



No 56 Spring/Summer 2019

ISSN 0960 - 1244

# NEWS MAGAZINE





# Ramsbottom Heritage Society

## News Magazine No 56

### Spring/Summer 2019

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#### Front Cover

##### Top o' th' Brow and the Old Ground Calico Print Works, Ramsbottom

(probably painted between 1806 and 1814, artist unknown - Bury Archives collection) The white house was originally called Top o' th' Brow. In 1806, renamed Grant Lodge, it became the home of the Grant family. The present front was added when it was converted into the **Grant Arms Hotel** in 1828.

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

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Since the last report, the committee have met only twice, both times with postponements due to clashes with another event in November, and also the weather in January. This caused 2 cancellations as although it has been a mild winter, the snow and ice lasted more than a week. At the December meeting, we discussed many of the items which are on the Latest News pages, and the committee approved the purchase of an interpretation board to go alongside the Strang lamppost on Morrison's car park. The Conservation group reported back that they opposed the application to convert the Grant Arms into offices, mainly on the grounds that the Heritage Society had only recently listed the Grant Arms as an Asset of Community Value as a hotel, and did not feel the owner had offered the building for sale as a hotel. The application was approved as mentioned in the Grant Arms Hotel 2019 article.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> February, the committee were informed that the Nuttall Park bandstand project had received a grant of £5,000 from Bury Council and the committee approved a donation of £1,000 from the Heritage Society Project fund to enable the band stand plinth to be repaired and have hard standing around it, connecting it to the nearby path. Kate Slingsby and Kate Howarth are also investigating grants for restoring some of our artwork, and Kate Slingsby is organising an exhibition of up to 90 paintings from our collection at the Ramsbottom Civic Hall (an advert is on page 15). Brenda Richards had asked for the committee's approval to apply for the Bury Council Pitch for £1500 for repairing the wall at the old St Andrew's Presbyterian Church site at the top of Kay Brow. There would be no financial obligation on behalf of the Heritage Society at this stage. The Pitch was unsuccessful, so the committee will have to decide the next step. The Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> and it would be good to see all members attend to learn about the activities of the society, and new members to the committee can be proposed and seconded at the meeting

## LATEST NEWS

### Church Fields - Tree Preservation Order obtained

Local people may remember the Heritage Society's attempt in 2014 to obtain Commons status for the area known as Church Fields. This went to public enquiry but was rejected. Since then we have applied for a single Tree Preservation Order to protect every tree within an area (marked in green on the accompanying map) which includes Church Fields. The trees are mainly ash, but with willow, oak, beech, hawthorn, silver birch and hazel well represented. Peel Holdings objected and paid for an arboriculture survey, but the Council put forward a very robust case to support TPO status, formally granting this as of August 1st 2018. Bury Council is keen for local people to identify individual trees, or groups of trees, which warrant protection. One of our members, an expert in these planning matters, had come up with the idea of suggesting the whole of Church Fields, as a natural extension of Crow Lumb Wood, and wrote the application. Ramsbottom owes her an immense debt of gratitude. With this protection, permission must be sought to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage, or wilfully destroy any tree on the protected site, whatever its size or species. Should you see any such activity taking place on Church Fields, please contact the Council's direct line for conservation issues - 0161 253 5432. We believe that this order extends a whole new level of protection to Church Fields, and very difficult to overturn in any planning application for building.

1. If you want to see which trees in the borough already have Tree Preservation Orders, then: Google Online maps - Bury Council



2. Accept the terms and conditions
3. Top left click on What would you like to do
4. Select Tree Preservation Orders for a map overlay which shows the location of every order

The procedure for requesting Tree Preservation Orders is free. Google Tree protection – Bury Council.

Map of Tree Preservation Order (includes Church Fields)

## **Ramsbottom's Green Belt 2019**

Local additions to the green belt have been suggested in the January 2019 Draft of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF), Greater Manchester's Plan for Houses, Jobs and the Environment. The local sites which are being considered for designation as extra green belt are:

Crow Lumb Wood (the whole of St Andrew's Church Fields is within this area).

North of Nuttall Park (between Nuttall Hall Rd and the River Irwell)

Nuttall East (a strip of land along the south end of the 'Nuts', which is local name for the setted path between Summerseat and Nuttall)

Nuttall West

Broad Hey Wood North

(Nuttall West & Broad Hey Wood North are the same area - between Hazel Hall Lane and the Whittingham Drive Estate)

Longsight Road (a triangular area between Longsight Rd and Hazel Hall Lane)

The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework is the work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority\*. It is available online and includes maps and diagrams. The document, which may well be subject to further revision, sets out how Greater Manchester should develop up until 2037 and runs to nearly 450 pages

\*The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is made up of the ten Greater Manchester councils: Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan and the Mayor of Greater Manchester. They work with other local services, businesses, communities and other partners to improve the city-region.

## **Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital weathervane**

When Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital, Nuttall Lane was demolished in 2015 it had been agreed that Ramsbottom Heritage Society should find permanent homes for some of its important features. The Society offered the hospital's



louvred roof ventilator/weather vane to Greenmount Homes Ltd for their redevelopment of the former Cobden Mill, Square Street, Ramsbottom. Following discussions with both the Heritage Society and the Bury Planning department, a position on the mill roof was identified. The weathervane is already at Cobden Mill and Greenmount Homes have submitted a formal planning application which includes the addition of the weathervane to the mill's roof. This is an ideal position as it will continue to fulfil its original purpose.

The Society is very grateful to the owners of Park Farm and Holly Mount Farm without whose help with transport and storage it would have been almost impossible to save the weathervane.

**Photograph by Joyce Sellers 2013**

Just a reminder:

The other Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital artefacts which were donated to the Society by developers, Ecclestone Homes, have already been found homes. (Reports in RHS Newsletters 49 and 50.) These artefacts are:

The carved stone pediment

re-erected by the roadside on Nuttall Lane

The foundation stone

by the roadside on Nuttall Lane

The original time capsule's contents

buried adjacent to the pediment in a new time capsule with additional

items chosen by St Andrew's School  
pupils

The hospital's stained-glass windows in Ramsbottom Library with a light  
box behind them.

## **The Joseph Strang Interpretation Board**

The RHS is to provide an interpretation board at the side of Morrisons car park by the recently relocated lamppost. Our last issue included an article on how the lamppost came to be "brought home" (from Castle Grove, Holcombe Brook, where it had stood for about ninety years) to the exact site of the foundry in the centre of Ramsbottom where it was made.

Society members are gathering material for the interpretation board.

**If you know anything about Joseph Strang and his Princes Foundry, Prince Street, Ramsbottom or have any photographs, please contact us.**

## **NUTTALL PARK BANDSTAND'S 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY RENAISSANCE**

Back in 1928 Lt-Col A.T. Porritt, a well-known local mill owner, bought Nuttall Hall and its grounds and presented it to the people of Ramsbottom for recreational purposes. To celebrate the Park's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008 The Heritage Society, with others, erected a stone and plaque in the park, to acknowledge his generous donation. Lt- Col Porritt added more amenities to the park in 1929 and this included a bandstand. Over the years it was the focus of much entertainment for the public but for some unknown reason the wrought iron upper structure was removed in the 1950s. Since then the stark stone plinth has been the only memory of its past glory. It is now part of the Irwell Sculpture Trail and has a plan of the River Irwell with square steel markers etched onto its surface. The idea is for you to walk on the map to explore it. This in no way detracts from its use as a bandstand. In 2018 the idea of bringing it to life again was buoyed up by the enthusiasm of a local bandsman, Martin Hankinson, who offered to arrange concerts. Both the Friends of Nuttall Park and the Ramsbottom Heritage Society were keen to see this happen. Last year the Heritage Society applied for a grant from Bury Council's Social Capital Fund to make the existing plinth safe and to create a path leading to it and extending

around the steps. Our Society also donated some of its own monies to the project. The bid was successful and on 11<sup>th</sup> January work started on repairing the stonework. The bandstand's two largest stone slabs, which had capped the short walls at the sides of the steps, were missing. Luckily, a few days after repair work began, these stones, which had been a prominent feature of the structure, were spotted in another part of the park. Each of them was well over a metre in length with edges carved to match the octagonal plinth and it would have been very costly to reproduce them. Although one of the stones had been cut into two pieces, their condition was good enough for them to be returned to their original position on the bandstand. This year is the bandstand's 90th anniversary so we are particularly pleased that the Society was able to play an important part in a complete restoration of the plinth with all its original stonework. The project team had struggled to get the best layout for the new hard surfacing in front of the bandstand steps and the short length of path. However, one sunny day, with Ramsbottom covered in a thick layer of snow and work on the bandstand halted, the Society had another stroke of luck. A drone was being

launched from the bandstand plinth and was soon flying over the park. Its "pilot" kindly agreed to provide photographs, including one to show a plan view of the bandstand plinth, which made it easier to draw the outline of the surfacing. The next step is to build the upper structure - following the original design as much as possible.



*Photograph by James Leyland*

The responsibility for this has now passed to the Friends of Nuttall Park, but the Heritage Society will retain an interest as three people involved in this project, John Leyland, Brenda Richards and Janet Smith, are members of both groups. Raising money for the upper structure is daunting, but we think achievable and we hope for everyone's support. Members of the Ramsbottom Heritage Society and the Friends of Nuttall Park have already seen lots of enthusiasm for the bandstand to be brought back into use, not just for band concerts but for a variety



## **Summer Walks Programme**

Guided circular walks are usually held on the third Sunday of the month between June and September by volunteers with a particular interest in and knowledge of Ramsbottom and district. The walks are 2 – 3 hours in duration over distances between 3 to 5 miles, and are taken at a leisurely pace. The walks are suitable for reasonably fit adults and children, dogs welcome. We hope everyone will enjoy an afternoon out and benefit from the exercise and friendly company. Sensible footwear and waterproof clothing is recommended, as paths may be uneven. Be prepared for sun, rain or cold weather.

For further information on each walk, contact the relevant leader

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **The Pubs and Clubs of Ramsbottom**

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  
Meeting place is outside the Grant Arms at 1.30  
Leader is Andrew Todd 01706 822730

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

#### **Nuttall – the village that vanished**

The once thriving village of Nuttall had wool and cotton mills and chemical works. They closed and everyone left. Visit the remains and hear its remarkable story. Paths may be uneven and stout shoes required.  
Meeting at Ramsbottom Station. 2.00  
Leader is Kate Slingsby, 01706 281998

### **Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup>**

To be arranged – Details will be on the website

### **Sunday Sept 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Holcombe Village,**

Holcombe is historic, with a famous murder, public execution and a well-known hostelry. Renowned years ago for its sporting traditions of hunting, cock fighting and notorious ‘wakes’ which drew the countryside for miles around. Meeting Place at the Shoulder of Mutton Carpark at 1.20 p.m.  
Leader John Ireland, 01706 822730

## **GRANT ARMS HOTEL 2019**

On 18th December 2018 the application on behalf of Phillip Rose, of IFA Private Clients Limited, for change of use from hotel/public house (Class A4) to financial and professional services (Class A2) was approved with conditions by Bury Council's Planning Committee. Listed building consent for internal and external alterations was also granted. Five planning committee members voted in favour of both applications, which had been recommended for approval by planning officers, with three councillors voting against them. By the end of January 2019 more detailed plans were being submitted to the council so that work on any part of the building could be started.

The use for the back part (oldest) of the building was not established in the planning committee meeting even though it is a significant part of this Grade 2 listed building. (The back section consists of the old restaurant and some very small bedrooms, where some, at least, were ensuite.) Also, there are final decisions still to be made about the long horizontal sign on the front of the building and the rectangular sign below that.)

Four members of the RHS exhibition team were shown around the building on 26<sup>th</sup> January and found it in a sorry state. We were offered objects from the Grant Arms for our collection of artefacts and for our current exhibition. The objects we will be keeping include beer pumps and some menus from the hotel, a shield from the Grants bowls team, a picture representing the Cheeryble Brothers, and a large door mat. As they looked around the building, the Society's members were told that work had begun to strip out more recent fittings and walls belonging to the hotel. Whilst there are few older features in the front part of the building, the original walls will be retained and glass panels will be used so that the original layout can be seen. The hotel reception desk and the bars both downstairs and in the function room upstairs will be removed.

The Bury Times report has Mr Rose saying that the Grant's name will be retained, the building will be "sympathetically renovated" and that "the historic Grade II listed lady will be lovingly restored to give The Grant Arms a new lease of life, to stand proudly over the Market Place as a visual reminder of the area's cultural heritage once again." In addition, the clock on the façade of the building will be restored. Towards the end of January 2019, scaffolding was erected around the building and it seemed the major external work was soon to begin. We are hopeful that local people will be happy with the restoration of this iconic building.

## COMMUNAL VALUE

The Grant Arms Hotel provided hospitality continuously to the people of Ramsbottom and its visitors from 1828 until it closed in September 2017. Many local residents remember it hosting a wide range of meetings and activities which were enjoyed by community groups, local organisations and individuals. It was used regularly by different age groups and was kept busy with live music events, sports and exercise classes, public meetings, charity events and family functions.

In 2008 English Heritage stated that:

**“Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory”.**

**As with every Conservation Area, the enjoyment of the historic built environment is a shared and collective experience. This relates not only to the visual enjoyment of the buildings within the Ramsbottom Town Centre, but also the collective memories of the township people who regularly visit and/or pass through.**

**In brief, the Grant Arms contributes to the overall communal value of the place and this value can be readily conserved through maintenance and upkeep of the building and the retention of its historic fabric. The long standing use of the building as a Public House through the majority of the C18th, the entire C19th and earliest part of the C20th clearly demonstrates the building would have enjoyed a high communal value being appreciated by locals and visitors alike.**

**The building has been used continuously as a centre for social/ community activity including weddings and other social functions. This building, undoubtedly therefore, has strong communal value.**

## THE “VISION”

Local people well know that while successful hotels have kept up with modern standards, the Grant Arms Hotel has suffered from decades of under-investment. It is also very unfortunate that the focus on the business's viability issues has been almost entirely on its continued use as a public house. With Ramsbottom having become a popular tourist destination, the loss of the Grants has created a shortage of hotel accommodation in the town centre. Transformed into a high-quality small hotel, with its excellent position and heritage, the Grants could

have brought great benefit to the future of the whole town: its residents and businesses as well as visitors.



*Photograph by Ian Smith*

## **Grant Arms Hotel: Evidence of Community Use**

‘I lived in Walmersley: it was the bar that everyone went to.’ Unsolicited comment from former regular

This list, drawn up over a few days, from social media and members’ knowledge, marks only a small tip of the uses that Ramsbottom’s oldest, central and most prestigious public house has hosted in living memory. Two general points emerge:

1. The vast range of activities
2. The gradual withdrawal of all the groups, as the building has been allowed to deteriorate. The unsolicited comment made by the informant about Alf’s Blackbelt Karate Club speaks volumes.

Use	Approx dates
<b>Auctions</b>	Most recent one c2008
<b>Baby sensory classes</b>	2000s, as recently as 2012/13
<b>Belly dance classes</b>	Early 2000s, up to 2016
<b>Blues Festival</b> – ‘more bands at the Grants than any other of all the town pubs – 3 bands in the day, 3 in the evening’	
Ramsbottom <b>Bowls League</b> , HQ ; 3 bowling teams represented the <i>Grants</i>	‘Up to the green closing’ ie up to the teams being forced elsewhere by rent increase from £250 to £1,000 in four years, viz March 2009
<b>Butchers Society</b> - monthly meetings and starting point for day trips for their families	Up 1940s/50s
<b>Christmas/New year lights</b> across the frontage	Up to c2014?
<b>‘Community hub’</b> after the Boxing Day floods	2015
<b>Dances, 1940’s</b> , especially War Weekends in May	Moved to Civic Hall in recent years
<b>Darts Teams</b>	
<b>Disco and local bands</b> played upstairs	Up to 1990s
<b>East Lancashire Railway</b> have held public meetings and annual working members evening	Since 1987
<b>Folk club</b> - The Houghton Weavers (amongst others) regularly played and sang there	1970s and onwards, function room – ‘the room was always packed’ – as recently as 2012
<b>Jazz Night</b>	Monthly, until c2010
Alf’s Blackbelt <b>Karate club</b>	2 nights a week – ‘function room kept having leaks of raw sewage from the four bedrooms above and they had to change premises’

Use	Approx dates
GKR <b>Karate classes</b> - well attended by males and females of all ages (different to the karate club)	1990s-2000s , weekly
<b>Meditation</b> classes, weekly	
Ramsbottom <b>Millennium Festival</b>	A week of activities centred on the <i>Grants</i> in 2000
<b>Mind body and spirit</b> fairs	As late as 2016
<b>Miss Ramsbottom</b> finals	
' <b>Open Mic</b> and talent nights in the 'cave room'	'Until 2 or 3 years ago'
<b>Peel Lions</b>	Twice monthly, now meets at the British Legion
<b>Pigeon Racing:</b> ' When the birds arrived back to the loft, the racing ring on their leg showing their number had to be taken off and rushed to be clocked in at The <i>Grant Arms</i> at the Market Place.'	1920s/30s possibly later
<b>Public Meetings</b>	Eg Fort Sterling Extension, late 1980s; David Trippier, Environment Minister, 1990s; most recently David Nuttall MP, May 2017
<b>Receptions</b> - Christening, wedding, funeral, 18 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday– many comments	
' <b>Rotary</b> used it weekly; and the bowling green for an annual function'	
<b>School Leavers Proms</b>	
<b>Scouts</b> - AGMs and other events, eg Venture Scout discos; bonfire in the car park	

Use	Approx dates
<b>Sims Wireworks</b>	children's xmas parties 1960s
<b>Slimming World</b> meetings	Up to c2015; then moved to Civic Hall
Ramsbottom <b>Swimming Club</b>	1970s-1980s
<b>Ramsbottom Tradesmen's Association</b>	monthly meetings and starting point for day trips for their families Up 1940s/50s
Prize giving after the <b>Tower Race</b> 1980s?	
<b>Weight Watchers</b>	(Different from Slimming World)

For your diary:

## **RAMSBOTTOM, 200 YEARS IN ART**

This exhibition of Ramsbottom Heritage Society's artworks and framed photographs will take place at

**Ramsbottom Civic Hall on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
from 11.00am to 4.00pm.**

The Society has a unique collection of 90 paintings and photographs of the town, dating back to the early 19th century. They show Ramsbottom as it developed into an industrialised and post-industrial town. Many items in the collection are irreplaceable. Changes are occurring so quickly now that most people will find scenes that they remember, but no which longer exist.

## Annual Photographic Competition 2018

The competition has been running for 32 years, and this year 13 entrants entered a total of 479 photographs in 4 categories, five people entering less than 10 photographs, and one person entered 225. The judge was Wes Haydock who presented the awards on the evening. The competition winners were not necessarily the best quality photographs, but ones which reflected Ramsbottom in 2018, as all the photographs had to have been taken last year. There are now over 4,100 photographs on the Ramsbottom Heritage website taken in the last 32 years, searchable by filename or description, and they are an invaluable record of the many changes in the town. The winners in each category were

### Events and Daily Life

The 2 Highly Commended certificates were awarded to :

Title	Photographer	Judge's comments
HPC-18EV-038	Ian Chapman	a lovely photo of a young girl at the Memorial Stone Unveiling. There's a feeling of optimism here.
HPC-18EV- 097	Ian Williams	Cricket Match at Brooksbottom, Summerseat with a well composed batsman



The winner was **Joan Platt**, Wes commented

“An unusual photo from the back of someone's head taken at the 1940s weekend.”

HPC-18BU-064

## Buildings

The 2 Highly Commended certificates were awarded to :

Title	Photographer	Judge's comments
HPC-18BU- 004 ready for viewing - nicely composed photo	Ian Summers	New Peel Gardens
HPC-18BU-077 this one because we have no idea how much longer this building will remain or what will happen to it.	Ian Chapman	Grants Arms - I have included

The winner is Alan Seymour, Wes said “The row of shop fronts sums up Ramsbottom well.”



HPC-18BU-052

## Town and Country

The 2 Highly Commended certificates were awarded to :

Title	Photographer	Judge's comments
HPC-18TC- 088	Fiona Daly	A well captured photo of a deer taken from Top O the Hoof farm
HPC-18BU-070	John Leyland	Peel Tower from Nuttall Park

The winner is Joan Platt, Wes said “A wonderful photo of the Tornado on the East Lancs Railway just after leaving Summerseat Station. The picture is well composed, with a great depth of field.”



HPC-TC18-068

The 2 Highly Commended certificates were awarded to

Title	Photographer	Judge's comments
HPC-18TH- 01 (4)	Ian Summers	4 images of the demolition of the Horse and Jockey Public House in Edenfield marking the end of a long standing building
HPC-18TH-24 (5)	Alan Seymour	5 images of interesting signs around Ramsbottom

The winner was Anne Shortt for 4 images of the 100 year Armistice Anniversary at Edenfield Parish Church. Wes commented that it was a lovely and well composed set of photos, mainly of poppies, with great use of different angles. 2 of the photos are printed here.

The overall winner of the Dickensian Trophy is Alan Seymour's photo Get in the Picture organised by Churches Together in Ramsbottom . Wes's comments: "I've chosen HPC-18TH-214. This is part of the Xmas Market theme. It shows Joseph and Mary and baby. The couple are very relaxed and the baby seems content. Its what Xmas is all about I suppose. It's a lovely image."



HPC-18TH-061 above and  
HPC-18TH-064 on the right



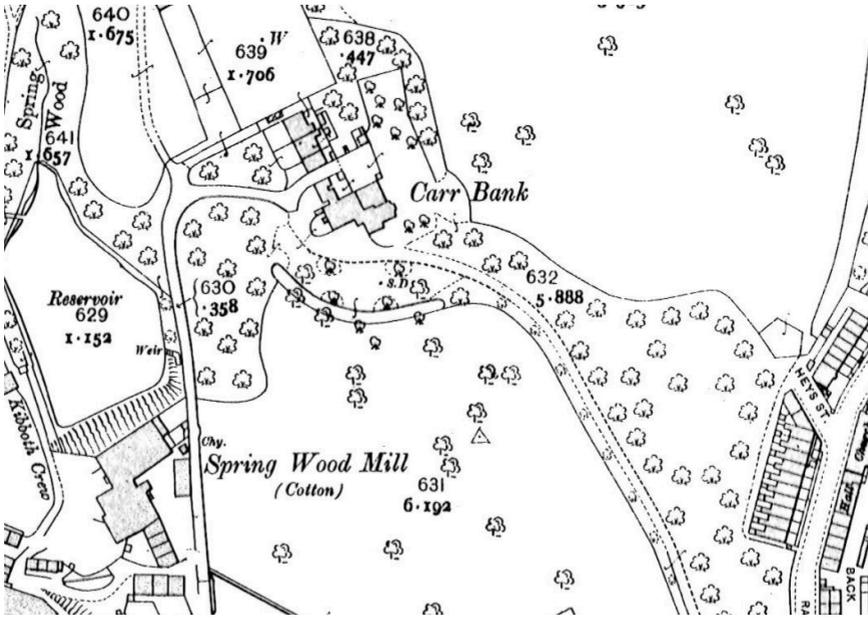
HPC-18TH-214

## CARR BANK HOUSE



Reverend Hume Elliot in his book *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers* (1893) notes that the original name for the house was *Carr Barn*. He writes:

**It is beautifully situated on the crest of one of the lower slopes of the Holcombe range, just where it begins to sweep gradually down to the south east to Carr and Grant Lodge. The present house, with which is preserved a portion of its predecessor, was built and its grounds admirably laid out and planted in 1850. It was prepared for Mr John Grant<sup>1</sup>, the younger, of Nuttall Hall, who, however did not live to occupy it. It was occupied for a time by his brother the late William Grant and subsequently for some years by the late Mr William Stead<sup>2</sup>. Afterwards, till his death it was the residence of the late Mr Henry Stead, JP. The view from Carr Bank is very fine - whether up the valley or down towards the distant plain, or across to**



An extract of RHS/20/1/2/2, the Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1908 and published in 1910, and available on the Heritage Society website. The map shows Carr Bank House, the associated properties and the moat. These are highlighted on the current map below



Taken from MARIO ( Maps and Related Information Online) in 2010 published by Lancashire County Council and reprinted under the terms on the website

**the range of hills linking Top o' th' Hoof with Cribden, Whittle Pike occupying the mid distance in between.**

Worrell's Trade Directory 1871 has Mr William Stead at *Carr Bank House* in 1871 and in the "Gentry, Clergy, and Private Residents" page of Slater's Trade Directory 1888, a Mr T Ashley Crook is listed at *Carr Bank*. At some time, probably early in the 20th century, Dr William Dean and Mrs Dean lived in the house, simply known as *Carr Bank*. *Carr Bank Lodge* (now 7, Ramsbottom Lane) was the gatehouse at the entrance to the front carriageway to *Carr Bank* and was Dr Dean's surgery. In 1906 Dr Crompton became his assistant and later partner. They both did their calls in pony and trap. When Dr Dean died *Carr Bank* was occupied by the Cunliffe family of the soap works on Kenyon Street. They were the last family to live in the big house.

The property had remained in the ownership of the Grant family, later the Grant-Lawson family. From 1947 to 1950 Ramsbottom Urban District Council considered buying the property for conversion into new Council offices. In 1949 they submitted a valuation report to the Ministry of Health for the sanction of a loan.- responding to an application from the Clerk of the RUDC who were proposing to acquire the Carr Bank Estate under the Local Government Act 1933 and the Public Health Act 1875 from Sir Peter Grant Lawson, "for the purpose of public offices and grounds, road improvements, public hall, car park, public open space and gardens, public walks and pleasure grounds ...". An application was made to the Ministry of Health for their consent to the borrowing of a total of £14,500 for the land, buildings, legal costs etc and adaptations to *Carr Bank House* (for council offices).

In August 1950 the *Bury Times* reported that *Carr Bank House* was unlikely to be bought by Ramsbottom Council. The Ministry had not approved the RUDC's plans and recent estimates for repairs and alterations had been about four times the original estimates of 1947. On 18<sup>th</sup> December 1950 Sir Peter Grant Lawson's estate agent wrote to the Council asking permission to demolish *Carr Bank House*.

In 2007, in a planning application, *Carr Bank Lodge* was described as a small detached dwelling which had previously been a gatehouse. Bury Council's planning committee approved (with conditions) the application for change of use and for an extension. The Lodge then became an Indian restaurant (*Sanminis*). The property was vacant by 2017 and a new application was being made by *Cool Design Desserts*, who are "specialist manufacturers of ice cream and frozen products", to allow *Carr Bank Lodge* to be used for their offices. The planning committee approved the application, again with conditions which mainly related to the control of development within the Ramsbottom Town Centre Conservation Area.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF CARR BANK

The Coronation Celebration of George IV July 19th 1821 (as told to Reverend Hume Elliot):

**On that coronation day there was a great and memorable demonstration in Ramsbottom. The morning presented a very animated scene. From far and near, up the valley and down, from isolated homes and busy hamlets and villages that decked the sides of the neighbouring hills, were seen trooping the goodly company of hand-loom weavers employed by the Grants. They gathered, we are told, to the number of eighteen hundred at the appointed rendezvous in Ramsbottom, and were there joined by those employed in the works<sup>3</sup>. All were decked in their gayest attire – the girls in white dresses and pink sashes. At the appointed hour the great procession was formed ....**

Having marched to Bury where this impressive procession apparently "eclipsed all others on the great occasion" the processionists returned to Ramsbottom and were entertained at a grand banquet provided by the Grants.

**The tables were placed across the field lying between Grant Lodge<sup>4</sup> and Carr Bank. A bullock and many sheep had been roasted inside the Square works, which were being built at the time. "There was such bringing and borrowing of knives and forks, and many dozens were bought. They were brewing for weeks and weeks before; and**

**the puddings – what numbers! – great round ‘uns in cloths, boiled in the boilers!’**

Memories of Carr Bank - Miss M Sladin and Mrs G Robinson:

One of these ladies was born in Ramsbottom in 1910, and later lived in one of the Carr Bank cottages which was originally built as a brew house and servants' quarters for *Carr Bank House*. As a girl she was often at the house when the Cunliffe family lived there. Her mother knew Mrs Cunliffe, who used to invite children to come to play with her only child, Kathleen, born in 1913. They would play hide and seek and many other games in the grounds. She remembers clearly being in the front garden of *Carr Bank House*, which had extensive lawns and rhododendron bushes, and looking over the stone wall into the hay meadow to watch women in sunbonnets rake the hay.

The moat at Carr Bank was half-moon shaped and it had kingfishers darting for fish, (as had the “Top Lodge”, the original *Springwood Lodge*, which had stately herons. The lower lodge, now often called “Springwood”, is actually *Devil's Hole Lodge*). One very cold winter she skated on the moat which formed part of the Carr Bank garden.

St Paul's Church held their Whit Walks on Whit Friday and the procession would come up Carr Street, turn into Springwood Street and follow the back drive into *Carr Bank*, thence round the front of the house. There hymns were sung, after which everyone adjourned to the field below (now the modern Heatherside estate) where oranges were given out.

This back drive to *Carr Bank* (house) has become the present road to Carr Bank Avenue and onwards to Carr Bank Drive. It forked left to Carr Bank Farm and was indeed a country lane, now Uppingham Drive. Carr Bank Lodge still stands on Ramsbottom Lane at the bottom of the present footpath which leads to Carr Bank Drive. The footpath was the original front carriage driveway to Carr Bank. From the end of the driveway a path led past the stable yard through a door in the stone wall and into what was the kitchen garden, (now the site of The Paddock, a cul-de-sac of modern houses).

At no 1 Carr Bank Cottages was a large bell at the side door, which called the estate workers to meals. There was also a large clock higher up under the gable. It is still possible to see where it used to be. The cottage was originally a beer house. In the 1970s, while building an extension to the modern house opposite, workmen found beautifully made, stone-lined tunnels, which may well have been used to take beer to the big house.

Brief extracts from the memoirs of Ernest Hutchinson (1918-2016) :

*Carr Bank Farm* had a meadow above *Devil Hole Lodge* (the site of a housing estate today). It was a lovely meadow with a big round tree near its centre and one or two nicely shaped trees scattered about. At hay time I used to go helping to rake in the mown grass and turn it over in rows. The men working in the field, besides the farmer and his men were all Irish labourers who came over from Ireland every year.

*Carr Bank House* was the home of the local JP called Cunliffe, and my Step-mother Emily's father was the gardener, but at that time my father had not remarried. My pals and I used to go to try to pinch apples up there but the old chap used to chase us off. When my Father later married Emily he introduced Frank, Albert and me to her father. When it came to me he said "I know you"



*St Paul's Whit Walk, c1910, in the grounds of Carr Bank House. St Paul's walkers sang outside the houses of important persons, according to Edna Ashworth nee Hall: 'Later we sang at Carr Bank (was it Dr Dean's?), Henry Heys at the end of Carlton Place and other local dignitaries . . .'. (Whit Friday Walking Day about 80 years ago, in Ramsbottom Reminiscences, Vol 1, Ramsbottom Heritage Society, 1992, p28)*

and I thought “I know you too”. There were no more raids on apple trees at *Carr Bank House* – I warned my pals off!

Back home, the special days I remember were ‘The Whitsuntide Walks’ and ‘The May Queen Parades’. At the latter, parents would put their children in fancy dress to swell the parade. I was encased in Mickey Mouse (or was it Felix?) outfit, with a tail with a long spring in it so that it wagged about. I was told to dance about and act the fool. This was fine until someone trod on my tail and it came off leaving a hole for my shirt lap to poke through. The other kids did their best to pull it out further, so I had to leave the parade with my tail in my hand. These parades usually finished up in the field in front of the Cottage Hospital, with the official crowning of the May Queen. The Whitsuntide Walks were quite something in those days. All the churches walked with their banners and bands and St Paul’s finished up in the meadow off Stubbins Lane where they had games; sack races; egg and spoon races and every youngster received an apple or orange.

#### NOTES

1. John Grant, whose family started their printing operations at Ramsbottom’s Old Ground in 1807. Until the death of his brother, William in 1873, their influence on the life of the town was probably unchallenged.
2. At their peak, the Steads employed some 1,000 workers in the town, in six mills.
3. *Square Works*, a state-of-the-art calico printing works built in 1821-2 by the Grants, to which they moved their operations from the Old Ground.
4. *Grant Lodge*, the original Grant family home in Ramsbottom. It now forms the rear portion of the *Grant Arms*, having become part of the hotel in 1928 when the present frontage was added.

*The above article is the result of a real team effort. We are particularly grateful to Ernest Hutchinson’s family for giving us permission to publish paragraphs from his memoirs and we look forward to including further fascinating extracts in future RHS news magazines. We also acknowledge the valuable contribution by Rick Bowden. His research provided most of the background information about Carr Bank House.*

## MEMORIES OF ST PAUL'S

*Mr Keith Hoyle will be 94 years old in June this year. His daughter, Ms Lynda Woodhams, has written to the Society with information from her father's personal biography which she is helping him to compile. She now lives in Hampshire. For when she next goes to visit him she has promised to take some of the information from his reminiscences and may talk with him again about Crow Lane and the surrounding area. We are invited to forward any specific questions that we would like her to ask him as he will be pleased to help if he can. She tells us that his memory is brilliant most of the time and she is using photos to prompt him.*

My father, Keith Hoyle was born in Rawtenstall on June 23rd 1925 but moved to 19, St Paul's Street, Ramsbottom shortly before his youngest brother, Derek, was born on September 1st 1927. During his first year at school he contracted diphtheria and was admitted to the isolation hospital in Bury. When he was



*Keith Hoyle and his brother Derek at the back of their house in St Paul's Street probably about 1932/3*

being admitted the doctor spoke to Sister Whitaker (she lived in a house which backed on to their house in St Paul's Street.) and said, "I think we are going to lose this one." He was well cared for and in the hospital for five weeks. The nurse who looked after him was called Nurse Brown who was only 18 years old, and she was lovely. She used to dance him round the ward in her arms to waltz music from a gramophone with wax discs. When his parents came to take him home he did not recognise them. He remembers that the Head

of the Infants' Department was called Miss Whittaker. She told him that when his life was in danger her father, who was a minister, had stayed up and prayed for him all night. In the class photo, my father is on the back row, third from the right between two little girls, what a sweetie!



He was three years old. I think the teacher was Miss Shaw. That same year the family went on holiday to Soham, Cambridgeshire where his mother's paternal family came from. Another memory that he has is of cars on the main road being so rare that when he heard one he would run to the end of the street to see it. People mainly used horses and carts or bicycles. While living in St Paul's Street and attending the church he became a member of the church choir with his brother Clifford. The choir was taken on a day out to Blackpool in the summer and his mother Beatrice, neé Mantle, would go with them as she had a free pass on the railways because of her husband's job. He remembers that he loved reading and could get through a book in one sitting. He read his mother's magazines as well and she would tell him off when she could not find them. He would go to the local library and borrow books but sometimes he chose books which were from the adult section and the librarian would refuse to issue them. He then got his brother Clifford to take them out for him – until they were rumbled! In the photo of the two brothers, Dad is on the front row second right and his brother Clifford is on the back row on the right end. It was the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary, May 6th 1935, and Dad would have



been coming up to his tenth birthday. The houses behind are where they lived, St Paul's Street. We later lived there when I was born in 1948, moving to Manor Street off Carr Street when I was three. My cousins lived in Factory Street so the area is very familiar to me. The family moved in 1939 to Beechwood Avenue, off Peel Brow and he was then attending Peel Brow County Secondary School before starting his apprenticeship with Castle Brothers down Longsight Road.

Lynda Woodhams 2019

## 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.**

### OPENING HOURS.

Monday Closed; Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.; Sat 10 - 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: 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:

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

# 2018-2020 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.