



No 57 Autumn/Winter 2019

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# NEWS MAGAZINE





# Ramsbottom Heritage Society

## News Magazine No 57

### Autumn/Winter 2019

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#### Front Cover

The painting produced on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at the Art exhibition by Stuart Barkley and donated to the Heritage Society

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

## **LATEST NEWS**

### **A little park on the corner of Bolton Street and Kay Brow is radiant again**

Brenda Richards reports that the damaged wall around the central flower bed in the park has now been rebuilt and new planting has been carried out by volunteers. Once more the garden, which had been looking bedraggled and neglected, is a very pretty place to rest for a while or even for photographs to be taken after wedding ceremonies at St Joseph's Church nearby. In March this year, after the Heritage Society's application for a community grant to carry out the project was unsuccessful, it became an outstanding example of cooperation between the Council who found monies for the scheme, Ramsbottom Heritage Society and our hardworking volunteers.

The park was created on the site of another St Andrew's which was built in 1871 after it was demolished in 1926. This church was called St Andrew's (Dundee) Presbyterian Church and was associated with the Grants, and Rev. William Hume Elliot, our famous local historian, was minister there.

Many thanks to the funders, the volunteers who planted bushes, Park Farm who gave us advice on what to plant and all others who helped. It is important that we keep our town looking good and I would urge others in our society to follow our footsteps and get other sites around the town improved as in the present climate of financial restraints we can no longer rely on the Council being able to maintain them. It was not a difficult project – just go for it.



### **Nuttall Park Bandstand**

Since the plinth was restored in the Spring, (funded by a grant from Bury Council's Social Capital Fund supported by a donation from the Society), from May to September the Friends of Nuttall Park have been hosting their very successful public events. The many users of the park have enjoyed band concerts by Hazlehurst School Band, Bury Music Centre and Goodshaw Brass Band and also live performances by Lee Grant and Matt Rynn and his Summer Session and the Tangle Dance Company. Members of our Society and the Friends group have been overwhelmed by people's enthusiasm and are really excited to be getting this kind of event back in our park.

Gwenda Newton, Chair of the Friends of Nuttall Park group, says, "We've finally got the stone base back looking ship-shape, so now we're looking to further fundraising to install a new upper structure in the style of the original 1929



ironwork and canopy. The really hard work has now begun to raise the cost of this project, which will be tens of thousands of pounds, so we urge everybody to look out for future Nuttall Park events."



**MORE VISITORS FROM THE KIRKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM, WALLA  
WALLA, WASHINGTON, USA**

*In News Magazine 55 (Autumn/Winter 2018) Barry Aldous reported on the visit to Ramsbottom of Susan Monahan, Vice President of the Kirkman House Museum. Our readers may remember that the house was built in 1880 by Ramsbottom born William Kirkman who had worked for the Grant Brothers. In 1851 he emigrated to the USA where he became a very successful businessman, making his fortune in America's Wild West.*

In July this year, we were visited by Rick and Patti Tuttle, who are also associated with the Kirkman House Museum. Barry and Isobel Aldous helped to coordinate the visit and they wish to thank those who supported them with entertaining visitors from America.

At the Society's 2010 Christmas social evening a whole collection of documents and photographs from research which had been carried out by Barry and Isobel were handed over to the Society. These included copies of correspondence between Kirkman and his family along with digital archive material. At the event Barry also showed our very privileged audience his most engaging audio-visual presentation entitled *Those Who Will, May Win* which featured the fascinating Kirkman story. This production was also very well received at the Kirkman House Museum located in Walla Walla, Washington State, which was originally William Kirkman's home in America. It is hoped to produce display panels for the Heritage Gallery based on the content of the AV.

Rick and Patti stayed a couple of days, mainly to discuss their planning of a museum group visit in 2021. To this end, a group of Society members including the Aldous's, John Ireland, Janet Smith, Brenda Richards and Tony Mosedale met up with the Tuttles in the Heritage Gallery at Ramsbottom Library.

Following the meeting, Rick and Patti were escorted to sites in the town that would have been familiar to the Kirkman family, particularly Rose Hill and the locations of the Square Mill and Nuttall village. Later, Barry and Isobel took

the visitors to the Helmshore Textile Museum, it being another potential place to visit during their 'Grand Tour' in 2021.

Rick left us with one big question "WHERE DO WE PARK THE COACH?"

*Barry and Isobel's extensive collection of research documents can be accessed by visiting Bury Archives and using the following references (from the Archives' online catalogue):*

*Ref No: [RHS/9/3/1/9](#) Title: William G. Kirkman papers*

*Description: Information compiled by Barry Aldous, RHS. member, in conjunction with the Kirkman House Museum...*

*Ref No: [RHS/9/3/1/9/2](#) Title: Misc Correspondence and Literature*

*Description: Correspondence between Barry Aldous and Charles Harley with enclosures from the Kirkman House Museum*



The house where William Kirkman's widowed mother lived is the one on the left.

## WEBSITE NEWS



**RAMSBOTTOM  
HERITAGE SOCIETY**

HOME NEWS MONTHLY MEETINGS CONTACT MEMBERSHIP ABOUT  
PHOTOGRAPHIC DATABASE MAGAZINES MAPS CONSERVATION RESEARCH  
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHOP SUNDAY WALKS  
PAINTINGS HERITAGE GALLERY ORAL TAPING

Home

[www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk](http://www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk) Lots of hard work is going into making changes and additions to our own very extensive website. Pages have been linked differently to make information more easily accessible. The latest project is to add all the News Magazines, and to make all the research that members have published available in a central place. If you have any suitable research, please let John have it.

<https://buntymiller.co.uk> Official Artist and Artwork Information about Bunty Miller, the artist who painted our portrait of Lt Col Porritt. His portrait is now included on this site with a selection of Bunty's other work. (The website is run and administered by her son Colin Miller, himself a member of the Association of British Sculptors.) Lt Col Porritt's portrait was restored by the Society and hangs in Ramsbottom Library near the Gallery entrance at the back of the building. An article about the artist and the portrait was published in RHS News Magazine 52, Spring/Summer 2017.

<https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk> Our WW1 Porritt & Spencer War Memorial plaque has been listed on this site along with information and photographs. It was restored by means of a generous grant from the War Memorials Trust supported by funding from the Society. The plaque is on permanent display in the Ramsbottom Royal British Legion Club.

## FACEBOOK NEWS

The Society has an active Facebook group with over 500 members. It is managed by Keith Burroughs and John Leyland, with Keith actively promoting the research that the society does, for example the shops on Bridge Street, the history of Carr Street and the Pubs Exhibition. Keith has also updated the date of build register to include most streets in Ramsbottom. We ask for information on the Facebook page, and as long as it can be verified, it can go into the research archive.

We also post details of the monthly meetings, and any last minute alterations, as Facebook is more immediate than the website. We also receive requests to research family histories and identify old photos.

For those who are not on Facebook, Andrew Todd would like you to identify a photograph that he received, that just says Ramsbottom, Lancs on the reverse

If you recognise the building, please contact John using the details on the inside cover.



## **Secretary's Report**

For this report, I would like to concentrate on the work that goes on behind the scenes. In the last 6 months, the committee and others have been working on 2 projects, the installation of the Strang Interpretation board at Morrisons and the Art Exhibition. The interpretation board was mentioned in issue 55 of the magazine, and since then, we have received 3 quotes for the work and having spent several months designing the board, and consulting with Morrisons about the location, installation details and paint colour to match the lamppost, which wasn't helped by a change of manager at Morrisons, we are now in a position to place an order, and hopefully the board will be in place shortly.

The Art Exhibition proposal came from a committee meeting, when it was mentioned that it was a shame that we had possession of a lot of paintings that we didn't have the space to display. Due to the logistics of getting the paintings out of storage for display at the Civic Hall, we decided that we would show them for 2 days, and thus the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October were chosen. This gave the Art exhibition group time to research the history of each painting, devise a way of showing them on easels and chairs, and also arrange publicity. As Betty and Ian's report shows, it was a great success and well worth the time and effort spent by the members of the group.

The centre pages show 4 of the paintings and photos that were on display and their history. The full catalogue is available on the website.

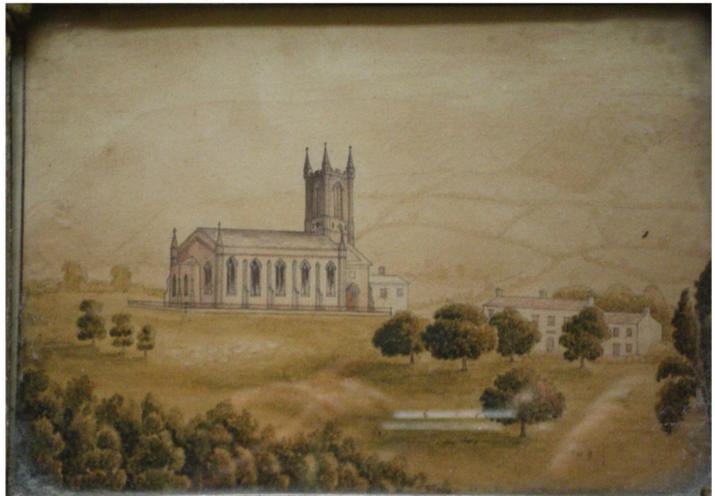
Finally, I would like to thank Kate Howarth for producing a varied programme of speakers for 2020, and also for increasing the publicity by distributing more posters and leaflets than previously. On at least 2 occasions in the last 6 months, we have had to put more chairs out in the Holcombe Room, and for the talk on Bury Football Club in February next year, we may have to move back into the main room.



**Captain Richard Whitaker Porritt** by L. E. Brandon. 1/5th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. Honours Graduate, Cambridge University. Member of Parliament for the Heywood and Radcliffe, 1935-1940. Son of Lt Col AT Porritt. Died 26/05/1940, aged 29. Buried at Seclin (De Bergault) Communal Cemetery, France. He was the first M.P. to die in the retreat to the beaches in 1940. There is a street in Seclin, near Lille named after him, namely Square du Captain Porritt.

**St Andrew's Church.**

Watercolour, early to mid 19th Cent. Purchased at the same time as a Nuttall Hall watercolour, September 2014, so is thought to be by the same artist, R.D. Whittenbury.



### **RUDC Coat of Arms**

Ramsbottom Urban District Council badge. The limits of old Ramsbottom Urban District Council (1894-1974) includes Edenfield, Holcombe, Holcombe Brook, Ramsbottom, Shuttleworth, Stubbins, Summerseat and Turn. Used on RUDC buses.



Transfer on Glass. The RUDC badge is on a rock in the corner of Market Place by the lights, and was probably put there when the RUDC was disbanded in 1974.



### **Junction of Dundee Lane with Bolton St as it was in the 1920's.**

Painted by Joe Barlow. Date not known, but before the Old Dun Horse extended to the corner of Dundee Lane.

## RAMSBOTTOM - 200 YEARS IN PICTURES

After months of planning and hard work, on the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> October 2019 over a hundred paintings, drawings and photographs of Ramsbottom were on display at Ramsbottom Civic Hall for the public to see. They had been dusted down ready to be brought out of storage and on the Saturday morning an army



of volunteers was up early and raring to go. Everything was set up using both the Main Hall and the Holcombe Room, where even the huge St Andrew's Church Whit Sunday Banner was on display, and a very impressive system of labelling linked to an exhibition catalogue was put in place. This was a nervous time for the Society as we had no idea whether the advance publicity (online, in the press and via our leaflets) had reached people.

The exhibition was to open at noon but the public started to filter in from 11.45hrs. Soon there was a steady flow of people and it was like that for the rest of the day. Questions were asked by the public and answered by busy Society members and other local residents. It was rewarding to hear lots of reminiscing of days and years gone by. At lights



out, doors locked and off home, the main thought was, “Let’s hope Sunday is as busy.”

On Sunday morning the team was looking fresh and ready to go. Again, the morning started early with Ian bringing in a family who had been in Market Place admiring the “Urn”. After the doors were officially opened at 10.45hrs, people were already arriving and it soon became very busy indeed. Word was out that there was something interesting happening in the town and that it was a must-see event. One person who was generating a lot of interest was Mr Stuart Barkley, better known as *The Wedding Painter*, who had given up his time to do



a painting of the event as the day unfolded. It was fascinating to watch someone start with a blank canvas and finish with a masterpiece. Stuart kindly donated his work to the Society at the end of the day.

*[ A photograph of the finished painting is on the front cover ]*

As the event was coming to a close people were still arriving. Sunday had been an even busier day than Saturday with lots of interest and discussion about who worked where and who lived here, there and everywhere. Old friendships were remade once again. Young and old, fascinated with the exhibits and memorabilia mingled together amongst the displays.

The oldest visitor was Mr Lees who is 100 years young (and still keeps a wonderful garden at his home!). All too soon, the time had come for the doors to be closed.

Whilst the volunteers were working hard dismantling everything in what seemed



to be a well-practised manoeuvre, I took a look at the visitors' book. It listed people from Middleton, Urmston and Stockport as well as Blackpool, Middlesex and Essex further afield, not to mention all the local people that had turned out in droves. It was great to see. There was even one family from Australia.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the many tasks which made the event so successful. It would be unfair to mention individuals as this was a group effort. Well done to the Ramsbottom Heritage Society for a fantastic weekend.

Betty and Ian Chapman

Photographs by John Leyland and Keith Burroughs

*[Photographs of the paintings, photos and posters are available on the website and a copy of the catalogue that was on sale on the day can also be downloaded]*

"Ramsbottom - 200 years in Pictures" Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Table 1 - Ramsbottom Heritage Society.**  
**RHS Exhibition in the Library - booklet available.**  
 Ramsbottom Pubs & "The Oldfells and Louthome Sins of Drunkenness"  
 The exhibition focuses on pubs that existed in 1890 and what they look like now. There are panels of the history of four local pubs that still exist, Edenfield Brewery and the story of the Murderers who were arrested over 30 times for drunkenness. The exhibition also has many examples of pub memorabilia.

For more information, photographs, maps etc. visit  
[www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk](http://www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk)  
 or our Facebook page




**Table 2 - In Need of Renovation - it will cost in the region of £500**

- 1. Nuttall Hall, 1844** Shows the river bridge and Grant's Tower.  
 Written on the back of the painting "Nuttall Hall near Bury, Lancashire. The residence of John Grant Esq. Drawn by R.D. Whittenbury 1844"  
 Label on the back "John Slack, Carver, Gilder and Ornamentalist, Looking Glass, Window Conic & Picture Frame Manufacturer, 17 Lever Street, Piccadilly, Manchester (Looking glasses resilvered and oil paintings restored)". Purchased by the RHS September 2014.
- 2. St Andrew's Church, Watercolour, early to mid 19th Cent.** Purchased at the same time as Nuttall Hall watercolour, September 2014, so is thought to be by the same artist, R.D. Whittenbury.  
 Reverse of painting  
 Labels 1 - "Coat of arms of the Grants. Date 1832 St Andrew's Church, Ramsbottom. Erected by the Late W Grant Esq of Springside."  
 Label 2 - "John Slack, Carver, Gilder and Ornamentalist, Looking Glass, Window Conic & Picture Frame Manufacturer, 17 Lever Street, Piccadilly, Manchester (Looking glasses resilvered and oil paintings restored)"  
 Hand written on the paper covering the back "M. F. Lawson 1895".

**Table 3 - Ramsbottom Station and Surrounding Area**  
 Ramsbottom Station opened 25th September 1846 by the 1840s there were 28 trains a day passing through Ramsbottom. In the 1930s - 77 trains a day. Station closed 5<sup>th</sup> June 1972 and reopened 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1987 as part of the East Lancashire Railway. The line to Rayverston reopened 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1991.

- 3. Chair - Riverside Garden (Wharf), Bridge Street.** 1994. Now called Bridge Street Gardens. Looking south showing the bridge onto the island by the station, Peel Bridge and Sead Street. By Geoff Nuttall.  
 Wooden bridge destroyed in the Boxing Day floods 2015. Peel Bridge over 1789 by Peel & Yates to connect their mill at Old Ground.
- 4. Chair - Riverside Gardens looking north up the River Inwell.** 1997. Showing the bridge onto the island by the station, Peel Bridge and Sead Street. By Geoff Nuttall.  
 Originally called Riverside Gardens, constructed in 1993, site of the Toll House & Police Station. (Name changed to Bridge Street Gardens).






Page 1

"Ramsbottom - 200 years in Pictures" Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019

A stone post has an inscription - "S&T Samuel & Thomas Ashton, during the 19<sup>th</sup> C. they owned Ramsbottom Mill at the bottom of Carr Lane. Possibly a boundary stone.  
 The River, installed 1997. It is part of the Inwell Sculpture Trail. The river is an 88 metre stainless steel path inscribed with poems which meanders through the Garden, ending with a collection of 34 wooden posts made from railway sleepers, providing a platform to watch the passing trains

- 5. Lances & Yorks Railway Bridge at Bury.** Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bridge at Bury with Heywood Branch Extension Railway. Donated by Chris Allen.
- 6. Peel Bridge Toll Bar and Railway Level Crossing, Bridge Street.** Ramsbottom c.1800. Lid edition. Lithograph by P.H. of an original drawing by Zena Middleton. Taken from an older photograph. In 1789 Peel Bridge built with a toll bar by Peel and Yates then in 1900 tolls over Peel Bridge ended. The Toll Bar House on Bridge Street, next door to the County Police Station. The Toll Bar House was kept by John Gernie and his son Joseph, cloggers, for much of the nineteenth century. 1939 Ed Mayo the buildings are still standing but Police Station has moved to Crow Lane. On the site a Riverside Walk at the Wharf, was constructed in 1993. This is now Bridge Street Gardens.
- 7. Chair - Train going over level crossing into Ramsbottom Station.** Photo, possibly Roy Fishwick. Mounted on a board with Ken Rose's name written on the back.
- 8. Chair - Ramsbottom Station** By A Proctor of Newchurch, print no.193. Dated after the main building was constructed and before the canopy was built, the local phone numbers were still 0706 not 01796 (numbers changed 15<sup>th</sup> April 1995).  
 The station building and water tower were erected in 1888. Between 2006 and 2007, an L&Yr platform canopy was erected on this platform. The station platform canopy was taken down originally from the old Miles Platting station in Manchester.

**Table 4 - Bridge Street**  
 Top half was named Water Street until around the late 1850s. A brook ran down the street until it was culverted in 1867. Stepping stones ran across the street from the Royal Oak public house to No 66.  
**9. Bridge Street, Ramsbottom.** Lynda Board dated 1 300. Herbert Darwent and his wife Eliza, dressed in white, just peering out of the doorway of 74 Bridge Street.  
 1913 304 Counties of England Sir - Harry Dearson, Hairdresser, 74 Bridge Street.  
**10. Gramophone Record Sleeve.** from Monks, 53 Bridge Street. Present - 51 53 Bridge Street, Hill Pet Shop. Also had a shop at 50 Bridge Street at sometime. Present - Signature, Bar.








Page 2

## **The Historical Significance of Scotland Place as the Oldest Industrial Building in Central Ramsbottom**

Ramsbottom looks like an old town, but it is very modern in historical terms, its centre dating exclusively from the 1820s. The painting below (*Figure 1*) is one of a pair, now at Bury Museum and Art Gallery, the only known representations of the industrial complex that preceded it. The pioneering Lancashire firm of Peel & Yates had erected this collection calico printing buildings on the green field site of what is now Ramsbottom town centre. Known as the *Old Ground*, the complex was bought by the Grant family in 1807, and demolished in the 1820s. The space and materials were recycled into the earliest buildings of the modern town. *Top o' th' Brow*, the white building on the rise, had become the Grants' family home in 1807, but was used as the *Grant Arms Hotel* from 1828 to 2017. The rear portion of the hotel is the only building in *Figure 1* that still exists.



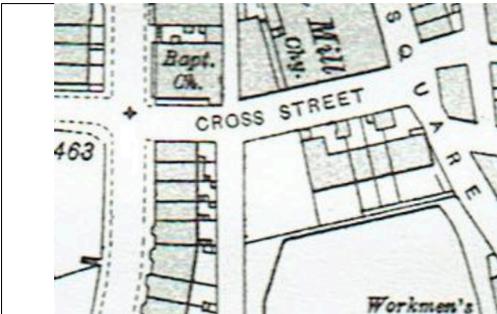
**Figure 1: The original Ramsbottom, swept away in the 1820s. The only known picture of the Old Ground, c1807.**

It is not widely known that there are actually two other small survivals from the *Old Ground* days, neither shown on the painting. One is the pair of three storey houses, 16-18, Silver Street (*Figure 5*, next page), the other the terrace now known as Scotland Place. Thus, these three buildings, shown on the *Old Ground* plan on the next page, are the oldest in the town, and constitute a direct connection with the industrial entrepreneurs who created modern Ramsbottom.

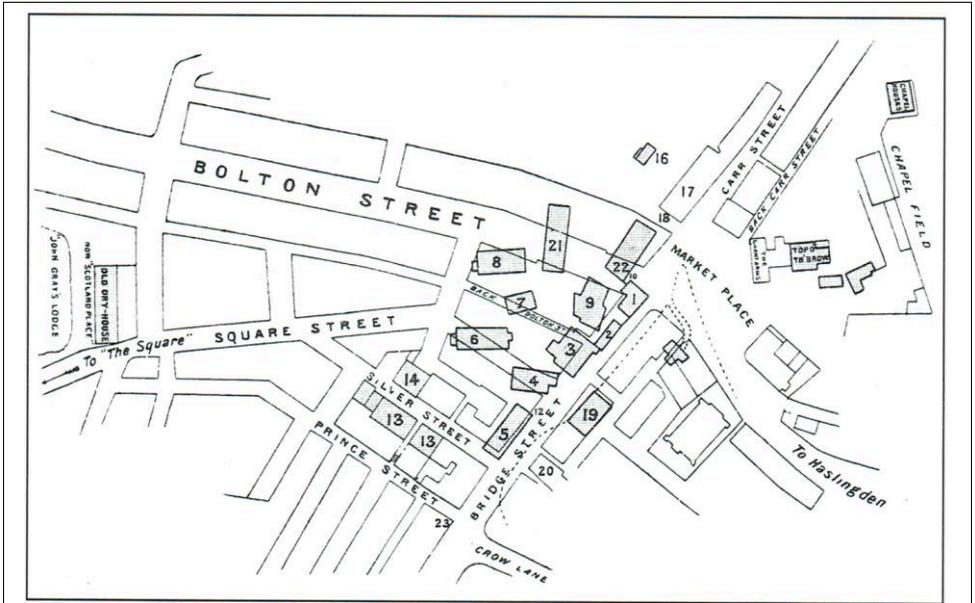


**Figure 2: Scotland Place originated as Peel and Yates' cloth drying house. When the *Old Ground* was abandoned in the 1820s, the drying house's shape lent itself to conversion into a terrace of cottages. This photograph shows the building before the extension was completed in 2008.**

The terrace followed the usual Ramsbottom custom of acquiring a nickname, in this case *Scotch Row*, since at least three of the families, judging from the 1841 Census, were of Scottish origin, most probably in the employ of the Grants.



**Figure 3: The terrace originally known colloquially as *Scotch Row*, on the 1908 25 inch OS map. In front is John Gray's Lodge, built as part of the *Square Works* complex 1821-2, drained in the 1970s and now the site of *Kay Brow* flats.**



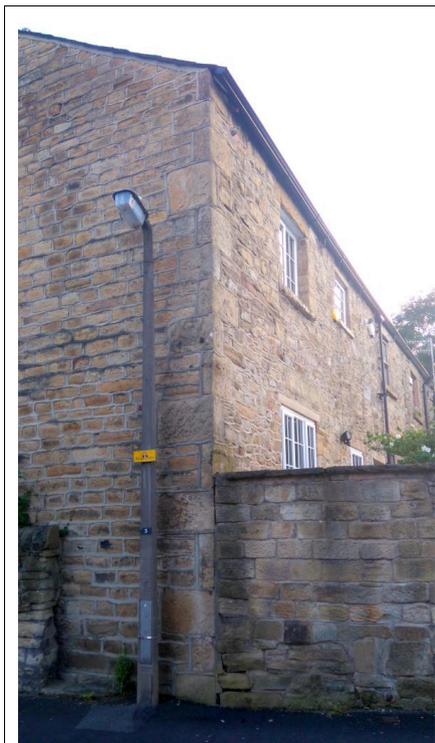
“OLD GROUND,” RAMSBOTTOM.

**Figure 4: Plan of the Old Ground, believed to have been drawn up by the Grants’ estate steward, James SW Grant, and used in William Hume Elliot’s ‘The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers’ (1893).**

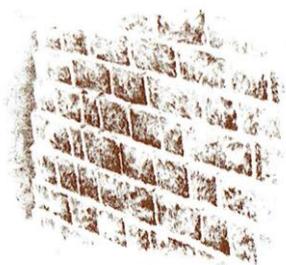


So *Scotch Row* may date back to 1783, but there are more modern features, such as the brick chimneys and Welsh slate roof. Ironically, the rear of the cottages faces the street. The front faced a large lodge, part of the complicated water supply arrangements at Square Works (1821-2). The terrace may in part have been

originally built as a 'back to back' row, judging from the 1841 Census. Like all working class houses, it was formidably overcrowded, 48 people living there according to the returns of that year.



**Figure 7: There are distinctive vernacular features of the building which are characteristic of its late 18<sup>th</sup> Century origin. The gable end comprises water shot stonework, common in this area from about 1740 to the later 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The courses of stonework are tilted to allow rainwater to drain and evaporate.**



**There are especially hefty cornerstones, known as quoins; and many fine lintels. The whole building was constructed from locally quarried sandstone.**

**Figure 8: There are various hints of Scotland Place's earlier, non-domestic usage. Doorways and windows inconsistent with the plans for houses were clearly filled in.**

**Even without any kind of internal survey, it is apparent that the site represents the only survival of the town's original industrial calico printing complex. It is also the earliest surviving row of dwellings in the town centre.**



The foregoing historical notes were submitted to Bury Planning as part of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society's objection to a planning application of June 2016, no 60316, to erect on 'Scotland Rd . . . a three storey house with large dormer windows on the end of a row of five [sic] cottages built around 1795'.

John Ireland is the best authority on the troubling events that have plagued this fine building in recent years, and provides the following details.

Our objection seems to have alerted the planning officers to the significance of the terrace, 60316 was withdrawn, and in December 2016 revised application no 60974 proposed a two storey dwelling, but again with features we objected to - the mismatched windows, the overall size of the building and the style and design of a proposed orangery. Nonetheless it was approved. The newly erected fifth cottage is at least a faithful representation of its four predecessors. If all had stopped there, we would have had no difficulties.

But what has followed has been, in John's memorable words, 'the most flagrant and cynical disregard of planning laws in a conservation area, seen in Ramsbottom, for a very long time'.

It began innocuously in January 2018 with application no 62307 for a 6m x 3m 'garden shed' in the north west corner of the garden. The shed, the applicant rather fancifully claimed, would be hidden beneath a couple of mature trees and concealed 'behind a wall, mature trees and shrubs'. Elsewhere in the application, no doubt to oil acceptance on environmental grounds, the applicant had stated that there were *no* trees adjacent to the development site or on site that would be affected! This highly creative application was also approved.



***Figure 9: Confusingly, there were in fact, until recently, mature trees at the Lodge Street/Cross Street corner of the site. This architect's graphic (left) of the view from Cross Street towards Lodge Street was included in the original application. In reality, they have been cut down by the applicant (right).***

The view in *Figure 9* (right) from the approximate same spot on Cross Street of the *actual* current state of the site shows the so-called ‘6m x 3m garden shed’, ‘concealed behind a wall’ and non-existent mature trees and shrubs. Note the sad remnants of the missing mature trees in *Figure 10*, formerly by the Lodge Street wall, in the foreground of the photograph.

Measuring 9m x 4m the ‘garden shed’ is exactly twice the area of what was approved in 2018. The ‘word on the street’ is that far from being a garden shed, it is destined to become an annex to the main dwelling. Retrospective permission (63883) for these various aberrations was refused in August 2019.



***Figure 10: Equally troubling is what this applicant is doing (again minus planning permission) in the back garden. Note the Kay Brow flats built on the drained site of John Gray’s Lodge in the mid-1970s. The many 30’ high wooden stanchions along the original wall of the lodge are presumably the beginnings of some sort of privacy wall or curtain to block out views to and from the block of flats. The purposes of the eight heavy grey steel vertical ‘I’ beams and the equally heavy wooden vertical support beams remain unknown, since they too have never figured in any planning application.***

We are now left with a shed quite at odds with what has been legally approved, as well as the beginnings of other unauthorised erections. Bury Planning were to have a meeting with the owner early in October, as this article was being finalised. They will require him to remove virtually all the unapproved work from the garden, including the fence poles and the steel and wooden piling. A ‘small amount of decking’ will be allowed to remain. The shed must be clad in natural stone and a ‘grass roof’ installed, as per the original application.

The Ramsbottom Heritage Society strongly believes that the unique site of *Scotch Row* should be preserved, without incongruous modern intrusions. We are unaware of any equivalent building in the Bury area, or indeed even further afield in the North West region.

## 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](mailto: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-Friday – 10.00am-1.00pm and 1.30-4.30pm (closed 1.00-1.30pm)  
Alternate Saturdays – 10.00am-1.00pm (please telephone to confirm)

**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 there is a charge. 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at The Kay Room, Church House, The Wylde, Bury BL0 0LA (behind St Mary's Church). Branch contact via email at [bury@lfhhs.org.uk](mailto:bury@lfhhs.org.uk) . Visit [www.lfhhs.org.uk](http://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](mailto:Ramsbottom.lib@bury.gov.uk)

### **LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:**

Sunday and Monday	Closed	Thursday	12.30pm – 7pm
Tuesday	10am – 4.30pm	Friday	10am – 4.30pm
Wednesday	10am – 4.30pm	Saturday	9.30am – 1pm

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 12.30pm to 4.30pm.

# Current Exhibition

At the Heritage Gallery, Ramsbottom Library

## Ramsbottom Pubs

**“the Odious and Loathsome Sin of Drunkenness”**

Normal library opening times and  
also on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month  
at 12:00pm-3:00pm  
via the upper outside entrance.



The exhibition focuses on pubs that existed in 1890 and what they look like now.

There are panels of the history of four local pubs that still exist, Edenfield Brewery and the story of the Marsdens who were arrested over 30 times for drunkenness. The exhibition also has many examples of pub memorabilia.