

Report on the Ketton History Group Meeting on 9 May 2019

History meeting 9th May the following was discussed a letter from Ketton Parish Council to Collyweston Parish Council outlining the possible purchase of a fire engine which could be shared between the two villages and any other village seeking to be independent in this respect. It was suggested that in order to fund a voluntary fire brigade There would be a charge of 3 farthings in the pound on the full rateable value for a period of 5 years, in any case the charge would not exceed one penny in the pound, the letter was dated May 19th 1904 and signed by Charles Stanyon, Clerk to Ketton Parish Council.

John Davies said he had a vague memory of Empingham having had a fire engine. A later search of documents relating to Empingham and the Heathcote family revealed.

The Heathcotes provided a water supply for the village and, as there were many thatched houses, they contributed half the cost of a fire engine and house. (no date given) Rutland Record Society, Heritage of Rutland Water, chapter 7

There followed a discussion on the early forms of education that were available in Ketton in the 19th century, both the Lancaster system and Dr bells system of classroom teaching were discussed. it was clear that by the time of the introduction of the National School to Ketton in 1857 the aforesaid methods were no longer in use and a standardised classroom layout was in place, that is individual desks for the pupils with the master using a blackboard as a teaching aid. Other forms of schooling were covered such as Dame Schools and Ragged Schools, the latter being attributed to John Pounds a Portsmouth shoemaker, who in 1818 started to teach children, reading, writing and arithmetic for free, in his shop on St. Mary's Street, The idea of Ragged schools flourished and by the time of the 1870 Act there were 350 throughout the UK with Lord Shaftsbury as their chairman.

Various other topics were introduced, such as Morgan 3 wheeler cars of the 1930's and low value coins including the one third of a farthing minted in Victoria's reign for use in Malta.

Meetings for 2019

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