

# RAMSBOTTOM BUSINESSES GROUP

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday 3 September, 5.30pm  
The Grants Arms, Market Place, Ramsbottom

**Present:**

Gina Ball	Memories Antiques, Bridge Street. <i>LAP Rep</i> (CHAIR)
Ruth Shedwick	Bury Council Planning Projects Officer
Liz Gillan	Bury Council Town Centres Co-ordinator
Jill Youlton	Bury Council Tourism Development Officer
Craig Allen	Bury Council Markets Operations Manager
Gordon Hartley	Horse Bits Saddlery, Bridge Street
Wendie Williams	Let Me Paint Your Face
Katie Rothwell	Bootiful Shoes, Bridge Street
Cathie Nightingale	Bootiful Shoes, Bridge Street
Geraldine Rothwell	The Vineyard, Square Street
Stuart Rothwell	The Vineyard, Square Street
Bill Allpress	Allpress, Bridge Street
Jamie Scahill	Ramsbottom Resident / Potential new website
Alison Vinden	Room 54, Bridge Street
Liz Faulkner	Bi Buon Gusto/Faulkner's, Bridge Street
Janis Stacey	The Hidden Jem, Bolton Street
Liz Stooke	The Hidden Jem, Bolton Street
Martin Henfield	Summerseat Players, Theatre Royal, Smithy Street
Graham Mitchell	Summerseat Players, Theatre Royal,. Smithy Street
Denise Pourmohamad	Stop Inn, Bolton Street
Kate Slingsby	Ramsbottom Heritage Society
Jim Hurst	Ramsbottom Rotary
Jon Lovgreen	Ramsbottom Rotary
Allan Terry	Lavender Hotels (The Old Mill Hotel / Bolholt Hotel)
Nick Hitchcon	Weale and Hitchen, Bridge Street
Richard Ashcroft	The Grants Arms, Market Place
Neil Parkington	Organiser: ELR 1940s War Weekend
Hayley Farrell	Boudoir, Market Place
Paul Morris	The Chocolate Café, Bolton Street
Chris Johnson	Ramsons, Market Place

**Apologies:**

Roger Wilkins	The Cooks Emporium, Bolton Street (TREASURER)
Kim Griffiths	Bury Council Local Area Partnership Manager
PC Kevin Day	GMP Police
Zarrin Shannon	Wensley Gallery, Market Place
Phil Wheelhouse	Lancashire Living
Tony Murphy	Ramsbottom Heritage Society
Graham Vevers	East Lancashire Railway
Sharon Canavan	The Cultured Bean, Bridge Street
Diane Higgins	Burger Van, Railway Street
Mike	Burger Van, Railway Street
John Leatherbarrow	Bury Council Planning Implementation Manager
Barry Aldous	Ramsbottom.net & Friends of Ramsbottom Civic Hall
John Foudy	Bury Council Parking Manager
Joanne Farrell	NFU Mutual, Bridge Street
Chris McClung	Rose and Crown, The Rake
Chris Fielding	Tesco, Union Street

Christine Smith	AboutMyArea
Mick Smith	Munro-Greenhalgh
Tricia Walmsley	Party Time, Smithy Street
Cllr Diana Ashworth	Councillor
Cllr Barry Theckston	Councillor
Cllr Yvonne Wright	Councillor

No.	Agenda Item	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and gave thanks to Richard at the grants Arms for hosting the meeting.</p>	RW
2	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> Approved as a correct record.</p> <p><b><u>Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting 14 May 2009</u></b> All items covered on this agenda.</p>	
3	<p><b>5 Minutes with .....</b></p> <p><b><u>Summerseat Players, Theatre Royal</u></b> Graham Mitchell presented to the group the work which is currently underway at the Theatre Royal on Smithy Street.</p> <p>Together with funding through the Arts Council and monies raised by Summerseat Players, the new auditorium seats 200, has new lounge/bar for up to 80 people and a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor studio theatre. Total cost of approx £400k.</p> <p>The Players are doing a lot of publicity and fund raising for the new look theatre which will contribute significantly for Ramsbottom as a whole. New members always welcome. For further info contact graham e-mail : graham.mitchell7@gmail.com</p>	
4	<p><b>Treasurers Report</b></p> <p><b><u>Ramsbottom Business Accounts</u></b> Gina ran through the business accounts as at 3 September 2009.</p> <p><b>Balance as at 03/09/09 £3,430.65</b> - income received from Farmers Market and Christmas Trees.</p> <p>In November, £500 paid towards renewal of PLI for the group.</p> <p>Following the success of Christmas 2008, the Group have booked the Real Reindeer and various street entertainment.</p> <p><b><u>Membership</u></b> Membership monies are steadily coming in @ £35 for businesses and</p>	

	<p>£15 for associates. Currently 38 members.</p> <p><b><u>Funding</u></b> The group would like to thank Ramsbottom and Tottington LAP for their contribution of £1,500 towards Christmas festivities in the town.</p> <p><b><u>Fund Raising Events</u></b> Ramsbottom Business Group fund raising events: QUIZ - 18 September @ The Grants tickets £4.50 DANCE – 30 October @ The Civic tickets £8.50.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> The Quiz night raised £300 for Ramsbottom Business Group. Thanks to Gina Ball.</p> <p>The more the group can receive in sponsorship/fund raising, the bigger and better the events can become, putting Ramsbottom firmly on the map for a tourism destination (<i>funding link to membership scheme</i>).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> If you have an idea for a fund raising event and have the time and energy to put this into action, please contact Gina Ball or Ruth Shedwick e: towncentresteam@bury.gov.uk</p> <p><b><u>Ramsbottom Merchandise</u></b> Ruth showed the Group an example of promotional mugs used by other campaigns run through the Town Centres Team.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Ruth to mock up a design for Ramsbottom and present to the group at the next meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Ramsbottom Town Centre Guide</u></b> There will be another big push to distribute the town centre guide to the various outlets via the distribution company (i.e. NW Tourist Information Centres, Hotels, caravan parks).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Liz to drop some more leaflets off at Burrs Caravan Park.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>RS</p> <p>LG/JY</p>
5	<p><b>Ramsbottom @ Christmas 2009</b></p> <p>A couple of weeks ago the Events Group met to confirm arrangements for Ramsbottom at Christmas activities.</p> <p>The group met with a local marquee operator who presented a couple of ideas to be able to hold the market on Bridge Street. The group were in agreement to have 6 ‘pod’ marquees housing 8 stalls in each, evenly spaced out down Bridge Street. The ‘pod’ marquees will not have sides, allowing movement between both sides of the street without causing obstructions for the public crossing the street or to businesses with their shop frontages onto Bridge Street. The ‘pods’ will have festive lighting to each and power supply to stall holders if required (note: generator will be located behind Memories to reduce the noise/disruption to shops).</p> <p><b><u>Bridge Street Closures</u></b> Bridge Street will be closed off from the light junction at Denise Smiths to Crow Lane. Parts of Square Street and Silver Street will both be access only on market days (6, 13, 19 &amp; 20 December).</p>	

**Action:** Ruth/Liz to produce advance warning flyers for businesses to hand out/notify customers of the road closures in December.

RS/LG

**6 December, 11am – 8pm**

**Craft/Food/Gift Market, Bridge Street**

Over 40 stalls selling a variety of food and gifts. Dizzy and Dotty comedy carol singers, Lancashire Hawks and Owls, carol singing and living nativity.

**13 December, 9.30am – 3pm**

**Christmas Farmers Market, Market Place, Civic & Bridge Street**

The Farmers Market will be extended down Bridge Street, accompanied by walkabout festive entertainment.

**19 & 20 December, 11am – 8pm**

**Christmas Continental Market, Bridge Street**

Continental Market selling food and gifts from across Europe. This is an external operator who brings in his own stalls, with their own individual power supplies (this may involve generators). The Business Group, Town Centres Team and Bury Markets Management are meeting with the operator to determine location of stalls and will endeavour to accommodate noise factor into the plan for least disruption to Bridge Street businesses.

**Action:** If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Ruth Shedwick e: [r.shedwick@bury.gov.uk](mailto:r.shedwick@bury.gov.uk)

ALL

#### **Promotional Material**

5,000 A5 programmes and 10,000 A5 flyers will be produced. Gina suggested putting more public transport information on the flyer/programme to encourage visitors to utilise other means of transport.

#### **ADVERTISEMENT OPPORTUNITY IN PROGRAMME**

Businesses can advertise in the programme.  
Sizes: 57mm x 57mm £40, ½ page £70 and full page £100.  
Letters will be posted to every business in Ramsbottom.

#### **FREE VOUCHERS ON ELR**

The East Lancashire Railway are putting on special shoppers trains throughout December. There is an opportunity for businesses to advertise their business on a special voucher sheet which will be distributed on these trains. A letter will be sent to every business in Ramsbottom.

***Please Note: The programme and voucher sheets are both full and will be printed week commencing 9 November.***

#### **Overspill Parking**

Katie @ Bootiful Shoes has spoken with the owners of the Garic site and has secured the group the use of the Garic site near the Swimming Baths as overspill parking during events in the town. They are not charging for use of this land, but are happy for the group to charge visitors to park for a full day. The Group suggested £1 per car allowing this money to be recycled back into the Groups funds and pay towards marshalling of the site on the event days.

Liz is speaking with Mondi about using their site for additional parking.

LG

	<p><b>Action:</b> If you are able to help us direct traffic towards the parking area and direct cars into parking spaces on 6, 13, 19 and 20 December we would like to hear from you. Please contact Gina Ball.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Christmas Trees</b></p> <p>Roger has spoken with LeaBrook Nurseries who will be supplying the group with their Christmas Trees this year.</p> <p>Last year, all businesses received a set of lights which were handed back to them to use again this year. If your electrical supply needs to be altered to accommodate the tree, please note that this will be the responsibility of the individual businesses and not Ramsbottom Business Group.</p> <p>Russo Engineering made new Christmas tree brackets last year which were funded by Bury Council in order to comply with health and safety standards.</p> <p>The 5ft real Spruce trees cost £40. These will be erected week beginning 9 November and taken down 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January. The group felt it would be more festive for shop owners to leave their festive lighting on permanently (at very little running cost) in order to contribute to the festive atmosphere – especially with the markets on 6, 19 and 20 December going on until 8pm in the evening.</p> <p>Christmas Tree proformas will be sent to every business in town very soon.</p> <p><b>Action.</b> Please ensure a prompt reply to ensure that the trees can be erected on time.</p> <p>For those businesses who did not have a tree last year, but require the full set of accessories (tree, lights, brackets), these can be arranged.</p> <p><b><u>Grants Arms Display</u></b> Bury Council street lighting have informed the group that the display on the Grants Arms is now not fit for purpose. Liz has approached a couple of firms who specialise in renovation to obtain opinion and prices.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> LG has secured some funding towards the cost of a replacement motif (£2k) although additional funding/sponsorship will be required. LG to liaise with RW. Katie @ Bootiful Shoes to speak with a couple of contacts regarding sponsorship for the display.</p> <p><b><u>Large Christmas Tree (Market Place) Lights</u></b> The lights on the main tree are not very big or bright and the group would like to explore whether there is any funding available to get bigger, better lighting for the main tree.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> Katie @ Bootiful shoes has spoken with Superior Driveways of Ramsbottom who have very kindly agreed to sponsor new Christmas Tree lights for the main tree on Market Place.</p> <p>The group would like to thank Katie and Superior Driveways for her help and support in getting the much needed sponsorship to help create Ramsbottom as a festive destination. The Festive programme and flyers will include any sponsorship details.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>LG/RW/KR</b></p> <p><b>RS</b></p>

7 **Events 2009 / 2010**

**Ramsbottom Festival feedback**

Jamie reported the free music festival event was very successful. Entertainment, buskers, acoustic sets, bands, DJs was provided in a number of pubs and clubs.

**Black Pudding Throwing Championships**

The organisers were unable to make the meeting. The event coincides with the farmers Market so is expected that the town will be really busy.

**Post-meeting note:** The event was very successful. However concerns have been raised regarding parking in the town – especially Railway Street. A meeting will take place with the Chair of the Business Group and Bury Council Parking Manager to assess parking provision in the town.

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**ELR 1940s War Weekend**

Neil Parkington (ELR) outlined the details of the event taking place. The organisers have experienced problems with other events taking place which have been clashing with the war time weekends. Not only diluting the ELR event, but presents possible knock on effects with parking in the town. Neil has asked for the car boot to be restricted on Bank Holiday Monday, but ok to go ahead on the Sunday during the event.

Tesco car park will be used again for military vehicle display. Neil confirmed that Ramsbottom is to be the highlight for next years event to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Army cadets. The aim is to stage a large parade involving up to 1000 cadets/officers.

**Post-meeting note:** We have had some very positive feedback that the ELR war weekend was once again, very popular.

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**Rhythm and Blues Festival**

David Agnew was unable to attend the meeting but flyers were distributed outlining the timetable and key proposals at the Cricket Ground.

**Post-meeting note:** The event was very popular and the organisers have received a lot of positive feedback both from a local aspect but also from people experienced in other regional music festivals. The organisers are still assessing the finances, but believe that it has only been a very minimal loss (from a turnover of £17,000), which is not unexpected for the first year back for the festival. Pending board approval they hope to run another festival next year and would hope that the LAP feel it adds value to Ramsbottom, and could possibly assist with funding. It is possible the festival would extend to include other “roots music” to create a festival with wider appeal and more venues. With some small changes to the layout of the cricket grounds, the organisers believe Ramsbottom has one of the best music festival sites in the country.

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**Future Events**

**Ramsbottom Chocolate Festival, 28 March 2010**

Following the hugely successful Chocolate Festival last year, the Business Group has agreed to take on responsibility to organise the event in conjunction with the Town Centres Team. The event for 2010 can feed into the Bury Council ‘Bury the Place’ campaign which covers a wide programme of large events taking place in Bury town centre and across the Borough – this will allow increased profile, publicity, and access to additional funding. The events group will be progressing details for next

years event. Further information to be provided to future meetings.

The "Ramsbottom Chocolate Trail" is being launched on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October with a press visit to the town and launch of the chocolate trail leaflet. This coincides with National Chocolate Week 11-18<sup>th</sup> October. The trail provides a self guided tour showcasing speciality chocolate produce in and around Ramsbottom. The leaflet will be widely circulated.

For further information visit:

[www.ramsbottomchocolatetrail.com](http://www.ramsbottomchocolatetrail.com)

### **Bury Hospice Arts Festival, May 2010**

At the May meeting, the Group met Gill Wild from Bury Hospice who provided details about the Bury Hospice Arts Festival. The Festival will take place from Tuesday 18 May – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010, to raise money for the local charity and could be an annual event. The event will link with the Arts Gallery, Fusiliers Museum, Wensley Gallery. There will be an opportunity for restaurants to display artwork.

Includes music/bands, ELR are involved aiming to link the Bury and Ramsbottom events. Also in Ramsbottom there will be displays and sale of photographic art work at the Grants Arms and at The Legion with additional satellite events being planned. Summerseat Players are involved and hopefully childrens activities will take place at the theatre. Rotary are also giving support.

The event will be widely advertised helping to put Bury and Ramsbottom on the map.

**Action:** Anyone interested in getting involved, or who could support the event in any way should get in touch with Judith Skinner, Arts Festival organiser for Bury Hospice on 01204 395 682.

### **Proposals**

Ramsbottom Business Group can hold 8 Markets a year as per the Markets Charter. Any event with more than 5 stalls constitutes a Market and would therefore require a Markets licence.

The group discussed other possibilities including:

- **Antique Fayre**, Market Place & Civic
- **Food Festival**, Market Place & Bridge Street (to coincide with the Bury Food Festival in October)
- **Summer Gala/Fayre**, Market Place (hog roast, flower/veg displays in conjunction with Ramsbottom Horticultural Society)
- **Strawberry Festival**
- **Ramsbottom Medieval Festival**
- **Ramsbottom's Big Green Weekend**, Market Place (celebrating ethical goods - natural beauty products, organic produce, recycled jewellery, fairtrade clothing, promote shopping local and being more sustainable/environmentally aware).

[www.biggreenmarket.co.uk](http://www.biggreenmarket.co.uk)

**Post-meeting note:** At the events group meeting it was suggested to hold a Pudding Festival during the Black Pudding Throwing Championships weekend. This would be an excellent opportunity to open up the weekend building on an event which has national coverage, but which also helps businesses get involved who produce puddings of the

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	<p>non-black pudding variety. All manner of food/drink related to puddings, from restaurants putting on 'special' black pudding meals, to cafes participating in 'vote for your best pudding' – a competition which could be promoted via the website, gaining local interest. Further discussion via the events group with the organisers of the Black Pudding event will be needed in the first instance to explore the feasibility.</p> <p><b><u>Get Involved – How Can you Help?</u></b>  Events in Ramsbottom help put us on the map as a popular tourist destination. The Business Group needs your support to get these events off the ground. Without the support from businesses – whether it is your time, helping to organise, your contacts, or through funding – none of this would be possible.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Events for discussion at next meeting. If you are interested in getting involved in events in Ramsbottom (sponsorship, organising, assisting, ideas etc.), then please contact Ruth.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <p><b><u>Signage for Bolton Street Businesses</u></b>  Liz @ the Hidden Jem suggested some signage from Bridge Street directing visitors to shops along Bolton Street as they feel visitors unfamiliar with the town turnaround when they get to the top of Bridge Street, unaware of the shops down Bolton Street.</p> <p>Ruth reported that the Conservation Officer has expressed concerns over the growing number of signage/street furniture/banners already in the town. Ruth and Liz have spoken with the Conservation Officer with regards to getting a permanent banner site and/or advertisement kiosk which would enable businesses in the town to advertise as well as cover events taking place in Ramsbottom.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Ruth/Liz to progress discussions.</p> <p><b><u>Recycling</u></b>  A skip at the bottom of Kenyon Street is available for businesses to use for cardboard disposal.</p> <p>Businesses with issues about their waste can contact:  The Commercial Waste Officer on 0161 253 6622  Email: <a href="mailto:commercialwaste@bury.gov.uk">commercialwaste@bury.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b><u>Ramsbottom Rotary</u></b>  Ramsbottom Rotary are currently recruiting new members. The club meet weekly and everyone is welcome to attend. All funding raised by the club goes to local and international charities. If you are interested please contact Jim Hurst, President on 01204 883392.</p> <p><b><u>Friends of Ramsbottom Civic Hall – Annual General Meeting</u></b>  The AGM takes place on 28 September at 6.45pm. Stuart @ the vineyard will be attending the AGM and report back to the group. The civic hall are staging several fund raising events including a Halloween Curry Special on 31 October at 7.30pm and a Ceilidh on 14 November at 7.30pm.  <a href="http://www.ramsbottom.net/forch">www.ramsbottom.net/forch</a></p>	<p><b>RS/LG</b></p>

	<p><b><u>Ramsbottom Town Centre Web pages</u></b>  The Bury Council web site will undergo a revamp in the next couple of months. Ruth has updated the Business Group web pages for the Borough and information for the Ramsbottom Business Group can be found via <a href="http://www.bury.gov.uk/ramsbottom">www.bury.gov.uk/ramsbottom</a>. This has all information past and present from our meetings. Information on campaigns and special events are also listed here, including Ramsbottom @ Christmas. We are looking to include Business listings but this may take some time to arrange.</p> <p><b><u>Debt Advisory Service for Businesses</u></b>  LG provided information regarding a free service available for all (Small Medium Enterprises) businesses funded via the North West Development Agency and being delivered via the Business Support Solutions arm of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. If businesses are experiencing problems, business advisors will come up with an action plan and work with you to keep business on track. This is a confidential service.  For more information about this service telephone : 0845 608 3388</p>	
9	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b><u>Business Group</u></b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010, 5.30pm</b>, venue to be confirmed  Invitations / agendas will be distributed via email and flyers.</p> <p><b><u>Local Area Partnership</u></b>  <b>18 November 2009, 7pm</b>, at Tottington Methodist Church.  <b>7 January 2010, 7pm</b>, venue to be confirmed  <b>8 March 2010, 7pm</b>, at Tottington Methodist Church.</p>	<b>ALL TO NOTE</b>

### **Contact Information**

Gina Ball	Business Representative	<a href="mailto:gina_ball19@hotmail.com">gina_ball19@hotmail.com</a>	01706 82 8800
Roger Wilkins	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:sales@cooksemporium.co.uk">sales@cooksemporium.co.uk</a>	01706 82 8359
Liz Gillan	Town Centres Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:e.gillan@bury.gov.uk">e.gillan@bury.gov.uk</a>	0161 253 5974
Ruth Shedwick	Planning Projects Officer	<a href="mailto:r.shedwick@bury.gov.uk">r.shedwick@bury.gov.uk</a>	0161 253 5327
Christine Maksymowski	LAP Manager	<a href="mailto:c.maksymowski@bury.gov.uk">c.maksymowski@bury.gov.uk</a>	0161 253 7941
PC Kevin Day	Ramsbottom Police	<a href="mailto:Kevin.Day@gmp.police.uk">Kevin.Day@gmp.police.uk</a>	0161 856 8181