

Friends of Ramsbottom Civic Hall

SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE OF RAMSBOTTOM CIVIC HALL

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014

HALL NEWS

Following requests for improvements, new sound equipment has been installed by Bury Council.

THE FORMER GRANT ARMS BOWLING GREEN

In February 2014 Paddle Ltd resubmitted their 2013 planning application to erect a block of flats for retirement housing on this piece of land close behind the Civic Hall.

The FORCH committee objected formally on behalf of our group to this proposal, which was for an almost identical development to the one submitted in June 2013. This time over 150 objections, including those recorded as petitions, were received. Just before the May meeting of the planning committee, Paddle Ltd once again withdrew their application.

Ever since the illegal removal of 12 mature trees in January 2013 debris has remained on the neglected green which is now infested with invasive weeds, including ragwort. (You will remember that the owners pleaded guilty at Bury Magistrates Court to chopping down the trees and were fined.)

Again, we urge FORCH members to ‘have their say’ if there are any more planning proposals for the bowling green site.

INCREDIBLE EDIBLE RAMSBOTTOM IN BLOOM

Our Civic Hall garden has been part of the entry by *Incredible Edible Ramsbottom* in the Royal Horticultural Society’s competition for a *North West in Bloom* award. Displays on view included the ones at Ramsbottom Station, Memorial Gardens and Market Place. Plots at *The Eagle and Child*, *The Hearth of the Ram*, Nuttall Park and Ramsbottom Fire Station were also judged.



Our committee had been delighted when *Incredible Edible’s* Chair Person (and member of our *Friends* group) Lynn Leyland-Mather asked *FORCH* Vice-Chairman Eddie Jones to take part. Judging would focus on the alpine garden which was already looking well, but the invitation provided an incentive to carry out some serious weeding, mainly on the other Civic Hall plots.

On 29th July, as Chair of the Alpine Garden Society’s East Lancashire group (Hall users), Eddie was on hand in the Hall garden to welcome the judges. One of the four key aims of the RHS competition is to encourage community involvement and he was able to explain to the judges about *FORCH* and the different community inputs into the garden. The judges gave no indication of how well things went but, as Lynn said, it is heartening to witness people getting together to make Ramsbottom look so good.

PLANS FOR THE CIVIC HALL’S GARDEN

On 14th July 2014 *FORCH* submitted an application for external funding to build on the progress that has been made to provide an attractive extra facility at the Hall. If the bid is successful more hard landscaping and planting will hide an ugly fence and make the high garden beds easier to manage.