

Ramsey Mortuary Chapels Heritage and Archive Centre

By Jane Yardley – Chair, Friends of
Ramsey Mortuary Chapels

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year on behalf of the volunteers at the chapels and also hope that you had a good Christmas as well.

Work has ground to a halt at the chapels for the moment as it's been too cold and damp but hopefully when the weather improves then we will be able to continue with the restoration.

However, we have still been busy with our stall at Home & Vintage in Bury, selling all the items that you kindly donate to us, we never know what will turn up and it is such a great help. So, thank you.

Our first Open Day at the chapels this year will be Ramsey's Heritage Day on Sunday 2nd of April, when all of Ramsey's attractions will be open too.

Now, I'm afraid for some sad news. Many of you will remember Daphne Butcher. She was a great friend of mine for nearly 40 years, but she sadly passed away on Sunday 4th of December.

She was proud to be a Ramsey woman and was born, Daphne Joan Shaw at Star Lane 89 years ago.

Her early life was bound up in the Second World War and she vividly remembered Ramsey being bombed in 1942, the loss of life and the damage that was done and told many tales about that time.

She went to the local Infants and Junior schools and eventually to Ramsey Grammar School, as it was then known, where she excelled at maths and after leaving school became a bookkeeper in Peterborough, eventually working for Robert Sayles department store. Unfortunately, the store burnt down a few months before her marriage to John Butcher, who owned a garage, so she became, not only his wife but his bookkeeper too!

She also worked as the NAAFI store manager at RAF Upwood and always had a fondness for the RAF and supported the British Legion.

She and John had a son, Kevin and she was



● **John and Daphne**

also a proud grandmother. Sadly, John passed away in 1992 and was the love of her life.

Daphne always liked to be busy and her main hobby was the Ramsey Rural Museum, which she loved as she was also very interested in local history. She ran the museum shop for many years, visitors loved her, she was always ready to chat and tell them about the museum and the exhibits. She also helped with fund raising, especially the tombolas and book sales.

When the Walled Garden was first started she helped raise funds for that too and more recently the Mortuary Chapels.

As the years passed she increasingly suffered with osteoarthritis and mobility became a great problem for her and she went to live with her son Kevin and his wife Janet in Lincolnshire. Unfortunately, eventually she needed professional care and moved into a nursing home at Moulton and then later, with the onset of dementia, into one at Spalding, where she passed away with her family around her.

She was a very special person, and it was a privilege to know her and call her a friend.