their business premises, a calico printing works called the *Old Ground*, to ensure its supervision and security. Peel and Yates' *Old Ground* was a complex of workshops in the area now encircled by Bolton Street, Bridge Street, Silver Street and Smithy Street. It was the origin of industrial Ramsbottom, and so Top o' th' Brow was the focus of the enterprise, ultimately the seed of the modern town of Ramsbottom!

Behind the present public bar of the Grants, in the central section of the building (which is also two-storey), is a cellar with a vaulted brick ceiling. The present Georgian frontage was added in 1828 when the house became *The Grant Arms*.*

The clock installed on the front of the building in 1852 was an early example of community use when for many it was the one and only means they had to tell the time. Following a Heritage Society initiative, in 2007 a plaque was placed on the building to commemorate members of the Grant family.

The hotel's special significance

The impact of the Grant Arms, one of Ramsbottom Market Place's group of Grade II listed buildings and the focus of the Town Centre Conservation Area, is a particular matter of concern to the townspeople. A dominant structure at a busy crossroads, it has a positive physical role in the open space of Market Place.

By providing the town and its visitors with a direct link to the Grant family, the Grant Arms forms an important part of Ramsbottom's "story". Its historic significance is a matter of pride to local people, being included in historic letters, exhibitions, publications and walks on local history. The Grant Arms heritage and its importance to the town and its community have also been noted and well-documented down the years by the Council itself. All the evidence suggests that this special significance holds great value to future generations.

The Grant Arms value to the local community goes far beyond its architecture and history. Members of the Society spent several days compiling a list of just some of the people and organisations that have enjoyed its facilities down the years. The list was derived from social media, newspapers and members' own knowledge and illustrates the fantastic spread of activities and interests - from belly dancing, line dancing, yoga and karate to more seminal pursuits such as meditation classes and political hustings (as recently as the last election in 2017). There were jazz nights, folk clubs (the Houghton Weavers started here) prom nights, scouting events, auctions and talent nights. It was the headquarters of the Ramsbottom Bowling League and the Grant Arms Bowling Club and had been a venue for meetings of the swimming club, pigeon fanciers, Ramsbottom Rotary Club and the Freemasons Lodge. Down the years countless christening celebrations, funerals, 18th and 21st birthday parties and many of the town's wedding receptions took place at the Grants.

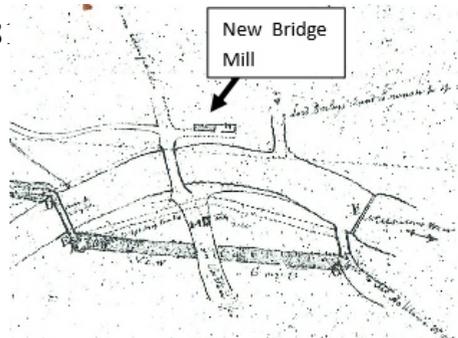
** RHS News Magazine No 23 (Spring 2002), which is available online on the Society's website, has an article about the pub's early days.*

CROFT END, FORMERLY NEW BRIDGE MILL, STUBBINS BRIDGE

Before it was demolished at the end of 2017, the mill's layout comprised many stages of development, with the earliest, dating from around 1801. In 1833 it was New Bridge Bleaching Works owned by Jackson, Watson and Greig. Generally, within the urban context of the adjacent housing in the village of Stubbins which arose in parallel with the mill's growth, there was a unity in 19th Century building styles and locally quarried materials.

The mill originally took the name New Bridge Mill from its position alongside the turnpike bridge over the River Irwell. A 1817 survey of Stubbins Bridge and the Ashtons' Weir, conducted by Bolton surveyor John Albinson (Bolton Archives, ZAL188) has only the earliest stage of the site's construction while the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1847 clearly shows the L-shape of Croft End Mill, as part of the Rose Bank Printing and Bleaching complex.

A small portion of John Albinson's 1817

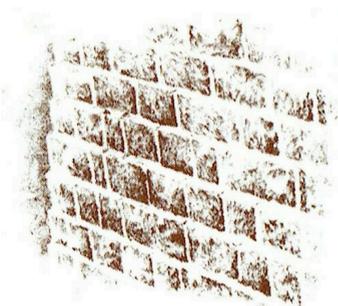


6 inch Ordnance
Survey map of 1847



The west face of the mill had a very clear building break, (indicated by the arrow). The portion of the mill to the right of the break was built from a much better quality of stone, quite carefully dressed almost to ashlar standards, with good quality lintels and sills reflecting improvements in quarrying techniques achieved by the time that this section was erected. It probably postdated the 1847 Ordnance Survey map, perhaps comprising a later stage of development.

The stonework of what was almost certainly the original building which figures on John Albinson's 1817 survey consisted of fairly indiscriminately quarried, accessible sandstone, typical of late 18th and early 19th Century surface quarrying techniques. A pair of windows on this elevation had no jambs, characteristic of this period. Quality stone capable of providing the necessarily long and strong pieces was difficult to find in the Rossendale area without deeper quarrying. The other windows in this portion seemed to have received fresh lintels well beyond the original construction date. Historically integral to the mill's operation, and easily overlooked, was a setted cartway. It ran from Bolton Road North along the mill's west elevation and featured large reinforcing flagstones on the brook bridge. Part of this cartway is shown on the 1817 survey. This has not survived the 2017 demolition, despite attention being drawn to its significance.



Many of the site's various features had carried over into the industrial age from traditional local building practice, such as the watershot technique. It involved each successive course of stonework being tipped slightly outward by inserting small wedges and being set about half an inch behind the lower course. From 1740, very rare after 1840, watershot stonework was

designed to allow any rainwater entering the wall to drip out again. This was a particular feature of Pennine vernacular architecture but there are very few surviving mills in the area with watershot stonework.

Another feature, common on vernacular stone buildings situated on roads, or tracks which carried wheeled traffic, was a carefully carved curvature on the corner of the building. Later, mills often erected steel or iron guards and posts as more effective protection against destructive strikes from cart wheels

Fronting onto Bolton Road North, was the NW facing leg of the L-shape shown on the 1847 Ordnance Survey map. It may have dated from Thomas Greig of Styal's acquisition of the site in 1831. It had a taking-in entrance, which had been blocked in at a later date. This common feature of mills was inherited directly from the 'taking-in door' which allowed raw materials to be taken directly up to the upper weaving storey of woollen weavers' cottages.



A 2016 view from the NE again shows the likely 1831 stonebuilt portion of the mill. Its windows abutted directly under the eaves/guttering in the fashion characteristic of that time. The slate roof at that date was possibly not the original.



The Accrington brick portion of the building had the appearance of a later 19th Century extension, mimicking the original. The mill lodge satisfied the need of the bleaching and calico printing processes for large amounts of clean water. This was drawn from the adjacent Dearden Brook. After it became empty the lodge and its surroundings have been taken over by nature.

Prolonged efforts by the owners to keep the mill in industrial use failed and the whole site of 0.45 hectares (1.11 acres) is now being redeveloped for housing.

Andrew Todd

(Editor's comments : 2 sets of photographs showing the demolition of New Bridge Mill were selected by Andrew as winners in the Themes category of the Annual Photographic Competition)

ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The competition has been running for 31 years, and this year 12 entrants entered a total of 282 photographs in 4 categories, some people entering less than 10 photographs, and one person entered 129. The judge was Andrew Todd who presented the awards on the evening. The competition winners were not necessarily the best quality photographs, but ones which reflected Ramsbottom in 2017, as all the photographs had to have been taken last year. There are now over 3,650 photographs on the Ramsbottom Heritage website taken in the last 31 years. The winners are each category were
Buildings – 2 Highly Commended certificates



Ian Smith for a photo of the Nat West bank before it closed in October

and Joyce Sellers for a picture of the derelict old Stockdale and Turnbull building in Edenfield.



The winner of the Buildings category was Ian Chapman for a view of Grant Arms from Central Street. Andrew commented that the picture showed how busy Ramsbottom is, such as a delivery to the chemists, as well as the mundane such as bins waiting to be emptied, and also included the view of the Grant Arms, which is currently closed.



The Themes category is for 3 to 5 photos on a themes and had the lowest number of entries, 13. The Highly Commended awards went to Anne Shortt and Alan Seymour, who both entered photos of Croft End Mills, Stubbins, as it was demolished, and is currently being redeveloped for new housing. The winner was Anne Shortt for views of Kay's Soap Works, including some interior shots, which Andrew hadn't seen before. As he pointed out, he judged the competition 2 years ago and chose the interior of the old Post Office in Edenfield as the overall winner.



2 of Anne's photos above and 2 of Alan's below



Winner - Anne Shortt - Kay Soap Works





The Society was recently donated a frame with 2 old photographs showing a panoramic view of Ramsbottom, date unknown. These are at the bottom of these 2 pages, with an enlargement on each page. The top of page 12 can be compared to Joyce Seller's winning photograph on the front cover





One of the Events and Daily Life Highly Commended certificates went to Daryll Spencer for a photograph of the Car Boot sale on Railway Street with a steam train in the background, which Andrew said reflected the everyday life in Ramsbottom,

which people rarely photograph, but which are historically useful for future generations. The other went to Ian Williams for a band playing at Summerseat Fete, which Andrew said was a natural photograph which hadn't been posed.



The winner was Ian Chapman for a photograph of the War Weekend, which again Andrew said was a natural looking photograph, and held lots of interest.





The Town and Country category certificates went to Alan Seymour showing that there is still no road access by the Spinnings in Summerseat,

and Keith Burroughs for a view of the Old Baptist Church on Bolton Street with Scout Moor in the background, which shows the countryside around Ramsbottom.



This theme of the category was also the reason for Andrew choosing the winner of the Town and Country category, and also the overall winner of the Dickensian Trophy, who is Joyce Sellers, for a sweeping view of Ramsbottom, Marshalls' Quarry and Scout Moor, taken from Holcombe Hill. Andrew said that if you zoom in, there is an extraordinary amount of detail in the photograph, such as the allotments on Peel Brow and cars on Peel Brow estate, mixed farming with cattle and sheep in the same field above the quarry, and the wind turbines on Scout Moor. The winning photograph is on the cover of the magazine

LETTER FROM JOHN SPENCER

Just before Christmas 2017, the Society received the following letter from an overseas member.

Dear Secretary, PIKE FARM

I read with interest the article ‘GRANTS TOWER 1829 – 1944’ in Issue No 53 Autumn/Winter 2017 by J C Watkins in which Pike Farm was mentioned.

My Great-Great Grandmother, Betty Kay was born at Pike Farm on 27 April 1807, the daughter of John Kay born c.1760. She married Thomas Spencer on 1 May 1826 and lived at Lower Park in the bottom paddock of Park Farm – the birth place of John Kay, the inventor. Following the death of his father at a relatively early age from cholera, my Great-Grandfather (also Thomas) sailed from Plymouth aboard the ‘The Henry Moore’ on the 14th June 1857 for Adelaide, South Australia arriving on the 14th September.

Betty and Thomas are buried in the cemetery plot also occupied by Betty’s father John at Park Chapel.

Thomas settled and married in Truro, South Australia, a township in the hilly area on the main road leading to the River Murray and Mallee scrub farming area, north east of Adelaide – a vastly different climate from his hometown of Ramsbottom.

Thank you for your informative publication which I greatly enjoy.

**John Spencer
South Australia**

An Internet search produced a webpage from ‘The Ships List’. Compiled in Australia from a variety of sources, the site includes official passenger lists mainly of immigrants arriving under assisted passage schemes who travelled in steerage. ‘The Ships List’ report on the voyage of Mr Spencer’s great grandfather has “ ‘The Henry Moore’, the largest ship of the year, which brought us 382 statute adults (equal to 450 souls) at £16 per head”. The ship’s Surgeon

Superintendent reported eleven births on the voyage and also five deaths, one of which was the death of a new mother. (Births and deaths were normal on emigrant ships.)

The Caledonian Maritime Research Trust mentions that 'The Henry Moore' was built at Greenock and Liverpool was its first port of register in 1854. It weighed 1,223 tons and was 188.4 feet long. As an iron three masted sailing vessel, 'The Henry Moore' was safer than the older woodenships which were fire-prone. However, there is a report that in mid-May 1857 a fire had to be extinguished while 'The Henry Moore' was being converted for charter to the Emigrant Commissioners. The Trust says it made only one emigrant voyage and reports that in 1868 it was completely destroyed by fire off Cape St Vincent (Liverpool for Bombay, general cargo). The crew of 28 were rescued and taken to Gibraltar. (Editor)

**LOCAL FAMILY HISTORY in the
WORLD WAR I EXHIBITION at
BURY ARCHIVES, MOSS STREET, BURY**

Five generations of the Chapman family feature in the present Bury Archives exhibition, part of which focuses on our relative, Private Albert Carter 200603 of the 2/5th Lancashire Regiment. He was killed at Ypres, Belgium on Wednesday 28th June 1916, aged nineteen years.

My own involvement with the archives team's research for their exhibition began after my mother spotted an appeal on Facebook by the Archives team. They were looking for people whose relatives had been killed in World War I. Soon we were invited to a meeting on 11th September 2017 with archivist Adam Carter (no relation) and the Archives team, Wendy, Scott and Helen. We had no idea what to expect but we took all the research material we had on Private Carter, who was Mum's uncle. The Archives staff were very welcoming and were fascinated with all the information that our family had collected over the years and with the 2003 visit by Mum and Dad to the war graves at Arras where the inscription for Private Carter is on the Arras Memorial. It was arranged that we would return a week later for photographs to be taken of the family (my mother Betty Chapman, my daughter Holly, my three-year old granddaughter Amelia and myself) to be included in the display.

We had been warned that BBC Radio Manchester had been in touch about doing a quick interview during the photoshoot. As we awaited the arrival of local BBC journalist Jonathan Ali, who is a keen historian with a special interest in World War I*, we were briefed as to what would happen. The photoshoot began as Jonathan used his iPhone (no film crew or cameras!) to start his interview with Mum. He told us he was trying to get the item on the North West news that day, either at dinnertime or in the evening. The iPhone then appeared under my nose and I answered Jonathan's questions before he moved on to Helen. Interviews over, he thanked us all and left, promising to be in touch about what time the interviews would be aired. Eventually the Archives staff had taken dozens of photos of the family with Albert, his medals and his notebook and we were able to go off to the Fusiliers Museum across the road. There I received a notification that Jonathan had posted Mum's interview on the BBC North West's Facebook page and that the interviews would be broadcast at about 17.45 hrs that same day. Later, with interviews listened to, I soon discovered that the BBC North West Facebook page had gone viral and that a star was in the making - Betty Chapman had gone worldwide with 21,000 views of her interview about her Uncle Albert!

The Archives staff had made a short film of all the photographs and we were given a preview on 6th October. Also, the family was invited to the opening of the exhibition on Saturday 14th October when we were all made very welcome. There was a fantastic turnout of young and old and a good day was had by all. Photographs with Private Carter's notebook, medals and other memorabilia had been arranged in a display case and the film show was showing on the television monitor.

We all thought that would be the last time we would be involved with the Bury Archives World War I exhibition but we were very wrong. Mum's "journey" soon restarted with yet another post on Facebook. Jennifer McDonough, who works at a Ramsbottom charity shop, had posted a photograph of a soldier's picture on a brooch which she had found while sorting out some jewellery. When Mum saw the photograph she asked Jennifer to get in touch with Adam at Bury Archives. Messages from Adam soon started to arrive about what he had discovered when he investigated the brooch. The picture on it was Private John Nation 201989, 2/5th Lancashire Fusiliers, who died on Saturday 9th September 1916 aged twenty two years. His inscription is on the Thiepval Memorial. Mum soon realised that some of Adam's information on this soldier matched our research about her uncle. To everybody's amazement, it was then found that the Private John Nation on the brooch was the cousin of our Private Albert Carter.

I put on Facebook a post to Jennifer telling her Mum's thoughts about the matching information. Next day Mum was on her way to meet Jennifer at the charity shop so I contacted Jonathan Ali who was really interested. Having made arrangements to meet Mum later for an interview, he went to interview Jennifer. (Alarms had to be set for the crack of dawn to hear these interviews which were on an early morning show.) It was soon decided that the brooch would be displayed in the Bury Archives exhibition alongside the artefacts of Private Albert Carter.

Surely what must be the final surprise came when everybody who had been concerned with the display: Jennifer and her husband, four members of my family and Bury Archives staff came together and viewed the completed exhibition. A *Bury Times* journalist had turned up and the following Thursday's edition featured a half-page write up and a "Photo of the day" to go with it.

Ian Chapman

The editors have received enthusiastic reports from people who have been very impressed by the Bury Archives World War I exhibition. Obviously, it is well worth a visit. The Archives entrance is in Moss Street, Bury and offers disabled access.

*A few copies of "Our Boys" *The Great War in a Lancashire Village* by Jonathan Ali, published by Landy Publishing 2007, are still on sale at Ramsbottom Library.

The Bury Archives World War I exhibition is open until November 2018

Opening times are listed on this magazine's "Local Research" page, along with details about the services Bury Archives provides to the public.

THE BELGIAN CONNECTION – PART 2

Some of you may remember the Heritage Society's own World War I Exhibition in the Gallery a few years ago. One of the topics, which Anne Shortt and I produced, was a board about the Sebrecchts* - a mother, grandmother and three small children from Bruges, Belgium who had been evacuated to 91, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom. This house was owned by Society member Marcia Fletcher and her husband Roy at the time of the exhibition. They had lived in Bruges for a time, due to Roy's work, and had a phone book from there - and the name Sebrecchts was listed. By

coincidence, Marcia's friend Doris Hibbert had quite unexpectedly, received a letter, kept by a cousin for many years, written by her mother to an aunt in Canada. The letter described a visit by Doris's parents to the Sebrecchts' house in Belgium in 1921. Doris and Marcia discovered that Madame Sebrecchts' husband, Joseph, was a renowned doctor and professor who was not allowed to leave Belgium with his family because his medical knowledge was of use to both the Belgians and the occupying forces. The whole story, with its amazing coincidences and Doris's mother's vivid description of the grand house and the devastation she saw there after the war - ravaged countryside, captured my imagination and stayed with me.

Last year my husband and I went to Bruges. One of the first streets we saw on our



way from the hotel to the centre of Bruges was, "Professor-Dr. J. Sebrecchts- Straat", a street named after Doctor Sebrecchts! Just a little way further along, off to the left was the sign for the Sebrecchts park. I knew the garden of the house had been made into a public park so I thought, if the house was still standing, it must be nearby.

as I walked up I thought, "Madame Sebrecchts walked both here and the streets of Ramsbottom so long ago. Doris's mother and father walked here and now I am walking here in their footsteps."

There were a few houses around the circumference of the park and we were not sure which one was the Sebrecchts' house. We saw a lady in her garden and asked her if she knew. She did not speak English but had a bit of French so we communicated in school French.

I had butterflies in my tummy when I saw the lovely archway in front of the drive leading up to the house and



We were actually right outside the house! Sadly, it was all boarded up. We explained why we were looking for the house. The neighbour said she had the keys (the coincidences continued)! I could not believe it. She said she would take us



round the house! It was in a state of disrepair but using a bit of imagination we could see the splendour that must have existed when the family lived there and when Doris's mother and father visited. There were beautiful stained glass windows, carvings, hand-painted wallpaper (discovered behind a wall panel) and silk hand-painted wall hangings. The house is a listed building

and owned by the local council. It is up for sale but no-one has shown any interest in buying it. If anyone has loads of money and would like to restore a beautiful house, in a lovely setting on the fringe of the city of Bruges - this is for you. We'll all come and visit!

We also went to Ypres for the last post ceremony. Doris's mother and father had gone there but it was just muddy fields on the way then, as Doris's mother described, not the beautiful but sad war cemeteries that are there now.

It was a wonderful experience and I will never forget the people who made this story possible - thanks to Doris Hibbert and Marcia Fletcher and especially Doris's mother for her vivid descriptions.

Kathleen Husband 2018

**To find out more you can go to Ramsbottom Library and ask to see Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine 47 Autumn/Winter 2014, which is in the reference section. It contains a fascinating and detailed account, "The Belgian Connection" by Kathleen and Anne based on information shared with them by Doris Hibbert.*

An earlier News Magazine article, "A Ramsbottom Couple's Visit to London and Belgium 1921" written by Doris herself, can be found in News Magazine 21 Spring 2001 which is on the Society's website. (Editor)

MY FINAL JOB

The Employment Service 1980 – 1990

During my working life I have had various clerical jobs, typist, telephonist, receptionist etc, but my last one was in the Employment Service.

When I was 50 years old I applied to the Civil Service and was offered a part-time clerical officer's vacancy in Bury Employment Office. Soon afterwards, a similar vacancy arose at the Ramsbottom Employment Office. Imagine my delight when I applied and was successful! Five mornings per week 8.30 – 12.30 – five minutes from home, I couldn't believe my luck.

The premises were situated at number 39 Bridge Street, now Memories Antique Emporium (but I remember it being the Co-op grocery during the war). It had a very large, open room with big windows looking onto Bridge Street. There was a substantial desk used by the UBO (Unemployment Benefit Office) and I had a smaller desk nearer the windows, it was a very pleasant office in which to work. Job vacancies were displayed on the windows and on boards in the office, which were updated every day.

ASST. SHOP
VACANCY MANAGERESS/ER

AREA : BURY CENTRE

WAGE : £137.90 P/WK (BASIC)
+ £6/£7 P/WK AFTER 4/5 WKS.

HRS : 7.45 A.M. - 5.30 P.M. (5 DAYS)
DAY OFF IN WK. AGE 23+

ASK FOR BUR 862

0711

There was a small seating area with a table where people could peruse vacancies, read newspapers, fill in application forms and apply by telephone. The UBO was staffed two mornings a week. Later the Employment Office changed its name to the Job Centre.

I could also rely on the DRO (Disabled Resettlement Officer) to help to find work for clients and I had contact with the PER (Professional Executive Recruitment) who could offer good advice. My manager called each week and when, later the UBO relocated to Bury I was the only member of staff – so a panic button was installed and connected to Ramsbottom Police Station farther down Bridge Street – I never had to use it, thank goodness! I did once get a half-eaten meat pie through the letter box and a very risqué phone call, which I ignored!

I got to know so many local people and they were always pleasant and polite – a few still remember me! Before I retired, the JC in Ramsbottom was closed; I knew it was on the cards, but imagine my surprise, on driving past returning from holiday, to find a large notice advising, JOB CENTRE NOW CLOSED, CONTACT THE BURY OFFICE! An interesting decade for me – I enjoyed every minute! Au revoir Ramsbottom JC

Doris Hibbert

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:
Bury Archives and Local Studies, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: archives@bury.gov.uk or tel: 0161 253 6782

IMPORTANT: To avoid disappointment you are advised to check before your visit. An appointment is now essential if you wish to view any items that are stored in the archive. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW OPENING HOURS.

Monday	Closed
Tuesday to Friday	10 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family

papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Catalogues are online at <http://archives.bury.gov.uk> as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. The enquiry service offers 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries we charge £15.00 hour. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

The local studies section has publications on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older OS maps for the whole of Bury MBC (including Ramsbottom), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at <http://library.bury.gov.uk> – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the Ancestry database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

The Wordpress Blog (<https://buryculture.wordpress.com/>) offers lots of news, information, events and articles on all aspects of our service.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society Bury branch meetings date: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at The Kay Room, Church House, The Wyld, Bury BL0 0LA (behind St Mary's Church). Branch contact via email at bury@lfhhs.org.uk. Visit www.lfhhs.org.uk for details about branch resources and events.

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

NEW LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

Monday	Closed	Thursday	12.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Friday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Saturday	9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the Ramsbottom Observer 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month 12.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

**PUBS IN RAMSBOTTOM
AND
“THE ODIOS AND LOATHSOME SIN OF
DRUNKENNESS”**

A new exhibition opening July 13th 2018
in the Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library

The pubs of Ramsbottom and the social consequences of extended drinking hours is the focus of this exhibition in the Heritage Gallery, upstairs in Ramsbottom Library.

Before beerhouses vanished and tapas bars opened, ale could be bought in many front rooms along the street. Drinking hours from 4am to 10pm meant that magistrates were kept busy. The drunken Marsden family were regulars, with the father alone appearing 31 times before the bench. The varied fate of some of the original pubs will be remembered by many of you. The oldest pub, *The Rose and Crown* (1794) still exists but *The Waterloo* has changed its name. Whilst *The Top Kicker* (later *The Old Dun Horse*) has been turned into flats, sadly many other pub buildings have long been demolished.

**The exhibition is open during library hours
and on the second Sunday of each month
from 12 – 3pm from July 13th onwards.**

The current exhibition closes
at the end of June

DANGER,

DEATH &

DISEASE

in Ramsbottom mills

Summer Walks 2018

Guided circular walks held on the third Sunday of the month between June and September, all walks start at 1.30 p.m. and finish between 3 and 4 p.m. The walks are led by volunteers with a particular interest in and knowledge of Ramsbottom and district. Taken at a leisurely pace the walks are suitable for reasonably fit adults and children, dogs welcome. Sensible footwear and waterproof clothing is recommended as paths may be uneven and uphill on some of the walks. For further information on each walk, contact the relevant leader

Sunday June 17th 1.30 p.m. The Mills of Dearden Clough
led by Kate Slingsby 01706 822730

Meet outside Grants Arms - Shared transport from the meeting place to the start of the walk

The residents of Dearden Clough near Edenfield, lived, wove and printed fabric and swam in this fascinating little valley.

Sunday July 15th 1.30 p.m The pubs and Clubs of Ramsbottom
led by Andrew Todd 01706 822730

Meet outside Grants Arms

Much of the social life of Ramsbottom revolved around the pubs and clubs, and this walk opens a window on the activities and excesses of 200 years of history

Sunday August 19th 1.30 p.m. A Stroll through Stubbins
led by Barbara Williams 01706 559074

Meet at Junction of Stubbins Street and Stubbins Vale Road

An historical walk looking at the development of this industrial village, looking at mills, print works, tendering tower, railway and houses.

Sunday Sept 16th 1.30 p.m. Holcombe Village, Ramsbottom
led by John Ireland 01706 822730

Meet at Shoulder of Mutton car park

Holcombe is historic with a famed ,old and well kept hostelry. Renowned years ago for its sporting traditions of hunting, cock fighting and notorious ‘wakes’ which drew the countryside for miles around