

Notes of the 11 July 2017 Ketton History Group Meeting at Ketton Parish Office

Anne McQuistan brought a Ketton school scrapbook to the July KHG meeting. The School was always in the press, (Stamford Mercury) in the 1960's and 70's. The coverage including photographs of the crowning of the May Queen and the results of the competitions on Sports Day, show how the School was very much centred in the village, particularly as Sports Day was often an open day. It records the opening of a small swimming pool in 1967. Prize giving and teacher retirements were also reported upon.

It features the closing of the National School that had served the village for over 100 years and the opening in 1969 of the current school. There was some controversy over the proposed demolition of the old school, not everyone in the village was in favour. The new Library opened in 1972 and cost £22,000.

The discussion at the last meeting on the railway was continued with a discussion on a 1928 passenger timetable found in a book on the Railway in Stamford, and also goods traffic. It was clear that most Ketton goods traffic was from the Cement works but that other goods were shipped, notably beet. It was also thought that possibly mushrooms were shipped by a farmer named Goddard Jackson, but this needs to be confirmed. Milk was not shipped.

David Naylor provides some research information on Fregthorpe, referring to the Lincolnshire Dean and Chapter manuscripts and other records between 1300 and 1638, also a copy of the John Speed 1620 map.

There was a brief discussion on hiring fairs, particularly as described in Jeffery Smith's "A Villager's View of Ketton". The Hiring Fair was held at the old Midland Hotel, where those available for work wore a token in their button-hole e.g. a piece of whipcord for a carter, a wisp of wool for a shepherd and a plait of straw for a cowman. The last Hiring Fair was held on 16 November 1901. In addition to the hirings there were travelling showman and many stalls all along Station Road, and the day ended with dancing to Blind Billy's fiddle.

The next meeting is to take place at 7 pm on 12 September 2017 at Ketton Parish Office.