

Friends of Ramsbottom Civic Hall

SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE OF RAMSBOTTOM CIVIC HALL

NEWSLETTER 2019

Over the last year we have not been keeping in touch with our members and we do apologise for this. Luckily you have continued to support us and we are very grateful. As you can now see here, we have been busy!



By the beginning of 2018 carpeting which dated from the Hall's refurbishment in 2010 was becoming so shabby and worn it needed replacing.

The new bar carpet, which FORCH and a generous donation from local manufacturer Cormar Carpets funded, was fitted soon after our 2018 AGM. For their part, Bury Council provided extra carpeting for the Hall's front staircase and entrance.

A DEFIBRILLATOR FOR RAMSBOTTOM CIVIC HALL 2019

The Hall is now a safer place thanks to the donation of a defibrillator by Mersey Medical Services Ltd. The device was presented to FORCH by Phillip Warren, the company's finance and sales director. (He is a member of the Friends group and had learned of FORCH's earlier promise to provide a defibrillator.) Bury Council has happily taken on the responsibility for its installation and maintenance.

The defibrillator is designed to be simple to use for the lay person by means of simple audio and visual commands. Ideally, however, users should have received training so one of Mersey Medical Services instructors has offered a course and it has already been arranged.

Recently, as well as popular dance sessions and the Hall's tea dances, there has been an increase in the number of fitness classes at the Civic Hall, including ones for the over 50s. Previously, the defibrillator for use at the venue was the one on Bolton Street - only a short distance away - but access from the Hall is down a steep setted roadway, through Ramsbottom Market Place and across traffic lights at a busy junction.



THE HALL'S COURTYARD AND GARDEN AREA 2018-19

Some of the funding which had been obtained by the Council for FORCH has enabled the Alpine Garden Society to carry out further work on the garden area. The money has also been used to buy a new shed. (The Hall has very limited usable storage space.) Because the garden area has become popular with Hall users, two new benches have also been provided.

With more help from Tesco's Jane Lees there has been maintenance on the garden and extra planting has replaced what was lost in last Summer's drought. The work is done on the basis that it is a **community** garden. However, ahead of us are some heavier and more labour intensive tasks so we have looked into hiring help. One enquiry produced a quote of £50 per ½ day which on a regular basis would not be feasible for our group.