

Report on the Ketton History Group Meeting on 11 April 2019

The history meeting on 11th April covered a range of topics, from the marriage of 17 year old Anne Peters Grantham of the Grange Ketton in 1805 to discussing the future use of Collyweston slate. Census records were used to locate where possible buildings still standing in Ketton. at the same time it was discovered that records showed the children in a family reduced from the 6 .16 in 1860 to 2.07 in the 1930s. It was thought that the First World War would have had some influence on the figures. Following on into the 1930s it was shown that electricity arrived in the village in 1936, supplied by the Midland Electricity Company which was nationalised in 1949. Members present could remember electrifying houses in as late as 1963. Piped water was also late in coming to Ketton, Mr Burroughs being instrumental in making the supply available. Arches in the wall in Aldgate were specifically designed to accommodate taps. There were also many houses with wells, some of which are still in use today.

There was an anecdote from memory by the Wright family of the day when the garage owner HO Andrews accidentally filled the petrol tank with 200 gallons too many, which then proceeded to filter down into people's cellars, causing the Stamford fire brigade to turn out. It was pointed out that today Radon gas is present in many Ketton properties.

The **Ketton feast** was discussed as it was felt the village would benefit from its revival. In the 19th century the feast was a very prestigious affair. People came from all over Rutland and a large number from Stamford and the surrounding villages. The feast which was aimed at family entertainment sported many cured hams as Ketton had a thriving pig Club which provided they said hams. On Feast Sunday a special train was laid on to bring visitors from Stamford to Ketton and according to reports a number of unsavoury characters were aboard looking for trouble. When the train was due a numbers of Ketton residents lined up in the goods yard to meet the Stamford challenge - not only were fists used, but many useful cudgels as well. On the Tuesday of the feast a great sporting event took place and as many as 4000 people attended. Bookies were there to take bets on the donkey races as well as any other race. Extra police always in attendance on this day. Another highlight was the 11 against 22 cricket match, which was nearly always won by the 11. The 22 mostly getting in each other's way.

Meetings for 2019

Meetings are planned for 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 8 Aug, 12 Sept, 10 Oct, 14 Nov 2019. all meetings will be in the Parish Office starting and 7pm.