

Ramsey Mortuary Chapels Heritage and Archive Centre

By Jane Yardley – Chair, Friends
of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels

I must start this month with a big thank you to volunteer Maurice Margetts, plus Mick Arthur and Bob Sands of RamShed.

We were offered 3 of the old panes of window glass from St. Thomas a Becket Church that were stored in the tower. It is thought that they were probably removed when some of the stained glass was installed. Although very badly damaged, Maurice offered to see if he could do anything with them and what a wonderful job he has done. Amazingly he managed to make 2

complete panels out of the pieces. We then took them to Mick and Bob at RamShed and they were able to frame them for us. What craftsmen they all are and another piece of Ramsey's heritage has been saved. Maurice is going to hang them up in the chapels and you will be able to see them when we open again next April.

RamShed also made us some lovely bird boxes and they have been put up in the cemetery by Community Payback for us.

Many of you who regularly walk through the cemetery will have noticed that the dead Monkey Puzzle tree that was in danger of falling down has now been removed. It's such a shame that it had

died as it was one of the original trees planted by the Huntingdonshire nursery, Wood and Ingram in 1860. The nursery was founded in 1742 and they were responsible for introducing many trees from warmer climes, such as the Americas into Huntingdonshire and the surrounding counties. They even supplied some for Buckingham Palace!

The Monkey Puzzle tree, or Araucaria

Araucaria to give it its proper name, is a native of Chile and Argentina. It's common name comes from the idea that the shape of its branches made it impossible for monkeys to climb up it. But a local Cambridgeshire superstition has it that the trees were always planted in cemeteries to keep the devil away.

As you all probably know by now, we have 2 fund raising outlets in Ramsey.

One at Home and Vintage and the other in the Ramsey Indoor Market. The Ramsey Indoor Market is moving to new premises, into what was Barclays Bank and we will be moving with them, so we will still have lots of bargains for you. We wish them every success in the move and I would also like to thank all of you who kindly donate items for us to sell. It really does help with our fund-raising efforts for the restoration of the chapels. I hope to be able to give you some good news about this in the new year. Like everything, it all takes a lot of time and effort, but if it's worth doing then it's worth doing well.

Merry Christmas to you from all the Ramsey Mortuary Chapel volunteers.



● (L to R) Mick Arthur, Jane Yardley, Mick Napier - our archivist and Maurice Margetts and of course not forgetting Chester the dog, our latest volunteer!