

## Report on the Ketton History Group Meeting on 12 June 2018

Continuing on the theme of the May meeting where we discussed the building of the Stamford Hotel, 16 St Mary's Street, Stamford, further research via the Lincoln Heritage Gateway has shown that it was built by Sir Gerard Noel of Ketton Hall using stone from quarries he owned in Ketton. The cost in 1810 was £43,000, a very considerable sum. Records show that it was built as part of his campaign to attract political and electoral support against the Exeter family (the sitting Member of Parliament). It was built on the site of, and incorporating parts of, the Black Bull Inn. The Black Bull was first mentioned in 1546 and the surviving parts of this inn (to the rear of the main hotel) date to the 18th century and earlier. The main block of the hotel is nearly all of 1810 and has a grand neo-Classical street front by J.L. Bond of London. Noel was defeated in the election of 1812 and work ceased on the hotel after this. It remained empty until 1825 when it was leased to and reopened by Thomas Standwell. Some minor alterations were carried out at this time, and further improvements were made after the hotel was sold in 1845. The interior is decorated in a classical style.

The hotel is three storeys in height and is built of ashlar stone. There is a coach arch at the north end of the street front. The front has a massive ornamental frieze and parapet with a central sculpted figure of Justice by J. Rossi.



There are also six Greek Corinthian columns and an iron balustrade on the upper storey. The interior has a good, simple staircase of the period. For the full description and the legal address of this listed building please refer to the appropriate List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

This building is described as 'one of the grandest of Regency hotels' and 'too grand for its restricted site'.

The former hotel is now in use as several small shops.

The remainder of the evening concentrated on the 1939 Register. John Collier displayed a spreadsheet with the information gathered at that time. Dorothy Wright who along with her sons Jeff and Mike was able to fill in much more information on the lists from personal recollections, which helped create a fairly comprehensive picture of the village and its inhabitants prior to the onset of WW2. John will be able to comprehensively update the list using their memories.

***The next Meeting is at 7.00 pm 10 July 2018 at the Parish Office.***

Meetings for the remainder of the year are on 13 Aug, 11 Sep, 9 Oct, 12 Nov 2018