

Ramsey Mortuary Chapels Heritage and Archive Centre

By Jane Yardley – Chair, Friends of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels



Our second surprise was the presentation of a model of St. Thomas a Becket Church by Alan and Maureen Grey (nee Wenham). It was made by Maureen's father, Ernest, who had sadly passed away. He lived in Princes Street for many years and made the model in 1947.

It formed part of an exhibition held at the old Ramsey Library in 1950. Seen in the photograph, standing left to right, are the Mayor of Ramsey, Mr Robert Bojds, Mr Ernest Wenham, Mr John Creber, Huntingdon's Information Librarian and County Librarian, Mr Royston Brown.

The display was the first one to be organised by the library service and was a great success.

What a marvellous item to be given and we can't thank them enough for their generosity. And speaking of generosity, I must also include Charles and Mary Christian who gave us two dozen award winning delphiniums to sell, they were fantastic plants and quickly snapped up.

Our thanks also to Ann Cuthbert who works tirelessly for many weeks to organise and promote Ramsey's Heritage days. She not only does all the advertising and flyers, gets articles into the press, sorts out the bus and it's timetables and a hundred other things to make the events such a success. She really is one of Ramsey's unsung heroes.

My personal thanks, as always, to all the volunteers who selflessly give up their time to run, open and work at the chapels, they really are a great bunch.

Earlier in the month, we had an evening visit from the Ladies Branch of the Ramsey British Legion, for a talk, tea and cakes. What a lovely group they were, they even held a raffle and insisted that we take all the money that was raised. They just managed to leave before it was completely dark, one day we will have lights in the chapels!

As part of our ongoing project, Peter Attwood one of the members of RamShed, has made us 6 bird boxes that will be installed by Community Payback in the cemetery. We are also having insect boxes made. Although the cemetery is being tidied up and the headstones and memorials being cleaned, we are still doing our bit to help the wildlife.

It never fails to amaze me the amount of support that we have from all sections of the community for our project. Thank you.

Heritage Weekend. WOW! What a fantastic weekend we had. This year most of the Heritage attractions went for broke and opened for two days and it really paid off. At the chapels we even had visitors from America and Australia who were staying in Cambridgeshire.

This year's National theme was "Power to the People", so for our exhibition, we decided to celebrate our local agricultural labourers from medieval times up to the present day.

So often it's the ordinary people that go unnoticed and many of them are interred in the Wood Lane Cemetery. They have also been and are the backbone of our town. The exhibition went down very well and we have had the promise of many more photographs and information for our ever-expanding archive.

The weekend was also full of surprises. Firstly, John Taylor brought us a ramp that he has made us, for the entrance to the Anglican chapel. Getting wheelchairs in and out of the building has always been a bit awkward, visitors have always taken it in good part, but we have been worried that they might tip over. But no more, thanks to John's sterling efforts. He even tested the ramp by running his car up it!

