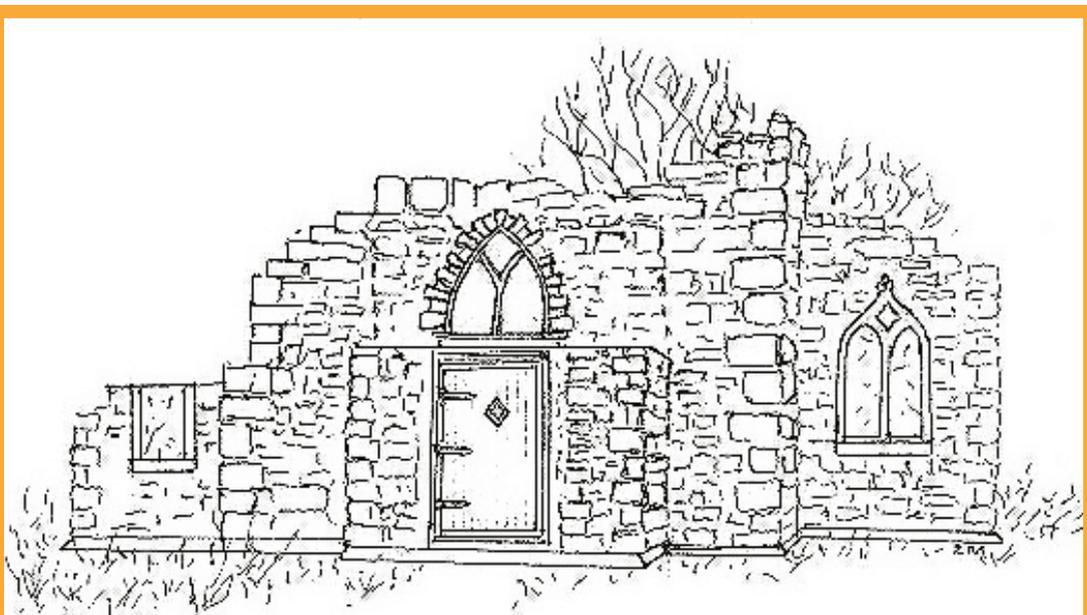


No 53 Autumn/ Winter 2017

ISSN 0960 - 1244

NEWS MAGAZINE



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The objects of the society shall be:-

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

PROGRAMME 2018

- Wednesday January 17th** **Dr Paul Hindle**, well known historical geographer returns to present an illustrated talk on Turnpikes and Maps in Lancashire.
- Wednesday February 21st** **Alex Fisher** presents a fascinating talk on the social history of Clog Dance illustrated with performances and some memorabilia.
- Wednesday March 21st** 31st Annual Photographic competition followed by a presentation by **Andrew Todd**
- Wednesday April 18th** **Veronica Walker** returns to give a talk on 'Dickens - Fallen Women?' The way Dickens deals with the subject in his novels and the part he played in setting up a house with the help of the heiress Angela Coutts to help such girls/women.
- Wednesday May 16th** **AGM and Member's night.** Includes presentations by the various groups highlighting the 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.

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

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

Ramsbottom Heritage Society News Magazine No 53

Autumn/Winter 2017

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Cover Caption – a 2017 drawing by Zena Middleton showing the owner's design for stabilising and improving Grants Tower. This work on the ruin is nearly complete.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last magazine was published, the committee have held 2 meetings, one in May and one in September. The meeting in May was held a week after the Annual General Meeting, and there was discussion about why the A.G.M. is the least attended meeting of the year. It was felt that the presentations of the various groups within the Heritage Society should continue (2 are reproduced in this magazine) and the last minute idea to play an extract of a recording from the Oral Taping project was good, and if it had been advertised, more people may have come. Perhaps if readers of this article could reply with ideas for how the May meeting could be made more attractive, contact me via the contact details on the inside cover. The committee also approved a request from the secretary to send out A.G.M. notices by email where the member has given their details. At present this is half of the membership, so if you are unsure whether you are on the list or you would like to receive communications by email rather than letter, contact me.

The September meeting included a review of the 2 summer visits to the Greater Manchester Police Museum and Smithill's Old Hall. On each occasion, only seven people visited, and again, we welcome your feedback on why members don't engage with these visits.

Barbara Williams, who has organised the talks and visits for the last 5 years has decided that she is standing down as the Programme Secretary, so we need a replacement to organise the monthly meetings as soon as possible, as the programme can take a year to organise. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please contact Barbara or any member of the committee. I would like to thank Barbara for organising the varied talks each year, and although some don't seem particularly appealing from the brief synopsis of the talk, all of the talks have had something of interest, and as the person who produces the monthly reports for the Bury Times and Rossendale Free Press, I often have to research on the internet the brief notes that I take to ensure I have the correct details, which enriches my knowledge of the subject. This year, I have particularly enjoyed "The Artisan Naturalists of Prestwich" and 'Moses Holden - self-taught genius', which introduced me to people I hadn't come across before.

John Leyland - Secretary

NEWS

The Ramsbottom War Memorial Project has now raised over £45K towards a target of £50K and the project team thank all who have supported the project so far. They are now at the stage of inviting the public and schools for design suggestions for the new memorial. The closing date for the design suggestions is Monday 8th January 2018 and a design brief can be found on www.ramsbottomwarmemorialproject.co.uk along with more details about this local community project. The website also has information about the five hundred fallen personnel from World War I and World War II who lived in Ramsbottom and the surrounding villages. Their names will go on the new memorial and there will be space for any future names.

Lt Col A T Porritt's portrait is now on permanent display in the Heritage Gallery at Ramsbottom Library. He is shown wearing what we have been told is full dress uniform, dismounted (worn for ceremonies only). The style of this uniform did not really change from the Boer War until the 1960s. Even now some band members can wear this type of uniform on parade on special occasions.

The Natwest Bank, 15 & 17 Bridge Street, Ramsbottom

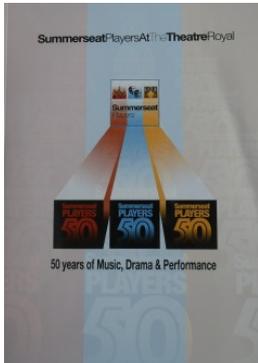
closed on 2nd October 2017.

Originally the premises was a grocer's shop run by Squire Haworth and his wife Ellen. In 1871 she is listed as a widow but still trading as a grocer until the early 1880s when John Castle was running the shop. By 1888 John Keenaghan, wine merchant, ran his business there. By 1900 the building was a branch of the Manchester & Liverpool District Banking Co. Ltd which merged with County Bank in 1935. After another



Photograph by Ian Smith (October 2017)

merger the following year it became a branch of the District Bank Ltd which then merged with Westminster Bank Ltd and National Provincial Bank Ltd on 1st January 1970. This business, in turn, was taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland in 1999 but still traded separately under the NatWest name.



“The Summerseat Players at the Theatre Royal” is the title of a brand new booklet published for the players’ 50th anniversary in 2018 by the Summerseat Players Ltd (registered charity: 1000931). The booklet has been researched, written, edited, typed and designed by members of the players using a very wide range of source material. It describes the journey of their organisation from a discussion fifty years ago to the present day. As players, they now have a reputation second to none and also do a great deal for the community. The booklet has ninety eight A 4 size pages, which are presented in a most

professional and attractive format, and the cost is only £5. The theatre group hope that readers of the booklet get as much enjoyment from reading it as they have had from putting it together. We wish them all the best for the next fifty years.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAMSBOTTOM HERITAGE SOCIETY

On Saturday 13th May at Ramsbottom Civic Hall the Society held an open day to celebrate its 30th anniversary. In the main hall the Society had put together various stalls and displays and numerous books and Ramsbottom memorabilia were on sale. People could join and take away details of its forthcoming monthly meetings, summer outings and walks. The Holcombe Moor Heritage Group and Edenfield Local History Society had been invited and their exhibitions focussed on the work they did in their areas.

In pride of place on the stage the general public were able to view for the very first time the Society’s newly restored portrait of Lieutenant Colonel A T Porritt in his red military uniform. Visitors could learn about the portrait’s artist and the Porritt legacy to Ramsbottom. The Colonel helped to found the Ramsbottom Branch of the Royal British Legion and alongside his portrait stood the



Ramsbottom War Memorial Project's display stand. The project is nearing the target of raising £50,000. (Readers can find out more in the news section of this magazine.) Hopefully, in 2018/19, the new memorial showing the names of Ramsbottom soldiers who lost their lives in both the 1st and 2nd World Wars will be erected in St Paul's Gardens.

(The old memorial, with no names, has been there since 1947. It will be removed and placed at the entrance to Ramsbottom Cemetery.)

The Society's committee members had asked for help with a photographic exhibition and, after quite a lengthy phone call with John Leyland about the Society's collections, I managed to talk myself into doing a *Ramsbottom Now and Then* display featuring 1987 and



recent photos. I trawled through thousands of my own photos and looked at my mother's collection and then we decided I would concentrate on the Bolton Road West and Dundee Lane area. It sits on the very edge of the



town and is often forgotten by photographers. I was able to show how the area has been developed immensely over the last thirty years with the new build of the Whittingham Drive estate and the redevelopment of the BDA site (before the mill was demolished and now is the new Lansdowne Close housing estate).

I also chose photos of Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital, when it was still in use and whilst it was being demolished. I was lucky with the demolition photos as my uncle,



*OSBY Laundrette
opened May 1969
1 Bolton Road West*

Allan Chapman, lives directly across from the site and gave me copies of pictures he had taken. (He has since donated them to the Society's photo archive and they will be on the website.) There were also the ones I took when the new time capsule was being placed next to the hospital's pediment on Nuttall Lane. Part of the exhibition featured the Old Dunn Horse (now flats) as I remember many a good night there. Finally, there was another set of photos of the Bolton Road West/Nuttall Lane junction including Barcroft's butchers as the laundrette and the original houses which are still there.



On the day, members arrived early to set up and the Holcombe Room, where there was a display of old maps with one showing details of the town's conservation area boundary, was made ready for the film show. To begin with Mum (Betty Chapman) had been asked to help with the tea and biscuits but well before the event she had been head hunted by Ramsbottom British Legion for their stall. I think she was the busiest person that day as her knowledge of Ramsbottom was in great demand by helpers and visitors alike.

People came from far and wide and the day was a great success. Visitors even included people from Australia and Canada who were fascinated by the history of our town and couldn't believe how much its Heritage Society has done. A



visitor's book would have made fascinating reading. At one stage there were eight of the Chapman family at the event, old and young, either helping or visiting. We met people who we hadn't seen for many a year so a lot of catching up was done. My mother even met a lady who knew her from the 1940s and they have since been in touch. There are too many to name individually but we would like to thank all the members and volunteers of Ramsbottom Heritage Society for all their hard work in making the day so very successful. We certainly enjoyed helping and taking part.

Ian and Betty Chapman (née Barcroft)

REPORT FROM THE ARCHIVE TEAM

After the problems last year thankfully Bury Archives' staffing improved and they were able to accept items again from us towards the end of 2016. Indeed we did manage to put a box of documents into the system last autumn but after that our year has been dominated by two things.

The archive catalogue at Bury could not be accessed by the public via the internet. People had to go to the Archives and ask the staff to do it for them. This meant we have been unable to look things up ourselves or find correct numbers for new items – so have had to stop our own archiving.

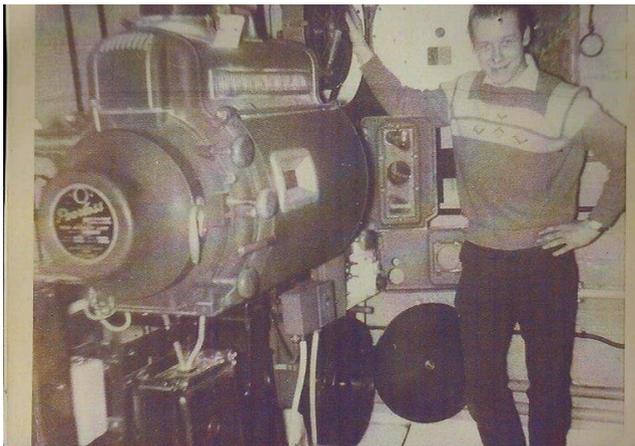
We did however manage to get one catalogue number so we could proceed with a very big job - Cataloguing all the receipts from Greenwood Butchers of Bridge Street for the years 1914 to 1918 approximately. There were nearly 1000 of them

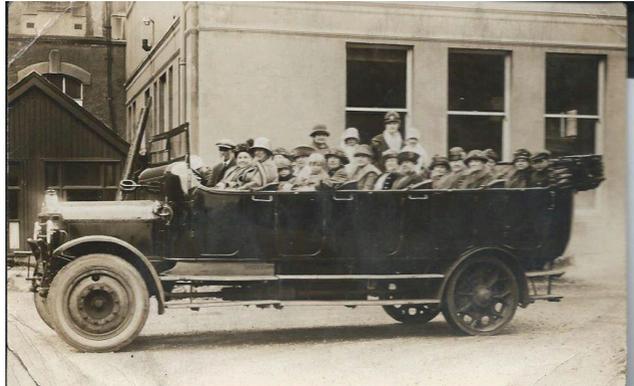
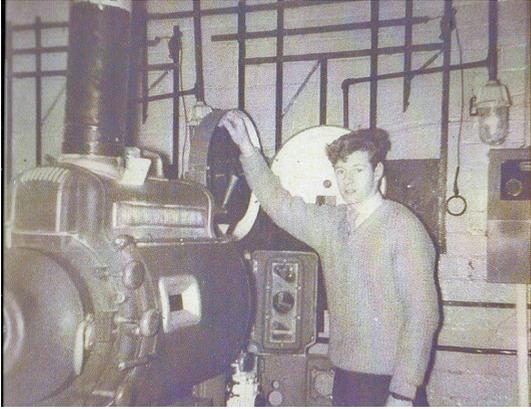
– 962 to be precise. And not only were they numerous but very fragile and very very dirty. Andrew Todd had had them for some time – and wrote a couple of articles about them back in 1992. Andrew helped Brenda to get them vaguely into 13 categories and then it was left to Kathleen Husband, Anne Shortt and me to finish the job of describing them and putting them into order in envelopes and folders. It was an enormous project and took months BUT it was interesting to see the busy life of a butcher in those days. He bought cattle and pigs not only from cattle marts and farmers but also from local individuals who seem to rear one or two cattle or pigs each year. He then slaughtered them himself, and sold the meat in his shop and to schools etc. Notably no chicken were bought or sold in those days. He used horses and carts and the railway for transportation but also owned a car. He advertised his shop on a curtain in the local cinema- The ‘Empire’ on Railway Street. He was obviously a very successful man and meticulous in keeping receipts but unfortunately not in an orderly fashion.

For Kathleen and Anne who joined the team this year it has been a baptism of fire! And all credit to them for not resigning!! Hopefully next year will be easier. As ever we would welcome anyone who would like to join our group.

(Editors note: The articles mentioned about Greenwood Butchers appear in issues 5 and 6 of the News Magazine, which are available on the website)

These photos of a projector and charabanc are with the Archive Team who would welcome any information about them.





Brenda Richards

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONSERVATION GROUP'S ACTIVITIES 2016-17

Meetings were held monthly at the Shoulder of Mutton, Holcombe. The group checked out and discussed forty three planning applications covering a variety of proposals from a new illuminated sign outside Aldi to sixteen additional wind turbines for the Scout Moor Wind Farm (which would have made it the country's largest onshore wind farm). Our work with a coalition of different groups opposing the wind farm expansion included speaking at the public enquiry.

Again on the planning front, the bigger developments we commented on (not always negatively) were:

1. the proposal to build 22 new homes in Redisher Woods – our concern was that the existing footpaths and access should be maintained
2. the inappropriate design in the first application for a new house for Scotland Place, Ramsbottom
3. the demolition of the whole of Croft End Mill, Stubbins - as we were hoping to salvage the original mill as part of the overall development
4. the inappropriate plans to convert two outbuildings at Lower Dickfield into houses
5. the renovation of Higher House, Holcombe and the partial rebuilding of Grants Tower – each of which we supported
6. the preservation of the remaining part of the paper mill chimney
7. the development of nine new houses on green belt land at Eccles Street, Ramsbottom and an application to Rossendale Council for the demolition of Victoria Wood’s childhood home (just over the Bury boundary overlooking Walmersley Golf Course) were both opposed

There were extensive discussions about Phase 1 of the Greater Manchester Spatial Plan especially after our opinions were sought. A response was submitted which reflected the group’s support for the many provisions the plan makes and also the feeling that it should include other provisions for establishing and protecting conservation areas and for the protection of the existing bio-diversity of wildlife.

Our campaign to achieve protection orders for more of Ramsbottom’s trees has now begun. Interesting information about the Council’s existing tree protection orders is available on the Bury Council website www.bury.gov.uk . At the bottom of the website’s home page there is “A to Z of services” where clicking T allows “Tree Protection” to be chosen. That page links to “View Tree Protection Orders on a Map”. The map is interactive and can also be used for other searches eg green belt areas. Elsewhere on the site are detailed government guidelines about tree protection and advice on obtaining new tree protection orders.

The conservation group’s campaign may take time but as someone famously said, “I can eat an elephant if I take small bites.”

John Ireland

MYSTERIOUS MARKINGS AT MILLER STREET, SUMMERSEAT

In the 40 years that I have lived in Ramsbottom I have probably walked along Miller Street, Summerseat, 100 or more times. The beautifully maintained 1855 back-to-back stone terrace always holds the attention. Perhaps this is why I have only recently spotted the intriguing carvings on two of the gateposts that mark its boundaries.



Numbers 1 to 29 of the Miller Street terrace face west, immediately adjacent to the East Lancashire Railway, and are clearly visible from its trains. These 15 houses have a continuous row of front gardens, with a raised footpath lying to the front.

This path is bounded at the street line by a dry stone wall of indeterminate age

Miller Street, Summerseat, with matching gateposts at its north end. Note loss of top from left-hand post

There are two matching gateposts of local sandstone standing at the north end of this wall, and identical matching gateposts at the south end, four in all. It seems certain that all four gateposts were quarried and carved at the same time, although their age suggests that they originally belonged at a different site. Three of the four retain matching tops of some quality, of the type seen only embellishing the property of the wealthy.

Carved into two faces of the south-western and into to the one of the south-eastern posts are crude representations of stone houses. At least one inhabitant that I spoke to is aware of the markings, but they have never been described in print to the best of my knowledge and I suspect that they are unknown to the majority of people living in the village.

They are very clearly of the early modern period, possibly dating back as far as the late 16th or early 17th Century. One of the four posts, the north-easterly one, has been damaged, its top being removed. The south-east post has had a wooden hinge post attached over its carving. Clearly the age and significance of these remarkable markings are not appreciated, so it is as well that the terrace has been included in the recently created Brooksbottom Conservation Area.

Matching gateposts at the south end of the Miller Street terrace, with crude carvings of houses facing the camera. Note how one has been obscured by the attachment of a wooden gate hinge post



The four gateposts are clearly several hundred years old, and represent a contemporary set. Two of them carry markings of houses executed in a fashion commonly used on 16th/18th Century surveys and maps, without proper perspective. They immediately reminded me of Lord Burghley's famous map of Lancashire, drawn up as a cartographic *aide memoire* in Elizabeth I's surveillance of the county's Catholic gentry.



Carved representations of a house from the distant past. Above: the south and east faces of the south-westerly gatepost. Note the two chimneys, and therefore two hearths, of the house. Clearly this carving represents the home of a person of wealth and status

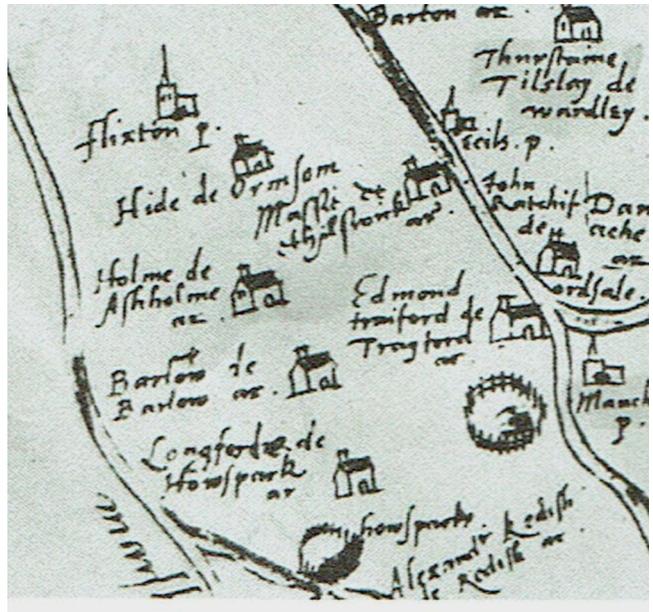
Left: damaged face of the south-easterly gatepost.

The significance of the markings is unclear. Ornate gateposts have historically been an advertisement for the status of the family living at the end of the entrance drive. They are also typically highly individualistic, which may explain why these carved examples are so unusual. The Miller Street posts have almost certainly been imported from some nearby, probably lost site. An auction of part of Lower Summerseat estate, advertised in the *Manchester Mercury* of 17th October 1786, and cited by Jean Price in her *Manufactory, Methodism and the Making of a Village Summerseat 1700-1988* (Neil Richardson, 1989) refers to 'substantial and genteel' buildings in the area, any one of which could have been the origin of the gateposts. Perhaps they demarcated an estate.



Markings on the top of the south-westerly post. Their similarity to those on the actual shaft strongly suggests that post and shaft have been together probably from the time of them being originally dressed after quarrying

The Manchester portion of Lord Burghley's Map of Lancashire, west upwards. Drawn up in the late 16th Century, The rough plan records the relative location of churches and the houses of the local gentry. The latter are marked with a coded indication of the religious inclinations of their owners. The original is in the British Library. The representations of the various houses and churches are in the same style as that used on the Miller Street gapepost



Mysterious markings at Miller Street, Summerseat 15

There are further markings, mostly letters, on the dry stone wall which runs in front of the 15 houses, between the street and the communal path. Whilst some may be contemporary with the house drawings, others are almost certainly later. Many are very faint and might repay careful attention.



Further Miller Street markings. Left to right: on the wall outside number 29; outside number 17; and opposite the fence between numbers 13 and 15



The initials LT are inscribed on the wall outside number 17. This is almost certainly a mason's marks, but its age is unknown

Sometimes I wonder if forces are at work beyond our comprehension. As I was preparing this item for publication, I heard a news item about ritual protective markings. Cannily timed to coincide with Hallowe'en, Historic England had issued a press release inviting householders to record and report witch marks on their property. Not to be confused with the body marks used by persecutors to identify their victims, these mysterious symbols were typically carved around windows, chimneys and doorways, through which evil spirits were popularly believed to enter buildings. From the mid-16th to the mid-18th Centuries, with a peak in the 17th, their patterns have included flower designs made with compasses and dividers

(hexafoils), pentangles, intertwined Vs and Ms for the Virgin Mary, and tangles of lines designed to confuse any spirits attempting to follow them.. spirits attempting to follow them. The vernacular architectural historian Timothy Easton has christened these obscure carvings 'apotropaic marks' from the Greek 'avoiding evil'. Is it possible that the Miller Street carvings are an as yet unrecognised variation on this folk theme?

A popular introduction to this topic can be found in Jennie Lee Cobban's book *The Lure of the Lancashire Witches* (Palatine books, 2011) notably in Chapter 3. Our County Palatine has been a cultural backwater until relatively recent times. Indeed, there is evidence even into the last century of the survival of beliefs in the potency of malignant supernatural forces. (An acquaintance of mine in his 90s told me recently of a parental stricture recounted to him by someone brought up in the early 1900s in Pendleton, in the Ribble Valley, that she should not play out on a particular morning because it was a 'Witch Saturday'.) Cobban relates how belief in the protective qualities of stone, in various guises, was widespread in the early modern period. A carving on a gatepost, the entry point to a property, could well have been seen as an effective guard against witchcraft.

Historic England, the successor since 2015 to English Heritage, is responsible for the protection and preservation of the historical environment of the country. Part of its remit is to register any building of historical interest as worthy of protection, a process called listing, and any member of the public can use its website- <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list> - to recommend such a building, without the knowledge or consent of its owner. I succeeded in obtaining listed status for St Andrew's Church when I thought that a particularly ambitious modernisation scheme endangered some of the historic features. (The incumbent was not best pleased, but his annoyance was tempered by the fact that his church's new status exempted it from VAT on the alterations that he could get passed!) I have submitted an application for the listing of the Miller Street gateposts, and perhaps the wall will be included. It may be fanciful to assume that these carvings are displaced apotropaia, but if they are more prosaically examples of property demarcation, their uniqueness surely demands that they receive as much protection as can be afforded.

Andrew Todd, November 2016

Update on the application to Historic England for the listing of the gateposts on Miller Street

The application for the gateposts to be added to the National Heritage list has now been considered and Historic England's Listing Team North has responded saying,

“Unfortunately, the current circumstances of these gateposts do not fall into any of the three categories used by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to prioritise designation resources on those sites that are most in need of protection. Those categories are:

- 1. Threat: any candidate for designation demonstrably under serious threat of demolition or major alteration*
- 2. Strategic Priority: any candidate for designation of a type that is a strategic designation priority under the Historic England Action Plan, Historic England's programme of strategic work. You can find a list of this year's projects on our website.*
- 3. Evident Significance: any building or site that possesses evident significance that make it obviously worthy of inclusion on the National Heritage List for England.*

We are sorry if this is a disappointing response.”

THE LANCASHIRE LEAGUE LINKS WITH THE RHS

The Lancashire Cricket League is seeking grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a very extensive project to be called “The Lancashire League Experience: Celebrating 125 Years of the Lancashire Cricket League”

The League, which has existed since 1892, has approached the RHS for documents and photographs suitable to celebrate and preserve the League’s heritage. The RHS is very willing indeed to use our extensive archive for this purpose. Other local heritage and related group are also being asked for support for this project.

However, the RHS may have a special role. There will be a major exhibition at a central location in 2019, which will then be split into more local areas in 2020. It is hoped and expected that the Heritage Gallery in Ramsbottom Library will be used to host one of these smaller exhibitions. Our purpose built gallery with its strengthened glass cabinets, security locks and ultraviolet light protection would be ideal. Since the number of staff at Bury Art Museum was cut a few years ago, the Ramsbottom Heritage Society has chosen the topics, researched and installed each of the exhibitions and would be delighted to have involvement with this project.

The Lancashire League has produced players such as England’s all-time leading wicket taker James Anderson, Graeme Fowler and David Lloyd. The league has also forged global links with our local towns, through the many world-class professionals who have played here over the years. They include Shane Warne, Viv Richards, Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Dennis Lillee, Bobby Simpson, Michael Clarke, Ian Chappell, Wes Hall, Charlie Griffith, Everton Weekes, SF Barnes, Allan Donald, Clive Lloyd, Allan Border and Lord Learie Constantine who have all graced the league.

It is believed that this project would strengthen relationships between clubs and our communities, and leave legacies of increased resources, skills and knowledge. It would be a real privilege for the Heritage Gallery to be a participating venue and for the RHS to be involved.

Kate Slingsby

GRANTS TOWER 1829 –1944

This extract from Mr J C Watkins' recollections of the tower appeared in the Bury Times on 4th November 1977. Mr Watkins was born in this area and in the 1920s he lived near Grants Tower at the Tower Inn, Top o' th' Hoof. For twenty years he was the organist at the Church of St John in the Wilderness, Shuttleworth. After some years of retirement at Lytham St Annes, he returned to Ramsbottom and lived in Crow Lane. He soon became an enthusiastic member of the Society.

News of the possible erection of a television mast at PikeFarm, Walmersley, prompted me to take a nostalgic walk to Top o' th' Hoof. Until the regrettable collapse of Grants Tower in 1944, this noble pike stood on the crest of the hill, commanding a breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside. As I recognised various pieces of stone, I remembered the building intact, and I felt rather sad to be standing at the graveside of an old friend.



I first became familiar with Grants Tower when my father retired from the police force in 1920 and took a small country pub, Tower Inn, and a smallholding in the grounds of which stood the memorial to the Grants.

The Tower Inn held its licence for some sixty years before it reverted again to being Pike Farm which, incidentally, was the home for several generations of the Kay family from 1750 onwards, the family being related to the famous John Kay, inventor of the flying shuttle during the Industrial Revolution.

Though by no means an architectural gem, Grants Tower was an imposing structure. By climbing several winding staircases up through the floor levels, one could reach the top – and a panoramic view made the ascent well worthwhile. Few were aware that two of the turrets at the top of the tower were actually chimneys from the fire ranges in the rooms below which at one time were used as living accommodation. In the 1880s they were occupied by a forester by the name of Nightingale, who worked for the Grants. Nightingale was the son of a former minister of Park Chapel. (He had broken away from Park to build his own chapel in Bank Lane, Whalley Road, Shuttleworth. Today his chapel is more recognisable as four dwelling houses known as Chapel Houses.)

The Grant family had travelled from their home in Scotland to Lancashire to seek their fortunes and their story has it that they surveyed the scene of their future successes from the Top o' th' Hoof where Grants Tower now stands. It is widely believed that Charles Dickens immortalised the Grant brothers, William and Daniel, as the Cheeryble brothers in Nicholas Nickleby. I made myself conversant with the book in order to answer the many visitors' questions when I took them for guided walks and visits to the tower.

On 21st February 2016, the Bury Times reported that St John in the Wilderness, Shuttleworth had unfortunately been closed amid ceiling safety fears. A survey by civil engineers found that the roof was extremely unsafe and consultations are underway on the future of the church (built in 1847).

SIR EDWARD HOPKINSON HOLDEN (1848 – 1919)

The following article is based on articles about Sir Edward which appeared in the press in 1919. Copies of the articles were made by Muriel and Chris Watkin and have recently been donated to the Society. Mr and Mrs Watkin became involved in Sir Edward's story years ago after their family was contacted by the archivist to the Midland Bank seeking more information about him as he was thought to be a family member.



Sir Edward, who is credited with a number of major achievements in the banking sector, was born in Greenmount and later lived in Summerseat. Most notable were his roles in the development of the Midland Bank, the creation of modern international banking practice and the negotiation of finance for the First World War. From 1906 to 1910 he was the Liberal politician for the Heywood Division. In 1908 he was considered for the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer but the office was given to David Lloyd George. Sir Edward did not contest the next general election in 1910

His parents were Henry Holden, a calico bleacher and Ann Hopkinson. He received his early education in the Brooksbottoms School, Summerseat, under the late Mr John Rogerson. For some time he was a scholar and teacher in the Wesleyan Methodist School at Summerseat, and for a time acted as secretary.

On the introduction of Mr John Robinson Kay of Walmersley House he entered the Manchester and County Bank at Bolton. (He had made good friends with the Robinson Kays who lived in the large house on Walmersley Road just at the top of Bass Lane.) After working at the Bolton branch for six or seven years he was transferred to the head office in Manchester. Being determined to extend his knowledge of banking on its theoretical side, he attended classes at Owens College, Manchester for many years, devoting special attention to banking law, logic, political economy and similar subjects.

In 1881 he became accountant in the Birmingham and Midland Bank, a promotion which brought about his removal to Birmingham. In 1883 he became inspector and secretary. He continued to be promoted and was involved in the bank's expansion as it absorbed a large number of banks in central and northern England. In 1898, having personally negotiated the merger with the London-based City Bank, he was the managing director of the London, City and Midland Bank. He held this position until his death and became chairman of directors of the renamed Midland Bank in 1908, continuing the policy of expansion and acquisition. By 1918 the bank ranked as the largest in the world and at the time, a year before he died, he spoke before the Associated Chambers of Commerce in defence of the policy of bank amalgamations.

He was receiving treatment for a recently developed heart weakness at Banff, Aberdeenshire when he sadly died there. His body was taken to his town house at 19, New Cavendish Street. Mourners, many from the world of banking, assembled in London and were taken, along with the coffin, in a special train to Manchester. (It had a special van attached to carry over one hundred and seventy floral tributes which came from more than one hundred branches of the Midland Bank, as well as directors and managers of other banks, including foreign houses.) Twenty five cars then took them from the station onward for the twelve mile journey to Summerseat.

Local arrangements were made by Mr C B Kelly, Mr W Beardsley and Mr J H Stennit and on Saturday 26th July, before reaching Rowlands Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Summerseat, the cortege passed through the grounds of the then Robinson Kay branch of the Home for the Incurables. The chapel's graveyard, "beautifully situated in leafy environment", was crowded with mourners from different parts of the country and from the local area. The local mourners included representatives from a wide variety of businesses, organisations and professions, and also friends. Some local people had been his pupils in the early days or had known him as schoolmates like Mr Joseph Barlow. Among the local mourners was the Rev W Hume Elliot formerly of Ramsbottom who had been a personal friend. The service was choral and the organist was Mr E Y Heys who played funeral marches by Chopin and Greig as well as the hymns. Rev F C Harrison gave the address. Sir Edward was then buried in the graveyard of the Chapel with the remains of his wife *.

*. The grave is easily identified by the large white stone at the front as you

face the burial ground with the school on your right. Two days after his funeral, a memorial service for Sir Edward was held at St Michael's Church, Cornhill. Again, there was a large congregation which included representatives of his family.

* In 1877 he had married Annie, daughter of William Cassie, late of Aberdeen, and formerly of Edgworth, and they eventually made their home in Surrey. There were three children. Although his business was his hobby he also enjoyed his golf. Sir Edward was created 1st baronet "of *The Grange* in the County of Surrey" in 1909 and his eldest son, Sir Harry Cassie Holden, succeeded him to the title.

References:

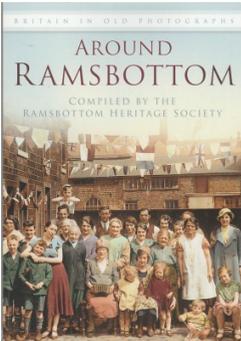
Obituaries - in the *Bury Times* and *The Times* 26th July 1919

Research by Muriel and Chris Watkin

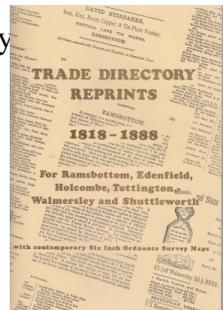
PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society sell a number of publications that tell the history of Ramsbottom. The books are sold in Ramsbottom Library, at the Heritage Gallery on the second Sunday of each month, via the website, and on ad-hoc occasions such as the monthly meetings and outside events.

One of the most popular books is *Around Ramsbottom*, which has recently been reprinted with a new cover. This was first published in 1995 and contains nearly 200 photographs from the archives with accompanying text.



Another book is the *Trade Directory Reprints* which is essential for researching family history as it reproduces directories from 1818 - 1888, both trade and personal.



We have also published Duncan Francis's series of Ramsbottom's Lost Generation, which is a meticulously researched record of Ramsbottom's involvement in the Great War. Part 1 covers those who sacrificed their lives in 1914-1915 and part 2 covers 1916. Both volumes are now available.

Note that Part 3 - 1917 is 75% finished. There is a vast amount of research owing to the huge amount of deaths in this year. Duncan is hoping to publish it in 2018.

Other popular books over the years have been:

'19th Century Ramsbottom',

an extract from Reverend Hulme Elliot's book 'Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers' - a reference to the Dickens novel which featured two do-gooders allegedly based upon William and Daniel Grant.

'Nuttall Park and the Porritt Legacy to Ramsbottom'

A booklet published by the Ramsbottom Heritage Society to celebrate 80 years since Lieutenant Colonel Porritt had donated the park to the people of Ramsbottom. This event was celebrated at an Extravaganza held on the 12th July 2008, when this booklet first went on sale.

Also on sale are the 7 issues of **Ramsbottom War News** which were published annually as part of the 1940's weekend and told the story of the year through reproductions of news articles. Each issue costs £1. As a special offer, all 7 can be purchased for £5.

Issue 1	1939	'Preparing for War'	- 12 pages of A4 paper
Issue 2	1940	'The Battle for Britain Begins'.	- 20 pages
Issue 3	1941	'The Realities of War Hit Home'	- 20 pages
Issue 4	1942	'The end of the beginning'	- 20 pages
Issue 5	1943	'The Tide Turns'	- 20 pages
Issue 6	1944	'D Day and Doodlebugs'	- 20 pages
Issue 7	1945	'The End of the War'	- 20 pages

LOCAL RESEARCH

The Heritage Society cannot offer a research service. The following could be approached:

PLEASE NOTE: because of the present libraries review by Bury Council, there will probably be many changes to the access arrangements for Bury Archives and Bury Local & Family History Service before the next issue of our news magazine in 2018.

STAFF ADVISE PHONING IN ADVANCE TO CHECK.

Bury Archives, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DG email contact: archives@bury.gov.uk or tel: **0161 253 6782**

Opening Hours Please note that the Archives are closed each day between 1pm and 2pm and that the latest time to produce records is 4.30pm (weekdays):

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

Visitors are free to use finding aids, online archives resources or to speak to a member of staff but are advised to make an appointment if they wish to consult archive documents. Collections held include records relating to local authorities, public bodies, schools, churches, businesses, trade unions, political parties, sports clubs, social organisations, family papers, deeds, maps and plans and indexes to local parish registers including Ramsbottom. Our catalogues are online at <http://archives.bury.gov.uk> as 'Bury Archives Catalogue'. We run an enquiry service, offering 15 minutes staff time free. For longer enquiries we charge £15.00 hour. The Ramsbottom Heritage Society's Collection, including photographs, is on permanent loan to Bury Archives.

Bury Local & Family History Service, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR: information@bury.gov.uk or tel **0161 253 7047** has publications on local history, historical printed works of local interest such as trade directories, older OS maps for the whole of Bury MBC (including Ramsbottom), microfilmed copies of local newspapers, thematic collections of news cuttings worth pursuing for local biographies, census returns and parish registers (microfilm). Indexes for local church registers, including Ramsbottom are also held. A direct link to Bury Libraries catalogue (which lists local history items held in all the borough's libraries) is at <http://library.bury.gov.uk> – follow 'Libraries and Archives' and then 'Search the library catalogue'. Free access to the *Ancestry* database is available in all Bury Council's libraries. Please phone for details of other family history advice services.

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society; Membership - email: membership@lfhhs.org.uk - entitles you to 4 magazine issues, an opportunity to publish your research queries and findings, and meetings each month with speakers at venues all over the county, including Bury and Rawtenstall. Also one branch in London. More information is available on www.lfhhs.org.uk.

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

The library boasts an IT suite, with a visually impaired and disabled friendly workstation, back copies of the *Ramsbottom Observer* 1890-1950 on film and a microfiche reader. Much of the Ramsbottom local collection of the late Rev R R Carmyllie, local census returns and several filing drawers of local newscuttings and booklets and Hume Elliot's history are also available. Family history help sessions are held on the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm to 5pm and advice is available at other times by appointment.

DANGER,

DEATH &

DISEASE

in Ramsbottom mills

*Textile Mills could be
dangerous places to work*

Exciting Exhibition

**Heritage Gallery,
Ramsbottom Library
During library opening hours
& 2nd Sunday of the month
12-3pm**