

# Ramsbottom Chocolate Festival

28th - 29th March 2015



## Chocoholics welcome!

[www.visitramsbottom.org](http://www.visitramsbottom.org)

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BUSINESS GROUP**  
visitramsbottom.org

 @RammyBusinesses

# Back for its 7th year, Ramsbottom Chocolate Festival 2015 promises to be even **BIGGER & BETTER** than ever.



Celebrating everything that is great about chocolate the festival **brings together some of the best of chocolate producers from around the UK.** Regularly attracting in excess of **30,000 visitors** the festival is free to visit and offers a great day out for all the family.

## How did it all begin?

Back in 2008 Paul Morris from the Chocolate Café was looking at ways of celebrating Great British chocolate whilst promoting Ramsbottom's impressive number of quality eateries and numerous independent businesses.



With The Chocolate Café and Bury Council as partners, and with support from Ramsbottom Business Group, the idea grew. The first Festival was held in 2009 and consisted of a small chocolate market with just 12 chocolate stalls. From these small beginnings the Ramsbottom Chocolate Festival has grown into an annual two day event, still very much focused on quality chocolate, but with a great family appeal.



While other destinations have tried to replicate it, Ramsbottom remains the home of the original and the best UK chocolate festival offering a truly unique chocolate experience for all the family. In 2012 the Ramsbottom Chocolate Festival was awarded the coveted **Manchester Tourism Award for 'Best Small Event'.**



# The Main Event



Our two day chocolate market takes place on Bridge Street, Silver Street, Square Street, St Paul's Church Gardens and on Market Place in the heart of Ramsbottom. There is much to choose from and even the most enthusiastic chocoholics will be spoilt for choice. There are over 50 stalls

offering a range of quality chocolate and chocolate related products including award winning handmade chocolate, fudge, crepes, drinking chocolate, brownies, cakes, biscuits cordials, jams, beers & wines.

Throughout the town there is also an array of fresh and tasty delights from some of the North West's finest street food vendors. From sausages and speciality burgers to



churros and wood fired pizzas you are sure to find something to tempt the taste buds. All washed down with a coffee, tea or hot chocolate from one of the handy coffee carts.



## Family Fun Area

For a host of family entertainment head to our family fun area in St Paul's Church Gardens on Bridge Street. Here amongst the stalls and street food you will find lots to keep children of all ages entertained including our bouncy castle, face painting, DJ and our mini chocolate factory where you can have a go at making your own chocolate treat!





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# What's going on in Ramsbottom

## MARCH

### 27-29 MARCH

Beer Festival at the Civic Hall,  
organised by Irwell Works Brewery

### 28-29 MARCH

8th Annual Chocolate Festival - A  
two day event including chocolate  
themed street markets, hot food  
and alfresco dining.

For more information visit  
[www.visitramsbottom.org](http://www.visitramsbottom.org)

## MAY

### 2-4 MAY

Thomas the Tank Engine Weekend  
- East Lancashire Railway

For more information visit  
[www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk)

### 23-25 MAY

1940s weekend

For more information visit  
[www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk)

## JUNE

### 28 JUNE

Cake Festival - St Pauls  
Church

For more information visit  
[www.visitramsbottom.org](http://www.visitramsbottom.org)

## AUGUST

### 1-2 AUGUST

Thomas the Tank Engine Weekend  
- East Lancashire Railway

For more information visit  
[www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk)

## SEPTEMBER

### 13 SEPTEMBER

World Famous Black Pudding  
Throwing Contest

### 18-20 SEPTEMBER

Ramsbottom Music Festival

For more information visit  
[www.ramsbottomfestival.com](http://www.ramsbottomfestival.com)

## OCTOBER

### 18 OCTOBER

Pie Festival - St Pauls Church

For more information visit  
[www.visitramsbottom.org](http://www.visitramsbottom.org)

**Keep an eye out for  
more events coming  
to Ramsbottom  
throughout the year!**



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Bolton Street, Bury, BL9 0EY \*lines open 10am - 4pm daily

EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

# Let the Train Take the Strain!

Avoid the hassle of parking and catch the East Lancashire Railway's **Chocolate Express** and travel to the festival in style! To help get passengers ready for some Chocolate Festival fun, children will receive a FREE chocolate themed activity sheet to keep them entertained up the line.

The following steam services\* will be running across the weekend:

### Saturday 28th March and Sunday 29th March 2015:

Depart from Heywood at 11:30 and 14:15

Depart from Bury at 09:30, 11:50 and 14:30

Depart from Rawtenstall at 10:15, 12:45 and 15:20

Don't forget if you catch the train from Heywood (OL10 1LX) you can enjoy **FREE parking all day!**

\*Please note other services will be running; check [www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk) to view the latest timetables.

## 2015 Events Calendar is Just the Ticket

The East Lancashire Railway has a busy events calendar and 2015 sees the return of some old favourites as well as some “hot from the firebox” new additions. Don't miss a thing and take note of some key dates below:

• **Explorer Day with Paddington Bear™** 8th April\*

• **Raise the Roof** 17th-18th July\*

• **Day Out with Thomas** 2th-4th May, 1st-2nd August and 3rd-4th October\*

• **Halloween Ghost Trains** 29th-31st October

• **1940s Weekend** 23rd-25th May\*

• **Santa Specials** 28th-29th November, 5th-6th, 12th-13th, 19th-24th December

• **Family Fun Weekend with Peppa Pig and George** 20th-21st June 29th-31st August\*

\*Tickets can be booked by visiting [www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk) or calling **0161 764 7790** now.

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**www.visitramsbottom.org**



## Sunday 29 March Duck Race on the River Irwell



During the **Chocolate Festival**, the Rotary club of Ramsbottom is holding their annual race on the River Irwell in the Bridge Street Gardens (just by the level crossing in Bridge Street Ramsbottom).

Ducks cost £2 each

Ducks can be purchased from Weale & Hitchen Estate Agents 43 Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, or phone 01706 550545

Boats cost £2 including all materials required.

<b>Prizes:-</b>		
Duck Race	First	£100
	Second	£75
	Third	£50

Boat Race Special prize

Anticipated times are as follows:-	
First duck race	12pm
Second duck Race	1pm
Boat Race	2pm
Third duck Race	3pm



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At The CommuniTree Initiative we are super excited to be making their first appearance at the Ramsbottom Chocolate Festival. We invite you to **come along and be a part of our story time activities.** Did you know that Ramsbottom has a magical past? Come and listen to our very own Ramsbottom Legends: **The Watchful Dragon of Peel Tower; Mama Otter and the Chocolate River; Six Suns and The Ramsbottom Rock; The Magical Tree People.** Each story is accompanied by a fun nature activity for people of all ages to take part in. Come join us, and through our stories begin to discover the true magic of your local town; it'll never be the same again!

**Ramsbottom Beer Festival 2015**  
Civic Hall, Ramsbottom  
35 Real Ales, Real Ciders,  
Food and Live Music  
Fri-Sat-Sun 27th-29th March  
12:00 to midnight (16:00 sunday), last entry 23:00  
[www.rammybeerfestival.co.uk](http://www.rammybeerfestival.co.uk)  
Beer Festival Entry £2.50  
£2.00 with CAMRA card  
Proceeds to B&MLI  
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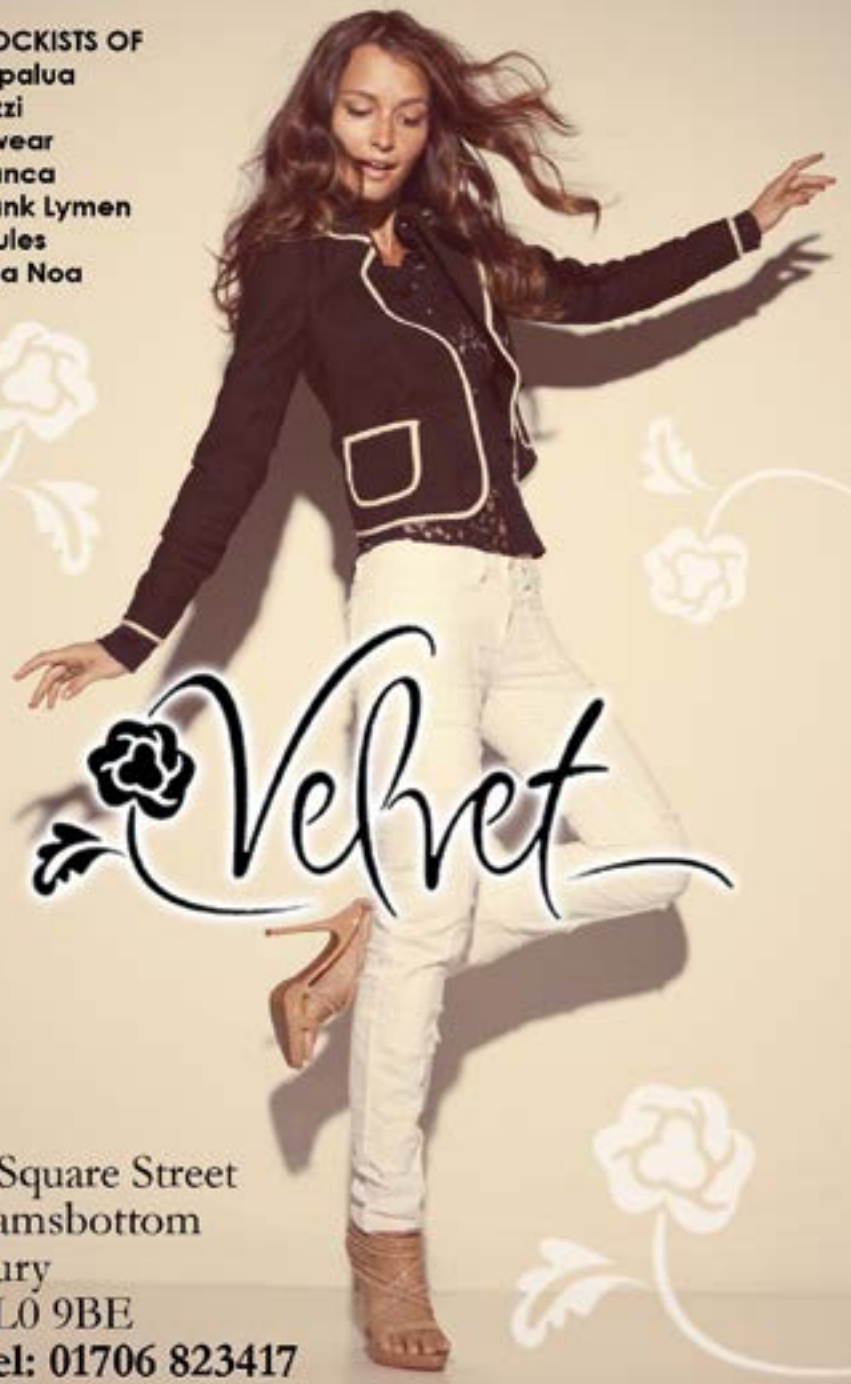


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Park and Ride is at Woodhey High School. Adults £1 each . Children free.

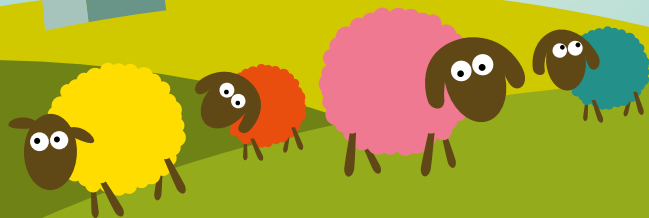




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