



Occasional News Letter - April 2013

We are now attracting more support and interest from further afield, out of the reach of the Rossendale Free Press and Bury Times and away from normal day to day contact with our Project. So we thought it a good idea to produce an occasional News Letter, which could be circulated via email and our website, which would keep our supporters up to speed as to what is happening with the project.

I will re-cap on some of the old news so as to bring us up to date.

Our website, www.ramsbottommemorialwallproject.co.uk is now up and running and is attracting hits from our own Urban District and further afield. The site will continue to develop and we will make it as interesting and thought provoking as we can.

The Memorial Gardens are owned by the Church of England and any construction in the gardens must have the permission of the Parish Church Council and the Manchester Diocese.

At a meeting in January 2013 the PCC agreed in principle for the erection of the wall. In order to help the PCC reach an informed decision and to show that the project was viable the Project Team agreed to apply to the Local Authority for Listed Building Consent and to erect a template at the site of the proposed wall in the correct dimensions.

The template has been erected by Ramsbottom Metalwork free of charge and has been in position for over two months. Listed Building Consent was granted on 4th March 2013.

The Proposal was formally agreed and passed at a PCC meeting on 20th March 2013.

Rev. Anthony Barnshaw and the Parish Church Council will now apply to Manchester Diocese for permission for the work to be carried out. This could take a couple of months. Once this has been granted our application for Heritage Lottery Funding will be submitted. This in turn will take a further couple of months.

So where are we now?

We must take advantage of these intervening months to lift our game in the fundraising stakes.

As you all know, there is no guarantee that the HLF will provide all the funds needed to complete the Project. With this in mind the Project Team is looking for sponsors who will donate a minimum of £25 which is roughly the cost of engraving a name. Details are on the website. Fundraising is going well and donations have been received from the families of the Fallen and from local businesses. A magnificent donation of £1000 was received from Peel Lions.

Other ideas are most welcome.

Fundraising is vital to the success of the Project and I would urge everyone to use their contacts and influence to raise as much as we possibly can.

We have been offered space, in Ramsbottom Library, for the month of May, to stage a small display of items of interest from times of conflict. I have contacted the Lancashire Regiments Museum and the Fusiliers Museum to see if they can help. The Library has a footfall of about 400 per day so this is an ideal opportunity to raise both awareness and funds