

# Ramsey Mortuary Chapels Heritage and Archive Centre

By Jane Yardley – Chair, Friends  
of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels

**The Informer Newspapers back! Fantastic! Can it really be nearly a year since the last edition of our own local newspaper.**

I know that it has been greatly missed by many of you. Let's hope that it's a sign that things are beginning to get back to some kind of normality, whatever that might prove to be.

Regardless of lockdown and not being able to open we have all been very busy. My thanks to our archivist, Mick Napier, for the vast amount of research, information and photographs that he has added to our archives and to Mary and Simon Ison, our cemetery wardens for keeping the cemetery tidy and free from litter and making sure that every grave has flowers.

In May, we took a risk and had a stall at the Ramsey Market. It was a great success and it was so nice to see so many people enjoying themselves. It reminded me of how Ramsey used to be every Saturday. Maurice Margetts and his daughter-in-law, Cathy grew a lot of plants to sell on our stall and insisted that we keep all the money to help with the chapels restoration. Maurice also sold many large items online for us during lockdown that had been donated and helped to keep us going financially over a very difficult period. What kind people they both are.

Talking of kindness, I must mention Gillian Knox, our tombola queen! Not only does she help me make up all the prizes and lucky dips, but she provides many of them too. She is also a marvellous seamstress and makes many items for us to sell on our stalls at events and also on our stall at Ramsey Indoor Market, which I'm now pleased to say is open again, but also on our stall at Home and Vintage at its new site in the old Burtons car showroom in Bury. We were kindly invited to have a stall in there for the chapels and we are doing very well. It's a real Aladdin's cave and sells good quality goods from wardrobes down to teapoons. They can deliver and there is also free parking. The money that they make goes to the 'Help for the Nations' charity, which helps children from all over the world. If you haven't been yet it's well worth a visit. Many of you have taken items into there for us

to sell, so a big thank you to you all for your generosity.

Despite the Anglican Chapel still being closed due to restoration, work coming to a halt due to covid-19, we managed to open the Non-conformist Chapel for book sales in July, August and September and were amazed at how many visitors we had.

In August, we were invited to have a stall at Jones Court. We love going there, it's always a great atmosphere and Margaret Sambrook and I really enjoyed ourselves. We always come back with more items than we take due to the generosity of the manager Jane Babcock and all the residents. They have lovely cakes too!

Having lived here for 36 years, I shouldn't be surprised by local people's kindness, but it still happens. I was asked to call in at the Hospital Charity Shop in Ramsey to collect a small donation, imagine my shock to be handed £250! Which was more than kind of them considering that they had to be closed for such a long period too. They do so much for a lot of other local charities too.

We ended with a high in September with Heritage Day, this year the theme was 'Edible England' and due to our connection to the Potato King, Jabez Papworth, who is buried in our cemetery, we chose potatoes. The weather forecast was not very promising, with the threat of thunderstorms, but luck was on our side and we only had a bit of light drizzle in the morning. We wondered if we would have many visitors, but we had an amazing 389! It was so nice to see so much interest in the chapels, especially our unique Contagion Windows and we were surprised that so many people came from further afield, such as Kings Lynn, Terrington St. Clements, Hitchin, Saffron Walden and Wisbech amongst others. Altogether a great day.

We are hoping to continue again in the near future with the restoration of the Anglican Chapel and are already making plans for next April when we open again.

Our sincere thanks to all if you who have supported us in various ways during these difficult times, I know that it has been very much appreciated by us all. Stay safe.