

# Ramsey Mortuary Chapels Heritage and Archive Centre

**By Jane Yardley – Chair, Friends of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels**

As many of you will know, unfortunately all restoration work on the Mortuary Chapels had to come to a halt due to Covid-19. But now I'm pleased to tell you that things are underway again.

The brickwork under the chapel archway, that was in such a terrible state of repair, has been repointed with traditional lime mortar by local man, Kevin Colam. He has done such a terrific job that it is hard to tell the old from the new. The sign of a true craftsman. Thank you, Kevin.

The next step is to continue with the work on the Anglican Chapel ceiling, which we hope will start again shortly, so watch this space!

Many of you will remember Beryl Perrin, she was a dear friend of mine and sadly passed away a while ago. She was a great supporter of the Chapel Restoration project and although very ill decided to write a piece for us about the High Street and Great Whyte as she remembered it when she was a child. Although, sadly, she wasn't able to complete it, I'm sure that you will find it as interesting as we do and I will serialise what she has written over the next few months in the Informer, together with some old advertisements for local businesses.

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(3 words).

*"When I was about four and a half (1957) we came to live in Ramsey. My mother was born there, so she was coming home.*

*I remember the journey to Ramsey. We travelled with our belongings on a flatbed lorry, which was green and yellow. My auntie Sylvia and I were in the back of the lorry on a mattress, I had twin brothers and I remember their pram propped up next to us. It was a lovely day and I think that it was in May. I was very excited to see sheep in the fields as we travelled along.*

*My mother had one twin on her lap and my auntie held the other one, my uncle was driving and I expect dad travelled on the train. I don't think that Health and Safety entered anyone's head in those days.*

*We moved into 7 High Street, Ramsey and I loved it from the start. I could buy 1d lollies from Lewie Edwards shop, which was on the left-hand side of the High Street as you walk down into town. Lewie, as we knew him, was really Lewis Edwards and his property is now the Bow Window. In the left hand side, he sold all sorts of household things as well as groceries and of course the wonderful 1d lollies which he made himself and were a real treat for us. When he went to work elsewhere, Mr and Mrs Kerr took over the shop, selling much the same produce. Mr Kerr taught woodwork at the Secondary Modern School.*

*At the other end of the building, near to the entrance which was at the side, was a small shop which I think belonged to Mr Spridgen, of Spridgen and Brown. This was what you would call a second-hand shop, which if I remember correctly sold mostly furniture. There was a nice lady who worked there who always wore a suit, I'm sorry that*

## Kathleen

(Miss P. J. Bradshaw)



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*I can't remember her name. The shop always seemed dark and mysterious to a little girl.*

*The next property was a bungalow belonging to Mr and Mrs Stevens. Mrs Stevens was well known for her beautiful embroidery. Next to the bungalow was a house/office. The office was used by Whittomes the farmers and Mr and Mrs Ward lived in the house. Mrs Ward was in charge of the Junior*

*School canteen. There was a tarmac area to the side of the property which went a long way back and had a large brick building at the end. The Spinning Infants School came next and then the Headmasters house. I think that it was lived in when I was young, but it was pulled down and is now called Allen's Piece on the corner of School Lane. Crossing over School Lane, you came to a piece of land and a house where a Mrs Presland lived. This corner is now built on and is called Temperance Court after a pub called the Temperance Hotel, which was there in the old days and didn't sell alcohol!*

*The next shop unfortunately I don't remember very well, it's now a beauty salon. I think that I vaguely remember it being an upmarket dress shop, owned by a Mrs Nichols and being called Annette's."*

More next time. Keep safe and look after yourselves.

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